

TABLE TENNIS

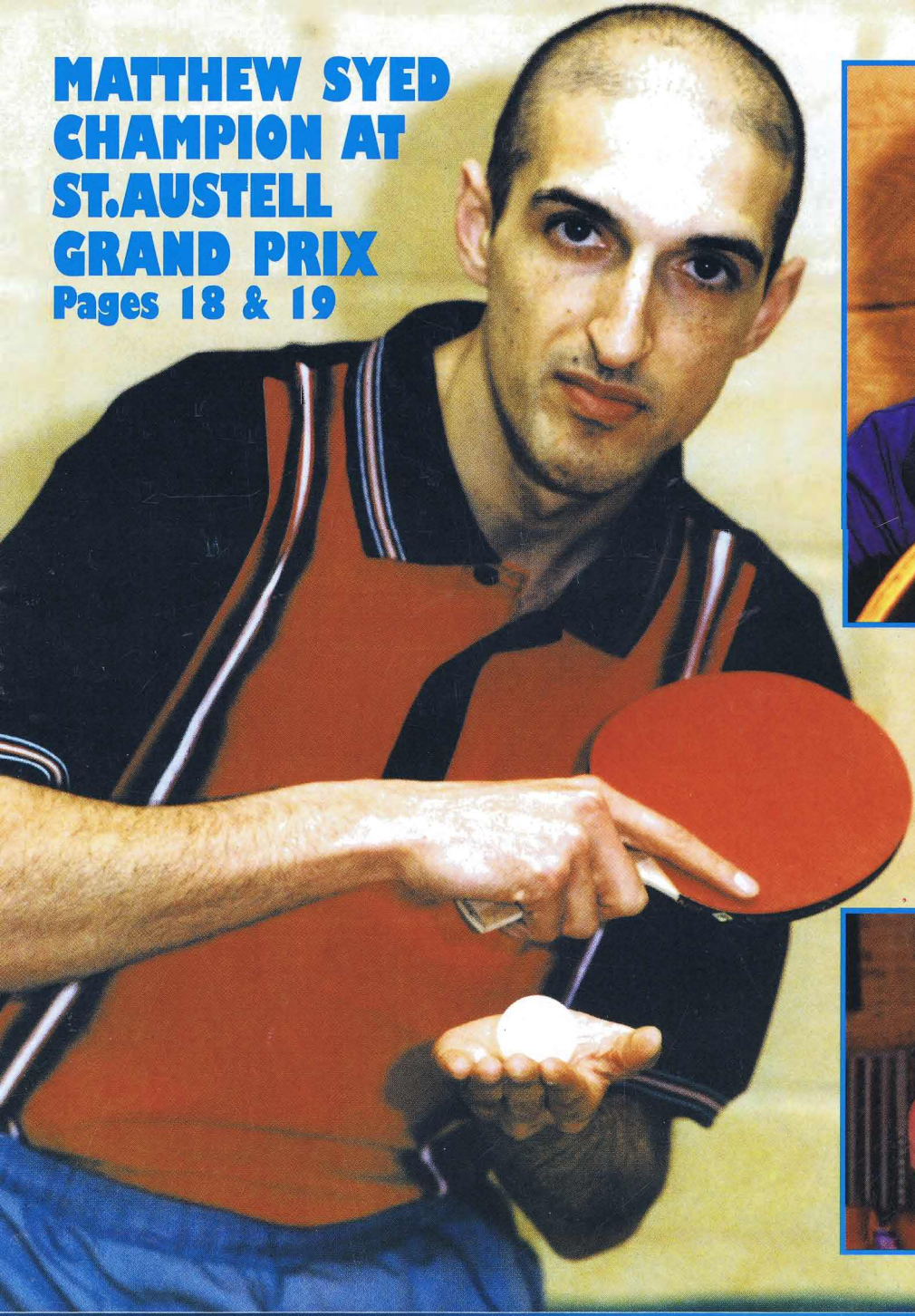
NEWS



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MAY/JUNE 1999

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**MATTHEW SYED
CHAMPION AT
ST.AUSTELL
GRAND PRIX**
Pages 18 & 19



**NICOLA DEATON &
GARETH HERBERT
ATTACK THEIR WAY
TO GLORY IN
STRATFORD**
Pages 16 to 17

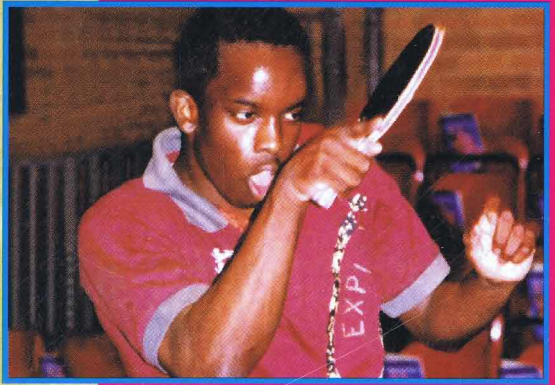


Table Tennis News

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May/June 1999

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**NEXT ISSUE
JUNE/JULY 1999**

**SEPTEMBER ISSUE
COPY DATE
1st AUGUST 1999**

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



STARS IN HIS EYES

LES WATERS, at the tender age of 72 years old, achieved an ambition of a lifetime by appearing on television, when he was one of the stars of 'Stars in Their Eyes', singing 'True Love'.

Les is a great fan of Bing Crosby and loves to sing any of Bing's songs. Last year Cramlington Table Tennis Club sent a tape to Granada TV and Les was invited to audition for Stars in Their Eyes. He was an immediate success with all the production and support staff with the programme and last November he recorded the show singing True Love as Bing Crosby, which was broadcast on Saturday 24th April 1999.

The format of the show features a 60 second introductory film showing the performer in his home surroundings. The setting chosen for this was at Cramlington Table Tennis Club playing table tennis with Alan Hedley and using the Robot.



Pictured above are Sir BOBBY CHARLTON and KAREN TONGE, who were both presented awards at the Sports Writers Association 50th Anniversary Dinner and Dance, in London recently. Sir Bobby received the 'J.L.Manning Award', for services to sport outside competition, whilst Karen received the 'VIP Award', Regional Governing Body National Award - North West Region ETTA. Steve Cram presented the award to NW Chairman Karen and NW RDO Martin Ireland.

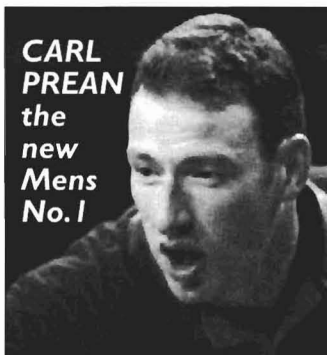
At the age of 72 Les Waters is the oldest member of Cramlington Table

Tennis Club. He currently plays for Cramlington Rejects in the 4th Division of the Wenade (UK) Ltd Northumbria Table Tennis League.

Though table tennis has to be, apart from Maureen (his wife) and their 2 daughters, his greatest interest, he does enjoy dancing and singing. For the past several years he has organised a Yuletide Dance to raise funds for a local youth centre.

NEW COACHING COURSE
THE South Bank University, London is starting a new course - MSc/PGDIP Science of Sports Coaching.

Anyone interested in this course, which is designed to meet increasing demands of all levels of sport and exercise, giving practising coaches and physical education teachers the opportunity to develop their knowledge and expertise, should contact the Course Director, Jeanette Wardrop. Tel: 0171 815 7992.



CARL PREAN the new Mens No. 1

WOODY'S World

THIS issue of Table Tennis News is the May/June issue, which was originally the May issue. This publication date has been changed, as has the June issue to the June/July edition, due to the postponement of the World Championships, scheduled to have taken place in Belgrade 24th April to 9th May 1999, now having been transferred to the 2nd - 8th August 1999 (singles and doubles only) to Eindhoven. See Chairman's Report on page 3.

So the last issue of the season, the June/July issue will now feature a World Championships preview by Ken Muhr, instead of a report by John Woodford from Belgrade, as originally planned. The June/July edition will also include a review of the European Youth, reports on the Grand Prix Finals in Bath and the National Team Finals in Bury St. Edmunds, plus final updates for 1998/99.

Possibly this delay will be an inconvenience to some of our correspondents and subscribers, for which I apologise

This issue includes reports on the final two weekends of British League events, held at Potters Leisure Resort, the Veterans on pages 9 and 10, and the Woolwich Junior on pages 14 and 15.

Also there are full reports on the Midlands Grand Prix at Stratford, on pages 16 and 17, the South West Grand Prix at St. Austell, pages 18 and 19, and the 1st East Anglian Grand Prix at Potters, on pages 34 and 35.

Plus we have a very interesting and in-depth interview by Brian Halliday with Jorgen Persson in 'Face to Face' on page 11.

Finally, I would like assure readers that we are trying to solve the production problems we have experienced with Table Tennis News this season, and hope to make a statement soon.

John Wood

PREAN & DEATON No.1's
CARL PREAN and NICOLA DEATON are the new English No.1 players, see Ranking List on page 32.

For Carl it is a return to the top position he last held in 1992.

This will be a very sweet moment for Nicola, as it is her first time at the pinnacle of Womens English table tennis.

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

The Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association

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SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTEERS



Alan Ransome OBE,
Chairman of the English
Table Tennis Association

At its meeting on April 17th, the ETTA National Council approved my proposals to extend the responsibilities of the Coaching Department to encompass training programmes for our volunteers across a range of important activities including umpiring and refereeing, tournament organisation and development.

This is effectively promoting a new department under the title of Teaching and Training which will encourage, train and qualify our volunteer network. It has long been recognised that table tennis coaches, administrators and officials are the most important resource in our sport. It is the Association's aim to expand participation in the sport and this can only be achieved if we at the same time increase the number of volunteers who are working in local clubs, leagues and county associations throughout the country.

The new National Lottery Awards for All programmes includes the opportunity for funding for the training of volunteers. This new department, therefore, will work with our experts in each of the particular fields to provide programmes and courses and qualifications.

Traditionally the biggest area of training has been within the coaching field and this will continue. We have within the Association as a result of the World Class Performance Plan new expertise in the form of Michel Gadai who is one of the world's foremost Performance Directors and his specialist staff who will be able to assist in the improvement of coach



Michel Gadai, one of the
world's foremost
Performance Directors

education programmes. In the area of umpires and referees, our National Umpires and Referees Committee has been concerned at the lack of recruitment. They have the expertise to set the programmes but clearly need assistance with recruitment.

A new award which will be launched is for tournament organisers. This is aimed at helping local officials become more proficient at running their local events and this will be part of the responsibility of the new Teaching and Training Department working with the Marketing and Tournament Committees. Another major area of work is in the recruitment and training of the table tennis development officers, The work that has already been carried out in the Association has been recognised by the Sports Council who for two years running have selected table tennis for national awards. The courses devised by the Development Department are already in operation in some

regions. Teaching and Training will take over the responsibility for the organisation of these courses and in so doing will lighten the load of the Development Department which has risen from being very modest eight years ago to an enormous active programme now.

Full details of how the Teaching and Training Department will operate will be formulated before the start of the new season but, in principle, the Association reconfirms its commitment to its volunteer network and will be making its biggest drive to date to provide encouragement, skills and support.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR EINDHOVEN

Following the decision by the ITTF taken in March not to proceed with the organisation of the World Championships in Belgrade, the ITTF have decided to accept the bid from the Netherlands Association to run the individual events only from 2 - 8 August in the Dutch city of Eindhoven. It is the ITTF's intention to organise the team championships events in February of next year in the dates which have been freed up in the international calendar by the cancellation of the Qatar Open. The ITTF at the time or writing are still accepting bids. The likely contenders appear to be Stockholm, Paris and Kuala Lumpur. Concern has been expressed within the European Table Tennis Union that adding the world team event to a very

congested calendar is not helpful and in particular, could have an adverse affect on the European Top 12 which is due to be played in Italy and the full European Championships to be staged in Bremen, Germany, in April. Nevertheless, all the indications are that the ITTF are likely to proceed. The international calendar around that time is looking particularly congested as the 1999/2000 season includes at the Olympic qualification events as well as the regular programme. In December the European Olympic Singles qualification takes place in Greece, and the Doubles qualification in the Netherlands. In January the Pro Tour Finals are to be played as a test event for the Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia. In April the European Championships in Bremen. In May the final Olympic Singles qualification in Seville Spain, with the Olympic Games themselves being held in Sydney in September 2000. The nine months December to September next season will be the most demanding for the top players in the history of the sport.

THE PIMPLES ISSUE

As a result of the cancellation of the World Championships in Belgrade in April and the consequential delay of the ITTF BGM and Council Meeting, our proposition to delay the implementation of the ITTF regulations disallowing the longest pimples cannot be heard until after the implementation date of 1st July, which in effect, makes it extremely unlikely that

the ITTF Council will, having just changed over to the new regulations, change back five weeks later, so one has to assume that the new ITTF regulations will take effect from 1st July and will be operational for next season.

There is, in fact, technically no change to the ITTF regulations. The most effective Pimples will be disallowed by the ITTF Equipment Committee changing its specification for the approval of rubbers.

So far as the game in England is concerned, the effect of this will be that all competitions that are included in the ETTA computer ranking scheme will follow the ITTF international regulations and, therefore, the rubbers with the longest pimples will not be permitted.

As things stand at the moment the competitions including local league matches are played under the ITTF laws whilst all international events and events under the ETTA computer ranking scheme are subject to ITTF regulations for international competitions as well as ITTF laws. The effect of this is that the longest pimples rubbers that are currently authorised by the ITTF will lose their authorisation for international competitions but will still be able to be used next season for all the competitions played in this country that are not included in the ETTA computer ranking scheme.

This matter will be included in the ETTA Annual Report which is currently being prepared. The report is discussed at the Annual General Meeting which will take place at the Ponds Forge complex in Sheffield on 3rd July when



DENG YAPING, arguably the finest women's player of all time, is now resident at Nottingham University

members with any views on the subject will have the opportunity of having their say.

DENG YAPING IN ENGLAND

Deng Yaping, arguably the finest women's table tennis player of all time, is resident at Nottingham University for one year. Deng is the current World and Olympic Champion. Although she is ranked at No.2 in the ITTF list, she has retired from international play having won 16 World Championship gold medals and 4 Olympic gold medals. Deng is one of the most famous personalities in China and is as well known throughout

China as Alan Shearer or David Beckham in England. Deng has been elected to the IOC Athletes Commission. Whilst here in England she is ready to help the ETTA and is conveniently resident near the ETTA National Training Centre at Holmepierre Pont in Nottingham which is just a few miles from the University. Michel Gadat will no doubt take the best possible advantage of her presence.

TABLE TENNIS IN 2002 IN MANCHESTER

We have received confirmation that table tennis is to be included

in the Commonwealth Games for the first time in 2002 in Manchester. The proposed programme includes team events for four days, a free day and then five individual events for four days. There is also the possibility of table tennis being included within the events for People with Disabilities which are to be staged in Manchester as part of the Games.

It also appears likely that table tennis, having been introduced to the Commonwealth Games in Manchester will remain in the programme as Melbourne, the city planning to stage the Games in 2006 has also included table tennis in its programme.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE

The troubles in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are having further effects on European table tennis. The ETTU Executive Committee who had its meeting in Luxembourg last month decided that it could not include Yugoslavia in the European League for the coming year or any Yugoslavian clubs in the European club competitions. Yugoslavian non-inclusion was purely due to the practical difficulties of forming divisions and issuing fixtures. It is hoped that the Yugoslavians will be able to return to the European competitions next season.

The ETTU have delayed a decision with regard to the participation of a Yugoslavian team in the European Youth Championships until the beginning of July in the hope that the difficulties will have subsided and their participation will be possible. Yugoslavia's place in the Womens Super Division has been taken by Slovakia and in the Mens First Division by Belarus.

Surprisingly Sweden have withdrawn from the European League for the coming season and their place in the Mens Super Division has been taken by Belgium. Their place in the Womens First Division has been filled by Poland.

TABLE TENNIS on TV

ITTF PRO TOUR BRAZILIAN OPEN COVERAGE ON SKY TV

Match	Date	Date of TV	Time	Channel
Brazilian Open	24/27.5.99	16.7.99	18.00	Sky Sports 3 Digital
Brazilian Open	24/27.5.99	18.7.99	16.00	Sky Sports 3 Digital
Brazilian Open	24/27.5.99	18.7.99	22.30	Sky Sports 3 Digital
Brazilian Open	24/27.5.99	19.7.99	15.00	Sky Sports 1 Digital
Brazilian Open	24/27.5.99	21.7.99	12.00	Sky Sports 2 Digital

POSTBAG

BRICK WALL

I AM the co-organiser of the Woolwich Junior National League in this area. We have 23 boys teams and 9 girls teams playing in 4 and 2 divisions, respectively, providing a high standard ranking competition for a fair number of juniors at two venues. All has gone very well thus far but now we hit the obstacle placed before us by the establishment. The last round of county championship matches has been moved to the same date as the final session of the W.J.N.L. At a quick glance we have some twenty plus juniors involved in both. If anyone can suggest a free and acceptable date this side of July I will be grateful and my phone bill will stay within reasonable bounds. I can only assume that the powers that be have judged the W.J.N.L. to be of too low a standard to involve county championship juniors. If this is the case then they are wrong.

In May 1998 I ran an under 12 two star tournament in advance of the national under 12s to provide a springboard for the nationals and to give the younger players more tournament opportunities. A short time before the due date a national under 12 training camp was notified for the same weekend. In May 1999 I am again organising an under 12 two side tournament and again at short notice a national under 12 training camp appears on the same weekend. The Cippenham cadet three star tournament at the end of March attracted a maximum entry despite the wrong date appearing in the E.T.T.A. diary and your magazine, but lo and behold an England under 14 training camp bursts through on the same weekend.

I completed all the appropriate forms in time for the diary publication and registered all the events with the calendar committee. We, at Cippenham, intend running a festival of youth table tennis on the last weekend in June. I am prepared for any bombshell that the establishment can arrange for that date.

Seriously, we are told that local volunteers are the lifeblood of the game, but unless we receive a more co-operative approach from above we will end up with one or two worldclass performers but very few participants at grass roots level. Hitting one's head against a brick wall will cause a headache which will only go away when you stop. I personally will have to do a lot of soul searching before deciding to run any tournaments next season.

*Ken Phillips
Chairman and Coaching Officer
Cippenham T.T.C.*

LAST WORD

WHILST I have no desire for correspondence between Ron Etheridge and I to continue for the rest of time, I felt that I could not let his letter in the last issue of Table Tennis News go unanswered.

The only reason I mentioned that I had played Ron in or around 1966, is that these days I win so few matches I have to rely on the odd few matches that I have won in the past.

I take on board Ron's comments regarding the differences between Peter Len/Les D'Arcy. And of course it is sad regarding Peter.

I think however, I had made my point in my initial correspondence that just because somebody doesn't know of someone doesn't make them a bad player or show that they have a lack of knowledge about the game.

I stand totally by my comments that at present with the array of rubbers on the market, that players rely on legal trickery.

Regarding the Reisman and Buist final that Ron refers to, this was a great final and the two players used "virtually" the same rubbers. I simply highlighted that match as being one where two players used comparatively the same rubbers, and there was a wonderful match for all to see.

Of course I realise that there is now far too much money in the game via the manufacturers, for unfortunately bats to be truly standardised. Yes, it was a cry in the wind that I would indeed like to see everybody playing with the exact same material, whatever that may be, and I have no preference to whatever it is as long as we are all playing with the same rubbers. I blame past administrators all over the world, and to a large degree in England also, as to having caused the situation that now exists. And yes, I do believe that Carl Preen, Matthew Syed and Andrea Holt are indeed guilty of legal trickery, together also with all the legions of veteran players who use combination bats. And yes, I accuse the so-called top administrators in China, Japan and England, who voted against the ITTF decision to reduce the long pimples, but they have by allowing this proved that they are in favour of legal trickery.

There is no doubt whatsoever in my mind that the vast array of rubbers and in particular long pimpled rubber and yes, fast glue, is ruining and has ruined our game. I believe that Tony Meredith who wrote a truly wonderful letter in the April Issue of TT News, hit the nail on the head and I think that his letter to a large degree says it all.

Ron, I am in the real world and yes, I fully appreciate that there is too much money in the game, I fully appreciate that past administrators perhaps all over the world, have made the biggest mistake of their lives in allowing what has now occurred and I know that there is far too much money in the game for things to change. But one can wish and one can fantasise, can't they Ron?

*Stuart Greenberg
New Barnet, Herts.*

COURTSIDE

by John Woodford

• **SOMEONE** said, not too long ago, that we might see three young players of Chinese extraction playing possibly for England cadets or juniors at some time after the year 2000. This prediction is unlikely to come true but as Britain becomes more and more a multi-racial society, we find that in the north Midlands area there are two young boys receiving regular coaching - Tamar and Liang Chen!

• **ALTHOUGH** I travel to many table tennis events at home and abroad, it is impossible to cover everything without valuable help from officials and on occasions, players and occasionally players' families - usually the more intrepid relations like the Young's, the Blake's and the Deaton's.

For two years the Qatar TTA paid my air fare to Doha under an arrangement with Gulf Air. This year the table tennis Arabs were unable to come to an agreement with the airline, so I was unable to go. Instead, I naively relied on promises of a four-day fax arrangement. Nothing happened. I had to make two telephone calls to the Sheraton Hotel, Doha, to get the information on the English performances direct from Matthew Syed.

• **THE** Grand Prix circuit needs sharpening up in two areas next season. One is, umpires for the final stages on the second day and two is the need for drawsheets and results to be posted up. At least two Grand Prix events that I attended I found that players did not know what was going on, because no local official or helpers had been found to post up the results. The consequence that the top table were continuously facing barrages of questions. Media people also had to keep pestering the officials for results and scores.

I understand that attempts are being made for next season to allow some umpires expenses - it is the county umpires that are so badly needed in the final hours of the last day. I have one report that umpires who help out at grand prix events could be blacklisted by the national umpires committee!

• **GLUING-UP** between games is becoming slightly ridiculous. At the Stratford Grand Prix finals session, the audience and two players were left in limbo for several minutes while Neil Charles and Clive Carthy were outside the hall gluing-up. They were given two minutes to get the table or be scratched by referee Phil Gower. They just made it

• **I WONDER** how many leagues throughout the country will find themselves searching for a new local secretary next season? If the situation in Sussex is anything like the rest of the country, a massive recruiting drive is needed. Four Sussex league secretaries have given notice that they are not seeking re-election at the forthcoming annual meetings - Brighton, Eastbourne, and Lewes.

• **COULD** all the paperwork concerning development, Top Clubs, coaching, courses etc. coming from the corridors of power have anything to do with the secretaries quitting? Perhaps Sussex secretaries are different from the rest, but if I find after making enquiries in my travels that secretaries are abandoning their posts because of the increase in paperwork, there we have the root of the problem, but not the answer, of course.

• **IN TWO** cases recently, leagues have had to issue ultimatums to the players - find a secretary or the fixtures will not be issued until such time as one is found. This course of action may sound drastic but it works, in most cases.

• **WORKING** with the local authority sports development officers by local leagues has now become an essential part of the local scene. Many towns run multi-sporting events and new venues open up taking in a number of sports - table tennis cannot afford to be sidelined. Leagues who find that their local authority man or woman is not in favour of table tennis are in trouble. Watch out for some severe difficulties in Sussex on the horizon concerning this problem.

UNDER 10,11,12'S FASTEST GROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS

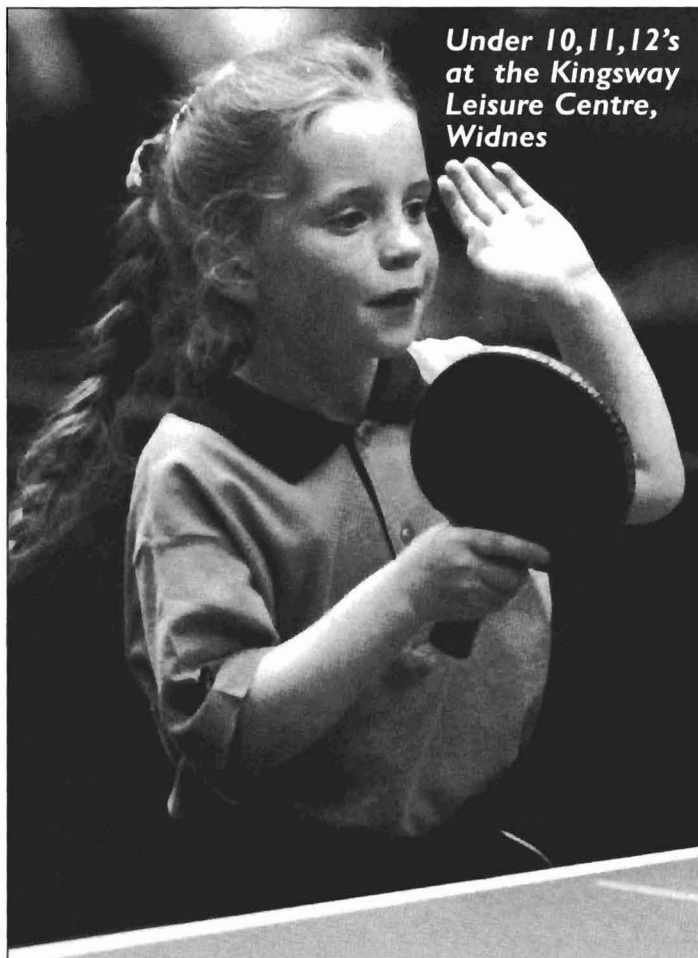


Mike
Johns,
ETTA
Events
Manager

ALTHOUGH the season is coming to an end, May and the first half of June are extremely busy. Following the South Yorkshire Open the Top 16 players in each Grand Prix event will be invited to take part in this season's finals at Bath Leisure Centre on the 29th and 30th May. The Finals, supported by the Bath & North East Somerset Council, offer almost £11,000 in prize money. Most of England's leading players are expected play, spectators are welcome, at no charge, writes Mike Johns.

