

# TABLE TENNIS



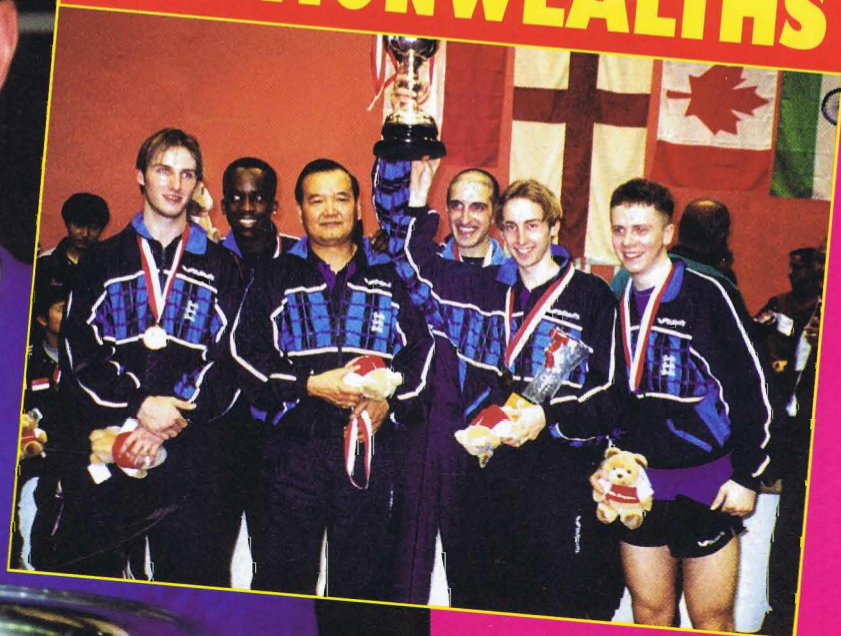
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No.267 MARCH 2000

## NEWS

**MEDALS GALORE IN SINGAPORE**

**COMMONWEALTHS**



**MATTHEW SYED & ENGLAND MEN WIN GOLD IN SINGAPORE**  
PageS 14 to 16

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Liu Guoliang wins the World Title with Mendo MP rubber and Clipper CR blade!

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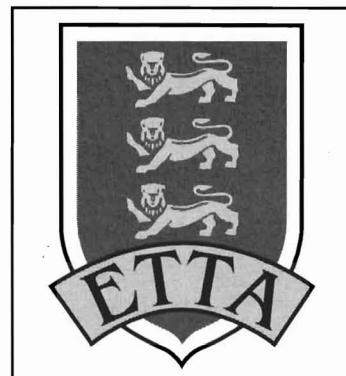
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# TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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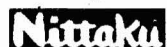
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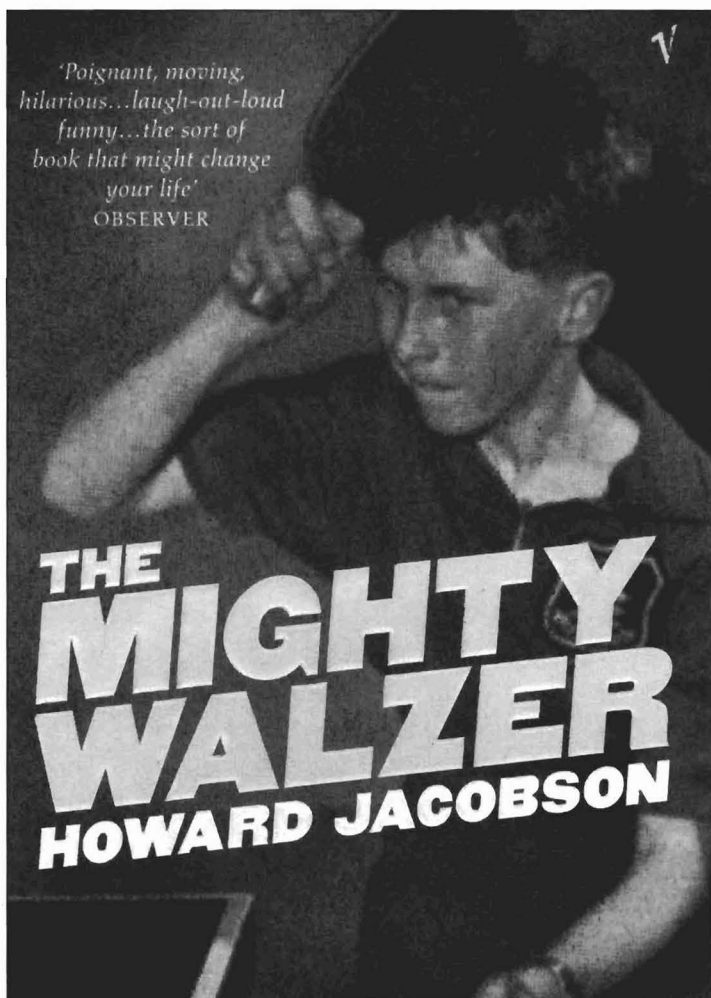


# TO THE RESCUE

Pictured right are Eileen Allison and Gerald Hammond. Eileen kindly stepped up to assist Referee Hammond at Potters East Anglian Open Grand Prix, when Deputy Referee John Jerman was called away from the tournament due to a family emergency



# EDDIE HODSON IS 'THE MIGHTY WALZER'!



EDDIE HODSON is the Mighty Walzer! Well not quite! But the front cover of the paperback edition of Howard Jacobson's book about a shy youngster finding his identity and confidence through playing table tennis in 1950's Manchester, features Eddie playing table tennis. That is, a

determined young Eddie - he is 61 now - taken from the cover of Table Tennis, January 1955, as the 'Winner of Scandinavian Junior Title'.

Forward to 2000, and a chuffed and engagingly modest Eddie, a former Middlesex and England junior and senior international, who now lives in

Essex told Ken Muhr, "I am totally flattered. I am an insignificant sort of person who packed up table tennis at an early stage. I stopped playing table tennis with the change of topspin. Stan Jacobson's excessive topspin (loop) destroyed me. It used to take years learning your art but the game was destroyed for me by the new innovation around 1959, 1960. I had just gone into the forces and I carried on a little while, on and off, but not in tournaments, county matches etc.

As a youngster, table tennis I loved it, lived for it. You eat, sleep and drink it.

If you were a good junior like Laurie Landry, Ian Harrison and myself, you were moved on from junior to senior international, which I found daunting because there was an enormous gap. The Swedes had an intermediate stage to find their feet. Although it (playing for England seniors) did not put me off, I felt 'I really ought not be here'. I was not in the top 10 seniors but I had come second in the Top 10 tournament and went on tour with Johnny Leach and Micky Thornhill - my hero. Thornhill could do everything and he was a great tactician. I was playing my best ever and beat Harrison and Bryan Merrett, but I lost to him. I admired him a great deal.

The game today is incredible, the speed of it. There must be fantastic spin, but you don't see enough of it on TV. I would like to meet Howard Jacobson. He seems a nice fellow - I saw him on TV on the South Bank Programme. If we could meet in London to have a hard bat game, I would go along with it."

*Note: the paperback edition of the 'Mighty Walzer' is very affordable: published by Vintage books at £6.99 and available from 6th April. Recommended.*

# WOODY'S World

GREAT NEWS for our England's Mens Team, in the Commonwealth Championships, where they won a total of 9 medals, 7 gold and two bronze.

Matthew Syed, who brushed aside the problems of playing with shorter pimples, emphasised his world class status by majestically taking the Mens Singles Gold medal in Singapore. A full report by John Woodford appears on pages 14 to 16.

The most spectacular news in this edition is that of the new size 40mm ball. A subject that will no doubt be the centre of much heated debate. Full details of this new ITTF Rule (which was voted in by a massive 90%) are explained in Alan Ransome's column on page 6.

This issue publishes the second reports of the Womens and Veterans British League weekends.

Popular Sussex player Rose Rainton won 'Player of the



Weekend' in the Womens British League, see page 29. Whilst the Veteran's report appears on page 17.

I enjoyed my visit to Potters Leisure Resort for the East Anglian Open Grand Prix, where it was good to see Alan Cooke in action again. Pages 20 to 21.

Cookey followed up his surprise victory over Matthew Syed at the Midlands Open Grand Prix Major in Stratford-upon-Avon, by winning the Mens Singles title in Hopton-on-Sea. Report appears on pages 18 and 19.

Getting back to the larger 40mm ball subject, I think for lesser sighted players it will be a gift from God. And if the present experiment of 'playing up to 11', becomes law the following season, it will revolutionise our sport.

