

# TABLE TENNIS

# NEWS



ISSUE No. 256  
NOV 1998

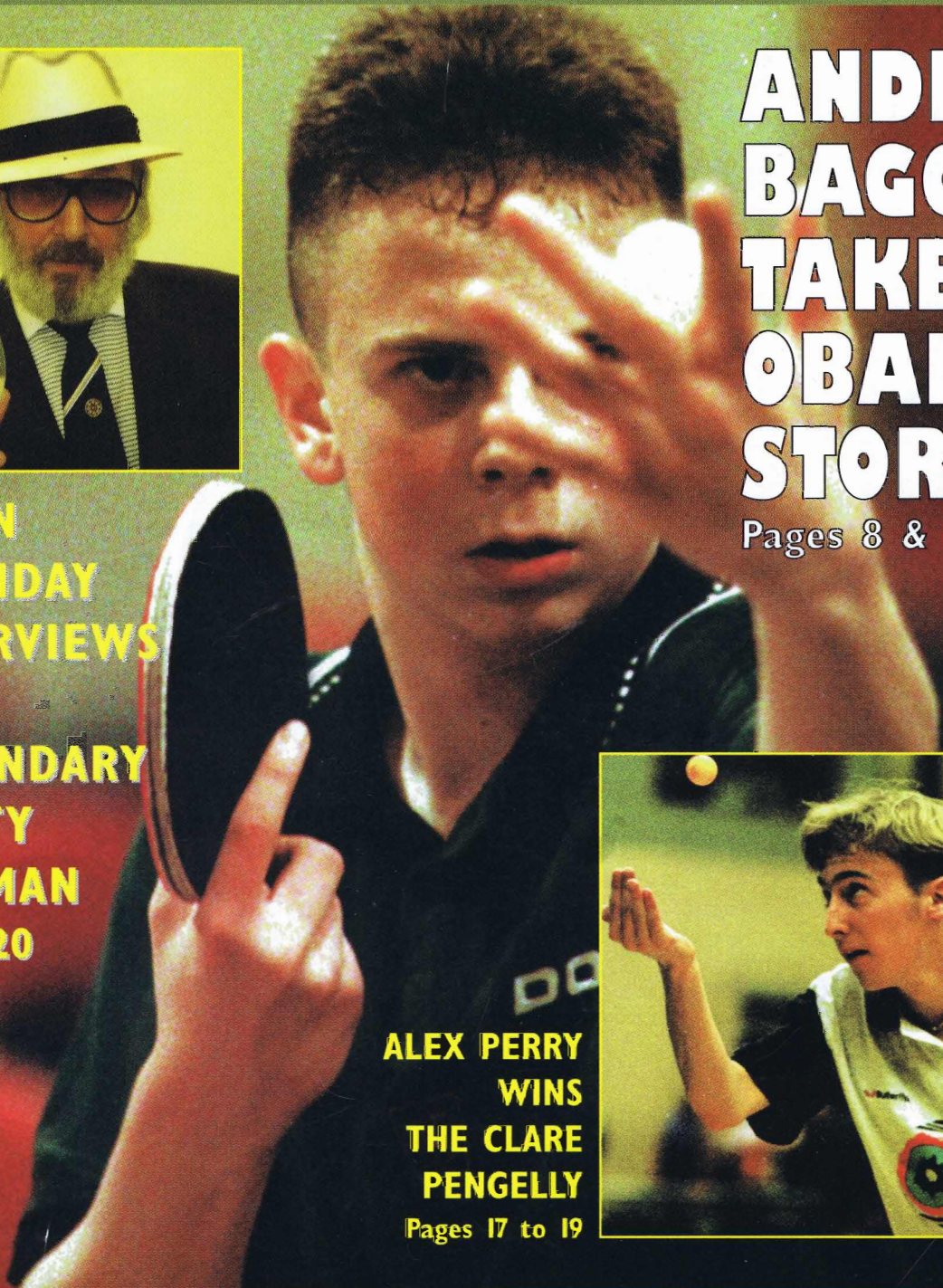
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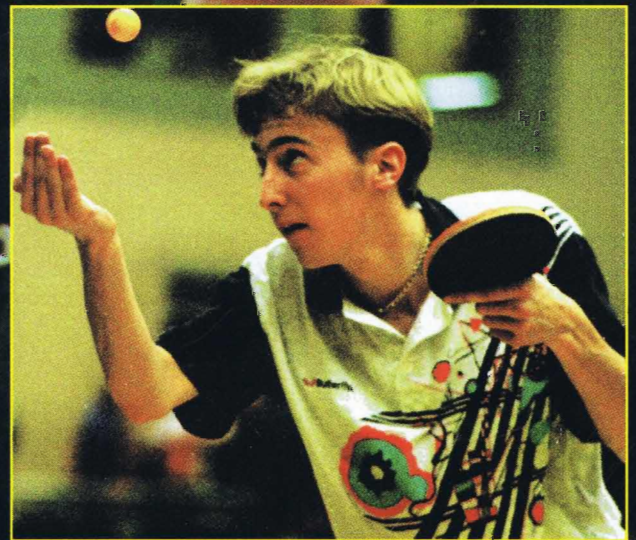
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Pages 8 & 9



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Pages 17 to 19



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# Table Tennis News

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November 1998

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Whilst every effort is taken to ensure that reports and facts are correct at the time of going to press no responsibility will be accepted by the ETTA should errors be published, either for errors or matters arising as a result.

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

# WOMEN SUCCEED IN OBAN



**England's women (left to right) Gemma Schwartz, Kubrat Owolabi and Helen Lower.**

*Picture by Jose Ransome*

ENGLAND'S WOMEN really flew the flag for us at the 25th Home Countries Championships in Oban, winning their team final 4-1, thus enabling England to win the trophy 6-4, because our Men's team had lost

2-3 to Wales in their final. There is a full report on this event on pages 8 and 9, by John Woodford

of the Daily Telegraph. The joy of our womens' success is beautifully captured in the above photograph by Jose Ransome.

## CIPPENHAM OPEN TOURNAMENTS

PLEASE note that the Organisers of the Cippenham Tournaments are: Seniors: S. Joel, 6 Peartree Close, Cippenham, Slough, Bucks. SL1 5EZ. Tel. 01753 795750. Juniors: K.Phillips Flat 4, Westcoign House, Ray Park Avenue, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 3RU. Tel. 01628 636664. Veterans: G. Trimmings, 17 Gwendale, Pinkneys Green, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 6SH. Tel. 01628 636 978.

This information replaces that which is included in the diary.

## CARING PUPILS

CARING PUPILS from the David Lister School, Rustenburg Street, worked hard to help disabled athletes take part in the Reckitt and Colman National Table Tennis Championships, organised by Disability Sport England in conjunction with the ETTA and Kingston upon Hull City Council's Leisure Services Department.

# WOODY'S World

This issue of Table Tennis News was produced in sunny Cornwall far from the madding crowd, where the quality of life is supreme. Well 300 miles away from the infuriating M1 and M25 motorways.

Yes I have finally moved to Charlestown in St. Austell, which is home to one of the best Table Tennis Centres in the country, Tregorrick Park Table Tennis Centre.

In this issue the long pimples debate by John Prean is concluded on pages 22 and 23.

Brian Halliday, the ETTA's Vice Chairman, Public Relations, conducts a very interesting interview with one of the world's most colourful characters, Marty Reisman, in the "Face to Face" feature on pages 20 and 21.

England's team success at the Home Countries Championships in Oban, and the sensational singles triumphs of Andrew Baggaley and Kubrat Owolabi, is fully reported on pages 8 and 9.

England's Men's team successes in the Joola Mens' European League are fully covered on pages 12 and 13, by John Woodford and myself.

Once again I enjoyed my visit to Torbay for the Clare Pengelly Memorial Tournament, despite it taking place in the middle of my move to Cornwall. It was good to see so many players from the West Country taking part in this very popular event.

Very appropriately both the Mens' and Womens' Singles titles were won by West Country people. Devon's Alex Perry won the Mens' whilst the Womens' was won by Michele Cohen from Avon.

My new address and telephone numbers appear overleaf.

*John F. A. Wood*

## TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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# NATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE OPENS IN NOTTINGHAM

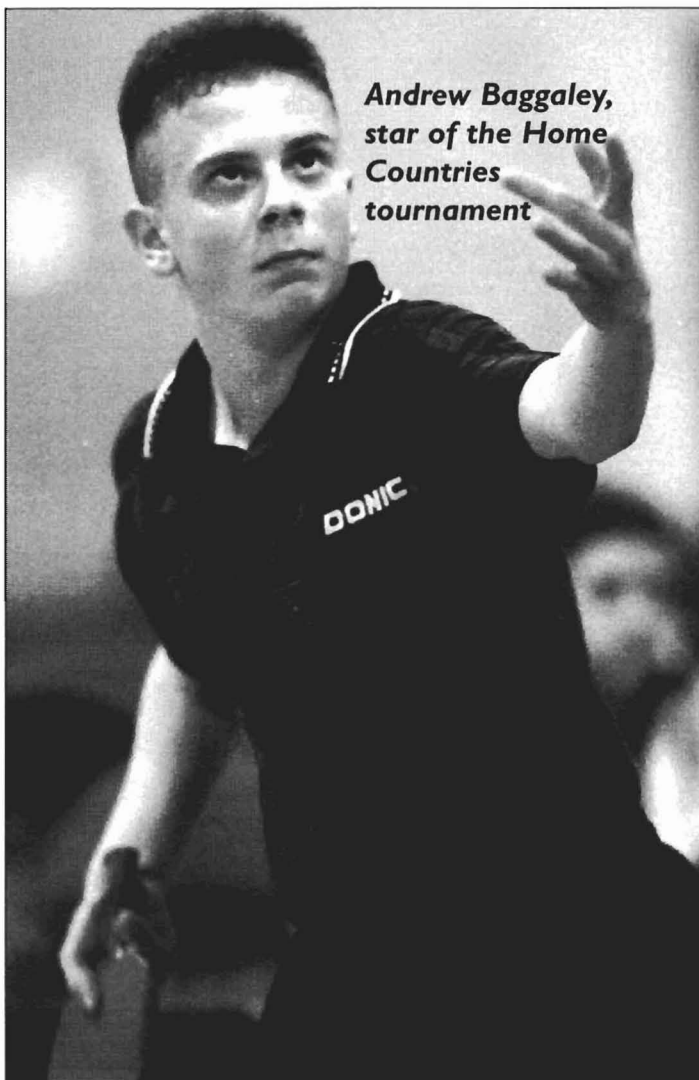


**Alan Ransome OBE,**  
*Chairman of the English  
Table Tennis Association*

**THE MAJORITY** of our national senior and junior squads are now resident in Nottingham taking advantage of the ETTA's new National Training Centre which opened in September for juniors and October for the senior squad.

After final agreement had been reached with the English Sports Council at the end of June, the Sports Council, the staff at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham Education Authority and the ETTA worked rapidly to put in place all the necessary changes for the Centre to start at the beginning of the new season. Special arrangements have been made at Dayncourt School to take twelve of the youngsters. The English Sports Council carried out major building work to the area earmarked for the ETTA and Performance Director, Michel Gadal, and Squad Manager, Ian Marshall, worked tirelessly to make all the arrangements with the players, their parents and the authorities to ensure that everything was in place.

Andrea Holt, Helen Lower, Kubrat Owolabi, Gemma Schwartz and Joanna Barraclough, Darren Blake, Terry Young and Alex Perry are either full time residents at the Centre or have organised accommodation in the local area. Matthew Syed, Carl Prean and Andrew Eden also attend the Centre, whilst Nicola Deaton and Georgina Walker both live within commuting distance. Juniors Gareth Herbert, Marco Essomba, Trudie Bloor, Jade Kendall, Andrew Rushton, Louise Durrant, Michael Chan, Katy Parker, Natalie Bawden, Lucy Pointer, Michael Gomersall and Dale Barham are all in residence at the Centre, while Andrew Baggaley is attending two days a week. The Sports Council have improved the playing conditions in the gym at Holme Pierrepont which takes eight tables and is now used by the players and coaches for



**Andrew Baggaley,**  
*star of the Home  
Countries  
tournament*

most of the day.

Michel Gadal is in overall charge. Two full time coaches, Liu Jia Yi and Alan Cooke are responsible for the senior players, whilst associate coaches; Kevin Satchell and Bradley Billington are concentrating their efforts on the young players. Sports science and sports medicine support are provided through the Lilleshall Human Performance Centre which is also based at Holme Pierrepont. Matthew Weston has been appointed as full time physiologist, whilst Mark

Bawden attends every two weeks to assist with the mental approach to the sport.

To look after the younger players outside school and table tennis hours, Reg and Pauline Rockall have taken up residence with only three weeks notice to ensure that the programme could begin at the start of the Autumn term. The players attend generally from Sunday evening until Friday afternoon, and go home at the weekends to either rest with their families or play in

tournaments or matches.

With the level of coaching, practice and other support that the national squad players will receive, the chances of the English juniors in particular Improving quickly and becoming a force to be reckoned with in Europe have improved significantly.

Although the whole project started well it is still early days. We are hopeful that the Centre will provide the opportunities that the players, their parents and home coaches are hoping for and will lead the way to England success on the international stage.

## EUROPEAN LEAGUE

England have made a great start in the Joola European League First Division winning their first two matches against Denmark and Slovakia. The victory against Denmark was achieved at Bury St. Edmunds on 15th September by 4 sets to 2 after a long hard match. Matthew Syed and Carl Prean both won two singles each. This was followed up with an away victory on October 7th against Slovakia by 4 sets to 1. In this match Matthew Syed won two and Carl Prean one with a doubles win for Prean and Alex Perry. England lead the group but need to be sure going into the play-offs as the leaders need to beat Hungary in the next match on 27th October at Lynn Sport in Kings Lynn. The main opposition in the other group are the Czech Republic and Yugoslavia. England's next match will be the first leg of the semi-final at Maidenhead on 15th December.

England women are also in the Joola Super League First division whose group is being played on a round robin basis in the Czech Republic on 24/25 October. England's Group includes Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia. England's first play off match at home also on 15th December. Following the injury to

Helen Lower, Michel Gadal has selected a squad of Andrea Holt, Nicola Deaton, Kubrat Owolabi and Gemma Schwartz for the matches in the Czech Republic.

The most interesting international result of the season so far was the victory by Andrew Baggaley at the Home Countries tournament in Oban on 25-27 September. The day previously the England men had struggled to just beat Scotland by 3-2 following two wins by Ewan Walker, and then had to rely on the Women to pull the team through against Wales. The prospects, therefore, of an England men's winner in the individual event were slim. Baggaley produced some excellent table tennis to beat Adam Robertson, Darren Blake and Ryan Jenkins to take the title. England's women were much more solid with Helen Lower, Kubrat Owolabi and Gemma Schwartz taking all before them in the team event and then Kubrat Owolabi beating Gemma Schwartz to lift the women's singles title. The next Home Countries championship is to be staged in England in September next year.

## OPPORTUNITIES IN TABLE TENNIS

With a number of new initiatives from the Sports Council and the Lottery Sports Fund to be announced in the near future, the ETTA Development Department are planning to hold ten Regional one day Conferences entitled "Opportunities in Table Tennis" throughout the country between November and February to advise all of our league and top club officials and organisers of the new programmes. In particular the Association is keen to promote the concept of Top Club, a programme which gives local leagues and clubs the incentive and support to improve their facilities and programmes at a local level to bring new people into the game and to generate stronger local based activities.

One of the main speakers at the conferences will be Michel Gadal, the ETTA Performance Director, who will be giving details of the talent development processes, coach education, the England team and the World Class Performance Plan and the activities at the National Training Centre. Diccon Gray will be giving details of the training programmes

that the ETTA are initiating for local development officers, tournament organisers, umpires and referees. The Sports Council will be making a presentation on their latest programmes including More People, More Places, More Medals and I will be presenting the ETTA strategy for local development into the future which will include both facilities and activity programmes.

The Association will be inviting every local league and county

association to send at least three representatives free of charge with spaces for more at cost price. Members of top clubs, coaching and development representatives will also be invited. The schedule for the

conferences is set out below and full details will be circulated. In the meantime information can be obtained from the ETTA Development Director, Diccon Gray, in Hastings.

## TABLE TENNIS on TV

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

The latest schedules are published below.

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

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

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

## "OPPORTUNITIES TABLE TENNIS"

DATE	REGION	VENUE
Saturday 7th November	SOUTH EAST (Kent, Surrey, Sussex)	Chequermend Arts Centre (East Grinstead, Sussex)
Sunday 8th November	EASTERN (Beds, Cambs, Herts, Hunts, Norfolk, Suffolk Essex part)	Mildenhall Forest Heath DC Offices, (Mildenhall, Suffolk)
Saturday 12th December	NORTHERN (Cleveland, Cumbria, Durham, Northumberland)	University of Durham (Caedman Hall, Durham)
Sunday 13th December	WEST MIDLANDS (Herefordshire, Salop, Staffs, Warks, Worcs)	Hayden Hill Leisure Centre (Sandwell, W.Midlands)
1999 Sunday 10th January	SOUTH WEST (Avon, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucs, Somerset, Wilts)	Arossa Hotel (Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset)
Sunday 30th January	LONDON (33 London Boroughs)	Britannia Conference Centre, (Kings Cross)
Sunday 31st January	EAST MIDLANDS (Derbyshire, Leics, Lincs, Northants, Notts)	Holme Pierrepont (Nottingham)
Saturday 20th February	SOUTHERN (Berks, Bucks, Hants, Isle of Wight, Oxon)	To be confirmed
Sunday 21st February	YORKSHIRE (Yorkshire, South Yorkshire)	To be confirmed
Sunday 28th February	NORTH WEST (Cheshire, Lancashire)	Auto Quest Stadium (Halton, Cheshire)

## TABLE TENNIS on TV

### ITTF PRO TOUR COVERAGE WITH SKY TV

Event	Transmission Date	Time	Channel
Lebanon Open (Beirut)	9 November 1998	18.00	Sky Sports 2
Lebanon Open (Beirut)	9 November 1998	22.00	Sky Sports 2
Lebanon Open (Beirut)	10 November 1998	13.30	Sky Sports 2
Italian Open	16 November 1998	18.00	Sky Sports 2
Italian Open	46 November 1998	23.00	Sky Sports 2
Italian Open	17 November 1998	10.30	Sky Sports 1
Italian Open	17 November 1998	16.00	Sky Sports 3
Italian Open	19 November 1998	15.00	Sky Sports 1
Yugoslav Open (Belgrade)	7 December 1998	01.00	Sky Sports 2
Yugoslav Open (Belgrade)	7 December 1998	23.30	Sky Sports 2
Yugoslav Open (Belgrade)	8 December 1998	12.00	Sky Sports 3
Yugoslav Open (Belgrade)	8 December 1998	15.30	Sky Sports 3
Swedish Open	14 December 1998	22.00	Sky Sports 2
Swedish Open	15 December 1998	10.30	Sky Sports 1
Swedish Open	16 December 1998	12.00	Sky Sports 2
Swedish Open	17 December 1998	15.30	Sky Sports 3

### GERMAN BUNDESLIGA MATCHES ON DSF.ASTRA SATELLITE

Match	Date of Match	Date of TV Coverage	Time (UK)
Dusseldorf- Grenzau	13 November 1998	14 November 1998	16.00
Gonnern - Frickenhausen	4 December 1998	5 December 1998	16.00
Ochsenhausen - Grenzau	11 December 1998	12 December 1998	16.00

**SURPRISE**

It was with some surprise that I read Ken's Muhr's letter in the October issue of Table Tennis News.

I was at the ITTF Council meeting in Durban and I can assure you that there was no vote on possible changes to the service law or on a possible increase in ball size, for the very good reason that the Council has no power to accept or reject such changes to the Laws. Neither of these topics is even mentioned in the Minutes of the meeting, which I have in front of me.

The reference to a "two-thirds majority" also puzzles me. All votes at a Council meeting are decided by a simple majority and, at a General Meeting, changes to laws require a 3/4 majority; the only rule changes which are subject to a 2/3 majority are changes to the ITTF Constitution and, again, these are possible only at a General Meeting.

I'm sure no-one would question the right to complain about any of the ITTF Council's actions, but it's a bit hard to have to defend it against criticisms of things it hasn't done!

*Colin Clemett,  
Chairman ITTF Rules Committee*

**NOT ACCURATE?**

Colin Clemett was kind enough to let me have a copy of his letter regarding ITTF Council actions not made, which were contrary to the impression given by me in the October TT News.

The debate on possible rules/regulation changes to make table tennis more attractive is what matters most, but to be accurate is also very important and I thought I had been. Apparently not!