On the same date the National Under 10, 11, 12's will take place at the Kingsway Leisure Centre, Widnes, Cheshire. This event is supported by the Halton District Council. Of all our National Championships the Under 10,11 12's has, over recent years been the fastest growing, and a large entry is expected. Again spectators are welcome.

The recently revamped National Team Championships finals return to Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre on the weekend of the 12th and 13th June. Last year was the first time they had been staged at Bury St Edmunds and were such a



Under 10,11,12's
at the Kingsway
Leisure Centre,
Widnes



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



NATIONAL TEAM FINALS BURY ST.EDMONDS



success that the St Edmundsbury Council, who supported the event, agreed to do so for a second year.

The format of the National Team Championships was changed last year into a group, all play all, format, played at a single venue on one day. This has proved extremely popular with the players who can thank the hard working Mick Strode and Doris Moors, guided by Keith Ponting (Vice-Chairman, competitions) for making sure that the new format worked.

Play commences at 10am each day with 5 finals being played at 4pm Saturday and the other 5 at the same time on Sunday.

PREMIER VICTORY for POLICE at POTTERS

THE Police Athletic Association are the new champions of the Veterans British League. After taking a two point lead from the first leg of matches in Widnes, they hung on in the final weekend at Potters to beat champions Larkhall Spicer by just one point, writes Jim Beckley.

However, for Larkhall star Richard Yule it was a triumphant weekend as he carried on from where he left off by finishing the event with an impressive 88.88 average after playing the maximum number of matches (18).

The Police took a risk by only fielding 3 players throughout their campaign but each ended up with over 70%. Dave Newton, Dave Harding and Brian Johns were on call all the time and it paid off.

But disappointment for one time favourites Darlington who failed to bring their players together for the second weekend and had to forfeit all their matches ending up second from bottom in the Premier Division.

No such problems for Dagenham Ladies who like the mens winners just edged home by one point. Heroine of the day was Lesley Radford who finished with an incredible 93.33% average after losing only one match from 15 outings and being on the receiving end of a Jan Dunning special that caught her straight between the eyes.

But this wasn't just a one player success story. Team mates, Helen Shields, Sheila King and Marjorie Dawson were all in the top half of the averages to record what was obviously a great team effort.

Bribar Bramley just could not match Dagenham's all round ability and will probably feel disappointed that they had to settle for second best after leading the field at Widnes.

Making a move up next season will be Fullerians and Raquetsports A who both won promotion to the mens Premier Division. While Colleens and Worcester ladies were clear promotion candidates in Division One and will now have a chance to taste the big time next season.

Helen Shields was voted Female Player of the Weekend with Terry Guymer of the South East Essex team winning the mens award.

Cippenham who finished 2nd in the mens 4th division received some consolation for being just edged out of winning the title by being named mens Team of the Weekend while



the Colleens made it a double celebration after winning the Division One title and the women's team award.

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BC06

Karl Bushell lead from the front to take Barclays Bank into Division One next season. He notched up a 90% average after playing 20 matches. Peter Radford and Tony Taylor added to Barclays performance.

Thompson Insurance topped Division Three with Wayne Percival leading the way, although the news about Jimmy Scope's heart attack will have taken the shine off what was an otherwise great performance.

Pritchitt Anahilt will go up into Division Three next season along with Cippenham who finished joint second with Ashford in Division Four but who won through on sets.

There were double celebrations at Raquetsports when the B team topped Division Five to follow in the footsteps of the first team who won the first division.

Altogether a great weekend with first class conditions. Here's to next year.

Mens Premier Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Police Athletic Assoc. I	10	8	1	1	47	13	17
Larkhall Spicer	10	6	4	0	44	16	16
Bournemouth	10	4	1	5	28	32	9
Swinton	10	2	3	5	25	35	7
Darlington I	10	3	1	6	18	42	7
Seasiders Blackpool I	10	1	2	7	18	42	4
Mens First Division							
Fullerians	10	8	2	0	43	17	18
Racquetsports I	10	5	4	1	40	20	14
OLOP	10	3	4	3	29	31	10
British Gas	10	3	2	5	25	35	8
Merrow	10	1	4	5	22	38	6
Shamrocks	10	1	2	7	21	39	4
Mens Second Division							
Barclays Bank	10	8	2	0	43	17	18
Stockport	10	7	2	1	39	21	16
Police Athletic Assoc. II	10	3	3	4	27	33	9
Plymouth Extremes	10	3	2	5	28	32	8
Tokyu World Transport	10	2	3	5	22	38	7
Darlington II	10	0	2	8	21	39	2
Mens Third Division							
Thompson Insurance	10	6	3	1	40	20	15
Ellenborough	10	4	5	1	37	23	13
Newbury Park	10	4	5	1	33	27	13
Graham Spicer	10	2	5	3	31	29	9
Lillington Free Church	10	2	3	5	27	33	7
Aldbrough	10	1	1	8	12	48	3
Mens Fourth Division							
Pritchitt Anahilt	10	6	4	0	44	16	16
Cippenham	10	5	3	2	35	25	13
Ashford	10	5	3	2	32	28	13
Trident Blinds	10	3	6	1	32	28	12
Bribar Kingfisher	10	1	1	8	20	40	3
H.E.L. Men	10	1	1	8	17	43	3
Mens Fifth Division							
Racquetsports II	10	8	1	1	42	18	17
South East Essex	10	8	1	1	38	22	17
Colebridge	10	3	2	5	27	33	8
Scottish Thistles	10	3	2	5	27	33	8
Guildford	10	2	1	7	25	35	5
Seasiders Blackpool II	10	1	3	6	21	39	5
Womens Premier Division							
Dagenham Ladies	10	8	1	1	45	15	17
Bribar Bramley	10	7	2	1	41	19	16
Colebridge BC	10	3	5	2	30	30	11
H.E.L. Ladies	10	3	3	4	28	32	9
Hammond Suddards	10	2	3	5	26	34	7
Ellenborough	10	0	0	10	10	50	0
Womens First Division							
Colleens	10	10	0	0	45	15	20
Worcester Ladies	10	7	1	2	42	18	15
The 4 J's	10	5	1	4	32	28	11
Billwood	10	3	1	6	21	39	7
Halton & Friends	10	2	2	6	23	37	6
Combined Counties	10	0	1	9	17	43	1



INFORMATION OFFICER MESSAGES from Ken Muhr

MY first major task is trying to improve coverage of table tennis, particularly in the national media through press releases, reports, stories and phone calls - contact making and networking. It is not going to be easy owing to widespread indifference to our sport, but there has been some minor headway, mostly of an occasional, fleeting nature on radio, television and to a lesser extent in the press. I think the regional media is easier to crack and we have had quite a lot of success here, the English Open at Potters being an example. The local media is much harder for me to service and I must largely rely on local people to provide copy (though my experience is that the local press is often pleased to publish table tennis provided reports are regular, precise and key points are highlighted). In fact at all levels I must rely on the continued work of table tennis enthusiasts with journalistic interest and flair. Far from taking the load off workers and volunteers, I must increase their output and their number if I am to be at all successful!

I would be grateful to learn of all people in table tennis currently doing or interested in doing media work for our sport so I can compile a list of contacts. Please also send me your local cuttings and if you have any stories - of amusing or novel incidents, of personalities or celebrities playing, of rising stars or those still performing after say 50 or 60 years, of innovative schemes or successes, as well as of big events - that may be of interest nationally or regionally, please let me have these too. I may be able to 'hawk' them further afield. But also let me know what you would like from me to help you do your work.

Let the media know of your opinions of their coverage of table tennis or lack of it, because 'public opinion' carries weight. If you are annoyed that the national newspapers give vast space to the 'rich and beautiful' (and white, middle class) people who play and follow lawn tennis competitions whilst, for example (of too many examples), virtually ignoring the multiethnic, inner London team (Progress) that won our own table tennis British League, write and tell them! We do not get anywhere by being meek and mild!

My other major function is currently to consider how best to get information out to our members, whether through 'Table Tennis News', our website (www.etta.co.uk), various newsletters or mailshots. I have also been dealing with many, often quite time consuming (requiring research) queries from players, officials and students. There is a lot of work to be done on organising a table tennis library and information service.

ENGLAND CORNER

MARKET AT CADET LEVEL

JUNIOR & CADET QUADRANGULAR CHAMPIONSHIPS

WELSH INSTITUTE OF SPORT
CARDIFF 7/8 APRIL 1999

ENGLAND, Ireland and Wales left the Junior and Cadet Quadrangular Championships played in Cardiff 7/8 April well satisfied with their teams' results, writes Stephen Gibbs.

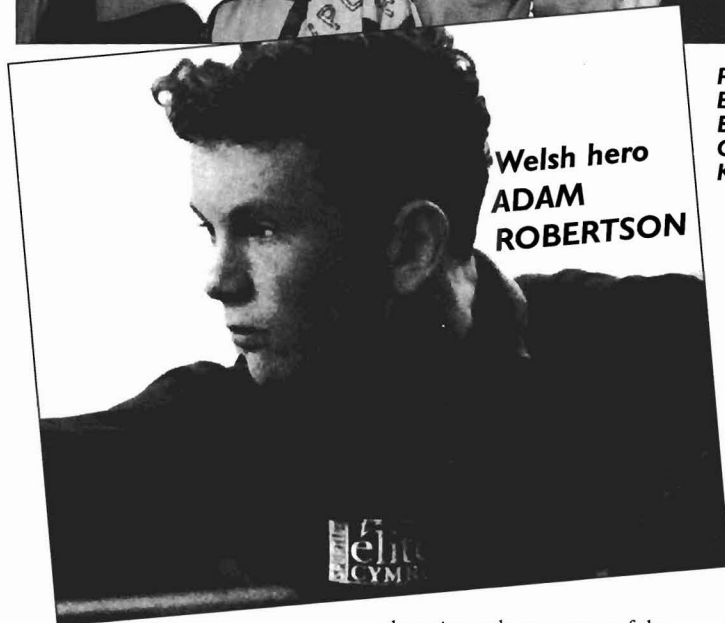
England clearly corner the market at Cadet level with their Cadet Teams, Boys and Girls winning just about all there was to win over the two days. England's Boys Team of Lee Barham, Peter Cleminson, Dominic Hall and Matthew Kenny went through day one, the Team event, undefeated, beating Ireland 4-1, Scotland 3-2, and hosts Wales 5-0 to take the team title. On day two the same four boys won all four medals on offer in the Cadet Singles event. Hall beat Kenny 24-22, 21-10, in the final with Cleminson and Barham settling for bronze. Hall and Kenny won the Cadet Boys doubles with a 22-20, 21-14, win over the Irish pairing of Sean Brady and Dane Smyth.

England's Cadet Girls nearly made a clean sweep too. In the team event Abigail Embling, Lucy Pointer, Karen Shepherd and Kate Steward beat all three other countries by the same 4-1 scoreline. Lucy Pointer won the Cadet Girls singles when she beat Kate Steward in the final 22-20, 18-21, 21-17. Pointer and Steward teamed-up to win the Cadet Girls doubles with a three set win over Embling and Shepherd. Scotland scored a rare success in the Cadet Girls Singles with Natalie Gallan sharing the bronze medal place.

While England held the whip hand over the others at Cadet level it was totally different story in the Junior events. With Adam Robertson in Wales Junior Boys team Wales were red hot favourites to win the team event. On the day, Wales found a new starlet in Gwent's Owen Griffiths. Griffiths was brought into the side for the match against Scotland which Wales won 5-0 and was retained for the final match against England. Griffiths beat Oliver



Pictured above are the victorious England Cadet Boys team, Lee Barham, Denis Neal (Team Captain), Dominic Hall, Matthew Kenny, and Peter Cleminson.



Stevens in the first event and Robertson did the rest as Wales won 4-1. On day two Robertson won the singles event with a win over Eoin Byrne of Ireland while Griffiths and Steve Jenkins of Wales shared the bronze medals. Robertson and Jenkins won the doubles event with a comfortable win over Stevens and Jamieson of England.

In the Junior Girls category Ireland reigned supreme. Their two players Noelle Lennon and Linda Mountjoy dismissed the other three countries

dropping only one event of the fifteen played. On day two they continued their run of success to meet each other in the Junior Girls Final. While Lennon, the Irish No.1, was favourite she like all the others fell to the long pimpled back hand of Linda Mountjoy. Charlotte Cooksley [Wales] and Aparna Narendran [England] shared the bronze medal.

Lennon and Mountjoy teamed up for a successful doubles event beating Kendall and Narendran of England in the Junior Girls Doubles final 22-20, 21-18.

TEAM PLACINGS			
CADET BOYS	P	W	Pts
ENGLAND	3	3	6
IRELAND	3	2	4
SCOTLAND	3	1	2
WALES	3	0	0
CADET GIRLS	P	W	Pts
ENGLAND	3	3	6
SCOTLAND	3	2	4
WALES	3	1	2
IRELAND	3	0	0
JUNIOR BOYS	P	W	Pts
WALES	3	3	6
ENGLAND	3	2	4
IRELAND	3	1	2
SCOTLAND	3	0	0
JUNIOR GIRLS	P	W	Pts
IRELAND	3	3	6
WALES	3	2	4
ENGLAND	3	1	2
SCOTLAND	3	0	0

“SLAP” SHOT



FACE TO FACE
Brian Halliday
meets Jorgen
Persson at
the English
Open

The File on Jorgen Persson of Sweden

Date of Birth: 22.4.66

Club: Kalmar BTK.

World Champion 1991, Runner up 1989, World Champion in Men's Team 1989, 1991, 1993, Runner up 1987, 1995. World Champion in Men's Doubles Runner up 1997 (with Waldner). European Champion 1986, Runner up 1996, European Champion in Men's Doubles 1992 (with Lindh), 1996 (with Waldner). European Champion in Men's Team 1986, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1996. Swedish Open Champion 1996, Runner up 1998. European Top 12 Champion 1992. Swedish Champion Men's Singles 1987, 1988, 1990, 1999, Runner up 1997. World Cup in World Singles 1991.

Q. You are a World Champion, you have done it all in table tennis. What motivates you now? What drives you on?

A. Now it is the Olympics. You see I have been World Champion and European Champion. That is the goal I have. My future motivation will depend a lot on how I play in Sydney. After that I will see.

Q. Have you any idea what you might do after that?

A. No I try not to think about my career ending. I want to concentrate now on playing as well as possible especially with the Olympics in mind.

Q. I talked to Ni Xia Lian and she emphasised she really loved the game and was motivated by the sheer joy of playing. Is this the same for you and the rest of the Swedish team, or is it more like work to you?

A. No. I think it is necessary that you enjoy it. It is difficult coming to tournaments and all the practice involved if you don't enjoy your sport. You must not think of the economics or how much money you might make - the thing to do is to enjoy it.

Q. I noticed at the Manchester Worlds that Waldner and yourself were out training very early in the mornings. How much training and practice do you do?

A. About 3 or 4 hours a day. Not only table tennis but physical work as well. Sometimes at training camps it can be 5 or 6 hours a day.

Q. How do you prepare mentally and physically for a big tournament?

A. You have to focus very carefully for a couple of days beforehand, but for a

Worlds or a European it is always on your mind. You plan it and try to be 110% ready.

Q. Does it affect your home life?

A. I have a family. Now I am at the English Open, then I have one day off and then the Croatian Open. I try not to let it affect my home life. In the beginning it was difficult but it is easier now.

Q. I know winning the World title was memorable for you, but was there any other match that you can look back on and say "Yes that was a fantastic match"?

A. I don't look back too much and of course I try to forget the losses as quickly as possible. I think in 1986 at the Europeans there are a lot of matches I remember in my head that I won. If you ask me about the losses I remember the 1993 Worlds in Gothenburg when I lost in the 1st Round. That is a memory very difficult to forget. It was 3-0 as well!

Q. When you play the top guys like Samsonov, Kong Ling Hui etc, do you go into the match with a pre-arranged plan? Do you keep a mental record of your opponent for future reference?

A. Yes, I try to combine all aspects. It is important that I know how my opponent plays. I must feel good and of course I try to play my own game also. If you have too much respect for the opponent you are at a disadvantage. You have to be aware tactically but also to concentrate on your own game. Sometimes you have to change quickly within a match situation to alter the way a game is going.

Q. Where did you learn how to execute that incredible backhand "slap" shot?

A. I think it is not something you learn. It just comes. It really started when I was doing training exercises and then I decided to try it out in match situations and it worked. It is a great feeling when I hit it just right. (Demonstrates the movement of the racket arm)

Q. I've tried that but it doesn't seem to work!

A. (Leans forward with a smile) Ah! You also need a little talent!

Q. In England you are acknowledged by everyone as a player with a very sporting attitude. I expect you remember that crucial edge point that neither the Umpire or Matt Syed saw in the Pre Olympic Qualifying Tournament in Manchester. You drew attention to the edge ball at about 19 all in the fifth, and the point may have cost you the match.

A. I remember it very well. It was a very important match but I think that if I had said nothing I would have stolen a point and I would never do that. If I had taken that point my mind would not accept it and I would not have been able to play the next match.

Q. You have seen and played against many English players. Where do we go wrong in comparison with the Swedish players at your level?

A. I do not know too much about English table tennis. In Sweden we have good clubs and a good structure. We learnt a lot from Ogimura of Japan in the 1960s, and then a lot from the Chinese. Waldner, Lindh and myself went to China when we were 15 or 16 years old and we learned a lot at that time. We tried to develop our own style. I think to use players such as Alan Cooke is good

for English table tennis. It is important to use the older players. We did that a lot in Sweden.

Q. When Sweden first beat China it seemed that there was a deliberate plan to take the ball much later.

A. Yes there was. We decided we could not compete with their speed. We played with more spin and taking the ball later gave us more of a choice of shot. We had played them a lot which I think gave us an advantage.

Q. Who were your inspirations?

A. Bengtsson, Alser, Johansson. Without these people Waldner, Appelgren, Lindh, Carlson and myself would not have reached a high level.

Q. In England we don't seem to be able to produce a group of quality players.

A. It is not normal even in Sweden. At the moment we have promising individuals but a very high quality group is very unusual.

Q. Who is the best player you have seen?

A. Waldner, although Kuo was a wonderful player.

Q. How close are you to Waldner?

A. We have been in the National team for almost 20 years, so we see each other all the time.

Q. What interests do you have outside the sport?

A. I like to go to Rock concerts. Rock and Pop music. Also of course my family and I like to play golf when I have time - that is relaxing. I also have one share in a horse, not a race horse but a trotting horse. I bet on him but don't make much money as it is more of a hobby.

Q. What age did you start?

A. 6 years old. I joined a club when I was 7. I always wanted to be a table tennis player.

Q. So did I!

A. (Laughs out loud) But I had a talent also.

Q. Ni Xia Lian emphasised how well mannered and pleasant the top players are.

A. Well we travel together all over the world, and spend a lot of time in each others company - but as soon as we are out on the table it is very different.

BH: Thanks very much for your time. I hope you have success here this week.

JP: I hope so. It is a long time since I won the English Open.

DARLINGTON SECURE 3rd SPOT with BIG WIN

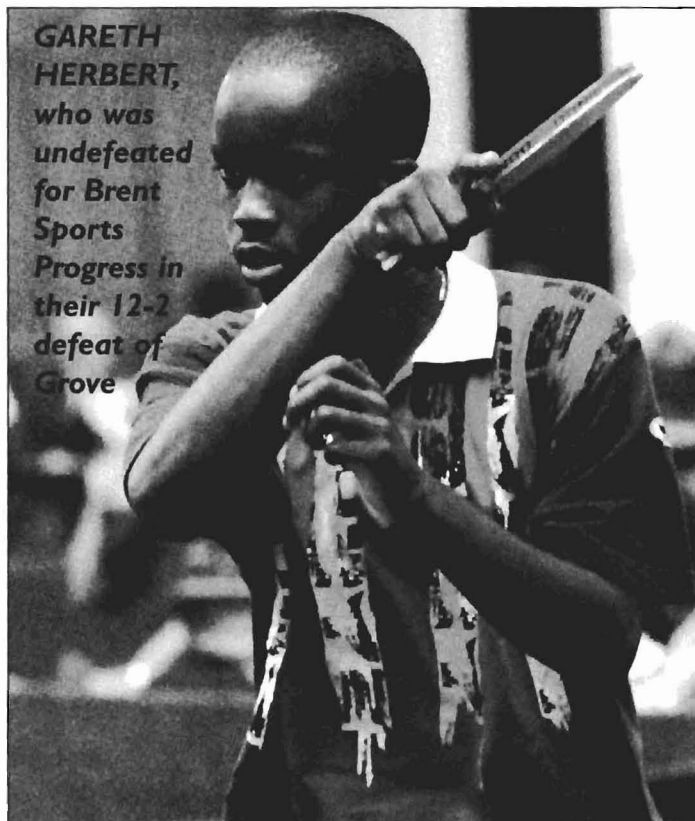
GARETH HERBERT, Darren Blake and Jason Sugrue were all unbeaten as Brent Sports Progress defeated Grove 12-2 to move into top spot in the Premier Division with only one match left to play, writes Aubrey Drapkin.

But that match is against second placed Horsham and will be the title decider. Progress only need a draw to become champions but the Horsham club need to win.

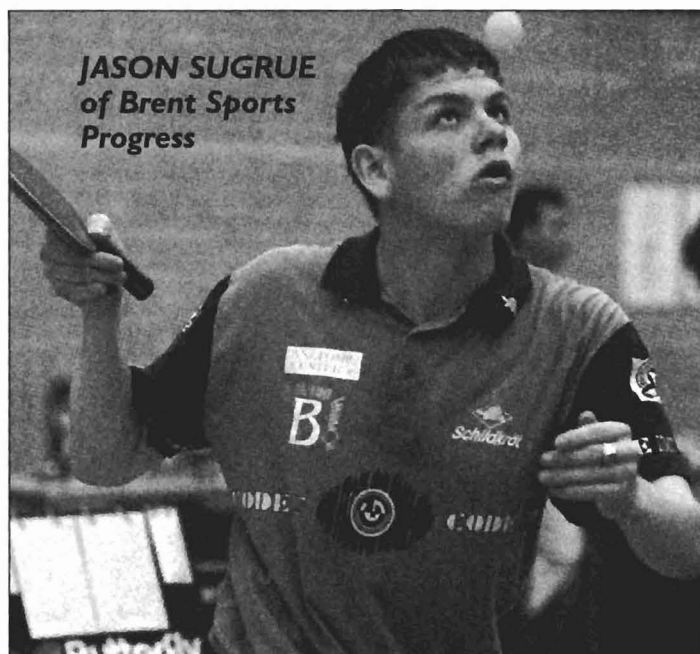
At the other end of the table the last matches will also decide the relegation issue. OLOP AWCS Ltd gave themselves a lifeline by beating DML White Hart Launceston 10-4 and both teams now have three points.

With St.Neots having resigned one of them will go down. White Hart, who have the better set difference, are at home to Darlington whilst OLOP have to visit Grove.

Justin Goodall was impressive in OLOP's victory over White Hart and Michael Auchterlonie also won



GARETH HERBERT, who was undefeated for Brent Sports Progress in their 12-2 defeat of Grove



JASON SUGRUE of Brent Sports Progress

all of his matches.

Darlington ensured that they will finish in third place with a 10-4 home win over JAGS, Eddie Smith

being unbeaten. With Darlington second team, 6-2 winners over Syntegra Worcester City, already having won division One North and

ineligible for promotion to the Premier Division, Derwent are now favourites to go up.

Unbeaten performances from Andrew Horsfield and Mark Short helped them to beat Seasiders 6-2 and stay two points clear of RMSC Lincoln who won 7-1 away to Kingshurst Bribar.

The battle for the championship of division 1 South has gone all the way to the final set of matches. Colley Hyundai's team of David Barr, Mark Owen, Stephen Jenkins and Michael Owens overpowered Limberlost Pine Poole 8-0 whilst Harvey Barnet beat Hastings 5-3 when John Taylor beat both Richard Yule and Robert Abbotts.

Colley now have to play at home to C & M Insurance Brentwood when a draw will give them the championship. But if they lose and Harvey Barnet win away to bottom team DML White Hart Launceston seconds then it will be Barnet who finish on top.

In division two North, Grantham Kontak were surprisingly held to a

draw by bottom team Grove seconds but they were already assured of winning the division. Dennis Neale was, as usual, unbeaten for Grantham but the player of the match was Grove's Kevin Shaw who wore down both of his opponents, Steve Davies and Lee Barham. Grove now need to beat Abbeydale in their last match by a score of at least 7-1 and hope that Drumchapel Glasgow lose 0-8 to Derwent if they are to retain their place in the second division.

Norwich Todd Foxwood continued to show their fine form in division two South with a 7-1 win away to KCD Stiga when Phil Logsdon, Iain McLean and Mick Broughton were all unbeaten and stay in contention for promotion to the first division.

TAD-Ellenborough also kept their hopes alive with a similar victory at Cippenham where Graham Sandley, Martin Rogers and Jimmy Walsh were all too good for the home side. The defeat put paid to Cippenham's hopes. Meanwhile Horsham kept on top with a 6-2 home win over the Aylesbury League.

Division three South and West has been won by CATSoft Puma's Adeyfield and they kept their unbeaten record intact by beating Cippenham seconds 7-1.