John Wood

# COMMONWEALTH GOLD for SYED in SINGAPORE



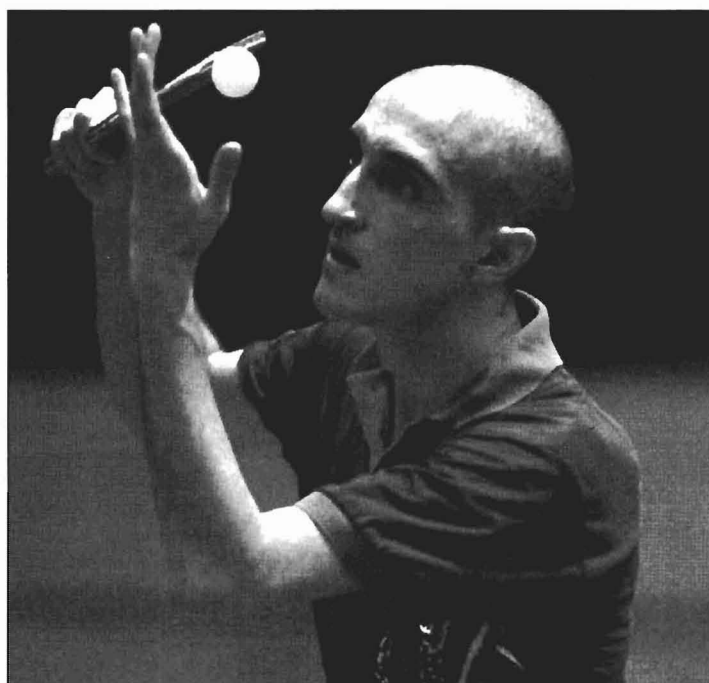
**Alan Ransome OBE,  
Chairman of the ETTA**

**WITH a gold in the Mens Singles for Matthew Syed and a gold for the Mens Team event, the England men enjoyed a successful Commonwealth Championships in Singapore. The standard of play in Singapore was the highest Commonwealth event for some years, with Canada including Johnny Huang in their squad and Singapore a significantly strengthened team with a number of Chinese players.**

In the final of the team championship, England lined up against the hosts, the later having surprised Canada in the group matches with a 4-0 victory which included two wins over Johnny Huang. England were given a magnificent start by Andrew Baggaley who beat Singapore No.1 Duan Yong Jun at 21-19 in the deciding game of the opening set. Matthew Syed was on his best form winning his two singles, whilst Baggaley combined with Alex Perry to win the doubles to give England the vital 4 wins.

In the singles, Syed, seeded second, came close to an early exit when he went two games down against Singapore's Luo Jie in the opening round before recovering to win the final three games at 12, 9, 13. Matthew defeated the experienced Indian No.1 Chetan Baboor, who had earlier defeated Baggaley in straight sets, in four sets in the semi-final, then beat Singapore's best player Duan Yong Jun in the final. Duan beat Johnny Huang 21-19 in the 5th, the other semi-final.

Two of the most entertaining matches were Terry Young's win in the second round over Raman of India -20, 17, -22, 20, 20. However, in the next round Terry was beaten by Duan after leading 2 games to one. Duan won the 4th at 19 and the 5th at 24.



**MATTHEW SYED wins the Commonwealth Games Mens singles title for England in Singapore**

A third medal was won by England when Alex Perry and Terry Young reached the semi-final of the Mens Doubles.

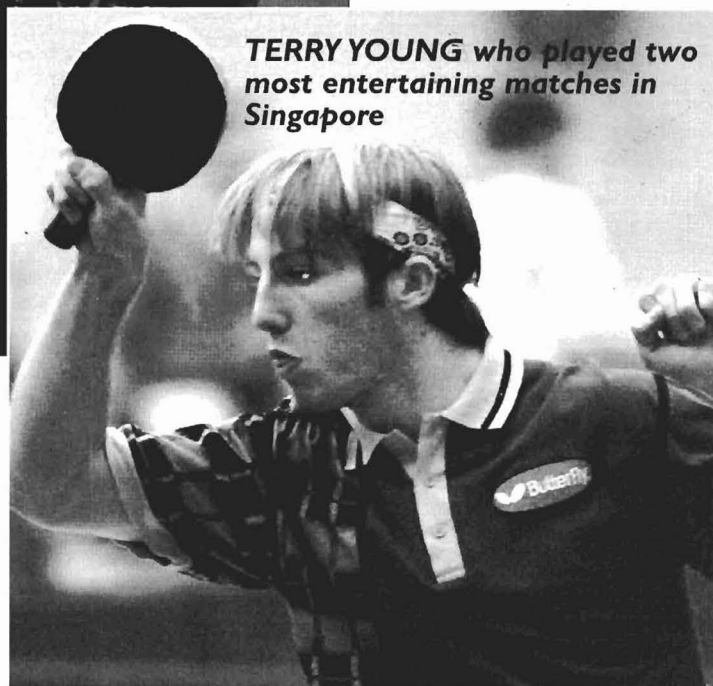
Our Women's team finished in 7th place, which, taking in to account the strength of the squad, was probably the highest that could have been anticipated. Commonwealth teams have been strengthened significantly with the inclusion of Chinese born players who have been recruited to

be part of other national teams. The best example of this is Singapore who bought from China a squad of 12 and 13 year old girls and developed them at their own national Training Centre. Singapore now have one of the best Womens Teams in the World. Other teams also include Chinese players who learned their early table tennis in China.

The Championships were well organised by the Singapore Table Tennis Association. Two halls were used, one of which was the newly built Academy exclusively for table tennis, which has been specifically built to provide both living and playing facilities for Singapore's full time men's and women's squads.

## SWEDEN TAKE THE WORLD TEAM TITLE

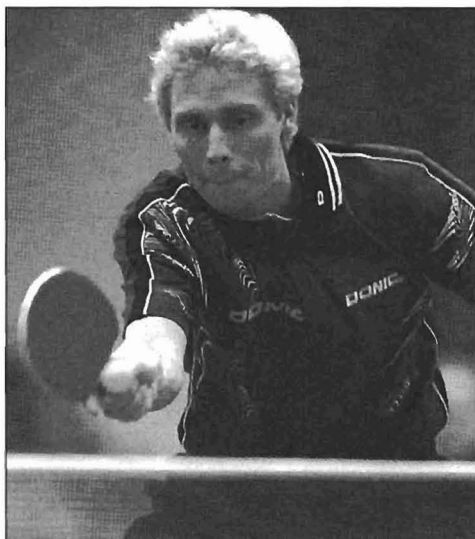
The World Team Championships in Kuala Lumpur was a very large event, similar but not quite as extensive as the 1997 World Championships in Manchester. The climax of the event was a magnificent Mens Team final in



**TERRY YOUNG who played two most entertaining matches in Singapore**



**SWEDEN'S DYNAMIC DUO - JAN OVE WALDNER (left) and JORGEN PERSSON, who defeated reigning champions China in Kuala Lumpur**



which Sweden beat China in a five set thriller. Jan Ove Waldner opened the scoring for Sweden with a 23-21 in the 3rd win over Liu Guoliang. The star of the Swedish team was Jorgen Persson who beat Kong Linghui to give Sweden a 2-0 lead. Persson clinched the match, which stood at 2-all, with a win over Liu Guoliang at 21-18 in the decider, to thrill the 7000 crowd at the stadium, as well as a very large TV audience mainly in Asia.

The England results in Kuala Lumpur were disappointing with the men finishing in 26th place. The Team was weakened by an injury to Matthew Syed partway through the event and a stomach bug which kept Andrew Baggaley out of action for the first five days. Baggaley was our second best player in Singapore. Our Womens team finished in 28th position.

## ITTF VOTE FOR 40mm BALL FROM OCTOBER 2000

The main points of interest from the meetings in Kuala Lumpur was the decision of the Special General Meeting to adopt the 40mm ball from 1st October 2000, after the Sydney Olympics for all ITTF events. The proposal was first put at the ITTF BGM in Eindhoven last August and came very close to achieving the 75% majority required. This time in Kuala Lumpur voting in favour was 90% with the majority voting for an early introduction.

The ETTA Management Committee have discussed this matter at their meeting on Sunday 4th March, and are recommending to National Council that the ITTF rule should be fully implemented, and that the

40mm ball be used for all competitive play, including local leagues, from the start of next season.

The main argument in favour of the 40mm ball was that its size, between 15 to 18% larger than the normal ball, according to figures produced by the ITTF Executive Committee, will mean that the game will be slower, the rallies will be longer and that the ball will be more visible to spectators and television audiences.

## STRONG MOOD FOR CHANGE

Two further measures to make the game more interesting for spectators and TV were adopted on an experimental basis for some ITTF events for next season, including the deciding game in some Pro Tour events STARTING AT 10-10, and the service must be struck in front of the body enabling the receiver and the umpire to see the ball at the point of contact. These two experiments will be monitored during the season and if they prove to be beneficial, will be proposed as rule changes at the next ITTF BGM in Osaka in April 2001.

Another major decision, this time made by ITTF Council, was to agree to a recommendation from the ITTF Executive Board to split the World

Championships between individual and team events for the next two years, which will mean the World Championships will take place in 2003 and the World Team events, similar to Kuala Lumpur, in 2004. To avoid an over crowded season in 2004 which would then include the Olympics as well as the World Team event, the ETTU are considering moving the European Championships from 2004 and 2006 to 2003 and 2005, to even out the scheduling of big events.

The ITTF General Meeting also agreed to a recommendation of the Executive Committee to move the Head Office of the ITTF from St.Leonards-on-Sea to the Swiss town of Lausanne. The main argument in favour of the change being that the close proximity to the International Olympic Committee Headquarters in Lausanne will increase the financial support that the ITTF receives from its main source of finance the IOC. This change will take place at the end of this year.

## ITTF LINK WITH WORLDSPORTS.COM

The ITTF have entered into a five year agreement with the internet sports results and magazine service, worldsports.com who will be the

ITTF's principal web provider. Worldsports.com were present at the World Championships in Kuala Lumpur and produced one of the best table tennis websites I have ever seen to date. Worldsports.com can be accessed via the ITTF website, [www.ittf.com](http://www.ittf.com) or direct as [www.worldsports.com](http://www.worldsports.com) and then accessing table tennis via their A - Z listing. The agreement with worldsports.com also provides an internet access opportunity for table tennis players. Further details of this service will be provided as soon as it has been released by the ITTF.

## COMMONWEALTH DELIGHT AT INCLUSION IN GAMES

Delegates at the Biennial General Meeting of the Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation held during the Championships in Singapore were delighted to received news that table tennis is confirmed for inclusion in the 2002 Commonwealth Games which are to be held in Manchester and the 2006 Games which will be played in Melbourne, Australia. The separate Commonwealth Championships will continued to be held but not in Commonwealth Games years.