When at the media meeting with Ebby Scholer (at the Manchester World Veterans Championships) over pimple size, other related issues were also discussed I assumed that these had also been considered at the same ITTF Council Meeting in

**POSTBAG**

Durban.

On the service law, Ebby did say that a proposal to effectively outlaw the shielded service had failed to obtain the necessary majority, but on reflection I accept that he did not indicate when (or by whom) this was made, or indeed whether this was a formal proposition or an idea being 'floated'. Owing to TT News deadlines I have had insufficient time (since alerted by Colin to my errors) to research the point, but it would appear that a proposition that the ball should be struck in front of the body was put up but then withdrawn (when it became obvious it would not be passed?) at the ITTF BGM during the 1997 Manchester World Championships. Ebby may have been referring to this. Colin will of course be correct when he says that law changes require a 3/4 majority, but I am sure that Ebby referred to a necessary 2/3 majority - his mistake?

I am on slightly stronger ground on the 40mm ball, where the point in question is the degree of likelihood of a proposition to implement it (after the year 2000 Sydney Olympics) being passed at the ITTF BGM in Belgrade 1999. Although this matter might not have been minuted at the Durban meeting, it most certainly was discussed. My original source was ETTA Chairman Alan Ransome in the June TT News, where he wrote, "The ITTF Council have sent a message to both players and manufacturers that they intend to increase the size of the table tennis ball from 38mm to 40mm after the Olympic Games in Sydney in the year 2000." Scholer's comments in Manchester on the larger ball appeared to me to tally with Alan's perception of the situation. However my letter makes no mention of a vote having been taken, and notes that a

change is 'subject to final approval.'

But obviously I was not at the South Africa Council meeting, and another impression given more recently to me of the feeling expressed there was that they would like the change to the larger ball, subject first to there being positive results from experiments. On this scenario, the approval of the new ball might not be so imminent, if it comes at all! I am also aware of the concern (and representations) of equipment manufacturers and suppliers, who have massive stocks of the 38mm ball. This also will have an influence.

After all my verbal gymnastics, I must confess that Colin is bound to be factually right and I should be more careful in the future to check my facts! But for the table tennis public, the debate on making table tennis more attractive - games up to 11 as an option also merits consideration - is still the most important thing!

*Ken Muhr, Ferryhill, Co Durham*

**VETERANS ENTRIES DOWN**

World Veterans Championships Championships entries down (TTN October 1998) comments invited. Surely it is obvious that if a sport declines at grass roots level in the younger age groups then eventually Veterans numbers will decline. It is indicative that the most popular event at the World's was the over 60's. The Management Committee have addressed the grass roots problem to some extent. The Woolwich League and Top Club venture are useful (although the Top Club presentation of requirements, which excluded so many good clubs and coaches was unfortunate).

The Bridgewater League now has

four sections - a 7.30 to 10.30pm Top Division, a Second Division designed to include emerging young players (7 to 9pm), a Third Division made up of parents/coaches acting as players/chauffeurs with two younger players (7 to 9pm), and a Woolwich League for the Junior School age players.

When I started playing table tennis, players would come at the age of about 15 to 16 years from Youth Clubs. Now I suggest we need to go to the Junior Schools to get them started. Then we will have a veterans game in 30 years time!

*Les Bridges, Bridgewater, Somerset*

**DUPED ?**

At the Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships held in Glasgow in 1997, on my instructions, my daughter paid a photographer £68 for team photographs with only a few delivered.

To date I have been unable to receive the remaining bulk, despite repeated telephone calls.

Two years ago at a tournament in Darlington, two Welsh Umpire's had a similar experience.

I wonder if the problem is wide spread at our tournaments. Perhaps on entry forms or posters players, parents and supporters should be warned.

*Roy Williams, Prestatyn*

**Editor's reply:** *I sympathise with you Roy, because there is always an element of trust between a photographer and his customer, and this has obviously been broken. Hopefully this published letter will snap the accused photographer into action.*

*It is not wide spread, but everybody makes mistakes and forgets occasionally to despatch the ordered photographs.*

*I must confess that sometimes I have forgotten to send the prints myself, until reminded by the customer!*

*Your suggestion of publishing a warning on entry forms and posters is not really a practical suggestion, as it would tar all photographers with the same brush, as only a very small minority are guilty of this practice.*

# GRAND PRIX'S SUCCESSFULLY STAGED



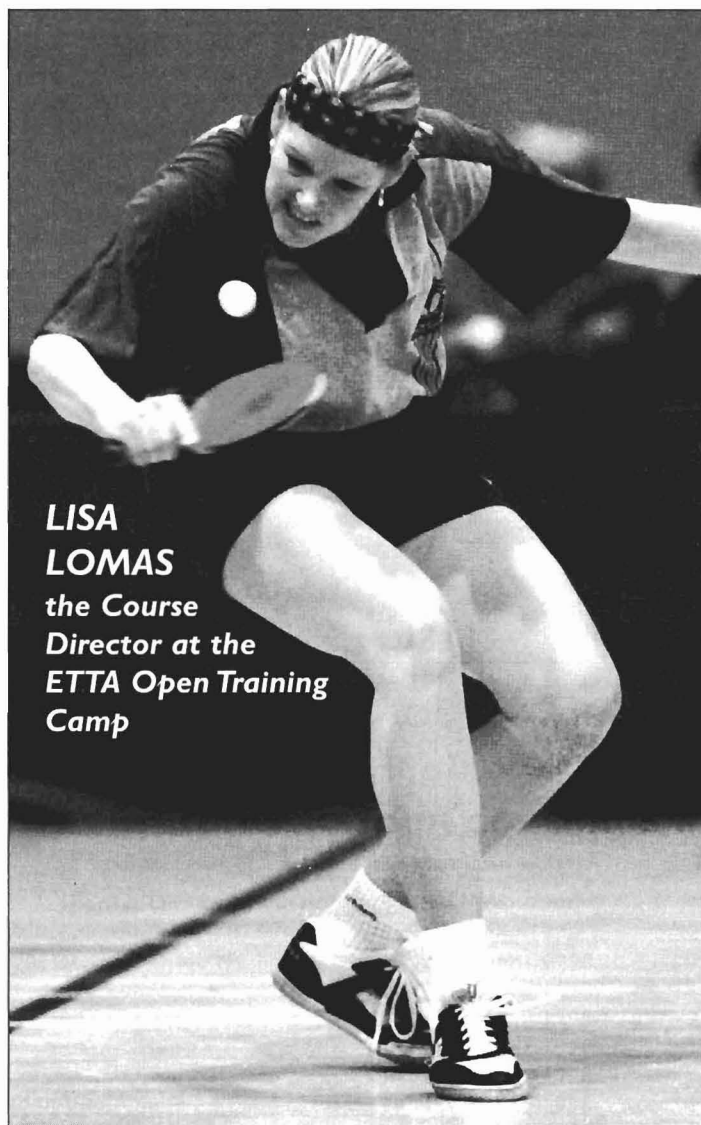
**Mike  
Johns,  
ETTA  
Events  
Manager**

**At the Time of writing these notes the first two Grand Prix's of the season have been successfully staged, writes Mike Johns.**

The first, the Merseyside Open was reported in last month's magazine, the second, the Clare Pengelly Memorial tournament, was once again a great success. John Wood will no doubt, be reporting on the playing side elsewhere in this edition, but I must mention what a fantastic job the Pengelly family do in staging this event. Most people would have no idea of the amount of work that it takes to organise such an event and for one family to do it so well is a great tribute to Clare's memory. Special mention must go to Rachel Pengelly-Bourke who as organiser has overall responsibility. Well done!

The Sussex Open has received a good entry, especially for the banded events so the Saturday is going to be very busy. Good to see a party of players coming over from Belgium to play in this event.

Entry forms have been distributed for both the Eastern Open and the Cippenham 2 Star Open, and entry forms will be leaving the office shortly for the Western Open (Bath), the Southern



**LISA  
LOMAS  
the Course  
Director at the  
ETTA Open Training  
Camp**

Open (Windsor) and the East Midlands 2 Star Open (Grantham). If you have not received them but would like to, please contact the events unit.

#### **JOOLA EUROPEAN LEAGUE**

The next Joola European League Mens Match against Hungary will be held at Lynnsport and Leisure Park, Kings Lynn on Tuesday 27th

October commencing at 7pm.

Following England's exciting win over Denmark at nearby Bury St Edmunds, a large crowd is expected. For this 'top of the table' clash. Tickets should be purchased in advance from either Graham Rogerson (01553 670016), the Eastern Region Development Officer Sandra Collins (01376

551414 ext 2342) or the ETTA Events Unit (01424 722525).

The match is part of The Kings Lynn festival of table tennis which also incorporates the Eastern Open taking place at the same venue the following weekend.

For players wishing to stay over for the Potters East Anglian Open (part of the ETTA Grand Prix) special add-on rates will be available.

#### **ETTA OPEN TRAINING CAMP (part of Potters Festival of Table Tennis)**

We have already received a number of bookings for the event. For those living in the Great Yarmouth/Lowestoft area we have a very limited number of non-residential places available at a cost of £149 per adult and £85 for under 15's. Included in the price is dinner Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and lunch Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday.

Lisa Lomas, the Course Director, has designed a basic programme which will be finalised nearer to the date, but will include both coaching sessions and tournament play.

For players wishing to stay over for the Potters East Anglian Open (part of the ETTA Grand Prix) special add-on rates will be available.

# ENGLAND RETAIN THE TEAM TITLE...

THE SUN came out at Oban for three days, providing the most exquisite setting of mountains, islands, harbours and glorious scenery. England lifted the team trophy, but only after an immense and thrilling battle with Wales who were only brought down 6-4 - when England won their womens section of the match 4-1, with Wales beating the England mens' team 3-2!

The also shone on Andrew Baggaley, as he climbed the mountain that most observers, especially those in the Holme Pierpoint, England camp thought he was not ready to attempt. But Andrew, who is not 16 until next February became the new Home Countries champion after squeezing past Ryan Jenkins (Wales) in

**By JOHN WOODFORD  
Table Tennis Correspondent of  
THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in Oban**

the final -20, 13, 19. This was an absolutely stunning battle between two young men (Jenkins is 19) who show maturity, dedication and concentration well beyond their years..

None of those glances of despair at the coach when points are lost. This is what I enjoy most about watching table tennis, seeing players lose points but carrying on through adverse stages towards either victory or defeat.

I first wrote in glowing terms about Andrew Baggaley some three or four

seasons back at the European Youth Championships in Holland when I spotted the talent and the cool head of the lad from Milton Keynes.


Commenting on the Baggaley victory, Matthew Syed said on his return from France, "This win I just cannot believe. I am of course delighted for him. To record such a senior victory as the Home Countries mens singles title at the age of 15 is quite incredible. Now the rest of the England squad will have to watch out for the threat to their rankings."

Minutes after the news of the Baggaley upset reached Paignton, where Alex Perry was winning the Clare Pengelly Memorial Grand Prix, it was Perry who said, "I just cannot believe this result in Oban." That was minutes after Perry had demolished Gareth Herbert 15, 7 in the Paignton final.

So at that moment, Alex did not see any of the youngsters in the squad as a threat. Now he knows different.

Baggaley, having shown he can raise his game higher than most people dreamed of, now has to continue the lift - who knows how far up the ranking list he can go this season? Only time will tell. I am prepared to predict that he is a possible future England and Commonwealth

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BC06



champion !

Last words on Baggaley in the singles event - earlier, in the groups he defeated Jenkins and then he overpowered Darren Blake, who along with Terry Young are not really impressing our coaching supremo Michel Gadal.

Before returning to the team event, some words of praise for our womens trio of Helen Lower, Kubrat Owolabi and Gemma Schwartz. After substantially helping England to win the team event, Lower pulled out with her constantly recurring leg muscle problem, for which she is now consulting specialists.

In her absence Kubrat Owolabi and Gemma Schwartz stormed past a number of players from Scotland, Wales and Ireland before meeting in the final where Kubrat emerged the victor 12, 19.

After England had beaten the gallant Isle of Man, Scotland and Ireland, the match with Wales became the finale. The mens section of the match (strange format) was a nail-biting affair. Young started off by defeating another amazingly impressive youngster Adam Robertson from Wrexham -17, 13, 13. Baggaley then lost -19, 15-17 to Jenkins in the first of three encounters. England bounced back with a mens doubles win -17, 15, 13, by Darren Blake and Young against Robertson and Jenkins. It was Jenkins who struck hard again by stopping Young 19,17. Robertson then showed his great potential by beating Baggaley - 17, 14, 17, but Baggaley was waiting in the wings to exact his revenge on the following day.

That left England men losing 3-2 but earlier the England women won four out of five, with just one blemish - Bethan Daunton outgunned the Owolabi top-spin 23-21, 21-14.

However, it was Helen Lower, who battled through pain to stop Daunton 12,15, otherwise Wales might have shared the trophy with England in a 5-5 draw !

Scotland did not have a good tournament - they lost 6-4 to Ireland and in the individual events the Scottish champion Euan Walker failed to win his hat-trick, going down to Ryan Jenkins in the semi-finals -16, 19, 18, whilst in the other semi-final it was Baggaley who stopped Darren Blake 21,-13, 10.

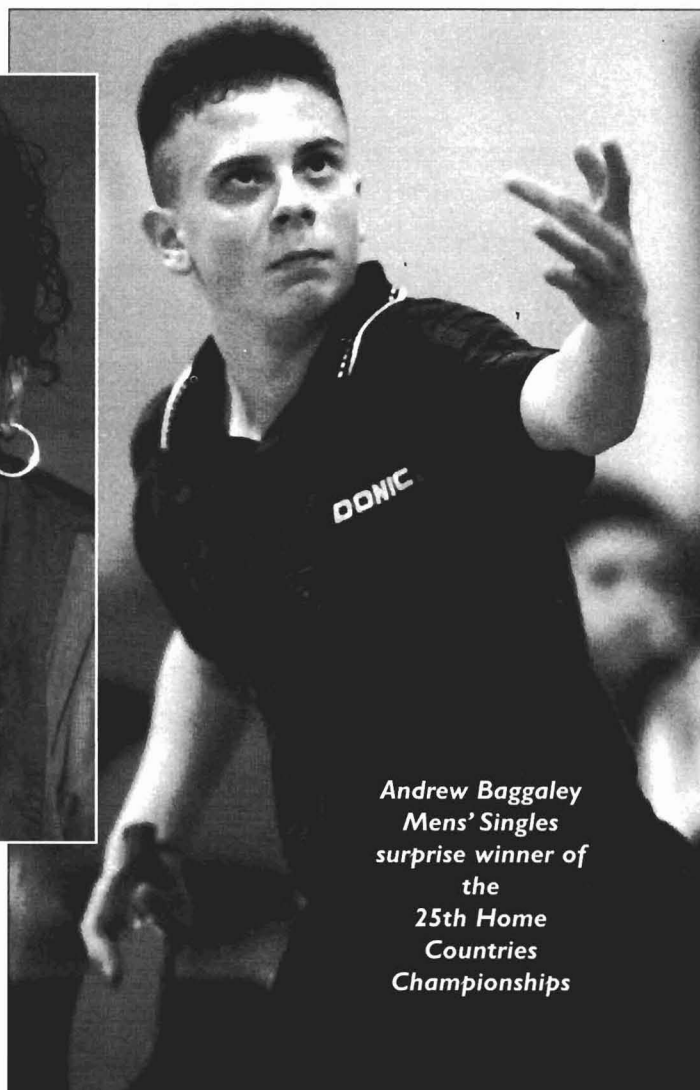
The event was skillfully run and presented by the Scottish TTA under

# ...WHILST BAGGALEY CLIMBS HIS FIRST MOUNTAIN



*Kubrat Owolabi  
Womens' Singles  
winner*

their Chairman David Clifford and his team, and was supported in a brand new and excellent venue by Atlantis Leisure, a community company formed in 1992 to develop indoor sports facilities in Oban and district.



*Andrew Baggaley  
Mens' Singles  
surprise winner of  
the  
25th Home  
Countries  
Championships*

# PREMIER YASHIMA SOUTH KESTEVEN SOVEREIGNS



Loan Master Leeds - "Team of the Weekend" - Cathryn Johnson, Nicola Silburn and Nicola Smith

The second decade of the Womens British League started very much as the first finished with Yashima South, Kesteven Sovereigns leading the premier division and with Karen Smith (nine wins from ten starts) leading the individual averages. Karen's one defeat was at the hands of Teresa Bennett (21-16,21-18) who also defeated Helen Amos (19-21, 21-18, 22-20) and the drawn result of this match effectively gave Teresa's team (Jim's Gym - ex Graham Spicer) second spot at the half way stage. Hull Sandhill, the perpetual bridesmaids, were relegated to third place largely as the result of a "double" by Helen Amos (nee

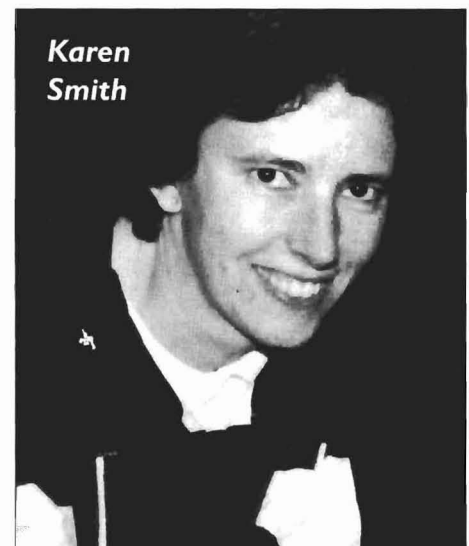
Newbound) over the Marling sisters, Samantha & Sally. Whilst the absence of a number of top players is to be regretted, competition was no less keen and with the 15 premier division matches producing 6 draws a great levelling has occurred. No player was without at least one win in this division (and the first) with Jill Harris (Yashima 5 from 6) and Jose Bongers (Jim's Gym 8 from 10) second and third in the individual averages.

Irish Ladies 4-2 win over the newly named Loan Master Leeds Ladies gave them the top division one spot over their rivals with a brace of wins from Michelle McGreevy the deciding factor. The Irish had earlier

dropped points in drawn matches with Grove (Jade Kendall's 15-21, 21-14, 21-14 defeat of McGreevy the vital set here) and Shinewater British

Queen (Tina Russ 2.) Joanna Roberts (Leeds 5 from 6), Andrea Glover (Irish 8 from 10) and Sue Collier (Cippenham 7 from 10) lead division one individual averages.

**Yashima South Kesteven Sovereigns' Karen Smith topped the Premier's average with a mighty 90% start to this season's proceedings**



Karen Smith

Both of the weekends award winners came from this division; Sue Collier Woman of the Weekend's expertise was invaluable when Sandra Duncan twice had the misfortune to dislocate a knuckle, and Loan Master Leeds (Joanna Roberts, Nicola Silburn, Cathryn Johnson and Nicola Smith) the Team of the Weekend.

Global Sports clawed their way to a draw with Ulster Ladies in the top division two match; each of their three wins coming in the third game with Susan Johnson's win against Jennifer Thompson and that of Lucy Perry against Kelly O'Hara both going to "deuce" in that third game making it a real nail-biting affair. Global's Ann Humble had a 100% record from 6 starts whilst Ulster's Norah Tallon with 9 wins leads the averages for those ever present.

Scottish Ladies threaten to run away with division three with their team of Kathleen & Laura Knowles and Gillian Edwards and were the only team of the 24 to win all 5 matches played. Nicolette Broome of Limberlost Pine who lost only to Laura Knowles and Midland Ladies Joanne Green stopped the Scottish trio from hogging the top three



**Womens' British League "Player of the Weekend" was Sue Collier of Cippenham Ladies**

**SUE COLLIER**

individual placings.

We were well looked after on our second visit to Andover and there was a large local authority contingent to support the Mayor & Mayoress of Test Valley, Councillor & Mrs Tony Jackson, at Saturday's opening ceremony but Oh for a hotel closer to hand.



