

TABLE TENNIS

NEWS

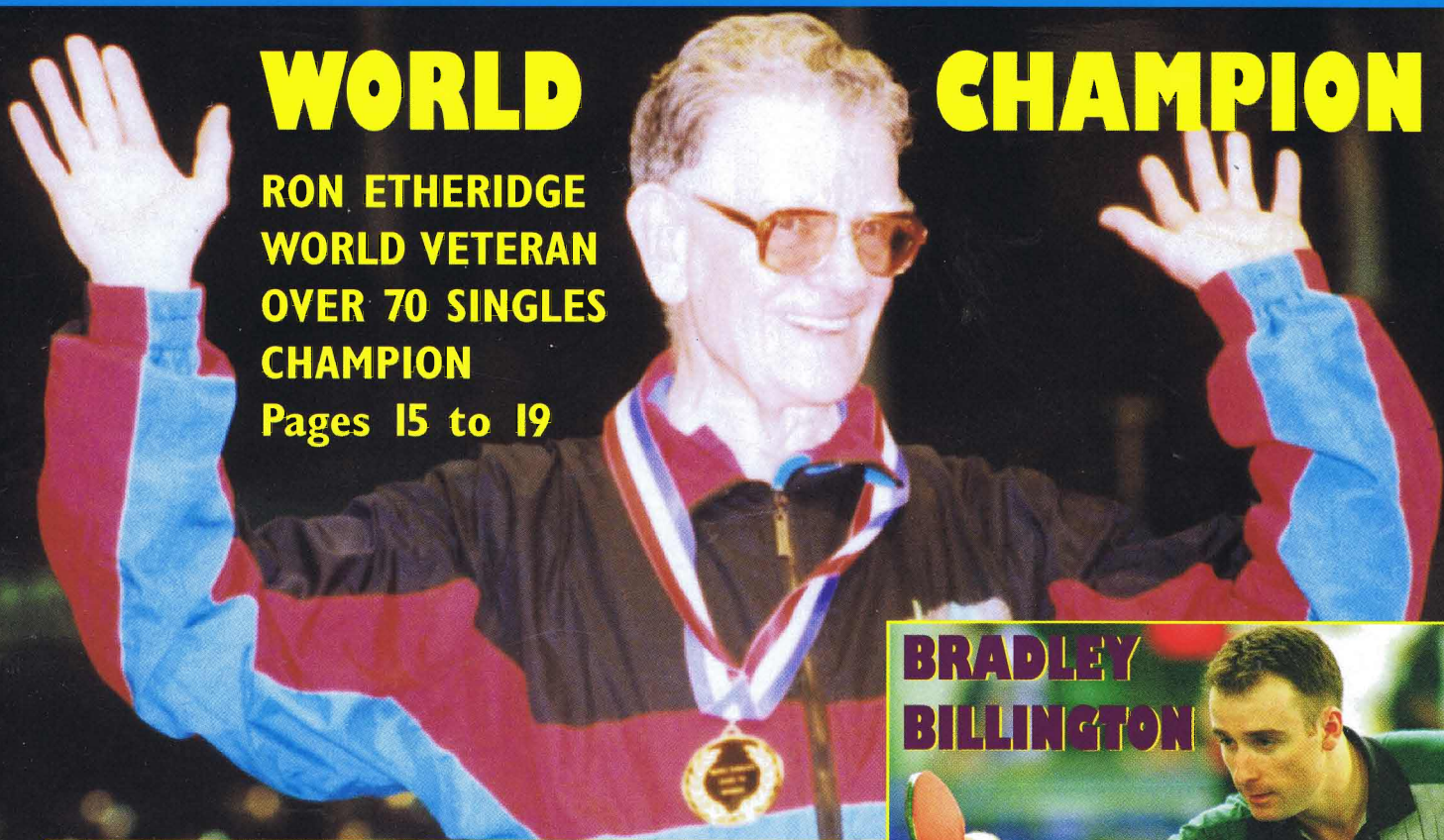


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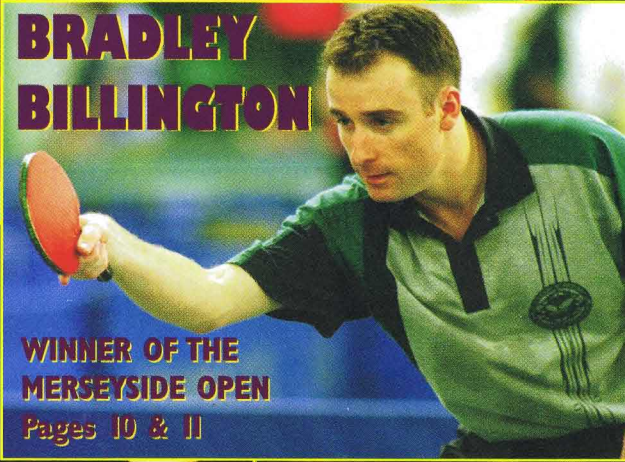
WORLD CHAMPION

RON ETHERIDGE
WORLD VETERAN
OVER 70 SINGLES
CHAMPION
Pages 15 to 19



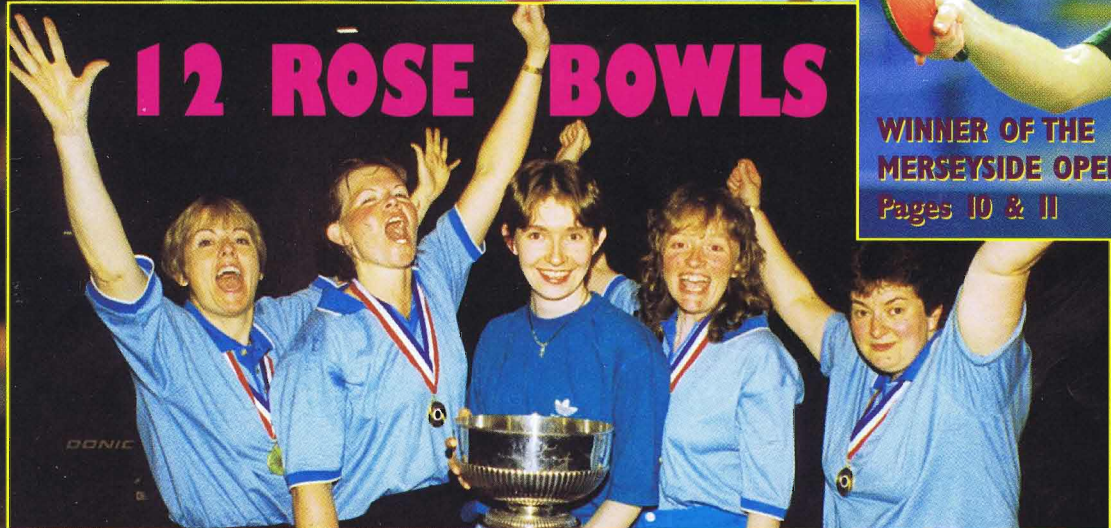
BRADLEY BILLINGTON

WINNER OF THE
MERSEYSIDE OPEN
Pages 10 & 11



12 ROSE BOWLS

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THE 12TH TIME AT
THE NATIONAL
TEAM FINALS
Page 14



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Table Tennis News

Issue No.255
October 1998

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THE FRENCH CONNECTION

THIS SUMMER saw the French arrive once again on the shores of Hastings, this time it wasn't William the Conqueror, but pretty Audrey Verschaere from Noisy-Le-Grand, near Paris.

She worked at the ETTA Hastings office for 7 weeks, returning to France on the 8th August.

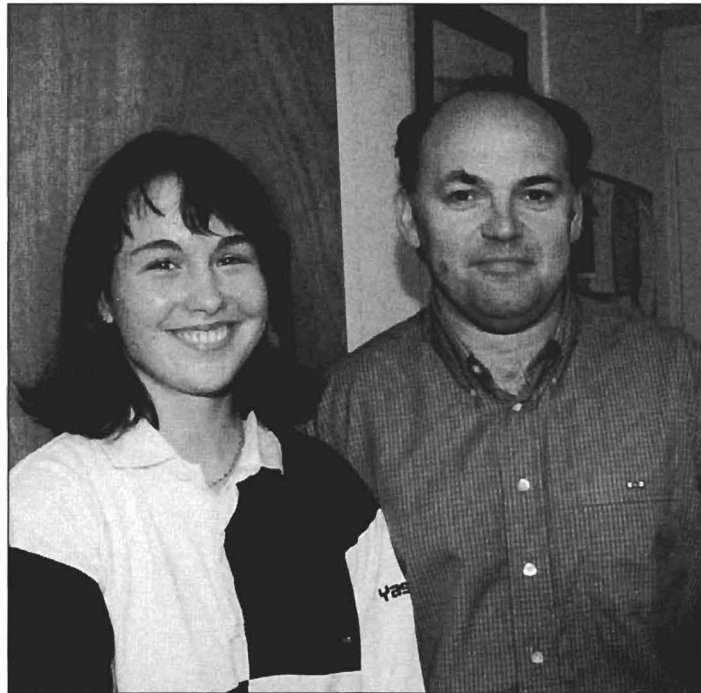
Audrey said, "It was really nice working at Hastings, I think I have improved my English, and I enjoyed staying at former ETTA employee's Roy Stevens' guest house."

When asked what she thought of our new Performance Director, Michel Gadal, she replied, "Michel is highly respected everywhere in the world."

Audrey, who is 21 years old and ranked 12 in France, plays for the Bordeaux Club.

She trains with the French National squad at INSEP in Paris, and when she returns in September it will be for the 6th year.

Audrey's table tennis ambitions will



Audrey Verschaere (left) is pictured at Hastings with new ETTA Performance Director Michel Gadal

be put on hold whilst she studies at a Business Management Course.

SPORTS AID NEW DIRECTOR

Chris Goldie, 37, has been appointed Director of the Sports Aid Foundation. The former Cambridge University and Hampshire cricketer has been promoted from the position of Marketing manager and succeeds Noel Nagle, who retired after almost 15 years with the charity.

In January 1998, Sports Aid Foundation was re-launched as "Sports Aid - Charity for Sport". It's role is to raise money from the commercial sector and general public to support the development of youngsters, who have genuine sporting potential, but who are not yet ineligible for funding from the National Lottery Sports Fund.

APOLOGY

The following two errors appear in the new ETTA Diary:

1. Newport Cadet Open takes place on the 1st November and not the 1st December, as shown in diary.
2. The Under 10 Champion is Adam Bleakley of Lancashire, not Adam Bleakley of Yorkshire.

WOODY'S World

Wonderful World Veterans Championships held in Manchester last June was the best ever, claimed players, spectators and officials alike.

And wasn't it wonderful to witness English men and women collect so many medals. See report on pages 15 to 19.

It was whilst at these championships that the chance arose to discover more about the forthcoming long pimple ban.

In this issue the full scale of the directive concerning long pimples is revealed. Brian Halliday, the ETTA's Vice Chairman, Public Relations, met Ebby Scholer the President of the ETTU, to ask questions on your behalf, and the results of this interview appear in the 'Face to Face' feature on pages 20 and 21.

The former Chairman of the ETTA, John Prean, was invited to comment and has taken up the challenge on behalf of defenders everywhere.

The views expressed in these features on long pimples are not necessarily the official line taken by the ETTA.

We invite our readers to contribute to this debate, by sending letters to 'Postbag'.

My first tournament of the new season was at the Merseyside Open Grand Prix in Liverpool, the same weekend as a Beatles Music Festival. Where it was good to see Bradley Billington back on song and back on the players circuit, winning the Mens Singles. See pages 10 and 11.

What a wonderful achievement by Wolverhampton Ladies winning the Rose Bowl for the 12th consecutive time, at the National Team Finals in Bury St. Edmunds. See page 14.

Good luck for the forthcoming season.

John F. A Wood

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

The Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association

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“BEST EVER” TAG FOR MANCHESTER



Alan Ransome OBE,
Chairman of the English
Table Tennis Association

THE MAIN EVENT of the summer was the World Veterans Championships held in Manchester from 17th to 27th June, which proved to be a magnificent tournament enjoyed by approximately 1500 players and 500 officials, umpires and helpers. The championship was attended by players from more than 50 countries from all parts of the World. The event was played on 80 Joola tables - the first time that a Veterans event of this size has been played with so many tables, all in the same hall.

The Swaythling Club, the organisation entrusted by the ITTF with the authority to manage the event, were very pleased with all the arrangements that were made in Manchester and described the 1998 Championships as 'the best ever'.

The Championship was heavily supported by Manchester City Council who completed an excellent package of sponsorship for table tennis which started with the European

Qualification tournament in 1996, followed by the World Championships in 1997, with the World Veterans Championships being the final event. Table tennis continues to receive a boost in Manchester through the three-year Development Programme which was initiated last year after the World Championships and with the introduction table tennis into the Commonwealth Games in Manchester 2002.

The event provided the focus for several other important activities including a Reception given by the English Sports Cotincil and the launch of the ETTA Voluntary Development Officer programme as well as the 2nd Manchester Schools championship and a Manchester schools coaching session. Many important figures in British sport visited the table tennis over the period of the Veterans Championships and all were impressed. The event proved beyond any doubt the value of table tennis as an active sport for the older generation as well as the young.

A special 'thank you' to everyone who helped to make the event such a success

ROLL OF HONOUR

Their were several England successes at Manchester, as follows:

Gold Medals:	Ron Etheridge, Men's singles over 70 Alf Davies and Arthur Hartshorn, Men's Doubles Over 70 Margaret Jones with R. Wetterstrom Sweden, Women's Doubles over 70
Silver Medals:	Bert Levinge, Men's Singles Over 70 Molly Hawkins Women's, Singles Over 80
Bronze Medals:	Brenda Buoeoy and Jan Dunning, Women's Doubles Over 40 John Hilton, Men's Singles Over 50 Tom Adams, Men's Singles over 60
Team Events	Gold: Vymuraa PLC, Over 60 Men Bramhall Park L.T. Club, over 70 Women Silver: Ellenborough B, Over 60 Men Harrogate Wanderers S.C., Over 70 Men Bronze: Bournemouth Sports, Over 40 Men Colebridge, Over 40 Women Pavilion Brighton over 50 Women Ellenborough A & B, Over 60 Women

Congratulations to all the players !

TABLE TENNIS ON TELEVISION

Event	Transmission Date	Time	Channel
Chinese Open	19 September 1998	18.30	Sky Sports 3
Chinese Open	20 September 1998	05.00	Sky Sports 2
Chinese Open	22 September 1998	10.30	Sky Sports 1
Chinese Open	22 September 1998	16.00	Sky Sports 3
Lebanon Open	9 November 1998	13.00	Sky Sports 2
Lebanon Open	9 November 1998	22.00	Sky Sports 2
Lebanon Open	10 November 1998	13.30	Sky Sports 2
Italian Open	16 November 1998	18.00	Sky Sports 2
Italian Open	16 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

for England.

EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS, NORCIA, ITALY Improvement for England

Although the World Class Performance Plan has only been in operation for a few months, its effect on the England junior and cadet teams at the European Youth Championships was marked. The junior boys improved their position from 23 to 18, the cadet boys from 17 to 16 the cadet girls from 26 to 16. The only team that fell

back was the junior girls who did very well to finish 12th last year but could only manage 26th this year. The junior teams has the opportunity of more international competition and training before the event and were given the strongest ever support team at the Championships in Italy. It was good to note some improvement. However, it was clear to all involved that the standard of our youngsters is significantly behind that of the top in Europe and a great deal of

work both from the players and the coaches will need to take place before we can hope to become one of the leading medal winners.

The World Class Performance Plan itself is now moving into top gear. As from this month the new National Training Centre will be established on a full time basis at the Holmeipierrepoint National Sports Centre in Nottingham. Several of our leading seniors, juniors and cadets will be either living at the Centre or in the near vicinity which means regular practice for our national squads as a unit will be possible for the first time. Michel Gadal, the Performance Director is now working full time for the Association and this will also make a big difference to the progress of the teams.

PLAYER LICENCE SCHEME

At the Annual General Meeting in July the membership supported the important propositions relating to the Player Licence Scheme and the Top Club Programme. The new licences will be operational from the first fixtures in the British League and in the case of open tournaments from 1st January 1999. All English players participating in these events will require either a player licence or a day licence. The cost of the players licence is £10.00 senior, £7.50 junior and £5.00 cadets. The cost of the day licence is 25% of the annual licence fee. The scheme is open to all members of the ETTA and is not restricted only to players - administrators and coaches are welcome to join. In addition to the membership, each player will receive an ETTA Diary and membership card. Available as well as the basic player licence, there is a Gold licence which offers additional benefits over and above those benefits included in the basic licence, including a subscription to Table Tennis News and to Table Tennis Illustrated. Further details and application forms are available from the General Secretary in Hastings.

There is no doubt that this scheme will improve the communication with tournament and British League players as well as providing additional members and

finance for the Association.

LONG PIMPLES

Another major talking point at both the Annual General Meeting in July and the first National Council Meeting in August was the new ITTF regulations with regard to long pimples that were passed at the ITTF Council Meeting in Durban in May and are due to be implemented on 1st July next year. This regulation effectively reduced the length of the pimples from 1.8 to 1.5 mm and therefore takes away a great deal of the effect. This would have the effect of making the game more easier to understand for players playing against long pimples, particularly youngsters. It would also have the effect of reducing further the chance of defenders at all levels and many feel that it is attack versus defence that produces some of the best matches for the spectators in our sport. This subject is at the top of the agenda. For the next meeting of National Council in October when Councillors will have had an opportunity to discuss the matter with their members to obtain their views.

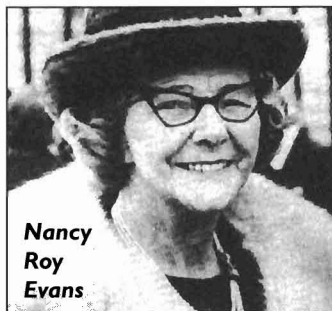
The implementation date for the new length of pimples is not until July next year, three months after the next meeting of the ITTF Council and, therefore, there is the opportunity if it is the majority wish of the ETTA National Council to put forward a proposition which, if successful, would reverse the Durban ruling. The voting in Durban was very close and it is known that a number of the big Asian countries are strongly against the change.

ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

One of the main events in the international calendar for the coming season will be the English Open Championships which are to be played at the Potters Leisure Resort in Hopton-on-Sea, Great Yarmouth, from 10th -14th March. The ITTF have nominated the English Open as a major event within the ITTF Pro Tour and this year there is no clash with the German Bundesliga and therefore it is likely that it will receive a large world class entry. Further details are available from the ETTA Marketing Department in Hastings.

WORLD CLASS START AND WORLD CLASS POTENTIAL

One of the major tasks for the Association this year will be to submit our application to the National Lottery Sports Fund for our programme for World Class Start and World Class Potential. In addition, the Sports Council have announced the introduction of a further Lottery supported programme. Active Sport, which will be administered through local authorities at grass roots level. As well as producing the plans and completed



Nancy Roy Evans

application forms, it is equally important that our membership at large are involved and learn how they can take advantage of these new programmes and with this in mind the Development Department are planning to hold 10 one-day seminars, one in each Region, throughout the country between October and February to which representatives of all County Associations, Local Leagues and Top Clubs, National Councillors, Development and Coaching representatives will be invited. Further information with regard to these seminars will be published soon.

NANCY ROY EVANS

In the June issue of Table Tennis News I included a paragraph relating to the death of H. Roy Evans, OBE, the former President of the International Table Tennis Federation. On 28th July 1998, Roy's wife Nancy, died at the age of 95 years old, bringing to an end one of the most significant eras and partnerships in the history of table tennis. Nancy was one of the world's best players in her day. However, she became even better known for her administrative skills being the Secretary General in the early years of the European Table Tennis Union and being a member of the original group who were responsible for the formation of the world's strongest Continental association. In Wales Nancy was the General Secretary of the Table Tennis Association of Wales and the organising secretary of many Welsh Open Championships and two Commonwealth Championships.

I personally had the opportunity of a great deal of contact with Nancy in the days when the Ormesby Table Tennis Club were representing England in the European Club Cup. Nancy was the organiser of that competition and presented the trophy at the match when Ormesby won the cup in 1972.

Nancy was a very special person, there is no doubt that her heart was, like Roy's, 100% in table tennis. For more than 40 years Nancy Evans worked tirelessly several hours each day for the sport and few people, if any, have given a greater contribution to table tennis during their lifetime.

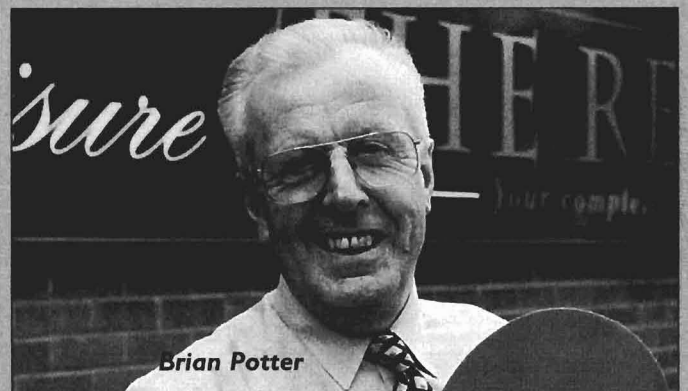
ALAN RANSOME, ETTA Chairman

POTTERS FESTIVAL OF TABLE TENNIS

Following over two years of negotiations and discussions between the ETTA and Potters Leisure Resort, agreement has been reached for the staging of a number of events at this prestigious venue, under the title of "Potters Festival of Table Tennis".