The next Commonwealth Championships have already been awarded to the Indian Table Tennis Association who will be organising the event at their National Stadium in New Delhi in April next year immediately before the World Championships in Osaka, Japan.

## TT on TV

As well as the table tennis on TV as listed below, the European Championships are being played in Bremen from 21 April, Good Friday, through to the 1st May. This will be covered by German channels ARD and ZDF. Both of these can be received on the Astra satellite.

*Alan Ransome, Chairman*

<b>TABLE TENNIS on TV</b>			
	<b>Channel</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>GERMAN BUNDESLIGA ON DSF.ASTRA SATELLITE</b>			
Borussia Dusseldorf - TTC Metabo Frickenhausen		11.3.00	19.00-20.00
TTF Bad Honnef - TTV RE-BAU Gonnern		18.3.00	19.00-20.00
TTC Metabo Frickenhausen - SV Pluderhausen		1.4.00	19.00-20.00
TTF Liebherr Ochsenhausen - Borussia Dusseldorf		8.4.00	19.00-20.00
<b>LIEBHERR EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL (LIVE)</b>			
SVS Niederosterreich vs Borussia Dusseldorf STK			
Final 1st Leg	Euro Sport	27.3.00	TBA
Final 2nd Leg	Euro Sport	3.4.00	TBA
<b>EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS IN BREMEN</b>			
		April	TBA

## MAILBOX

## PLEASE HELP

CAN you help me? About 9 months ago somebody stole my table tennis bag. This bag contained my bat, a blade that was very precious to me as my father bought it for me when I was a toddler. This blade, a Stiga Allround, is no longer manufactured. It was the straight handle type and the words 'Allround Wood' was printed at the top of the handle, with the Stiga logo (a drawing of three crowns and 2 bats) at the bottom, or should I say underneath the handle.

Since losing this blade I have never come across one to match it. I have tried numerous blades and spent a fortune. I was ranked about 270 in the seniors and felt my game was rising. I am now ranked about 320, and have lost loads more points.

I'm literally on the verge of giving up playing the game that I love, as I'm not playing my normal game anymore.

I spoke to a few people who advised me to write to you at Table Tennis News. Hopefully you may know somebody who can help me.

Can somebody out there in the table tennis world please help me, if you can you will make a very keen table tennis player very happy.

If there is someone who can help me please ring me either on 0181 541 4318 or 0956 903923.

*Stephen Giles*

*Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey.*

## "DEFENCE IS OUT"

WHEN I first took up the game of Table Tennis towards the end of the last century like any other youngster I looked to the world stars for a role model, and remember thinking that the great Yugoslavian player, Dragutin Surbek was the ideal to follow. So it was I spent my first years of playing standing five foot to one side of the table trying to get my forehand loop in at the expense of everything else. At that time those old enough to remember may recall The Sunday Times running a weekly series about Table Tennis written by the Swedish players Bengtson and Johansson, and I can still remember one of the opening lines that in the modern game "Defence is Out." My opinion at that time of defenders may be likened to that of the first mammals when they saw the

dinosaurs.

It was therefore a sobering lesson when during the 1977 world championships Dragutin Surbek my hero and role model, using all the tactics suggested in the Sunday Times was chopped to pieces by a mere defender, one Liang Geliang. Here was a player who covered a huge area of space, who seemed to be able to retrieve the ball from almost impossible situations, who had a devastating attack, who displayed immense skill and touch, and who quite patently had not read The Sunday Times.

I am sure people will fully understand my change of allegiance. Here was a player with everything Surbek had, and a lot more to boot.

My county debut was as a defender, serving with my bat coming up from below the table, turning my bat during rallies, and using long pimples on one side. I lost both games easily, but learning to defend is also a matter of experience, so undaunted I carried on defending.

The reason for this letter is that I have noticed, over the time I have been playing the game, that every single rule change that has been introduced has been with the sole aim of getting rid of the defensive player, and I do not understand the reason for this obvious bias.

Today, to continue playing my defensive game I must now serve above table level, my opponent can now inspect my bat, I have to use two separate colours and I am no longer able to use any form of effective "long pimple" rubber. What is so strange is that the attacking player during the same period has seen the introduction of carbon fibre blades, ever faster and spinier rubbers and the use of bicycle glue to make these faster rubbers even faster. Not one of these has been banned, so anything that benefits the attacker is acceptable, anything that keeps defenders in the game needs to be banned or changed.

I fail to understand why defenders, who are already a very small minority are being victimised in this way. If we were an ethnic group I have little doubt we could sue someone, somewhere for millions of pounds.

No matter what the rule changes are, the powers that be cannot remove from my memory the European women's team final in

*continued on page 8*

COURTSIDE  
by John Woodford

• **THERE** are some national associations around the world who can afford to send their players to many global events. There are also fairly rich clubs and generous sponsors who help players to compete at world level.

In Britain, Wales have such a wealth of talent in both young men and women that they manage to find the money to send their players world-wide. Scotland, it seems, cannot afford to send a womens team to Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, but their reasoning could also be a lack of female talent.

• **THEN** we come to England. It is an absolute disgrace that our top players (a) cannot receive some help nationally or (b) sponsors cannot be found to help them.

When players are around the thirty mark, then it is understandable that they must stand on their own feet financially, but the national champion Nicola Deaton decides she cannot play for England without payment. She is only 23. She claims to be more interested in a teaching career.

• **THAT** is a reasonable line to take. We all know that there is very little prospect of women making a lot of money in table tennis.

• **OTHER** sports seem to have the same or similar problems. Individual sponsors come forward to send them to the Olympic Games and pay for years of special training.

• **FIGHTING** funds is another answer. Several sponsors could get together to help players as young as Nicola. It is quite outrageous that we pay huge sums to our top coaching staff in the hope that in the not too distant future we shall have medal-winners in European junior and senior events.

## COURTSIDE IN SINGAPORE

• **I AM** alarmed to hear that the ITTF are determined to bring about major changes - bigger ball, cleaning up the service and changing the scoring to eleven points instead of 21.

• **IT** seems certain that the 40mm ball will be adopted after the Olympics. If the vote in Kuala Lumpur is against it the ITTF have a second plan of their own up their sleeves. Remember the new ball is only 15% bigger!

• **MOST** people agree that the service needs a clean-up. Surely the delivery must be visible to the opponent and the umpire.

• **I AM** totally opposed to changing from 21 points. I can hardly believe that the nations like China will vote for it - it is hard enough to get them to agree to any equipment changes. Let alone the scoring system.

• **BIGGER BALL** problems this Autumn? One of the possible big problems around the corner is for local league players, who also play British League and County Championships. They could be playing locally with the smaller ball and the next day they could be playing with the bigger one!

## PLEASE NOTE

Correspondents can send their copy by email to:  
**johnwood@macace.co.uk**  
for "Attachments" save them as a  
"Word 5.1 for Machintosh" file

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR continued

1994 between Russia and Germany. The teams fielded three defenders between them, and I have not seen a match since that can compare. It had everything, fitness, skill, retrieving, team spirit, and a magnificent doubles game on top.

I have not seen, and in the light of the rule changes, nor am I likely to, any match that bears comparison.

I find the one sided rulings quite disgraceful, what Matt Syed, the current England No.1 and now one of the worlds top defenders must think I cannot contemplate. He is hugely skilled, superfit and should be a role model for any youngsters entering the game today, so why are we doing our best to get rid of him?

Furthermore, during one game at the European Championships in Eindhoven I decided to count the number of rallies between two top attacking players. Aside from one incident, where seven strokes were played, in not another single rally did I see a fourth return, and according to the powers that be, this is both good for the game and the spectator?

Of course, Table Tennis itself does not need to worry about the demise of the defender. The sport itself is shown regularly on terrestrial television, and even in my local league the situation has never looked healthier. In the period since I started playing the number of teams has actually increased from around 156 to 77.

I am sure it will not be long before the coverage given to Table Tennis on the terrestrial channels will exceed that given to Curling, and it will be well deserved.

J. Samuel  
Reading, Berks.

## IT'S NOT CRICKET

WITH reference to your recent request for information on well known people who play table tennis I offer the following on England and Nottinghamshire Wicket-Keeper Chris Read.

Chris first started playing during the 1986/7 season in the Torbay & South Devon League encouraged by his Dad Geoff who has been a regular player in the First division and is currently the League Chairman.

During his playing time in the league Chris won the Under 14 & Under 17 singles titles and was awarded the Torex Shield awarded to the most promising young player in the league.

In his last season in the league 1995/6 he maintained a 100% record whilst playing in Division 2 and would certainly have played in Division 1 the following season had

he not moved on in his cricket career.

I am sure that if the opportunity presents itself during his current tour of South Africa with the England squad Chris will take up any challenge at table tennis.

D.M.Beesley,  
Dawlish, Devon.

## A LOT OF CARDS

CY ENFIELD, the director of the film 'Zulu', which starred Stanley Baker, was a keen table tennis player and entered tournaments in the fifties and sixties with a crowd from Surrey (they also played a lot of cards).

Film actor Robert Shaw paid very good rates to an international player for practising with him, I believe Robert was married to film actress Mary Ure at the time.

Harry Spraggs,  
Fleet, Hampshire.

## JUNIOR OPEN TOURNAMENTS

I WAS interested to read the views of my friend and colleague Steve Kerns in 'Essex Notes' (November issue of Table Tennis News Extra). However I believe that he has missed the point of my argument. Which is that it is all very well giving 4 Star status to 5 tournaments in the North, Midlands and West, but what are the players who live in South East England supposed to do? I'm sure that the parents of the leading players are not going to fund five tournaments to these far flung places, and the ordinary players will just not be interested. It is true that Essex had chosen not to apply for 4 Star status, but had they been invited to do so by the tournaments Committee, this would have presented no problems.