Harvey Barnet thirds made sure of finishing as runners up with an 8-0 home victory over a depleted OLOP AWCS Ltd second team.

Barnet seconds have won division three South and De Vere Sudbury's 7-1 victory away to Horsham thirds made sure that they take second place. Richard Hutchinson, Steve Kerns, and Tim Avis won all of their matches against Horsham.

The only team in the whole of the British League with a 100% record are Jack Spratt-Wellhouse.

They gained another 8-0 victory, this time away to Darlington fourths, and now need to beat Derwent thirds to complete the season without dropping a point.

TABLES

PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brent Sports Progress	11	10	1	-	111	43	21
Horsham	11	10	-	1	106	48	20
Darlington	11	6	1	4	91	63	13
JAGS	12	4	2	6	71	97	10
Grove	11	4	-	7	70	84	8
DML W. H. Launceston	11	1	1	9	51	103	3
OLOP AWCS Ltd	11	1	1	9	46	108	3
St Neots resigned							

DIVISION 1 NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Darlington II	13	10	3	-	72	32	23 *
Derwent	13	8	2	3	63	41	18
RMSC Lincoln	13	7	2	4	59	45	16
Uxbridge (Burton)	13	7	1	5	52	52	15
Seasiders (Blackpool)	13	4	4	5	52	52	12
Syntegra Worcester City	13	4	4	5	49	55	12
Kingshurst Briar	13	2	2	9	45	59	6
Bulldog Security	13	-	2	11	24	80	2

DIVISION 1 SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colley Hyundai	13	11	1	1	86	18	23
Harvey Barnet	13	11	-	2	65	39	22
Byng Hall Farningham Print	13	6	3	4	61	43	15
Hastings	13	6	2	5	50	54	14
C & M Insurance Brentwood	13	4	4	5	54	50	12
Limberlost Pine Poole	13	4	1	8	40	64	9
Moonrakers, Westbury	13	2	2	9	36	68	6
DML W. H. Launceston II	13	1	1	11	24	80	3

DIVISION 2 NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grantham Kontak	13	9	4	-	76	28	22 *
Derwent II	13	8	2	3	61	43	18
Darlington III	13	8	1	4	58	46	17
Abbeylea	13	6	3	4	56	48	15
Rushey Mead Club	13	3	7	3	48	56	13
Ormesby	13	3	3	7	39	65	9
Drumchapel Glasgow	13	2	2	9	42	62	6
Grove II	13	-	4	9	36	68	4

DIVISION 2 SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Horsham II	12	9	1	2	68	28	19 *
Norwich Todd Foxwood	12	9	-	3	72	24	18
TAD-Ellenborough	13	8	1	4	64	40	17
Cippenham	13	8	1	4	59	45	17
Aylesbury League	13	6	-	7	50	54	12
KCD Stiga	13	3	2	8	35	69	8
Fellows Cranleigh	13	2	3	8	36	68	7
DML W. H. Launceston III	13	1	2	10	24	80	4

DIVISION 3 SOUTH & WEST	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CATSoft Puma's Adeyfield	11	9	2	-	71	17	20 *
Harvey Barnet III	11	7	1	3	57	31	15
Brent Sports Progress II	11	5	3	3	46	42	13
Moonrakers, Westbury II	11	3	3	5	38	50	9
Guildford	12	3	3	6	42	54	9
OLOP AWCS Ltd II	11	4	-	7	31	57	8
Cippenham II	11	1	2	8	27	61	4

DIVISION 3 NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jack Spratt-Wellhouse	11	11	-	-	71	17	22 *
Derwent III	11	5	3	3	48	40	13
Seasiders, Blackpool II	11	5	2	4	50	38	12
City of Leeds	11	5	1	5	49	39	11
Syntegra Worcester City II	12	5	1	6	49	47	11
Darlington IV	11	3	1	7	28	60	7
Ormesby II	11	-	2	9	17	71	2

DIVISION 3 SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Harvey Barnet II	10	7	2	1	57	23	16 *
De Vere Sudbury	10	6	1	3	47	33	13
Byng Hall F. P. II	9	4	1	4	36	36	9
Ashford	9	4	-	5	36	36	8
Horsham III	9	4	-	5	31	41	8
KCD Stiga II	9	-	2	7	17	55	2

* = Division winners

LEAGUE PLACINGS, ALL MATCHES PLAYED UP TO THE 11th APRIL 1999

Still a Sticky Issue

Over the last few years the arguments have raged over the issues of speed glue within the family of table tennis throughout the world.

Rule changes have seen that some nasties have gone from the speed glues, but the question still remains is it safe?

So what can players, parents, coaches and helpers do to ensure the safest ways to apply speed glue?

First lets try to understand how glue or the fumes can get into the body.

It can pass through the skin should direct contact occur through the lungs if inhaled and is exaggerated if smoking at the same time or, into the digestive system if someone is eating or drinking in close proximity. So it is very easy for the fumes to pass into the system very quickly.

The short term effects of close contact either through inhalation or ingestion is that it can induce sleep, slow the reaction time and inhibit concentration and attention. Not conducive to a good table tennis performance at all.

Airlines class glue in the 'category of "very dangerous" it being very flammable and toxic. They insist on glues to be well packaged and registered at the check in and never allowed as hand luggage, as many table tennis travellers have found to their detriment.

Most of the leading manufacturers of bat rubber are now producing rubber which simulates the effects of speed glue to great effect, so is it really necessary for players to still expose themselves on a frequent regular basis to something that can be very harmful?

Whilst the rules still permit the use of solvent adhesives then the freedom of choice must remain. If people still choose to use solvent adhesives it is very important that:-

- The glue is from a reputable manufacturer and on the ITTF approved list.
- It is kept and transported in a sealed container with suitable packaging.
- It is opened in a well ventilated area away from other people.
- It is always applied with an applicator and never comes into direct contact with the skin.
- It is never applied whilst eating, drinking or smoking as this aids access into the body's system.

The advice is to seriously consider the alternatives to speed glue, with all the alternatives available is it really worth it from either a health or performance perspective?

Peter A. Hurst

ETTA Coaching Director

DYNAMIC DOUBLE TRIUMPH FOR GROVE AT POTTERS



Grove Girls' and Boys' teams, winners of their respective Premier Divisions of the Woolwich Junior British League. (Left to Right) Trudie Bloor, Jade Kendall, Hannah Yardy, Natalie Bawden, Andrew Rushton, John Coysh, and Michael Gomersall

THE Grove club pulled off a notable double when the sixth Woolwich Junior British League season was completed at "Potters" over the week end of February 6/7th winning both Boys and Girls Premier divisions, writes Brian Lamerton.

Shorn of Adam Robertson by the Welsh "Open" John Coysh played his part well, as he joined Andrew Rushton and Michael Gomersall to complete the double over runners up and reigning champions Challoner Hall by 4 sets to 2, on the final afternoon. Rushton led the individual averages losing only to Edmonton's Oliver Stevens in a close encounter 21-19, 26-24. This result added to Matthew Kenny's brace enabled Edmonton to obtain a draw, Groves only dropped point. Michael Chan and Marco Essomba both of Challoner finished 2nd and 3rd in the

**Words by
BRIAN LAMERTON
Pictures by
JOHN WOOD**

averages, both losing only to Rushton.

The Girls Premier was a close affair when Grove after losing to C.M.C. had to pull out all the stops to defeat Irish Girls at the last hurdle to finish one point ahead of their opponents, Natalie Bawden's last set win. 21-11, 21-15, over Suzanne Monnelly being the clincher. C.M.C. who were responsible for all three points dropped by the champions throughout the season can consider themselves unlucky to only finish in third place, Katy Parker who missed continuation of her serial with Natalie

Bawden by nature of both playing at No 2. defeated both Trudie Bloor and Jade Kendall when C.M.C. defeated Grove 4-2.

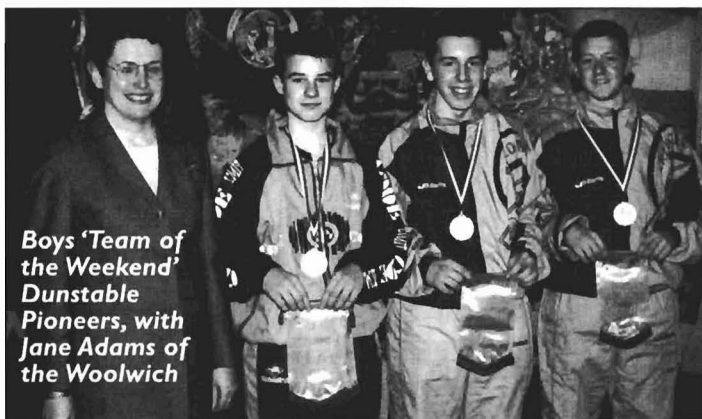
Uxbridge, having reversed their first half score with Darlington, winning 5-1, had Boys Division 1 tied up before their final match with Progress which they won 4-2. Craig Gascoyne whose only defeat was at the hands of Humberside's Scott Taylor led Uxbridge home and was well supported by Robin Pearce, Simon Rudland and Simon Walters. Eli Baraty (Progress) beaten only by the winners Gascoyne and Pearce took second place in the division's averages.

The Grove club's celebrations continued as their "B" team won all five matches to overtake Cippenham and win Girls Division 1, Kate Hughes (losing only to Jane Dickens (Cippenham), Paisley Spink (losing

only to B.A.T.T.S. Aimee Sparkes) Claire Goldstraw and Annabelle Sorrentino taking the medals for Grove.

Despite dropping three points after a faultless first half, Lillington Free Church won Girls Division 2 as a result of the better performance in their two matches with runners-up Club Mid Cheshire. Needing a draw from their last match with Cheshire the LFC's were never in the lead but when Kay Mason won the last set (21-13, 21-17 against Joanne Roberts), her second success of the match and her 20th of the competition (a maximum) they were home and dry. LFC's one defeat was at the hands of Team Peniel "A" (Grace Brown 2).

Despite drawing for the second time with Halton, Cippenham were much too strong for the rest in



Boys 'Team of the Weekend' Dunstable Pioneers, with Jane Adams of the Woolwich



Girls 'Team of the Weekend' Club Mid-Cheshire, with Richard Yule of the ETTA



Pictured left are the two 'Players of the Weekend', Leigh Iles of Bristol Boys, and Rachael Willis of Spicer Girls

Boys Division 2A with Marc Gilston, Robert Hansell and Douglas Speed dropping only 6 sets between them over the whole weekend - two of them to Halton's Daniel Homer.

Boys Division 3A provided the closest finish of all, Dunstable Pioneer and Humberside "B" arriving at the final match with each other, both having dropped one point only, that as the result of their first half draw. The second match was also drawn with Humberside's No.1 Kacper Brzezniak, winning twice and thus maintaining his 100% average, the star. So all was level on match points and on a count back the two matches between them were also level on games so it was on to points and Humberside emerged as the eventual winners by the margin of one playing point 460 to 459!

Ormesby dropped but two sets throughout the weekend (both to B.A.T.T.S Aaron Fennell) as they

powered to Boys Division 3B title, Nicky Chapman (a perfect 20 wins for the complete competition), Paul Costello, Steven Bailey and Bryn Drinkhall the medal winners. The aforementioned Fennell remained unbeaten.

Leigh Iles (Bristol) and Rachael Willis (Spicers Girls) were nominated players of the weekend and Club Mid-Cheshire (Girls) and Dunstable Pioneer (Boys) teams of the weekend.

Councillor Jenny Livingstone represented the Borough of Great Yarmouth at the opening ceremony and this being the last of the Junior British Leagues sponsored by The Woolwich, ETTA Chief Executive Richard Yule made a suitable presentation to Jane Adams, Brand Services Manager of the Woolwich who has been so very supportive and present throughout, at the conclusion.

TABLES

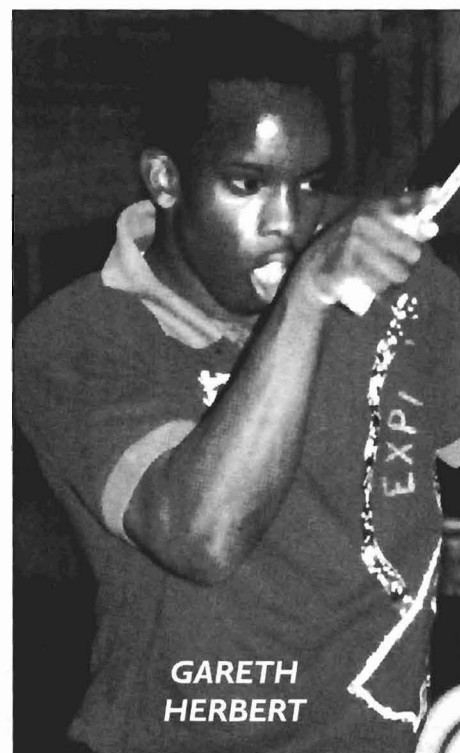
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boys Premier							
Grove	10	9	1	0	47	13	19
Challoner Hall A	10	8	0	2	40	20	16
Team Peniel A	10	4	2	4	27	33	10
Irish Boys	10	2	2	6	24	36	6
Edmonton A	10	2	2	6	24	36	6
Cippenham Boys A	10	0	3	7	18	42	3
Boys Division 1							
Uxbridge A	10	9	0	1	42	18	18
Progress	10	5	2	3	38	22	12
Sats Starlets	10	4	1	5	28	32	9
Darlington A	10	4	1	5	26	34	9
Humberside A	10	3	1	6	26	34	7
Bristol	10	2	1	7	20	40	5
Division 2A							
Cippenham B	10	8	2	0	47	13	18
Halton	10	4	5	1	37	23	13
Berrymans Lace Mawer	10	5	3	2	34	26	13
Oak Bank	10	4	1	5	25	35	9
Spicer Boys	10	2	1	7	24	36	5
Challoner Hall B	10	0	2	8	13	47	2
Boys Division 2B							
Brentwood	10	6	4	0	41	19	16
Perth	10	4	6	0	35	25	14
Byng Hall	10	3	4	3	36	24	10
Burton Bridge (Granville)	10	2	5	3	27	33	9
Edmonton B	10	2	5	3	27	33	9
Uxbridge B	10	0	2	8	14	46	2
Boys Division 3A							
Humberside B	10	8	2	0	42	18	18
Dunstable Pioneers	10	8	2	0	44	16	18
Team Peniel C	10	5	1	4	36	24	11
Eastpoint A	10	2	3	5	29	31	7
Darlington B	10	2	2	6	24	36	6
Rejects	10	0	0	10	5	55	0
Boys Division 3B							
Ormesby	10	10	0	0	55	5	20
B.A.T.T.S.	10	7	1	2	41	19	15
Team Peniel B	10	5	1	4	29	31	11
North Mundham	10	4	2	4	32	28	10
Greenleys	10	2	0	8	16	44	4
Lucan Boys	10	0	10	10	7	53	0
Girls Premier							
Grove A	10	8	1	1	43	17	17
Irish Girls	10	8	0	2	40	20	16
C.M.C. Girls	10	6	2	2	42	18	14
Blairgowrie	10	2	2	6	22	38	6
Progress Girls	10	1	2	7	17	43	4
Darlington	10	1	1	8	16	44	3
Girls Division 1							
Grove B	10	8	2	0	44	16	18
Cippenham Girls	10	5	4	1	35	25	14
Humberside Girls A	10	2	5	3	29	31	9
Spicer Girls	10	3	2	5	25	35	8
B.A.T.T.S.	10	3	1	6	25	35	7
Dumfries	10	1	2	7	22	38	4
Girls Division 2							
The LFC's	10	8	1	1	46	14	17
Club Mid-Cheshire	10	8	1	1	47	13	17
Team Peniel A	10	5	2	3	34	26	12
Berrymans Lace Mawer	10	2	3	5	21	39	7
Team Peniel B	10	0	4	6	15	45	4
Hollingbury Girls	10	0	3	7	17	43	3

ATTACKING GLORY *by* DEATON & HERBERT

NICOLA DEATON and GARETH HERBERT both proved that attack is the best form of defence - a strategy, simple as it is, worked on years ago by Chester Barnes! Deaton and Herbert never stopped attacking at Stratford-upon-Avon, at the West Midlands Grand Prix, attended by 200 players, writes John Woodford.



NICOLA
DEATON



GARETH
HERBERT

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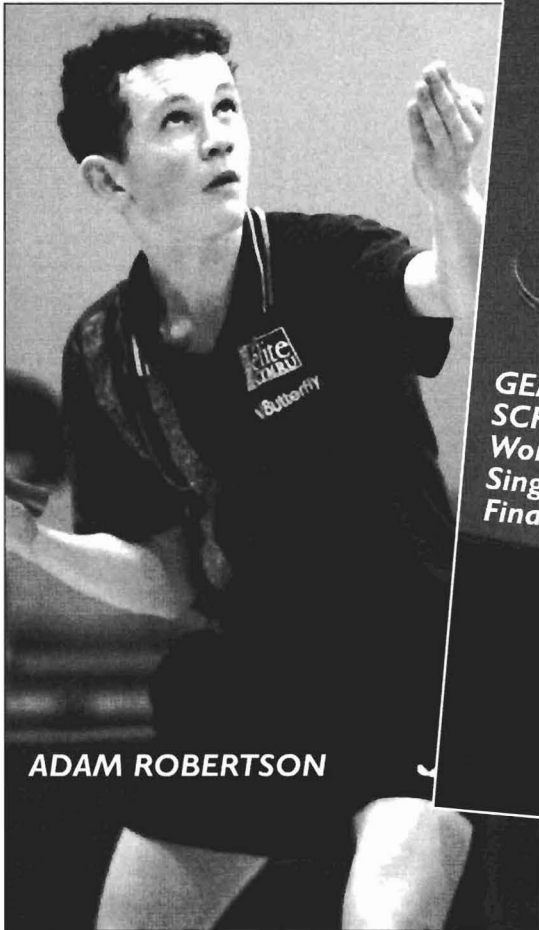
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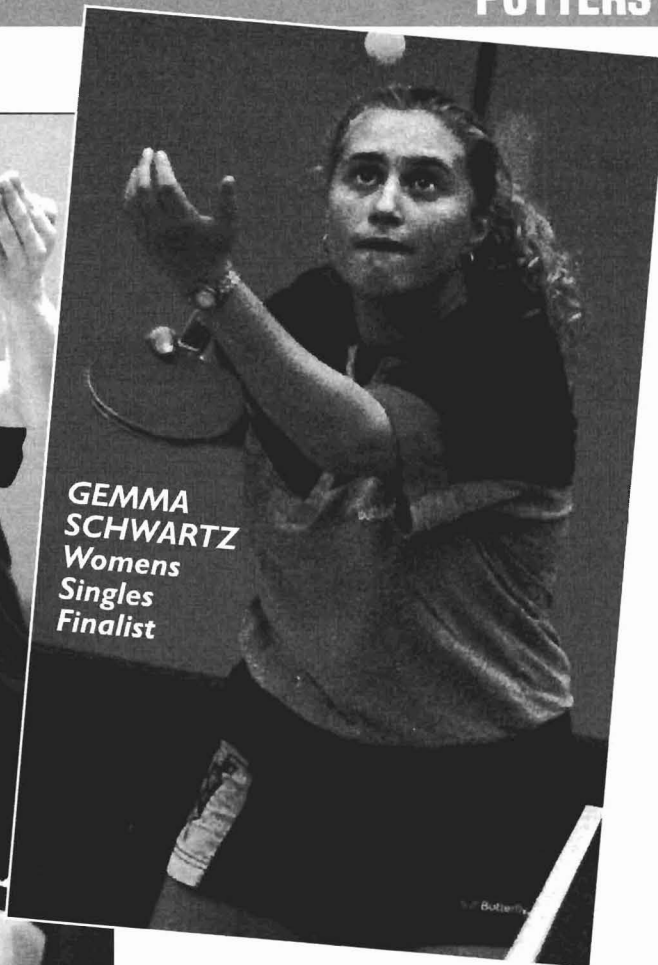
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ADAM ROBERTSON



GEMMA SCHWARTZ
Womens
Singles
Finalist

Nicola Deaton seems to be moving nearer and nearer taking over the top spot in the England womens list, from Andrea Holt. Nicola smashes and top-spins her way out of trouble. In the semi-finals she was several points in arrears against Kubrat Owolabi, but still came through by piling on the pace to win 21, 17. Gemma Schwartz, just on the front-edge of the England

elite squad had a reasonably good day. She had to play carefully before beating the red-haired Welsh chopper Siwan Davies 10,-18, 9.

The Welsh girl has an excellent defence, few attacking strokes, but she can upset a whole range of attacking opponents.

Gareth Herbert is without doubt the most talented 18-year-old around. Adam Robertson I repeat, is without doubt, head and

shoulders above his rivals as the most promising 15-year-old in Britain - he is not 16 until next January!

Terry Young is the highest rising star in the 20 age group, but such is the talent of the younger men - Herbert and Robertson - the Maidenhead man can be beaten. His general attitude on court has much improved. Turning round to his coach when losing points has almost been eliminated, but at this moment - he is still not being chosen for England as often as we would have hoped.

WELSH COURAGE

Robertson is as courageous as the Welsh dragon - in a typical finish when winning the under 21 final, the Wrexham schoolboy hit three scorching backhand winners in a row. The second was an edge, but they all rocketed Cape Canaveral style, past Herbert, although the man from Slough exacted his revenge in the mens final.

How did a relatively unknown player from Lithuania get into the mens semi-finals? His name is Lorestas (Lawrence) Trumpauskas, he is 29, he is a former champion of Lithuania but lives and works in Essex as a carpenter, with a wife and son. He would like to live here

permanently, but so far, not all his paperwork is in place. He has an excellent attacking game. He had a favourable draw, that saw Michael Isherwood pulling out with a stomach problem, leaving the Lithuanian to beat Michael James and Steve Shaw 8, 19 to reach the semi-finals, before bowing out to Herbert who lost the first game.

KIM SHOCK

In the Bands on Saturday, I found it difficult to pick out any major shocks except for one - Kim Roberts, a perky young blonde lady from Lancashire defeated in the Class 1 final Catherine Davies of Wales -20, 9, 19. Miss Roberts is ranked No.150 on the England womens ranking list!

Stratford-upon-Avon is of course, right in the centre of England, making it a favourite venue for the circuit. Last year, Stratford attracted 240 players.

This year, 200 - if as I was told, there had not been a clash with the Veterans Masters at Bracknell, they would again have taken 240 players.

RESULTS

MS. S/Fs : A. Robertson (Wales b T. Young (Berkshire) 22-20, 20-22, 21-18. G. Herbert (Bucks) b L. Trumpauskas (Essex and Lithuania) -17, 15,14. FINAL: HERBERT b Robertson 13, -16, 14.

WS: S/fs: N. Deaton (Derbyshire) b K. Owolabi (Middlesex) 21, 17. G. Schwartz (Berks) bt Siwan Davies (Wales) 10, -18, 9. FINAL: DEATON b Schwartz 18, 14.

MD Final: Young and R. Venner (Sussex) b C. Carthy (Essex) and N. Charles (Middlesex) -22, 15, 15. WD Final: Deaton and Schwartz w/o Owolabi and Emma Smith (scratched).

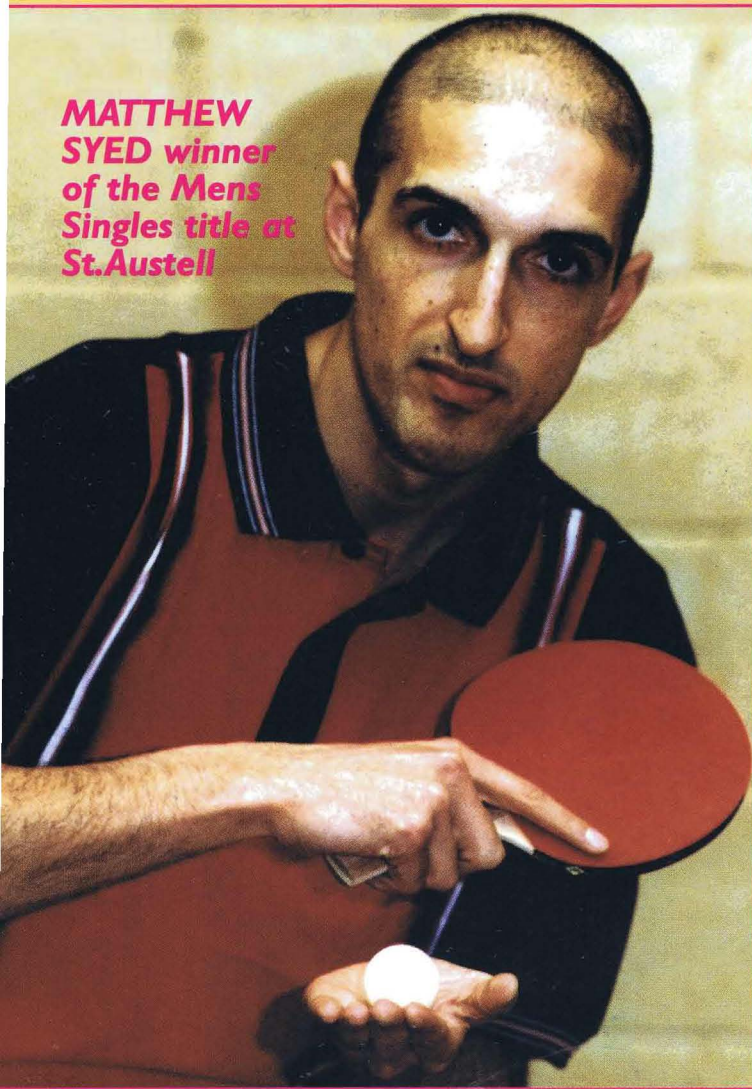
U-21 MS Final: Robertson b Herbert 13, -9, 16.