**Susan Johnson of Global Sports**

**WOMENS' BRITISH LEAGUE TABLES**

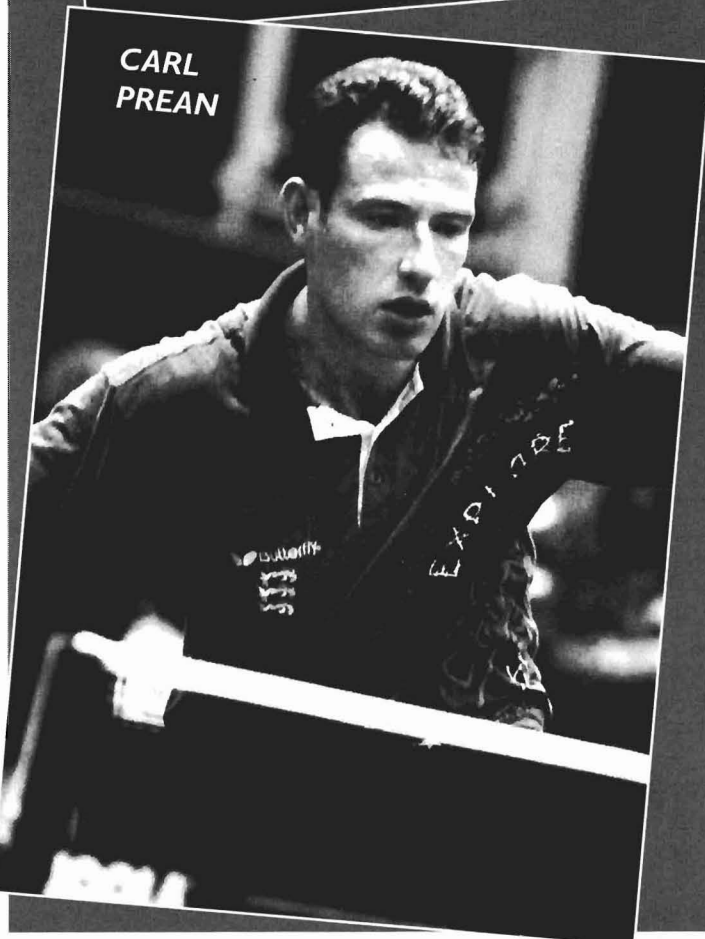
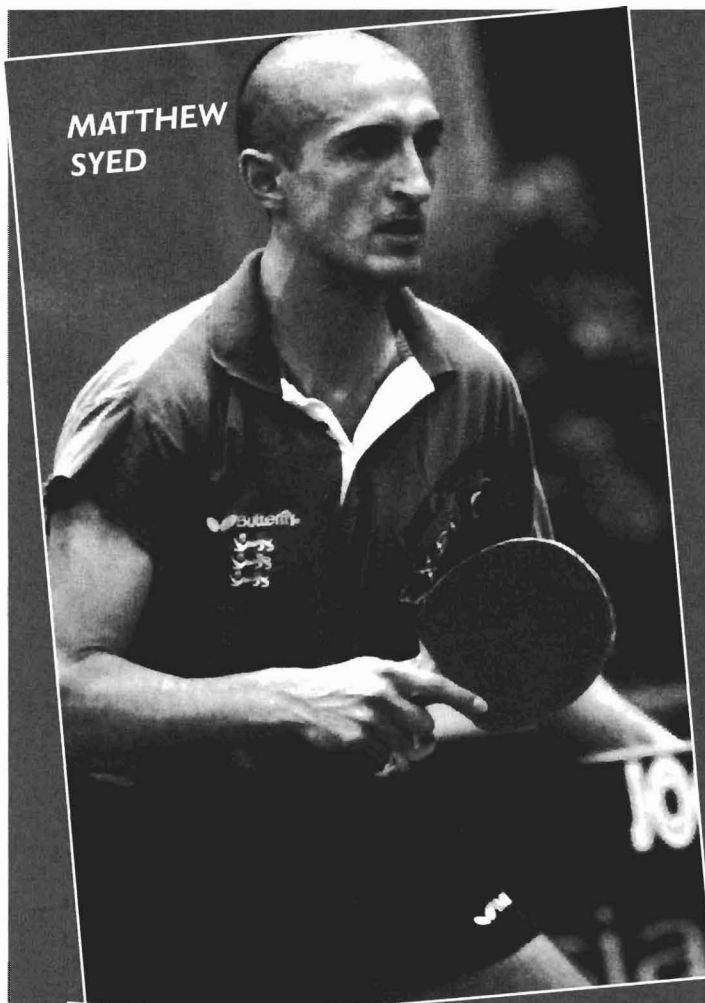
Premier Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yashima S.K. Sov I	5	3	2	0	21	9	8
Jim's Gym	5	2	3	0	19	11	7
Hull Sandhill	5	2	2	1	17	13	6
Horsham	5	2	1	2	15	15	5
Bristol Ladies	5	0	3	2	12	18	3
Pinewood Fullarians	5	0	1	4	6	24	1

First Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Irish Ladies	5	3	2	0	19	11	8
Loan Master Leeds Ladies	5	4	0	1	20	10	8
Shinewater British Queen	5	1	3	1	15	15	5
Grove I	5	2	1	2	15	15	5
Cippenham	5	1	1	3	13	17	3
Yashima SK Sovereigns II	5	0	1	4	8	22	1

Second Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ulster Ladies	5	4	1	0	21	9	9
Global Sports	5	4	1	0	20	10	9
Ellenborough	5	1	2	2	14	16	4
Norton Ladies	5	2	0	3	16	14	4
Cippenham II	5	0	2	3	10	20	2
Yashima SK Sovereigns III	5	0	2	3	9	21	2

Third Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scottish Ladies	5	5	0	0	22	8	10
Sutton at Hone	5	3	1	1	17	13	7
Limberlost Pine	5	2	1	2	16	14	5
Midland ladies	5	1	2	2	14	16	4
Grove 2	5	1	1	3	14	16	3
Fast Track Norwich	5	0	1	4	7	23	1

**FIRST WEEKEND**



# ENGLAND MASTERS IN SLOVAKIA

**THE FORMER 'IRON CURTAIN' nations seem to specialise in finding venues huge distances from airports. After their flights, visiting teams are faced with tedious journeys by road, cramped into mini-buses and often through mountainous areas, writes John Woodford.**

I have suffered myself on several occasions, when accompanying our teams abroad. This time the Slovakian TTA found a venue at a town called Kremnica, over 300 miles from Vienna Airport where our team landed. The Czech Republic and it's less well-off neighbour, Slovakia, have very few airports, that is why Vienna is used, even for Bratislava.

However, Matthew Syed, Carl Prean, Alex Perry and Gareth Herbert survived the outward journey and then hit back capsizing Slovakia 4-1 to reach the Division 1 semi-finals.

Syed's unique skills with long pimples have another nine months to go. His recent rise of seven places on the world list to No.27 has seemed to act as an inspiration. At Kremnica he started the match by slamming Milan Grman 7, 17, and clinched the tie at the end stopping Jaromir Truksa 15, 13. Those two victories were exactly half the battle.

Making his debut abroad in the European League Gareth Herbert, 17 startled Truksa by snatching the first game 16, but the wily Slovak

bounced back when he had mastered the dangerous Herbert services 18, 13.

Carl Prean then closed in with another hard-fought performance. He lost the the first game -17, but in typical hard-hitting and hard-thinking style, battling back to win 19, 18, putting England 2-1 ahead.

Alex Perry, although dropped from the singles, combined well with Prean - in another nail-biting show they won the vital doubles 19,18, against Truksa and Janci. Making it 3-1 up to England.

'After Syed had sealed the match, Matthew was, on his mobile within minutes to me in England with the excellent news that if we beat Hungary at Kings Lynn on October 27, we shall be drawn against the runners-up in the other group.

National coach Ji Yi Liu is proving to be a success. It seems as though he may have a "permanent" job coaching the England men's senior team.

## SCORES

**SLOVAKIA 1 ENGLAND 4**

**M. Syed beat M. Grman 7, 17**

**C. Herbert lost J. Truksa 16, -18, -13**

**C. Prean beat V. Janci -17, 19, 18**

**Prean and Perry beat Truksa and Janci 19, 18  
Syed beat Truksa 15, 13**

# BATTLE OF BURY ST. EDMUNDS

**ENGLAND'S MENS' TEAM started off their Joola Mens' European League Division 1 campaign, with a narrow victory over Denmark at Bury St. Edmunds, in September, winning 4-2, writes John Wood.**

The match was closer than the scoreline suggests, because a mixture of youth and experience saw Denmark battle all the way, nearly upsetting England's applectart.

Matthew Syed started the evening off smoothly for England, in the Bury St. Edmunds Leisure Centre by beating Martin Monrad comfortably 14 and 19.

But then the drama began with Denmark's experienced Allan Bentsen topspinning our rising star Alex Perry off the table 16 and 14.

Then Denmark's young 17 year old star Michael Maze, the current

European Youth Silver Medallist, put the scares through the England camp when he narrowly lost the opening game against Carl Prean 21-17, then bounced back in the 2nd displaying his enormous talent and world class potential by winning 21-19.

With the pressure really on England, Maze went into an early 10-5 lead, but Prean fighting for his life and England's future back in the Super Division, just managed to win 23-21, to the relief of the England camp and the 500 partisan spectators.

## SCORES

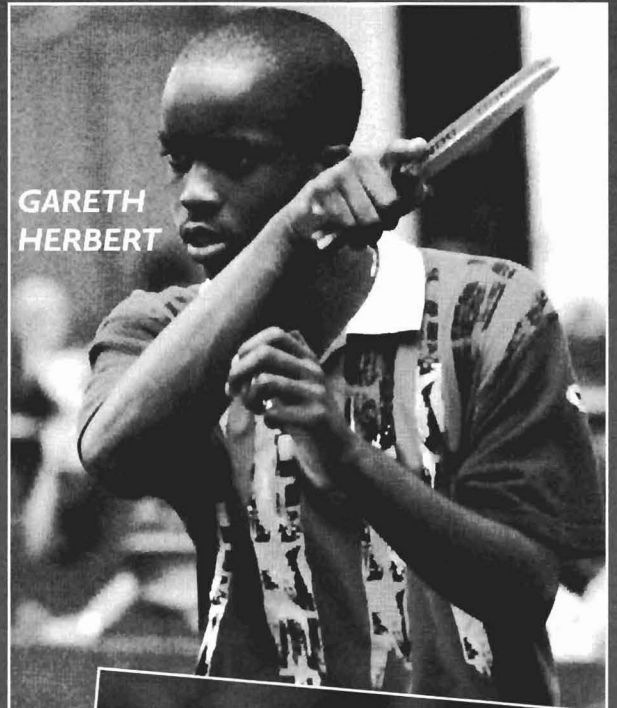
ENGLAND 4 DENMARK 2  
 M.Syed beat M.Monrad 14, 19.  
 A.Perry lost A.Bentsen -16,-14.  
 C.Prean beat M.Maze 17,-19, 23.  
 Prean/Perry lost Monrad/Bentsen -13, 19,-19. Syed beat Bentsen 14, 19.  
 Prean beat Monrad -19, 15, 14.

## PIMPLES FOOTNOTE

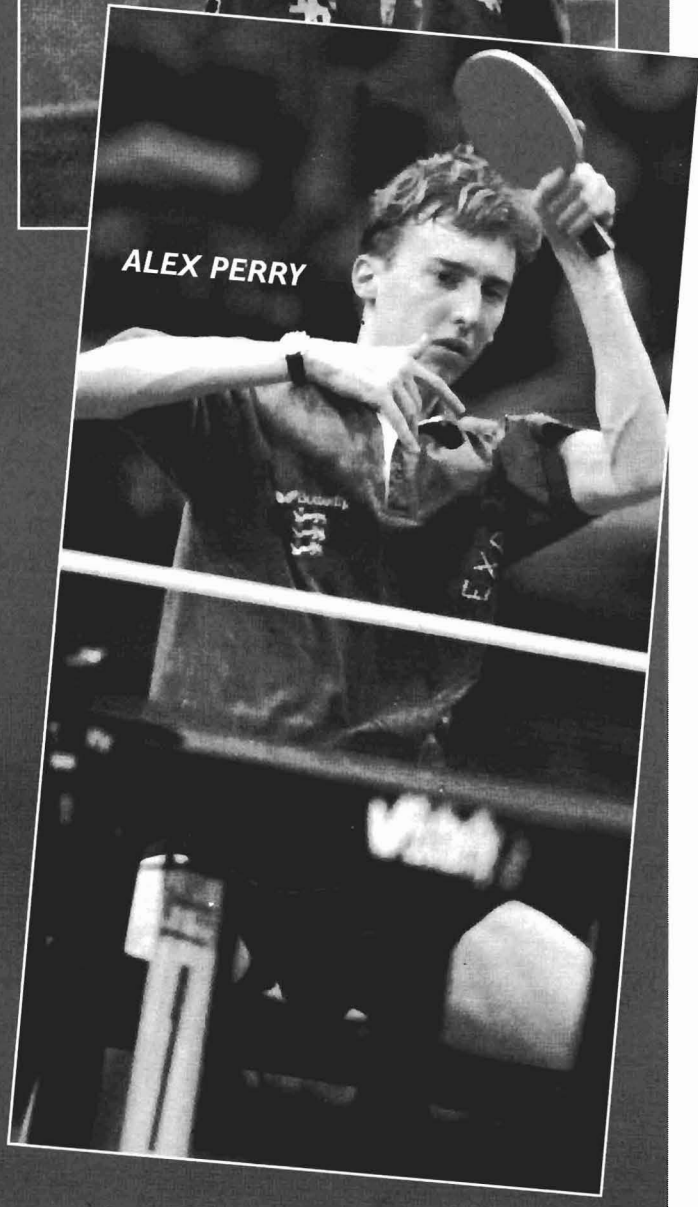
*by John Woodford*

Speaking briefly with both Syed and Prean recently on the forthcoming pimples ban, Carl is convinced it will happen next July and will not be thrown out in Belgrade, if we ever get there. He bases that thought on his experience in Germany where he said they had been talking about it for years.

Matthew will be looking at new surfaces between now and next July. No doubt, the trade would be delighted to come up with shorter pimples that would allow him to ply his trade with the same success as he is doing at present. He is advising all other long pimplers to do the same - look at the new products, but local league players will be able to carry on beyond next July - the ban may never affect them. It depends on the ETTA's National Council.



GARETH  
HERBERT



ALEX PERRY

# HORSHAM START SEASON UNBEATEN

Champions Darlington made a winning start to the season by winning 11-3 at St Neots despite fielding a much weakened team. Bradley Billington was in fine form winning all three of his singles and was ably backed up by Eddie Smith, Andrew Wilkinson and Tim Dyson who got two each, writes Aubrey Drapkin.

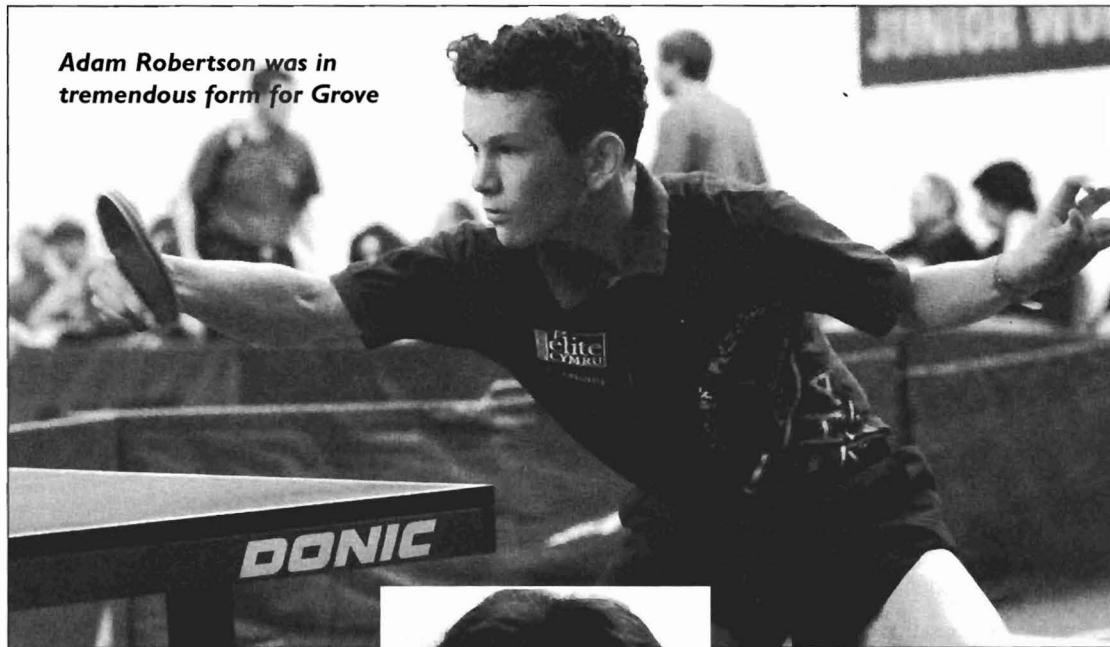
Last years runners up DML White Hart Launceston also had a weak team and they went down to newly promoted Grove by the massive margin of 13-1. Adam Robertson, Steve Slater and David Morris were all unbeaten with Launceston's only success coming when Paul Whiting beat Peter Marshall. Robertson was in truly tremendous form for Grove.

Horsham's new signing from Launceston, Cris Sladden had an impressive debut against OLOP AWCS Ltd winning all three of his singles as did Ritchie Venner and Nigel Eckersley in a 12-2 win for the Sussex side.

Newly promoted JAGS put up a good fight against Brent Sports Progress with Clive Carthy getting two sets but eventually lost 5-9. Marco Essomba and Darren Blake were both undefeated for Progress.

Horsham won 9-5 away to Launceston where Ritchie Venner was very dominant and sharp, and then ran up an 11-3 scoreline against Grove to be the only team in the Premier Division with a 100% record after the first three games.

Darlington beat Grove 9-5 in a match in which the young Grove team of Adam Robertson, Peter Marshall, Michael James and Andrew Rushton played extremely well. Brent Sports Progress crushed St Neots 13-1 and then drew with Darlington. JAGS drew twice in



*Adam Robertson was in tremendous form for Grove*

succession - away to OLOP and then at home to Launceston whilst St Neots gained their first victory of the season at the expense of OLOP. Horsham lead the table after the opening three matches but watch Brent Sports Progress - my tip for the title this season.

Keith Rodger was miles ahead of anyone else when playing for Darlington seconds against Derwent in division 1 North, winning both of his sets in a 5-3 victory. A very long fought out contest between Seasiders (Blackpool) and Kingshurst, ended up all square at 4-4 with Seaside's Chris Ford being named as player of the match.

Junior Stoddart and Mark Green were in great form for Uxbridge (Burton) helping their team to a 6-2 win over RMSC Lincoln. Syntegra Worcester City beat Bulldog Security 6-2 with Bill Dawe outstanding.

Darlington seconds beat Uxbridge 8-0 and Bulldog Security 7-1 to go top of the



*Ritchie Venner was very dominant and sharp for Horsham*

division whilst Derwent and RMSC Lincoln each won twice after set-backs on the first day of the season.

The Welsh side, Colley Hyundai, relegated from the Premier to Division 1 South last term were far too strong for a weak DML White Hart Launceston

second team and ran out 8-0 winners. Wesley Bush-Harris was player of the match for Hastings who, with Nicky Mason also unbeaten, ran out 6-2 winners over Limberlost Pine Poole.

Harvey Barnet won 6-2 away to Moonrakers of Westbury, John Taylor gaining a hard fought victory over Phil Payne and outplaying Tim O'Mahoney and became the early pacesetters with 5-3 victories over Colley Hyundai and Limberlost Pine Poole.

There were some close matches in division 2 North with the matches between Grove seconds and Ormesby and Rushey Mead and Abbeydale Park both being drawn.

Darlington thirds won at home 5-3 against Derwent seconds whilst Grantham Kontak did likewise in Glasgow. Denis Neale is now leading the Grantham challenge having transferred from Blackpool during the close season.

Darlington and Grantham then had

victories over Grove seconds and Derwent seconds respectively and played out a 4-4 draw at Darlington to become joint leaders.

In division two South, the Aylesbury League team of Stephen Munson, Ryan Keates, Danny Baxter and Jeff Rigby got off to an excellent start with an 8-0 win over Launceston thirds. Horsham seconds also made a good start by winning 7-1 away to KCD Stiga. Peter Bartram, Terry Haley and Dominic Hall (making his British League debut) were all unbeaten.

Martin Adams had two very good wins for Cippenham in his first match for the club who beat Norwich Todd Foxwood 5-3. TAD-Ellenborough had Graham Sandley in their team that beat Fellows Cranleigh 6-2. Graham won both of his sets as did Derek Balding but it was Cranleigh's John Tendler who took the player of the match award for a fine win over Jimmy Walsh.

They are obviously strong favourites in this division after they defeated Fellow Cranleigh 6-2 Launceston thirds 7-1 and the Aylesbury League 5-3.

Newcomers Guildford were on the wrong end of a 7-1 scoreline in division three South and West when they visited CATSoft Puma's Adeyfield for whom Lawrence Trumpauskas was outstanding.