Steve's main point seems to concern the lack of volunteers in our County 'to erect equipment'. I cannot see anything wrong in paying Scouts to assist. As it happens our Organising Committee must be one of the strongest in the country, including as it does three Referees in Phil and Sue Gower and myself, plus Barry Granger, John Andrews and Steve himself. The Essex event is as well run as any I know.

The whole point of my view, that Essex should have been invited to run a 4 Star event, is that Michel Gadal (whom I admire greatly) has made it known that he will expect the top players to attend. If they did, players in the South Eastern area would have a chance of competing against them, of which they would otherwise be almost deprived.

I believe that the Tournaments

Committee should have a complete review of how they wish to run junior tournaments throughout the country.

Alan Shepherd  
Soutbgate, London.

## THOUGHT PROVOKING

I found Tony Zhang's article on Chinese table tennis (TTN Jan./Feb.) interesting, enjoyable, thought provoking and in many ways enlightening. However, just as I cannot claim to speak for the whole of England, his views undoubtedly will not represent all of China. There are multiple perspectives in both countries but never-the-less, his particular background gives his arguments added credibility.

There are two broad areas however, where I take issue with him.

Firstly, Zhang was a little unfair to Howard Jacobson. What Jacobson, coming from the position of a well known author and one time enthusiast who has not seriously played the game for over 40 years (definitely not in the governing hierarchy of the ETTA!), was talking about was table tennis as a spectacle and table tennis as enjoyment. He did not deny the quality of play - "immense skill, immense athleticism" - of Chinese/Asians or the modern game. I am sure that he agrees, as I do, on the technical superiority and effectiveness of the Chinese, but that was not his point. His opinions on the decline of table tennis aesthetically or as spectacle are valid and shared by many people, though probably most would not agree with his solutions. If as Zhang implies, fewer Chinese are now watching table tennis, the question of audience appeal is one which they too should (and no doubt do) seriously address.

Perhaps it was the language barrier that caused Tony Zhang to mistakenly believe that it was Jacobson, not myself, that said, "Funnily enough Kong, who plays a bit like a European, greatly admires Waldner" in response to Jacobson's comment "The Chinese don't heroise Samsanov or Waldner", and not to understand that in this context 'funny enough' meant 'opposite to what you (Howard Jacobson) might think' rather than mirth at the thought of Kong admiring Waldner. Fair enough that one should not presume to know what other people think and therefore should stand to be corrected, but the discussion did not have the (patronising?) edge that seems to have caused Zhang offence.

Secondly, I suspect that Zhang might have overstated the relative decline in popularity of table tennis in China since the 'Open Door policy adopted' there 20 years ago. He says, "...football, basketball, badminton, swimming, almost every major sport is more or getting to be more popular than table tennis". Of course, some decline was predictable. In a letter in TTN, January 1985, I said: "I wonder...if the move towards capitalistic enterprise in Red China and the opening up of cultural boundaries could be damaging to table tennis there and hence, internationally. Maybe talented Chinese will increasingly be inclined to take up the more lucrative and prestigious sports of the West. Chinese domination and influence over the world table tennis scene could decline - to the detriment or enhancement of world standards and healthy competition? Or perhaps table tennis will become more professionalised and commercialised."

I was not totally right and China is of course still the major table tennis force, but there is no doubt that other sports, particularly football, have grown hugely in popularity there.

Because of this, at the 1997 Manchester World Championships I asked Zhang Xielin, Head Coach of the Chinese women's team, how much the popularity in table tennis was being affected by the growth in the other sports. He said that because table tennis equipment was more plentiful than for other sports at primary schools, table tennis was able to select/screen off/talent identify (I can't remember which term he used!) gifted athletes before the others got to them, and that they had many players to work with. He was not concerned about loss to other sports.

A marketing journal I looked at last year had a huge supplement on business opportunities in China, and among these opportunities it mentioned in some depth that table tennis was a major sport. Yes, it would be tragic for our sport if table tennis did decline greatly in China - it could even jeopardise the sport's place at the Olympics - but I don't think we need fear for table tennis there yet.

Ken Mubr, ETTA Information Officer

Please send your copy for County Notes and Tournament Results to:  
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# FIGHTING TOMMY

**LONDON PROGRESS and DARLINGTON continue to pull away from the rest of the field in the Premier Division of the British League, writes Aubrey Drapkin.**

Despite a fighting performance from JAG's Tommy Cutler, Progress ran out 12-2 winners at JAGS Sports Centre.

Andrew Eden, Marco Essomba and Cris Sladden were all unbeaten to keep their side one point ahead of Darlington. The North Eastern outfit were given a run for their money when they visited bottom of the table Derwent and in the end had to thank Louis Rosenthal, promoted to the first team for this fixture, as his victories over Richard Smith and Mark Short gave his side an 8-6 win. Darlington's Italian star, Fabio Mantegazza won all three of his sets and combined with the Greek, George Pittas to win their doubles set. But he, too, was given a fright by Michael James whom he only

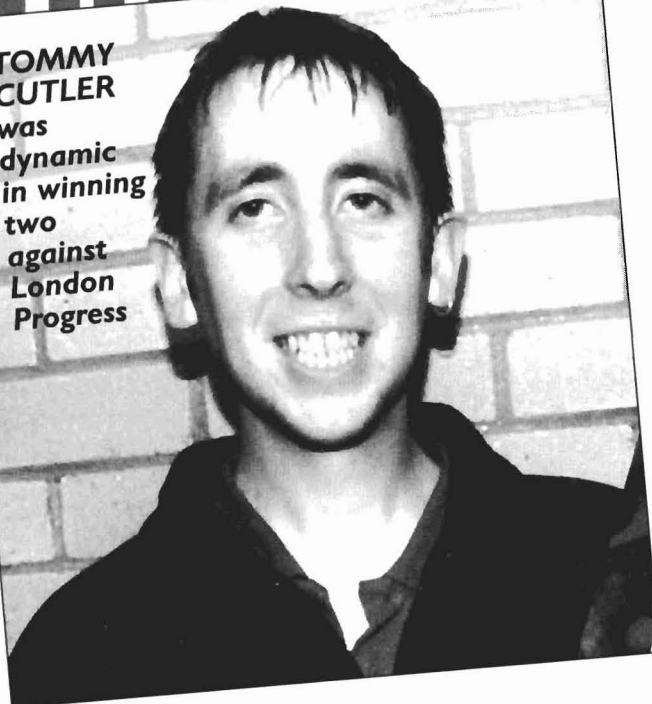
defeated 21-18 in the third end.

OLOP and RMSC Wellow House played a draw as did Harvey Barnet and Horsham. Barnet's point throws them a life line in their fight against relegation.

Norwich Todd Foxwood continued their winning ways in Division 1 North by beating Kingshurst Bribar 8-2, Ian McLean, Phil Logsdon and John Cockburn all remaining unbeaten. The win puts Norwich one point clear of Darlington seconds at the top of the table as the latter were held to a draw by Derwent seconds. Keith Rodger played a very solid game to win both of his singles with Andrew Wilkinson getting one but Darlington's only other success came in both doubles sets. Andrew Nicholls won both of his singles for Derwent.

In Division 1 South, Byng Hall Farningham Print's team of Mark Brown, Paul Rainford, Phil Cox and Mark Romano easily defeated Hastings 8-2, the Sussex side's only

**TOMMY CUTLER was dynamic in winning two against London Progress**



resistance coming from Nicky Mason who won all of his sets. DML Plymouth stayed one point

behind Byng Hall at the top of the table after an 8-2 victory over Limerlost Pine Poole. Paul Whiting

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BC06

# BRITISH LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
London Progress	9	8	-	1	99	27	16
Darlington	9	7	1	1	85	41	15
Horsham	9	5	1	3	63	63	11
OLOP	9	3	2	4	60	66	8
RMSC Wellow House	9	3	2	4	55	71	8
JAGS S.C.	9	3	1	5	51	75	7
Harvey Barnet	9	2	1	6	46	80	5
Derwent	9	-	2	7	45	81	2
DIVISION 1 NORTH							
Norwich Todd Foxwood	8	6	2	-	59	21	14
Darlington II	8	6	1	1	50	30	13
Grantham I.D.S.	8	4	1	3	48	32	9
Kingshurst Bribar	8	3	2	3	37	43	8
Derwent II	8	2	3	3	40	40	7
East Lancashire	7	1	1	5	29	41	3
Uxbridge (Burton)	7	-	-	7	7	63	-
DIVISION 1 SOUTH							
Byng Hall Farn'ham Print	9	7	1	1	58	32	15
DML Plymouth	9	6	2	1	52	38	14
Harvey Barnet II	9	4	2	3	49	41	10
Horsham II	9	4	1	4	45	45	9
Moonrakers	9	3	2	4	44	46	8
Limberlost Pine Poole	9	2	2	5	42	48	6
Ellenborough	9	3	-	6	40	50	6
Hastings	9	2	-	7	30	60	4
DIVISION 2 NORTH							
RMSC Wellow House II	9	9	-	-	68	22	18
Drumchapel Glasgow	9	8	-	1	67	23	16
Darlington III	9	5	2	2	53	37	12
Dewsbury T.T. Centre	9	5	1	3	49	41	11
Ormesby	9	2	1	6	27	63	5
City of Manchester	9	-	4	5	31	59	4
Derwent III	9	1	1	7	34	56	3
East Lancashire II	9	1	1	7	31	59	3
DIVISION 2 SOUTH							
Batts Team Peniel	9	9	-	-	78	12	18
Cippenham	9	6	1	2	58	32	13
Adeyfield	9	5	2	2	55	35	12
Harvey Barnet III	9	4	2	3	41	49	10
De Vere Sudbury	9	3	-	6	40	50	6
Fellows Cranleigh	9	3	-	6	27	63	6
Aylesbury League	9	1	2	6	33	57	4
KCD Stiga	9	1	1	7	28	62	3
DIVISION 3 SOUTH & WEST							
Brent Sports Progress	9	8	1	-	74	16	17
Tregorrick Palace	9	8	1	-	62	28	17
Ashford	9	6	-	3	54	36	12
Guildford	9	4	1	4	40	50	9
Moonrakers	9	4	-	5	44	46	8
OLOP II	9	2	1	6	34	56	5
DML Plymouth	9	1	-	8	26	64	2
KCD Stiga	9	1	-	8	26	64	2
DIVISION 3 NORTH							
Coventry Phoenix	7	6	1	-	56	14	13
Halton	8	6	1	1	57	23	13
Potteries	8	6	-	2	57	23	12
Derwent IV	8	3	1	4	35	45	7
Drumchapel Glasgow	7	3	-	4	33	37	6
Darlington IV	8	-	2	6	22	58	2
Ormesby II	8	-	1	7	10	70	1
DIVISION 3 SOUTH							
Byng Hall Farningham P. II	9	7	2	-	59	31	16
Britannia Ipswich	9	7	-	2	62	28	14
Horsham III	9	6	1	2	59	31	13
Harvey Barnet IV	9	4	-	5	37	53	8
Crusaders	9	3	1	5	35	55	7
Batts Team Peniel II	9	3	-	6	35	55	6
Middlesex Uni Progress	9	2	1	6	43	47	5
De Vere Sudbury II	9	-	3	6	30	60	3