U-21 WS Final: Siwan Davies (Wales) b K. Lockwood (Cheshire) -12, 13, 20.

Veteran Mens Final: D. Harvey (Glos) b A. Isaac (Staffs) -22, 19, 13. Veteran Women: (Round-Robin) J. Harrison (Essex) b D. Macfarlane (Warwicks) 24, 12.



MATTHEW SYED winner of the Mens Singles title at St.Austell



SYED LIVED UP TO HIS PEDIGREE IN ST.AUSTELL

MATTHEW SYED lived up to his pedigree by majestically winning the Mens Singles title at the South West Open Grand Prix, at the Polkyth Leisure Centre, in St.Austell on Easter Monday, writes John Wood.

Syed, who glided through his rounds with consummate ease to face the Welsh No.1 Ryan Jenkins in the final, where he comfortably beat him 21-10, 21-15.

However, Jenkins did taste success when he overcame the challenge of England's No.3, Terry Young, in the semi-final where he quelled the awesome power of his opponent to win his place in the final, 21-19, 21-13.

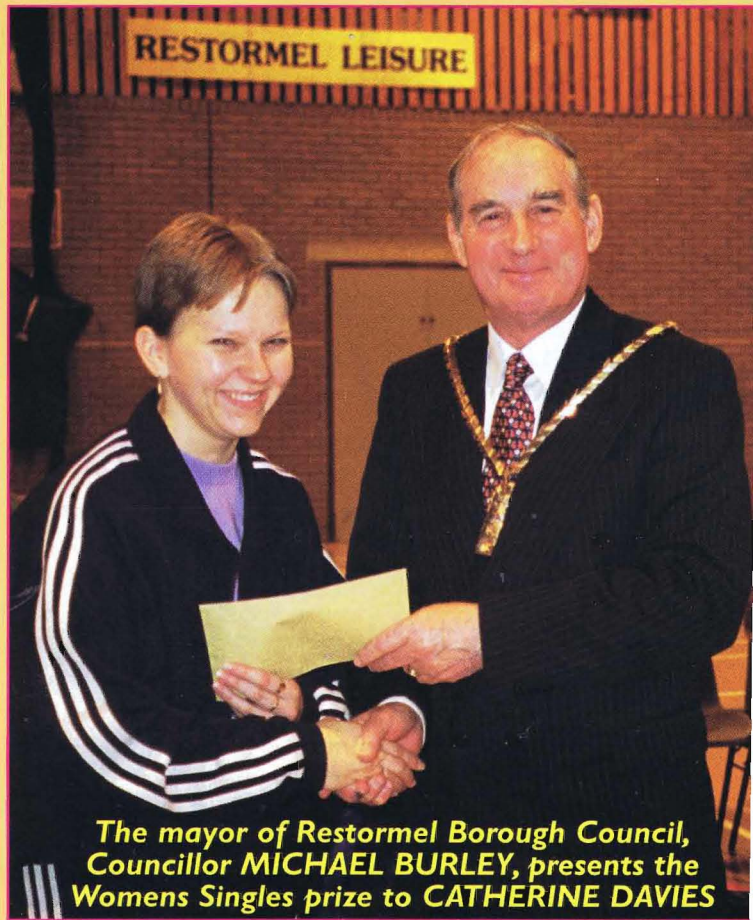
This battle between the two possible future No.1's of Welsh and English table tennis, saw Jenkins superbly rise to the occasion winning this contest of the big forehand topspin shots. Obviously Jenkins has benefited from practising with Jorg

Rosskopf and Vladimir Samsonov, in Germany last season.

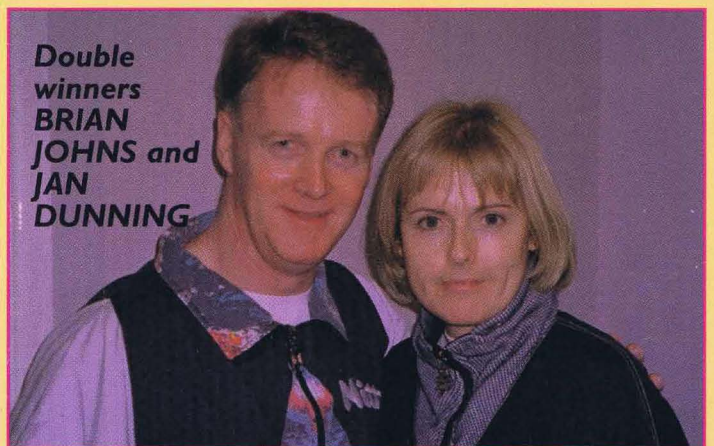
Super defender Syed, who was defending his mens Singles title which he won last Easter, beat Gareth Herbert in the other semis, 21-14, 21-11.

The big disappointment for the players and spectators, was that Devon's Alex Perry, the new National Mens Singles Champion, was unable to contest the outcome of this coveted trophy, because he badly injured his hip during training for this event.

Bristol's Michele Cohen was expected to defend her Womens Singles crown successfully, but went down to Gloucester's Ann Humble, 12-21, 21-18, 21-13, in



The mayor of Restormel Borough Council, Councillor **MICHAEL BURLEY**, presents the Womens Singles prize to **CATHERINE DAVIES**



Double winners **BRIAN JOHNS** and **JAN DUNNING**



SHARON MITCHELL
winner of the
Womens
Band 3 trophy

the quarter-finals.

This years' Womens title was won by Catherine Davies from Wales who beat Holland's Jose Bongers, 17-21, 21-17, 21-13, in an all action packed attacking final.

Ann Humble bounced back from her Womens Singles semi-final at the hands of Jose Bongers, to win the Womens Under 21 Singles, beating Womens Singles winner Catherine Davies 20-22, 21-10, 22-20, in an exciting final.

Gareth Herbert had a good tournament, winning the Under 21 Mens Final where he beat the Welsh wonder boy Adam Robertson 13-21, 22-20, 21-14, in probably one of the closet and most exciting mens finals, of this tournament.

Herbert then went on to win the Mens Doubles final in partnership with Terry Young, beating the Welsh pairing of Ryan and Stephen Jenkins, 21-16, 22-20.

Another successful playern at St.Austell was Brian Johns, who beat his brother Mike in the Mens Veteran Final 21-19, 21-16. He also won the Mens Band 1 Final on the previous day, out-gunning Surrey's Abdul Wuraola, 21-18, 21-19.

Worcester's Jan Dunning also had a pretty good tournament in Cornwall, losing to Catherine Davies 18-21, 21-15, 21-19, in the Quarter-Finals of the Womens Singles, before marching into a

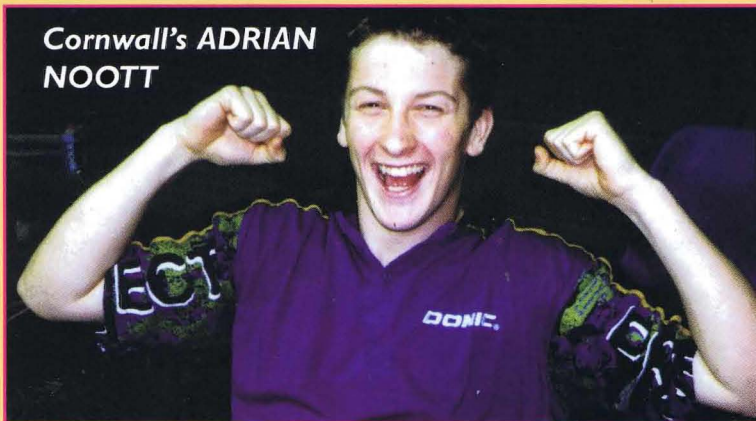
double trophy success. She went on to win the Womens Veteran Singles title, winning a Round-Robin competition, before taking the Womens Doubles Final together with Sandra Roden, beating Michele Cohen and Claire Gibbs 21-15, 21-19.

The South West did have some successes in the tournament when St.Austell's Adrian Noott, the new Cornish mens singles champion, reached the final of the Mens Band 2 event, where he lost to Wales' Gavin Jones, 21-13, 21-11. Plymouth's Daniel Adams, who plays for DML White Hart Launceston in the British League, lost in the final of the Mens Band 3 Singles to Tony Holmes from Middlesex, 21-12, 21-11. Devon's Thomas Williams lost in the final of the Mens Band 4 Singles, in a battle of the 'funny' rubbered long pimped bats, to Surrey's Steve Giles, 21-11, 21-17. Whilst Mens Band 5 Singles final was an all Devonshire affair, where Ian Bellingham overpowered his fellow county player David Waddington 21-18, 21-18.

This was a professionally run tournament with the assistance of Cornwall Table Tennis Association, and it was a sight for sore eyes to see all the courts manned by a blue coated, qualified umpire, on Easter Monday the last day of this Grand Prix.

RESULTS

MENS SINGLES: Final: M. Syed (Bk) bt R.Jenkins (WAL) 10, 15. **S/f:** Syed bt G.Herbert (Bk) 14, 11; Jenkins bt T.Young (Bk) 14, 15. **WOMENS SINGLES: Final:** C.Davies (WAL) bt J.Bongers (St) -17, 17, 13. **S/f:** Davies bt S.Roden (Wo) 16, -17, 14; Bongers bt A.Humble (Gs) -12, 18, 13. **Mens Band 1:** B.Johns (Ch) bt A.Wuraola (sy) 18, 19. **Mens Band 2:** G.Jones (WAL) by A.Noott (Co) 13, 11. **Mens Band 3:** T.Holmes (Mi) bt D.Adams (Dv) -15, 18, 19. **Mens Band 4:** S.Giles (Sy) bt T.Williams (Dv) 11, 17. **Mens Band 5:** I.Bellingham (Dv) bt D.Waddington (Dv) 18, 18. **Womens Band 1:** C.Davies (WAL) bt S.Roden(Wo) 18, -18, 20. **Womens Band 2:** G. Chapman (Bu) bt C.Gibbs (So) 22, 11. **Womens Band 3:** S.Mitchell (Bk) bt A.Robinson (Bu) 16, 18. **Veteran Men:** B.Johns (Ch) bt M.Johns (Ch) 19, 16. **Veteran Women:** J.Dunning (Wo) R/R. **Mens Under 21:** G.Herbert (Bk) bt A.Robinson (WAL) -13, 20,14. **Womens Under 21:** A.Humble (Gs) bt C.Davies (WAL) -20, 10, 20. **Mens Doubles:** T.Young (Bk)/ G.Herbert (Bk) bt R & S Jenkins (WAL) 16, 20. **Womens Doubles:** J.Dunning (Wo)/S.Roden (Wo) bt M.Cohen (Wi)/ C.Gibbs (So) 15, 19.



Cornwall's ADRIAN NOOTT



HOLME PIERREPONT A DREAM COME TRUE

THE ETTA, players near the top of the ranking lists, coaches and all the other people involved are very fortunate that Sports England funding via the National Lottery has allowed this Training Centre to be created alongside and within the beautiful National Water Sports Centre, with its 2000 metre long lake, writes John Woodford.

One of the major functions of Sports England is co-ordinating facilities to be shared between different sports. The Water Sports Centre was opened over twenty years ago. The Water People have taken kindly to the table tennis fraternity - all sorts of co-operation takes place.

Some would say that the purpose of what is happening here is principally for our Table Tennis Academy players. Those are our players of the future, when our present stars Matthew Syed, Carl Prean and Andrea Holt are past their career peaks and doing other things, hopefully coaching table tennis in England.

High up the list of priorities is to have the services of a couple like Reg and Pauline Rockall acting as "Bursar" and "Housemother". They are doing an absolutely outstanding job mainly looking after the Academy boys and girls who are normally in residence five days a week. At week-ends they are either off home or playing in tournaments.

Reg and Pauline are the trouble-shooters for the ETTA, collecting and delivering the pupils to the excellent 950-pupils comprehensive Dayncourt School down in the village.

Accompanied by Reg Rockall, I visited the school, spending an hour or so with some of the staff and a most valuable interview took place with the Headmaster Philip Andrew. He told me "This is also a new experience for us, taking in a dozen pupils of varying ages who are away from their homes and in a sporting environment most of the time. So far, there have been no major problems. The table tennis dozen take part in many of the

JOHN WOODFORD reports from the ETTA National Training Centre at Holme Pierrepont. He spent two days absorbing the atmosphere, talking to players, teachers and officials. Pictures by JOHN WOOD.



Jade Kendall (centre) relaxes after a basketball lesson

extra school activities, even the Christmas pantomime."

PRIORITIES

The young players might have not have been clear early on, regarding priorities. Reg told 'em - "School first, table tennis second and fun third". There were a couple who dreamt that the order might have been reversed!

After their school attendances have finished, Reg brings them back to the Centre where after the homework, there is lots of table tennis and coaching.

Days can be exhausting for the

Academy pupils but I believe, it is the only way we are going to produce European medals and players in the Top 40 in the world like Matthew Syed, who, because he is in the World Elite group receives the top players salary under the World Class Performance Programme.

Some members of the England squads have recently received reductions in their salaries. This may seem a bit strange. This is the answer for those who might be surprised from Michal Gadal the ETTA Performance Director, "The Lottery money we are receiving to

make all this possible is not a bottomless pit. The players here are receiving almost free accommodation, food, all normal and medical services. They cannot expect to earn a lot of extra pocket money without getting results and moves up the world list. To be able to practice regularly with 'sparring partners' like Desmond Douglas and other top players is a priceless advantage, the envy of huge numbers of the rank and file young and not-so-young throughout England."

There has never been any doubt in my mind, after fifty years in the sport, that it is very unlikely that any player is going to climb mountains unless they can find regular practice several days a week, practice against better players, better still, if they are Chinese players of high calibre who have emigrated from China to Europe.

Carl Prean and Des Douglas both learned their trade in the Bundesliga. As professionals they have both created very healthy bank balances and money for future investment. Rather like professional cricketers and footballers - their playing careers are short, after that many stay in sport or invest in pubs and restaurants.

Back to Nottingham. Some of the senior players find that they could probably use more relaxing time away from the Centre. Holme



Dayncourt School Headmaster Phillip Andrew (3rd right) and Head of Sports John Jones (far left), are pictured outside the school with the Holme Pierrepont table tennis squad.

Pierrepont village is not within walking distance, but with wheels it is possible to reach Nottingham City Centre when the traffic is not too heavy in less than 15 minutes. So, that means that cinemas, restaurants, ice-hockey stadium, the county cricket ground and the premieriership soccer ground are all easy to get to.

Several players, Alex Perry is one, have shown excellent commitment to the sport by investing in property of their own not far away. Perry showed vastly improved form at Maidenhead on December 15 when he was not too many points away from up-ending the Czech superstar Petr Korbel. Perhaps this a sign of a player settling down to the new environment.

The restaurant catering (over the five meals that I consumed) was all of a high standard, varied and tasty.

Signs of the times - all the Academy students have mobile phones, supplied I am told, by parents. There are four Sixth Formers at the Academy - Marco Essomba, Gareth Herbert, Jade Kendall and Trudy Bloor.

School teachers who can remember many of the names of their pupils always impress me. Even the Dayncourt School Headmaster knew all the names of the table tennis contingent and quite a lot of other information on them.

Ian Marshall, the National Squads manager is another central figure at Holme Pierrepont. His output at the Centre is considerable. When I arrived he was dashing off to Oporto for the Portugese Junior Open with 16 players and three coaches.

FUTURE MEDALS

A few more words from Michal Gadal, "All this is of course, on a small scale compared with INSEP in Paris, but it is an excellent start for English table tennis. All the age groups have practice facilities undreamed off until recently. No one expects successes overnight, it is to the Academy players that we shall be looking to in the future for European Youth medals."

Most major football clubs in England now have academies. Not many smaller sports like table tennis are lucky enough to have them.

It is not easy to find faults at Holme Pierrepont - I would say that the restaurant is too small and there are queues at peak times. In the summer when the water sports are booming that might be a bigger problem.

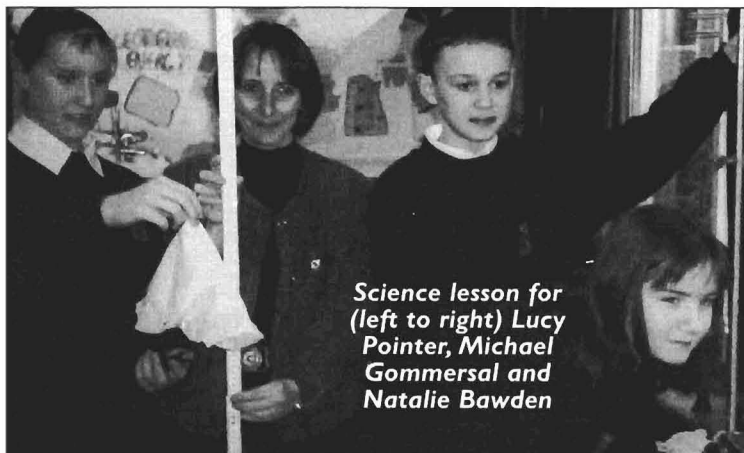
The Centre staff are extremely helpful - with Reg and Pauline always there to iron out any problems, the whole place runs smoothly or so it did when I was there just before the

Christmas break.

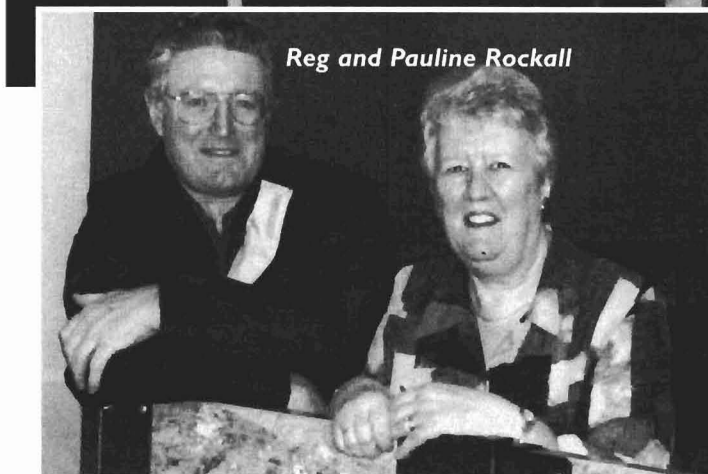
It is so much easier when people inside the sport for many years take up posts - had the Rockalls not been available, I assume that the jobs would have gone to "social services" people unfamiliar with the sport.

Visitors seem to be welcome at all reasonable times, but they have to "book in" at the reception area, as at hotels, for security purposes. I would think that there are lot of people inside table tennis who would like to see the Centre in operation. Parents of future Academy pupils would be wise to sample the atmosphere and see the Dayncourt School in action.

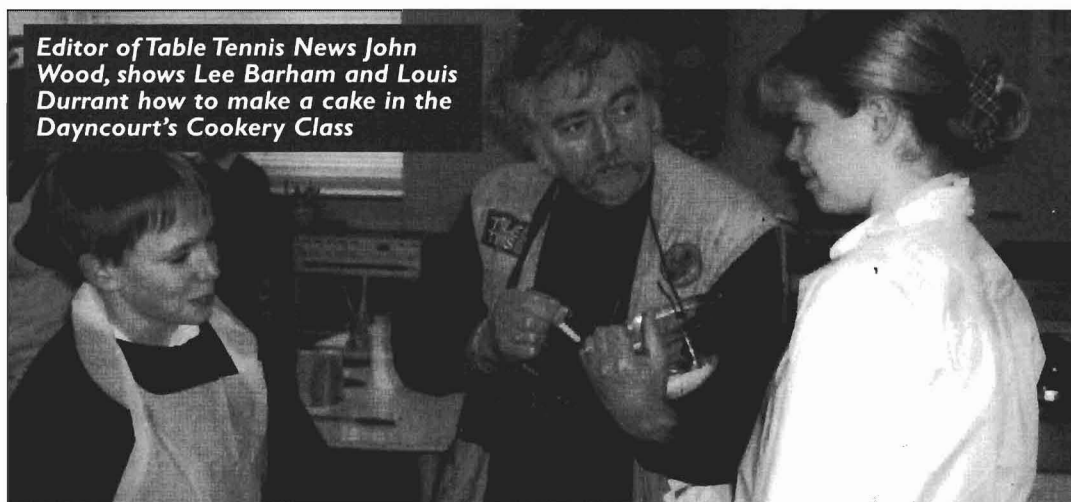
SUMMMARY: Nothing in this world is perfect. No doubt there will be people picking holes in the National Training Centre, but overall we are very lucky to be there and to have such facilities at our disposal. We will be envied by other smaller sports.



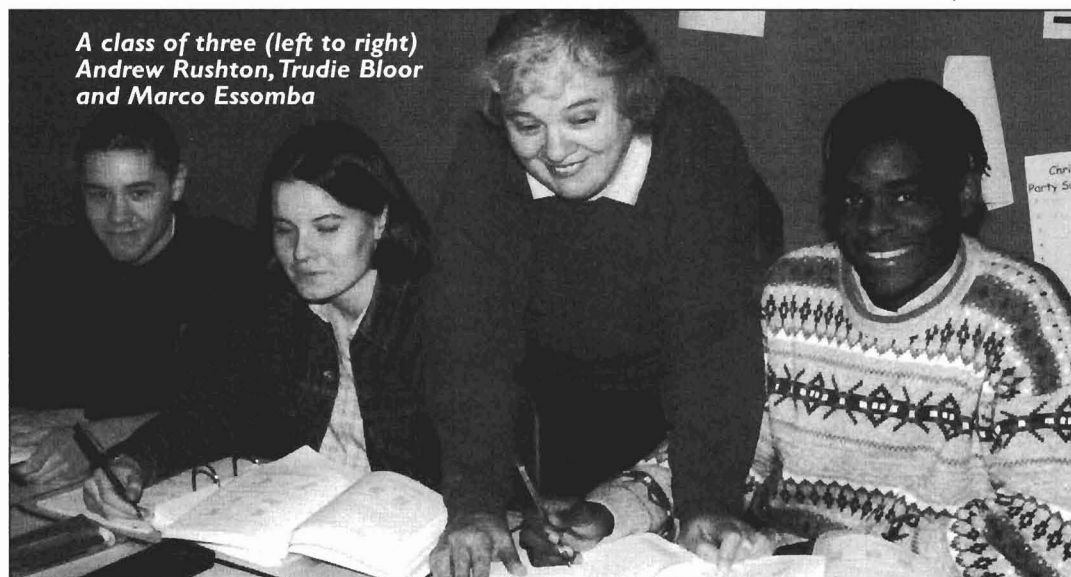
Science lesson for (left to right) Lucy Pointer, Michael Gommersal and Natalie Bawden



Reg and Pauline Rockall



Editor of Table Tennis News John Wood, shows Lee Barham and Louis Durrant how to make a cake in the Dayncourt's Cookery Class



A class of three (left to right) Andrew Rushton, Trudie Bloor and Marco Essomba

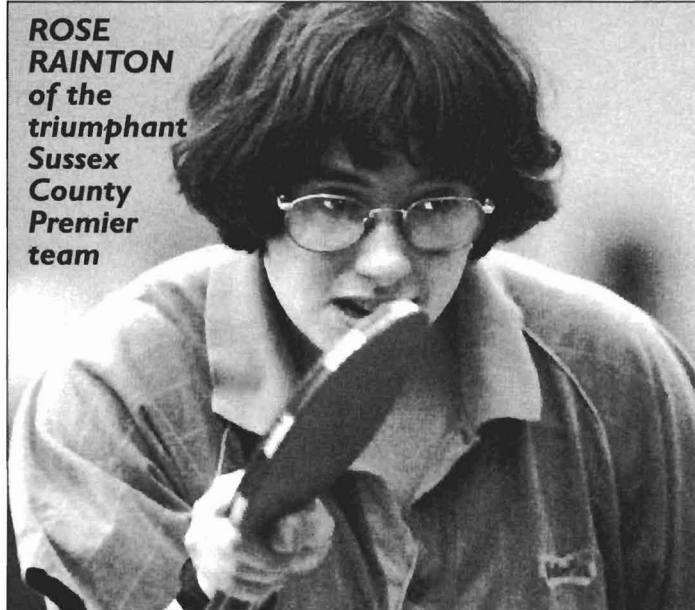
SUSSEX TAKE COUNTY PREMIER

WITH the County Championships season all but complete and promotion and relegation issues all but settled I intend to look at the two Premier Divisions completed since my last set of notes, that is the Senior and Veterans divisions who both completed their programme of matches over the weekend 27/28th March, writes Stan Clarke.

SENIOR PREMIER DIVISION

The concluding round of matches were played at the Ellenborough club in Enfield. Sussex started the weekend in poll position after the first round of three matches in a division which saw three teams tied in joint second position with four points each and three teams level on one point staring relegation in the face, so it was all to play for.

Sussex started the weekend with an 8/2 defeat of Devonshire followed closely by a 7/3 win over Surrey to finish the Saturday matches firmly in top spot. On the Sunday morning they continued their good work with a 6/4 win over what looked on paper, a very strong Middlesex team, before dropping their only point of the championships when they were held to a draw by Hertfordshire in their last match. Not that it mattered by then as the



**ROSE
RAINTON
of the
triumphant
Sussex
County
Premier
team**

Championship was already well and truly in the bag, so congratulations to Ritchie Venner, Adrian Moore, Paul Barry, Rosemary Rainton and Sally Weston, worthy winners by three points over second place Yorkshire.