Earlier this year the European League match between England and Greece was held at Potters, and all present, players, officials and spectators spoke very highly of the outstanding facilities at the resort. Potters Festival of Table Tennis will give everyone interested in our sport the opportunity to visit this fantastic facility.

The Festival gets under way on the weekend of the 30th/31st January 1999 with the second weekend of the Women's British League. The following weekend (6th/7th February) it's an opportunity for the juniors, when the Woolwich Junior British League holds it's second weekend. Potters have arranged special family entertainment for this weekend, including a junior disco and comedian David Copperfield. For the under 16's, the price from dinner on Friday until after lunch on Sunday is an amazing £59. This includes 2 nights accommodation, 6 full meals, the entertainment and use of Potters fantastic facilities,



Brian Potter

including 2 indoor swimming pools, a fitness centre, par three golf, ten-pin bowling, squash and much more.

From Monday 8th to Friday 12th February, the ETTA are arranging a special Open Training camp. The Course Director is England Champion Lisa Lomas and other leading players and coaches will be on hand to help players of all standards to improve their game. The course is open to all players, no matter what their standard, but early booking is advised as places are limited.

Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th, sees the first Potters East Anglian Open, part of the ETTA Grand Prix. Players of all ages, from juniors to veterans and all standards from local league players to Internationals, will be striving to gain enough points to qualify for May's Grand Prix finals in Bath, where a prize pool of \$11,000 awaits them.

The popular Veterans British League will be held on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st, when the U.K's leading over 40's teams will be battling it out to become British Champions.

Finally, the star attraction, the 63rd English Open will be held from Tuesday 9th March until Sunday 14th. An ITTF PRO-TOUR MAJOR EVENT, many of the World's leading players will be taking part.

Potters is renowned for its entertainment. Mark Brewer heads a resident team second to none and during the festival, the visiting acts will include 60's bands the Ivy League, Rocking Berries, The Searchers and The Fortunes.

Two words of advice - "book early" because apart from the English Open, the resort will be open to all comers and the weekends generally have a high occupancy rate. Potters have produced a brochure with full details and prices for the festival and copies of this are available from the ETTA Events Unit.

ITTF RULE CHANGES

I am not convinced that there is intrinsically much wrong with table tennis as it currently is played. The main problem lies in poorish presentation and promotion. Therefore I view with unease the rule and regulation changes designed to make table tennis more attractive (for spectators and television), which were discussed at the May ITTF Council meeting in South Africa. My main concern is over long pimples but I shall look briefly at the other proposals.

The possible rule change which I would support most, but which failed to get the necessary two thirds majority in Durban, is that which would effectively outlaw the shielded service by insisting that the opponent must be able to see the ball on contact with the bat (eg. server making contact in front of body and dropping free arm before contact etc.). The receiver should have a better opportunity to read the spin - some of the Polish players, for example can deliver pendulum/reverse pendulum services that are almost unplayable. This change could still be agreed at a future meeting.

Although most top players do not like the slightly larger ball (40mm instead of the current 38mm) that, subject to final approval, will become effective after the Sydney Olympic Games in the year 2000, it appears to be more tele-visual and by reducing speed and spin results in longer rallies. I do not feel passionately about it, but on balance once the players are used to it I think it will work.

The 'time out' experiment on ITTF Pro Tour events, by which each player can call 'time out' for a minute once at any stage of a best of 5 singles match, could create drama, interest and anticipation, and is worth pursuing. (I also think the Swedish National League Elite Division concept of tie brakes in the deciding game on tennis scoring lines, could have merits as an exciting option in competition).

However, the regulation change that will effectively ban long pimples from July 1999 in international and open tournament play, by determining that the height to width ratio of pimples does not exceed 1.1 to 1.0 (i.e. aspect ratio of 1.1 which was reduced from 1.3 previously), worries me. In practice this will probably mean that pimples are no longer than

POSTBAG

1.5mm long, because as they be fatter they will have little of the unpredictable, wobbling effect associated with long pimples. To my mind it is a belated and somewhat bizarre proposal as most players are used to pimples now (though I hasten to add that I am totally against baked or otherwise treated long pimples and appreciate that these are not easy to monitor or detect). If the point is to make the game more attractive at the top level, this change could have an opposite effect by driving out some of the few defensive players, generally more spectacular and aesthetically pleasing like Matthew Syed, left (admittedly not all of these use long pimples eg. Ding Song). Whilst the speed and power merchants (the majority) have adapted to playing against this playing surface, long pimples has at least given attackers cause for caution and defenders a chance. There will be a time lag before the introduction of the larger ball could assist defenders a little: it might have been sensible to have at least introduced pimple and ball changes simultaneously.

It is at the middle order of standard - good local league, inter league, county and open tournament - and at the more mature player level that I am most concerned. Table tennis is 'a sport for life', and long pimples have helped older people, particularly (but not only) defensive players, to carry on competing successfully against the speed and spin of their generally younger opponents. It has augmented their skill and experience and partly redressed the imbalance between defence and attack, and against fast rubbers and glue. In addition, one of the fascinations of playing table tennis is that it is a cerebral game, a thinking game - 'athletic chess'. Playing with and against varied long pimples and combination bats, is a challenge which enhances technical and tactical awareness and development. So I am worried both that limiting the length of pimples may take something away of the quality/character of the game and also that it might lead to some players giving up.

Unfortunately play in which long pimples is employed can appear ridiculous, boring, full of silly errors, and

there is no doubt that this rubber has put many people off from playing. Youngsters/novices often are confused, frustrated and lose interest after losing to long pimples exponents. So it is particularly regarding young and inexperienced players that the regulation change has merits. And coaches have long known that if you want to get short term success for a youngster (particularly at under 12 or cadet level) or want to mask a weakness, you put him/her on long pimples. Occasionally this decision is right for the individual concerned, but all too often it will be at the cost of his/her longer term development. As things presently stand regarding long pimples, the right coach response is in good management of learners. Initially, perhaps, segregating learners from 'funny' rubber players (so they can develop good technique and confidence), and then, on exposure, helping them to come to terms with probable losses whilst practising against it and working out solutions/strategies for overcoming it - for a good attacking player with reversed rubbers should eventually have the 'edge'.

I hope my fears regarding long pimples are proved wrong. Shorter pimples (and antispin rubber) will also cause opponents, especially inexperienced players, difficulty, so perhaps previous users of long pimples can go on being effective. (And some long pimples use will continue in local leagues, whilst the change is a regulation only). Maybe if the change forces players to develop better touch in the hand rather than relying on the rubber, this will be for the good.

Finally, although I dislike the anti-social and unhealthy aspects of using fast glue, I am not against speed in itself (though larger balls will slow the game down). Top players are currently adding control to speed and I would be happy to see the development of rubbers that play like they have been 'glued up' without fast glue, or fast glue that does not have to be applied often. Also, any future rule/regulation change to reduce the thickness of sponge, could simply favour early/flat hitters (because the trajectory could be lower) and not necessarily

make table tennis more entertaining. I am wary of too much change - I wish I could read the future to know what is right!.

Ken Muhr,

Ferryhill Co Durban

HEALTHY

I am very pleased to report that the Gloucester Table Tennis Association is in a very healthy position at this time. We are lucky that the Gloucester Committee itself has some very professional and enthusiastic members who are very capable in the duties they perform. It is sometimes forgotten that the officers of local leagues are all unpaid volunteers who carry out their duties because of their love and enthusiasm for the game. After my first year as Chairman of the GTTA, I can only express my sincere thanks for the committee's help in running the Association and making my job relatively easy.

We are continuing to concentrate our efforts on providing coaching for both young and old. This programme has to date been very successful. We are lucky that the number of teams making up our league is remaining fairly constant - we are still able to boast six divisions of eight teams. It is regrettable that, as I understand, some leagues are having to fold up due to lack of support. On this point, it has to be emphasised to the ETTA that making table tennis more attractive to the general public is very difficult. The game is now competing against the 'paying' sports, computers, discos and even homework in the case of schoolchildren. The game is not helped by the lack of media coverage for its premier events - the World Championships being a good example. On a personal note, it seems irresponsible of the ETTA to be issuing directives from their ivory tower to local leagues saying that we must attract more players, support etc. without providing the wherewithal to do it. In other words, how about investing money in the local leagues to help attract more players and, perhaps more importantly, provide a better standard of coaching for existing players. Further it is my belief that in a few years time, we shall be forced to play league matches in local gyms etc., due to the dwindling number of venues.

Phil Hatherall

Chairman, GTTA

ENGLISH OPEN AT POTTERS LEISURE RESORT



**Mike
Johns,
ETTA
Events
Manager**

The summer break seems to be getting shorter and shorter. By the time you read this, a number of events will have already taken place, writes Mike Johns.

The first Grand Prix events of the season, the Merseyside Open, took place on the 29th/30th August. A large entry was received with Brad Billington, Andrew Eden and Darren Blake leading seeds in the Men's Singles and Sue Collier, Joanna Roberts and Jan Dunning leading the Women's list. The Tournament was supported by the Liverpool City Council.

On the 12th/13th September the Women's British League first weekend was held at Andover Leisure Centre, and on the 26th/27th September the second Grand Prix event, the Clare Pengelly Memorial Tournament was scheduled to take place in, Paignton.

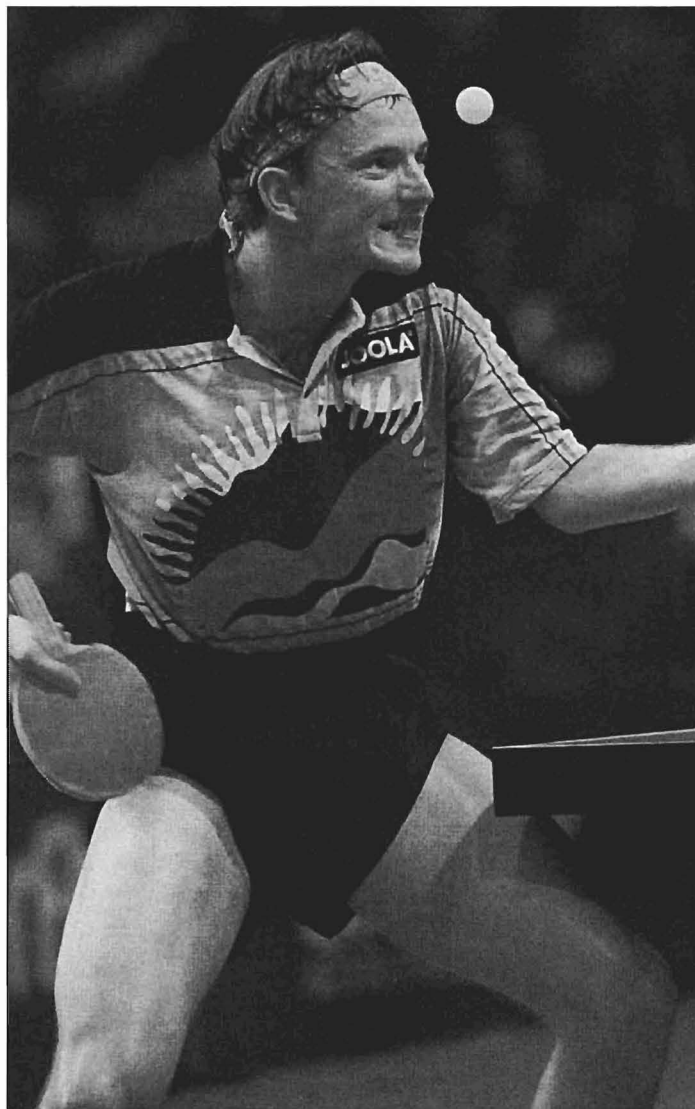
On the 10th/11th October the 3rd Grand Prix event, the Stamco Sussex Open at Haslemere will be sharing the limelight with the Woolwich Junior British League, which will be played at the Kettering Leisure Village.

The Joola Mens European League kicks off on Tuesday 15th September when we welcome Denmark as our visitors in a match staged at the Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre, and supported by the St Edmundsbury District Council.

England beat Denmark 4-1 last season and expect to be at full strength for this important match.

THE 63RD ENGLISH OPEN - AN ITTF PRO-TOUR MAJOR

Most people who attended the World Championships in Manchester were amazed by the consistently high standard of play, the exciting rallies and the explosive atmosphere created when the world's leading players faced each other in top competition. So much interest was created that the last three days were



sold out.

From the 9th-14th March 1999 British table tennis fans will have the opportunity to relive that experience when many of the stars of Manchester will be competing for \$60,000 prize money in the 63rd English Open at Potters Leisure Resort, Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk.

The ITTF have granted the event Pro-Tour Major status, which should

guarantee not only a large entry, but an extremely strong one.

The Pre-Qualifying competition, open to all licensed players, is played on Tuesday 9th March. The successful players will go forward to join the majority of the overseas players in Wednesday's and Thursday's Qualifying competition. All play up to this stage is in groups. From Friday onwards the Knockout starts, when the leading players

Pictured left is the current holder of the English Open Mens Singles Jean Michel Saive from Belgium. Saive is just one of the many super stars from around the world that will be on show at Potters Leisure Resort, in the English Open

join the fray against those who were successful in the qualifying competition. The semi-finals and finals are played on the Sunday.

Staging the event at Potters is a big plus, players, officials and a restricted number of spectators will be accommodated, fed and entertained on site. Play will take place in the International Arena and the sports halls. Both have sprung-wooden floors which will have table tennis flooring placed on top.

For spectators staying at Potters, they will be housed in centrally heated on-site bungalows, with three meals per day and the use of nearly all of Potters sports and leisure facilities.

Entertainment in the fabulous Atlas Theatre will include the resident team led by Mark Brewer plus star cabaret, top 60's band the Fortunes.

Potters have produced a brochure covering a number of events taking place there this season including the English Open, and these are available from the ETTA, Events Unit.

THE SPORTING AMBASSADORS SCHEME



A NEW ENGLISH SPORTS COUNCIL initiative was launched in London during July with table tennis being one of four sports on show for invited guests.

The scheme broadly aims to promote the benefits and values of sport and

physical activities to children through school visits by 'Sporting Ambassadors'.

Pictured above are two of table tennis' sporting ambassadors - Matthew Syed and Nick Mason- alongside disabled and able bodied young players. Also trying

their hand at table tennis are Tony Banks, MP, the Minister with responsibility for Sport, and Estelle Morris, MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Education and Employment.



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ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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

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'Table Tennis ABC', Zdenko Uzorinac

Reviewed by Ken Muhr

THERE is much valuable information and advice (and much of it on areas rarely tackled in British publications) in this hard-back book prepared by Croatian journalist Zdenko Uzorinac, a member of the ITTF Media Committee, but you have to work hard to find and interpret it. 'ABC' implies an easily accessible alphabetically arranged encyclopaedic format, but this was impossible with the pages being printed simultaneously in Croatian (lefthand column) and English (righthand column). And although at the back of the book there is a contents page for the 160 pages of written text - I shall return to some of the subjects later - I think that a much more detailed reference index would have helped the reader find his way round this tome!

Following an introduction written exclusively in Croatian, Uzorinac starts the book with a few pages of 'Maxims and Aphorisms' for table tennis. Many of these I find very apt and appropriate - Uzorinac has published them previously - and indeed I have quoted some of them in past editions of the ETTA North Region Coaching Newsletter. The author/editor then introduces in a few apt words of his own each new topic.

Although there are occasional other paragraphs from Uzorinac, most of the rest of the script is made up of direct quotes from experts (top international players and coaches). However, there are no bibliographical notes about these experts and their quotes (in italic script) are not referenced, so we do not know when or in which publication their views were (first) expressed. This leaves a question over how modern the contributions are. Whereas many of the Eastern European famous names probably were speaking or writing recently, Victor Barna died in 1972 and I suspect that former England stars

Chester Barnes and Denis Neale were quoted from their books 'Advanced Table Tennis Techniques' (1977) and 'Halex Book of Modern Table Tennis' (1978) respectively! The passage of time does not necessarily diminish the value of their views, but I think we should know their vintage!

Zdenko Uzorinac generally does not attempt to weigh up, evaluate, compare and contrast the many wide-ranging ideas of these experts. Presumably he has selected only those with whom he agrees or respects, and to be fair, I think he has chosen well. But the sometimes awkward translation or English of some of the quotes, and the frequent spelling mistakes, means that reading and making sense of them is often tough going. That said, the effort is worth it because the reader will gain new insights and knowledge from people with a wealth of experience and wisdom, and for us in England, maybe a different way of looking at things.

What comes across to me is that in Eastern Europe (and China), table tennis is a very serious business indeed. Players must train long, hard and properly, with discipline, and have the right coaching and sports science support. It is not that their coaches are harsh, soulless or without humanity. They know, understand, care for, discuss with and respect their players, whom they help to become more independent and autonomous. On their own terms they are reasonable and realistic. But they and their players, working together, are into coaching and training for real, intensively, systematically, and with commitment and concentration, to get results - no messing! It is

tough. Regarding a potential top player, Tstvan Korpa says, "...it is absolutely forbidden that he plays for pleasure" (ie. casually or recreationally). Table tennis techniques are very complex so it will take 7-8 years before a player is 'technically well formed' (Korpa). And to quote Milan Stencil, "It is not permissible that one player does not follow the whole training with full force and concentration; it cannot be tolerated - any kind of non-engagement or laziness".

To be fair not all of the views expressed seem so severe (though I believe that English juniors need to know what it takes to reach the top). Interesting that the book emphasises that the coach should ideally be a good player to be able to demonstrate all techniques, sometimes playing one to one with a pupil, and be actively involved in the training session. Uzorinac himself asserts, "The coach must also perspire during the training, like the player"! Multi-ball, which most of the experts refer to as 'Interval Training' and is quite a science, is favoured by most but not all of them.

Among the 24 main headings, there are particularly good sections on Talent Recognition (in which mental strength is stressed), Tactics, Learning from Defeat, Doubles Play (much neglected in England) and Over Training. Except, perhaps, for a very few of our top players, this latter subject is not too much of an issue in this country, but I suspect that when one of my former pupils (Eddie Gorniak) went down with a serious disease of the nervous system some 20 years ago, this was partly due to an accumulative overload from football, basketball and table tennis training, which

caused a lowering of his immune system. We need to recognise and watch out for the warning signs.

Indeed the role of the coach, and technical/psychological/physical preparation and management of players generally, is thoroughly covered (though there is not much on diet), but unlike most textbooks in this country there is virtually no analysis of strokes. In addition to some attractive coloured photographs of world stars, there are however some diagrammatic illustrations of stroke production - but no explanation! Even better are the 90 odd pages at the back, of sequences of action photographs showing famous players performing shots, provided by the Tamasu Co Ltd (Butterfly), Japan. But excellent as these are, some are dated, and there is no narrative to highlight good technical points or to discriminate between what is modern and relevant, and old and outmoded.

So my recommendation of this book is qualified. For the well-informed coach or player who is prepared to spend time and effort reading and rereading it, the 'Table Tennis ABC' will continue to provide - disclose - stacks of helpful ideas, insights and experiences. The best examples of the sequence photographs are great aids for demonstrating technical points. However by English standards the book is concerned with advanced table tennis and is quite hard to follow. Not for the novice or the naive! I would buy and value it, but then I am a fanatic! It is obtainable for £16 or \$23 (US) cheque (including postage) direct from Zdenko Uzorinac, Prilaz Gj. Dezelica 20, 10000 ZAGREB, Croatia (Fax 3851 23998210) or for 18 US dollars plus 5 dollars postage from the publisher: Prosvjeta, 43000 Bjelovar, Vladimira Nazora Street 25, Croatia (Fax 385 43 245-220).

BILLINGTON ON SONG IN LIVERPOOL



Bradley Billington and Mark Smith

DERBYSHIRE'S BRADLEY BILLINGTON followed in his father's footsteps by winning the Merseyside Open Grand Prix Table Tennis Tournament, Men's Singles title at the Liverpool Tennis Centre in Wavertree, last weekend, writes John Wood.

Back in 1960, Bradley's dad Maurice, won the Junior Boy's Singles title, paving the way for England international Bradley to fly the flag for the Billington family.

Immersed in the middle of a 'Beatles Festival' in the heart of Liverpool, Billington was on song when he beat Yorkshire's Mark Smith 21-19, 18-21, 21-14, following a

pulsating final which saw both players rise to the occasion and play to their best, attacking with scintillating topspin down both wings. But in the end Billington's international experience and greater speed saw him topple his opponent.

In the semi-finals Billington defeated 14 year old Adam Robertson from Wales, whilst Smith narrowly scraped his way through to the final by defeating local hero twenty year old Kevin Dolder, 25-23 in a deciding and extremely tense third game, which had the partisan audience on the edge of their seats.

Dolder had his chances in the decider when he pulled back from being 17-20 down to lead 21-20, and

ranked No10 Darren Blake, 21-17, 9-21, 22-20, in the Men's Singles quarter-finals.

Dolder, ranked 102, became the star of the tournament when he sensationally defeated nationally

The two Men's Singles semi-finalists' clashed in the final of the Men's



Under 21 Singles event, where Robertson played with a maturity far beyond his tender years to beat his fellow Liverpool League colleague, Dolder, to win, 21-6, 21-10.

Billington and Smith were victorious in the Men's Doubles where they defeated Derbyshire's Steven Shaw and Michael Isherwood, 21-13, 21-13.

However Isherwood bounced back winning the Band 1 Men's Singles title, when he out-hit Cheshire's Brian Johns, 21-10, 21-17.

Lancashire's Nigel Eckersley won an All Northwest Veterans Men's Singles final, when he beat Cheshire's Brian Johns 21-16, 21-18.

There was further success for Lancashire when Steve Bevan won the Men's Band 2 Singles and Mark Ramsbottom won the Men's Band 5 Singles.