and Greg Bridgett were too good for the opposition winning all of their singles and combining to win their doubles.

Andy Walker gave a good all round display for Horsham seconds but his two victories could not stop Harvey Barnet seconds from winning 6-4 to move into third place in the division.

RMSC Wellow House seconds kept up their 100% record with a 7-3 success at Ormesby in Division 2 North. Jason Ramage took the eye with his allround attacking game and Ormesby's Steven Bailey had a good win over Garry Knights.

Drumchapel Glasgow moved to within two points of the leaders by beating East Lancashire seconds 9-1 and City of Manchester 9-1. Stuart Crawford was unbeaten in both matches, although he had to come from behind to win 23-21 in the third against Manchester's Dave Griffiths.

Vince Avery's non stop work rate contributed to Batts Team Peniel

preserving their 100% record in Division 2 South at the expense of Fellows Cranleigh who were beaten 8-2. Joey Kennedy won both of his singles on his debut for Batts as well as the doubles with Avery. Cippenham retained second place with a 7-3 victory over De Vere Sudbury.

Lorestan Trumpauskas was once again unbeaten for Adeyfield who ran out 8-2 victors away to KCD Stiga.

Brent Sports Progress stayed on top of Division 3 South and West on set difference only from Tregorrick Palace.

They did their set difference no harm at all by winning 10-0 at DML Plymouth. Christian Hundhausen and James Sprackling were particularly outstanding.

Tregorrick also won away from home but KCD Stiga seconds took three sets from them thanks to two singles victories by Yiannis Demas over Adrian Noot and Jeremy Williams and success in doubles when Demas and Mike Turner beat Williams and Noot. Graham and Kevin Worth were once again unbeaten for the Cornish side.

Halton drew level with Coventry Phoenix at the top of Division 3 North although Coventry have a game in hand. Mal McEvoy was outstanding in Halton's 9-1 win over Ormesby. Colin Braxton was player of the match for third placed Potteries who also won with a 9-1 scoreline at the expense of Drumchapel Glasgow.

Chris Knight and Paul Dunmall were both unbeaten for Byng Hall Farningham Print seconds who won 7-3 away to Crusaders to retain the leadership of Division 3 South. Andrew Doshier was again in fine form for second placed Britannia Ipswich who ran out 8-2 winners over De Vere Sudbury seconds.



Two wins for **JOEY KENNEDY** who made his debut for **BATTS Team Peniel**, in Division 2 South

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# MUHR'S MEMO



## INFORMATION OFFICER MESSAGES from Ken Muhr

THE Commonwealth Championships in Singapore and the Dawei World Team Championships in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, provided table tennis with about its best national media coverage since the Manchester World Championships in 1997. And if England had been overall more successful, we would have got even more.

John Woodford continued to obtain the best day to day coverage for both events in the Daily Telegraph and to provide copy for the Press Association, but it was excellent to see Richard Eaton getting a number of articles in The Times and the Guardian. However, a minor breakthrough was the regular results and small snippets in the Daily Mail and the Daily Express. The Independent gave a reasonable results service but was otherwise maverick in its attention, printing a longish 4 paragraph report from the World Team Championships one day, a large photograph of Liu Guoliang another, but apart from this nothing!

The England men's team winning the team event (and 16 year old Andrew Baggaley's performance in the final), Alex Perry and Terry Young gaining a doubles bronze medal, and Terry being narrowly beaten, Alex going out in the quarters and Matthew Syed finally retaining his men's singles title in a strong Commonwealth Championships: these as-good-as-could-be-wished-for results from the England men achieved space in the papers, Richard Eaton in particular writing a large piece on Matthew Syed in The Times.

Generally England's performances, men and woman, in the Dawei World Team Championships did not justify mention from the press, though John Woodford soldiered on manfully, and injury and a few wins from Syed and then at last a men's win over Indonesia gained a few words. It was the ITTF SGM decision to increase the size of the ball from 38mm to 40mm (and related top European discontent at the early implementation), and then the decision to experiment with games up to 11 and the outlawing of shielded serves for some international events for trial periods, that provoked the most interest and media attention. Richard Eaton successfully filed another large column for The Times

and a smaller piece in The Guardian, with John Woodford also exploring the issue in The Daily Telegraph. A Giles Smith in his Saturday Sport Feature in the Telegraph, finished quite a lengthy appraisal of the big ball with, "hats off to the table tennis authorities for looking outwards, for listening and having the courage to act".

The writer, who had been firing off countless press releases throughout this period, was interviewed live on BBC Radio 5 Live, World Forces Radio and BBC Three Counties Radio on the larger ball, but a planned 6-50am interview on Talk Sport did not materialise, a girl at the radio station 'phoning me at 7-15am to explain that owing to a change in programme scheduling I was no longer required but wishing me a nice weekend! The ITTF decision to move its administrative headquarters from St. Leonards-on-Sea to Lausanne in Switzerland was also picked up on by a journalist from the Observer. Unfortunately, the only passing mention of the incredible victory by the 'old' men of Sweden over China in the team event final was unsurprising.

Matthew Syed's latest half page feature in The Times, this time focusing on world squash champion Peter Nicol and making the point that apart from tennis, all the major racket sports, badminton, squash and table tennis get scant attention from the British media, especially television, was well argued and apparently well received across sports. The truth of what Matthew was saying was underlined to me by how little newspaper space major badminton and squash events, which were being played at the same time as our Commonwealth and World Team Championships, achieved. It is bad for all of us.

Discontent from differing perspectives was expressed during a BBC 5 Live Inside Edge programme, by players, coaches and officials from table tennis (e.g. Nicola Deaton, Andrea Holt, Michel Gadai, Ian Marshall, Richard Yule) and squash, over the effect of cuts and perceived constant goal post changing and excessive bureaucracy by the English Sports Council/Lottery Sports Fund on their respective World Class Performance Programmes. Derek Casey of the English Sports Council argued that governing bodies needed a lot of help in preparing their performance plans, but Michel Gadai considered that the specialist staff are the experts in their own sports and should be allowed to get on with implementing their own programmes and being accountable for the results.

Much excellent publicity is generated for table tennis locally, and most of this necessarily goes unremarked by me, because I cannot mention everything. However, I was recently impressed with the full page in the Nottingham Evening Post on the work of coach Steve Heyliger. And the red and yellow cards introduced by another coach Brian Worts in the ACES (Adult-Cadet-Early Start) division of the Exmouth League attracted the attention of the Exeter Express and Echo. I am thankful for the cuttings from people like Dennis Millman (Kettering), Ron Fosker (Braintree), Nick Clarke (Harrogate), Mike Wilson (Sunderland), Keith Wilson (Darlington), Alan Blears (Stockport) and all you other unnamed good people.

One area of work that I am constantly behind on is requests for information by students, league officials and the like. I know that you hope for an instant response, particularly when you E-Mail, but I cannot cope with everything at once and I have other pressing priorities. So I hope you will understand if I sometimes keep you waiting!

# PERRY LEADS THE WAY IN WALES

**ALEX PERRY**, soon after being promoted to No.2 on the England ranking list, stormed past six rivals to reach the semi-finals of the mens singles, before losing a superb battle -17, 15, 18 to the top seed Magnus Molin from Sweden, writes John Woodford.