Yorkshire were something of a surprise packet, lying in 5 place after the first weekend they started by crushing Derbyshire 8/2 followed by a 6/4 defeat of Berkshire, David Barr picking up two sets for Berkshire

with wins over Peter Marshall and Michael James. Great stuff Dave, who said there is no chance for defenders in the modern game? On the Sunday Yorkshire were held to a draw by Hertfordshire, John Taylor picking up two sets in the match, defeating Peter and Michael to emulate Dave Barr, it would seem the Yorkshire lads don't like defenders. Unfortunately for Devonshire it would appear they did not have a defender in their ranks when they played Yorkshire as they suffered a battering at the hands of the Yorkshire youngsters losing 10/0 winning only two of the twenty two games played. Speaking of the age of players, Joanna Roberts must have felt almost middle aged compared to her team mates, and she is still a youngster.

The other end of the division was very much tighter at the start of play, Berkshire looked favourites for bottom place with either Devon or Derbyshire to be the other relegated team, unfortunately for Devon and Derby someone forgot to tell the Berkshire team and they proceeded to produce a run of three wins and a draw to finish in fourth place, a remarkable turn around from the

first weekend, so Derbyshire and Devonshire were left to contemplate life in division one next season, both teams having been winners of the Premier division in recent years, funny old game ain't it? They will be replaced next season by Kent and Nottinghamshire respective winners of division 1 A & B.

VETERANS PREMIER DIVISION

If the senior premier winner was open to doubt, the Veterans looked a forgone conclusion with reigning champions Cheshire firmly in the driving seat after the first round of matches and their perennial opponents Lancashire shorn of their top players and playing a very much reserve squad the way was open for the Cheshire squad to reinforce their position as top Vets team in the country. Their squad of John Hilton, Brian and Mike Johns, Sue Burgess and Doreen Schofield proved once again to be too strong for the opposition and saw them undefeated in all seven matches, winning 53 sets and dropping only 10, worthy champions in anyone's book. Surprise package were second place Norfolk who came from 5th place after the first weekend to secure runners-up spot by two clear points over Surrey in third spot.

Lancashire did manage to avoid bottom place, though not relegation, by virtue of a 9/0 defeat of Devonshire who finished in bottom place having failed to pick up a single set over the four matches, not a good season for Devonshire with both premier teams relegated. Lancs. And Devon will be replaced in the Premier next season by Leicestershire and Kent winners of divisions 1 A & B.

That's just about it for this season, only the County Championships Conference left where incidentally there is a proposed rule amendment to force Counties to appoint a competent Umpire for all "Home" matches, about time in my opinion.

**SALLY WESTON,
who was part
of Sussex's
successful
march to the
top of the
Senior County
Premier
Division**



COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS TABLES compiled by Les Smith

FINAL TABLES FOR 1998/99

SENIORS								DIVISION 1B								(DIV. 1B cont.)							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		P	W	L	F	A	Pts	
PREMIER								Devonshire	7	5	2	0	50	20	12	Hertford 2nd	7	2	5	30	33	4	
Sussex	7	6	1	0	47	23	13	Glamorgan 2nd	7	5	1	1	44	26	11	Sussex 2nd	7	1	6	18	45	2	
Yorkshire	7	4	2	1	43	27	10	Worcestershire	7	3	4	0	40	30	10	DIVISION 2A							
Middlesex	7	4	2	1	41	29	10	Avon	7	3	1	3	38	32	7	Northumberland	7	7	0	46	17	14	
Berkshire	7	3	1	3	34	36	7	Glamorgan 3rd	7	2	2	3	37	33	6	Durham	7	6	1	46	17	12	
Hertfordshire	7	1	4	2	34	36	6	Middlesex 2nd	7	2	2	3	29	41	6	Lancashire 2nd	7	4	3	40	23	8	
Surrey	7	2	2	3	31	39	6	Berkshire	7	2	0	5	28	42	4	Yorkshire 3rd	7	4	3	38	25	8	
Derbyshire	7	0	2	5	28	42	2	Sussex	7	0	0	7	14	56	0	Northampton	7	3	4	27	36	6	
Berkshire	7	0	2	5	22	48	2	DIVISION 2A							Worcester 2nd	7	2	5	25	38	4		
DIVISION 1A								Cumbria	7	6	1	0	46	24	13	Warwick 3rd	7	1	6	16	47	2	
Nottingham	7	7	0	0	50	20	14	Lancashire 2nd	7	4	2	1	45	25	10	Lincolnshire	7	1	6	14	49	2	
Suffolk	7	5	1	1	44	26	11	Leicestershire	7	4	2	1	44	26	10	DIVISION 2B							
Leicestershire	7	4	0	3	42	28	8	Essex 2nd	7	3	3	1	39	31	9	Essex 4th	7	7	0	46	17	14	
Cambridgeshire	7	4	0	3	34	35	8	Warwick 2nd	7	2	2	3	34	36	6	Norfolk 2nd	7	4	3	36	27	8	
Worcestershire	7	3	1	3	33	37	7	Norfolk	7	3	0	4	25	45	6	Suffolk	7	4	3	33	30	8	
Lancashire	7	2	0	5	30	40	4	Durham	7	0	1	6	27	43	1	Buckingham 2nd	7	3	4	29	34	6(65-74)	
Yorkshire 2nd	7	2	0	5	25	26	2	Huntingdonshire	7	0	1	6	20	50	1	Cambridgeshire	7	3	4	29	34	6(64-76)	
Warwickshire	7	0	0	7	21	48	0	DIVISION 2B							Middlesex 3rd	7	3	4	26	37	6		
DIVISION 1B								Buckingham	7	7	0	0	57	13	14	Kent 5th	7	2	5	28	35	4	
Kent 1st	7	6	0	1	56	14	12	Dorset	7	5	0	2	46	24	10	Norfolk 3rd	7	2	5	25	38	4	
Essex 2nd	7	5	0	2	41	29	10	Kent 2nd	7	4	1	2	39	31	9	DIVISION 2C							
Essex 1st	7	4	0	3	42	28	8	Surrey 2nd	7	4	0	3	43	27	8	Middlesex 1st	7	7	0	51	12	14	
Kent 2nd	7	4	0	3	36	34	8	Glamorgan 4th	7	4	0	3	33	37	8	Buckingham 1st	7	6	1	47	16	12	
Wiltshire	7	3	0	4	21	49	6	Surrey 3rd	7	2	0	5	23	47	4	Surrey 2nd	7	5	2	37	26	10	
Middlesex 2nd	7	2	0	5	33	37	4	Gloucestershire	7	1	1	5	29	41	3	Essex 3rd	7	4	3	34	29	8	
Sussex 2nd	7	2	0	5	31	39	4	Kent 3rd	7	0	0	7	10	60	0	Middlesex 2nd	7	3	4	23	40	6	
Buckinghamshire	7	2	0	5	20	50	4	DIVISION 3A							Kent 3rd	7	2	5	31	32	4		
Northumberland	7	6	1	0	56	14	13	Buckingham 2nd	7	7	0	0	62	8	14	Kent 4th	7	1	6	21	42	2	
Cheshire	7	5	2	0	46	24	12	Bedfordshire	7	5	1	1	38	32	11	Berkshire 2nd	7	0	7	8	55	0	
South Yorkshire	7	4	1	2	39	31	9	Suffolk 2nd	7	4	1	2	39	31	9	DIVISION 2D							
Lancashire 2nd	7	4	0	3	39	31	8	Norfolk 2nd	7	3	2	2	36	34	8	Oxfordshire	7	7	0	51	12	14	
Lincolnshire	7	2	1	4	30	40	5	Hertford 2nd	7	3	1	3	33	37	7	Warwick 2nd	7	5	2	43	20	10(95-51)	
Warwick 2nd	7	1	3	3	29	41	5	Cambridgeshire	7	2	0	5	26	44	7	Hampshire 2nd	7	5	2	43	20	10(93-53)	
Cumbria	7	0	2	5	25	45	2	Norfolk 3rd	7	0	2	5	23	47	2	Gloucestershire	7	4	3	31	32	8	
Leicester 2nd	7	1	0	6	16	54	2	Huntingdon 2nd	7	0	1	6	23	47	1	Hampshire 3rd	7	3	4	28	35	6	
DIVISION 2B								DIVISION 3B							Dorset 2nd	7	2	5	26	37	4		
Devonshire 2nd	8	7	1	0	56	24	15	Nottingham 1st	7	7	0	0	55	15	14	Somerset	7	2	5	21	42	4	
Glamorgan	8	7	0	1	54	26	14	South Yorkshire	7	6	0	1	50	20	12	Devonshire 2nd	7	0	7	9	54	0	
Cornwall 1st	8	5	1	2	50	30	11	Cheshire 2nd	7	4	1	2	44	26	9	DIVISION 3A							
Avon	8	3	2	3	43	37	8	Cleveland	7	2	3	2	35	35	7	Leicester 2nd	9	8	1	58	23	16	
Herefordshire	8	3	2	3	42	38	8	Northampton	7	2	2	3	35	35	6	Nottingham	9	8	1	51	30	16	
Worcester 2nd	8	3	1	4	41	39	7	Nottingham 2nd	7	2	2	3	32	38	6	Cheshire 3rd	9	7	2	50	31	14	
Somerset	8	2	0	6	25	55	4	Lincolnshire 2nd	7	1	0	6	18	52	2	Staffordshire	9	5	4	49	32	10	
Cornwall 2nd	8	1	1	6	26	54	3	Northumberland	7	0	0	7	11	59	0	South Yorks	9	5	4	44	37	10	
Devonshire 3rd	8	1	0	7	23	57	2	DIVISION 3C							Yorkshire 4th	9	4	5	41	40	8		
DIVISION 2C								Cornwall	7	6	0	1	50	20	12	Bedford 2nd	9	3	6	32	49	6	
Bedfordshire	7	7	0	0	56	14	14	Somerset	7	6	0	1	47	23	12	Ciwyd	9	3	6	29	52	6	
Cambridge 2nd	7	5	0	2	44	26	10	Devonshire 2nd	7	4	1	2	36	34	9	Hertford 4th	9	1	8	28	53	2	
Suffolk 2nd	7	4	0	3	35	35	8	Gwent	7	4	0	3	40	30	8	Huntingdon	9	1	8	23	58	2	
Northampton	7	3	1	3	40	30	7	Shropshire	7	2	0	5	28	42	4(68-87)	DIVISION 3B							
Hertford 2nd	6	3	0	3	26	34	6	Herefordshire	7	2	0	5	28	42	4(65-94)	Hertford 3rd	7	6	1	44	19	12	
Norfolk 1st	7	2	1	4	27	43	5	Gloucester 2nd	7	1	2	4	27	43	4	Middlesex 4th	7	5	2	39	24	10	
Huntingdon	7	1	0	6	26	44	2	Powys	7	1	1	5	24	46	3	Norfolk 4th	7	5	2	37	26	10	
Norfolk 2nd	6	1	0	5	16	44	2	DIVISION 3D							Bedford 3rd	7	4	3	37	26	8		
(Void match NK2 v HE2)								Sussex 3rd	7	6	1	0	43	27	13	Suffolk 3rd	7	3	4	32	31	6	
DIVISION 2D								Sussex 2nd	7	4	2	1	44	26	10	Hertford 5th	7	3	4	30	33	6	
Hampshire	7	6	1	0	52	18	13	Wiltshire	7	4	1	2	39	31	9	Oxford 3rd	7	1	6	22	41	2	
Gloucestershire	7	4	2	1	44	26	10	Essex 3rd	7	3	3	1	37	33	9	Cambridge 2nd	7	1	6	11	52	2	
Kent 3rd	7	5	0	2	41	29	10	Oxfordshire	7	2	3	2	34	36	7	DIVISION 3C							
Berkshire 2nd	7	4	1	2	41	29	9	Dorset 2nd	7	1	1	5	29	41	3	Surrey 3rd	8	7	1	51	21	14	
Sussex 3rd	7	2	2	3	34	34	6	Hampshire 2nd	7	1	1	5	25	45	3	Sussex 3rd	8	6	2	48	24	12	
Surrey 2nd	7	2	1	4	28	42	5	Berkshire 2nd	7	0	2	5	29	41	2	Hampshire 4th	8	6	2	47	25	12	
Dorset	7	0	2	5	22	46	2	VETERANS							Sussex 4th	8	5	3	44	28	10		
Wiltshire 2nd	7	0	1	6	14	52	1	PREMIER							Wiltshire 2nd	8	5	3	36	36	10		
JUNIORS								Cheshire	7	7	0	53	10	14	Oxford 2nd	8	4	4	39	33	8		
PREMIER								Norfolk	7	6	1	35	28	12	Hertford 6th	8	2	6	27	45	4		
Cheshire	7	6	1	0	52	18	13	Surrey	7	5	2	41	22	10	Devonshire 4th	8	1	7	20	52	2		
Surrey	7	5	1	1	44	26	11	Yorkshire	7	4	3	30	33	8	Hereford 2nd	8	0	8	12	60	0		
Glamorgan	7	4	1	2	46	24	9	Dorset	7	3	4	32	31	6	DIVISION 3D								
Middlesex	7	4	1	2	40	30	9	Essex	7	2	5	29	34	4	Gloucester 2nd	8	7	1	47	25	14		
Yorkshire	7	3	0	4	34	36	6	Lancashire	7	1	6	22	42	2	Wiltshire 1st	8	6	2	51	21	12		
Kent	7	2	1	4	35	35	5	Devonshire	7	0	7	10	53	0	Berkshire 4th	8	6	2	46	26	12		
Ciwyd	7	1	1	5	22	48	3	DIVISION 1A							Devonshire 3rd	8	6	2	45	27	12		
Hampshire	7	0	0	7	7	63	0	Leicestershire	7	6	1	40	23	12	Berkshire 3rd	8	5	3	42	30	10		
DIVISION 1A								Essex 2nd	7	5	2	40	23	10	Hereford 1st	8	3	5	35	37	6		
Lancashire	7	5	2	0	43	27	12	Cheshire 2nd	7	5	2	40	23	10	Wiltshire 3rd	8	2	6	27	45	4		

COUNTY NOTES

Cornwall

by John Wood

JUNIORS FANTASTIC SUCCESS

CORNWALL'S Junior County team played fantastically to win their last match in Junior Division 3C of the ETTA County Championships, when they beat Shropshire 9-1, whilst on the same day Divisional leaders Somerset amazingly lost to Gwent 4-6, enabling Cornwall to leap-frog over them to the top of the table, level on 12 points, but winning the championship title by a game difference of three. (See league tables on page 23)

The triumphant team are pictured below (left to right) Fred Ingram (non-playing captain), Sarah Harris, Michelle Turner, Matthew Nichols, Andrew Gaved, Mark Thomas and David Phillips, celebrating their victory at the Porth Avellen Hotel in Carlyon Bay, at the County end of season annual dinner and presentation evening.

FURTHER SUCCESS

One of our successful juniors, Matthew Nichols, also tasted success in the Dunlop Schools National Individual Championships held at the Aston Villa Sports Centre, in Birmingham, recently, where he reached the quarter-finals. Nichols came second in his Under 19 Boys group, losing only to Kent's highly ranked player Justin Dodd, 17 and 14.

Dodd, who is nationally ranked at No.4, went onto to win the final.

Ironically, Matthew only turned to table tennis as his major sport, after failing trials for Aston Villa Football team.

Nichols said, "It was the worst day of my life when I was turned down by Aston Villa." Then added, "But now after going back to Aston Villa as County Junior table tennis champion and doing so well makes me feel really great!"

Cumbria

by Gordon Brown

AFTER a gap of three years, Vickers Sports Club have regained the Barrow and District League Division One Championship. In one of their final matches, against Parkview School, Vickers won all their 10 sets, but young protegee Grant Woodhouse took Steve Bushell to three games, Bushell leading the

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league's averages at the time of writing, won the first game 21-18, but lost the second 21-19. The third game also could have gone either way, Bushell got it 24-22. All other sets were finished in two straight.

WOOLWICH JUNIOR LEAGUE PROGRAMMES

More successful Woolwich Junior League programmes have been completed in the county. Impossible, comprising Paul Rogan and Liam Monaghan, won the Whitehaven Sports Centre League. Rogan went through the season with a 100% record and beat Monaghan in the final of the singles. Prizes were presented by the Deputy Mayor of Copeland, the borough in which Whitehaven is situated, Geoff Blackwell.

In Barrow-in-Furness, the Woolwich first division went to the Yarlsdale School partnership of Ben Rollinson and Greg Crabtree, who also went through the term unbeaten. With another partner, Ben was in the division two title winning team the previous season.

Matthew Marshall and Harry Younger formed the winning team of Crook Go-Gos that captured the Kendal Woolwich Junior League, which acts as a feeder league to the senior Kendal League fourth division, although there is no automatic promotion.

At the time of writing I.B.I.S.'A' were heading for the Kendal Senior League

title with Storeys of Lancaster as chief contenders.

Derbyshire

by Colin Deaton

THE rise of Derbyshire players in the National Ranking List is the main talking point throughout the County.

First of all, Nicola Deaton, to the number one spot in the Women's list, is perhaps just reward for all the hard work she has put in over the past few years. Her recent results abroad, are most encouraging and to date she has not lost to an English player this season.

That is a fine performance, but, so too is the promotion up the Men's ranking list by Michael Isherwood and Steve Shaw. Isherwood has been rising steadily up the list all season, but, the latest ranking at number eight makes one wonder if he can keep rising. His work rate both on and off the table is second to none and whilst he still awaits full International honours, surely this must be round the corner.

Burton's Steve Shaw, also features in the latest list at number eleven and this likeable young man was delighted. Steve a former Under 21 event Champion of England, tries hard, but continues to work for his father in the painting and decorating business. He is without doubt, the best player that the Burton area has produced. Both Steve and Michael, have been selected for the

ETTA trip to Saudi Arabia which is sponsored by British Aerospace.

Derrick Marples will be the official coach of the 2 player team with Tony Chatwin the Official in attendance. What a good County team Derbyshire would have at present if we could get them all together. However, this is not to be and one wonders if this could or would ever materialise.

Our emotions were quickly brought down to earth when it was heard that the Derbyshire Seniors are to be neglected from the Premier Division of the National County Championships. On the last weekend play offs we were without both Isherwood and Shaw and after some desperate tussles by their replacements we were relegated. Despite this, there appears to be plenty of activity throughout the County particularly on the development side.

As always the Burton area is in the forefront of introducing young players to the game. Burton's Uxbridge supremo Terry Gadsby tells me that he is to embark on a new recruitment of schools in the area. This determined bid to get the youngsters involved in our game is a classic example of his drive and dedication to our sport.

Burton's England ranked Robin Pearce, won both the men's single and the junior men's singles in the Burton Closed Championships. Robin is currently leading the English Table Tennis Association Band 4 singles on the Grand Prix circuit. He has next year as a junior and as a result of this he could be very high up in the National Junior ranking list.

The Derbyshire League continues to operate their youth policy around the Mackworth centre and this is fast becoming one of the vast enthusiastic projects that the Derby League has featured over the years.

Sadly, there were insufficient lady entries to stage a ladies singles. However, the League are to push ahead with a Summer League, with a large emphasis on the younger players.

Finally, Derby League Official, Mike Payne, continues his travels as an International Umpire. Mike is to umpire in the Spanish Youth Open this summer. He also serves on the Derbyshire Committee.

Essex

by Steve Kerns

HARLOW CLOSED

Big-hitting John Monk played superbly to take the mens singles title with three-end victories over Colin Carslake in the semi-final and Neil Brierley at 22-20 in the third of a heart-stopping final. Little-known Stuart Atkinson also excelled to get the better of highly-rated Wayne Mitchell. Carslake put his mens singles loss behind him with wins in both doubles finals, partnering Nicole Todd to the mixed title and Mitchell to success in the mens doubles.

Results included:

Mens Singles: John Monk beat Neil Brierley -19,15,20.

Ladies Singles: Valerie Blake beat Claire Poole 18,3.

Mens Doubles: Carslake/Mitchell beat



Monk/Reuben Okai 19,21. **Ladies Doubles:** Nicole Todd/Amy Wright beat Valerie Blake/Claire Pool -13,14,6. **Mixed Doubles:** Carslake/Todd beat Wright/Atkinson 16,18. **Junior Boys Singles:** Daniel Gillett beat Christopher Todd 10, 8. **Junior Girls Singles:** Nicole Todd beat Amy Wright 18,15. **Veterans Singles:** Brierley beat Alan "Digger" Lamprell 17,20. **U14 Boys Singles:** Ian Witteridge beat Ian Blatcher 6,4. **U14 Girls Singles:** Amy Wright beat Samantha Gray 10,7. **060 Singles:** Ron Pack beat Eric Todd -11,12,18.

COLCHESTER CLOSED

All-action crowd pleaser Rik James and very promising junior Antony Greenwood dominated this year's Colchester Closed with Antony taking five titles and Rik picking up four. Rik regained his mens singles title with a 19-in-the-third win in the final over last year's champion Dave Cole whilst Antony over-powered Mark Weston in the junior boys final. Newcomer to the league Kate Wadling added the ladies singles to her long list of honours whilst another newcomer Sasha Talbot impressed with wins in the division three singles, ladies doubles and mixed doubles.

Selected results included:

Mens Singles: Rik James beat David Cole -25,16,19. **Ladies Singles:** Kate Wadling beat Sue Welham 15,12. **Ladies Doubles:** Kate Wadling/Sasha Talbot beat Sue Welham/Amanda Hogger 18,15. **Mens Doubles:** David Moss/John Andrews beat Rik James/Steve Edmonds 16,17. **Mixed Doubles:** Rik James/Sasha Talbot beat Kate Wadling/Andy Wadling -11,16,17. **Veteran Singles:** David Moss beat Tom Elder 17,15.

SCIMITAR II

ECTTA are indebted to Rik James who has put a great deal of time and effort into producing Scimitar II magazine over the last two seasons. However, support for the county magazine has been poor from some quarters and the number of people who subscribe directly remains low. Even some of the leagues who have supported the magazine best feel that they are unable to finance it indefinitely. A concerted effort is now needed to establish a sales-team and it is hoped that there will be strong support for Scimitar at the County AGM. The fact that a county as large as Essex (with 16 leagues) is struggling to generate enough enthusiasm to run its own in-house publication should be a cause of major concern to the sport in general.

Gloucestershire

by Alf Pepperd

WITH all four League's in the County (at time of writing), on the brink of their respective Final's Nights programmes - results hopefully should be available for the next issue of T.T.N.

COACHING

The above has been well supported by our Coaching/Development Officer Graham Slack, who incidentally left his native Cheltenham to take up permanent residence in Cirencester this season.

Graham tells me that he has been coaching 4 evenings per week, involving two concentrated periods spent on the Cirencester Juniors, of which he reports that great progress has been achieved with cadets from the local neighbourhood, Andy Shaw from the Gloucester League attends coaching on a regular basis, more helpers are urgently required for coaching, and Graham speaks highly of the assistance given by veteran Bob Trimble, the latter lives in "The Forest of Dean", which is miles away from Cirencester. Coaching is also covered for very well by Lawrence Symonds in Gloucester, and no doubt many others are helping out with this important aspect throughout Gloucestershire.

TOURNAMENTS

A series of well planned and organised Tournaments have taken place this past season, staged at Deer Park School, Cirencester with Gill Smith (T.R) and Ken Bridle (Organiser), doing all of the hard work.

The County were disappointed that the "Senior 2 Star Graded Event", scheduled for Sunday March 28th had to be cancelled owing to not enough entries, but nevertheless, we look forward to the final event - "The Junior 2 Star Open Graded", which is scheduled for Sunday May 2nd at Cirencester, events in general throughout the season have been well supported by entries from near and far.

THE DAVIES MEMORIAL EVENT

Usually organised for Cirencester and is played normally in April most years, Bob Davis however has suggested deferment be held over until September 1999.

AROUND THE LEAGUES

GLOUCESTER: Concentrating on "Top Club Initiative" - Tim Temple the SWR-Development Officer, attended a meeting on 12th March, it was acknowledged that his presence was highly beneficial and

greatly appreciated.

STROUD: David Dean is running weekly coaching sessions at Archway School from 5 to 6pm.

CIRENCESTER: Now has a new treasurer - Sarah Moloney. Heating at Deer Park School sometimes leaves much to be desired, Ken Bridle is trying to do something about it - he believes that the caretaker is over-economising, members that use Deer Park are requested to contact Ken if the problem persists. CHELTENHAM: It is reported that Andy Ewens the Towns Development Officer has been making great strides, not only in development but organising coaching in the region, this has resulted so far in some very favourable Cadets/Juniors coming forward.

Peter Cruwys is giving up the chairmanship of the C.T.T.A. his likely successor could well be Dick Prior from Winchcombe. Cheltenham's County Junior No.1 Dominic Wynn-Sands, had the best win of his life (so far), when he beat Devons Craig Bryant in the Cadet 2 Star Open at Cirencester, early this year.

Cheltenham's "Net and Edge" Newsletter edited by Mike Brown continues to please and inform everyone that takes it, Cheltenham and Gloucester are the only League's that have a Newsletter at the moment - how about Stroud and Cirencester thinking about doing the same for next season?.

Herefordshire

by Harry Jutle

COUNTY NEWS

IN the Senior Div 2B Hereford played home against the top team Glamorgan resulting in a 3-7 loss. Hereford are at 3rd position at the moment. Sally Davies scored 2 wins with Michael Owens a single. This is Michael's first loss having won 15 out of 16 games. Mark Stubbs was unlucky to lose both games at 20-22, 23-25 and 21-11, 13-21, 19-21. Sharon Powell also gave her best to lose in three sets at 21-18, 14-21, 14-21 and 21-18, 15-21, 14-21. Andy Castle completed the team.