This year's Women's Singles crown was won by Berkshire's Sue Collier, who out-played the rising young Cheshire star Karen Lockwood, 21-17, 21-16.

Lockwood also reached the final of the Under 21 Women's event where she lost to Slovakia's Marianna Rolikova, 13-21, 21-23.

The Band 1 Women's Singles crown was won by Marianna Rolikova from Slovakia who defeated local Liverpool girl Brenda Buoeuy in the final, 21-16, 21-11.

Rolikova is studying English at Goldsmith's University in London.

But the real drama was in the semi-finals when Buoeuy beat the Veteran's Women's National champion Jan

Dunning, following a nail-bitingly close battle, 23-21, 21-19.

However, Worcestershire's Dunning had her revenge when she beat Buoeuy in the final of the Women's Veteran event, 21-11, 21-18.

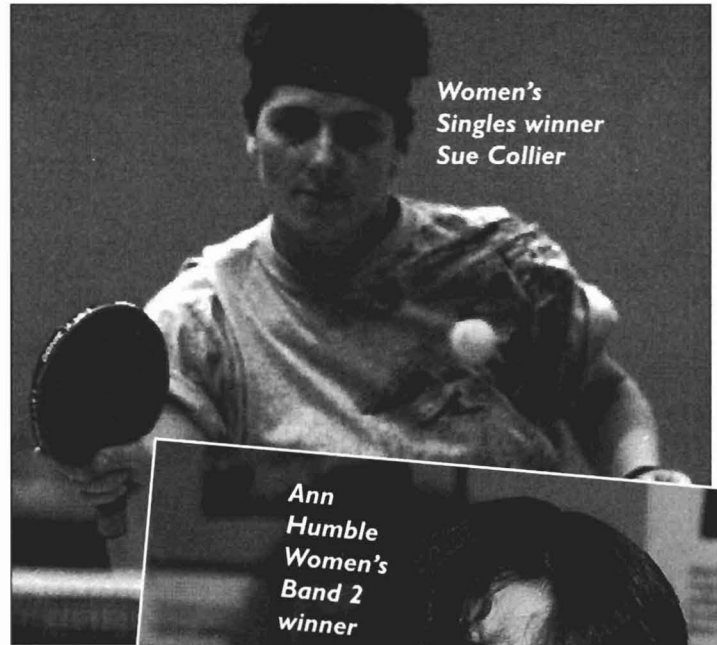
Clare Newns from Cheshire teamed-up with Delyth Davies of Wales to win the final of the Women's Doubles, beating the scratch pairing of Sue Collier and Crystal Hall, 19-21, 21-19, 21-11, to round of a very successful weekend for the northwest.

DONIC YOUNG PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

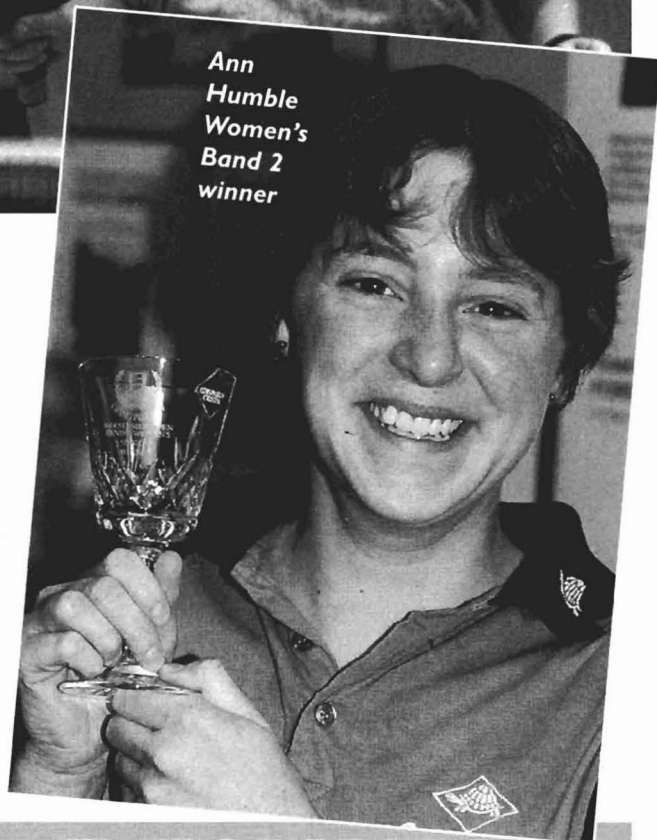
Burton-on-Trent's Robin Pearce proved the enormous talent that he has when he was chosen as the 'Donic Young Table Tennis Player of the Tournament'.

Pearce received this prestigious award for winning the Band 4 Men's Singles event, plus reaching the semi-finals of the Band 3 Men's Singles.

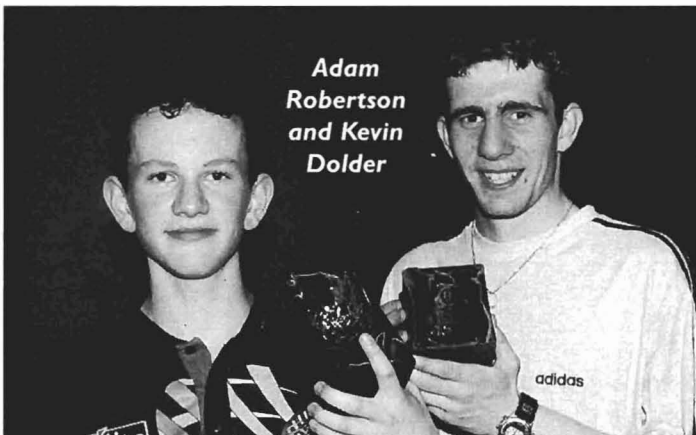
Other young players worthy of a mention are Marianna Rolikova who won the Women's Band 1 and reached the semis of the Women's Singles, Adam Robertson who won Men's Under 21 title and reached the semis of the Men's Singles event, Kevin Dolder who lost in the Men's Under 21 final and reached the semis of the Men's Singles, and Karen Lockwood who was a losing finalist in both the Women's Under 21 and the Women's Singles events.



Women's Singles winner Sue Collier



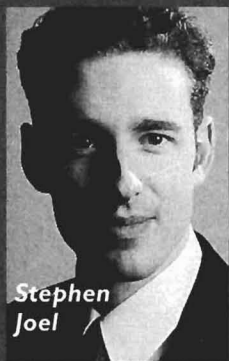
Ann Humble Women's Band 2 winner



Adam Robertson and Kevin Dolder

RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES: Final: B.Billington (Dy) b. M.Smith (Y) 19,-18,14. S/F: Billington b.A.Robertson (Wales) 12, 10; Smith b. K.Dolder (La) 10, -16, 23. **WOMEN'S SINGLES:** S.Collier (Bu) b. K.Lockwood (Ch) 17, 16. S/F: Collier b. C.Newns (Ch) 9,-14, 9; Lockwood b. M.Rolikova (Slovakia) 13, 12. **MEN'S U21 SINGLES:** Robertson b. Dolder 6, 10. **WOMEN'S U21 SINGLES:** Rolikova b. Lockwood 13, 21. **VETERAN MEN:** N.Eckersley (La) b. B.Johns 16, 18. **VETERAN WOMEN:** J.Dunning b. B.Buoeuy 11, 18. **MEN'S DOUBLES:** Billington/Smith b. S.Shaw/Isherwood 13, 13. **WOMEN'S DOUBLES:** C.Newns/D.Davies b. Collier/C.Hall -19, 19, 11. **BAND 1 MEN:** Isherwood b. B.Johns (Ch) 10, 17. **BAND 1 WOMEN:** Rolikova b. B.Buoeuy (La) 16, 11. **BAND 2 MEN:** S.Bevan (La) b. M.Short (Ys) 21,-17, 26. **BAND 2 WOMEN:** A.Humble (Gs) b. E.Dearing (Y) 11, 18. **BAND 3 MEN:** C.Nichols b. J.Rigby (Bu) 14, 12. **BAND 3 WOMEN:** L.Knowles (Scotland) b. J.Donnely (Y) 16,-19, 8. **BAND 4 MEN:** R.Pearce (Dy) b. G.Freeman (Wi) 13,-18, 13. **BAND 5 MEN:** M.Ramsbottom (La) b. T.Williams (Dv) 13, 13. **DONIC YOUNG PLAYER OF TOURNAMENT:** Robin Pearce (Dy).



THE NEW ETTA PLAYER LICENCE SCHEME STARTS TO TAKE OFF

Stephen Joel, Chairman of the ETTA Membership Committee, reports on the introduction of the New ETTA Player Licence Scheme and provides players, tournament organisers, umpires with advice on what they should do next.

At the 1998 Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday 4th July, members passed the Rule Change Propositions enabling the ETTA to introduce a new Player Licence Scheme for the 1998/99 Administrative Year.

The scheme is a new initiative, created by the ETTA Membership Committee, specially for players who wish to:

- represent their club in the British and National league competitions
- take part in ETTA Approved 2,3,4,5 Star Open Tournaments
- appear on the Published ETTA Ranking List
- be selected for an ETTA National Squad or TOP Club Excellence Squad.

Essentially the scheme authorises players to take advantage of these services and provides players with a series of personal benefits which will be gradually expanded upon as the size of the scheme increases. In the first year, there are two excellent Player Licence benefit packages for players to choose from:

- **Player Licence**
- **Gold Player Licence**

Details of the benefits available for each Player Licence are listed on the opposite page.

Since members approved the proposals at the AGM, the ETTA has been extremely busy designing the regulations, new benefit packages, licence cards, benefit guides, application forms and a new computer system to manage the Player Licence Scheme. In the first two weeks since the scheme was launched, the ETTA received over three hundred applications and more are arriving everyday.

What should players, tournament Organisers and umpires be doing next? If you are a player who is planning to compete in any of the British or National league competitions, you must obtain a Player Licence before the start of the your match.

If you are a player who is planning to enter a number of ETTA Approved 2, 3, 4 or 5 Star Open Tournament after the 1st January 1999, you should obtain a Player Licence now, before you have to complete and return your tournament entry forms. However, if you do not have a Player Licence and you intend to enter only one or two ETTA Approved 2, 3, 4 or 5 Star Open tournaments, you can take part by obtaining a Day Licence.

A Day Licence enables you to compete in ETTA Approved 2, 3, 4 or 5 Star Open Tournaments, if you do not hold a valid Player Licence. You simply pay the Day Licence fee when you complete and return your tournament entry form.

If you are a tournament organiser preparing to run an ETTA Approved 2, 3,4 or 5 Star Open Tournament after the 1st January 1999 you will be receiving the complete details on the Player Licence Scheme shortly. This should help you by:

- explaining the current policy and regulations for the Player Licence Scheme
- showing you how to design your tournament entry form to meet the new Player Licence Scheme requirements
- describing how you should check that a player has a valid Player Licence
- clarifying how you collect and return Day Licence fees.

A similar pack will also be sent to umpires.

If you have any further queries about the ETTA Player Licence Scheme, please do not hesitate to contact Doreen Nightingale at the ETTA Administration Unit on 01424 722525 or write directly to her. She is always happy to help in any way she can.

If you do decide to join, we look forward to sending your Player Licence, so that you can take full advantage of the benefits available.

It's a great deal for you...

There are two excellent benefit packages to choose from:

Player Licence

- Personal Licence and Membership No. Card
- 1998/99 ETTA Diary, providing you with a comprehensive guide to table tennis events and tournaments. Gives information on when and where competitive table tennis events are taking place in England and Europe during 1998/99, who to contact and how to enter.
- Authorisation to compete in ETTA Approved 2, 3, 4 or 5 Star Open Tournaments. Results from these are automatically sent to the ETTA Ranking Scheme for computer processing.
- Authorisation to compete in the ETTA British and National league competitions. This gives you access to the British League, Women's British League, Veteran's British League, Woolwich Junior British League and the Woolwich National Junior League.
- Authorisation to be selected for a ETTA National or TOP Club Excellence Squad. Gives you the opportunity to be selected as part of the ETTAs new World Class programme designed specially to identify, nurture and develop exceptionally talented young players.
- County Association Membership. Membership to your County Association.
- ETTA Membership. Membership to the ETTA.

Gold Player Licence

Player Licence benefits plus:

- An annual subscription to Table Tennis News (8 issues), the Official Publication of the ETTA, bringing you all the major news, tournament and competition reports features and gossip on the English Table Tennis scene.
- An annual subscription to Table Tennis Illustrated (6 issues), the Official Publication of the ITTF, bringing you all the major news on the International Table Tennis scene.
- £5 Discount on Ranking Audit Trails, that detail your results in competitions and events which are part of the ETTA Ranking Scheme.
- 15% Discount on tickets for ETTA National Championships.

and they cost very little...

Player Licence

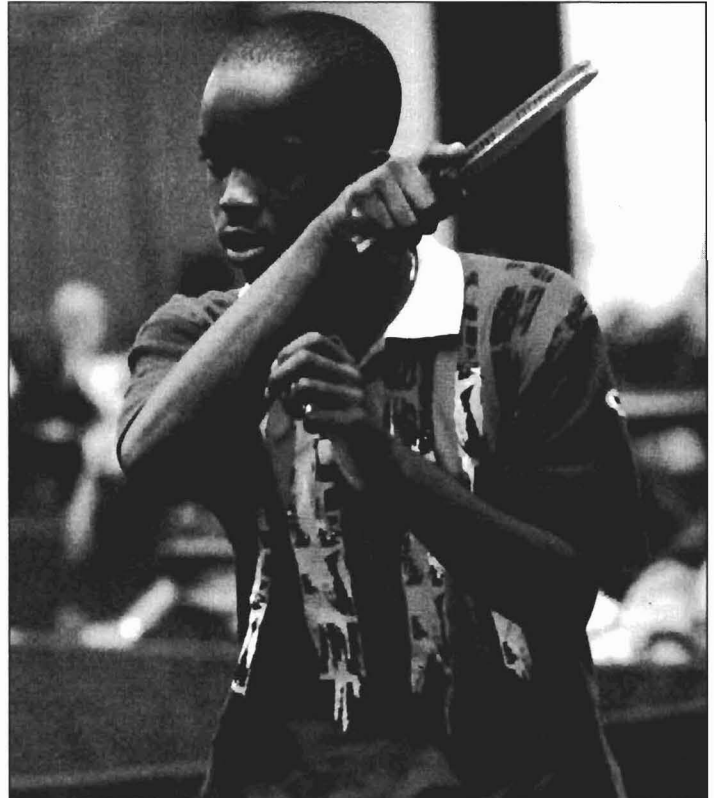
- Cadets £5.00
- Juniors £7.50
- Seniors £10.00

Gold Player Licence

- Cadets £25.00
- Juniors £27.50
- Seniors £30.00



and for the development of the sport !



So, those are the benefits, but what happens to your licence fee?

Your licence fee contributions enable us to continue to developing the sport for everyone who enjoys table tennis.

Suppose there was no one organising the sport, developing coaches, planning the competition programme and educating officials.

Imagine no Regional Development Officers working to attract more people into the sport, improving facilities or developing clubs. Suppose no one was developing the potential of talented table tennis players and assisting our most talented performers to represent us at the European and World Championships, and Olympic Games.

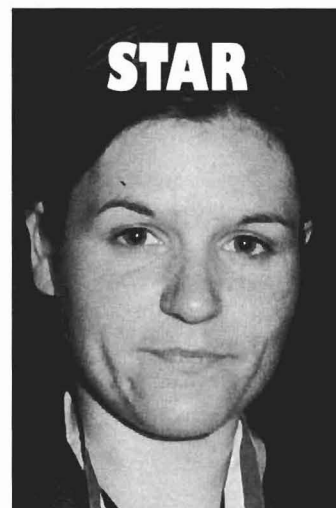
It's the ETTA that does all these things and more - and your licence fee contributes towards making it happen.

How can you get a Player Licence?

To receive your Player Licence, simply contact Doreen Nightingale at the ETTA on 01424 722525 to obtain a Player Licence Application Form. Complete the application form and send or fax it together with your choice of payment to:

Doreen Nightingale, Player Licence Scheme, ETTA Administration Unit, Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1HF. Telephone: 01424722525. Fax: 01424422103

12th ROSE BOWL FOR WONDERFUL WOLVERHAMPTON



Wolverhampton Ladies pictured left, Joanna Roberts above, and members of Progress TTC below

WONDERFUL , FABULOUS, WOLVERHAMPTON Ladies Team won the Rose Bowl for the 12th consecutive time, at the National Team finals held at the Bury St. Edmunds, in June, writes John Wood.

Record breaking Wolverhampton are the toast of the West Midlands, following their successful attempt at rewriting history, when they destroyed the challenge of Yorkshire's pride and joy, Leeds Ladies, beating them 5-3.

Individual star of the final was Leeds' Joanna Roberts, who nearly pulled off victory single handed, when she won all her three matches, but the team spirit within the Wolverhampton side is rock solid, as they played for each other to pull off a memorable victory.

Following their victory the bubbly



Wolverhampton side of Jan Dunning, Sandra Roden and Jill Harris , went off with their squad to celebrate on route home, with champagne.

DOUBLE PROGRESS

Members of the Progress TTC celebrated in style when they won both the Wilmott and Ormesby Cups.

The Wilmott Cup Final was won by

Errol Skeete, Jason Sugrue and Marco Essomba, when they beat Leicester 5-3.

But it wasn't all plain sailing for the north west London club, because after appearing to have almost won the final leading 4-1, Leicester rallied to pull the match score back to 4-3. However, Skeete played a true

captain's part by winning the next game to take the honours.

In the final of the Ormesby Cup, Progress representing Wembley and Harrow, won comfortably 5-0, beating Huddersfield (Brook Motors).

The victors for Progress were Darren Blake, Jason Sugrue and Marco Essomba.

WORLD VETERAN SPECTACULAR

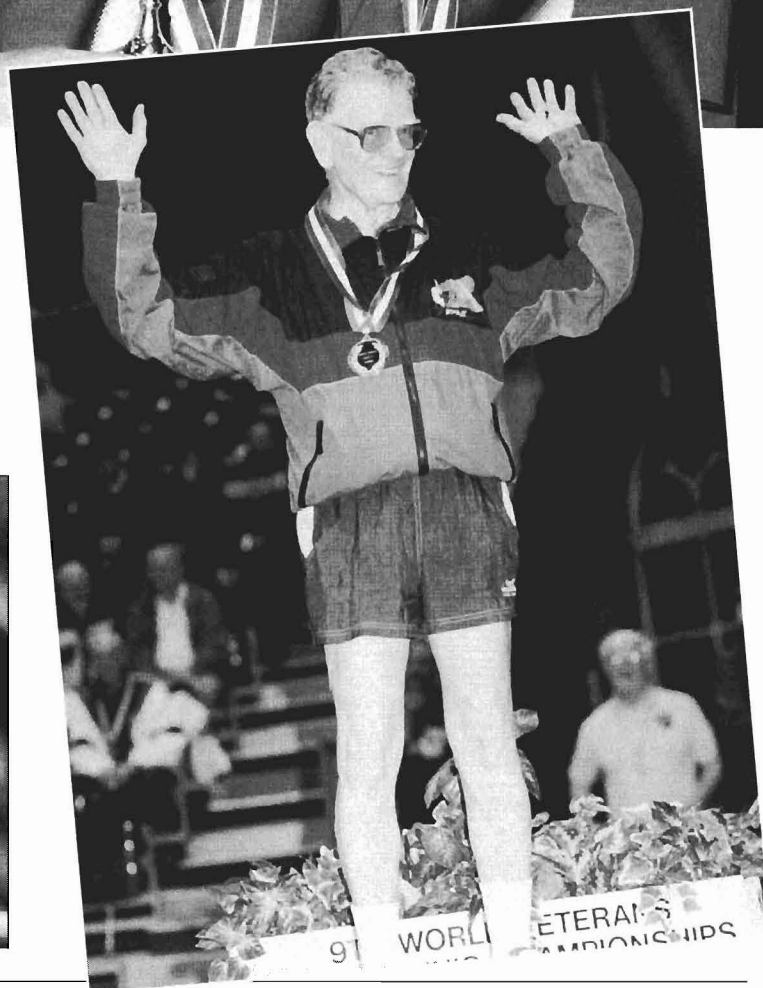


Over 40 Bronze Medal Girls, Colebridge Team, (pictured above, left to right) Eileen Shaler, Joan Humphrey - Middlemore and Jan Dunning. Picture right is Gold medal winner in the Men's Over 70 Singles, Ron Etheridge

MEDALS GALORE FOR ENGLAND



Bronze Medallist
John Hilton



WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS' TEAM EVENTS A GREAT SUCCESS

MORE MEDALS were won at these championships than at any of the previous eight. Two hundred and four gold, silver and bronze to be exact were handed over mainly because of the team event, writes Jim Beckley.