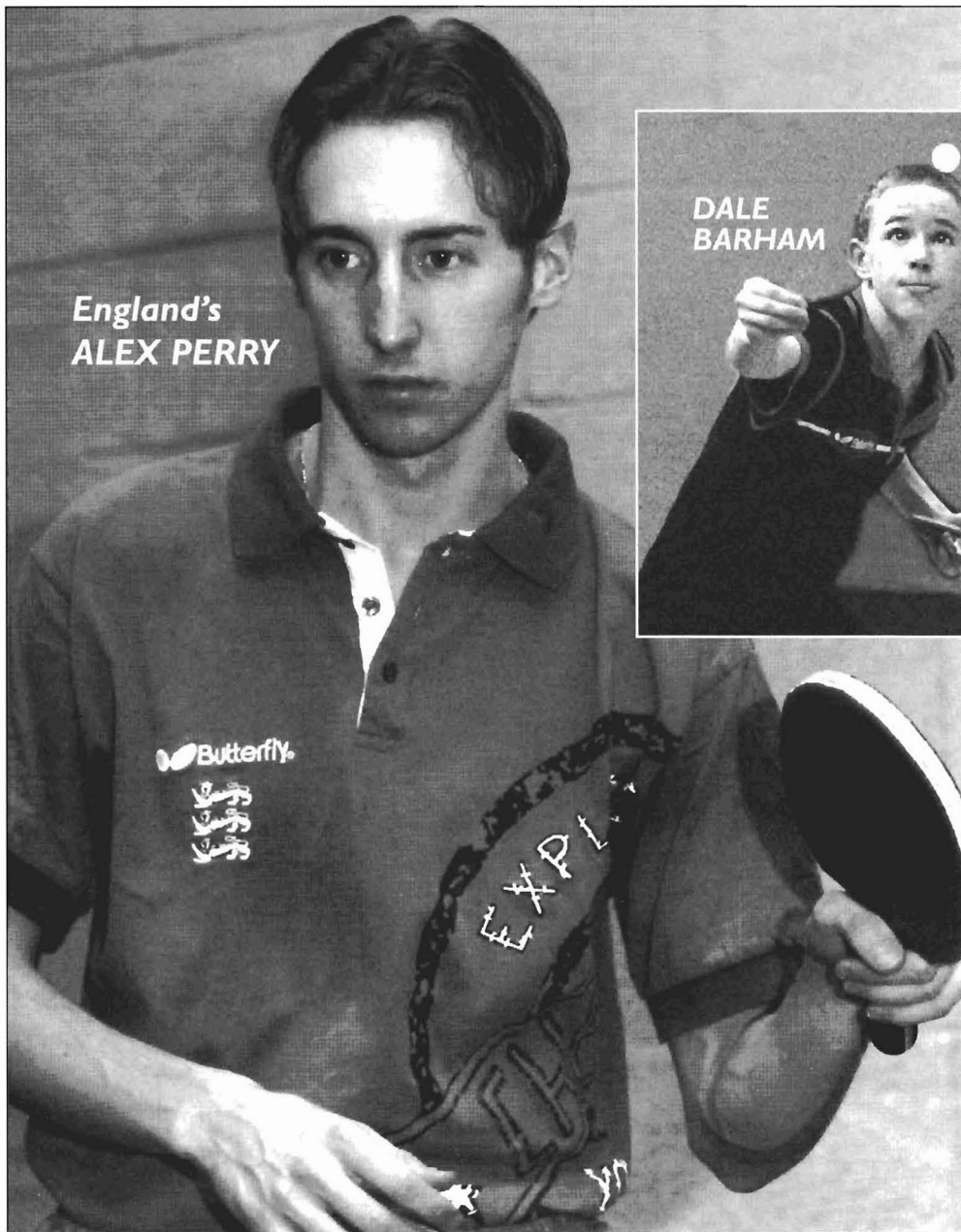
But the physical effort took its toll. In the team event on the following morning he had to pull out with a hip muscle strain.

The organisers were not amused when called upon to re-seed the mens singles at the top when their top seeds Matthew Syed and Carl Prean pulled out, leaving Molin and Eric Varin (France) as the leading seeds. Molin was 117 on the world list at the time which suggests (incorrectly) that the tournament was not well supported.

That was not the case. The standard of play was extremely high with teams from eleven nations including a 16-strong contingent from Japan.

The Welsh TTA made several excellent moves with their schedule. Bringing the doubles into Friday was an excellent move, leaving a Saturday finish of around 7.30 pm for the individual events. On the Sunday, however, the clock was nearing midnight when the team events concluded. The mistake there, was in my view, continuing to run a team consolation event. If that had been taken out, a much earlier finish would have been achieved.

Dale Barham had an excellent tournament. After winning his group he defeated Herve Delaporte of Belgium, a player who Manchester umpire Eric Pentland is alleged to have faulted many times for foul serving. Delaporte's coach is then reported to have told Mr Pentland that his player had never been faulted "all round the world". The answer to that is - too many umpires lacking the courage to penalise bad servers. Helen Lower survived the groups but lost her next encounter; Linda Radford reached the consolation final but lost 19, 19 to Seiko Fujii from Japan. Michael Isherwood was also a consolation



England's  
**ALEX PERRY**

**DALE  
BARHAM**

finalist losing to Henrik Ollsen from Sweden.

**RESULTS:**

**MENS SINGLES:** SF: M. Molin (Sweden) b A. Perry (England) -17, 15, 18. H. Rosvell (Sweden) b C. Cebestany (France) 11, 18.

**FINAL:** MOLIN b Rosvell 20, 17.

**WOMENS SINGLES:** Final: M. Muller

(Holland) bt S. Kotose (Japan) 10, 8.

**MENS DOUBLES:** Final: J. De Cock and Kalun Yu (Holland) b K. Vissers and D. Vanvinckenroye (Belgium) 10, 16.

**TEAMS:**

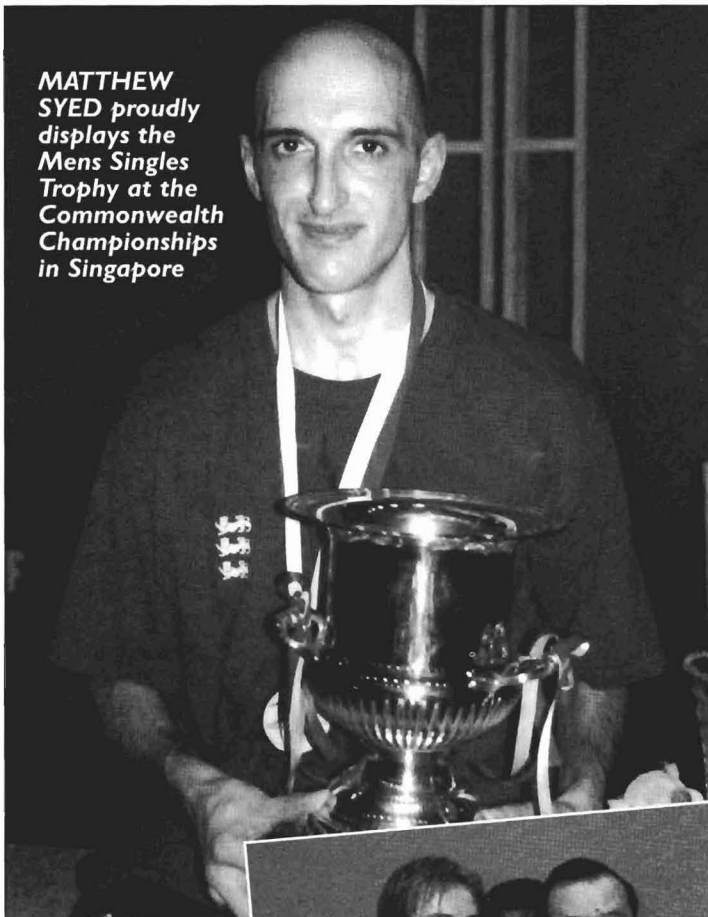
Mens final: Sweden 2, France 1

Womens final: Luxembourg 2, Wales 1

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AT HASTINGS**

# SYED & ENGLAND WIN *in* SINGAPORE

**MATTHEW SYED** proudly displays the Mens Singles Trophy at the Commonwealth Championships in Singapore



Picture by Dennis George

**MATTHEW SYED and the MENS ENGLAND TEAM** celebrated their 9 medal tally at the Commonwealth Championships held in Singapore, during February, writes John Woodford.

England's medal total, which was 9, were 7 Gold (1 Mens Singles and 6 Gold for Mens Team event) and 2 Bronze for the Mens Doubles.

Matthew Syed often gives his supporters and team mates palpitations, but in the end he often delivers the goods, as he did in Singapore by lifting the Mens Singles trophy, for the second time.

Only two other players have retained the Mens Singles trophy, Johnny Huang of Canada did it in 1994, and England's Trevor Taylor two decades ago.

In the final Matthew defeated Duan Yong Jun 13-21, 21-16, 21-8, 21-19. Our Richmond jogger seemed to have a major problem in the first game as the 27 year old crashed through through the Syed defenses,

but our man's table tennis strategy is the best in the world.

Duan was no push-over, he almost achieved a fifth game, but admitted he was exhausted at the end. The local Chinese media said he had suffered from 'Flu' for a month! Stage fright for the big occasion would be more accurate. His world ranking is 101, so maybe he should not have reached double figures in the final. He was lucky to get there on a net-cord against Terry Young in Round 3 after Terry had taken a 18-13 lead! Syed's stroke of good fortune came when Johnny Huang was beaten 19 in the 5th by Duan in the semi-finals.

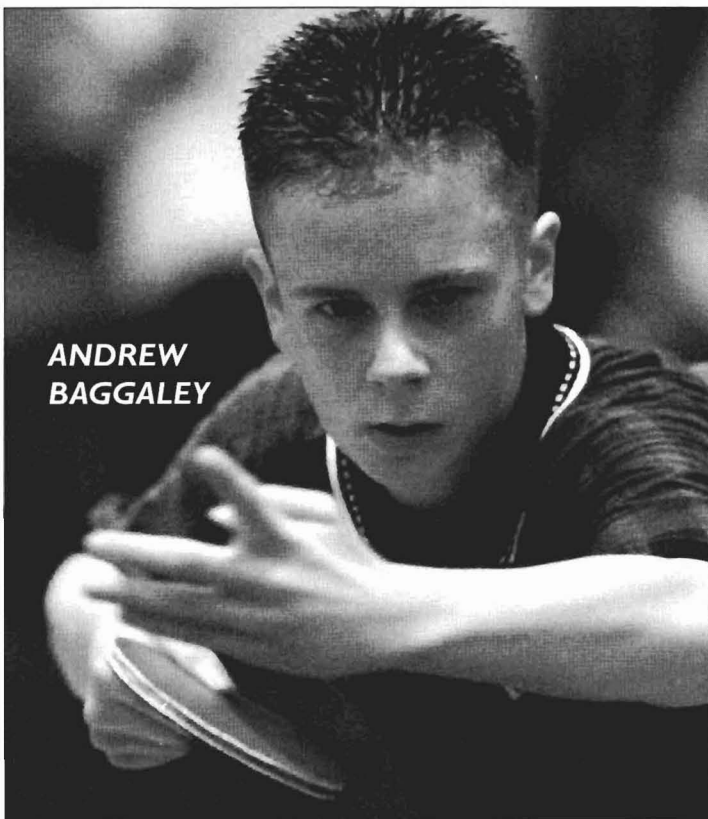
Huang is excellent against back-spin - he beat Chen Xinhua on several occasions.