In the Junior Div 3C Hereford played away against the top team Somerset also resulting in a 3-7 loss. Jenny Spencer won both her games and Tom Peters a single. Team Coach Dave Gough said had we been able to use Emily Birt we would have achieved a draw. Emily is now the highest Herefordshire ranked player in the ETTA Ladies and Junior Girls list. Tom played a tough match to score 13-21, 23-21, 19-21 and 21-19, 17-21, 22-20. Sam Lloyd and Joe Davies made up the team.

In the Veterans Div 3D Hereford First played away against Wiltshire third resulting in a 7-2 win! Harry Jutle started the first game trailing by a couple of points until the end to win it 21-19, and then really flowed in the next game to win 21-9. Richard Owens first game was similar to Harry's and resulted in winning 21-19. In the second Richard built up quite a lead, before his opposition was able to fight back, but towards the end Richard was able to lift his game again to win 21-16. Gordon Stables went on next to lose the first 15-21 and trailed 7-17 in

the second and made an incredible recovery to win 21-19. The third game see-sawed with Gordon finally taking it 23-21. Linda Ashman and Richard continued the team success by winning the mixed doubles at 23-21, 21-18, 21-18. Harry and Gordon followed their example by winning the mens doubles 21-16, 21-13. At 5-0 we had won the match already and this lifted Linda in her singles to score her first win 21-17, 21-18. We then had our first loss with Richard scoring 17-21, 16-21, followed by Harry 21-7, 15-21, 12-21. Gordon finished the day winning 21-14, 21-12. This win should ensure we finish in 6th position, which is the highest we have ever achieved (had we been able to turn the three 4-5 losses into wins we would have been first).

Also this this division Hereford Third played home to Somerset resulting in a 0-9 loss. Mike Wheatley forced one to a decider, Mike Whelfield pushed one to decider and Pauline Hart lost her singles narrowly. Mike Morgan completed the team.

In the Veterans Div 3C Hereford Second played home to Hertfordshire sixth resulting in a 4-5 loss. This has been their best result so far. Neville Meredith won two. Neville partnered Carol Milnes to win the mixed doubles and Norman Merchant partnered John Hunt to win the mens in three sets.

Hertfordshire

by Doug Tomsett

TREBLE FOR KISS

ANTHONY CORBIN is this years County Senior Champion, following his narrow victory over Keith Samuels 23-21, 21-18, at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre, in March.

Corbin had another very close battle in the semis, where he just managed to beat Glen Wilkes 22-20, 15-21, 22-20, following a great match where Wilkes was unlucky not to reach the final. Whilst in the other semi Samuels was just too good for Perry Somers, winning 21-12, 21-11.

Perry, however, did have his moment of glory when he knocked out Hertfordshire's super defender John Taylor, two straight in round two.

This season's Womens Singles Champion is Barbara Kiss, who comfortably beat Maria Williams 21-13, 21-7.

Hungarian Barabara Kiss, who is new to the Hertfordshire table tennis scene, is beating everybody she has played to date, and if the holder of the trophy for many years, Emma Hurling, had been available to defend her title, then we would have witnessed a very close battle between the two best women players in the county.

No.1 seed for the Women's crown was Emma Hurling, but she was away house hunting in the glorious South West of England (sensible girl).

In the semis Kiss found Caroline Seaholme tougher opposition, but still won in two, 21-16, 21-18, whilst Williams won against Sally Bax 18-21, 21-6, 21-10.

Players from the Veterans 2nd County team also had to pull out due to having

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to play a Vets Weekend at Ashford, Middlesex.

The Mens Doubles Final was won by Keith Samuels and John Taylor, when they overcame the challenge of Derek Balding and Perry Somers 21-13, 21-15.

There was a big upset in the Veteran Mens Doubles when Jim Felstead and Alan Harding from North Herts sensationally beat Watford's talented Seaholme brothers Stuart and Dave, 21-18, 15-21, 21-17. But they North Herts lads couldn't keep the momentum going, losing the final to Dennis Robinson and Trafford Coker 12 and 13.

Barbara Kiss joined up with Sue Felstead to win the Womens Doubles Final, beating Maria Williams and Caroline Seaholme 21-19, 23-21.

Kiss took her third trophy when she partnered Chris Ogle in the Mixed Doubles, beating Mens Singles Champion Anthony Corbin and Caroline Seaholme 21-15, 21-17, in the final.

Once again Watford's Sally Bax won the Womens Veterans title, beating Cheshunt's June Nelson 21-12, 21-15, in the final.

Stuart Seaholme had a tough battle in beating Derek Balding in the final of the Veteran Mens event, finally securing the trophy 22-20, 20-22, 21-16.

This seasons Super Veterans Singles winner is Tony Teff who won a thrilling three game final, against Larry Gregory, 21-6, 18-21, 21-14.

COUNTY SCENE

Hertfordshire's Veteran 3rd team beat, previously unbeaten Norfolk, to go top on games difference with one match to play. They then went one better by winning that match to become champions of Veterans Division 3B by two clear points, as Norfolk lost their last match.

Isle of Wight

by John Pream

BURNS' NIGHT

A disappointing entry should not detract from Danny Burns' excellent win in the Isle of Wight Closed where he again took the singles title. He defeated Dean Whittington in the Final, Dean having beaten Roger Hookey in the semis.

Roger gained some consolation when he won the doubles with Mike Turner.

There was a new Ladies' champion - Alison Botha who defeated Pauline Rorke in the Final. Both ladies are veterans. Lucy Pointer and Jill Fothergill, last year's finalists, were both absent.

Lucy put some of the season's disappointing form behind her when she won the singles event in the Cadet Quadrangular tournament (England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland) although the top English guns were absent.

Our enterprising Chairman Gordon Burns tells me that we may have a county senior team next season which would be a good move in terms of raising the profile of the sport locally and as an encouragement to players who do not see success in the local league as the end of their ambitions. A small two person inter-town league is also on the agenda. One keeps one's fingers crossed.

Less likely seems an overdue change in the playing system of the local league. One fears that apathy will again prove

triumphant and that the 9 singles, one doubles format will continue to bore us. This, with attendant late nights caused by often meaningless matches, has had its day in a progressive sport. It is a system which has been abandoned in Germany, Sweden and France. Are they all out of step?

I hear much criticism of the lack of national press coverage and TV and I have often agreed that these are factors which hold our sport back. Sadly, local indifference, the failure to make local events more interesting and fresher plays an equal part. And so the late nights, often caused by 'dead' matches, continue to repel both the young (who have to go to school the next day) and the old (who have to be at work, also rather tired).

Carl Pream returned to the top of the English ranking list after a long absence, the first time since 1992, I am told, a time when the criteria governing the top places were changed. He had appeared at No.1 for the first time in 1983 at the age of 15, so that this interrupted "reign" has spanned a long period.

After a January ruined by illness Carl hit excellent form once he had recovered fitness and health. It was a shame the World Championships (Belgrade) had to be postponed. Carl has signed up again for Cestas Bordeaux in the top division of the French League. His English table tennis earnings remain below starvation level and somewhat below child labourers of the third world!

Kent

by Adrian Hall

SCHOOLS CHAMPIONS LOOKING FOR NATIONAL HONOURS

The Kent Schools Individual Table Tennis Championships were held at Chatham Grammar School where the Boys and Girls County Champions at various age groups won the right to represent Kent at the National Finals in Birmingham at the beginning of May.

National squad players Justin Dodd (Gravesend Grammar) and Dominic Hall (Maidstone Grammar) the U19 Boys and U 16 Boys champions are Kents best hope for honours at the National Finals.

The closest match of the day was the U11 Girls final where two of Kents promising young players again put on a terrific match with Jodie Stringer beating Anusha Seneviratne by the closest possible margin 22-20, 24-22.

Finals results:-

U11 Boys:- Nicholas Chattfield (St Marks) beat David Ridout (Palace Wood) 21-7, 21-15.

U11 Girls:- Jodie Stringer (Wakeley) beat Anusha Seneviratne (St Mary's) 22-20, 24-22.

U13 Boys:- Lee Broad (Fulston Manor) beat John Harley (Howard School) 21-16, 21-11.

U13 Girls:- Lisa Hogben (Highworth) beat Marie Ransom (Invicta Grammar) 21-18, 21-18.

U16 Boys:- Dominic Hall (Maidstone Grammar) beat Shaun Owen (Southlands) 2] -12, 21-15.

U16 Girls:- Michelle Hogben (Tower) beat Laura Fairbrass (Invicta Grammar) 21-13, 21-8.

U19 Boys:- Justin Dodd (Gravesend Grammar) beat Martin George (Harvey Grammar) 21-12, 21-19.

U19 Girls:- Hannah Frarey (Invicta Grammar)

SELECTED FOR ENGLAND

Kents top juniors who were all medal winners at the recent National Championships have been rewarded with selection for England. Oliver Stevens (Rotherhithe) (Junior Boys bronze medallist) and Dominic Hall (Maidstone) (Cadet U 14 Boys Doubles, gold medal and Cadet Boys Singles, bronze medallist) will be representing England at the Home Countries international Tournament in Cardiff during Easter week. While Gravesends Justin Dodd, who appeared in all three Junior finals, winning the mixed Doubles and coming runner-up in the Junior Boys Doubles and Junior Singles will be with England in Austria for the Austrian Junior Open at the same time.

KENT RECOVER AFTER BAD START KENT SENIOR III 2 - GLOUCESTER SENIOR I 8

Phil Cox and John Huckle were the only winners for Kent 3rds against a strong Gloucester 1st team. Darren Griffin, Ann Humble and Suzy Robinson were all unbeaten for Gloucester.

Kent III - Phil Cox (Bromley) (1), John Huckle (NWK) (1), Alistair McTavish (Gravesend) (0), Jackie Mersh (Medway) (0), Carol Homewood (Bromley) (0)

SUSSEX SENIOR III 5 - KENT SENIOR III 5

Gravesends Alistair McTavish home for the weekend from University lead Kent with two wins and was well supported by Phil Cox, John Huckle and Jackie Mersh who all contributed a win each to earn a 5-5 draw against Sussex. Tony Murrell and Sheila King were unbeaten for Sussex. Kent III - Phil Cox (Bromley) (1), John Huckle (NWK) (1), Alistair McTavish (Gravesend) (2), Jackie Mersh (Medway) (1), Carol Homewood (Bromley) (0)

KENT SENIOR III 6 - SURREY SENIOR III 4

A good all round team performance enabled Kent 3rds to beat Surrey 3rds 6-4. Kents John Huckle was unbeaten for Kent as was Marc Burman for Surrey but with the rest of the Kent team each contributing a win, the team performance of Kent won the day.

Kent 111 - Phil Cox (Bromley) (1), John Huckle (NWK) (2), Alistair McTavish (Gravesend) (1),

Jackie Mersh (Medway) (1), Carol Homewood (Bromley) (1)

BERKSHIRE SENIOR II 2 - KENT SENIOR III 8

Kent Ladies Carly Hart (Maidstone) and Jackie Mersh (Medway) provided the backbone of an excellent win over Berkshire. John Huckle of North West Kent was also unbeaten for the county.

Kent III - Chris Knight (Bromley) (1), John Huckle (NWK) (2), Paul Cronin (Medway) (1), Carly Hart (Maidstone) (2), Jackie Mersh (Medway) (2)

BIG WINS FOR KENT JUNIORS

Kents junior players Oliver Stevens (Rotherhithe), Dominic Hall (Maidstone) and Stephen Beerling (Thanet) all beat top ranked international players at the Junior Premier County Championship weekend at Northwich, Cheshire.

Despite these wins Kent were only able to win one match against Yorkshire to finish 6th out of eight and retain the Counties Premier Division place.

KENT 4 - GLAMORGAN 6

Stevens and Hall both had excellent wins against the Welsh No.2 Stephen Jenkins. Kent: Oliver Stevens (Rotherhithe) (1), Dominic Hall (Maidstone) (2), Stephen Beerling, (Thanet) (1), Emma Etheridge (TWells) (0), Joanne Hubbard (T. Wells) (0)

KENT 4 - SURREY 6

Stevens beat England No2 Marco Essomba and Beerling beat the No3 Michael Chan. Kent: Oliver Stevens (Rotherhithe) (1), Dominic Hall (Maidstone) (1), Stephen Beerling (Thanet) (2) Emma Etheridge (T. Wells) (0) Joanne Hubbard (T.Wells) (0)

KENT 6 - YORKSHIRE 4

Kents boys carried the county to a comfortable win over Yorkshire. Kent: Oliver Stevens (Rotherhithe) (2), Dominic Hall (Maidstone) (2), Stephen Beerling (Thanet) (2) Emma Etheridge (TWells) (0), Joanne Hubbard (T. Wells) (0)

KENT 4 - MIDDLESEX 6

Stevens beat the up and coming Eli Baraty but blotted his copy book by losing to Luis Dominguez. Kent: Oliver Stevens (Rotherhithe) (1), Dominic Hall (Maidstone) (1), Stephen Beerling (Thanet) (2) Emma Etheridge (T. Wells) (0), Joanne Hubbard (T.Wells) (0)

Kent junior 2nds move into second place in division 2B of the County Championship after two good wins over Surrey and Glamorgan. T.Wells pair Wesley Cheeseman and Paul Dunmall were unbeaten for Kent against Surrey while Ross Walker (Medway), Canterbury's David Jeavons and Hazel Clucas (T. Wells) were also unbeaten against Glamorgan.

KENT JUNIOR II 7 - SURREY JUNIOR III 3

Kent II - Wesley Cheeseman (TWells) (2), Paul Dunmall (T.Wells) (2), David Jeavons (Cant) (1), Joanne Hubbard (TWells) (1), Hazel Clucas (TWells) (1)

KENT JUNIOR II 7 - GLAMORGAN JUNIOR IV 3

Kent II - Ross Walker (Medway) (2), Paul Dunmall (T. Wells) (1), David Jeavons (Cant) (2), Joanne Hubbard (T. Wells) (0), Hazel Clucas (T.Wells) (2)

KENT JUNIOR III 1 - GLAMORGAN JUNIOR IV 9

Lee Broad (Sittingbourne) (1), John Everest (T.Wells) (0), Andrew Ewer (T. Wells) (0), Michelle Hogben (Ashford) (0), Anusha Seneviratne (Ashford) (0)

Lancashire

by Tony Meredith

LIVERPOOL CLOSED

I should like to congratulate Don Davies for the production of a wonderful brochure to commemorate the 71st Liverpool Closed Championships. It was fascinating to look at the past records. The list of winners includes numerous Internationals such as Don Foulis, Ted Rumjahn, Peter Rumjahn, Ralph Gunnion, Ken Hyde, Eric Hyde, Mike Johns, Andrew Eden and Ron Rumjahn who holds the record with ten men's singles titles.

Strong favourite Adam Robertson was unable to take part due to Welsh

commitments. This still left a very strong field. In the semi-finals seven times champion Keith Williams comfortably beat Chris Ford and four times winner Kevin Dolder defeated Rob Bevan. The final saw Dolder take the first game and Williams the second on deuce (sorry Mr. Leeson). Dolder took a lead in the third but Williams stuck at his task and came back to win 19 and take his tally of titles to eight - just two behind Ronnie Rumjahn's all time record. Williams also took the vets title defeating Ken Jackson in three. Paula French was ladies champion when she beat Alice Howard in a very close final. She now ties with Brenda Buoeuy with four title wins - the record for current players. Paul Hutchings and John Rankin beat Rob Bevan and Bernie Wentworth in a well contested men's doubles final.

LYTHAM ST.ANNES CLOSED

There was a surprise in the men's singles where Brian Oldfield beat Dave Marsland in straight games. The pair teamed up to win the doubles event over Willie Fluss and Marcus Judge. Dave (walk on water) Robertson had a good day - he won the handicap singles beating Dave Hill in three and reached the final of the handicap doubles with Brian Oldfield where the pair lost in three to League secretary Dave Woolley and Mike Ward. Oldfield became a triple winner when he took the veteran singles title over Keith Bailey. The tournament was organised by Steve Foster who won the consolation event defeating Dave Hill in the final.

Northants by Dennis Millman

SPECIAL FINALS DAY

THE Northampton League's 57th Annual Closed Tournament suffered a further decline in entries at senior level, but this was more than offset by new events for both veterans and juniors, which not only increased the overall entry, but also created extra work for Tournament Organiser Hartley Hancock, who coped admirably to complete the day's play on schedule. However, as predetermined, all seven finals of the junior events were left for a special 'Finals Day.'

The Open Singles was again a hard fought affair but after a tense final it went to Ryan Keates who came through to beat Chris Gibbons 21-15, 16-21, 21-7. Both players had survived difficult semi-finals, with Keates coming back from 10-12 in the final end to edge out Steve Silk 22-20, and Gibbons producing the best performance of the day to despatch No.1 Seed, David Gatiss 22-20, 21-10.

The Hard Bat Singles was a repeat performance of the 'Open', but this time Keates was much more impressive, and Gibbons suffered further disappointment when partnered by Dave Ewen in the doubles, with the title going to Gatiss and Michael Edwards. At the penultimate stage the Gibbons/Ewing duo had accounted for Keates and Gordon Shaw in a battle of three deuces, while the Edwards/Gatiss combination had ended the aspirations of Silk and Gary Webb in straight games.

Clem Little took the Ladies Singles with her now customary win over Sue Moloney, before the singles finalists

teamed up to take the doubles, with Wendy Hancock and Sue Nichols filling the minor berth. However Hancock gained her revenge when together with Gatiss, honours were gained in the Mixed Doubles when Webb and Little were narrowly beaten 21-19 in the third end.

Both the Over 40 and Over 50 events were won by Michael Edwards who had a rewarding day. In the first named event he gained a surprisingly facile win over Shaw, while in the latter competition he eventually got the better of Greg Dobrowolski in the decider.

The Over 60 veterans were competing for a new trophy that attracted eight players. Shock results abounded and in the semi-finals, Bryan Bond, currently of the Second Division, but winner of the Northants Mens Singles in 1954-55, beat the Premier's Greg Dobrowolski in comfortable straight games, to recapture some of his former glory. Then Third Division's Jeff Fairman beat Reg Dick from Division Two, 21-17, 22-20 before going on to take the title in straight games.

Edwards was again on target in the Over 40 Doubles when partnered by Gordon Shaw, the regular county championship pairing proved too strong for Dobrowolski and Jim Brogan however, one stage up Edwards had to take second billing, together with Richard Kitchener when Brogan and Bond came out on top. Then at Over 60 level it was Dobrowolski and Dick with Jack Marshall and Eric Atkins in second place.

Both Divisional Singles had fluctuating semi-finals, with the Division One/Two event going to Pete Wingrove, who edged out Mark Newall 20-22, 21-19, 21-19, before going on to take the honours at the expense of Mick Henderson, who had narrowly beaten Daniel Pang.

In Division Three/Four, Fairman beat Sue Moloney in the third, while Saif Uddin outstayed Pete Tomlinson 23-21, 21-23, 21-15, but Saif then discovered he had no answer to Fairman's long pimples and went down in low scoring straight games.

As anticipated, the Juniors found the final stage of their county championship season a daunting one, going down to Notts 1sts and South Yorkshire, and ending all square with Notts 2nds.

Nevertheless Greg Yarnall had a superb match against the Yorkshire side, with a 24-22, 21-15 scoreline over Matthew Kenny, the better of his two victories. Then it was Tim Yarnall's turn to shine with two successes against Notts 2nds, while Gabrielle Evans ended her remarkable stay in the junior ranks with yet another unbeaten performance. Greg ended as the season's top scorer with ten victories, one more than brother Tim and Gabrielle.

Congratulations are due to Tim Yarnall for another major success against international competition. At the Safirs International Grand Prix in Orebro, Sweden, the Rushden boy took the Under 10 event with wins over Christopher Belstrad of Denmark, at the quarter-final stage, Gustaf Erikson one round later and an easy decision over Luxembourg's Smot Gilles Michely in the final.

Northumberland by Pauline Long

VETERANS WIN DIVISION 2A TITLE

THE Wenade (UK) Ltd. County Veterans team have emulated the senior team by winning the Veterans Division 2A title. They had to come from 2-4 down to beat neighbours Durham in a 5-4 thriller at Bishop Auckland on 27th March. 'Benny' Robertson was unbeaten taking both singles and the mixed doubles with Pauline Long, while Geoff Salter and Rob Dodds each won a singles to clinch their seventh successive victory.

Congratulations to all who played in this seasons campaign and helped to make this success possible - especially Jimmy Scope who is still recuperating following his heart attack in February.

The Wenade (UK) Ltd. Northumbria League season has just ended, although there are still some results outstanding. It looks as though Birtley SC 'A' have won the Premier Division title - with North Shields YMCA 'A' as runners up - in spite of a recent first defeat by third placed St.Gabriels which included a first loss for Eddie Smith (Birtley) at the hands of former Greek international George Pittas (St.Gabriels) YMCA 'C' will be relegated and will probably be accompanied by St.Jude's.

OTHER RESULTS

Other Division issues settled are: Division 1: Winners Birtley SC 'C', runners-up North Fire 'A', Relegated North Fire 'B' & Wansbeck. Division 2: Winners Lemington 'A', runners-up Blaydon YC 'B', relegated Ouston 'C'. Division 3: Winners Philips Components, runners-up Newton 'C', relegated YMCA 'H' & St.Charles 'B'. Division 4: Winners Cramlington Rejects, runners-up YMCA 'J'.

The Handicap Knockout Cup competition has currently reached the quarter-final stage and our Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl representative sides were due to play the next rounds of their competitions in April.

JOYNSON OFFICE EQUIPMENT

The Joynson Office Equipment Northumberland Close Championships were held at Wallsend Sports Centre on 28th March and the results are as follows:

OPEN SINGLES: S/F: Eddie Smith bt. Steve Penman 17,9. Andrew Wilkinson bt. Dave Godbold 14,-20, 21. **FINAL:** Smith bt. Wilkinson 18,16. **OPEN DOUBLES:** S/F: Smith/Wilkinson bt. Penman/Peter Wilkinson 13,21; Godbold/Alì Al-Khandari bt. Chris Thorp/Neil Herrington -20,8,16. **FINAL:** Smith/Wilkinson bt. Godbold/Al-Khandari 18,16. **WOMENS SINGLES:** Karen Newby bt. Lynne Herrington 9,17. **HANDICAP SINGLES:** Chris Leyland (+17) bt. Smith (scr.) 9,17. **CLASS 2 SINGLES:** N.Herrington bt. Penman 10,-20,16. **CLASS 3 SINGLES:** P.Wilkinson bt. Alan Hedley 20,-19, 25. **CLASS 4 SINGLES:** Shaun Jackson bt. David Graham 20,7. **JUNIOR SINGLES:** Jackson bt. Leyland -19,11,17. **VETERANS SINGLES:** Malcolm Lusk bt. Mick Bull 16,13. **CONSOLATION SINGLES:** Ronnie Bell bt. Hedley 20,12.

Oxfordshire by Avril Haynes

VETS COUNTY MATCHES

1st team win promotion

Oxon (1) 8 Gloucestershire 1 OXFORDSHIRE won promotion after remaining unbeaten in their last game, Karl Bushell, Eddie Herrity and Nat Richardson all won 2 singles each. Nat Richardson won the mens doubles with Karl Bushell and Janet Brown teamed up with Eddie Herrity to win the mixed doubles.

Oxon (1) 8 Hampshire (3) 1

Oxfordshire had an emphatic win over Hampshire with Karl Bushell and Nat Richardson both winning 2 singles each and the mens doubles. Janet Brown and Eddie Herrity both won a singles each and the mixed doubles.

Oxon (2) 1 Hampshire (4) 8

Oxfordshire with an understrength team lost to Hampshire. The only victory came from Jan Hutchins who won a singles.

Surrey (3) 5 Oxon (2) 4

Oxfordshire narrowly lost to Surrey without two of their regular players. Alf Davies and Neil Hurford both won a singles each and the mens doubles. Sue Gokhor won her singles.

Oxon (3) 5 Suffolk (3) 4

Oxfordshire registered their first victory of the season after being 1-4 down and winning the last four singles. Neil Hurford had two good singles wins supported by Anne Borrowdale, Tony Wheeler and Chris Lansley who all had a singles win.

JUNIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Oxon 6 Dorset (2) 4

Oxfordshire had an excellent win with John Camilleri, Kevin Cruickshank and Joanne O'Donovan all winning two singles each.

Wilts 5 Oxon 5

John Camilleri and Ashley Cox both won two singles each with Kevin Cruickshank picking up one singles to earn the team a draw.

Sussex (2) 5 Oxon 5

With a depleted team Oxfordshire did well to earn a draw. John Camilleri and Kevin Cruickshank both having two good singles wins each backed up by Joanne O'Donovan who won one singles.

Sussex (3) 6 Oxon 4

Again with a depleted team Kevin Cruickshank and John Camilleri did well winning two singles each.

MIDLAND LEAGUE DIV 2 JUNIOR Gloucester 5 Oxford 5

Oxford recovered well after being 3-5 down. Kevin Cruickshank had 3 excellent wins ably supported by Greg Boone and Stewart Hamilton who had a singles win each.

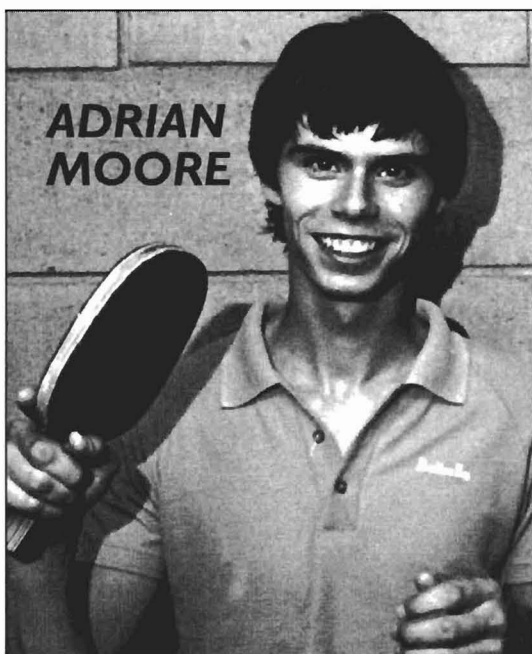
MIDLAND LEAGUE VETS DIV 2 Cheltenham 9 Oxford 1

Oxford had a hard fought match at Cheltenham with Tony Wheeler winning the last singles to prevent a whitewash.