Another outstanding performance in this division came from Danny Fesehatsion of Progress seconds who beat OLOP AWCS seconds 7-1. Harvey

Barnet thirds made a good start by defeating Cippenham seconds 6-2. Morris Greenberg and Gary Morgan both winning all of their sets.

Catsoft Puma's Adeyfield demolished Moonrakers seconds 8-0 whilst Harvey Barnet thirds only lost one set to Brent Sports Progress seconds leaving both clubs the only ones undefeated.

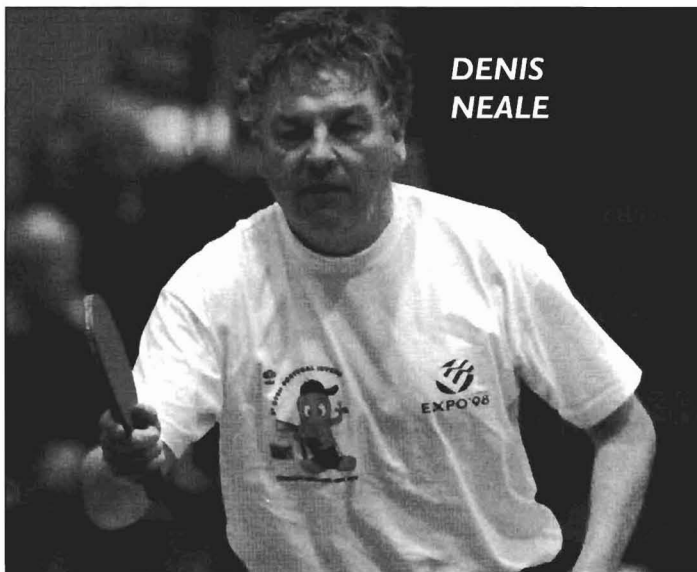
In the third division North Jack Spratt - Wellow House have signed Michael George who should be far too good for this division. He duly won both of his sets against City of Leeds who were beaten 6-2. Jack Spratt confirmed their superiority with victories over Syntegra Worcester City seconds (8-0) and Ormesby seconds (7-1).

Martin Ireland turned in a good performance for Seasiders (Blackpool) seconds who beat Syntegra Worcester City seconds 6-2. Derwent thirds and Darlington fourths played a 4-4 draw.

In the third division South, Horsham thirds easily defeated KCD Stiga seconds 7-1 with Alex Cumbers, Steven Pound and Graham Carter all unbeaten.

Harvey Barnet seconds beat newcomers Ashford 5-3. Derek Rogers and Steve Annsion got two each with Tom Carr getting the fifth. They then drew with De Vere Sudbury and beat Byng Hall Farningham Print seconds to go top.

Finally a reminder that all players in the British League are now required to hold a full Players Licence.



**DENIS NEALE**

**Denis Neale is now leading the Grantham challenge**



# TABLES

PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Horsham	3	3	-	-	32	10	6
Brent Sports Progress	3	2	1	-	29	13	5
Darlington	3	2	1	-	27	15	5
Grove	3	1	-	2	21	21	2
JAGS	3	-	2	1	19	23	2
St Neots	3	1	-	2	13	29	2
OLOP AWCS Ltd	3	-	1	2	14	28	1
DML White Hart Launceston	3	-	1	2	13	29	1

DIVISION I NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Darlington II	3	3	-	-	20	4	6
Derwent	3	2	-	1	15	9	4
RMSC Lincoln	3	2	-	1	14	10	4
Syntegra Worcester City	3	2	-	1	13	11	4
Uxbridge (Burton)	3	2	-	1	11	13	4
Seasiders (Blackpool)	3	-	1	2	9	15	1
Kingshurst Bribar	3	-	1	2	9	15	1
Bulldog Security	3	-	-	3	5	19	-

DIVISION I SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Harvey Barnet	3	3	-	-	16	8	6
Hastings	3	2	1	-	18	6	5
Byng Hall Farningham Print	3	2	1	-	16	8	5
Colley Hyundai	3	1	1	1	15	9	3
C & M Insurance Brentwood	3	1	1	1	12	12	3
Limberlost Pine Poole	3	1	-	2	10	14	2
Moonrakers, Westbury	3	-	-	3	7	17	-
DML White H. Launceston II	3	-	-	3	2	22	-

DIVISION 2 NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Darlington III	3	2	1	-	14	10	5
Grantham Kontak	3	2	1	-	14	10	5
Abbeyle Park	3	1	2	-	15	9	4
Ormesby	3	1	2	-	13	11	4
Rushy Mead Club	3	1	2	-	13	11	4
Grove II	3	-	1	2	10	14	1
Derwent II	3	-	1	2	10	14	1
Drumchapel Glasgow	3	-	-	3	7	17	-

DIVISION 2 SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
TAD - Ellenborough	3	3	-	-	18	6	6
Horsham II	3	2	1	-	16	8	5
Cippenham	3	2	1	-	14	10	5
Aylesbury League	3	2	-	1	16	8	4
KCD Stiga	3	1	1	1	10	14	3
Fellows Cranleigh	3	-	1	2	9	15	1
Norwich Todd Foxwood	3	-	-	3	9	15	-
DML White H. Launceston III	3	-	-	3	4	20	-

DIVISION 3 SOUTH & WEST	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
CATSoft Puma's Adeyfield	2	2	-	-	15	1	4
Harvey Barnet III	2	2	-	-	13	3	4
Brent Sports Progress II	3	2	-	1	13	11	4
OLOP AWCS Ltd II	3	2	-	1	11	13	4
Cippenham II	3	1	-	2	10	14	2
Moonrakers, Westbury II	2	-	-	2	3	13	-
Guildford	3	-	-	3	7	17	-

DIVISION 3 NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Jack Spratt - Wellow House	3	3	-	-	21	3	6
Derwent III	3	2	1	-	14	10	5
Seasiders (Blackpool) II	2	2	-	-	14	2	4
Darlington IV	2	1	1	-	11	5	3
City of Leeds	3	-	-	3	6	18	-
Ormesby II	2	-	-	2	1	15	-
Syntegra Worcester City II	3	-	-	3	5	19	-

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

PLACINGS AS AT 4TH OCTOBER 1998

# INTEREST IS EXTREMELY HIGH

THE 63RD ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS  
POTTERS LEISURE RESORT,  
HOPTON-ON-SEA, NORFOLK  
9TH-14TH MARCH 1999

ALTHOUGH there is almost six months to go to the commencement of the Championships interest is extremely high.

The ETТА Events Unit have written to virtually all member countries of the ITTF giving them provisional details of the Championships and a number of countries have already indicated their

JEAN MICHEL SAIVE



likely participation. Considering the timing of the event (approximately six weeks before the World Championships) we can anticipate one of the largest entries ever.

The Championships also seem to have caught the imagination of table tennis enthusiasts throughout the country. The ETТА Events Unit has received many enquiries and with a good number of bookings for the available spectator accommodation already received, we anticipate filling the resort.

For players, officials and spectators staying the Sunday night following the finals, Potters are putting on a special 'Gala Dinner', at no extra cost. More details next month.

Details of ticket prices and availability will appear next month.

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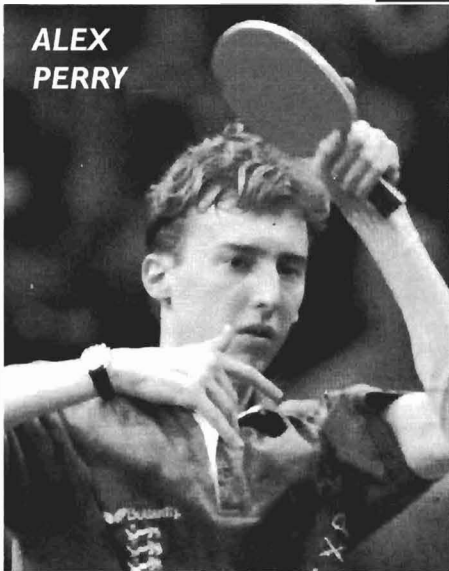
# TORBAY TAKEAWAY FOR PERRY & COHEN

ALEX PERRY AND MICHELE COHEN took Torbay by storm sweeping aside the opposition to take the trophies in the Mens' and Womens' Singles, respectively, at the Clare Pengelly Memorial ETTA Grand prix, at the Torbay Leisure Centre in Paignton, in September, writes John Wood.

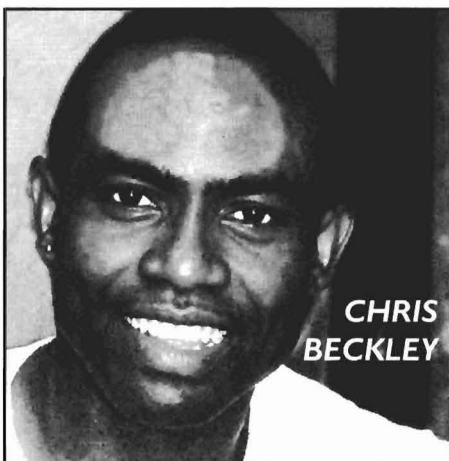
This tournament was a good weekend for the West Country, with Perry from Devon, Cohen from Avon, *continued next page*



MICHELE COHEN



ALEX PERRY



CHRIS BECKLEY

## THE CLARE PENGELLY MEMORIAL OPEN GRAND PRIX 26th/27th September 1998 - Torbay

Mens Singles: Alex Perry (Dv) v Gareth Herbert (13k) 15, 7  
Semi Finals: Neil Charles (Mi) v Gareth Herbert (Bk) -9, -19  
Alex Perry (Dv) v Paul Whiting (Dv) 9, 12

Womens Singles: Michele Cohen (Av) v Jan Dunning (Wo) 10, 6  
Semi Finals: Michele Cohen (Av) v Ann Humble (Gs) 11, 13  
Jan Dunning (Wo) v Lucy Perry (Dv) 23, -9, 18

Band 1 Men: Chris Beckley (Sy) v Scott Friday (K) -15, 11, 18

Band 2 Men: Eddie Roofe (Wi) v Mark Butler (Ha) 13, 13

Band 3 Men: Jeff Rigsby (Bu) v Dave Griffith (La) -17, 20, 20

Band 4 Men: Oliver Stevens (K) v Daniel Adams (Dv) 12, -4, 20

Band 5 Men: Tom Williams (Dv) v Neil Page (WAL) 21, 18

Band 1 Women: Esme Stevenson (Co) v Lucy Perry (Dv) 11, -18, 16

Band 2 Women: Ann Humble (Gs) v Emily Dearing (Y) 15, 14

Band 3 Women: Janine Donnelly (Y) v Nicky Broome (Do) 12, -24, 12

U21 Men: Gareth Herbert (Bk) v Robert Pountney (Bk) 11, 14

U21 Women: Emily Dearing (Y) v Lucy Perry (Dv) 15, 14

Veteran Men: Mike Short (Dv) v Brian Johns (Ch) 17, -16, 19

Veteran Women: Jan Dunning (Wo) v Val Murdoch (13d) 8, 12

Mens Doubles: Alex Perry (Dv) Brian Johns (Ch)

Gareth Herbert (Bk) v Mike Johns (Ch) 20, 14

Womens Doubles: Penny Perry (Dv) Jan Dunning (Wo)

Michele Cohen (Av) v Lucy Perry (Dv) 12, 13

*continued from previous page*

Eddie Roofe of Wiltshire, Esme Stevenson from Cornwall, Tom Williams of Devon, Ann Humble from Gloucestershire, Mike Short and Penny Perry from Devon, all taking winners' trophies.

Top trophy went to Alex Perry, who really flew the flag for the South West region, when he comfortably defeated his fellow England squad player Gareth Herbert.

Herbert, who is 4 years younger than Perry, could match the talent and experience of Devon's Perry losing 21-15, 21-7.

But Herbert did taste double success when he won the Mens' Under 21 Singles trophy, beating Robert Pountney 21-11, 21-14, and then in partnership with Perry they used their powerful topspin and tricky services to blow away the combined opposition of Brian and Mike Johns, 22-20, 21-14.

Michele Cohen won her second trophy when she teamed-up with Penny Perry to take the Womens' Doubles crown, beating Worcesters Jan Dunning and Penny's daughter Lucy, 21-12, 21-13.

Surrey's Chris Beckley recorded his first win in the Grand Prix series by winning the Mens' Band 1 Singles title, when he beat Kent's Scott



**ALEX PERRY**  
with his  
winners  
cheque

## WEST COUNTRY WARFARE

Friday in the final, 15-21, 21-11, 21-18.

Friendly West Country warfare broke out in the final of the Womens' Band 1, when highly ranked Lucy Perry from Exeter in Devon took on Cornwall's Esme Stevenson.

Both girls battled proudly and hard,

giving their very best before Esme caused an upset by beating the No.1 seed, 21-11, 18-21, 21-16, to take the trophy home to Bude.

In the Semi-finals Stevenson beat Tina Russ, whilst Perry beat Ann Humble.

Ann Humble bounced back though winning the Womens' Band 2 title, beating Yorkshire's Emily Deering, 21-15, 21-14.

Lucy Perry reached three finals and lost them all. In the Womens' Under 21 final she lost to Yorkshire's Dearing, 15-21, 14-21.

Wiltshire's Eddie Roofe won the Mens' Band 2 Singles, beating Hampshire's Mark Butler in the final 21-13, 21-13.

The Veteran Singles titles went to National Champion Jan Dunning from Worcestershire, who beat Val Murdoch of Bedfordshire, in the Womens. Whilst the Mens' title went to Devon's Mike Short who blasted former National Champion,

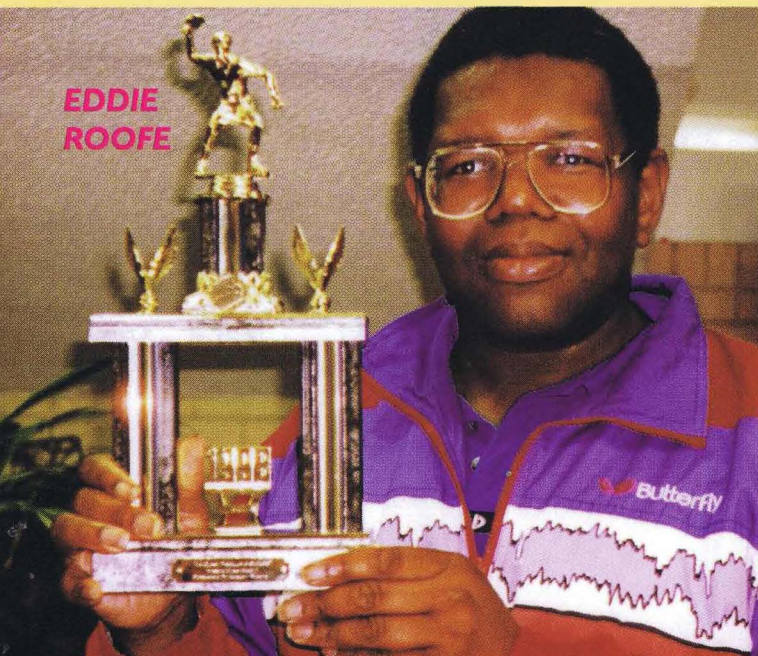
Brian Johns from Cheshire, off the table, 21-17, 16-21, 21-19.

Devon's Stuart Gibbs was awarded the Clare Pengelly Cup.

Fifteen year old Stuart, who lives in Newton Abbot, plays for the Lee Mill Table Tennis Club in Plymouth.

### THE CLARE PENGELLY CUP

AT THE FIRST TOURNAMENT, Devon Table Tennis Association made the first presentation of the Clare Pengelly Cup to Peter Thomas of Devon. Each year the cup is presented to a Devon junior for his or her achievements nationally and within the County. Last year it was presented to Michelle Barratt. It is the Organisers intention that this tournament will remain a part of the national tournament circuit, as a permanent memorial to Clare and to continue raising money for the Children's Hospice South West, plus supporting local table tennis.



**EDDIE ROOFE**



# CLARE PENGELLY MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT



Picture above is Keith Ponting the ETTA Vice Chairman, Competitions, with Penny Perry (left) and Michele Cohen. Whilst Stuart Gibbs (bottom right) proudly receives this year's 'Clare Pengelly Cup' from Tournament Organisers Rachel Pengelly-Bourke (left) and Sarah Pengelly-Jones.



**ANN HUMBLE**



**ESME STEVENSON**



# BRIAN HALLIDAY

## *meets*

# MARTY REISMAN

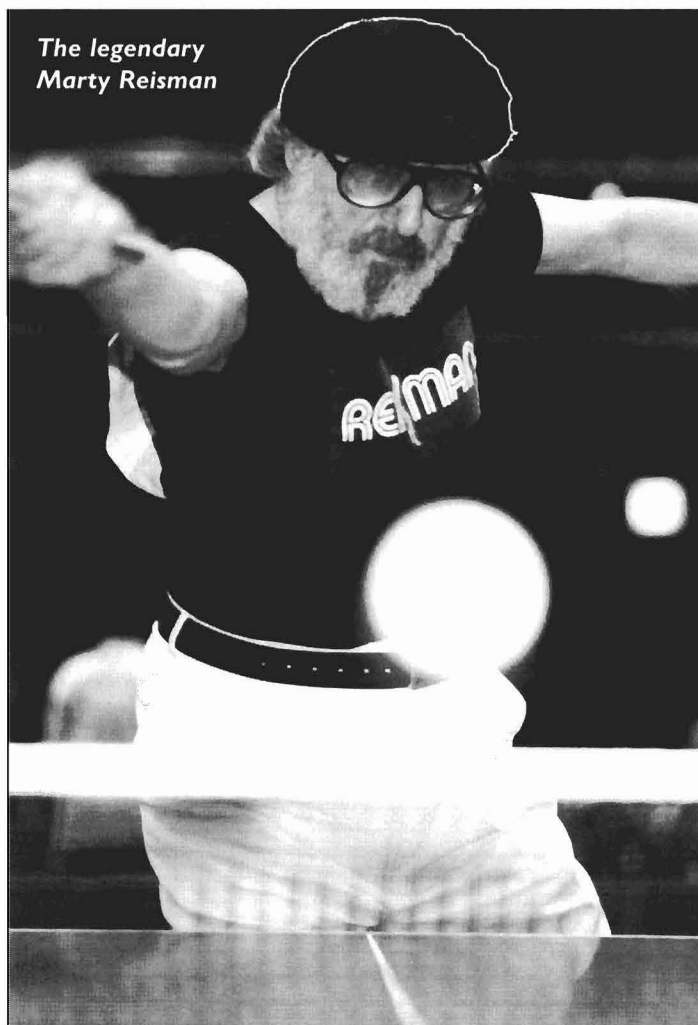
# PART

# 1

**MY FIRST MEETING** with Marty Reisman was at the 1992 World Veterans Championships in Dublin. Of course I had heard of him as a star of a bygone era, but nothing in a lifetime of table tennis prepared me for this encounter with a quite extraordinary character, writes **Brian Halliday**.

Once any player reaches a certain age it is usual for current judgement to be suspended in favour of rose tinted nostalgia. I had seen Marty play a couple of times but that was a very long time ago indeed. I recollect that he had won the English Open and was a player whose phenomenal expertise was legendary. Still the memory plays tricks and I wondered how the years had treated him as a player.

He asked me if I would like to practice. Would I? What an opportunity



*The legendary  
Marty Reisman*

to say later that the great Marty Reisman held no terrors for me. Anyway how could a guy wearing a black shirt, pink long trousers and a tartan bobble cap be a serious player?

Perhaps I should have seen the glint in his eye. After all these years I should have known better.

We started off slowly - me particularly. I was aware of his age and was conscious that I must not embarrass a legend. How wrong I was. The ball kept coming over regularly, then faster and faster. He drove me further and further

back with his astonishingly accurate hitting. The consistency was only interrupted when he decided that enough forehands had been demonstrated, and he decided to kill a winner backhand. I never saw it.

At the end of the session those two excellent internationals, Stuart Gibbs and John Hilton, wandered over and joined in our conversation.

Stuart asked the American whether he could still perform his cigarette trick. Marty said that he had not done it for some years but that he would have a

go. Stuart placed a cigarette, end up, on the white line on the other side of the table, about a foot from the end. Marty lined himself up at the other end of the table and stared long and hard at the cigarette, at his bat, and at the ball in his free hand. In a flash he struck the ball - and the cigarette was broken clean in half. First time, John Hilton our own ex-European Champion tried and failed to come close.

Marty then challenged John to a game with a difference. He placed two bats on the table. One at either end, on the middle white line with the handles pointing inwards. The object was that if he hit the bat to make the shot unplayable then it was his point. A 50-50 situation one would have thought. No contest as Marty beat the Englishman about 21-3.