Matthew said after his final victory, "This was the most satisfying win ever for me. I have had some draws and lost some poor matches in recent months."

Picture by Jose Ransome



**Pictured right** are the jubilant **MENS ENGLAND SQUAD** immediated after their triumphant victory over Singapore, in the final of the Commonwealth Championships Mens Team final. Pictured (left to right) Terry Young, Gareth Herbert, Coach Liu Jia Yi, ETTA Chairman Alan Ransome, Matthew Syed, Alex Perry, ETTA Deputy Chairman Tony Chatwin, and Andrew Baggaley.



**ANDREW BAGGALEY**

**ENGLAND WIN MENS TEAM TROPHY**

Seven consecutive victories ending with a 4-2 win over Singapore saw England Men retain the Mens Team Trophy and win six gold medals. Success that at times looked beyond

their reach.

But nothing looks beyond the reach of young Andrew Baggaley. He gave england a dream start by bringing down the Singapore No.1 Duan Yong Jun 21-17, 17-21, 21-19.

An outstanding achievement for one so young. If Baggaley continues to make progress, England supporters in the new millennium should be prepared to travel long

**FINAL TEAM POSITIONS**

	<b>MEN</b>	<b>WOMEN</b>
1st	ENGLAND	SINGAPORE
2nd	SINGAPORE	AUSTRALIA
3rd	CANADA	MALAYSIA
4th	INDIA	NEW ZEALAND
5th	AUSTRALIA	INDIA
6th	MALAYSIA	CANADA
7th	NEW ZEALAND	ENGLAND
8th	WALES	N. IRELAND
9th	SCOTLAND	SRI LANKA
10th	SRI LANKA	SOUTH AFRICA
11th	CYPRUS	WALES
12th	N. IRELAND	MAURITIUS
13th	MAURITIUS	
14th	SOUTH AFRICA	

**SINGAPORE RESULTS**

**Mens Singles:** S/F: Matthew SYED (England) bt C.Baboor (India) 19,-19, 16,14; S/F: DUAN Yong Jun (Singapore) bt Johnny Huang (Canada) 16,-13,-11, 8, 19; Final: SYED bt Duan -13, 16, 8, 19.

**Womens Singles:** Final: LI JIA WEI (Singapore) bt Jing Jun Jong (Singapore) -15, -20, 11, 14, 19.

**Mens Doubles:** S/F: CHETAN BABOOR/S.RAMAN (India) bt Duan/Zhang (Singapore) 11, 16; S/F: HUANG/K.LIU (Canada) bt Perry/Young (England) 19, 20; Final: BABOOR/RAMAN bt Huang/Liu 14, 15.

**Women Doubles:** Final: JIN/LI (Singapore) bt Sun/Zhang (Singapore) 15, 8.

**Mixed Doubles:** Final: CAXIL/ZHANG (Singapore) bt Duan/Li (Singapore) 16, 13.

**Mens Team Final:** ENGLAND bt Singapore 4-2. Baggaley bt Duan 17,-17, 19. Perry lt Zhang 15,-18,-16. Syed bt Cai Xiao 17, 13. Baggaley/Perry bt Duan/Zhang -16, 19, 16. Perry lt Duan 8, 18. Syed bt Zhang 13, 16.

**Womens Team Final:** SINGAPORE bt Australia 4-0.



**LI JIA WEI of Singapore winner of Commonwealth Championships Womens Singles crown. Singapore were quite dominant in the Womens events, winning the Womens Team trophy and winning an all Singapore Womens Doubles final. Plus they won the Mixed Doubles final.**

Picture by Dennis George

# COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

The England squad celebrate their success at the Commonwealth Championships



distances to see him in fearless action. His huge asset is counter-hitting. Opponents play what appears to be a winning top-spin drive, only

to find Andrew's return whistling past their ears.

This victory over Duan supersedes his win over Zoltan Batorfi in

Bremen.

The odds against the Milton Keynes 16 year old becoming at least a future England champion, are shortening

every day.

Syed followed up Baggaley's brilliant start, by winning his two singles and Baggaley combined with Alex Perry to win the Doubles and the match.

Two of the struggling teams in the Womens Team competition were South Africa and Mauritius - England beat both of them 4-0. However, later England lost 4-0 to Canada.

## SUMMARY

Summing up the performances of the England team in Singapore - Syed was the master player, Baggaley was unlucky to draw Baboor in round 1, Alex Perry often pulverised his opponents, Gareth Herbert showed immense promise for the future, and Young showed power and aggression capable of unsettling almost anyone. Helen Lower reached the third round of the Womens Singles - Owolabi, Durrant and Bawden all played with skill and determination.

Seventh position for the Womens Team was excellent.

Scotland and Wales did not have a lot to write home about, except Scotland's Euan Walker who was unbeaten in the Team Events, including a win over Syed.

A comment from Syed on the effect of shorter pimples, "My defensive game has been undermined by the ruling which changed long pimples. My attacking shots have lost some of their venom and I cannot get the same amount of spin and swerve as I did before the change."

Having said that, Matthew showed his great fighting spirit as England was victorious in the Mens Team event, and he retained his Mens Singles crown.

## GRANT SOLDER TABLE TENNIS SUMMER SCHOOL 2000

To be held at Barking Abbey School Leisure Centre,  
Woodbridge Road, Barking, Essex EG11 9ET  
THURSDAY 3rd AUGUST until SUNDAY 6th AUGUST 2000

### COURSE ORGANISOR: GRANT SOLDER

Age 27, Professional Table Tennis Coach working fulltime at Peniel Academy. Last season was Coach of England for Cadet and Under 12 players. Former Essex No.1, London No.1, and England No.12 Mens. Made England Senior debut in 1995. Former England No.1 Junior England Under 18. Grant has organised eight previous Coaching Courses. Grant played most of his professional table tennis in Belgium and Norway for four seasons. An ETTA Qualified Coach.

### COACH: DESMOND DOUGLAS

Former England No.1 (for 11 years), World No.7 and European No.4. England International for 20 years. One of England's greatest all time players. Des has beaten most of the World's top players, such as Waldner, Gatien, Saive, Appelgren, Persson, Grubba and Bengston. Titles include 11 times English Champion, European Top 12 Champion, European Team Silver Medallist, English Open Champion and Commonwealth Champion.

### COACH: ALAN COOKE

Former England Mens No.1, three times English Champion, former Commonwealth Champion. Alan was a great England player with an excellent hard working attitude. Alan has beaten some of the World's greatest players, such as Waldner, Gatien, Appelgren, and Persson. Alan is a Professional table tennis coach and is currently working with the National Team.

### COACH: ANDREW EDEN

Aged 27, Andrew is a former England No.5 and was a regular member of the England team. Andrew's titles include Commonwealth Gold Medallist, former England Junior No.1 and English Junior Champion. Played professionally for Peniel Academy and in the German Bundesliga. Andrew is a very enthusiastic coach and a great personality.

### ENGLAND TABLE TENNIS PSYCHOLOGIST: MARK BAWDEN

Mark is a fully qualified Sports Psychologist and has worked for the last four years for the ETTA, working with the top Senior and junior players on the mental side of the game. Mark is a former England No.5 cadet and so obviously has a very good background of the game. So here's your chance to have some 1-2-1 and group sessions with Mark and improve the mental side of your game.

### COST £215 PER PERSON NON-RESIDENTIAL (INCLUDES LUNCH)

### £299 PER PERSON RESIDENTIAL - FULL PRICE INCLUDES:

Accommodation - Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights accommodation, at the Palms 3 Star Hotel, which has en-suite rooms and Satellite TV.

Meals - Breakfast, lunch, and evening meals will be provided.

Playing conditions - Play will take place in the brand new £2.5 million Sports Centre funded by the Lottery Unit Sports Fund (opened September 1999) on new Donic tables, with excellent lighting.

I am pleased to be able to invite you to the Grant Solder Summer Camp School 2000. Players will be under expert guidance of Grant Solder, Desmond Douglas, Alan Cooke, Andrew Eden and Mark Bawden. There are excellent shower facilities and there is separate accommodation for male and female. Seniors, veterans and Juniors are all welcome. There will be a female chaperon at the course to look after any young girls. You will be training for 5 hours per day as well as improving your 'mental skills' with Mark Bawden. All standards are catered for. Book now to avoid disappointment and improve every aspect of your game! Any players having difficulty in getting to Barking, then contact Grant Solder and I will do my utmost to arrange transport for you.

For an application form or any further information, please contact:

Grant Solder, 6 Bennions Close, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 6TR  
Telephone: 01708 551778 or Mobile: 07930 275940

# TABLE TENNIS NEWS

## EXTRA

ISSUE NO. 267 MARCH 2000

### EDITORIAL

So the ITTF **agreed the larger 40mm ball** for international play from October 1st. The likelihood is that the ETTA AGM and National Council will decide to apply it to competitions in our ranking points scheme such as open tournaments, British League, county matches, national knockout competitions, regional/national trials as from next season, and allow (for the time being) our affiliated leagues and counties the option of whether to persist with the old 38mm ball or to use the new one for their internal competitions (playing with both simultaneously in the same competition would not be on!).