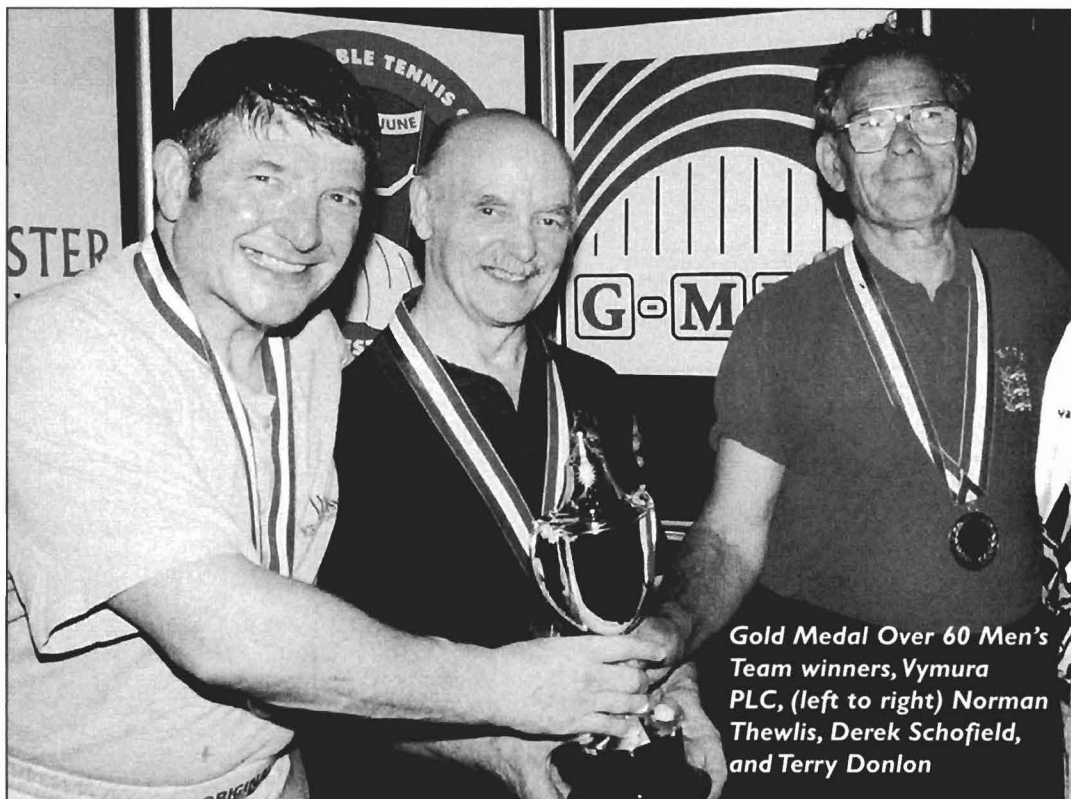
Without doubt this new event was a great success. Most of the players who took part felt that way and now Vancouver, Canada where the championships go to in the year 2000 must decide whether to carry on.

Of the eight events in the team event two gold medals were won by North West teams both from the Stockport area. Vymura International picked up a gold in the mens Over 60s while Bramhall Park won the womens Over 70s event

FIFTH GOLD MEDAL.

For Vymura veteran Derek Schofield it was his ninth world championships and was to be his fifth gold medal. But he almost didn't make it.

"I had been feeling under the weather all week and decided to play in the doubles only. As it was Terry



Gold Medal Over 60 Men's Team winners, Vymura PLC, (left to right) Norman Thewlis, Derek Schofield, and Terry Donlon

Donlan who took over my singles spot played brilliantly.

Vymura, who ironically have had to drop out of the Premier Division of the British League through lack of sponsorship, beat favourites Ellenborough 3-0 in the final after wins over Brisbane TT (3-0), Nishi Tokyo Club (3-2) and Taipei TTC (3-2).

AMAZING

Two tables away Margaret Jones from Bramhall and her partner Edna Fletcher were winning gold in the team event against tough opposition from Japanese side KYTTS.

"Amazingly the more table tennis I played the more I improved," said this ageless 76 year old who also went on to win the doubles individual on the last day of the championships. "I felt totally relaxed although I knew Edna was on edge in the last match because she would have had to play the decider if I had lost,"

More medals came our way in the individual events. This time we picked up three gold medals, all of them in over 70 events.

77 year old Ron Etheridge from Beckenham won a nail biting final when he defeated Hubert Levinge of Ireland 17,-20, 19 in the final of the over 70s singles. Ron, who won gold at the first championships in Gothenburg in 1982 and retained his title two years later in Helsinki, came through a field that topped 108, the biggest at this age group for years.

Another gold ended up in the UK when the south/north partnership of Arthur Davies and Arthur Hartshorn defeated a German/Swiss pair to win the over 70s. Davies, the 71 year old chairman of Oxfordshire TT Assoc linked up well with Lancashire player Hartshorn to bt Jean Lambert and Hans Englmaier -12, 8, 18.

Margaret Jones added to her gold



medal in the team event by picking up another in the womens doubles over 70s.

She clinched her golden double with her Swedish partner Raini Wetterstrom when they beat the Belgium pair Andree Crevecoeur and Mavis Van Gelder 21-19, 21-10. Margaret clearly picked a useful partner. Ms Wetterstrom went on to win the over 70s singles.

This was Margaret's fifth world championship but until now she had never come close to winning a medal, although she did win a bronze at last years European Champs in Prague.

But the highlight of these championships came from a baby faced Chinese now residing in Germany.

Forty two year old Yuxiang Li looking no more than half his age, retained his singles crown won two years ago in Norway with a sizzling 21-6, 21-13, win over German colleague Peter Stellwag.

He also does a fine rendition of 'I'll do it my way' as he showed at the finals day dinner.

There were of course other fine performances which brought medals. Molly Hawkins from Gloucester, a full international in the late 40s early 50s, was beaten in the final of the over 80s by Japanese holder Yuki Uchida. Molly picked up a silver medal in losing 21-16, 21-10.

There was silver for Ellenborough who lost in the final of the Mens Over 60s to Vymura and for Harrogate Wanderers who in the final of the mens over 70 were beaten by the Czech Moravian Club.

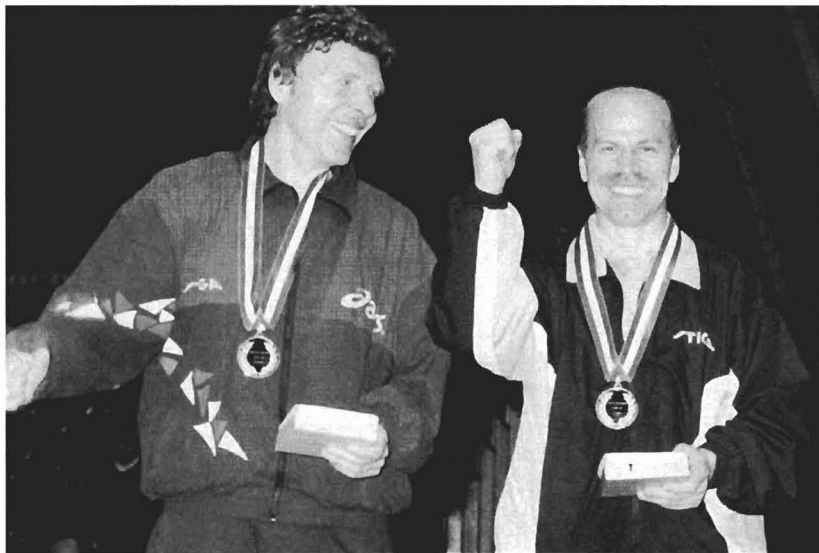
Bronze medals found their way to the girls of Colebridge in the Womens Over 40s team event and for Ellenborough womens over 60s B team and to Bournemouth Sports Club who reached the senii-final of the over 40s team event.

Incidentally, the most popular age group at the championships was the over 60s. In the mens competition 304 entered the singles events against 268 over 50s. There was a slight difference in the womens events where 144 entered the over 50s compared with 132 in the over 60s.



ESTONIAN GOLD -
Katrin Marks (left)
and Kai Milvek won
Gold winning the
Womens' Over 40
Team event

GOLDEN PAIR -
Pictured right are
Swiss Herbert
Neubauer and
Russian Anatolie
Amelin of the
Meyrin CTT Club
that won a Gold
Medal in the Over
50 Mens' Doubles
event. Neubauer
also won a Silver
Medal in the
Mens' Over 50
Singles, and a Gold
in the Mens'
Doubles



GOLDEN GIRLS -
Bramhall Park's
Edna Fletcher
(left) and
Margaret Jones,
winners of the
Womens'
Over 70 Team
event

Men's Singles Over 40
Champion Li Yuxiang
from Germany



LI YUXIANG FAR SUPERIOR

WATCHING the three final days in Manchester, three thoughts came to mind - firstly, the G-Mex Centre is the absolute ideal venue for such a huge event with 80 tables in one hall, secondly, Li Yuxiang's attack was far superior to any other player - he was far too good for even Peter Stellweg or Liang Geliang and thirdly, it is going to be fascinating to see what happens when 'materials' players like Herbert Neubauer (Switzerland) are banned from using long pimples from next July, writes John Woodford.

My only other experience of witnessing World Vets tournaments was in Dublin in 1992 where the organisation tetered on the brink of disaster but was rescued by some Irish officials and Diane Scholer. It was, I am told, in Baltimore that the organisation almost completely

exploded, but again, was rescued.

It seems that the Manchester organisation was the best ever. That comment came from a number of foreign players and also from Diane Scholer in her capacity of President of the Swaythling Club International.

The media coverage was as expected, very limited apart from the presence of two of the major television companies who happen to have their Manchester bases a few hundred yards from the G-Mex Centre.

The presence of the Manchester journalist Jim Beckley who was also the Media Officer, helped to get a fair coverage in the Manchester Evening News.

For the Daily Telegraph I managed to get results in every day (by telephone calls for the first seven days) and the DT's Northern Edition carried pieces (words) on three days, although I filed words every day. With the soccer World Cup clashing with the table tennis, we were lucky to get even that

amount of space.

For a small sport running out of season and with the World Cup gathering mass coverage, we did not do badly.

Why was the entry nearly 500 down on Lillehammer 1996? No doubt, there are various theories floating around on that issue - 'TTN Postbag' would like to carry some letters on that point.

With so many tables in action it was easy to miss the most exciting games. The two clashes that came out on top for me were the battle between Peter Stellweg and Liang Geliang the Chinese ace who is at last beginning to look his age in direct contrast to the winner Li Yuxiang and the hard-bat classic contest between Henry Buist and the greatest character in Manchester Marty Reisman. The quality of play with Buist attacking and the American eccentric defending was amazing for its quality.

The Buist-Reisman battle reminded spectators that it would be a disaster if the approaching ban on long pimples "destroys" defensive players now using the materials being targeted.



Japan's
Fukui
Yoneko
and
Mochida
Keiko,
Over 50
Doubles
Gold



Men's Over 40 Bronze
Medallist, Liang Geliang,
from Germany



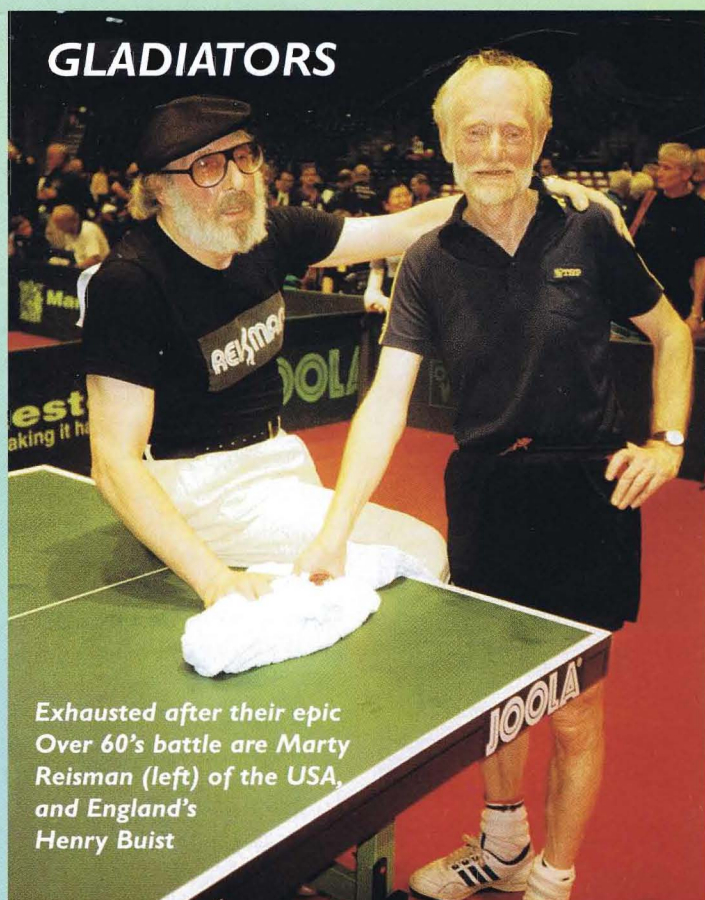
One of the highlights in Manchester for me was the hour-long interview with one of the most powerful and influential men in table tennis world-wide today, Ebby Scholer, who is now the deputy president of the ETTU. We media men threw him a barrage of

questions solely on the pimples ban, which to his apparent surprise he managed to get voted in at Durban at the ITTF Council meeting in June. The interview is reported at length on page 14 in the 'Face to Face' interview by Brian Haliday, in this edition.

The greatest concern in Germany at this time is that there are a number of young and talented players giving up table tennis because they cannot cope with the different materials players use. That is the president's major concern and leads me to the conclusion that that the long pimples

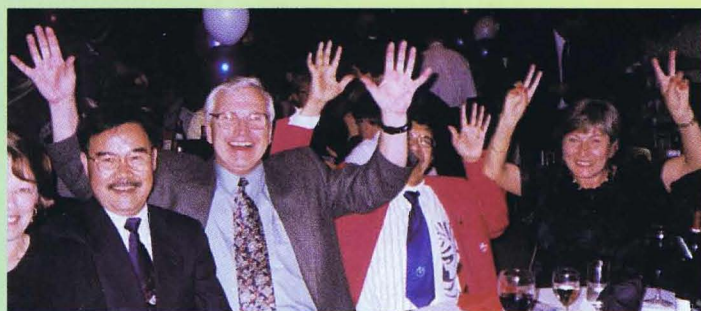
ban is another step towards the standardisation of bats. But China and Japan voted against the ban in Durban and it is possible it could be overturned in Belgrade next April.

FAREWELL MANCHESTER

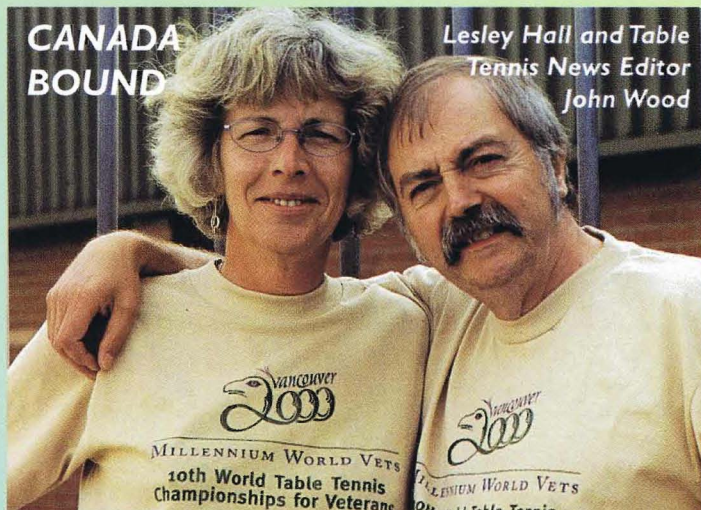


GLADIATORS

Exhausted after their epic Over 60's battle are Marty Reisman (left) of the USA, and England's Henry Buist



SEE YOU IN VANCOUVER



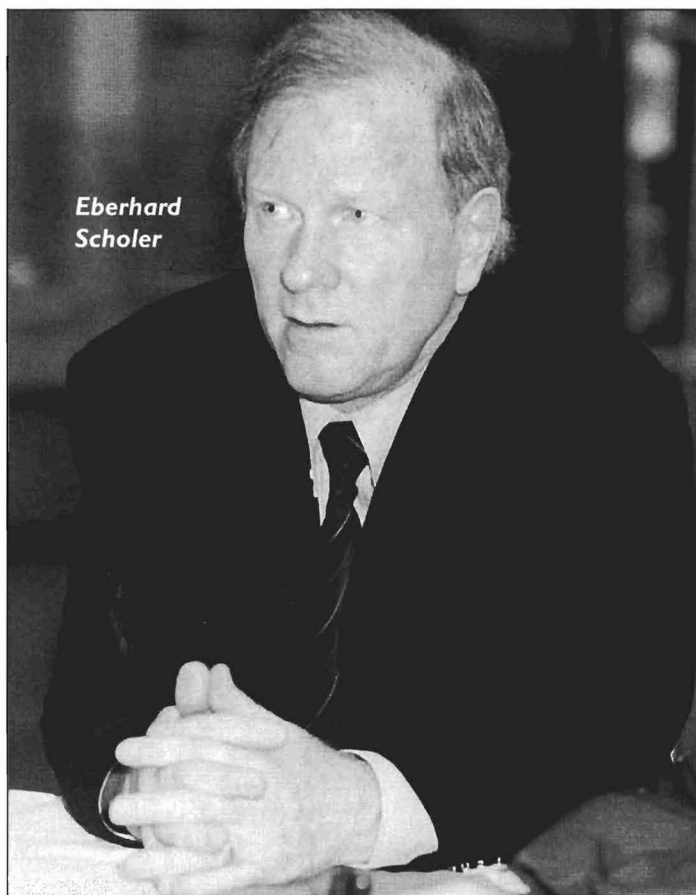
CANADA BOUND

Lesley Hall and Table Tennis News Editor John Wood

BRIAN HALLIDAY

meets

EBBY SCHOLER



THE DECISION to reduce the effectiveness of long pimples was ratified by the I.T.T.F. at a meeting held in South Africa last May. The consequences of that decision will have a major affect on our game, not only at veteran level but through to international stars such as Matt Syed, Carl Prean and Andrea Holt.

Brian Halliday met Eberhard Scholer, President of the European Table Tennis Union, and probably one of the three best defenders of all time, at the World Veterans Championships in Manchester recently.

Q. There has been much talk at these Championships of the reduction in the length of long pimples. Is it a fact and can you confirm that it is effective as from 1st July 1999?

A. Yes it is a fact. The technical bit is that the aspect ratio has been reduced from 1.3 to 1.1 from 1st July 1999.

Q. Who made the decision?

A. The I.T.T.F. Council.

Q. Can you tell me the voting figures?

A. Yes it was 20 to 17 and the second vote was in respect of the effective date and that was agreed 1.7.99 with 19 votes in favour and 18 against.

Q. That was close then. Fairly sensational?

A. Yes I agree it was pretty remarkable. It was I think the first time the Chinese were defeated in such an important matter. Japan and the Asian group supported them as did England and

Italy. The rest of Europe supported the arguments in favour of the proposal. There were a number of vote counts as the decision was so close.

Q. Do you think the decision was linked to the possible eventual introduction of a larger ball?

A. I really think that is a possibility. You see many people complain that we do not get enough TV coverage and that we are not getting enough new players coming into the sport. Even in Germany the figures show a reducing trend. If we don't change the future is bleak.

Q. What is your answer to the accusation that you are introducing a rule that is biased against the minority? Why not affect the majority and ban speed glues?

A. I don't see it that way. I see it completely different. These rubbers should never have been allowed. Look at tennis for example. When a completely different type of racket was introduced steps were taken to ban it immediately.

Q. Hold on Ebbby. Here at these Championships there are over 80 tables in use at the moment and I challenge you to find two players using the exact combination of rubbers and bat. There are millions of combinations of rubber one can use, so why militate against the poor defender?

A. I believe you can still play a defensive game successfully with the right training but what we have to eliminate is this

incalculable and unpredictable play. It is just not sporting. The 1.3 pimple produces "wobble" and can break to one side or the other. It produces an unpredictable effect and in my view, and in the view of the majority of Councillors, it must be eliminated. My personal view from certain experiments I carried out is that the ratio should be reduced to 1.06 but the D.T.T.B. carried out scientific experiments and concluded that to reduce to 1.1 would have the desired effect.

Q. Would you agree that all this may be the first steps towards standardisation?

A. There were strong moves some years ago when Ogimura was President to introduce some standardisation of rubber, but at the last moment China backed down. We do experience the difficulties of all types of rubber especially where youngsters play older players. Many are lost to the game because of the unpredictability of the equipment. They play them once or twice and ask themselves "Am I mad? I cannot see what is on the ball. Thank you table tennis and goodbye."

Q. I accept your answer but how do you reply to the view that the game is dominated by excessive speed and spin? The public do not identify with the game as it is. The crowd pleasers seem to be, in the main, defenders. Close to the table play seems not to

have the attraction of play at a longer range. How do you think that world class choppers such as Ding Song, Syed, Ciocca are going to cope if you take away the one weapon they have to enable them to compete on equal terms?

A. *I believe Ding Song will not be affected. The Chinese listed 10 to 12 players who might be affected. My belief is that all these players will still be effective as defenders although they may need to alter aspects of their technique. I have no sympathy for those who destroy the game through material.*

Q. Surely you could argue that the advent of sponge and the loop drive raised problems - but technology was allowed to develop.

A. *I fully agree we should not live in the past - personally I like to watch say hard bat matches, but it is not the future of table tennis. The trend is to a more attacking game although I feel that there is a place for the defender. I still play a little every week and I have learnt to attack now. My club is Dusseldorf and we have in fact just signed one of the world's best defenders - Matsushita of Japan, so you see I have no wish to kill off defenders. I do like to see the public entertained.*

Q. There is concern among the lesser players that the two wing loopers will now have a major advantage.

A. *Let me say now that I regard all this as a first step. Something has to be done to slow the game down. It is difficult because you don't want to eliminate the image of the game as a fast athletic sport. The larger ball might have some affect.*

Q. How much do commercial interests come into all this? How much influence do these people have on your decisions?

A. *We have to deal with a number of special groups. The players at the top level recognise that they have to take their responsibilities to the game seriously. The majority are in favour of this change. To add to this they are also in favour of a change to the service law in ensuring that the ball is visible at the moment of contact. There is remarkable discrimination against the receiver who is unable to see exactly what spin is imparted. I think that there is an excellent chance of a service rule change when the next meeting is held next year in Belgrade.*

Q. Getting back to long pimples. You have a high profile lady in Germany, Jie

Schopp who uses them.