I caught up with Marty again at the recent World Veterans event in Manchester and decided that this time I would try and conduct an interview on behalf of Table Tennis News. Expert players from the hard bat age are becoming difficult to locate now, and the opportunity to talk to one of the very best of all time was too good to miss.

**Q. How did you first get involved in the game?**

**A.** I first started playing at Settlement House School, Park Departments in New York. I only remember myself as a very good

player. I could beat everybody in the neighbourhood from a very young age. I sought out the best players and graduated to Lawrence's, a club on 54th Street. Miles, Pagliaro, and Schiff all played there, it was a real beehive of activity. We didn't realise it at the time, but at that club were some of the world's best players.

**Q. In your long career what do you consider was your greatest triumph?**

**A.** Winning the English Open. To beat Victor Barna in the final was very special. I think it was the illustrious circumstances of playing at Wembley. I just felt so privileged to play there during the golden age of table tennis.

**Q. You definitely consider that the golden age?**

**A.** Absolutely. Barna, Bergman, Andreadis, Leach. I refer to it as such because the spectators thought of it in this way. The game attracted 10,000 people then.

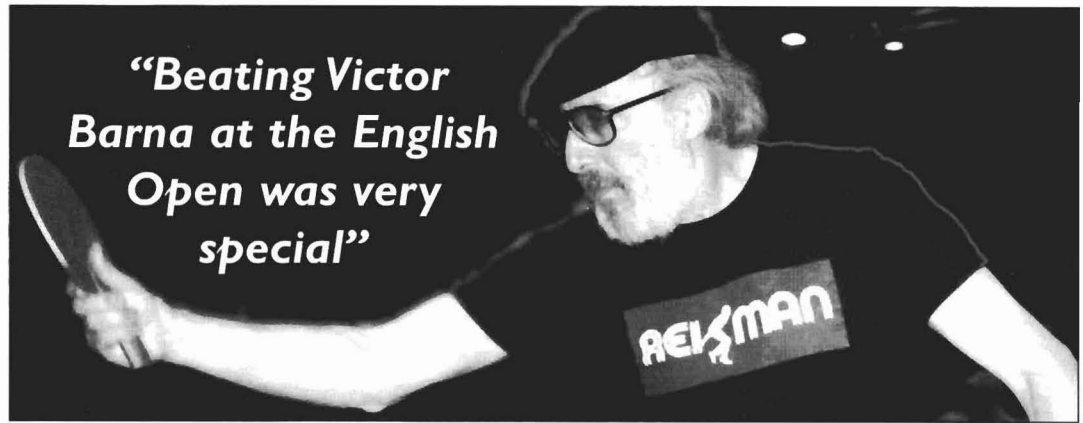
**Q. Who was the most difficult of them all to play?**

**A.** I think Richard Bergman was the most difficult. Just when you thought you had Bergman down he would come to life with recovery from simply impossible situations.

**Q. That comes over in his book. His powers of recovery were extraordinary.**

**A.** Absolutely. Some years ago I came across a book about his remarkable wins. No-one in the history of table tennis has had the ability to fight to victory from a seemingly hopeless position. Many situations when he was down 2-0 and 10-4 in the third, only to win through in the fifth. I was a great admirer of Bergman. It was not only his defence, it was also that indomitable spirit. Yes there was something very special about the guy. When he played a match he had this gladiatorial type attitude that transmitted itself to the audience. When he walked into the stadium, 10,000 pairs of eyes would follow his every move.

*Next month Marty Reisman talks about more players from his times and how they compare with the stars of today. He talks about his own experiences world wide, from gold smuggling to exhibitions alongside the Harlem Globetrotters Basketball Stars.*



**“Beating Victor Barna at the English Open was very special”**

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# THINKING IS NO LONGER NEEDED !

**TABLE TENNIS NEWS is pleased to publish the concluding article by John Prean, on the absorbing long pimple debate.**

## **PUNISH THE VICTIM**

One is reminded of the man who is beaten up by a thug in the street and is then arrested for causing a disturbance, whilst the thug goes free and is even honoured. So, in our beloved sport, it is the Syeds who will be penalised, forced to play by official edict with rubbers rendered 'ineffective', whilst the rest, with their fast bats and ghastly smelling glues, remain untouched. They will even be spared the occasional embarrassment of having to think and play some rallies to beat the Syeds and other defensive brethren. Even thinking is no longer needed, as new generations of stars hit balls at each other.

## **THE AVERAGE RALLY LASTS 3.4 BALLS**

ITTF statistics indicate that the average rally consists of 3.4 shots and that includes the service, itself a disaster area, which leads to shorter rallies.

## **ALL THIS DOES NOT AFFECT ME**

One hears the view that such matters do not affect the average player, only the top 1%. The ruination of the game at top level remains a serious business, as fewer and fewer people come to watch, as TV interest is lost (because the game has become unattractive) and fewer take up the game, as they have not seen it played, notably on TV.

## **THE ONE GROWTH AREA**

By common assent there is one part



of our game that seems to be growing. This is the veterans' scene. These players play for the love of the game and spend a lot of money to do so, as they travel to often excellent events, which have a social as well as competitive side. Many older players play with combination bats. As one gets older, one gets inevitably less fast and athletic, but one gains experience and cunning and one thinks a lot more. The combination bat has enabled many older players to retain their levels longer and so compete with the more powerful play of the young. There are few sports in which this is possible and now we are about to

take this away. It does not take a genius to see that the new regulation is a blow to many older players. Many will retire. Why should we accept defeats inflicted on them by remote legislators, some of whom have not played for a long time? Why should they become losers when once they were winners? Why should they be deprived of the many hours of practice which it takes to master long pimples? They can take up swimming, which is good exercise or bowls which is often seen on the box. There is immense competition from other sports. Why should players stay in one that has treated them so badly?

## **THE TREATMENT OF MINORITIES**

One may be forgiven if one thinks that the new nonsense has little to do with improving the game, rather that it is inspired by the occasional defeats of generally European national icons, who have not learned their trade which must include the ability to play against defence. Instead they slink away and complain about their opponent's bats. Officials then rush to their aid, seeking to ban (or render ineffective) those dreadful long pimples which made them look foolish. I can see the new foolishness in no other light. If these officials are really so devoted to the game and its popularity, why do they do nothing about the real problem, which is glue and fast rubbers? Nothing kills rallies quite like that, nothing makes the game less attractive to watch and on TV. There is a deeper issue and that is the treatment of minorities which we may find irksome. A civilisation is recognised by its treatment of minorities. Table Tennis has emerged with little credit from this episode.

## **THE BEAUTIFUL GAME**

Of course we all want to see the game regain its place in the sun. Instead a step is contemplated which can only lead to greater obscurity. As a reform it is as meaningful as changing the buttons on Stalin's tunic in the cause of Soviet reform or changing the deckchairs on the Titanic. It attacks the innocent, mainly the defenders, who play the beautiful game. Even

Bergmann, the greatest defender of them all, could not have survived against glue and the fast rubber of 1998 without a combination bat, such as used by today's international defenders. It is the only advantage today's defender has against infinitely more powerful weapons and it is the latter which have contributed most to the ruining of the sport as a spectacle. This begs the question: 'Why has nothing been done about the real menace, the fast rubbers, the fast glues?' Nothing would be easier, if the stomach existed to take on this far more powerful lobby. The stench of glue is everywhere and it is ruining the beautiful game. Once the service has been delivered, we shall seldom see more than two shots in a rally. This is where the real trouble is and legislators are looking the other way to turn their attention to a generally harmless minority.

**WAS THIS FAIR? WAS IT DEMOCRATIC?**

Is it too late to reverse this madness? It is due to become law in July of 1999. I see no reason why this cannot be reversed by a full Congress of the ITTF, when it meets during the World Championships next year. Such a fundamental change should not in all decency have been introduced by 20 people against the wishes of the representatives of

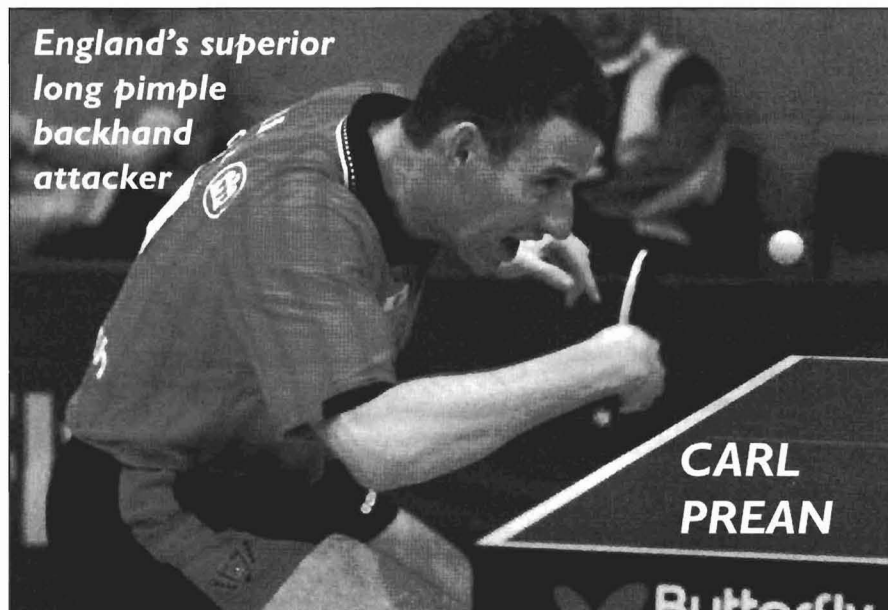
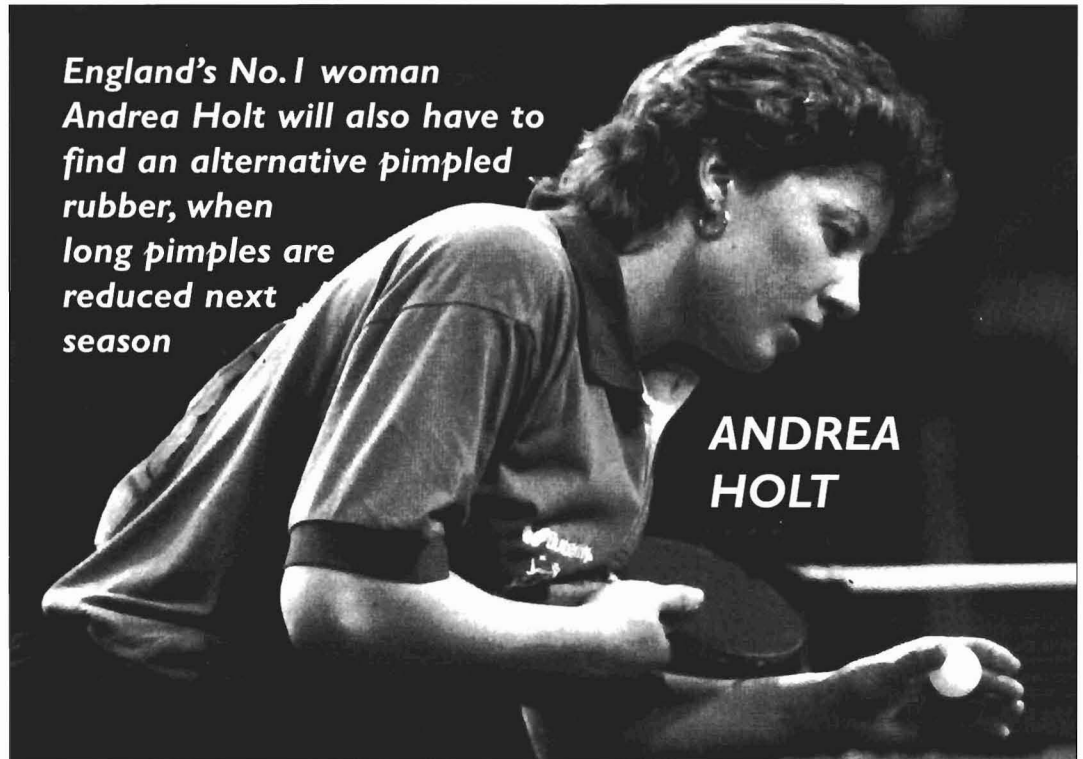
China, Japan and England. A two thirds majority should have been demanded, since the change is so fundamental that it will cost us hundreds of members in world terms, maybe thousands. I hope that the attempt will be made to reverse this next year. It can be done, it should be done. Even those who have battled against the 'funny' rubbers and tasted what we regarded as unjust defeat should not begrudge our fellows the right to be different, to try something else other than the

conventional wisdom or folly. That is a matter of human decency of human rights.

**WHERE ONCE A HUNDRED FLOWERS BLOOMED, NOW THERE WILL BE ONLY ONE....**

The new regulation is, above all, a move against variety, against individuality, against the right to be different, against against the cult of letting a hundred flowers bloom. It is a bomb directed against a wrong target. It is a tragedy of good intentions gone dreadfully wrong.

I can only urge the large union of table tennis people all over the world: Be tolerant, live and let live. Above all, concentrate your fire on the real enemies of the sport: the short rally, which has made our sport at once frantic and boring, poor to watch and often no fun to play. Brute force has become the order of the day. The long rally, the application of intelligence, these are the factors which will return the sport to its place in the sun.



**ENGLAND is the country most affected by this new proposed legislation, as our top two men and top woman play with long pimples whose present length will be banned on the 1st July next year:**

**So England, alongside China and Japan, will suffer the most, making life at the top much more difficult.**

*Editor*



Esme Stevenson

## Cornwall

by John Wood

THIS is my very first County Notes column for my new chosen county, following my move to Cornwall from Hertfordshire in September.

I am looking forward to meeting all the table tennis enthusiasts within the county, and I'm especially eager to be playing my first match for Tregorrick Park Table Tennis Club of St. Austell, in both the Mid-Cornwall and West Cornwall Leagues

On the tournament scene, Bude's Esme Stevenson really flew the flag for the county when she won the Band 1 Women's Singles title at the Clare Pengelly Memorial Grand Prix Tournament in Paington in September, beating Devon's Lucy Perry in the final 21-11, 18-21, 21-16.

This victory gives Esme a step up the ladder as she won the Women's Band 2 title at the corresponding tournament last season, before going on to reach the Grand Prix finals in Bath where she lost to Claire Gibbs in the final.

I hope every table tennis person within Cornwall has a highly successful and enjoyable 1998/99 season.

## Berkshire

by John Cunningham

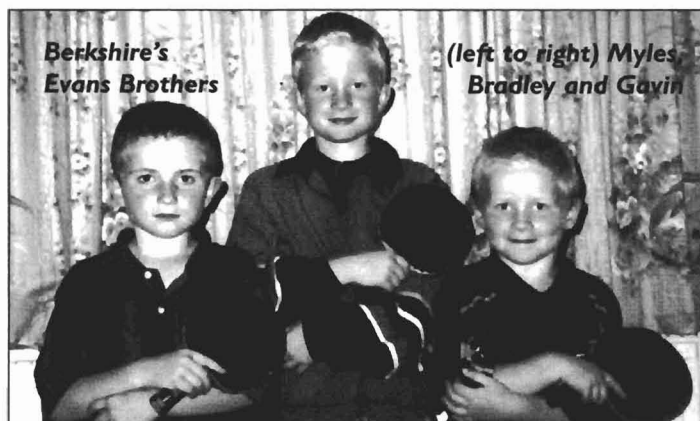
BRADLEY EVANS was the star of the Bracknell and Wokingham Table Tennis cadet ranking trials held at the Sindlesham School Sports Hall.

Nine year old Bradley and his talented younger brothers Myles, six, and Gavin aged five joined Sindlesham School stars Jamie Exell, Nathan Fisher and Scott Aberdeen, together with the Our Lady of Peace cadets Sean Cox, Ben Gates and Joe Williams to contest the trials.

Bradley in Group One took on Fisher, Cox and younger brother Gavin and caused a major upset by defeating Fisher 8-11, 11-3, 11-3 and Cox 11-4, 8-11, 11-7 to win the group.

# COUNTY Notes

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



For his part Cox got the better of young Gavin Evans and defeated Fisher 14-12, 12-10, 11-4.

Ben Gates was the surprise winner in Group Two, beating Scott Aberdeen 11-5, 11-3, 11-4, Myles Evans 11-9, 11-7, 11-6 and Jamie Exell 11-6, 6-11, 11-6. Exell was hard pressed to defeat young Myles 11-8, 11-9, 9-11.

In the band one second round, Bradley was joined by Joe Williams, who had just won the junior title, Ben Gates and Sean Cox.

Gates put up a great fight before going down to Evans 11-7, 11-7, 9-11 and Williams got the better of Cox by an 11-8, 11-9, 11-3 scoreline. Evans then defeated Williams 11-8, 11-6, 11-8, but just lost out to Cox by two games to one.

Cox and Williams then beat Gates in close encounters leaving three players with two wins each.

On a countback taking into account sets, games and points, Bradley Evans took the cadet title, with Sean Cox by virtue of a single point edging Williams into third place and Ben Gates into third place.

Band two was won by Myles Evans with three victories, Andrew knight was runner-up with Gavin in third spot ahead of newcomer Asif Zulgurn.

In the junior group, cadet Joe Williams

had earlier caused ranking complications by beating off the challenges of Tom Williams, Ben Young, Andrew Knight and Asif Zulgurn.

His key win was a 11-7, 19-17, 10-12 victory over a brave Ben Young. Role of Honour Cadet champion: Bradley Evans, Runner-up: Sean Cox; Junior Champion: Joe Williams; R,up: Tom Williams Bracknell and Wokingham Junior and Cadet Rankings (based on the evenings play) Cadets: 1 Bradley Evans; 2 Sean Cox; 3 Joe Williams; 4 Ben Gates; 5 Nathan Fisher; 6 Jamie Exell; 7 Myles Evans; 8 Gavin Evans; 9 Scott Aberdeen.

### WOOLWICH SHIELD

CHAMPION table tennis players at Sindlesham School have been awarded their trophy by Euro MP John Stevens.

The Thames Valley MEP visited the school on Tuesday to present players with the Woolwich shield for winning the 1998 Woolwich Table Tennis League.

The school boasts players ranked number one in the league and the top three players in the Bracknell, Wokingham and District schools league.

Two players have also reached the finals of the National Association of Boys Clubs finals in Peterborough next month. Coach Ken Banham said, "The game is superb for our boys as it helps them raise their self-esteem, fitness levels and

confidence, and gives them a sound start to becoming good sportsmen."

## Cumbria

Gordon Brown

One of the good things that came out of 1974 Local Government Reorganisation for table tennis was that Barrow-in-Furness was transferred from Lancashire to Cumbria.

With competition for representative places in the past from the big conurbations of Greater Manchester and Merseyside, it was tougher for Barrow players to break through into the limelight than at present.

Many Barrow players are now getting county competition and more under the banner of Cumbria, which puts them under the spotlight and gives them added confidence for outside tournaments, in which many players from the area do well.

Indeed, if all the promising youngsters now pouring out of the shipbuilding town can be kept in the sport, it should not be many years before Cumbria is a force to be reckoned with at senior level.

We have just finished a county junior season for the first time for many seasons and gained promotions. 12 years old Michael Gomersall of Barrow reached the European Championships semi-finals in Luxembourg and started training at England's northern region camp in Durham in August, and Jade Kendall from the same town, was picked for England juniors. Jade also went to the World Schools Championships with fellow Barrovians Katherine Swan, Nicola Garrett and Chloe Gasson. Jade and Michael, both up the ratings in their age groups nationally, have been chosen for the Sports Academy in Nottingham.

In addition, under 11's Faye Gasson, Chloe's sister, and Grant Woodhouse, were picked for England in a tournament against Ireland, Scotland and Wales in Blackburn in April.

Gomersall won the under 13's singles in the British Schools Championship in Perth and he and his partner from Kent won the under 14's doubles. Michael was England number one in the England team that won the four-man team event.

In the Republic of Ireland in April, Michael won the under 14's title in an international tournament in which Jade reached the junior girls' semi-finals.

More promising young talent is set to roll off the Cumbria conveyor belt at the Woolwich Leagues which get under way in Barrow, Kendal, Cartmell and Whitehaven.



All except Whitehaven, who are still in a training stage, have entered for the Woolwich National Junior League. Cartmell is to be the venue for the North/North-West region covering Cumbria with first matches due on Saturday October 24, followed by November 28, February 6 and March 27.

As you read this, all the county's senior leagues will be well under way with Barrow the largest with usually five divisions, followed by Kendal with four, comprising 13 teams in Division One, and Division Two and eight in Division Three and Four. Carlisle have one division with 14 teams while attempts are being made to revive league fare in West Cumbria following the demise of the Whitehaven league.

## Derbyshire

by Colin Deaton

Derbyshire players got off to a flying start this season with some super performances by both our young players and veterans.