Oxford 6 Nottingham 4

Oxford ended their season with an impressive win over Nottingham, Nigel Taylor was in fine form winning all his three singles and was well supported by

Sussex's Adrian Moore (right), who is a member of the successful County 1st team, who lifted this season's prestigious Seaman Cup, which is contested by the top eight men in the county



Ian Arnold with two wins and Tony Wheeler with one win. They have held their own in this division after going up two divisions with 3 wins, 1 draw and 2 losses.

Sussex

by John Woodford

COUNTY CHAMPIONS

SINCE the county championships first started, Sussex have only been in contention for the premier division trophy a couple of times, in the mid-sixties when their team included Peter Williams, Judy Williams, Roger Chandler, Sam Ogundipe.

Every season, there are counties who are unable to field their strongest side. This campaign was no exception, but Sussex took full advantage on this when they stayed unbeaten, ending with a draw with Hertfordshire.

Ritchie Venner, playing No.1, had to bear the brunt of playing all the time against the best men. Adrian Moore seems to have found a new formula for success - his ten victims, plus a few wins by Paul Barry and an exceptionally fine shows by Sally Weston and Rose Rainton took the trophy home to Sussex. Sally was the top scorer, with only one defeat in seven matches.

Adrian Moore continued his upsurge at Broadbridge Heath Leisure Centre on April 10, when he lifted the prestigious Seaman Cup for the top eight Sussex with a 3-1 victory in the final over Ritchie Venner.

I asked Adrian how he explained his success, he said "I just seem to have gained more confidence since the start of the year. I feel I am moving faster - any lack of speed against Ritchie is fatal."

The Seaman cup provided a couple of shocks - Peter Bartram went down 3-2 to Robert Abbotts, whose current form suggests he would be an asset to play for Sussex, but so far has declined invitations, Paul Elphick was defeated 3-1 by Tony Murrell, the Guildford champion who plays for Crawley in the

Wilmott Cup.

In the men's final Adrian defeated Ritchie 18, 17, -21, 11, winning the cup for the fourth time - his previous wins were in 1984, 1989 and 1991. Venner was seeking his eighth Seaman Cup - Chandler won it nine times!

The Nicholls Cup for the top eight Sussex women, yielded a hat-trick for the Sussex Open champion Rose Rainton, repeating her wins in 1995 and 1996.

There is little to choose between the top four Sussex women - the semi-final scores proved that - Sally Weston eased out Sheila King 20, 20 whilst Rose Rainton eliminated Teresa Bennett 21, 20. In the final, the scores were even closer, Sally, the holder lost out 14,-19, 26 to the Open champion - the most rivetting table tennis seen in the county this season.

Played before a large crowd, the spectacular play was attended by Tony Seaman, son of the late Charlie Seaman, a legend in the county before a lot of us were born. Charlie played for England in the Victor Barna era.

Looking to the future, Sussex have two boys on the England Under -12 list, Michael Simpson (Arundel) at No.8 and Luke Bridge (Hastings) at No.10, on the Under-12 girls list we have Gina Rogers (Hastings) at No.12.

URGENT NEED

ENGLAND'S oldest tournament the Sussex Open will be played in the autumn for the 64th time. Such a record of consistency of which one of the original organisers the Belgium-based Derek Tyler is so proud, however, the tournament is in most urgent need of some sponsorship. Even smaller amounts like £250 to sponsor some of the events would be more than welcome.

It will probably be the only event on the Grand Prix circuit with blue-coat umpires, a presentation asset that the organisers are determined to preserve.

Any offers of sponsorship help, to help secure the event would be welcome by Ron Spencer on Hastings (01424) 425540.

Warwickshire

by Caroline Williams

LEAMINGTON CLOSED

IN what may prove to be her swan-song Kate Ryan from Lillington Free Church contested in 4 finals of the Leamington Closed in March and won them all! She is the best lady player in the Leamington League and will be sadly missed if she sticks to her resolution to seek new challenges in other sports next year. Kate is the current Warwickshire champion in Ladies Singles, Ladies Doubles and Mixed Doubles and repeated this feat again in the Leamington Closed.

Results: Mens Singles final: Jon Williams bt Jas Singh -1 5, 19, 4, **semi-final:** Jas Singh bt Clive Irvin 16, 20, **semi-final:** Jon Williams bt Ryan Stockham 18, 19. **Ladies Singles:** Kate Ryan bt Samantha Meredith 12, 5. **Mens Doubles:** Jas Singh/Ryan Stockham bt Andy Cockerill/Alan Cotton 16,-19,12.

Ladies Doubles: Kate Ryan/Julie Richardson bt Samantha Meredith/Liz Haynes 1 5,-19, 16. **Mixed Doubles:** Kate Ryan/Trevor Bradley bt Gill Matthews/Jas Singh 10,17. **Grade 1:** Mark Woolerton bt Jas Sing -11 14, 11. **Grade 2:** Kate Ryan bt Nick Taylor 20, 15. **Grade 3:** Liz Haynes bt Jonathan Cox 17,11. **Grade 4:** James Taylor bt Jaz Allen-Sutton 13, 15. **Grade 5:** Ben McNally bt Linda Nason 14,10. **Youth:** Ryan Stockham bt Nick Taylor 19,12.

Veteran Mens: Pete Dunnett w/o Mike Bridgman. **Veteran Ladies:** Cherry Matthews bt Carol Meredith -15,17, 6. **Over 50 Veterans:** Brian Aston bt Bert Banks 16,14. **Senior Plate:** Ian Perry bt Mike Bridgman -13, 18, 19. **Handicap:** Kay Nason bt Liz Haynes 61/59.

Under 11: Kelly Sibley bt Stephanie Hawkins 8, 8. **Under 13 Girls:** Kelly Sibley bt Stephanie Hawkins 17,8.

Under13 Boys: James Taylor bt Jaz Allen-Sutton 15, 10. **Under 15 Girls:**

Samantha Meredith bt Kelly Sibley 16,14. **Under 15 Boys:** Jonathan Cox bt Terry Smith 19,19. **Junior Girls:** Kay Nason bt Guy Matthews 20,17. **Junior Boys:** Kevin Rourke bt Andrew Meredith 19, -14, 18. **Junior Doubles:** Samantha Meredith/Kevin Rourke bt Kay Nason/Gilly Matthews 18, 18.

KELLY BURSTS INTO THE LIMELIGHT

Ten year old Kelly Sibley from Leamington has burst onto the national scene. Only fourth in the West Midlands she gained a spare place for the National Cadet Trials in Liverpool where despite being unranked and a lot younger than the rest of her group she played brilliantly. Kelly surpassed all her and everyone's expectations and won 4 of her 7 matches, two of them nail-bitingly for her family, deuce in the third to finish fourth in her group. Since then she was called up to play in the England Schools Under 11 squad in the Home International on the Isle of Man in April.

MYTON THIRD AGAIN

Myton School Girls Under 19 team finished a very creditable third in the National Schools Team Competition. Last year as an Under 16 team the same quartet of Gilly Matthews, Kay Nason, Natalie Harris and Joanna Buick had struggled to reach the same position but this time they were unlucky not to reach higher. The squad slipped 6-2 to Kesteven School, Grantham and closer 5-3 to eventual winners Peniel Academy, Essex, though both teams featured highly ranked players.

AROUND THE COUNTY

Birmingham's Kingshurst Bribar club are doing well in the Cups with teams in the semi-finals of both the handicapped Callaghan Cup and the Maurice Goldstein Cup. In the Premier Division of the three aside league

continued on page 30

PLEASE NOTE

MY NEW ADDRESS

JOHN WOOD,

TABLE TENNIS NEWS,

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email: johnwood@macace.co.uk

Attachments: save as

"Word 5.1 for Macintosh"

Curdworth 'A' look set for the top with 44 points after 12 matches, 7 points clear of their nearest rivals but Westminster 'A' are only just in front of Division 1. The smaller 4 aside league is headed by Kingshurst Bribar and the 2 aside by Old Wheelers Birmingham and Rugby are intending to hold Summer Leagues starting in May.

AGM's are scheduled for Leamington on Thursday 3 June at AP, Birmingham on Tuesday 5 June at Kings Heath Cricket Club and Warwickshire on Wednesday 7 July.

Yorkshire
by Rea Balmford

WHILE it is probably not correct to quote the old saying "The king is dead, long live the king", I must devote these notes to the retirement of a well known and respected development officer and a welcome to his successor.

In paying tribute to Ray Burch who, since my last notes, has moved into a well deserved and hard earned retirement, I am sure I that speak for players and officials from throughout the length and breadth of the "Broad Acres" when I say to him a very sincere "Thank You" and wish him a long and happy retirement.

To the best of my knowledge Ray will be staying in the area, and I am sure that retirement will include table tennis, although not as a job, and that, as often as not, he will "happen to" be passing when an event is taking place.

And the new man taking over the "hot seat"? Stepping forward, from my own city of Hull, Wayne Marsh, who as a player, has represented the city at all levels, from cadet boys to mens British League and apart from playing ability, has plenty of experience in coaching and involvement in administration.

I am sure that Wayne, a thoroughly competent as well as personable young man, will prefer to introduce himself as he moves around the county from his new base in Sheffield, and equally certain that his ability and approach will quickly win him friends, admirers and, most important of all, enthusiastic volunteer colleagues across the length and breadth of the county.

THE JUNE/JULY ISSUE OF TABLE TENNIS NEWS WILL INCLUDE REPORTS ON THE FINAL POSITIONS IN THE BRITISH LEAGUE, GRAND PRIX FINALS & THE NATIONAL UNDER 10,11 & 12 CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Woolwich National Junior League
MIDLANDS DIVISION**



TABLE TOPPERS
The Mayor of Rugby, Councillor Hazel Bell, presented medals to the winning team Olton & West Warwick after their win in the Woolwich National Junior League. Pictured (left to right) back row are, Lillian Payne, Simon Upson, Mike Holden, Ron Anson and Mike Payne. Front row are, Antony Kelly, Jason Essex and Leigh Bradford of runners-up Kingshurst Bribar, Councillor Bell, Jonathan Madeley, Tim Carroll and Simon Gleeson of Olton & West Warwick

Picture by kind permission of the Rugby Advertiser

TOP of the table going into the final day of matches of the Woolwich National Junior League, Midlands Division, at The Griffin Centre, Rugby on the 27th March, were Olton & West Warwick twelve points clear of Kingshurst Bribar with Colebridge a further four points behind (with a match in hand), writes Mike Holden.

As the day unfolded the Olton & West Warwick increased their lead for the gold medal. Below them the silver medal position continually changed between Kingshurst Bribar and Colebridge.

The Rugby team were having a tough time of it being beaten 6-0 in the first four of their five matches; the squad being depleted to just three players Tim and Simon Sutcliffe and Lloyd Thompson (they really missed Oliver Vigers who has a broken leg, and little Danny Orr was withdrawn by the coach). They then won their last match 6-0 against South Staffs (a very young side; who did not win one game in 120 attempts - I was very impressed by their attitude and behaviour during the whole four days of the League. Their heads never dropped with defeat after defeat - well done South Staffs).

The Mayor of Rugby, Councillor Hazel Bell and her Consort, Mr Bell arrived at 4.30 to present the medals to the victors and runners-up. There was no doubt who had won the gold medal - Olton & W. Warwick had been on top from Day 1. The Silver medal winners were in

doubt - with Colebridge one point ahead of Kingshurst Bribar with both teams playing their last matches. The Mayor said she would wait until the matches were finished as she was enjoying the visit so much. The final match result came in - Colebridge lost 6-0 to Olton/W. Warwick and Kingshurst beat Bedford Modern 6-0, so Kingshurst took the second place and the silver medal.

The overall standard of the League was very high indeed and this made for some very close and exciting matches. The four days were well supported with spectators from Rugby and the surrounding towns.

I would like to thank the following for their help on the day: Mrs Tracy Orr, Mr Steve Warwood and Mrs Sally Capp for looking after the refreshment stand.

FINAL POSITIONS

Team	Played	Pts
OLTON & W. WARWICK	20	114
KINGSHURST BRIBAR	20	100
COLEBRIDGE BOYS	20	95
CORBYPower	20	84
BEDFORD MODERN	20	72
MID STAFFS	20	64
UXBRIDGE 3RD	20	41
NORTH STAFFS	20	37
RUGBY	20	33
UXBRIDGE	20	20
SOUTH STAFFS	20	0

JUNIOR UMPIRE AWARD LAUNCH *at* ENGLISH OPEN

The ETTA Junior Umpire Award was launched on Thursday 11th March during the prestigious English Open at Hopton-on-Sea, writes ETTA Director of Development, Diccon Gray.

The award has been devised by the ETTA in conjunction with the English Schools Table Tennis Association and is sponsored by Kent based The KPC Group*, as well as receiving a Sportsmatch award*.

Launching the award in front of school groups, officials and some spectators, ETTA Chairman, Alan Ransome OBE, commented that he hoped the award would encourage young people to become involved in officiating. Mr Ransome emphasised how important volunteers are to table tennis, and he explained that this new award would fit nicely into the existing ETTA development programme. Responding on behalf of the sponsors, The KPC Group, Paul Campfield (Senior Sales Executive) said how delighted KPC were to be linked with a community project involving young people.

* The KPC Group

The KPC Group is a family owned company that has been operating since 1937. It has been dealing with the ETTA for 20 years. At its factory in Ashford, Kent, a wide range of high quality print and bespoke envelopes is produced. All kinds of business papers and computer stationery are also supplied.
Head office: tel. 01233 623304

* Sportsmatch

Sportsmatch is a business sponsorship incentive scheme that is administered by the Institute of Sport Sponsorship on behalf of the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. It was set up to improve the quality and quantity of business sponsorship of grass roots sporting and physical recreation events and activities in Great Britain.



Pictured above are ETTA and KPC representatives who were given a helping hand from a school group and Potters banana man, 'Busby', at the Junior Umpire Award launch.



Pictured below are Karen Tonge (representing the ETTA National Umpires and Referees Committee), Paul Campfield Senior Sales Executive of the KPC Group and Alan Ransome ETTA Chairman.

JUNIOR UMPIRE AWARD

- The Award is for all young people aged under sixteen.
- It aims to introduce umpiring in Table Tennis at a basic level, and involves learning through discovery and practical umpiring.
- It may be taken at schools, youth clubs, sports/leisure centres, table tennis clubs etc.
- It can be assessed by school teachers, trainee school teachers, youth leaders, ETTA Umpires, Coaches, Table tennis Development Officers, officials of table tennis clubs, leagues, or counties and sports/leisure centre staff.
- Successful candidates may purchase badges and certificates as recognition for achieving the set standards.

To find out more or to receive a Tutor/Assessor Pack contact:
English Table Tennis Association,
Queensbury House, Havelock
Road, Hastings, TN34 1HF.
Telephone: 01424 722525



ETTA National Ranking

Period 67 Date of run: 2nd May 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	Fig
(1)	1 PREAN, Carl (IW.)	4555 *	
(2)	2 SYED, Matthew (SY.)	4519	
(3)	3 PERRY, Alex (DV.)	4291 *	
(4)	4 YOUNG, Terry (BK.)	4289	
(5)	5 HERBERT, Gareth (BK.)	4189	
(6)	6 BLAKE, Darren (SY.)	4059	
(7)	7 BAGGALEY, An (BU.)	4000 *	
8	EDEN, Andrew (LA.)	3912	
(8)	9 ISHERWOOD, Mi (DY.)	3779 *	
(9)	10 TAYLOR, Jon (LA.)	3739 ***	
(10)	11 MASON, Nicky (SX.)	3712	
(11)	12 SHAW, Steven (ST.)	3683 *	
(12)	13 SMITH, Eddie (ND.)	3631	
(15)	14 SATCHELL, Kevin (WI.)	3554 ****	
(13)	15 SLATER, Stephen (ST.)	3551	
(16)	16 SLADDEN, Kris (E.)	3544	
(14)	17 VENNER, Ritchie (SX.)	3499	
(17)	18 ECKERSLEY, Nig (CH.)	3454	
(28)	19 SUGRUE, Jason (MI.)	3452	
(18)	20 ROGERS, Christ (LE.)	3448	
(27)	21 BARR, David (BK.)	3393	
(30)	22 THOMPSON, Chris (K.)	3386	
(22)	23 MOORE, Adrian (K.)	3384	
(20)	24 HILTON, John (CH.)	3372	
(25)	25 PALMER, Stuart (SK.)	3371	
(23)	26 MARSHALL, Peter (Y.)	3371	
(19)	27 WHITING, Paul (DV.)	3365	
(21)	28 SMITH, Mark Rich (Y.)	3358	
(26)	29 JAMES, Michael (Y.)	3353	
(29)	30 CUTLER, Tom (MI.)	3343	
(24)	31 JOHNSON, Ben (BK.)	3341	
(32)	32 WURADLA, Abdul (SY.)	3305	
(43)	33 CAMPBELL, Selw (SY.)	3298	
(45)	34 CHARLES, Neil (MI.)	3296	
(33)	35 JOHNS, Brian (CH.)	3286	
(35)	36 CARTHY, Clive (E.)	3276	
(46)	37 SAMUELS, Keith (BD.)	3265	
(34)	38 RUSHTON, And (LA.)	3262	
(37)	39 AUGHTERLONIE, M (BK.)	3239	
(40)	40 GOODALL, Justin (K.)	3223	
(31)	41 RICHARDSON, Ke(CA.)	3215	
(38)	42 WILKINSON, And(ND.)	3196	
(47)	43 TAYLOR, John (HE.)	3190	
(42)	44 MORRIS, David (SP.)	3176	
(36)	45 HORSFIELD, And(Ys) (Y.)	3176	
(41)	46 CHAN, Michael (SY.)	3168	
(39)	47 THOMAS, Peter (DV.)	3148	
(44)	48 DOLDER, Kevin (LA.)	3124	
(50)	49 CLAYTON, Tony (DO.)	3115	
(51)	50 GANNON, Dave (LE.)	3110	
(48)	51 FESEHATSON, Dan(MI.)	3084	
(49)	52 HOWARTH, Dar(LA.)	3083 **	
(52)	53 NEALE, Denis (Y.)	3072	
(53)	54 BROWN, Mark (K.)	3050	
(59)	55 NEIL, Lee (NG.)	3034	
(54)	56 PAPANTONIOU, Co (MI.)	3032 **	
(66)	57 PAYNE, Phil (SO.)	3023	
(57)	58 OWEN, Mark (HR.)	3023	
(65)	59 GREEN, Mark (NG.)	3012	
(58)	60 DYSON, Tim (Y.)	3009 **	
(68)	61 CORBIN, Anth (HE.)	3007	
(70)	62 READ, Mark (WA.)	3004	
(62)	63 KENNEDY, Joseph (E.)	2996	
(55)	64 HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	2991	
(71)	65 WALKER, Andy (SX.)	2975 ****	
(63)	66 RAINFORD, Paul (K.)	2974	
(61)	67 SHORT, Mike (DV.)	2962	
(87)	68 BARTRAM, Peter (SX.)	2960	
(64)	69 HARDING, David (SY.)	2952	
(75)	70 POUNTNEY, Robert (SY)2951		
(65)	71 WELSMAN, David (NP)2947		
(85)	72 GRIFFIN, Darren (GS.)	2940	
(72)	73 DODD, Justin (K.)	2938	
(73)	74 RAND, Steven (E.)	2936	
(88)	75 BARRY, Paul (SX.)	2928	
(74)	76 WALSH, Jimmy (HE.)	2925	
(78)	77 STEAD, Michael (Y.)	2918	
(84)	78 TENDLER, Gary (E.)	2916	
(77)	79 ROOFE, Eddie (MI.)	2915	
(80)	80 SANDLIVY, Graham (MI.)	2909 N	
(76)	81 STODDART, C(Lin) (NG.)	2895	
(78)	82 LOGSDON, Philip (NK.)	2895	
(69)	83 JAMES, Simon (Y.)	2886	
(86)	84 BECKLEY, Chris (SY.)	2885	
(83)	85 HORSFIELD, Ste(Ys) (Y.)	2885	
(82)	86 MCKOY, Nicholas (MI.)	2883	
(81)	87 SMITH, Richard A (Y.)	2866	
(79)	88 JOHNS, Mike(Ch) (SX.)	2856	
(91)	89 DONOGHUE, Mark (Y.)	2856	

Senior Women

Pos	Name	Rtg	Fig
(1)	1 DEATON, Nicola (DY.)	3876	
(2)	2 HOLT, Andrea (LA.)	3796 *	
(3)	3 LOWER, Helen (ST.)	3592 *	
(4)	4 OWOLABI, Kubrat (MI.)	3514	
(6)	5 YAN, Shi (CHN)	3503 *	
(5)	6 RADFORD, Linda (E.)	3503	
(7)	7 SCHWARTZ, Gem (BK.)	3417	
(8)	8 MARLING, Sally (Y.)	3215 *	
(9)	9 SMITH, Karen (LE.)	3207	
(10)	10 RUOCCO, Shelley (E.)	3159	
(12)	11 BARRACLOUGH, Jo(CO.)	3117 *	
(13)	12 HARRIS, Jill (ST.)	3078 ***	
(14)	13 COLLIER, Susan (BK.)	3063 *	
(17)	14 DUNNING, Janet (ST.)	3016	
(15)	15 ROBERTS, Joanna (Y.)	2990	
(16)	16 RADFORD, Lesley (E.)	2987 I	
(18)	17 HURLING, Emma (HE.)	2976 *	
(21)	18 DURRANT, Louise (NG)2947		
(22)	19 RODEN, Sandra (WO.)	2945	
(20)	20 COHEN, Michele (AV)2932		
(19)	21 LOCKWOOD, Kar (CH)2931		
(24)	22 NEWNS, Claire (CH.)	2920	
(23)	23 BONGERS, Jose (ST.)	2884	
(26)	24 SHIELDS, Helen (Y.)	2874	
(25)	25 RAINTON, Rosey (SX.)	2854	
(27)	26 SMITH, Emma (Y.)	2846 *	
(29)	27 MORRIS, Claire (SP.)	2845	
(37)	28 WESTON, Sally (SX.)	2842	
(32)	29 ROLIKOVA, Maria (SY.)	2836 *	
(28)	30 BUOYE, Brenda (LA.)	2834	
(31)	31 SMITH, Angela (MI.)	2832	
(34)	32 BLOOR, Trudie (SP.)	2827 **	
(33)	33 MARLING, Sam (MI.)	2827 *	
(35)	34 BENNETT, Teresa (SX.)	2826	
(36)	35 LOWE, Claire (SK.)	2809	
(38)	36 SCHOFIELD, Do (CH.)	2793	
(44)	37 KING, Sheila (SX.)	2790	
(40)	38 SMITH, Sarah (NG.)	2780	
(42)	39 KENDALL, Jade (CU.)	2778	
(41)	40 MOORE, Claire (K.)	2763 **	
(43)	41 PEARCE, Diane (K.)	2753 *	
(39)	42 SILBURN, Nicola (Y.)	2751	
(56)	43 HUMBLE, Ann (GS.)	2747	
(46)	44 PARKER, Katy (LA.)	2739 *	
(47)	45 RIDER, Sandra (Y.)	2731	
(48)	46 BAWDEN, Natalie (E.)	2721 *	
(45)	47 SIMPSON, Linda (Y.)	2720	
(55)	48 DEARING, Emily (Y.)	2710	
(50)	49 PERRY, Penelope (DV.)	2706 ****	
(49)	50 RUSS, Tina (NG.)	2692	
(52)	51 KNIGHTLEY, Gill (BK.)	2692	
(51)	52 JUDSON, Carol (Y.)	2681	
(57)	53 MALTRY, Margt (NP.)	2663	
(54)	54 BAWDEN, Marilyn (E.)	2650	
(63)	55 DAWSON, Marjorie (E.)	2641	
(53)	56 SMITH, Nicola (Y.)	2638	
(69)	57 HOWARD, Alice (CH.)	2624	
(58)	58 DIGNUM, Marg (WO.)	2614	
(61)	59 SEAHOLME, Sara (HE.)	2610 **	
(90)	60 ROBINSON, Suzy (GS.)	2610	
(81)	61 HARPER, Sandra (BD.)	2591	
(68)	62 YARDY, Hannah (E.)	2588 *	
(65)	63 PERRY, Lucy (DV.)	2581 *	
(78)	64 BAX, Sally (HE.)	2577	
(73)	65 WALKER, Georg (NG.)	2571 *	
(64)	66 HEWETT, Carol (SX.)	2569	
(66)	67 FISHER, Rebecca (MI.)	2569	
(68)	68 POGMORE, Hel (WO.)	2565	
(67)	69 VAJDI, Carmen (SY.)	2564	
(70)	70 WHITE, Jean (LI.)	2552 **	
(82)	71 SHALER, Eileen (LE.)	2551	
(74)	72 BRISTOW, Angie (K.)	2549	
(75)	73 STEEL, Pauline (SX.)	2549	
(72)	74 HUNT, Janet (WO.)	2543	
(76)	75 HICKMAN, Susan (E.)	2536 *	
(77)	76 DAVIDSON, Sarah (Sk) (E)2525		
(71)	77 PARKS, Nicola (CV.)	2520	