A. *I have spoken to her but she is unaware of the decision taken. This will affect her game considerably.*

Q. Can you see a time when there will be a self adhesive rubber which would eliminate the need for speed glues?

A. *Yes indeed. The manufacturers are working on this now and developments will be announced within a few months. I understand that a chemical will be added to the sponge which will have the same speed effect as fast glue - but I am*

no expert on this. As far as sponge thickness is concerned I believe it would be good to reduce it. I believe manufacturers would welcome this move because there is a demand for more and more different products all the time. With rubber in Germany costing about DM100 per sheet, it is becoming increasingly expensive for the player. I would favour a reduction in Speed - but not too much. The game must be athletic and at the same time attractive to spectators.

BH. Thank you for answering my direct questions so frankly.

ES. *I have to repeat we have not banned long pimples - only their effectiveness. Thank you for allowing me to explain the position as I see it. You know as much as I love the game, especially as played by the veterans here - I do feel the future of the game lies with the young. I hope we can all go forward together for our wonderful sport.*

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HEAVEN PRESERVE US FROM OUR FRIENDS !

TABLE TENNIS NEWS publish below the first of two articles from the former Chairman of the ETTA, John Prean, on the current controversy concerning the long pimples.

PEOPLE tend to respect what they don't understand! remarked Alan Knott, the famous wicket keeper to my good friend Les D'Arcy, the former Over 70 World Champion. Welcome to the club, Ebby Scholer and the ITTF Councillors who managed to introduce a new regulation which few understand and, by the time that they do, it will be too late. In simple terms they have managed to reduce the ratio of "long" pimples of length to diameter from 1.3 to 1.1mm and from July of next year, only rubbers that conform to this edict will be manufactured or sold, or, if you like, will be seen as "legal".

Underwhelming Majorities

There were majorities of 20-17 and 19-18 with China, Japan and indeed England voting against. Our delegate, ETTA Chairman Alan Ransome, whom I have often criticised in the past, deserves great credit for his stand. One may ask whether 37 people, meeting in South Africa, should have the right to decide the fate of China with its vast population and probably more players than the rest of the world.

A gun without bullets

Clothed in words many will not understand, which includes the "victims", the new regulation may command much respect, at any rate as explained by Alan Knott. Let me



be a little clearer: The thinner (and therefore more effective) the pimples will be, the shorter they will be. The thicker (and less effective) the pimples will be, the longer they will be. Mr. Scholer is disarmingly frank: "We have not banned long pimples, only their effectiveness". In short, we don't mind you playing with them, but we have made sure they don't work. It has not been explained why anyone should want to play with rubbers which are ineffective. It is like handing a shootist a gun, but a regulation forbids his using bullets.

Interest declared

It is claimed that the new regulations will make the game better to play and watch and such considerations are overdue. Before examining this claim, let me declare an interest. My son Carl, four times European medallist, once World medallist, three times English Champion etc., plays with long pimples, which he uses generally on

his backhand. When he began to play, combination bats were all the rage, certainly in England. John Hilton won the European title in 1980, something no Englishman has done since and for this he never got the credit he deserved. His marvellous feat was drowned by the jealous attitudes prevalent in Europe, summarised as "It was the bat, not the man".

"Great harm done to English Table Tennis"

Our own legislators, at any rate those who then ran the ETTA, joined the rush and by 1983 a new rule was introduced which demanded black rubber on one side and red on the other.

Inevitably this did great harm to England's combination bat players, who included Hilton himself, the supreme Hammersley Parker, and rising stars like Lisa Lomas and Carl Prean. Highly promising players like Dougie Johnson and Billie Cleave decided to call it a day. Later

Andrea Holt and Matthew Syed, the current No.1's, joined the fold of combination bat players.

England, despite undoubted successes, never equalled the great days of 1980 to 1983.

"Devastating"

The introduction of the new regulation will, of course, be quite devastating for English hopes. A steady path towards second class status is inevitable. At this time Holt, Syed and Prean will win most of our points. Few of the rest have very often past the first round of a high class international Open. I am sure the rest will get better, but that is how things are right now.

Long pimples are essential for defenders at international level

As Brian Halliday says in "Face to Face with Scholer", great harm will be done to defenders. Many will agree that the best game remains the one between a good defender and a good attacker.

We see few enough now, but we shall see none, if this regulation really comes into force, because the defender will be eliminated from the world stage. Mr. Scholer talks of TV coverage and "even in Germany the figures show a reducing trend". Indeed, the Bundesliga has just seen the results of its first stint on German TV and the matches were all too often sad occasions.

The offerings were seldom of the required standard, rallies were short, talk long. There was not a combination player in sight. I noted only "attackers" armed with the latest rubber technology plus glue.

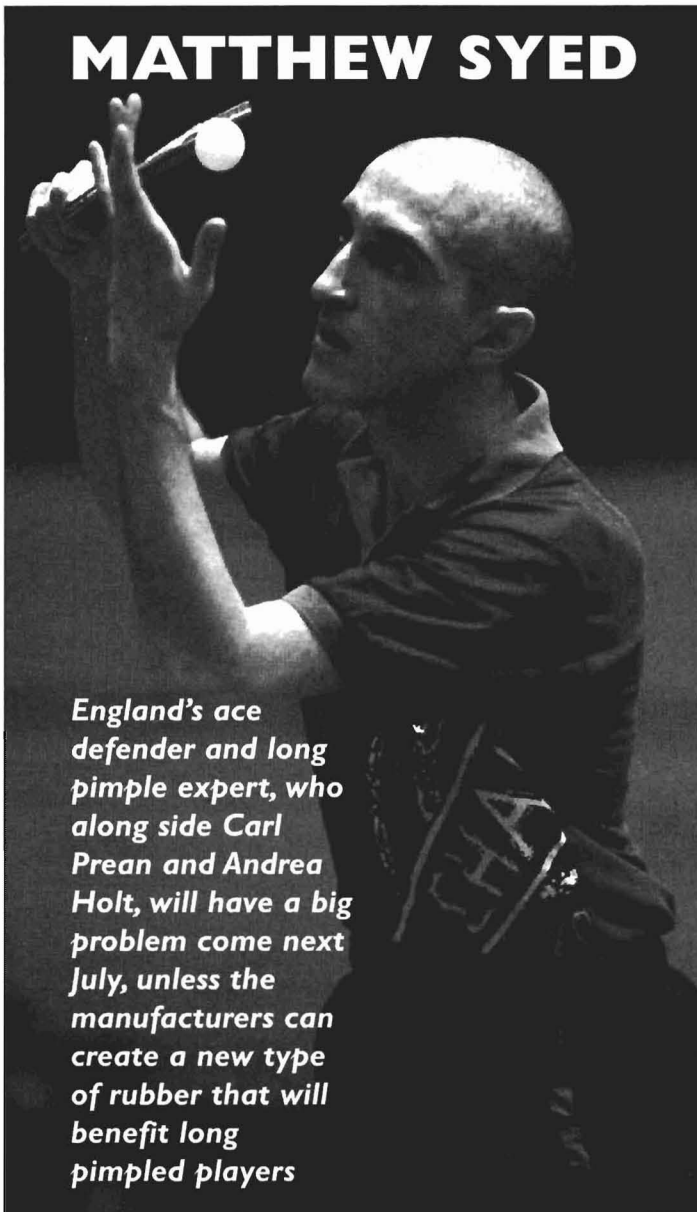
One saw, unless one blinked, shots of such alarming spin and speed that most were unreturnable. Many balls landed outside the table, as power and percentage gambits replaced accuracy and consistency.

Frenzied, yet dull

That is not to say that one did not see great skill, even athleticism, but generally it was all frenzied, yet dull, the worst of all worlds. It was not something to which an average, let alone hobby player, could relate. How one longed for a Syed or Shibutani or Matsushita and rallies, pattern and sense. But there were no combination players in sight; and no defenders.

Try as I might, I find it hard to understand the views expressed by Mr. Scholer. He seems to blame the players who were not there for the game's decline! Mr. Scholer's solution seems to be to make "less effective" the entertainer who keeps the rallies going, and so provide further assistance to the "attacker" who kills the rallies and thus the interest of the spectator and viewer.

Next month John Prean discusses the effect of the legislation on defenders at all levels and comments on fast glues and their effect on the future of the game.



MATTHEW SYED

England's ace defender and long pimple expert, who along side Carl Prean and Andrea Holt, will have a big problem come next July, unless the manufacturers can create a new type of rubber that will benefit long pimped players

PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Darlington	14	11	2	1	134	62	24
DML W. H. Launc.	14	9	2	3	110	86	20
Horsham	14	6	3	5	104	92	15
Drumchapel Glasgow	13	5	2	6	86	96	12
Muna Estates Progress	14	5	1	8	94	102	11
Vymura	14	5	1	8	90	106	11
St Neots	13	4	1	8	73	109	9
Colley Hyundai	14	2	4	8	79	117	8

DIVISION 1 NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Grove	14	13	1	-	86	26	27
RHSC Lincoln	14	8	4	2	65	47	20
Darlington II	14	9	1	4	69	43	19
Uxbridge (Burton)	14	9	1	4	67	45	19
Hull CRSD	14	4	1	9	49	63	9
City of Leeds	14	3	2	9	35	77	8
Vymura II	14	0	5	9	43	69	5
Drumchapel Glasgow II	14	1	3	10	34	78	5

DIVISION 1 SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
OLOP (ANCS) LTD	14	10	2	2	70	42	22
JAGS	14	10	1	3	73	39	21
C & M Ins. Brentwood	14	8	2	4	63	49	18
Byng Hall Farningham P.	14	7	1	6	63	49	15
Limberlost Pine Poole	14	4	3	7	49	63	11
Kingshurst	14	5	1	8	41	71	11
DML White Hart Lau. II	14	4	1	9	51	61	9
Leckie	14	2	1	11	38	74	5

DIVISION 2 NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Seasiders Blackpool	12	11	1	0	78	18	23
Darlington III	12	9	1	2	59	37	19
Bulldog Security	12	7	0	5	48	48	14
Derwent	12	5	3	4	55	41	13
Grantham Kontak	12	2	4	6	44	52	8
Abbeylea	12	1	3	8	34	62	5
Drumchapel Glasgow III	12	1	0	11	18	78	2

DIVISION 2 SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Hastings	12	10	1	1	72	24	21
Barnet	12	9	1	2	64	32	19
Chelmsford League	12	7	1	4	57	39	15
Lowlands	12	5	0	7	42	54	10
Norwich Todd Foxwood	12	3	2	7	42	54	8
Horsham II	12	2	2	8	36	60	6
Generation Fareham	12	2	1	9	23	73	5

DIVISION 2 MIDLANDS AND WEST	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Syntegra City	12	10	2	0	74	22	22
Heritage	12	8	3	1	66	30	19
DML White Hart Lau. III	12	7	1	4	51	45	15 (+18)
KCD Stiga	12	6	3	3	51	45	15 (+11)
Fellows Cranleigh	12	4	1	7	45	51	9
Rushley Mead	12	1	1	10	29	67	3
OLOP (ANCS) II	12	0	1	11	20	76	1

DIVISION 3 MIDLANDS AND WEST	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Aylesbury	12	12	0	0	69	27	24
Barnet III	12	9	1	2	67	29	19
Jack Spratt Aces	12	6	1	5	49	47	13
Dimension 8 Newport	12	4	3	5	49	47	11
Syntegra City II	12	4	2	6	44	52	10
Drumchapel Glasgow IV	12	1	2	9	32	64	4
Bulldog Security II	12	1	1	10	26	70	3

DIVISION 3 NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Grove II	14	12	1	1	85	27	25
Derwent II	14	12	1	1	84	28	25
City of Leeds II	14	8	2	4	60	52	18
Ormesby	14	5	2	7	53	59	12
Seasiders (Blackpool) II	14	5	2	7	49	63	12
Drumchapel Glasgow IV	14	5	1	8	50	62	11
Darlington IV	14	2	1	11	36	76	5
Hull Sandhill	14	2	0	12	31	81	4

DIVISION 3 SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Cippenham	14	10	4	0	84	28	24
Barnet II	14	9	3	2	75	37	21
Muna Estates Progress II	14	8	3	3	75	37	19
Adeyfield	14	7	4	3	65	47	18
Horsham III	14	4	4	6	49	63	12
Byng Hall Farningham P.II	14	3	2	9	48	64	8
KCD Stiga	14	2	4	8	37	75	8
OLOP (ANCS) Ltd III	14	0	2	12	15	97	2

THESE ARE THE FINAL LEAGUE TABLES OF THE 1997/98 SEASON



Derbyshire

by Colin Deaton

Congratulations are due to Derbyshire's only National League team Uxbridge Burton, who have been nominated at the end of last season as the British League Club of the Year, to several enthusiasts this award may come as no surprise.

The Uxbridge Club had an excellent season and the way they presented their British League matches was in some peoples view second to none.

Meanwhile their supremo Terry Gadsby is looking to strengthen their squad of players with their aim being to pay players.

They just missed out on promotion last year but they experienced a good season and the dedicated Gadsby said "Winning this award was the icing on the cake."

Their coaching programme continues under the guidance of Cris Newton who has just been appointed by the ETTA as the Development Officer for the West Midlands. Chris takes over title as the coaching officer at the club. Another ETTA coach connected with the Uxbridge club is Neil Houghton. Neil has been appointed as the club's Development Officer.

During the closed season the Derby and District League staged a special evening in recognition of the League's 50th anniversary. Players past and present were amongst the good turn out, including the very first men's singles champion Dennis Walker.

A exhibition was provided for all the enthusiasts by our own Nicola Deaton and Yorkshire's International Chris Oldfield. Also during the proceeds of the evening the league finals were witnessed with Jonathan Bayliss emerging as the men's singles champion.

For the new season the Derby and District League have appointed a new secretary. Wife of the ETTA Deputy Chairman Pat Chatwin takes over as the new league secretary and we all wish Pat the best in her new appointment.

The Derby League under the Chairmanship of Tony Young are making a determined bid to push our game in their area. A series of road shows are to be featured at the Derby Eagle centre with anyone who wants to play being given the opportunity to play against current league players.

Amidst a busy schedule Nicola Deaton is to be featured in a series of exhibition matches to promote the game at junior and primary schools in North East Derbyshire. These exhibitions are to be followed up by a series of coaching clinics.

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.

Finally the two talented Gill sisters could well be set to be the counties number one and two this season.

Rosie 16 and Becky 15 from Chesterfield have certainly been putting the time in this summer and both girls are showing some real promise. We will watch their progress with real interest.

At the annual Derbyshire general meeting all the officers were re-elected with the exception of the retiring Sue Cooke as National Councillor. Sandra Deaton was elected as the new National Councillor.

Essex

by Steve Kerns

SHIRLEY ROWLEN AWARDED CORTI-WOODCOCK TROPHY

This year's county AGM enabled the county to pay tribute to four people who have contributed so much towards Essex table tennis. Shirley Rowlen from the Clacton league took pride-of-place as she was awarded the county's premier award for service to the game - the Corti Woodcock Memorial award. In a warm and impassioned speech county Life-Member Brian Brumwell paid tribute to Shirley's excellent administrative skills which have seen her undertake virtually all the jobs in Clacton league over a 23 year period. Shirley has also been involved in many county sub-committees including tournaments and the successful Euro '94 Qualifying event in Brentwood and has even taken the county minutes in the absence of the General Secretary. Interestingly in her role as Clacton league secretary she has managed to keep letters secret from husband Brian (the league chairman) when she has felt that giving him prior knowledge would give other concerned parties an unfair disadvantage. Equally impressive is her flair for arranging sponsorship and the lucrative McDonalds sponsorship she arranged for the league

in conjunction with son Paul puts the efforts of many larger leagues to shame.

Rik James was awarded the Harry Walker Player's Player of the Year award for a second time and departing senior match secretary Keith Woodcock eloquently described "that it was fitting that the award should be won by someone everyone considered their friend". From a playing perspective it is pleasing that Rik should win the award after achieving his life-time ambition of winning the mens singles title at the Chelmsford Closed with his epic final success over Reagan Nettleingham.

County Life-Membership was awarded to two stalwarts of the Ilford league; husband-and-wife team Pam and Jack Anker whose involvement in table tennis as umpires, players and officials spans four decades. Pam accepted the award modestly saying "how pleased she was that she had accompanied her husband in his chosen sport when she was a complete beginner".

BRAINTREE CLOSER

The favourite Steve Dettmar retained his mens singles title in style with Paul Lucas again his victim in a hard-hitting final. 12 year-old Leanne Bentley became the youngest ever winner of a major singles title in Braintree league history when she toppled Kim Dowsett to take the Ladies Singles crown. Ian Whiteside also impressed taking his fourth consecutive veterans title with a drawn-out victory over Ev Lucas.

Full results were as follows:

Mens Singles Semi-Finals: Steve Dettmar beat Paul Davison 18,14; Paul Lucas beat Terry Dowsett 17,14. **Mens Singles Final:** Dettmar beat Lucas 18,10. **Ladies Singles:** Leanne Bentley beat Kim Dowsett 13,19. **Mens Doubles:** Terry Dowsett/Andy Wadling beat Paul & Ev Lucas -19,15,16. **Mixed Doubles:** Kim Dowsett/Richard Jennings beat Vicki Stredder/Paul Davison -19,15, 16. **Junior**

Boys Singles: Lee Dames beat Mark Palmer 14,-13,15. **Veterans Singles:** Ian Whiteside beat Ev Lucas -12,13,15.

Restricted Singles: Larte Lawson beat Duncan Elloy 20,-16,16.

Gloucestershire

by Alf Pepperd

The 50th AGM of 'The Gloucestershire County Committee' took place way back in the summer and the following were returned to formulate the 1998/9 season's committee.

Mr L.J.Smith - Chairman, Umpires/Sec and National Councillor. Mrs G. Smith - Vice Chairman and Tournaments Secretary. Mr G. Slack - Gen/Secretary, Coaching and Development. Mr K. Bridle - Hon Treasurer. Mrs M. Dean - Minutes Secretary. Mr R. Willsher - Selection. Mr A.F.Pepperd - Press/Publicity. President and Life Member: Mr M.J.Reeves. Vice Presidents: A W C. Simons, K.Jackson, R.Morley, Mrs M.Illawkins, R.E.Griffin, L.J.Smith, B.R. Merrett, A.H.Haines, Mrs J.Golding, J. M. Bunn, P.H. Jackson, A. F. Pepperd, P.F. Cruwys, R. J. Davis, and S. Johnstone.

Three representatives from each of the four County League's are invited to attend County Committee meetings which take place on alternate months.

BRITISH SCHOOLS TABLE TENNIS INTERNATIONAL

The above championships took place at 'Bells Sports Centre', in Perth, Scotland, over the last weekend in June, two Glo'shire girls featured prominently.

Ann Humble who plays 1st Division in both the Cheltenham & Gloucester League's gained seven wins out of eight in the U18 Girls team event, when she represented England in the British Schools Invitation Tournament.

In this event England won the silver medal as R.U., to the very powerful Welsh Squad, the other members of the team were Alice Howard (Cheshire), Tracy Davies (Essex), and Jodi Cox (Lincolnshire), Juliet Houghton acted as non-playing captain.

In the U18 Individual Event, Humble reached the Semi-Final only to be beaten by the highly ranked Tracy Davies, in the previous round Humble had beaten Catherine Davis the Welsh No 3.

Glo'shire's other entry in this event featured Suzy Robinson from the Stroud & District League, Suzy got to the final of the U16's Singles but was beaten by Trudie Bloor who at the time was ranked at No 5 in England, Suzy's ranking (at the time was 27).

Overall the English Schools teams were extremely successful, picking up 4 Gold

and 2 Silver Medals in the six team events. Gold Medals were achieved by both the girls and the boys U14 teams, the girls U16 and the boys U18's, the boys U16 and the girls U18 both won Silver Medals, and are to be congratulated.

THE NINETH WORLD VETERANS CHAMPIONSHIPS AT MANCHESTER

Gloucestershire were well represented by the following at the above championships: Roy Fowler, John Fannin, Alan Giles, Peter Wood, Dave Adamson, Rob Willsher, Dave Harvey (who got to the quarter finals of his respective age group), and finally - Gloucesters Molly Hawkins (nee Jones), who was our sole lady entrant, and she did so well that the next few lines are hers alone.

Molly first picked up a T.T.bat in 1945 and took to the sport straight away, in 1947 she was selected to represent England and took part in three World Championships in Holland, Sweden and London, the latter was in 1948.

In the early 1950's she attained a No 2 official womens ranking and played for her country until 1953, she was ever present playing at county level during this time, in fact she played in a Senior Veteran county match v Hampshire only two years ago.

Last June, Molly and her husband John set off for Manchester in their camper-automobile with the G-Mex building firmly in their sights, once there I understand that they enjoyed meeting former players like Diane Scholer (nee Rowe), Johnny Leach and many others of Molly's own near generation.

Molly reached the quarter finals of the womens doubles and earned a bronze medal, losing out in this event with her Australian partner Dorothy De Low to pairs from Sweden and Japan.

Molly's final coup d'etat came when she got to the final of the Over 80's Womens Singles, sadly only to loose to Yukie Uchida the current defending champion, and a Japanese grandmother, Molly was awarded a Silver Medal for this event and then headed back to her native Gloucester, where she has been actively playing table tennis since 1945, not many women around these days World-Wide of this amazing calibre ?