Burton's Robin Pearce currently rated as the number one junior player in Derbyshire notched the Band Four Singles Title in the First Grand Prix of the season at Liverpool and also reached the Semi Final of the Band Three Mens Singles.

Fifteen year old Pearce is probably the best young player the Burton area has produced and if his progress can be maintained he is without doubt going to be a real player of the future.

Congratulations are also extended to Steve Shaw from Burton on winning the North West Mens Single Tournament.

Steve appears to be maintaining his high level position in the English Senior ranking list and this fine win will have helped his cause.

The improving Michael Isherwood also collected the under 21 singles at the same event thus making it a happy hunting ground for Derbyshire players

Derbyshire was again in the limelight when our veteran players playing in the Hull and District Veterans Tournament at the YPI Centre.

Chesterfield's Geoff Gill now happily fit again after a tennis elbow injury, emerged as the Over 40 Mens Champion. He beat his colleague Mick Thorley in the final. Mick however triumphed in the over 55 final to claim a very creditable double. Mick's wife Pat won the Ladies Veterans Championship.

Both Mick and Pat play regularly in the Matlock league and are also involved at Committee Level. Meanwhile the Matlock league continues to be popular with both

junior and senior players.

Recently the league held its presentation evening and the Guest of Honour was Marilyn O'Sullivan (Derbyshire Development Officer). A musical quiz was organised by Chesterfield's Eric Hall and young Tom Gregory won the Trophy for the most promising youngster. A most enjoyable evening was experienced by all at Matlock's biggest event of the year.

The man at the helm in Matlock who has been their popular chairman for the last decade is Tony Gregory. Tony travels the country playing in various veteran events and is one of the top senior players in Derbyshire.

On examining his past achievements in our game I found he has been coaching at Cromford Community Centre Matlock for a staggering twenty years. Tony loves our game and his son Tom continues to flourish in becoming one of the Counties leading young prospects.

The annual Derbyshire County Closed Championships are scheduled to take place on Sunday January 10th 1999. Again the venue will be the Lea Green Sports and Conference Centre.

Finally former Derbyshire Player and Official Stan Beale from Burton has made a donation to the Derbyshire Association. Stan as a player was always a hard nut to crack.

Regrettably he can no longer play his sport but we are indeed grateful to Stan for his continued support.

## Essex

by Steve Kerns

### INTER-LEAGUE COMPETITION STRENGTHENS.

The first county meeting of the season produced the exciting news of the prospect of an enhanced standard in the mens inter-league competition. With nine veterans, two junior, two ladies and three mens divisions the overall number of teams participating has dropped slightly but it is pleasing that many of the county's better players are pledging their support to this competition. New team Southend A take over the mantle of favourites in mens division one and their team of Cris Sladden, Ryan Savill, Steve Tilson and Duncan Taylor have all the credentials to take the title. Last year's champions Ilford A (the Tendler family), promoted Harlow A (Colin Carslake, Wayne Mitchell and Neil Brierley), Chelmsford (Dave Cole, Terry Dowsett and Dave Window) and Braintree A (Steve Dettmar, Peter Hayden and Andy Wadling) will all be out to make their mark although Southend clearly have the

edge on paper. Another new team Brentwood A (Reagan Nettleingham, John Holland Snr. and Steve Joslin no less) find themselves placed in mens division two.

There had been a growing feeling that the better players might prefer an inter-club competition but this will hopefully see a return to the halcyon days when the inter-league event meant something to the leagues. For those players who do fancy a two-a-side Super League the BATTs club from Harlow have obliged with a competition which has attracted the following players: Clive Carthy, John Dennison, Gary King, Shelley Ruocco, Andy Withers, Keith Richardson, Colin Carslake, Wayne Mitchell, Neil Brierley, the Tendler family and a strong team from Peniel Academy led by John Holland Jnr.

County first-teamer Clive Carthy takes over the running of the two county senior teams and it is hoped that he can lead the county back to the premier division. Alan Shepherd will again head the junior sub-committee and with a strong squad of players available a return to the junior premier division is not out of the question. Players fighting it out at the trials for county places will include Ben Warner, Keith Lesser, Joe Benson, Aaron Fennell, Casey Cross, Stephen Menon, Natalie Bawden, Nicole Todd, Alan Wright, Hannah Cook, Leanne Bentley, Lorraine Johnson, Kay Barham and Karla Bryant. Only Micah Evans on religious grounds is exempt.

The Warehouse Centre in Rayleigh is a currently thriving venue and in addition to staging the county junior trials the Southend league are staging a major Invitation Tournament on Sunday 27 September 1998. Organiser Bob Sladden has invited his son Cris, Tilson, Dettmar, Savill, Carthy, Cole, Taylor, Nettleingham, Dennison, Stuart Gibbs, John Holland Jnr. and Rik James to participate; the best line-up of players seen at a county event for many a year.

## Gloucestershire

by Alf Pepperd

This indeed will be a little on the ancient side when printed but nevertheless, any county news has to be good news and better than no news at all.

In the first English Table Tennis Association Grand Prix of the 1998/99 season, held in Liverpool, Gloucester's high ranking lady player Ann Humble won the women's band two singles with a typical gutsy display.

Humble beat Emily Dearing from Yorkshire in the final in straight games 14

and 17.

Humble was suffering from a heavy cold which affected her breathing and at the end of the match lay sprawled on the floor completely exhausted from her efforts.

In the previous round, Dearing had played exceptionally well to beat the much fancied Lucy Perry of Devon.

In the final, Humble dominated the first game but in the second was finding it more and more difficult to get enough oxygen.

With her energy draining away and Dearing fighting back to 14 all, Humble realised that she could not let the match go to three games and needed to win "Two straight", which she did, to the delight of her many supporters.

During the weekend Humble played 19 matches, reaching the quarter finals of the Under 21's and the band one women and, with her partner Liz May from Devon, reached the semi-final of the women's doubles, collecting valuable ranking points en-route.

### AROUND THE COUNTY LEAGUES

In the STROUD & District League, Chairman John Bunn reports that their League has an increase of 5 teams and now are able to put out 4 divisions comprising of 10 teams per division.

Dennis Jackson, Stroud's coaching officer has unfortunately had to retire from this position on health grounds. At the time of writing no one has stepped in to fill the vacancy.

In the GLOUCESTER League, Match Secretary Bernard Mowbray reports that there has been a slight increase of around a couple of teams, making it now a total of 47 teams, with six divisions.

In CIRENCESTER, Match secretary Andy England informs me that they will be putting out 3 Divisions for this season, owing to a slight decrease of Senior players, the 3rd division will be played on "Woolwich" lines, ie: 4 singles and 1 doubles, there is however a small increase of Junior players coming into the League, which is pleasing to hear. Report from the Cheltenham's Chairman Peter Cruwys.

There will be 3 Senior Divisions in the league as last year, Division 1 has 11 teams, Division 2 & 3 have 12 teams, East Glos, Cheltenham & Glos College - Oddbods and Spartans have not entered a team, but there are three new Junior teams, making four, and the top 4 Juniors will be playing in Senior teams in Divisions 1 and 2.

Nina Tsakarisanos, an Ex-Glos, Junior and Senior Player, is making a welcome return to table tennis after a 10 year

absence in the Cheltenham 1st Division - the League welcomes her return.

A Junior League will be formed in mid-October, and local clubs and Youth organisations will be invited to enter a team, the league will be for outright starters, and the Cheltenham starter Juniors will provide the bulk of the players.

Nick Davidson is coaching secretary and Junior team secretary, Fiona Wynn-Sands will cover the publicity outside of the league, which is still covered by Neil Penny.

Andy Ewens is the Development Officer, and his task is to lead the drive to implement the CTA's 5 year old Development Plan, which started this year.

## COACHING

Graham Slack, who this season has taken on the roles of County Gen/Secretary - Development Officer and Head of Coaching, reports that in the field of coaching regular sessions (by invitation), for potential Top Squad Juniors, will now be taking place at Deer Park School, Cirencester on a regular weekly basis.

He also expresses his grateful thanks to the following for help and assistance at these sessions:- Dave Harvey, Ian Heskins, John Davis, Dave Adamson, Peter and Ann Humble. Apologies to anyone else helping out who I have not mentioned.

Lawrence Symonds Gloucesters Development Officer coaches regularly on Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons at Sir Thomas Riches School, at Longlevens Gloucester.

L.S. is seriously considering the possibility of further coaching there on Wednesday evenings, help is forthcoming from Darren Griffin, Bryan Merrett, Pete and Ann Humble.

Lawrence is also arranging a continuation of further coaching at Ribston Hall School in the City - this would be primarily for beginners and intermediate players.

## Hampshire

by Brian Lamerton

Hampshire welcomed one of the new season's major events, the Womens British League, to Andover over the week end of 12/13th. September when officials from the County in Harry Spraggs, Mick Strode, Mick Reynolds and myself were well to the fore but regrettably not a County player in Sight.

After trials and lengthy selection committee meetings the following ranking lists have been published:

## Men

1. Mark Butler (Bo)
2. Ramesh Bhalla (Al)
3. Graham Pointer (S)
4. Danny Burns (IOW)
5. Roger Hookey (IOW)
6. Christos Hannides
7. Tony Reynolds (Ba)
8. Rod McMullan (G&F)
9. Chris Butt (S)
10. Kevin Macken (Ba)

## Women

1. Lucy Pointer (IOW)
2. Barbara Savage (Al)
3. Gill Larking (Ba)
4. Donna Granville (P)
5. Sandra Simpson (Al)
6. Anne Longland (S)

## Veteran Men

1. Chris Shetler (S)
2. Chris Willshire (S)
3. Ramesh Bhalla (Al)
4. Clive Payne (Ba)
5. Graham Outrim (Ba)
6. Maurice Shave (S)
7. Keith Childs (G&F)
8. Peter Matthews (Al)
9. Ken Burton (P)
10. Charles Prendergast

## Veteran Women

1. Gill Larking (Ba)
2. Sandra Simpson (Al)
3. Norma Millward (Al)
4. Mary Barron (P)
5. Ann Longland (S)
6. Ann Abraham (Al)

## Junior Boys

1. Deane Whittington
2. Stuart Williams (S)
3. Richard Cooper (Ba)
4. Nic. Anderson (P)
5. Craig Durman (S)
6. Chris Hughes (IOW)
7. Daniel Noronha (Al)
8. Tom Marriner (S)
9. James Monk (P)
10. Sam Reynolds (Ba)

## Junior Girls

1. Lucy Pointer (IOW)
2. Emma Dobson (S)
3. Kate Mead (Al)
4. Linda Halfpenny (Al)
5. Jenny Dobson (S)

Ref: (Al) Aldershot, (Ba) Basingstoke, (Bo) Bournemouth, (S) Southampton, (P) Portsmouth, (IOW) Isle of Wight, (G&F) Gosport & Fareham.

For those who only obtain their information from TTN a note of two important dates; Senior Championships Sunday 8th November, Junior Championships Sunday 17th January 1999 - both at Redbridge Sports Centre.

You will realise that I am already struggling to maintain my new seasons

resolution to appear in every edition so, a reminder of my phone number, 01489 781266 - Lets hear from you !

## Isle of Wight

by John Prean

### FEWER PLAYERS

Only four divisions will make up the local league this season. Our fifth division has disappeared. Last season it was down to six teams, who played each other four times. Now it has gone completely! In the 1960's, when I began playing, we had four divisions. In the late 1970's we had increased to seven and now we are down to four again. This season we lost five teams, a record and one could have done without. The 1977 World Championships, staged in this country, created tremendous interest and our numbers benefited. 1997, somehow or other, did not produce the same benefits. Over 30 hours of peak time viewing on BBC in 1977 produced tremendous interest. What appeared on Sky, mainly off-peak, did little for us despite technically good productions. Where do we go from here?

From 'the outside looking in' (I decided to take a long break from administration in 1997) it looks like a real crisis which needs special measures. It is no good proclaiming that other leagues and areas have done even worse. I hear reports of a neighbouring league which is down to one division from four.

Crises require crisis measures. Two obvious ones would seem to be to return to Island representative teams, which produce a sense of pride and belonging as well as identity. We had a team that did well in the Southern Region League till this collapsed. An effort to run a British League Team failed in depressing circumstances after the finance was in place and we had an excellent home venue, the equal of any in the country. Our two best players, Roger Hockey and Danny Burns, both now play in the British League, but for a club on the 'mainland'. The third of the winning Southern Region Team Mike Turner, is now in retirement. There are fears of further defections when the new regulations concerning long pimples see the light of day.

The second obvious problem seems to me the league playing system, which has remained the same, unaltered and immobile despite it's late nights and pointless matches once one side has reached Six wins. We play the usual 9 singles and one doubles. Evenings tend to drag on till deep into the night, whilst matches are played out which no longer matter, the match result having long ago

been decided. Parents are reluctant to allow their children to play, as the late nights leave them tired the next morning (they are not the only ones!) and their education suffers, which is hardly a good idea at a time when there is so much unemployment, at any rate on the Island. Not only our unsatisfactory playing system has remained unaltered and immobile, so have the minds of members and particularly officials, who resist change, whilst all around them is collapsing and the players vote with their feet. Never has there been a better time for new ideas, for trying something different and NEW. My space is limited, but the above two ideas would be a start towards halting the decline and then moving forward. I am in no way consoled by reports that the national situation over the years is no better and often worse.

I agree, as does everybody else, that we need the National stimulant of TV, but that is another topic which should not affect necessary local action in providing a more acceptable product, one that gains members rather than losing them.

Our mercurial cadet, Lucy Pointer, has accepted an invitation to attend the new ETTA Training Centre at Nottingham full-time, part of the World Performance Lottery-financed Plan. We wish her well, although it means that another interesting and publicity producing 'asset' has been largely lost to the local scene. Lucy remains at No.5 on the National Ranking List. Although two of the girls above her on the cadet list have moved up on reaching the next age group. Lucy was overtaken by two new ones previously below her. So she remained at No.5, not ideal, since only four went to the European Youth, which presumably will remain the position next time.

Carl Prean changed from the German League to the French and, looking at the player line-ups, this will be very strong. The French won the European Championship Team event, overtaking the Swedes and the Germans. All their best players will be there, some excellent Chinese and quite a few other Europeans, including Peter Franz, a former team mate of Carl and whom I regard as the best German after Rosskopf. The short term aim must be to get England's men back into the European Superleague, which will be very difficult, but not impossible.

Whether Carl's move from the German Bundesliga (after a dozen years) was a good idea, the new season will tell, but it will be good to have him here more regularly which will stimulate the local scene.

## Leicestershire

by Derek Butt

In the first semi final of the Elbow Tankard Ironmen overcame an early shock when they they lost the first four games as Dave Clawson and Alan Mould won both their matches for Great Glen. Terry Wale started the fight back beating Phil Tomlin two straight with some ease. Ian Weatherley then brought the match level at four all when he beat Mould. Next came the doubles, and as usual in this event always so crucial, Ironmen really put the pressure on Glen winning all four. It was now the villagers on the rack, could they fight back as the works side had done earlier. The next games were shared bringing the match score to 10-0 to the works side. The next match on was between Dave Clawson and Barry Reeves and Dave emerged the winner two straight. So it all hinged on the very last match between Alan Mould and Terry Wale the latter taking the first assisted with a lot of luck, and it insured the Ironmen of a place in next weeks final. Terry also took the second a close 22-20, to make the final score 12-8.

The second semi saw BAHK and Casualties battle it out and again it was another good match, Andy Craven-Griffiths was the the man of the match winning five out of his six, while dad Bob also had a good night with four wins from his six. Daughter Kelly chipped in with two from her four.

Casualties did level the match when they took three of the four doubles, making the match score 6-6, but steadily BAHK held on, and in the ninth Andy made sure of the final spot by beating Mahendra Mistry two straight.

Malcolm Woodfield managed to win three from his six for the Syston side. The final was not so close as was expected, and the fancied team Ironmen convincingly beat BAHK 17-3. Going into an early lead of 8-0 the Ironmen never relaxed and completed the result in the doubles winning three of the four games.

### RESULTS

Andy Craven-Griffiths (+2) lost to Terry Wale 13-21,17-21; (+5) lost to Ian Weatherley 18-21,17-21, and lost to Barry Reeves (+3) 14-21,12-21. Bob Craven-Griffiths lost to Terry Wale (+9) 14-21,12-21; lost to Ian Weatherley (+7) 12-21, 20-22 and lost to Barry Reeves (+10) 14-21,14-21. Kelly Craven-Griffiths (+9) beat Terry Wale 21-11, 21-14 and (+10) lost to Ian Weatherley 23-25,18-21.1st doubles 21-16,21-23, 2nd doubles 10-21,7-21.

Thank you to all the teams who played

in this tournament and making it fairly easy for me to run. And well done to the winners. Hope to see you all again next year.

Well it looks good for the Leicester and District Table Tennis League as they start the season with eight divisions,twelve teams in two divisions, and eleven at the moment in the other six.

The Woolwich Junior League will start in a few weeks time, and it is possible a coaching session for new comers and beginners will also be available at the Rushey Mead centre.

At the time of writing I have heard nothing from either Hinckley or Loughborough.

Finally, on behalf of the Leicestershire and Leicester league our congratulations go to Mike Smith who was presented with the Ivor Montagu trophy by the ETTA,for all his work in administration to the sport.

Well done Mike ,you very rightly deserve it.

## Northants

by Dennis Millman

With long serving County Chairman and National Councillor, Ken Marchant again at the helm, Northants moves into a new season with customary optimism despite a further depletion in the number of participating teams.

Even the County Championship side has fallen victim to the malaise, for the three Veteran teams of two seasons ago have now become one, fortunately still supplemented by Seniors and Juniors. Michael Edwards has now assumed control of the Veterans, with Ryan Keates and John Russell continuing to take care of Seniors and Juniors respectively.

This season's Queensberry Scimitar County Closed Tournament will be staged at Kettering Leisure Village on Sunday 7 March, with a special Finals Night at Wellingborough's Glamis Hall on the 8th. Arthur Palmer will again be Tournament Organiser.

It is perhaps a sign of the times that of the county's five major leagues only Towcester, helped by some extremely hard-working officials is maintaining its team entry, while Kettering, Wellingborough and Northampton continue in slow decline. Taking an arbitrary 1984/85 comparison, Northampton's 96 teams have been reduced to 46, Wellingborough's total has dropped from 62 to 44, while Kettering's 40 has been trimmed by 25%.

At Northampton, Michael Edwards and Wendy Hancock are attempting to

redress the situation with some enthusiastic coaching and the likely formation of a Junior League, but with the standing down of Dick Cole, after 30 years as Kettering's Coaching Organiser, and no hint of a successor, the problems there could continue to deteriorate.

The latest issue of the Queensberry Scimitar Computer Ranking List, compiled by Trevor Ore, shows the part-time Graeme McKim at Number 1, by virtue of his remaining undefeated on his infrequent appearances last season. Surprisingly Malcolm Francis is second, despite three defeats at the hands of the third placed Andy Trott - one of these is in the Men's Singles final at the last County Closed. Trott's demotion follows a late season defeat by the redoubtable Dave Welsman.

Leading Places:-

1. Graeme McKim, 2. Malcolm Francis, 3. Andy Trott, 4. Ian Hawes, 5. Ryan Keates, 6. Adrian Roper, 7. David Welsman, 8. Richard Elliott, 9. Julian Marshall, 10. Rafe Miller, 11. David Gatiss, 12. Steve West, 13. Ian Bird, 14. David Gallo, 15. Neil Stanley, 16. Gordon Shaw, 17. Chris Gibbons, 18. Phil Snelling, 19. Steve Silk, 20. Alan Ashberry, 21. Mark Nannery, 22. Michael Edwards, 23. Ray Kingston, 24. Geoff Atkinson, 25. Brian Wooding, 26. Gary Webb, 27. Ian Slater, 28. Steve Brown, 29. Richard Bashford, 30. Brian Dangerfield.

League Tournament Dates:-  
Kettering: Saturday 14 November  
Wellingborough: Sunday 7 February  
Northampton: Saturday 27 February  
Towcester: Sunday 28th March

Best wishes for a successful season to all players and officials, and especially to County Umpire Secretary Ken Bussey who is short shortly to undergo a second major operation. We all wish him a full and speedy recovery.

## Northumberland

by Pauline Long

The St. Gabriel's team from Sunderland were the WENADE (UK) LTD Northumbria Summer League champions by a margin of six points from runners-up North Shields YMCA 'A'. Birtley and St Jude's are relegated. Washington 'B' were the only League team to remain unbeaten throughout the season, and they duly took the Division 2 title by a nine point margin from YMCA. Ouston 'A' and Stanley YC face the drop.