Veteran Men

Pos	Name	Rtg	Fig
(1)	1 ECKERSLEY, Nig (CH.)	3454	
(2)	2 HILTON, John (CH.)	3372	
(3)	3 JOHNS, Brian (CH.)	3286	
(4)	4 TAYLOR, John (HE.)	3190	
(5)	5 CLAYTON, Tony (DO.)	3115	
(6)	6 NEALE, Denis (Y.)	3072	
(7)	7 HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	2991	
(8)	8 SHORT, Mike (DV.)	2962	
(9)	9 HARDING, David (SY.)	2952	
(10)	10 WELSMAN, David (NP)2947		
(11)	11 JOHNS, Mike (Ch) (SX.)	2856	
(13)	12 HILL, Brian (LI.)	2842	
(15)	13 ROBERTSON, Ian (ND.)	2839	
(14)	14 HARPER, Mick (BD.)	2830	
(16)	15 NEWTON, David (LA.)	2801	
(22)	16 BREWER, Chris (NK.)	2777	
(25)	17 BROUGHTON, Mic (NK.)	2754	
(18)	18 DAVIES, Nicky (Y.)	2733	
(17)	19 CRAWFORD, John (DU.)	2710	
(20)	20 WILLIAMS, Keith (LA.)	2702	
(23)	21 HILL, Barry (DO.)	2685	
(20)	22 ISAAC, Anthony (ST.)	2683 *	
(21)	23 RANDALL, Dave (E.)	2637	
(24)	24 BURN, Brian (DO.)	2660	
(26)	25 BUIST, Henry (K.)	2638	
(41)	26 BHALLA, Ramesh (SY.)	2627 *	
(27)	27 MORRIS, Clive (K.)	2616 *	
(28)	28 CORKING, Mal (CV.)	2611	
(28)	29 PAYNE, Clive (HA.)	2599 *	
(39)	30 MCGILVRAY, Don (E.)	2594	
(29)	31 SEAHOLME, Stuart (HE.)	2586	
(30)	32 NEWMAN, Maurice (LE.)	2583	
(69)	33 HOWLETT, Steve (NK.)	2582	
(42)	34 CLEMENTS, Brian (LA.)	2576	
(32)	35 SMITH, Phil (LE.)	2560 **	
(34)	36 JOHNSON, Barry (WA.)	2552 **	
(37)	37 BALDWIN, Gary (WI.)	2549	
(59)	38 WILLIAMS, Trevor (Ys) (Y.)	2536	
(35)	39 GRANT, Bill (Ys) (Y.)	2534	
(38)	40 CHANDLER, Roger (SX.)	2530 ****	
(32)	41 DAVIS, Steve (SY.)	2526	
(40)	42 HOLLAND, John(Sr) (E)2525		
(44)	43 JOHNS, Ian (CH.)	2516	
(31)	44 ALLISON, Brian (LI.)	2511	
(51)	45 CROWLEY, David (MI.)	2504	
(47)	46 RADFORD, Peter (E.)	2503	
(46)	47 SOLLMAN, David (SY.)	2503 *	
(45)	48 SALTER, Geoff (DU.)	2493	
(48)	49 HOLMAN, Derek (SY.)	2491	
(52)	50 PRIESTLEY, Richard (Y.)	2490	

Veteran Women

Pos	Name	Rtg	Fig
(1)	1 SMITH, Karen (LE.)	3207	
(2)	2 DUNNING, Janet (ST.)	3016	
(3)	3 RADFORD, Lesley (E.)	2987 I	
(4)	4 SHIELDS, Helen (Y.)	2874	
(5)	5 BUOYE, Brenda (LA.)	2834	
(6)	6 SCHOFIELD, Dor (CH)2793		
(8)	7 KING, Sheila (SX.)	2790	
(7)	8 PEARCE, Diane (K.)	2753 *	
(10)	9 RIDER, Sandra (Y.)	2731	
(9)	10 SIMPSON, Linda (Y.)	2720	
(11)	11 PERRY, Penelope (DV.)	2706 ****	
(13)	12 KNIGHTLEY, Gill (BK.)	2692	
(12)	13 JUDSON, Carol (Y.)	2681	
(15)	14 MALTRY, Marg (NP.)	2663	
(14)	15 BAWDEN, Marilyn (E.)	2650	
(18)	16 DAWSON, Marjorie (E.)	2641	
(16)	17 DIGNUM, Marg (WO.)	2614	
(28)	18 HARPER, Sandra (BD.)	2591	
(25)	19 BAX, Sally (HE.)	2577	
(19)	20 HEWETT, Carol (SX.)	2569	
(17)	21 POGMORE, Helen (WO)2565		
(20)	22 VAJDI, Carmen (SY.)	2564	
(21)	23 WHALE, Jean (LI.)	2552 **	
(29)	24 SHALER, Eileen (LE.)	2551	
(23)	25 STEEL, Pauline (SX.)	2549	
(22)	26 HUNT, Janet (WO.)	2543	
(24)	27 HICKMAN, Susan (E.)	2536 *	
(30)	28 MURDOCH, Val (HE.)	2517	
(31)	29 BURGESS, Sue (CH.)	2507 *	
(27)	30 H-MIDDLEMORE, Jo(WA)2506		
(26)	31 HALLES, Linda (E.)	2504	
(32)	32 BUTCHER, Pamela (K.)	2493	
(33)	33 BENTLEY, Ruth (NG.)	2474	

Junior Boys

Pos	Name	Rtg	Fig
(1)	1 BAGGALEY, And (BU.)	4000 *	
(2)	2 RUSHTON, And (LA.)	3262	
(3)	3 CHAN, Michael (SY.)	3168	
(4)	4 DODD, Justin (K.)	2938	
(5)	5 FRIDAY, Scott (K.)	2834 **	
(6)	6 BARHAM, Dale (CA.)	2760	
(5)	7 ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	2694 R	
(7)	8 DUNNE, Christ(Ch.)	2667 *	
(9)	9 GASCOYNE, Craig (NG.)	2588	
(8)	10 STEVENS, Oliver (K.)	2567	
(12)	11 BEERLING, Step (K.)	2561	
(10)	12 JAMIESON, Christ (E.)	2506	
(13)	13 GOMERSALL, Mic (CU.)	2482	
(11)	14 TAYLOR, Scott (Y.)	2475 *	
(14)	15 RULE, Martin (BU.)	2392	
(15)	16 BARATY, Eli (MI.)	2346	
(17)	17 PEARCE, Robin (DY.)	2334	
(17)	18 HALL, Dominic (K.)	2286	
(27)	19 GIBBS, Stuart (OV.)	2264 R	
(19)	20 KENNY, Matthew (Y.)	2253	
(16)	21 BARHAM, Lee (CA.)	2217	
(21)	22 WHITEMAN, James (DV)2182		
(20)	23 BABCOCK, Gra (BD.)	2162 *	
(22)	24 CLEMINSON, Peter (E.)	2117 *	
(23)	25 CLEMINSON, Tim (E.)	2084 *	
(24)	26 YARDY, Tim (E.)	2053 *	
(26)	27 RUDLAND, Simon (ST.)	2002 **	
(34)	28 HUGHES, Thomas (NG)1999		
(28)	29 EVANS, Micah (E.)	1951 *	
(35)	30 POUNTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1885	
(30)	31 COYSH, John (LA.)	1885 *	
(29)	32 DAVIES, Stephen (LI.)	1885	
(32)	33 DOMINGUEZ, Luis (MI)1848		
(32)	34 BLOOMFIELD, Gary (SK)1840		
(31)	35 WELSH, Daniel T (DU.)	1813	
(36)	36 TAYLOR, John D V (NG)1773 *		
(37)	37 WILSON, Nicholas (BU)1757 *		
(40)	38 BAILEY, Steven (CV.)	1709	
(39)	39 WARNER, Ben (E.)	1706 *	
(40)			

PALMER & CHAN'S EXHIBITION AT POTTERS

TWO of England's leading wheelchair players, Mark Palmer and Arnie Chan, were to be seen at the English Open Championships on Saturday 13th March playing a series of exhibition matches. During the very busy afternoon they each had the opportunity to play a game of singles against Gareth Herbert, a member of the senior England Squad. Both players pushed Gareth very hard achieving good results in both games. Onlookers were then treated to some very close matches between Arnie and Mark. Thanks go to both players for all their hard work, and to the English Federation of Disability Sport who sponsored the event.



Pictured above are Arnie Chan (left) and Mark Palmer, at the English Open at Potters Leisure Resort, just before they played their matches against England senior international Gareth Herbert. Whilst pictured below are Cornwall's Matthew Powell and Sonia Hooper, who have joined the South East Cornwall Woolwich Junior League. (Picture with kind permission of the Plymouth Evening Herald)

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH WEST REGION

Teenagers Matthew Powell and Sonia Hooper, from Cornwall, have been flying the flag for disabled table tennis. They are both wheelchair users and have joined the South East Cornwall Woolwich Junior Table Tennis League. They are both coached by Dave Ashton from Saltash who is one of the ETTA's very few coaches who are themselves disabled.

For Sonia it is a double first as she is also the only female currently playing in the league.

Matthew and Sonia are also planning a table tennis competition to be held at their school,

Woodlands in Plymouth, although they both intend to concentrate on refereeing and coaching rather than participating.

Congratulations to both players!!

WELL DONE CIPPENHAM!!

I was lucky enough to be invited by the ETTA Southern Region Development Officer, Wesley Bush-Harris, to join him and some of the Cippenham Coaches at a session they were running in a local Slough school.

Arbour Vale School caters for pupils with learning and physical disabilities, as well as those with behavioural problems.

As the session progressed the sheer delight and enthusiasm of the students shone through. From the young boy who 3 weeks before just sat on his haunches in the corner of the hall refusing to touch either bat or ball - who was now running around trying to bounce a ball on a bat - to the girl who had previously

refused to participate in any PE or games lessons and was now first in the queue to get some table practice.

At the centre of it all was Ken Phillips encouraging, teasing, cajoling, giving all the students the opportunity to achieve their best and, incidentally, in the whole of the 3 hours we spent in the school I never once saw the smile disappear off his face.

There was so much hope and happiness in that hall that I came away feeling that all my problems had been put into perspective.

I know that this initiative from Cippenham Table Tennis Club is in no way unique; many clubs are doing similar work. However, there are a vast majority of clubs who do not cater for disabled players, or build links with local disability groups/clubs, or special schools.

As we left the school Wesley said to me, "I was a little nervous before we arrived, I wondered what we were going to find, but now I can't wait to go back again it has been a fantastic experience."

Here's hoping that many more of our members give themselves the opportunity to enjoy a similar experience!



YOUNG POWERS HIS WAY TO VICTORY OVER PERRY

IN a tournament high on quality but a little short on quantity, Terry Young was pre-eminent. The 20 year old England No.3 from Maidenhead, who plays for Dusseldorf in the German Bundesliga, avenged himself of his English Nationals finals defeat when he powered through top seed Alex Perry (Devon) in the men's singles final of the Potters East Anglian Open, Potters Leisure Resort, Hopton-on-Sea, Great Yarmouth on 13-14 February. Despite easily losing the middle game, Terry generally had too much in his armoury for Alex, winning 21-17, 6-21, 21-11, writes Ken Muhr.

He had beaten his England colleague and doubles partner Darren Blake (Surrey) in two close games, 21-17, 21-19, in the semi-finals but looked rather more under threat in the quarters when England's rising star, 16 year old Andrew Baggaley (Bucks), clawed the first game from behind, 21-19. However, Terry then turned on the power to cut through Andrew's control to win 19-21, 21-13, 21-11. Darren had beaten a member of England's old guard, Nicky Mason (Sussex), 21-18, 21-8 in his quarter final.

England Champion Alex Perry came through his half comfortably enough, overcoming the relatively unknown Lithuanian, Lorestas Trumpauskas (Essex) 21-4, 21-14 in the quarter finals and Gareth Herbert (Berkshire) 21-14, 21-8 in the semis. He looked sharp and consistent - but then he met Young! However, he got some recompense with Gareth Herbert in the men's doubles final, when they beat Young and Blake 20-22, 21-9, 21-15.

The women's singles provided an easy trophy for Kubrat Owolabi (Middlesex) who got to the final via Emily Dearing (Yorks) 21-19, 21-13, where she then faced and overwhelmed for a second time, Claire Lowe (Suffolk), 21-8, 21-9. But it was Claire who had performed beyond her station. Although losing to Kubrat in her group, she had done well to beat French women Anne-Laure Sabatin 21-13, 21-19 to qualify for the rounds. Claire (England

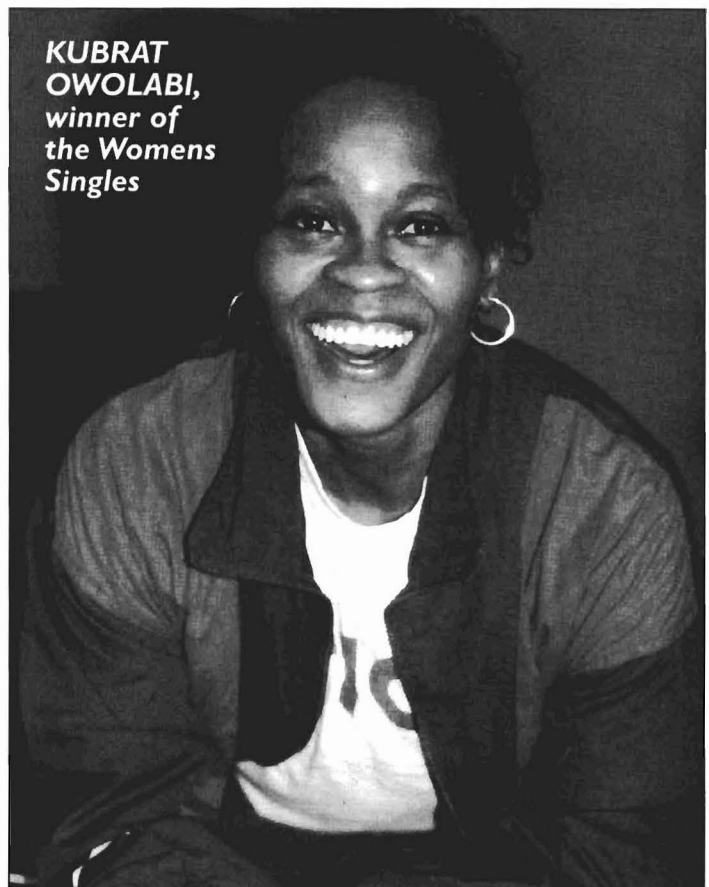


TERRY YOUNG, the winner of the Mens Singles title at the 1st Potters Grand prix, is presented his trophy by John Potter of Potters Leisure Resort

ranked 48) knocked out the other French lady, Frederique Boudry 21-18, 21-11 in the first round, Ann Humble (Glos) 21-13, 21-8, quarters, and then recorded her best result with a decisive 21-13, 21-14, victory over the England No.13 Sue Collier (Bucks). Kubrat was ultimately too strong in all departments though. Kubrat and Sue Collier had women's doubles success with a 21-18, 21-16 finals win over the French pairing of Sabatin and Boudry.

The under 21 men's singles was a bit of a benefit event for Gareth Herbert who was far too strong for junior Justin Dodd (Kent) in the final, scores 11 and 10. And Claire Lowe was again on sparkling form in the women's under 21 singles, beating Ann Humble (the conqueror of top seed Emily Dearing) for a second time, 21-14, 21-19 for the title.

ETTA Events Manager Mike Johns (Cheshire/Sussex) was the veteran mens singles winner, ultimately defeating Yorkshire attacker Bill Grant, 21-17, 21-15, but the former England player was fortunate to survive a match point in his semi-final clash with local (Great Yarmouth) hero Mick Broughton. Mike had the



KUBRAT OWOLABI, winner of the Womens Singles



CLAIRE LOWE

Operations Manager Russell King (Suffolk), who progressed to the semis of the band two men's singles where he went out 19-21, 19-21 to Colin Carslake. And the facilities (and meals and entertainment) at Potters, for which Russell shares a responsibility, were excellent. Though it is true that you can book perfectly adequate and cheaper accommodation elsewhere in the vicinity, those who stayed at Potters considered it money very well spent. And worth travelling for. The message is spreading!



SANDRA COLLINS

courage to continue to go for his shots to win 17-21, 21-17, 23-21. However, perhaps the most dramatic encounter of the tournament was in the round earlier when Broughton faced his Norfolk rival, Chris Brewer from Kings Lynn. The left handed attacker Brewer led 10-4 in the deciding game only to tire as the defensive Broughton got better and better, finally taking the match 11-21, 21-13, 21-18 with some brave attacking shots of his own. Jenny Harrison (Essex) took the womens veterans singles round robin, with Val Murdoch (Beds) second. Val was also runner-up to Eastern RDO Sandra Collins (Kent) in the band two women's singles, losing 11-21, 23-25.

Emily Dearing won a tight three games set, 21-13, 11-21, 21-19 against Rebecca Fisher (Middlesex) in the women's band one singles, whilst Yvonne Howes (Norfolk), normally a footballer, beat Suffolk cadet Aimee Sparkes 9-21, 21-12, 21-16 for the band three title.

Jimmy Walsh (Middlesex) was the men's singles band one victor, overcoming Abdul Wuraola (Surrey) 21-19, 21-18. Rapidly improving juniors with cool temperaments, Craig Gascoyne (Notts) and Eli Baraty (Middlesex) lifted three men's banded singles between them, Craig defeating Colin Carslake (Essex) 21-13, 21-19 for the band two and Eli only just bettering the much higher ranked Marc Burman (Surrey), 22-20, 17-21, 23-21 in the band three, but taking out Paul Lucas (Essex) in straight games, 21-18, 21-16 in the band four. Matts Olsson, the Swedish born Norfolk champion, gained the band five men's singles title with his 14-21, 21-10, 21-8 defeat of Christopher Martin (Kent).

Much media attention was focused on the exploits of Potters Sports and

Results

POTTERS EAST ANGLIAN OPEN GRAND PRIX, 13/14 Feb. 1999

Men's Singles: T. Young (Bk) bt A. Perry (Dv) 17, -6, 11

Semi-Finals: A. Perry (Dv) bt G. Herbert (Bk) 14, 8. T. Young (Bk) bt D. Blake (Sy) 17, 19.

Women's Singles: K. Owolabi (Mi) bt C. Lowe (Sk) 8, 9

Semi-finals: K. Owolabi (Mi) bt E. Dearing (Yorks) 19, 13. C. Lowe (Sk) bt S. Collier (Bu) 20, 12

Band 1 Men: J. Walsh (Mi) bt A. Wuraola (Sy) 19, 18.

Band 2 Men: C. Gascoyne (Ng) bt C. Carslake (E) 13, 19.

Band 3 Men: E. Baraty (Mi) bt M. Burman (Sy) 20, -17, 21.

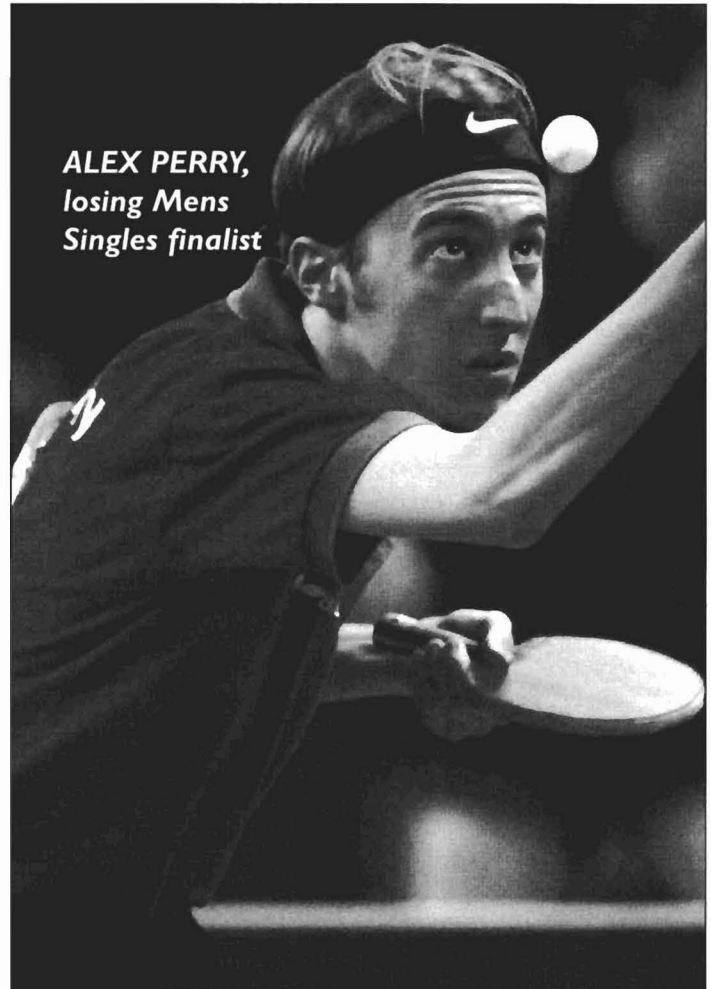
Band 4 Men: E. Baraty (Mi) bt P. Lucas (E) 18, 16.

Band 5 Men: M.Olsson (Nk) bt C.Martin (K) -14, 10, 8.

Band 1 Women: E.Dearing (Y) bt R. Fisher (Mi) 13,-11,19.

Band 2 Women: S.Collins (K) bt V.Murdoch (Bd) 11, 23.

Band 3 Women: Y.Howes (Nk) bt A. Sparkes (Sk) -9, 12, 16.



ALEX PERRY,
losing Mens
Singles finalist

Veteran Men: M.Johns (Ch) bt B.Grant (Y) 17, 15.

Veteran Women: J.Harrison (E) bt V.Murdoch (Bd) *Round-Robin*

Under 21 Men: G.Herbert (Bk) bt J.Dodd (K) 11, 10.

Under 21 Women: C.Lowe (Sk) bt

A.Humble (Gs) 14, 19.

Mens Doubles: A.Perry /G.Herbert bt T.Young/D.Blake -22, 9, 15.

Womens Doubles: K.Owolabi/ S.Collier bt A.L.Sabatine/ F.Boudry (Fra) 18,16.

TOURNAMENT PHOTOGRAPHS

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WOOLWICH NATIONAL JUNIOR LEAGUE 1999/2000

The ETTA recognises that too many youngsters, having enthusiastically taken up table tennis, then lose interest when they lack appropriate competitive challenges and outlets - the main point for many of playing. The Woolwich National Junior League was formed at the start of season 1997/98 in response to demands by improving and aspiring grass roots youngsters who were ready to compete at a higher level but perhaps were reluctant (or unable) to play in their local senior league or who needed wider experience, writes Ken Muhr.

It is the link - aims to fill the gap - between local Woolwich Junior

Leagues (for keen beginners) and the (previously Woolwich) Junior British League (for advanced juniors) and can facilitate the leap to playing in senior local leagues and other competitions.

The WNJL has grown from 55 teams in 6 venues to 110 teams in 11 centres over the last 2 seasons and there is scope for continued rapid expansion. For the new season competitions are planned to take place simultaneously at suitable regional/area venues around the country on the following 4 days (subject to local requirements): 23rd or 24th October 1999, 27th November or 4th December 1999, 26th February 2000, and 25th March 2000.

Clubs can apply to enter teams of

3 to play in venues closest to their locations, thus saving travel and accommodation costs. Normally there will be graded divisions for boys and for girls, but mixed teams and divisions will be allowed to cater for local circumstances. The schedule of play for each date guarantees a full days participation.

Players registered in the Junior British League will not be eligible to participate, but promotion to the JBL will be offered to winners in each region and there is a national ranking points weighting of 0.5. Medals will be awarded to winners and runner-up in all divisions.

As there is no financial support from sponsorship for the WNJL, entry fees will have to reflect actual costs, but the expense to individual

players will compare very favourably to open tournaments, particularly bearing in mind the number of games each will play.

The assistance of local activists in organising and publicising Woolwich National Junior League divisions is also sought. Should you be interested in entering a team or in offering help, please contact Mike Payne, 31 Thorpelds Drive, Allestree, Derby DE22 2XA Tel. 01332 557162. It is expected that the divisions will be filled by the end of July 1999.

CALENDAR

MAY 1999

22nd

22nd - 23rd

22nd - 23rd

29th - 30th

29th - 30th

JUNE 1999

5th - 6th

11th - 13th

12th-13th

24th - 27th

25th - 27th

JULY 1999

3rd

7th - 14th

16th - 25th

AUGUST 1999

2nd - 8th

28th - 29th

SEPTEMBER 1999

5th

10th - 12th

11th - 12th

11th - 12th

12th

18th

18th

18th

18th - 19th

19th

Mid Yorkshire Junior 2 Star
Junior & Cadet Masters

VETTS National Championships
Under 10/11/12 Championships

Grand Prix Finals

British Wheelchair Open

Cadet Six Nations

National Team Finals

Brazilian Open (ITTF Pro Tour)

Danish Youth Open

ETTA Annual General Meeting

European Wheelchair Championships

European Youth Championships

World Championships
(Singles & Doubles)

ETTA Merseyside Grand Prix

British League (10)

European Masters Cup

Veterans Home Countries International

Womens British League (1)

Seasiders GP 2 Star

County Championships

Selby 2 Star

BWSF Training

DSE National Championships

British League (2)

Thornbury
Widnes
Bath

Aylesbury
Netherlands
Bury St.Edmunds
Rio De Janeiro
Arhus, Denmark

Czech Republic

Eindhoven

Liverpool

Stoke Manderville
Hull