RECENTLY QUALIFIED UMPIRES

Congratulations to the following for recently qualifying as umpires: Peter and Ann Humble (both Gloucester), Stan Johnstone (Chelt), Ken Bridle and Debbie Wherrett (Cirencester), David Dean (Stroud).

Gloucester's John Davis at the time of writing has completed the papers but still has to do the practical and expedite.

TOURNAMENTS 1998/9

With around 10 Championship Tournaments all to be played at Cirencester (excluding 'The Cotswold 3 Star at Cheltenham), the County have a series of well planned Cadet & Junior 2 Star events on this seasons agenda - plus a Senior 2 Star Open Graded.

The season commences on Sunday 20th September with a Cadet 2 Star Open Graded (1), this event is closely followed by a Junior 2 Star Open Graded (1), on Sunday the 25th of October.

Local interests undoubtedly will centre around the County Junior Closed championships on Sunday 29th of November - and this will be followed one week later by the County Closed Senior Event, in which the Veterans title on that day could be very interesting, Well known Veteran Dave Harvey has virtually dominated this event (in all but one year), when Dennis Holland won it, but now we have a new name to add to the Vets championship that's Gloucester's 40 year old Bill Dawe, now under the assumption that Bill will be entering this year, it could well be that this championship MIGHT change hands, I predict a Harvey v Dawe final- it could go either way, we shall see.

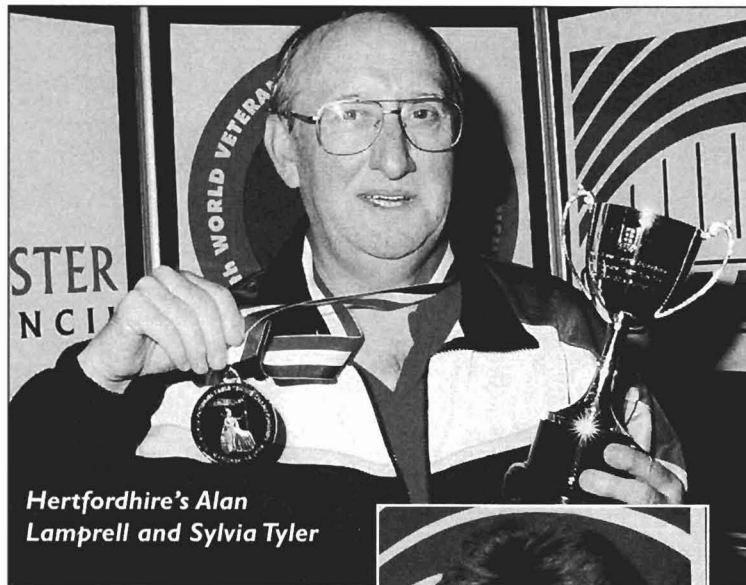
Hampshire

by Brian Lamerton

Welcome to another new season, with the promise of definite publication dates for this seasons TTN I will endeavour to bring you news of Hampshire with each edition, but I do of course need the help of people from around the county to keep me up to date with happenings (01489 781266 is my number)

Duties in Manchester stopped me attending the AGM but the only changes as far as I am aware were the appointment of 'Taffy' Davies as League Secretary and the passing of a more stringent rule regarding the re-arrangement of matches, this if adhered to, and Taffy will ensure that it is, should lead to more efficient and enjoyable competitions.

Last seasons league winners were, Mens Div.1 Southampton; Mens Div.2 Gosport & Fareham; Veteran Div.1 Basingstoke (first winners other than Portsmouth or Bournemouth in the 27 years history of the competition); Veteran Div.2 Aldershot "B"; Junior Div.1 Southampton "A"; Junior Div.2 Andover; Cadet Div.1 Bournemouth "A"; Cadet Div.2 Portsmouth "C"; Junior "players of the year" awards went to James Ovník, Deane Whittington, Richard Cooper and Emma Dobson and Cadet awards to Nic



Hertfordshire's Alan Lamprell and Sylvia Tyler



Anderson, Christopher Field and Alex Garlick.

Competition will be keen at the Junior trials on August 30th as we prepare for our first season in the junior Premier division of the County Championship; players, and officials, are keenly looking forward to this season - if with a little apprehension. Lack of lady players means that we shall only have one senior team this season; I know all the arguments against but there really must be a strong case for a men only championship competition.

Welcome to Brian Hall as the new chairman of Portsmouth; Brian, a one time Director of Leisure Services for Portsmouth and chairman of the discussion group which formulated the Regional plan in 1993 will be a tremendous asset to the league as they strive to obtain their own centre.

Tragedy struck in Southampton late in July when a flying boat accident on the Solent claimed two lives including that of Mike Andrews who was Mayor of Southampton. Mike was Southampton junior champion in 1964 and although he later abandoned sport for a successful career in business and politics he had announced his intention to host a Table Tennis event during his term of office, sadly not now to be, condolences to all close to him.

Hertfordshire

by John Wood

WORLD VETERANS' MEDALS

ALAN LAMPRELL and SYLVIA TYLER are the toast of Hertfordshire, following their spectacular efforts at the World Veterans Championships, at the G-Mex Centre in Manchester, in June.

Alan won a Silver Medal playing for

Ellenborough 'B' in the Mens' Over 60 Team event, whilst Sylvia won a Bronze Medal when she represented Ellenborough 'A' in the Womens' Over 60 Team event.

Well done to you both, you have made Hertfordshire a very proud county.

This is the last time that I shall be writing the 'County Notes' column for Hertfordshire, as I shall be moving to Cornwall shortly.

My happiness of moving to Cornwall is tinged with a little sadness, because I will be leaving behind many friends and good memories. But, unfortunately the new house is too small to take you all with me. However, I am sure I will bumping into many of Hertfordshire's players and officials on the tournament circuit.

Good luck with the coming 1998/99 season.

Isle of Wight

by John Prean

THE LONG PIMPLE SENSATION

Unless there is a change of heart, long pimples will be shorter from July of next year. The matter is well covered in other parts of TT News. These notes need not go beyond the likely local consequences.

As our numbers declined along the lines of national trends, the overall standard of our Premier league has also fallen. That

does not mean that our best players are worse than they were a decade ago. I would argue the opposite. What has indisputably declined is the strength in depth. There are now too many easy matches for our top players, too many hat-tricks. A few years ago practically every team had a player who could trouble the best, most had two. Today the gap between top and bottom has widened. Our best players are clearly Danny Burns and Roger Hookey. They play with conventional rubbers, that is to say maximum thickness of sponge and glue. Our third best player is Alex Rorke, who plays a mainly defensive game but tries to pick-hit on both wings. He plays with a combination bat, long pimples on one side. He leads a group in which long pimples play a major part. As the declared aim of the new regulations is to render the long pimples ineffective, it must follow that the first result will be a further weakening of standards. It may mean that some of these players will retire from the game. They may feel that the game has treated them badly by depriving them of the fruit of their labour, the many hours of practice spent on perfecting their style. If this sounds far-fetched, one may cite the example of Dougie Johnson and Billy Cleave after the previous change in 1983 when the red/black rule was brought in, which enormously disadvantaged long pimples/combo players. These were players who had a great deal to offer, both in their contrasting ways, one a young senior international, the other a junior international of a standard we have not matched for many years. Both stopped playing at once, seeing no future in a sport which took away from them their special skill which they had worked so hard to develop. A number of players all over the country, certainly here, will feel the same way.

They do ask, of course, why there is no 'quid pro quo', why glue is not abolished and why fast rubbers are not made less effective too, by reducing the thickness to say .8mm or even 1.5. Such measures might indeed take us towards the level playing field sought by the anti-long-pimples fraternity.

What is proposed now will do a great deal of harm. It may remove some awkward characters from the opposite end of the table, but it may also remove them entirely from the sport, which will have fewer members as well as fewer defenders (who find long pimples indispensable) and even shorter rallies, as glue meets glue.

It is right to declare my own interest,

insofar as Carl plays with long pimples on one side, as he has done throughout most of his career. I believe he is the only player in the top hundred of the world who tries to attack with the long pimples from close to the table. The rest of this elite band are defenders, perhaps some perhaps some half dozen, that includes the current English champion Matt Syed. The numbers cited may put the matter into perspective. Sadly, it is a minority which is being discriminated against, a not unusual state of affairs in human history. It is not what one hoped for in our friendly sport and that is before the hara-kiri aspects, which will make many members turn their back on our beautiful game. I have given most of my space this issue, as I think it so vital to our future.

The lack of news of the closed season made this possible. However, there was one major event and that was the Championships of the Southern Region, again staged at The Carl Prean Centre in Ryde. Once again Danny Burns reserved his best for this event, winning both the Senior and Junior titles (the latter at Under 21 level).

It was a high class event, with ranking points at stake, refereed by one of the best in the business, Mick Strode, who deserves our warm thanks.

Lucy Pointer (13) won the Ladies' event after losing a group match. We were all disappointed that she did not win a place in the Cadet Girls' team for the Cadet 6 Nations. She was after all, No.5 on the national ranking list. Most mysterious was the failure to award her a 'Wild Card' for the 'Masters' (a strange name for the 'Cadet Top 12', and by missing that boat, she also missed all the others, including the training camps prior to the 'European Youth Championships'. It all seemed rather unfair. Lucy has now been offered a place at the new Academy in Nottingham, part of the ETTA World Class Performance Plan. We wish her luck and hope it all works out well.

Carl Prean won the 'Grand Prix' Finals, but not the main money. He did win the four main events in which he was able to play, in between the hectic German programme, but was unable to accumulate sufficient points compared with players who played more often. He will be playing in the French Superleague for Cestas of Bordeaux, but for the first time in a dozen years will be living in England. Carl should be able to play in most of the big International events which he missed last season, and looks set to start in the 'Australian' and 'China' Opens. Such world-wide travel is made possible by the lottery-funded 'WCP'

which should bring some positive results in due course. Such should improve both image and publicity of the sport, which is something we, at grass roots so badly need.

Kent

by Adrian Hall

WORLD CLASS COACH AND PLAYERS IN KENT

Wang Da Yong, the national coach of Belgium and personal coach to the past world No1 Jean Michael Salve ran a weeks training camp for Kent's young players at the Sittingbourne Community College from 25th-31st July 1998.

Along with Wang were world class players and coaches:

- Li Yung Fel, probably the best lady player outside China and a former member of the Chinese national junior team, who plays 1st division of German Bundesliga.
- Osama Ahmed, Sudans No1 for the past 10 years, former African junior champion and a participant in the Atlanta Olympic games.
- Ip Mihon, playing in the German national league and former Belgium No 8.
- Carol Detrigne, bronze medallist in 1998 European Junior Championships and European No 6 cadet.
- Michel Detrigne, coach.

Wang Da Yong has for a long time been a friend of Kent Table Tennis and with his support it was possible to give 30 Kent juniors the best possible coaching. Kent's national squad players Christian Thompson (Medway), Scott Friday (Medway), Justin Dodd (Gravesend), Dominic Hall (Maidstone) and Oliver Stevens (Rotherhithe) all benefited from quality practice and the Kent U12 Girls squad were getting the best advice to start their careers. 15 of the players were invited to an additional week in Belgium, practising with many of the Belgium juniors at a camp also run by Mr Wang.

Our local papers and Meridian TV once again gave us excellent coverage of the event.

KENT RELIANCE IN NEW THREE YEAR SPONSORSHIP DEAL

Mr Ian Robinson, Managing Director of the Kent Reliance Building Society, has agreed a new three year deal with the County for the continued support of the Kent Senior Closed championships. Please if you have a opportunity support our sponsors.

TWO GOLDS AND A BRONZE FOR DOMINIC

Maidstone Grammar Schools Dominic Hall (13), Kent Schools U13 Champion and bronze medal winner at the National Schools Championships, represented England Schools U14's in Perth, Scotland and won two gold medals and a bronze in a tournament against Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Iceland and The Isle of Man.

Hall's first gold medal came in the team event where in the final England beat Scotland 6-1. The second came in the Doubles, where hall in partnership with Cumbria's Michael Gommershall won the event beating the Irish pair of Oates / Burn in the final.

The bronze medal came in the singles event where Hall lost in the semi-final to his doubles partner Gommershall 15-21, 21-23.

DODD IN EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Gravesends Justin Dodd (15) was Kent's only player selected to represent England Juniors at the European Youth Championships in Italy from 10th-19 July 1998.

KENT PAIR TO REPRESENT ENGLAND IN SAUDI ARABIA

Medway's Christian Thompson (18) and Scott Friday (16) were selected for a ten day training and tournament schedule in Saudi Arabia commencing 8th July 1998. For Rainham Grammar School boy Friday this is his second trip to Saudi following his visit in 1995.

SPENCER AND CHRISTIAN ALL DRESSED UP

Kent's former National U21 doubles champion Spencer Thompson married Miss Cressida Crook at St John the



Spencer & Christian Thompson

Baptist, Tunstall on Saturday 23rd May 1998. The couple have set up home in Chester, where I am sure Spencer's coaching talent will be as much in demand as it will be missed in Kent. The picture, shows Spencer and best man, brother Christian all dressed up for the occasion.

KENT JUNIOR OPEN - APOLOGY

It has come to light that I made an error in reporting the results of the Cadet Girls' Singles plate events, getting the results the wrong way round, for which I apologise, the correct results are as follows:

CADET GIRLS PLATE CLASS I: Kay Barham (Essex) beat Jessica Lee (Surrey) 21-15, 21-17

CADET GIRLS PLATE CLASS II: Deborah Flint (Surrey) beat Lucy Weil (Essex) 21-11, 21-13

I trust Mr Flint will also have the same courtesy to apologise to my wife for his disgraceful phone call.

Leicestershire

by Derek Butt

A LONG DAY

The Leicestershire Intertowns tournament was held at Rushey Mead table tennis centre during April was a very long day with twenty one matches played. There were two teams each from Leicester, Hinckley, and Loughborough in the Seniors event, and two teams each from Leicester and Hinckley in the Juniors event.

Loughborough first team emerged the winners of the Seniors event beating Hinckley first team 5-0, Leicester seconds 5-0, Loughborough seconds 5-2, and Hinckley seconds 5-0. The winning squad consisted of Dave Fox, Wayne Glossop, Dave Roach, and Russ Smith who all played very well throughout.

Hinckleys first team held on to the Junior title winning all their three matches, Leicesters first team team did get nearest to beating them with a 3-5 scoreline. Hinckleys team were represented by Justin Rai, Ravi Saigal, and Arif Razak.

My thanks go out to all the players for making it a very interesting day, and thanks also to the helpers and to Rushey Mead for the use of their premises, and to Steve White.

The Leicestershire County Table Tennis Association held the Junior Closed Championships in May, and again as in the Inter Towns there was a very high entry, with a lot of good table tennis to witness from the youngsters. Especially in all the finals where all went to three.

RESULTS: Boys Singles: Harris McQueen

beat Daniel Marriott 21-11, 14-21, 26-24.

Girls Singles: Kelly Craven- Griffiths beat Emma Craven-Griffiths 21-19, 14-21, 21-13.

Cadets Singles: Harris McQueen beat Andy Craven -Griffiths 19-21, 21-15, 21-19.

Under 12: Kelly Craven-Griffiths won the round robin of three players only.

Doubles: Daniel Marriott & Mathew Cant beat Harris McQueen and Andy Craven-Griffiths 11-21, 21-19, 21-19.

This event was very well run and organised by Mike Smith, and Mike conveys his thanks to Steve White, Derek Butt, Harry Ward, Pete Wilson, Mick Box, Bob Craven- Griffiths, and Tony Smith for their help, and scoring.

The Elbow Tankard (Summer League) is going along very smoothly, and all but one of the Group matches have been played. Eighteen teams entered, two groups of five and two of four. Playing at home and away.

Group One winners were Ironmen winning seven of their eight matches, and looking potential winners, they will play the holders of the Trophy Park Keepers in the quarter-finals. The winners of group two were Electric Shoes, who were unbeaten winning three of their six games, and drawing the remainder, they will play group one runners up Great Glen.

In Group Three leaders Well Heeled lost just one match in their campaign, and will play Casualties in the next round who were runners up in Group Four.

The winners of Group Four Park Rangers will play BAHK runners up in Group three.

QUARTER FINAL DRAW: Ironmen v Park Keepers, Electric Shoes v Great Glen, Well Heeled v Casualties, Park Rangers v BAHK.

Good luck to all, and hope we see some close results.

Finally, I am pleased to report that the Leicester and District table tennis league will again have eight divisions this coming season. Good news indeed and we also have at least one new club.

Middlesex

by Tony Taylor

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

At the Annual General Meeting it was emphasised that vacancies on the committee needed to be filled and volunteers are urgently requested.

There were certain problems arranging Inter-League fixtures where in the Victor Barna, West Middlesex conceded their match against Staines, as a result of which Staines won the Division instead of West Middlesex. In the D.W. Birmingham Trophy, Wembley and Harrow League

won following a 9-0 walkover granted by Willesden. In the Norman Pegg competition, Wembley and Harrow won following 2 matches played at the end of the season.

In the Schools National Finals, Middlesex's Lisa Hill, Danielle Hill, James Smith and Adam Pennock, played in the group stages and although they did not qualify they gained valuable experience for the future. Michael and Luis Dominguez both qualified for the Knockout stage. Michael bowed out early but Luis made it through to the semi-final before losing, defeating the top seed on the way.

Sadly we have to report the death of another of our Vice-Presidents, Alf Leigh, on 22nd March at the age of 84. Apart from table tennis he was a keen cricket and football supporter. Alf had season tickets for both Arsenal and Tottenham - he always maintained that he went to Spurs for the laughs. Alf did it all in table tennis. Apart from playing into his 'twilight' years (he boasted that his league team totalled almost 200 years). He umpired at international level, as long as Arsenal were not playing at home. For many years he was one of the mainstays of the North Middlesex League and edited their journal for 14 years. But this was only one of many tasks he undertook and one could be sure that anything he said he would do, would be done with meticulous attention to detail. He was a perfectionist and would not accept second best in anything he did.

Alf will be missed by many people in many walks of life, but not least by his many friends in the world of table tennis.

STOP PRESS: Our very popular senior club Progress has moved venue from Doyle Gardens to a new larger 25 table venue at Bridge Park Stonebridge, where junior trials and Middlesex senior and junior tournaments can now be held.

Northumberland

by Pauline Long

At the time of writing, the WENADE (UK) LTD. Northumbria Summer League season is almost at an end, with the season due to be completed by Friday 21st August. The big three - St. Gabriel's, Washington 'A' and North Shields YMCA 'A' - are way ahead of the other teams in Division 1, but YMCA are probably title favourites through having a game in hand.

In Division 2, Washington 'B' have yet to lose a match, although they have been held to a draw on four occasions. They lead the table by a mere two points from YMCA 'C', with North Fire in third place.

Division 3 has been much more closely fought, with only 14 points separating the first six teams. Cramblington Stringers are just one point ahead of Oxhill YC, with Byker CC a further four points behind.

DSS 'C' look likely to be winners of a very depleted Division 4 consisting of only six teams. Maccabi and Cramblington Rejects who currently occupy second and third places, but Nestles could overtake both teams if they win their game in hand by a sufficient margin.

WENADE (UK) LTD. will also act as sponsors for the winter league season, which will commence in mid-September. The first Saturday date for County matches will be 19th September, so hopefully all players not involved in the Summer League will have got some practice in before that date. We look forward to the new season, both at League level and County level.

Northants

by Dennis Millman

With the season ahead still in the capable hands of the administrators I have time and space to report on last season's major event - The Queensberry Scimitar County Closed Tournament.

Andy Trott, with awesome power and yet delicate deftness of touch, thrilled an appreciative crowd at Wellingborough's Glamis Hall, as he outplayed former Sussex No.1 Malcolm Francis to retain the men's singles title to provide a fitting finale to a splendid finals night.

Trott had enjoyed an easy passage through the earlier stages, while Francis, though he had started slowly against Neil Stanley and Richard Elliott was always on course for the anticipated final.

Against Francis, Trott, who had the advantage of playing two earlier finals, was in scintillating form, his rapier-like topspin backhand allied with crashing forehands, proving much too powerful for the normally secure Francis defence. This was Trott's fourth title, and without doubt his most impressive performance.

Earlier with Stanley, he had also retained the men's doubles in a repeat of the previous year's final against Elliott and Mark Nannery, and it was the same story in the mixed event, where the evergreen Muriel Cox gave him admirable support to account for Gary Webb and Clem Little.

Little, the only player to appear in every finals night at Glamis Hall, finally got her deserved reward in the singles, when she remained calm under early pressure from an aggressive Viv Smiley, to take the first end on deuce, and then establish a match winning lead in the second.

This was Little's first major title, and she celebrated by taking a second, when partnered by her beaten opponent, she accounted for Helen Watts and Sue Moloney in the doubles.

Geoff Atkinson last won the Over 40's event in 1986, while Gordon Shaw had never achieved ultimate success. However Shaw's determination to succeed, together with an effective game plan, enabled him to take the advantage after early pressure from Atkinson, and with Shaw's defence at it's best he won in straight games.

For two year's Shaw and Michael Edwards had finished second to Alan Ashberry and Gerald Finney in the Over 40 Doubles, but with Finney sidelined by illness, the main obstacle was removed and victory went to Shaw/Edwards.

Edwards also took the Over 50's Singles at his first attempt, but the corresponding doubles and that at Over 60's level went to Greg Dobrowski and Bill Fletcher, with Fletcher making it three in a row in the Over 60 Singles.