Division 3 was the most closely fought of all four Divisions, and Oxhill YC were the eventual winners by a slender three points, despite losing five of their

matches. Cramlington Stingers finished in second place. Whitehouse Lane and YMCA 'E' were the unlucky relegation candidates, while Philips Components escaped by just one point.

In Division 4, DSS 'C' were the winners by the largest margin of twelve points. Nestles Fawdon were currently in second place having finished their programme, but YMCA 'G' could equal their total if they were to beat bottom team Ouston 'C' 10-0 in the one remaining fixture at the time of writing.

The Trophy Presentation night will take place at Leo's Restaurant, Northumberland Street, Newcastle upon Tyne on Friday October 9th from 7 p.m. to midnight. There will be a buffet and disco and it is hoped as many players and friends as possible will attend.

The WENADE (UK) LTD. Northumbria Winter League is due to commence on Monday September 21st. However, the County veterans' team - now also sponsored by WENADE (UK) LTD - have a very early Division 2A fixture against Yorkshire III the previous Saturday, so fingers are crossed for a successful start. Current veterans' ranking lists are as follows:

### VETERAN MEN

1, Ian "Benny" Robertson; 2, Geoff Salter; 3, Jimmy Scope; 4, Rob Dodds; 5, Malcolm Lusk; 6, Bob Atwell; 7, Dave Armstrong; 8, Fred Woodhouse; 9, Maurice Cheek; 10, John Donnelly.

### VETERAN WOMEN

1, Pauline Long; 2, Margaret Neale; 3, Lily Aust.

Finally, would everyone please note my change of address to 29, HOMEDOWNE HOUSE, HIGH STREET, GOSFORTH, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, NE3 1HH, with effect from September 7. Telephone number (0191 - 2854827) will remain the same.

## Nottinghamshire

by Brian Jones

The new British League team "Jack Spratt-Wellow House" began their season with an impressive win against City of Leeds. The home team's top player, Michael George (Trinidad) brushed aside the Leeds number 2 before meeting Leeds number 1 Richard Lightowler in a tense match which went to three games. George turned the match with a breathtaking backhand stroke from almost beneath the table but he still had to fight hard to win the third and deciding game, 22-20. Leeds were by far the more experienced team, having finished third in last year's competition yet 15-year-old

Craig Gascoyne (Worksop) scored two convincing 2-0 wins, earning him the man-of-the-match award. Wellow's most experienced campaigner, Mick Bartrop (Worksop) only just lost to Lightowler before beating the Leeds number 3 and Jason Ramage (Newark) the home captain, defeated the Leeds number 3 to complete a 6-2 win.

Worksop begin the season with an embarrassment of riches. Their first division will play premiere division style as a division of six. That and an increased entry for both the main and cadet (pairs) league leave them, at the time of writing, still trying to re-form their divisions and keep everyone happy. No doubt this will be resolved and the league well under way by the time this column reaches you.

## Sussex

by John Woodford

THIS county looks in good shape for the new campaign at senior and veterans level, but in dire straits for juniors capable of winning matches in the junior county championships - in the first match in (Junior) Division 1 Sussex were shattered 10-0 by Devon.

But we do have two juniors in the England Under 12-squad - Mark Bridge and Gina Rogers, both from Hastings. Mark is we believe the youngest player ever to appear for Sussex - he made his debut, aged just 11, against Devon.

Gina is the daughter of Judy Rogers who is the newly-appointed ETTA National Development Officer for People with Disabilities, based at Hastings.

Teresa Bennett (nee Moore) now with a family to see to, is gradually cutting down her commitments, although still retaining her interest and attendance at some events, like British Womens League.

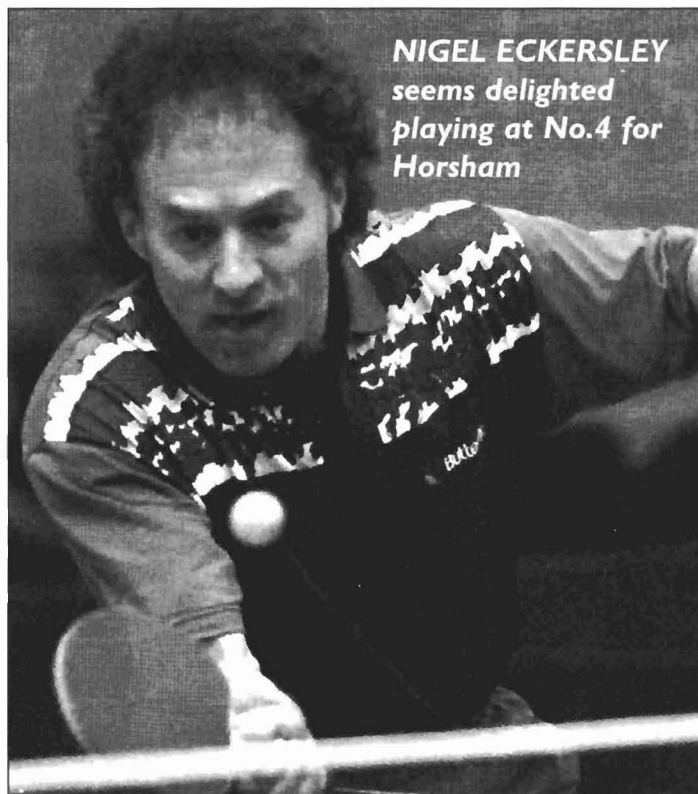
The county are however, a little dismayed that she has brought the axe down on the county championships, leaving just two front-rank women players Sally Weston and Rose Rainton.

Teresa was very young when she first appeared for Sussex, some 18 years ago - checks are being made to see if she still holds the record against the newly-emerging Luke Bridge.

The Horsham club, still strapped for cash, is poised to make another bid for the £2,000 top prize for winning the British League premier division.

Having acquired the services of Cris Sladden and Christian Thompson to back the experienced trio of Ritchie Venner, Adrian Moore and Nigel Eckersley, the prospects of success looks bright.

Having failed to keep Des Douglas, Darlington manager Keith Wilson is



**NIGEL ECKERSLEY**  
seems delighted  
playing at No.4 for  
Horsham

certain to entice another 'Big Name' to Co. Durham, although the presence of Jonathan Taylor at No.1 is menacing to all rivals, despite the further loss of Michael O'Driscoll.

Nigel Eckersley, seems delighted at being able to play No.4 for Horsham, missing the top player from the opposing team.

- Just a few words to add to the thousands on pimples from John Prean, Brian Halliday, Ebby Scholer and others: Carl Prean says he is certain the ban will be confirmed in Belgrade as the Germans have been talking about it for years. Matthew Syed says he will be looking at alternative materials, but carrying on for now with the same surface. I regard both Syed and Prean as two of the most knowledgeable people in the sport on bats, there are some other experts, but none with the world-class experience of playing with long pimples.

## Warwickshire

by Caroline Williams

Table tennis in Leamington started with a bang with 98 players of all ages and standards fighting it out in mid-September at the first of this season's Lillington Free Church Tournaments. As previously this included a strong Welsh contingent with newcomer Ryan Owen, a former Welsh Junior International, sweeping all before him to take both the Senior title and the Grade A. Owen from Merthyr forced Welsh

number 4 Steve Hall from Penarth into the runner-up spot in the Seniors and Coventry man Ryan Stockham into Grade A second place. Consolation honours in these two event events were shared between Leamington and Evesham. Mark Woolerton (Leamington) beat Matthew Hartwell (Evesham) in the Seniors but then later on Matthew Hartwell was the winner of the Grade A consolation over Nick Taylor (Leamington).

Anthony Kelly from Birmingham won the Under 17 with Jonathan Madeley from Solihull the runner-up whilst Samantha Meredith (Harbury) took the Consolation

overcoming Ashley Cox of Banbury. Welsh Cadet Lee Davies of Newport had a tight Under 14 final squeezing out Leigh Bradford from Birmingham 23/21 in the third. Greg Boone of Oxford overcame Ian Jones of Brecon in the Consolation final. The Under 12 went to Lewis Cox from Banbury against Leamington's Jaz Allen-Sutton. Consolation honours were won by William Spillsbury (Sutton Coldfield) with Sarah Hall (Penarth) runner-up. This was the first trophy for Sarah aged only 9 but no doubt she hopes for many more to catch up with her dad Steve Hall!

Grade B went more locally with Anthony Kelly (Birmingham) having the edge on Rob Champion (Nuneaton) in the main event and Gilly Matthews taking the Consolation from Leamington clubmate Paul Nason. Lee Davies (Newport) had his second success of the day taking the Grade C title over Steve Smith (Birmingham) whilst Michael Fricker (Solihull) gained the Consolation against Adam Matthews (Kidderminster). Purdip Singh (Baverstock) outclassed everybody in the Improvers including runner-up Jonathan Gigg (Cardiff) and Tom Green gave Evesham the Consolation with a win over Jon Taylor from Leamington. Anthony Lown (Evesham) achieved his ambition of winning the Beginners in a gritty final against Kevin Hatton (Stourport) and Ricky Dore added to Evesham's tally with the Consolation trophy and Madeline Smith from Birmingham was the r/up.

Further Tournaments will be held in Leamington Spa on October 24, November 21, February 13 and April 17 under the able organisation of Hugh Matthews.

PLEASE NOTE MY NEW ADDRESS  
**JOHN F.A. WOOD,**  
**TABLE TENNIS NEWS,**  
**CENTENARY COTTAGE,**  
**CHURCH ROAD,**  
**CHARLESTOWN,**  
**ST.AUSTELL, CORNWALL.**  
**PL25 3NS**  
**Tel/Fax: 01726 70607**  
**Mobile: 07887 945071**  
**email:**

# A ROYAL SHOW AT THE KINGSWAY CENTRE

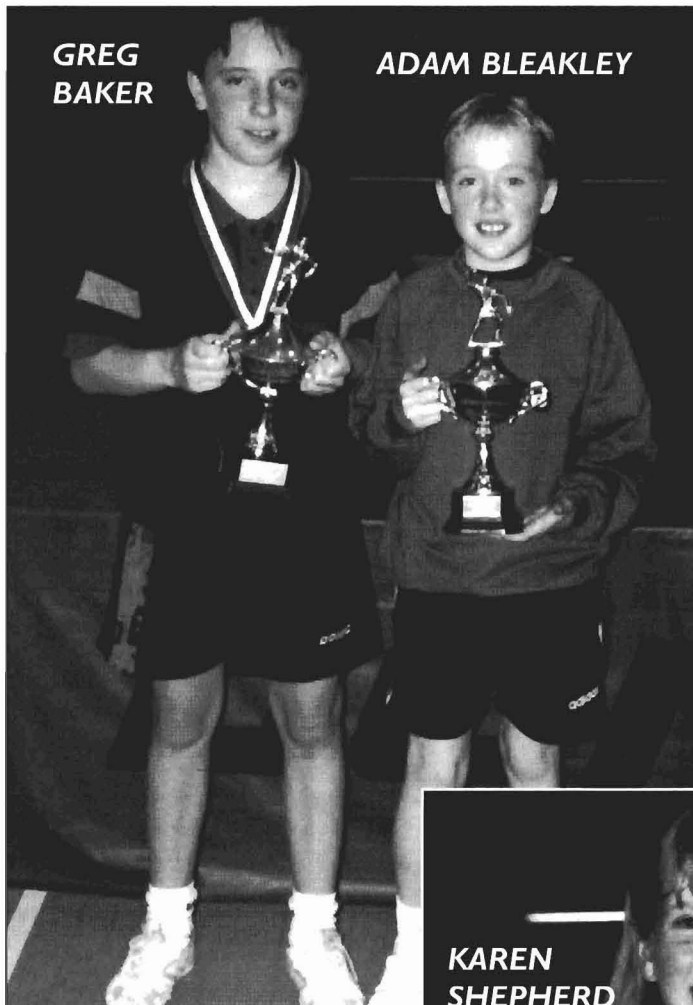
**THE ENGLISH NATIONAL Under 10/11/12 Championships, held at the Kingsway Leisure Centre, last summer, was a royal show of England's best young players battling for the honour of being National Champion.**

Probably the most exciting match was the final of the Under 10 Boys, between Adam Bleakley and Tim Yarnell, with three of it's games being decided at deuce.

The final was a classic attack and defence affair. The long pimples of Tim took the first game and a lead of 10-4 in the 2nd. But Adam kept on the attack and fought back to narrowly win 23-21, and charged to 20-15 up in the third. But Yarnell wasn't finished and won five serves to reach deuce, however Bleakley held his nerve to take the title 22-20.

Unseeded Bleakley became the first Lancashire lad to win this title.

Adam had a good run in the Boys' Under 11 competition, where once again Tim Yarnell was the favourite. However, in a repeat of the Under 10 Final, Bleakley defeated Tim at 19 in the 3rd, at the last sixteen stage. Adam powered his way through to the semi-finals where he lost to Yorkshire's Simon Nouch the



**GREG BAKER**

**ADAM BLEAKLEY**

No.2 seed.

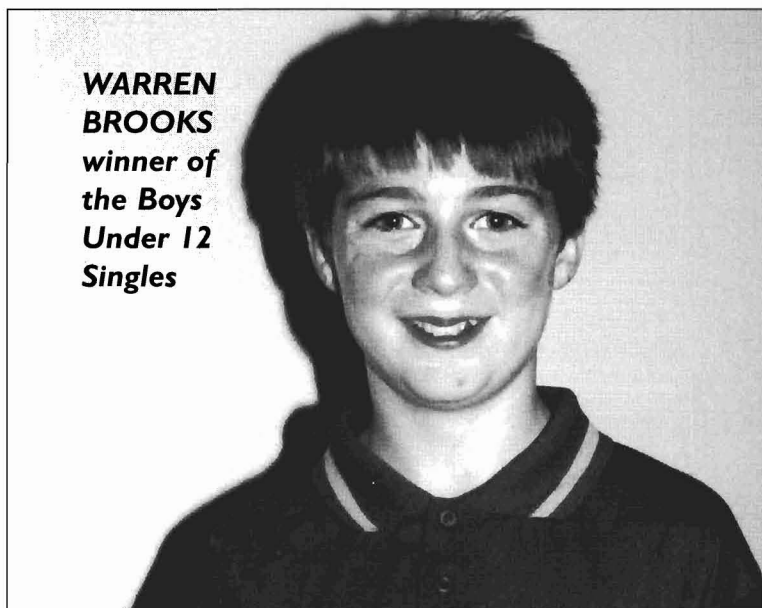
In the other half of the draw, Greg Baker from Staffordshire, the 3rd seed defeated Luke Bridge in the semi-finals. In the Final the game went to three, where Greg's greater consistency overcame Nouch to win 21-14, 15-21, 21-7.

Abigail Embling from Essex won the Girls Under 10 title beating Berkshire's Lisa Bosley 21-6, 21-7. Then she went on to reach the final of the Girls Under 11, where she narrowly lost to Cheshire's Karen Shepherd, 18-21, 25-27.

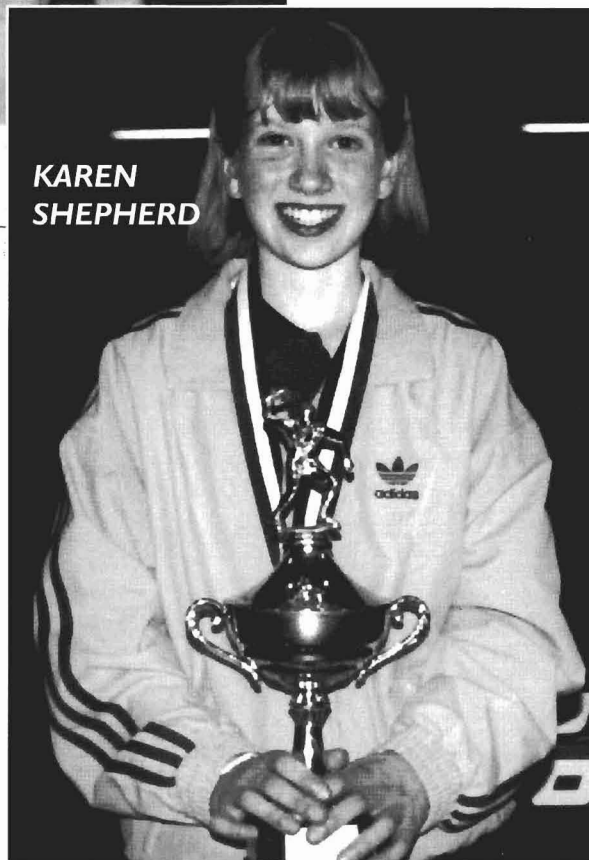
The Boys Under 12 final was another exciting battle which went to three before being decided.

Buckinghamshire's Warren Brooks became this season's champion when he beat Peter Cleminson from Essex 15-21, 21-15, 21-18.

The Girls Under 12 title went to Somerset's Kate Steward, who beat Berkshire's Gemma Chapman 21-17, 14-21, 21-17.



**WARREN BROOKS**  
*winner of the Boys Under 12 Singles*



**KAREN SHEPHERD**

# PLEAS FELL ON DEAF EARS

**WELCOME to a new county championships season, it seems only a few weeks ago that I was completing the final notes for last season, writes Stan Clarke.**

It seems my pleas for a fuller attendance at the County Championships conference fell on deaf ears, once again it was left to the usual group to determine how the championships will be run for the next season. Once again counties did not bother to send representatives to collect trophies won by their players, something I find difficult to understand. I first hope that nobody approaches me with complaints this season, otherwise I may just point out that if counties have complaints the correct place to air them is at the annual conference.

This season has seen a change of personnel on the committee, long serving member Geoff Taylor has resigned after many years service, latterly as Premier Weekend Organiser, his place being taken by Ken Elliot of Lincolnshire, and Alan Duke has taken over as referee, welcome to them both and I hope they enjoy their time on the committee. It's sad to say goodbye to Geoff Taylor who has been a valued member of the Committee for many years, but after such long service we wish him well and hope he enjoys his extra spare time to the full.

The start of the season seems to be earlier each year with the first



Essex's Natalie Bawden

matches being played on 19th September although a number of the divisions have chosen to play over weekends rather than the dates selected by the calendar working party, consequently these notes may seem a little unbalanced from time to time.

#### Senior Division 1B

Essex 1 received no favours from Essex 2, the match finishing 5-5, Natalie Bawden and Marker Wicker helping them back from a 5-3 deficit to achieve a very creditable draw.

#### Senior Division 2B

Devonshire 2 are the early leaders of the division with an 8-2 victory over Glamorgan. Herefordshire beat Somerset 7-3, doubles by Michael Owen and Sharon Powell paving the way. The remaining three matches finished with 6-4 victories by Glamorgan over Devonshire 3, Cornwall over Worcestershire and Worcestershire 2 over Cornwall 2.

#### Senior Division 2D

Hampshire 1st started the season with an emphatic 10-0 defeat of Wiltshire 2, Gloucester 2 lost 6-4 to Berkshire 2 despite a double sets win by Natasha Williams.

#### Junior Division 1B

Devon I made an impressive start beating Sussex 1st 10-0 though five of the sets went to 3 games. Another match with 5 three game Sets saw Glamorgan 2 defeat Middlesex 2 by 8-2, Berkshire beat Avon by 6 sets to 4, whilst Worcestershire and Glamorgan drew 5-5.

#### Junior Division 2B

Surrey 2 had a mixed day on 19 September playing three matches they beat Surrey 3 8-2, lost to Dorest 4-6 then beat Gloucestershire 8-2. Dorset maintained their high standard by inflicting defeats of 8-2 and 9-1 over Gloucestershire and Surrey 3 respectively. Buckinghamshire 1

beat Kent 3 8-2 and Surrey 3 salvaged some pride by defeating Gloucestershire 6-4.

#### Junior Division 3D

Another tight division, Essex 3 beating Oxfordshire 7-3 are leading the division with three teams level on points each recording 64 wins. Berkshire 2, over Dorset, no less than eight sets being decided in the third game, Sussex 3 beat Sussex 2, a great win for the apparent underdogs and finally Wiltshire beat Hampshire 2.

#### Veterans Division 2A

Northampton started in fine style with a 9-0 whitewash of Lincolnshire, Northumberland with Ian (Benny) Robertson in good form beat Yorkshire 3, Lancashire 2 recorded the same score against Worcestershire 2, a fine county debut by Liverpool's Ken Jackson including a victory over expat scouser Eric Hardman, the final match in this division being a 7-2 victory for Durham over Warwickshire 3.

#### Veterans Division 2B

Two very close matches in this division, Norfolk 2 beating Kent 5th and Buckinghamshire 2 beating Middlesex 3 by the odd set 5-4, Suffolk beat Norfolk 3 by 7 sets to 2 but leaders in the club house are Essex 4 with an 8-1 defeat of Cambridgeshire.