The Yarnall family had yet another bonanza - slightly tarnished when Greg went down in a superb Under 17 Boys final to Imran Soorty, who played each winning point to perfection in an outstanding display. Greg also went down in the final of the Gwil Evans Memorial Trophy, but with father Jan the victor, the trophy stayed in the family. Father and son then teamed up to add the Class One Doubles.

Three more titles ended in Greg's favour, the Under 17 and Under 14 Doubles in tandem with younger brother Tim, and the Under 14 Singles in which he accounted for long time rival James Fitton.

On the day that he was chosen to represent the English Schools Under 11 side, Tim was in celebratory mood with three further successes - the Under 12 Doubles with Dickson Pang, plus singles wins at Under 12 and Under 10 level - his five titles making him the most prolific winner of the tournament.

Youth also had its fling in the classified events, with Paul Chatfield taking the Class 3 Singles and Lee O'Boyle getting the verdict in Class 4, where the semi-finalists included three Corby Town players, and yet another Yarnall - David.

Sue Moloney held on to the Women's Over 40 title, with women's champion Clem Little her ultimate victim, while County Secretary Denise Parnett was another to repeat a 1997 success story, when she finished well ahead of Jo Roberts in the Singles for the Disabled Genuine enthusiast Chris Warliker

franked his recent fine form with a hard fought win over Martin Watts at Class 2 level, with Rothborough's Watts also having the misfortune to go down to Majid Soorty at the final stage of the Rod Marchant Memorial Trophy for 17-22 year olds.

After an excellent day at Kettering Leisure Village, the Finals Night was the icing on the cake for Tournament Organiser Arthur Palmer, and his assistants Phil Slade and Ken Marchant, for a mission splendidly accomplished and another job well done.

Oxfordshire

by Avril Haynes

ALF WINS WORLD TITLE

Alf Davies partnered by Arthur Hartshorn of Burnley won the over 70s doubles title at the Veterans World Championships which were held in Manchester in June. They beat J. Lambert of Switzerland and H. Engelmaier of Germany 12-21, 21-8, 21-18 in a thrilling final. At one point they were 17-13 up in the final set, next it was 17-17 but they clawed back to win. Alf also reached the quarter finals of the mens over 70s singles where he lost to Bert Levinge of Ireland whom he has beaten three times.

JUNIOR TRIALS

The ranking tournament was held at Kidlington Forum Youth Club centre in July, results as follows:

BOYS: 1. Ashley Cox BANBURY, 2. John Camilleri BANBURY, 3. Kevin Cruickshank KIDLINGTON, 4. Greg Boone KIDLINGTON, 5. Sam Harrison KIDLINGTON, 6. James S Cunane BANBURY, 7. Simon Hughes COWLEY, 8. Yusef Salehi COWLEY, 9. Tim Anderson GIRLS: 1. Joanne O'Donovan KIDLINGTON, 2. Tamzin Edmunds WITNEY, 3. Sarah Howkins WITNEY.

MIDLAND LEAGUE

In the Midland Veterans Division 4 Ian Arnold was the leading player with 17 wins out of 21. Ian has a very unique style which gained him the winning games. Together with team mates Tony Wheeler and Nigel Taylor they will be promoted to division three next season after winning the division.

OXFORD LEAGUE

The winners of division one were Forum 'A' with Vikings 'A' as the runners-up. Karl Bushell of Forum was once again the leading player with 50 out of 54 wins. Andrew Flint was second also with Forum 'A' winning 45 out of 51.

The Handicap Shield Competition final proved to be exciting. Haddenham started with 145 points deficit but Morris Motors 'C' played well enough to win by

two points.

South Yorkshire

by John Hatfield

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to South Yorkshire vice-president Arthur Eastwood from the Rother Valley league who was the host country's last survivor in the men's over-80 singles at the World Veterans championships in Manchester. The active 80 year-old Rotherham YMCA player and Scorpions club coach kept the England flag flying until the quarter-finals of the senior event.

Hallam League players narrowly missed the top honours in last season's Grand Prix competition. Despite winning at Bath, Michael Isherwood (Crookes) failed by 30 points to overtake Neil Charles in the men's band 1 final points table while David Charlton had to settle for second place in the men's band 2 section with Abbeydale team colleague Mark Short in third spot. Hallam women's champion Sarah Smith (Abbeydale) finished third in the women's band 1 and 2 competitions and it was runner-up slot again for Charlton and Short in the men's doubles.

In this season's British League, Abbeydale Park TTC from Sheffield will once again be the county's sole representatives with a Division 2 North side featuring David Charlton, Trevor Williams, Tim Simpson and Marc Williams. A new girls' team will be one of three sides representing Rotherham Scorpions in the Woolwich National Junior League. South Yorkshire will field their first-ever junior team in the county championships with Sheffield's Matthew Kenny leading a squad to be announced after the team trials in September.

Ken Urquhart, one of the longest-serving and most popular players in Sheffield, died of cancer in July at the age of 81. A dedicated enthusiast of the game, he represented the Post Office in the Sheffield Works League for many seasons but is best remembered for his long association with the Hillsborough Tabernacle club in the Sheffield and District League. He won the Norman Lee Jubilee Award in 1980 for long and distinguished service as the club's secretary and the coveted Arthur Smith Memorial Trophy for outstanding contribution to the game in Sheffield in 1996. He played his last league match in April last year at the age of 80.

Table tennis players past and present gathered in numbers to pay their last respects to a well loved colleague at his funeral service held appropriately in the

Hillsborough Tabernacle church, a short distance from his home, which he attended regularly.

Sussex

by John Woodford

Some leagues and counties have trouble even grief, before they can fill some of the administrative vacancies; annual meetings have to be adjourned while arms are twisted.

For the second year in succession the Eastbourne league will probably have to threaten it's 200 players that no fixtures will be released until a new secretary is found, despite the fact that the fixtures and computer records are managed by a separate officer; not a big job, handling some correspondence compiling agendas for about four meetings a year, but everyone wants to play table tennis but no-one wants to do the essential tasks.

Even at county level there are problems. At the recent Sussex annual meeting all went well until it came to the appointment of a new treasurer when Laurie Holland after fourteen years superb service, retired. No-one wanted to follow Laurie, but eventually a tentative offer came from the Brighton League in the shape of Denis Miles their own treasurer and secretary of the BACS club. We now await his confirmation after he returns from a Mediterranean cruise! However, Laurie Holland was made a vice-president of the Sussex TTA and the meeting seemed to approve of the happenings at Loughborough at the ETTA AGM when all the parts of the new membership scheme went through. Assurances were given that no one would be thrown into jail if they declined to join the computerised database, but it was hoped that all members would co-operate - everyone will be protected under the Data Protection Act, which will afford relief for the 7,000 card-voting ETTA AGM members from the north-west who voted against the database - how old-fashioned can you get?

However, the new Sussex president Bill Goldfinch took the chair for the first time, after driving through three hours of gales and torrential rain, for the opening stages of the meeting after which Keith Jackson (Haywards Heath) took the chair for his fourth year.

On the playing side, Sussex are extremely pleased to have finished in third position in the premier division of the county championships, their best show for two decades.

Horsham also finished third in the premier division of the British League but are still struggling to obtain some sponsorship. Hastings, comprising ETTA

1998/99 GRAND PRIX POINTS TOP SIXTEEN

Mens Singles

1	Bradley Billington	97
2	Mark Smith	72
3	Kevin Dolder	52
4	Adam Robertson	52
5	Fatai Adeyemo	37
6	Darren Blake	37
7	Michael Isherwood	37
8	Gary Tendler	34
9	Michael Auchterlonie	27
10	Justin Dodd	27
11	Darren Howarth	27
12	Brian Johns	27
13	Kiyokazu Toi	27
14	Abdul Wuraola	27
15	Chris Dunne	24
16	Andrew Horsfield	24

Womens Singles

1	Sue Collier	97
2	Karen Lockwood	72
3	Marianna Rolikova	52
4	Clare News	49
5	Michele Cohen	37
6	Emily Dearing	37
7	Lucy Perry	34
8	Catherine Davies	33
9	Jan Dunning	27
10	Andrea Harrison	27
11	Aparna Narendran	27
12	Sarah Smith	27
13	Ann Humble	26
14	Jannine Donnelly	24
15	Laura Knowles	24
16	Sarah Nutch	24

Band 1 Men

1	Michael Isherwood	98
2	Brian Johns	72
3	Christian Thompson	53
4	Mark Smith	52
5	Neil Charles	37
6	Steve Hall	35
7	Stephen Bevan	34
8	Darren Howarth	34
9	Chris Beckley	27
10	Chris Ford	27
11	Nick McKoy	27
12	Andrew Rushton	26
13	Michael Auchterlonie	24
14	Steven Dixon	24
15	Andrew Horsfield	24
16	Mark Short	24

Band 1 Women

1	Marianna Rolikova	95
2	Brenda Buoey	72
3	Jan Dunning	53
4	Sarah Smith	49
5	Catherine Davies	37
6	Clare News	37
7	Ann Humble	34
8	Nicola Smith	34
9	Siwan Davies	01

Mens Band 2

1	Stephen Bevan	98
2	Mark Short	73
3	Keith Williams	52
4	Chris Ford	51

5	Philip Clarkson	37
6	Steven Dixon	37
7	Alastair McTavish	37
8	Graham Pointer	37
9	Trevor Campbell	27
10	David Charlton	26
11	David Smith	26
12	Jeff Rigby	25
13	Brian Allison	24
14	Tim Avis	24
15	Martin Rule	24
16	Michael Wilkins	24

Women's Band 2

1	Ann Humble	97
2	Emily Dearing	72
3	Lucy Perry	53
4	Sue Burgess	52
5	Val Murdoch	37
6	Audrey Robinson	37
7	Crystal Hall	36
8	Janine Donnelly	34
9	Iona Davies	27
10	Gillian Edwards	27
11	Gemma Lloyd	27
12	Laura Knowles	25
13	Emma Cook	24
14	Katy Ingham	24
15	Terri-Anne Nolan	24
16	Kim Roberts	24

Mens Band 3

1	Christopher Nichols	97
2	Jeff Rigby	71
3	Trevor Williams	52
4	Robin Pearce	51
5	Graham Babcock	37
6	Graham Pointer	37
7	Mick Wilcockson	36
8	Dennis Gibbs	33
9	Tim Avis	28
10	Jeff Craighill	27
11	Martin Ireland	27
12	Stephen Munson	27
13	Stephen Beerling	25
14	Keith Childs	24
15	Antony Lickfold	24
16	John Williamson	24

Women's Band 3

1	Laura Knowles	94
2	Janine Donnelly	72
3	Terri-Anne Nolan	52
4	Karen Shepherd	52
5	Iona Davies	37

6	Gemma Lloyd	37
7	Gillian Edwards	34
8	Claire Gibbs	34
9	Elizabeth May	27
10	Linda McLernon	27
11	Kim Roberts	27
12	Annabelle Sorrentino	27
13	Katy Ingham	24
14	Audrey Robinson	24
14	Karen Savage	24
16	Samantha Meredith	23

Mens Band 4

1	Robin Pearce	97
2	Glen Freeman	71
3	Lee Barham	52
4	Mick Wilcockson	52
5	Christian Carman	37
6	Steve Cullis	36
7	Stuart Gibbs	34
8	Adrian Noott	34
9	Martin Ireland	28
10	John Davies	27
11	Dominic Hall	27
12	David Randall	27
13	Rob Dynes	26
14	Stan Battrick	24
15	Robbie Becker	24
16	Kevin Taylor	24

Mens Band 5

1	Mark Ramsbottom	96
2	Thomas Williams	69
3	Robert Owen	52
4	Neil Page	52
5	David Scott	37
6	Clive Strettle	37
7	Richard Willcock	36
8	Richard Craig	34
9	Steve Cullis	27
10	Tom Hughes	27

11	John Wood	27
12	Edwin Bone	24
13	Geoff Morgan	24
14	Paul Robinson	24
15	Nigel Shepherd	24
16	Andrew Halling	23

Veteran Mens Singles

1	Nigel Eckersley	97
2	Brian Johns	72
3	David Newton	52
4	Mike Johns	51
5	Steven Crook	37
6	Keith Williams	37
7	Barry Crook	34
8	John Williamson	34
9	Trevor Campbell	27
10	Keith Childs	27
11	Roy Norton	27
12	David Roberts	26
13	Terry Guymer	25
14	Alex Murdoch	24
15	Mick Wilcockson	24
16	Stan Battrick	23

Veteran Womens Singles

1	Jan Dunning	49
2	Brenda Buoey	36
3	Joan H-Middlemore	26
4	Sue Burgess	25
5	Val Murdoch	17
6	Patricia Thorley	17

Under 21 Men

1	Adam Robertson	97
2	Kevin Dolder	71
3	Christian Thompson	52
4	David Charlton	49
5	Craig Gascoyne	37
6	Simon James	36
7	Lee Dredge	34
8	Michael James	34
9	Chris Dunne	27
10	Alastair McTavish	27
11	Stephen Munson	27
12	Martin Rule	27
13	Kiyokazu Toi	27
14	Tim Avis	26
15	Tom Hughes	26
16	Justin Dodd	23

Under 21 Women

1	Marianna Rolikova	97
2	Karen Lockwood	71
3	Catherine Davies	49
4	Aparna Narendran	49
5	Sian Davies	37
6	Ann Humble	37
7	Lucy Perry	37
8	Emily Dearing	36
9	Andrea Harrison	27
10	Clare News	27
11	Suzy Robinson	27
12	Annabelle Sorrentino	27
13	Laura Knowles	26
14	Delyth Davies	24
15	Janine Donnelly	24
16	Nicola Smith	24



A full list of points is available in booklet form from the ETTA for 75p including posting and packing.

headquarters staff, plus Nicky Mason, Paul Barry and Simon Cox having gained promotion to Division 1 South, are going to find the going much tougher.

If any Sussex teams fail to field a full side this coming season in the county championships the axe is likely to fall on at least one of the ten teams - too many as I and others have been saying for years.

Sussex were fined twice last season through shortages of female players. This problem is even more acute for the junior teams. How the new junior secretary for Sussex Peter Baldwin is going to find enough girls not working on Saturdays, I have no idea, but he is determined to run three junior sides.

Footnote: According to my journalist colleague Richard Eaton, writing in a lawn tennis magazine, table tennis is the most widely played racquet sport in the world and it is one of the six biggest sports in terms of the number of nations playing in world championships.

That is nice to know, but the sad and well-publicised fact in England is that ETTA membership has dropped by sixty per cent in twenty years!

Warwickshire

by Caroline Williams

PROGRESS

A new season fast approaches but there is still time to review progress over the County last season. A look at the actual County Championships show a very mixed bag!

Both the Senior 1st team in Division 2C and the Veteran 1st team in Division 2A won their Divisions without dropping a point. This had been expected for the Vets who had only fallen from Div. 1 12 months before when they had been squeezed out on an unlucky countback. However it was an excellent result for the Seniors. We wish both teams good fortune in their respective Division 1A's. After two seasons in the Premier however luck did not run Warwickshire Junior's way. Two games lost on deuce in the first weekend gave Middlesex a two point lead on us, relieving them and giving us the drop! With a strong squad of Juniors, particularly from Birmingham, to call on a quick return to the top could be on the cards.

The Senior 2, Junior 2, Veteran 2 and 3 teams all finished mid-table in Division 2's and will continue to battle it out there.

MIDLAND LEAGUE SUCCESS

Birmingham took the top honours in the Midland League Division 1 Mens with an unbeaten run and they were also

runners-up in Division 1 Veterans with their B squad. Nuneaton A were second in Veterans Division 2 and so will move up next season. In Division 3 Coventry A were supreme with 7 clear wins led by Kevin Pilgrim who achieved the ultimate of 21 successes from 21 games.

Leamington B and C finished in second and third places behind Coventry and all three teams have been promoted to Division 2 for the coming season. For the Leamington teams this is their third promotion in three years. Division 4 have Coventry B as runners-up behind Oxford and Nuneaton C gained the same place in Division 5 behind Stroud.

Junior Division 1 has been the province of Leamington for a fantastic three years but this time they only gained second place. Newark edged the honours on countback whilst Birmingham were third and Nuneaton fourth.

CADETS MOVING UP

Birmingham are showing their cadet strength with an impressive run in the Heart of England Cadet League. Thirteen teams battled it out over last season at Kenilworth and Birmingham B and Birmingham A finished second and third respectively behind a very consistent Kidderminster. Current number 1 Under 12 Greg Baker showed his ability with an excellent 94% to place Nuneaton fifth.

Worcestershire

by Martin Clark

COUNTY JUNIOR & CADET TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Most leagues in the county entered teams in the Junior and Cadet Championships, which was so well organised by Roger Stephens.

Lewis Cook and Alex Hill took the honours in the Junior section as they steered Dudley A to victory by two points, with Kidderminster taking runners-up spot largely due to the efforts of Joe Galloway and Leigh Hipkins.

All rested on the final match which Dudley won 4-2.

The Cadets section was dominated by Kidderminster, whose A and B teams finished first and second.

Pride of place goes to Chris May with a 100% record, playing in every match. Craig Williams was only one off a maximum and they were ably supported by Adam Matthews, Tom Rees, William Pritchard and John Keene, who illustrated the efforts being made at both junior and cadet levels in Kidderminster.

UNSUNG HERO

Those playing, helping and spectating at the World Veterans Championships at the G-Mex Centre, Manchester in June,

couldn't help but be impressed by the organisation. The hub of activity centred around the information desk where most participants called at least once and often many times. At the helm of this centre was Director of Information John Dignum, whose untiring efforts matched any of those on the tables. Such dedication to the sport is illustrated by the fact that John took his two weeks summer holiday to make sure that everyone was provided with up to date news and information and all queries from visitors the world over were dealt with by John and his team efficiently and courteously throughout the championships. John plays his table tennis in the county and we are pleased to ensure that his efforts do not go unrecognised. Well done John.

PRESS OFFICER

Ken Walton, who normally makes his presence known on the table, has for many years been the Press Officer for Dudley and the County. Whilst he continues to be one of the foremost players, he has now relinquished his county press duties. Those who write columns often know the frustrations felt when they are not printed, and credit must be given for the time and effort given voluntarily by Ken over the years for sometimes controversial, but always interesting reading. Let's hope that future county notes maintain his standards.

Yorkshire

by Rea Balmford

As ever, the 'Notes' in this first issue of the new season are, inevitably, dated, with little or no information on the 98/99 season yet to hand, but a need to tie up the 'bits and pieces' of the campaign which closed some three months back.

County Championship successes will be highlighted elsewhere in these pages, while, on the internal front, congratulations go to Bradford, who claimed three titles in the Yorkshire League.

The West Yorkshire city topped Mens Division 1 with a 100% record and with Mark Stephenson collecting the 'merit award', while they also took the honours at each extremity of the 'age group' competitions as they came through undefeated in Division 1 of both Cadet Boys and Veterans.

Alan Dickinson (Halifax) and Nicola White (Bradford) claimed the 'merit' in Veteran Division 1 and Cadet Girls respectively, while, with the Boys' awards were shared with Shaun Ellis (Bradford) and Jonathan Aaron (Halifax) - Junior,

and Ian Parker Bradford) and Simon Nouch (Leeds) - Cadet - the youngsters who could not be separated.

No result is to hand from the Mens 'Club Championship', due to be fought out between Harrogate Wanderers and Mileta (Bradford), but the three remaining titles went to - Vets: Clayton Heights (Bradford), r.u. Bramley Ebernezer (Leeds), Ladies: Bramley Ebernezer, r.u. Hull Y.P.I., Junior: Hull Y.P.I., r.u. Bramley Ebernezer.

Good to see the young Leeds Ladies side in the final of the Rose bowl, with the even younger Junior Girls shadowing them with a similar run in the Bromfield.

Joanna Roberts, Nicola Silburn and Nicola Smith came through the semi-final of the Rose Bowl at the expense of Slough before going down to the experienced Wolverhampton trio of Sandra Roden, Jill Harris and Janet Dunning in a match as close as the 5-3 scoreline would suggest.

In the Bromfield Sarah Nouch, Charlotte Spink and Janine Donnelly overcame Maidenhead 5-1 in the semi before falling 2-5 to Grantham at the last hurdle.

Finally, I cannot close these notes without a sincere thank you to Ray Burch, who retired as the County's Regional Development Officer at the close of the season after six years tremendous service to the sport in our County.

Ray received presentation awards from both Diccon Gray, on behalf of the ETTA and County Chairman Bevan Walker at the Annual Dinner and the latter's summing up - "that Ray regarded his post not as a job; but rather as a way of life" sums his contribution up far better than any words that I could put together.

And, as such, that way of life cannot be put aside easily - don't be surprised if you see Ray about in the West Riding during the coming season - and, remember - you read it first here!

**PLEASE NOTE
COPY DATE
FOR THE
DECEMBER
ISSUE IS
15th NOV '98**



ETTA National Ranking



Doreen Nightingale
Ranking Co-ordinator

TOP OF THE TABLE

Period 59 Date of run: 28th July 1998

START OF SEASON

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

Senior Men			Senior Women			Junior Boys			Junior Girls			Cadet Girls			Under 12 Boys			Under 12 Girls			Mens Wheelchair Classes 1-5			Womens Wheelchair Classes 1-5		
Pos	Name	Rtg	Pos	Name	Rtg	Pos	Name	Rtg	Pos	Name	Rtg	Pos	Name	Rtg	Pos	Name	Rtg	Pos	Name	Rtg	Class	Pts	Class	Class	Pts	Class
1	SYED, Matthew (SY.)	3974	1	HOLT, Andrea (LA.)	3295	1	BAGGALEY, And (BU.)	3378	1	DURRANT, Louise (NG.)	2372	1	BAKER, Gregory (ST.)	419	1	EMBLING, Abigail (E.)	773	1	RAWSON, J	2929	3	1	MITTON, C	3412	2	
2	PREAN, Carl (IW.)	3898	2	DEATON, Nicola (DY.)	3168	2	ESSOMBA, Ma (SY.)	2905	2	LOCKWOOD, Ka (CH.)	2341	2	YARNALL, Tim (NP.)	376	2	SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)	758	2	WOODFORD, C	2723	5	2	GILROY, S	3126	5	
3	PERRY, Alex (DV.)	3655	3	LOWER, Helen (ST.)	3166	3	CHAN, Michael (SY.)	2603	3	BLOOR, Trudie (SP.)	2210	3	ROBERTSON, S	1740	3	FLETCHER, James (LA.)	176	3	BARNET, D	3000	5	3	BARNET, D	3000	5	
4	BILLINGTON, Brad (DY.)	3640	4	RADFORD, Linda (E.)	3001	4	CHAM, Michael (SY.)	2603	4	PARKER, Kath (LA.)	2150	4	WRIGHT, Amy (E.)	973	4	EVANS, M	2310	5	4	TOMLINSON, S	2123	3	4	EVANS, M	2310	5
5	YOUNG, Terry (BK.)	3634	5	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	5	THOMAS, Jac (BU/BK.)	1861	5	PARKER, Kate (DU.)	1263	5	FRAYE, Hannah (K.)	868	5	ROBERTSON, S	1740	5	5	GERBER, J	713	3	5	ROBERTSON, S	1740	5
6	DOUGLAS, Des (WA.)	3554	6	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	6	COOP, Joyce (DO.)	1850	6	DEARING, Emily (Y.)	1666	6	FLINT, Deborah (SY.)	856	6	PALMER, M	1658	5	6	HARRIS, C	628	4	6	PALMER, M	1658	5
7	EDEN, Andrew (LA.)	3524	7	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	7	GRAHAM, Sylvia (LA.)	1845	7	STEWART, Lucy (SO.)	1450	7	TODD, Nicole (E.)	815	7	CHAN, A	1534	4	7	HARRIS, C	628	4	7	CHAN, A	1534	4
8	HERBERT, Gareth (BK.)	3494	8	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	8	DARK, Shirley (SO.)	1838	8	DEARING, Emily (Y.)	1666	8	BLAKE, Camil (SY.)	801	8	LITTLEWOOD, I	1331	3	8	BECK, V	605	3	8	LITTLEWOOD, I	1331	3
9	BAGGALEY, And (BU.)	3378	9	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	9	TYLER, Shirley (HE.)	1827	9	STEWART, Lucy (SO.)	1450	9	EMMERSON, Clair (SK.)	798	9	PLOWMAN, K	1218	3	9	JACKSON, D	615	3	9	PLOWMAN, K	1218	3
10	BLAKE, Darren (SY.)	3323	10	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	10	GILLAM, Jenny (SY.)	1824	10	DEARING, Emily (Y.)	1666	10	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	10	MUNKLEY, J	1035	2	10	JACKSON, D	615	3	10	MUNKLEY, J	1035	2
11	TAYLOR, Jon (LA.)	3218	11	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	11	HOOKER, Murel (BU.)	1814	11	STEWART, Lucy (SO.)	1450	11	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	11	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	11	HARFFREY	335	3	11	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
12	MASON, Nicky (SX.)	3200	12	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	12	MACFARLANE, Don (WA.)	1816	12	GIBBS, Stuart (NG.)	1239	12	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	12	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	12	HARFFREY	335	3	12	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
13	SLATER, Stephen (ST.)	3062	13	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	13	BENTLEY, Ruth (NG.)	1811	13	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	13	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	13	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	13	HARFFREY	335	3	13	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
14	VENNER, Ritchie (SX.)	3053	14	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	14	NEARY, Mabel (LA.)	1810	14	CLEMINSON, Peter (E.)	1116	14	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	14	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	14	HARFFREY	335	3	14	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
15	SHAW, Steven (ST.)	3046	15	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	15	LEAK, Pauline (HU.)	1805	15	HUGHES, Tho (NG.)	1094	15	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	15	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	15	HARFFREY	335	3	15	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
16	ROGERS, Chris (LE.)	3039	16	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	16	FLOWERDAY, Anne (E.)	1795	16	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	16	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	16	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	16	HARFFREY	335	3	16	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
17	SLADDEN, Chris (E.)	2960	17	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	17	LARKING, Gill (HA.)	1785	17	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	17	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	17	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	17	HARFFREY	335	3	17	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
18	OLDFIELD, Chris (Y.)	2941	18	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	18	STEWART, Tina (K.)	1781	18	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	18	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	18	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	18	HARFFREY	335	3	18	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
19	SMITH, Eddie (ND.)	2926	19	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	19	HARRISON, Jen (E.)	1770	19	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	19	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	19	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	19	HARFFREY	335	3	19	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
20	SATCHELL, Kev (WI.)	2919	20	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	20	CARROLL, Shirley (E.)	1765	20	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	20	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	20	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	20	HARFFREY	335	3	20	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
21	MOORE, Adrian (K.)	2908	21	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	21	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	21	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	21	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	21	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	21	HARFFREY	335	3	21	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
22	ESSOMBA, Ma (SY.)	2905	22	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	22	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	22	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	22	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	22	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	22	HARFFREY	335	3	22	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
23	HILTON, John (CH.)	2902	23	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	23	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	23	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	23	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	23	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	23	HARFFREY	335	3	23	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
24	SOUTER, John (MI.)	2899	24	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	24	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	24	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	24	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	24	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	24	HARFFREY	335	3	24	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
25	ECKERSLEY, Ni (CH.)	2896	25	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	25	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	25	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	25	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	25	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	25	HARFFREY	335	3	25	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
26	BARR, David (BK.)	2887	26	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	26	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	26	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	26	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	26	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	26	HARFFREY	335	3	26	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
27	WHITING, Paul (DV.)	2884	27	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	27	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	27	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	27	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	27	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	27	HARFFREY	335	3	27	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
28	JOHNSON, Ben (BK.)	2873	28	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	28	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	28	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	28	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	28	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	28	HARFFREY	335	3	28	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
29	GILES, Paul (CO.)	2857	29	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	29	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	29	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	29	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	29	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	29	HARFFREY	335	3	29	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
30	SUGRUE, Jason (MI.)	2851	30	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	30	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	30	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	30	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	30	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	30	HARFFREY	335	3	30	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
31	ISHERWOOD, Mic (DY.)	2824	31	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	31	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	31	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	31	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	31	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	31	HARFFREY	335	3	31	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
32	THOMPSON, Chris (K.)	2793	32	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	32	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	32	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	32	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	32	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	32	HARFFREY	335	3	32	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
33	RICHARDSON, Ke (CA.)	2790	33	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	33	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	33	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	33	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	33	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	33	HARFFREY	335	3	33	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
34	MARSHALL, Peter (Y.)	2782	34	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	34	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	34	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	34	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	34	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	34	HARFFREY	335	3	34	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
35	SAMUELS, Keith (BO.)	2724	35	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	35	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	35	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	35	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	35	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	35	HARFFREY	335	3	35	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
36	JOHNS, Brian (CH.)	2717	36	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	36	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	36	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	36	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	36	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	36	HARFFREY	335	3	36	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
37	SMITH, Mark (RI.)	2710	37	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	37	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	37	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	37	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	37	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	37	HARFFREY	335	3	37	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
38	HOWARTH, Da (LA.)	2660	38	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	38	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	38	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	38	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	38	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	38	HARFFREY	335	3	38	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
39	WILKINSON, An (ND.)	2652	39	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	39	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	39	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	39	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	39	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	39	HARFFREY	335	3	39	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
40	MORRIS, David (SP.)	2646	40	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	40	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	40	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	40	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	40	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	40	HARFFREY	335	3	40	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
41	MUSK, Ian (BU.)	2633	41	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	41	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	41	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	41	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	41	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	41	HARFFREY	335	3	41	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
42	CHAN, Michael (SY.)	2603	42	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	42	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	42	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	42	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	42	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	42	HARFFREY	335	3	42	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
43	HORSFIELD, A (YS.)	2591	43	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	43	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	43	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	43	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	43	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	43	HARFFREY	335	3	43	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
44	TAYLOR, John (HE.)	2585	44	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	44	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	44	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	44	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	44	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	44	HARFFREY	335	3	44	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
45	WURAO, Ab (SY.)	2580	45	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	45	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	45	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	45	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	45	ROBINSON, N	1023	3	45	HARFFREY	335	3	45	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	3
46	THOMAS, Peter (DV.)	2566	46	THORNTON, Lind (LA.)	2869	46	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	46	WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	1148	46	MATTHEWS, Gilly (WA.)	783	46	ROBINSON, N	1023</									

RUBBERS WITHOUT GLUE ?

UNTIL NOW PLAYERS HAD TO USE SPEED GLUE TO ACHIEVE THAT EXTRA SPIN AND SPEED - NOW THEY DON'T NEED TO !

New rubbers are now on the market which have the speed glue element impregnated into the sponge itself.

The more aggressive player will probably use speed glue to add even more power and kick.

Donic Desto F1 is one of these newly created rubbers for the 1998/99 season.

The Desto F1 is produced just as if a world class player had used the speed glue method many times for maximum spin and speed effect. A high-tech product for players with high percentage of playing and training sessions. Spin and speed not known until now with the regular manufacturing process.

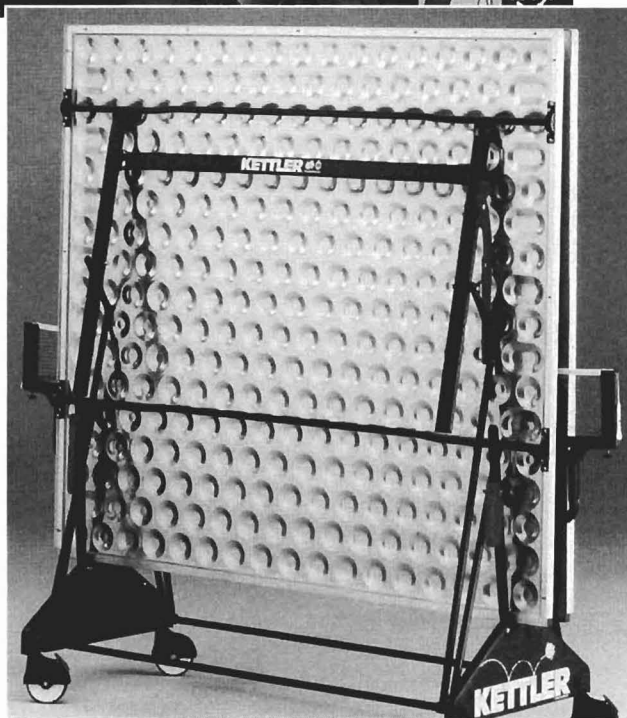
BRYCE RUBBER

The start of this season sees a major breakthrough in the development of top performance table tennis rubbers with the introduction of Bryce Butterfly's latest rubber sheet. Bryce stores energy within the rubber sheet itself to a degree which has never been expressed before.

A completely new production system has built tension into the Bryce molecules so that the rubber stores and retains long lasting energy inside its own composition. Both the rubber surface and the sponge are flexible and highly resistant. They catch the incoming ball and catapult it back adding control in addition to speed and spin.

In some areas this process has been achieved by the use of speed glue. Bryce gives this effect without the use of the glue. With glue Bryce is even faster and it keeps this effect for up to 6 hours. Particularly potent with Bryce a Butterfly's new fast glue Master Chack which adds even more speed to the ball.

The indications are that several of



the world's top players have already decided to change to Bryce, but Bryce is not only suitable for the top players, it works well for the players at County and British League level as well.

INDOOR SPORT GOES OUTDOORS

Not many modern homes can spare the space for a dedicated games room let alone one that's big enough to pot black or wield a table tennis bat on a full size table.

Of course there's always the garage or the garden - for table tennis if not for snooker. It's fun - and good exercise too.

Alas, most folding table tennis tables are either wobbly, a struggle to put up and take down, or warp if they're not stored inside the house. Even the garage can be damp enough to render the average table totally unplayable.

The Kettler Weatherproof has a 22mm thick top of aluminium

compound, supported on aluminium sectional profiles and the sub-frame is epoxy coated. So you can store the table anywhere with no danger of it warping or rusting. You can safely leave it outside if rain stops play.

Even the net is permanently fixed.

Setting the table up and taking it down doesn't call for a degree in engineering or cast iron knuckles.

The Kettler table folds to a compact 55 x 152.5 x 170cm for storage and opens out to the international tournament size of 274 x 152.5 x 76cm. You can wheel it away on four wheels, two of which have locking brakes. It is stable, with a double security lock - and a set of slip-on covers as an optional extra.

BUTTERFLY TABLES INCREASED TO 25mm

Butterfly's three leading tables, the Centrefold Rollaway the Europa and the Space Saver Rollaway are now being supplied with a thickness of playing top increased to 25mm. The thickness of the top will provide a slightly better and more consistent bounce across the whole table. The Butterfly Centrefold Rollaway was used in the World Championships in Manchester last year and has been selected for the ITTF Pro Tour Finals for 1997, 1999 and 2000. The Butterfly Europa which is the free standing model was used for the 1997 Commonwealth Championships in Glasgow. Both models are ITTF approved.

In addition to the popular three tables having a 25mm top, Butterfly have launched a new model the Match Rollaway 25. This model has a similar under-carriage to the Match Rollaway 22 which was introduced last year except that it has a stronger base to be able to cope with the extra weight of the thicker playing top. The original three tables all have bases which could accommodate the heavier surface.

1998 VOLUNTEER INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

Five table tennis organisations are waiting to hear whether they have won awards which recognise the importance of volunteers to the success of sport in England.

The five that have entered the 1998 Volunteer Investment Programme (VIP) Recognition Awards, run by the English Sports Council, are:

- Halton Table Tennis League
- Sussex County Table Tennis Association
- Wirral Table Tennis League
- English Table Tennis Association - North West
- The English Table Tennis Association.

The deadline for entries was 31 July. In 1997 - the inaugural year of the awards the English Table Tennis Association (ETTA) - Eastern Region scooped regional, national and UK titles, while ETTA - North West Region won a regional prize of £1,500 and Hollingbury Table Tennis Club was awarded a Highly Commended certificate.

Nation-wide a record 351 award entries have been submitted across dozens of sports. For the second year running football boasted the highest number of entries (40).

English Sports Council Acting Chairman, Trevor Brooking MBE, said: "We couldn't look forward to national sporting success or even just the opportunities to take part in sport without the selfless contribution of the 1.5 million volunteers who comprise the backbone of English sport.

"These annual Volunteer Investment Programme Recognition Awards reward the organisations that have recognised the importance of volunteers and can show a commitment to investing in the development of their voluntary work

force. Table tennis has more than 15,000 volunteers who contribute the equivalent of nearly £15 million of effort to help the sport every year."

A total of £39,000 is available for winning organisations to invest back into their own sports.

Regional winners will be announced at the Regional Sports Conventions which are being held in each of the 10 English Sports Council regions between October 6 and November 20. Regional winners will then compete in national finals. The national winners will receive their awards at the annual star-studded Sports Writers Association of Great Britain dinner in London on December 14.

The annual Volunteer Investment Programme (VIP) Recognition Awards are one element of the wider Volunteer Investment Programme, developed by the English Sports Council. The programme aims to:

- recognise volunteers working in sport
- encourage best practice in the recruitment, motivation and retention of volunteers
- offer practical guidance and support to volunteer coordinators to help improve the management of their voluntary resource

through:

- information - an information pack is available through the VIP freephone hotline on 0800 363 373
- training - workshops
- recognising - VIP Recognition Awards
- supporting - consultancy advice is available to help organisations to develop volunteer strategies

Call the freephone VIP hotline for more information - 0800 363 373.

Regional Sports Conventions

Time is running out for clubs and governing bodies to book their places at the 1998 Regional Sports Conventions run by the English Sports Council Delegates attending the series of 11 conventions will hear the latest news about the new Lottery Sports Fund Strategy sports development initiatives and opportunities presented by the Millennium. The 1998 Volunteer Investment Programme Recognition Awards will also be presented during the FREE session aimed at clubs and governing bodies.

Booking forms and more details are available through the **Convention Hotline on 0171 273 1589**

SCHEDULE:

- 6/7 October** Alfred McAlpine Stadium, Huddersfield
- 8/9 October** Reebok Stadium Bolton
- 19/20 October** Chilford Hall, Linton, Cambridge
- 22/23 October** Carpenters Hall, London EC2
- 26/27 October** Stakis Hotel, Wallsend, Newcastle
- 28/29 October** Moseley School, Birmingham
- 4/5 November** Chequermead Arts Centre, East Grinstead
- 11 November** English Riviera Centre, Torquay
- 13 November** Winter Gardens, Weston Super Mare
- 17/18 November** Gateway Hotel, Nottingham
- 19/20 November** Newbury Race Course



JUDY RODGERS

Judy's involvement in Table Tennis began as a parent helper when her eldest son took up the sport some 10 years ago. Since then she has played an active role within the sport progressing from League Development Officer to County Development Officer, and, more latterly, Eastern Regional Chairman and Club Chairman. Her Regional appointment led to a highly successful working relationship and friendship with RDO Sandra Collins.

Over the past few years, Judy has worked closely with local schools in Suffolk, has been organiser for her local Woolwich League, produced Development plans for her Club, League and County Associations, assisted the Suffolk ESTTA in their Development Programme and liased with local disability groups.

Her children are also heavily involved with TT, all being league players, with her eldest son currently awaiting assessment for his level 2 coaching award, and her daughter, a member of the National U12 Squad. Even Judy has been seen over the past couple of years on the table bringing truth to the saying "If you can't beat them - join them!"

Judy is looking forward to the challenge of her new post and hopes that her development background will help her to increase participation and, where possible, integration, for players with disabilities at all levels of Table Tennis.

Judy will be based at ETTA HQ and can be contacted on 01424 722525.

AWARDS SCHEME FOR LOCAL TABLE TENNIS VOLUNTEERS



The Table Tennis Development Officer Programme launch took place at the World Veterans Championships. In the picture are (left to right) Jeff Neslen (English Sports Council), Sandra Collins (ETTA RDO Eastern), David Wright (Orchard Stationery Sponsor) and Alan Ransome OBE (ETTA Chairman).

The ETTA's commitment to the development of grass roots table tennis has been emphasised with the introduction of its Table Tennis Development Officer programme, writes Steve Chu (Sports Development Officer for Bolsover District and formerly ETTA Southern Regional Development Officer).

The programme aims to highlight, support and reward the crucial role played by hundreds of local volunteers, while providing them with the knowledge to give the sport a bright outlook for the new millennium. Volunteer development officers will be appointed by clubs, leagues and counties, and are provided with a comprehensive

resource pack and regular training opportunities organised through the ETTA's regional development officers.

The ETTA Chairman, Alan Ransome OBE, said: "There are many opportunities for local table tennis organisations to benefit from our national development programme. Whether they need more coaches, better facilities or more junior players, the TTDO programme will provide the information and support they need to develop table tennis at a local level."

A key part of the programme is an awards scheme for the appointed officers, making the ETTA England's first national governing body of

sport to formalise such a programme.

"For too long local volunteer administrators have worked tirelessly for table tennis without their efforts being formally recognised," said the ETTA Director of Development, Diccon Gray. "This programme will offer a silver and gold award structure to give our volunteers something to show for their efforts."

The English Sports Council has already given its approval to the TTDO programme. The scheme was piloted in the Eastern Region, and won the "Best Regional Governing Body in the UK" award for its management of volunteers. Additional finance provided from the English Sports Council, the

Foundation for Sport & the Arts, Orchard Paper Limited and Sportsmatch will allow a series of training modules to be set up in each of the ten regions.

Eastern Regional Development Officer, Sandra Collins, said: "This programme has been instrumental in the successful development of table tennis in this region. We now have a great team spirit among our voluntary development officers, and our clubs and leagues are reaping the benefits."

To find out more and to get involved with this exciting programme, contact your regional development officer.

EVENTS CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 1998

12th-13th	Womens' British League	Andover
12th-13th	U12 Training Centres	
13th	Junior Training Day	
13th	Seasider's 2 star	Blackpool
19th	Selby Junior 2 star	
19th	County Championships	
20th	Glos Cadet Graded 2 star	
20th	British League	
25th-27th	Home Countries International	Oban
26th	Chesham School Junior Graded 2 star	
26th-27th	U12 Training Centres	
26th-27th	Lancashire Junior 3 star	
26th-27th	Clare Pengelly Grand Prix	Torbay

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	NorthWest 2 star	
17th	National Council	
17th	County Championships	
17th-18th	U12 Training Centre	
18th	Junior Preliminary Trials	
18th	British League	
24th	Humberside 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 (Grandprix)	KingsLynn
31st-1st	Stockton-On-Tees Junior 4 star	

NOVEMBER 1998

7th	County Championships	
7th-8th	U12 Training Centre	Lilleshall
8th	Cirencester U14 & U12 1star	
8th	Hastings Istar	
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 2star	
21st-22nd	VETTS Eastern Masters	
21st-22nd	U12 Training Centres	
22nd	Derwent 2 star	
22nd	British League	
28th	Wilmott Cup	
28th	Rose Bowl	
28th	Woolwich National League	
28th-29th	Junior National Championships	Stratford-on-Avon
29th	Seasider's Junior GP 2 star	Blackpool
29th	Ormesby Cup	
29th	Gainsford Cup	
29th	East Midlands Graded & Disabled 2 star	
29th	Whitchurch 2 star	