# ETTA National Ranking

## TOP OF THE TABLE

Period 60 Date of run: 5th October 1998

1998/99 SEASON



Doreen Nightingale  
Ranking Co-ordinator

ANY QUERIES OR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE RING DOREEN NIGHTINGALE - 01424 72525

Senior Men				Senior Women				Veteran Men				Junior Boys				Cadet Boys				Cadet Girls				Under 12 Boys				Under 12 Girls																			
Pos	Name	Rtg	Fig	Pos	Name	Rtg	Fig	Pos	Name	Rtg	Fig	Pos	Name	Rtg	Fig	Pos	Name	Rtg	Fig	Pos	Name	Rtg	Fig	Pos	Name	Rtg	Fig	Pos	Name	Rtg	Fig	Pos	Name	Rtg	Fig												
(1)	1	SYED, Matthew (SY.)	4575	(1)	1	HOLT, Andrea (LA.)	3787	(1)	1	DUNNING, Janet (ST.)	2880	(1)	1	DUNNING, Janet (ST.)	2880	(1)	1	LOCKWOOD, Kar (CH.)	2883	(1)	1	LOCKWOOD, Kar (CH.)	2883	(1)	1	LOCKWOOD, Kar (CH.)	2883	(1)	1	LOCKWOOD, Kar (CH.)	2883	(1)	1	LOCKWOOD, Kar (CH.)	2883	(1)	1	LOCKWOOD, Kar (CH.)	2883	(1)	1	LOCKWOOD, Kar (CH.)	2883	(1)	1	LOCKWOOD, Kar (CH.)	2883

### BTTAD RANKING LIST

MEN'S STANDING CLASSES 6-11				WOMEN'S STANDING CLASSES 6-11			
Pos	Name	Rtg	Class	Pos	Name	Rtg	Class
1	CROOK, B (Preston)	3424	9	1	SMITH, J (Grimsby)	2093	10
2	TAYLOR, P (Caistor)	2763	9	2	MARSHALL, E (G'ster)	1778	9
3	ANTHONY, F (S'field)	2591	9	3	DAVIES, M (Bromley)	934	10
4	CHARLEMAGNE, E(Lon)	2347	9	4	SMITH, J (C'head)	716	11
5	HOPE, D (C'head)	1971	7	5	WOODHEAD, B (Devon)	696	8
6	GABRIEL, P (Wrexham)	1637	8	6	WHITE, A (S.Ock'don)	601	8
7	HEAPS, T(M'head)	1338	10	7	ADDIS, B	540	11
8	PITMAN, M (Hford)	936	8	8	CREE, E (E.Region)	521	8
9	BUCKLE, M (W'ham)	791	9	9	LEY, K (F'borough)	380	11
10	MASSEY, P (C.C'ham)	641	8	10	PEARSON, M	356	11
11	EVANS, D(W'head)	614	11	11	SPICER, K (B'stoke)	320	11
12	PLUMBRIDGE, B (W'mbe)	490	8	12	PRATT, F (N.Region)	232	8
13	ABBOT, P (O'pton)	484	11	13	THIRTH, J (Hull)	203	8
14	TRAN, M (H'Field)	447	8	14	ROBERTS, J (W'bor'gh)	176	10
15	BARRETT, A (Hull)	429	10	15	PARKER, J (Hull)	148	9
16	MOTHERSELD, D (Dev'n)	379	8	16	WRIGHT, R (C'ford)	140	11
17	GREEN, S (M.Keynes)	340	11	17	LATHAM, P	129	11
18	AHMED, N (M'chester)	338	9	18	ROBUCK, L (W'field)	126	11
19	LLOYD, G (SWRegion)	322	7	19	LITTLE, M (Hull)	82	8
20	ALVEY, S (S'field)	295	8	20	LONG, T (Hull)	66	6

# AN INNOVATION IN BLADE TECHNOLOGY

## THE STIGA NEW WRB SYSTEM - AN INNOVATION IN BLADE TECHNOLOGY

The ambition of Stiga's research and development laboratory and Stellan Bengtsson has been to move the blade's centre of gravity closer to the contact point the blade makes with the ball in play. This would produce a quicker rate of recovery between strokes, extra power and improved sensitivity of touch.

Stellan Bengtsson, 3 Times World Champion and today one of the World's leading coaches said, "The problem with the current table tennis blade is that the centre of gravity is too distant from the contact point the blade makes with the ball. Power and feel is lost. With the Stiga new WRB System (pat. pending) the weight of balance is scientifically moved to the contact point where the blade strikes the ball."

Stellan is thrilled by the result. "I now have power, quicker speed of stroke and extra touch and sensitivity. The years of intensive research have been fully rewarded by this technological advance in blade design."

## 750ML 'SPORTS PACK' BY BALLYGOWAN

Ballygowan Limited, the Irish Natural Mineral Water Company, is poised to achieve a UK market first with the launch of its new 750 ml Sports Pack containing Still natural mineral water developed specifically for people of all ages who take regular exercise of any kind.

Latest statistics show that Ballygowan is now firmly established as the Number 1 on-trade brand by volume

and the Co Limerick-based Company firmly believes that the unique new Sports Pack, can help propel it to a similar position of pre-eminence in the all-important off-trade sector.

The Company's latest new product offering - which will be hitting supermarkets, convenience stores and garage forecourts throughout the UK over the next couple of weeks features an ultra sophisticated tamper proof cap with built in safety seals and the classic 'pull up, push down' flow mechanism originally pioneered by bicycle manufacturers, aligned to a unique 750ml sized PET pack. This, according to Ballygowan, is physically

small enough to maintain real portability, yet large enough in volume terms to quench thirst after the most vigorous workout.

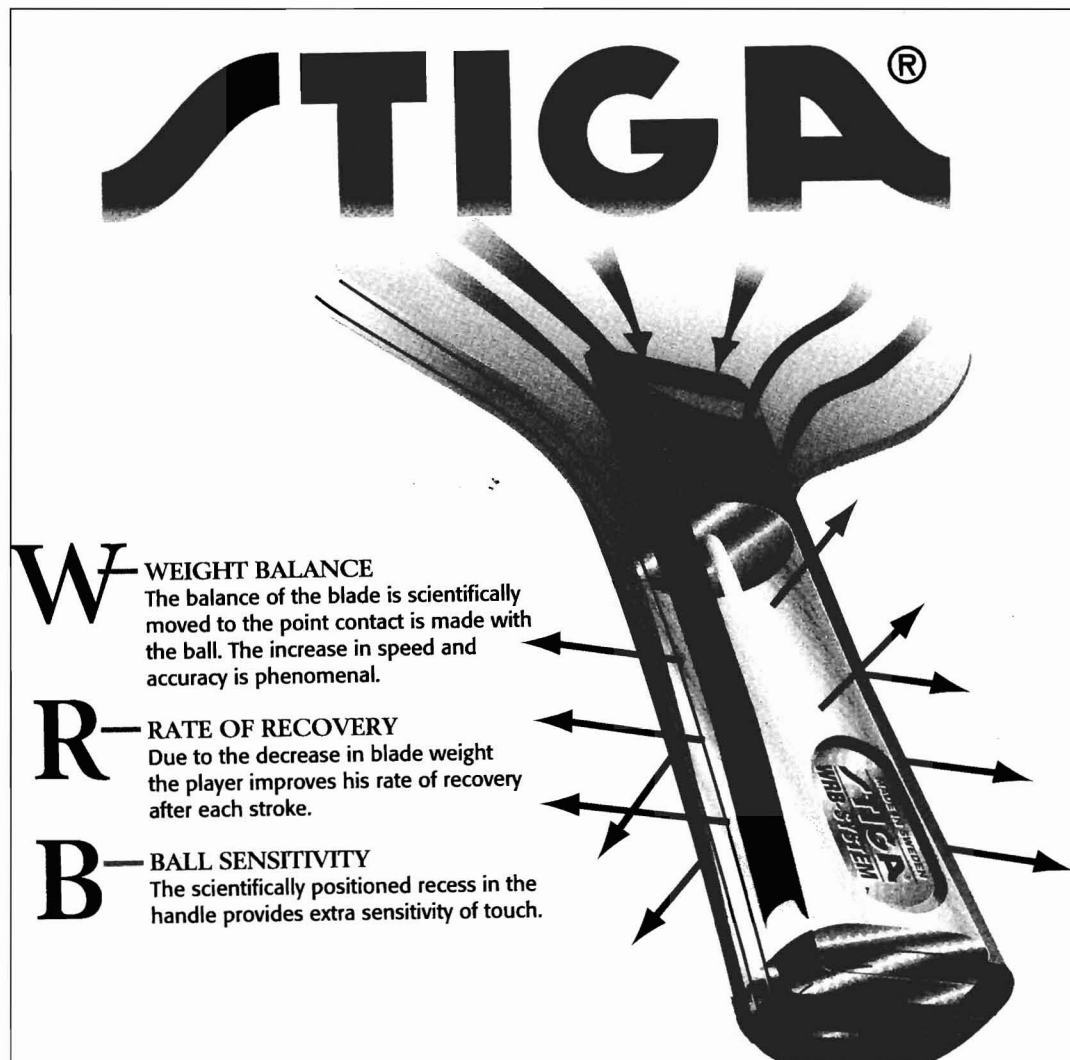
The overall quality of the Sports Pack is further enhanced with the use of Ballygowan's completely restyled pack labelling which features greater emphasis on bolder, richer colours and simplified design and typography.

Speaking on the development rationale for the Sports Pack, Ballygowan's Marketing Manager, Karen Coyle, commented : " For some time we have been aware of the need for a high quality product

that satisfies a diverse range of activity needs - a product that's as relevant to people out on a weekend hike as it is to football and rugby players, or to regular gym users."

The Ballygowan Sports Pack's cap design epitomises an attention to detail that reaches new levels of sophistication. For example, the cap houses visible dual action tamper-proof seals which guarantee high levels of hygiene and fast flow rates for fuss-free, rapid rehydration.

Additionally, the integral dust cap stays secure even when the bottle is inverted.



**W**— **WEIGHT BALANCE**  
The balance of the blade is scientifically moved to the point contact is made with the ball. The increase in speed and accuracy is phenomenal.

**R**— **RATE OF RECOVERY**  
Due to the decrease in blade weight the player improves his rate of recovery after each stroke.

**B**— **BALL SENSITIVITY**  
The scientifically positioned recess in the handle provides extra sensitivity of touch.





# NORTHERN NOTES

by Ken Muhr

There has been a lot of coaching activity in the Northern Region. New ETTA Director of Performance, Michel Gadal, the former French and Canadian National Coach, successfully led the region's 'High Performance' Summer Residential Coaching Course for coaches and the most talented juniors at the University of Durham on 21-23 August. He was assisted by England's best known player Desmond Douglas, fellow England International Bradley Billington, ETTA Sport Psychologist Mark Bawden, Regional Staff Coaches Carole Moore and Mike Yardley and other coaches. It is pleasing that at last some Northumberland juniors participated! The weekend followed immediately after the Tees Sport Summer School (with Alan Ransome, Carole Moore, Des Douglas and Brad Billington) at the same venue - Graham Sports Hall, Maiden Castle.

Meanwhile, Barrow's Jade Kendall and Michael Gomersall, who both recently represented England at the European Youth Championships, have both been offered places at the Institute of Sport (initially at Nottingham).

Former ETTA and Scottish Director of Coaching David Fairholm led a very well received 'Grass Roots Coaching' Coaches Get-Together at Tudhoe Grange Comprehensive School Spennymoor on Sunday 19 July. Barrie Coleman, Head of Lower School at Tudhoe Grange is to set up a new Durham Schools Association and already 8 schools have entered a league, with under 13 and 16 boys and girls divisions, that he is to run in the autumn. Earlier at Tudhoe Grange School, 16 County Durham secondary school teachers had attended an ETTA CSLA course.

Keith Wilson of the Darlington Club

organised a summer course for juniors with Des Douglas and Brad Billington who both play for him in the British League, and Carole Moore ran a juniors course for the Ormesby Club, Middlesbrough with Denis Neale and Jai Yi Liu.

Three strong table tennis schools, Northfield, Billingham; Cartmel, Grange over Sands; and Parkview, Barrow, have all been awarded the kitemark 'Sports Mark Gold', and Northfield are to apply for 'Sporting College' status largely as a result of their heavy table tennis activity.

The Ormesby Club have run the Northern Region's latest Woolwich Junior League with 6 teams. Northfield School, Billingham (North East) and Cartmel School, Cumbria (North West) are both to be venues for the Woolwich National Junior League, which aims to be a link between local WJL's and the Woolwich Junior British League. And good news for Cleveland - Teesside Sport partnership/consortia have chosen table tennis as one of 5 sports to receive concentrated support.

Kendal League have a new Fourth Division, to be held at a single multi-table centre.

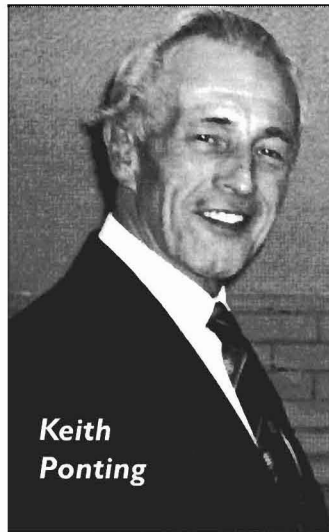
# SOUTH WEST NEWS

by Alf Pepperd

The above committee held its second meeting of 1998 at Weston-Super-Mare Cricket Club Headquarters on Sunday 9th of August, with John M. Burtenshaw in the chair.

Taking into consideration the month of the year, plus using a well known seaside resort as the venue, several members suggested that in the future meetings would be better held avoiding the holiday periods.

Tim Temple (RDO), was a victim of holiday traffic but arrived in due course, Tim produced a written documentary of his recent work in and around our seven county



**Southwest Region's Keith Ponting, from Exeter, was re-elected as the ETTA Vice-Chairman, Competitions**

region.

Keith Ponting (Vice Chair, Competitions ETTA), informed the meeting that Junior Umpires awards has been handed to the Development Dept., and that item 4 WAS NOW LAW - players must have licences by the 6th of September for the 1st of January 1999, Keith further mentioned that this will NOT affect Schools and applies only above County level - all tournaments above 1 Star and national trials, Day licences will be available.

There are to be 10 Regional conventions run by the English Sports Council - The SW Region one will be on the 11th November in Torquay and on 13th of November at Weston-Super-Mare Winter Gardens.

The ETTA will be running regional conferences - the S.W. Region will be on the 10th of January 1999, hopefully at Weston-Super-Mare when the chairman of the ETTA, and Diccon Grey (Director of Development) plus a group of approximately five speakers should be present, local leagues and any individuals who are interested are welcome.

## COMPETITIONS & UMPIRES

Les Smith reported that the Woolwich is to be held at Cirencester and St Austell and that after three years at Cirencester the SW Region Trials for Juniors/Cadets will this year be held at St Austell.

Pat Archdale (ESTTA), commented that more referee's would be needed, while Val Clack asked about the entry fee and it was agreed to keep the cadet team entry at £10.00, depending on the charge of Cornwall's St Austell venue.

## COACHING

Val Clack told the meeting that copies of the minutes from the Regional Coaching Panel Meeting on 1st July 1998, balance sheets, reports to N.C.C., List of Junior Training/Trials dates, at Deer Park School, Cirencester T.T. Centre - tournament dates and list of persons that had attended the four successful coaches courses that had been held in the region recently, had been circulated to representatives on that committee, this also represented a report from the R.C.C.

## INDIVIDUAL COUNTY REPORTS

The above were forthcoming from Devonshire and Gloucestershire, while Somerset's Chairman - Phil Jones verbally reported very little change in Somerset, Phil praised Katie Steward upon her attained higher junior ranking.

There were no reports from Avon, Cornwall or Dorset, Cornwall's Peter Hancock tendered apologies for absence at the meeting.

## CONGRATULATIONS

The Chairman thanked Phil Jones for the invitation to Somerset's A.G.M, which he had attended.

Keith Ponting (Devon), was also congratulated upon his reappointment as Vice-Chairman for Competitions at the ETTA.

Date of the next SWR Meeting was fixed for Sunday 7th of February at Weston-Super-Mare.

# ANTHONY TAKES WREXHAM

**Farrell Anthony won the British Open in Wrexham, beating highly rated Belgian Verg Nico in the semi-final, before defeating Tim Heaps in the final. It was an appropriate return to form for the Sheffield based Anthony, who was pressing for a place in the Great Britain squad taking part in the World Championships in Paris this year, writes Judy Rogers.**

Anthony also beat Nico in the class 8 competition, while Heaps finished third in the class 9 event behind Theo Klomp of Belgium and Preston's Barry Crook second.

The Wheelchair Open was won by Scott Robertson with the Women's Open won by B.Woodhead from Devon and the Wheelchair Open won by Denise Barnett.

The tournament was organised by Peter Gabriel with Ken Armson as the referee. Peter was there on the day, despite a terrible family loss during the previous week and it was with gratitude from all the players and the BTTAD as a whole that Peter remained involved with a tournament at such an obviously difficult time. The committee and every member of the BTTAD thank you Peter for a job well done and of course our thoughts go with you as you cope with such a sad loss.

It must be said that while the standing tournament was well represented, the numbers in the wheelchair event were quite low. One reason I have heard for this is that because players are now facing such a punishing schedule to obtain world ranking points, that our own prestigious tournamnets are suffering

because players cannot afford the time, nor money to attend every tournament.

I am sure that you, the players, have your own thoughts on this and I will put into print any correspondence I receive on this matter.

## TEAM FOR WORLDS IN PARIS

The team for the World Championships to be held in November has been announced.

Qualification for the team has to be gained by amassing world ranking

points from the various tournaments that players enter. This means that the initial selection of the team is out of Dave Hewitt and the rest of the committees' hands. This can be observed by the omission of Farrell Anthony and Scott Robinson, both talented players who would gain a place in the team if it were up to the selectors, but both have been unlucky in just failing to make the cut.

The committee, however, have used the right to reject an invitation to a player by dropping Neil Robinson from the team. The Worlds Number 39 was invited to the tournament on his past form, but the committee have taken a somewhat hard line approach by dropping Neil for his lack of attendance at squad training. Dave Hewitt commented, 'It is important for players to attend the training camps so that the coaches can gauge the progress of the players and

sharpen their technique leading up to the tournament. Unfortunately, we have been unable to pick Neil, because we cannot assess his form at the moment. We have spoken to Neil and he understands the situation and we hope that he will continue to be a vital member of the GB squad in the future.'

The team announced is:- Lynne Reading, Cathy Mitton, Dave Russell, Jim Munkley, Keith Whiley, Jamie Rawson, Mark Palmer, Arnie Chan, Martin Evans, Dave Hope, Barry Crook, Dave Evans, Peter Abbott.

The surprise addition to the squad, which delighted the committee was Barry Crook. This will be Barry's first World Championship, which for a veteran is an excellent feat.

I am sure that everyone will extend our best wishes to each member of the team and wish them luck in Paris.

DIARY DATES		
DATE	EVENT	VENUE
24-31 October 1998	World Championships for People with Disabilities	Paris
7 November 1998	BTTAD AGM	Stoke Manderville
7-8 November 1998	Training Weekend	Stoke Manderville
29 November 1998	East Midlands Open 2 Star Table tennis Tournament including 2 events for disabled people	Grantham
23 January 1999	BTTAD N.W. Open	Southport
20-21 March 1999	BTTAD Closed	TBA

# EVENTS CALENDAR

## OCTOBER 1998

3rd-4th	U12 Training Centres	
3rd-4th	Junior Training Days	
3rd-4th	VETTS Midland Masters	Kettering
4th	British League	
10th-11th	Stamco Sussex GP 3 Star	Hastings
10th-11th	Woolwich Junior British League	Kettering
11th	North West 2 Star	
17th	National Council	
17th	County Championships	
17th-18th	U12 Training Centre	
18th	Junior Preliminary Trials	
18th	British League	
24th	Humberide Cleefields Junior 2 Star	
24th	Woolwich National League	
24th-25th	Veterans Premier	Northwich
24th-25th	Junior Premier	
25th	Gloucester Graded Junior 2 Star	
25th	Cippenham 2 star	
25th	Whitchurch 2 star	
26th-30th	U12 Training Centre	
31st	Chesham School Junior Graded 2 Star	
31st-1st	Eastern Open (Grand Prix)	Kings Lynn
31st-1st	Stockton-On-Tees Junior 4 Star	

## NOVEMBER 1998

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

## DECEMBER

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

*Please note that the Hastings 1 Star previously shown on the 8th November has been cancelled*