Whether it is optional or mandatory, and whether or not you like it, I would be inclined to advise local leagues to go along with the bigger ball. There is no strong technical point playing with a different ball than that used at a higher level and now that it will arrive, we all must make the best job of it. Being a little slower, a little less spinny and a little more visible, it should in fact benefit younger players, beginners, those with poorer eyesight and co-ordination and older players, the latter possibly able to extend their playing careers. It may well enhance local league play and the average local league player. Despite some discontent, players will very quickly adapt.

However, using the bigger ball at local level also depends on sufficient stocks of it available, which is in some doubt, and how far stocks of the 38mm ball have been reduced. Dr. Harrison and Dr. Kuhn of the ITTF Equipment Committee have written to national associations encouraging the continued use for a time of the 38mm ball for local leagues and young players, to help suppliers reduce their stocks and to achieve a smooth transition from 38mm ball and 40mm balls. The ITTF will keep the 38mm ball on the approval list for at least 3 years. Therefore, the ETTA may feel obliged to encourage leagues to stick with the old ball for a little longer. As Richard Yule has pointed out to me, this would put us in line with squash and badminton, where the slower projectiles are used only at the highest levels and the faster projectiles are used at the lower levels. Inside, Mike Prior discusses some of the logistical

complications the arrival of the new ball may cause.

Although the bigger ball hopefully will also improve table tennis as a spectacle and on television, it is the higher level player and connoisseur, most wrapped up in the feel of playing and what helps him/her win, who will most recognise the difference and could most regret its arrival. The character of table tennis will change, almost imperceptibly at first but change nevertheless, possibly the greatest change since the advent of sponge in the '50s with winners and losers.

Not only the speed but some of the little touches, spins and subtleties possible with the smaller ball will probably be lost. A slightly cruder game perhaps, like moving from grass court tennis to hard court, where fitness and attrition will count more? More middle game and less of the dramatic variations and fluctuations in tempo, spin and placement? Returning spin serves and blocking loops will be a little easier, but choppers may find it harder controlling the ball when back from the table. Rallies will begin to get longer, and players will develop more stamina to keep going and more strength (particularly leg strength) to generate power. Technically, topspins will be played with a slightly less closed bat face and more arm and body movement. (As a coach I would advise anyone likely to be competing with the new ball to train with it in the summer.) Potentially the new table tennis could be even better, more athletic, with less apparently unforced errors and wild, kamikaze, third ball attacking. We must hope so.

Whilst top Europeans have protested that the implementation of the bigger ball is to happen too quickly, allowing them only 3 weeks to practise with it after the Olympics (finishing on 25th September) for the World Cup in China on 12th-15th October, the **other, experimental changes** to take place at a few international events - games up to 11 and serves in front of the body (non-shielded) - have been received with greater acceptance. Be forewarned! If the feedback is positive, then these could be applied to general play sometime after the 2001 World Championships in Osaka, Japan on 23rd April - 6th May.

It was wonderful that **Matthew Syed retained his Commonwealth Men's Singles**

title and that the **England men retained their team title** in a strong field (and Alex Perry and Terry Young were also Commonwealth Men's Doubles bronze medallists), but the generally poor results otherwise of English players at both the Commonwealth and Dawei World Team Championships will give fuel and ammunition for those such as John Prean, who are critical of the National Training Centre at Holme Pierrepont led by Performance Director Michel Gadal. Yet with the players available, what else could be realistically expected? Now is a time of transition, with most of the old guard having retired, declining or unavailable for selection, and with the new generation not yet of the quality to take their place. Success won't be instant. The time scale Gadal has set for the younger internationals is to be winning some senior opens in 3 or 4 years, provided they train hard. England can only work with and select from who they have, and the pool from which they can identify talent is too small. Nicola Deaton, who might be said to straddle both camps (old and new), should be part of England's future and it is greatly to be hoped that she can be brought back on board.

What a remarkable performance of the **Swedish men**, Jan Ove-Waldner (34), Jorgen Persson (33) and Peter Karlsson (30) to lift the **World Championships title** again! By my reckoning, the **oldest champions** since Dr. Jacobi, Mechlovits and Dr. Pesci won the first world championships (in London) for Hungary in 1926! (Bergmann was 34, Leach was 30 and Aubrey Simons was 31 or 32 when England took the title for the only time in 1953.) Waldner overcame for his first time the current world singles champion Liu Guoliang 23-21 in the third though he was thumped by Kong Linghui who he normally beats, but Persson was Sweden's hero of the occasion in tightly beating both Liu and Kong for the sensational 3-2 finals result over China, who had looked unbeatable up to then. Wonderful for European table tennis, but brilliant as they are Waldner and Persson can't last much longer and there are precious few youngsters of quality in Sweden or Europe to take their place. The immediate future after the Olympics is with China.

Ken Muhr

## BERKSHIRE

by John Cunningham

Lisa Bosley of Kingfisher TT Club, Woodley, played for the Berkshire senior team in the 'Premier Weekend' at Grantham.

The 12 year old took on older players from Kent, Middlesex, Yorkshire and Surrey. She performed well above what was expected of her, showing great determination and considerable skill over the four matches.

In the match against Surrey Lisa managed to defeat Marianna Rolikova, ranked no. 32 in England 21-13, 21-19. This victory follows her win over Crystal Hall, another lady with more than 2000 points.

Our Lady of Peace junior Sean Cox who is coaches at the Kingfisher Club by the Scottish international and OLOP British League player, Michael Auchterlonie, finished the 1999 season in style.

Cox, in his first season as a junior, was in fantastic form winning both the under 17 and under 16 events at the Chesham 2 Star tournament just prior to the New Year.

### Second Masters Final For Calcutt

For the second year running OLOP county junior and England cadet international Lisa Calcutt has qualified for the National Cadet/Junior Masters Final to be staged in April at Cippenham.

The talented Hugh Farringdon schoolgirl completely blitzed her rivals in the recent final National Trials at Cheltenham. Calcutt retaining a tremendous amount of long running form defeated cadet group opponents Christina Vajdi (Surrey) 21-8, 21-18, Charlotte Fowler (Notts) 21-12, 21-15, Joanne Hubbard (Kent), 21-12, 19-21, 21-13, Stephanie Mangle (Durham) 21-5, 21-13, Nicola Shepherd (Yorks) 21-5, 21-6, Amanda Pinnell (Staffs) 21-9, 21-10 and Lisa's Junior British League team-mate Kelly Craven-Griffiths 21-17, 21-16.

In the junior event Lisa again qualified by taking the runners-up spot by defeating Kate Vickers (Durham) 21-15, 21-12, Kelly Sibley (Wark) 21-13, 21-14, Helen Parton (Devon) 21-14, 21-9, Rachel Stevenson (Shrop) 21-17, 21-11, before just losing out to second qualifier Kate Steward (Somerset) 18-21, 19-21. Calcutt, the only remaining Berkshire qualifier, will be joined by Buckinghamshire player Gemma Chapman and Kate Steward for the Masters Final in April. In the junior boys group, Berkshire captain Lee Calcutt came 5th in his group of eight opponents.

### Table Tennis Returns to Abbotfield

After a gap of almost two years table tennis has returned to the Army Apprentice

# COUNTY NOTES

- A LOOK AROUND  
THE COUNTRY  
Issue no. 267  
March 2000

College at Abbotfield. Co-ordinator John Cunningham and soach Sgt. Shaw are very pleased with the performance and potential of the new crop of players.

### OLOP Bulmersh

Woolwich Junior League winners 1999-2000

Comet Thunderballs from Impact Coaching. Centre: Ben Gates and Ben Young. Left: the 1998/99 winners OLOP Earley Chris Starkie and Tom Williams. Background: Members of OLOP and Sonning Common TTC. Picture taken at the Kingfisher Table Tennis Club in the grounds of Bulmersh School.



## CORNWALL

by John Wood

Cornwall's biggest tournament of the season, the St. Austell South West Open Grand Prix, takes place at the Polkyth Leisure Centre and Tregorrick Park Table Tennis Centre, over the Easter weekend, 22nd and 23rd April 2000.

To make this a super success we need every Cornish table tennis player to enter this prestigious event.

Prior to this Grand Prix there will be an excellent course at the Tregorrick Park Table

Tennis Centre, Monday 17th to Thursday 20th April 2000, run by former England No. 1 and England Team Coach, Nicky Jarvis. Further information is available from John Wood, telephone: 01726 70607.

## CUMBRIA

by Richard Johnson

2000 CUMBRIA CLOSED  
KENDAL LEISURE CENTRE,  
31ST JANUARY 2000

### Men's Singles semi-finals

Steve Dixon bt Barry Grant 19,6; Zeke Dixon bt Paul Stebbing 15,16

### Men's Singles FINAL

Steve Dixon bt Zeke Dixon 11, 18

### Women's Singles semi-finals

only 4 ladies played in a group of 4 winner - Julie Stitch, runner-up - Faye Gasson

### Men's Doubles FINAL

Steve Dixon/Peter Rushton bt Roy Warrener/Neil Smith -20,20,13

### Women's Doubles FINAL

Chloe Gasson/Faye Gasson bt Jean McGovern/Tricia Clinton 5, 7

### Mixed Doubles FINAL

Julie Stitch/Steve Dixon bt Grant Woodhouse/Chloe Gasson 9,12

### Junior Singles U17

Zeke Dixon bt Grant Woodhouse 10,15

### Veteran's Singles

Roy Warrener bt Carl Stebbing 11,17

### Other Events:

#### U14 Singles

Grant Woodhouse bt Jonathan Crawford 9,17

#### Junior Doubles

Zeke Dixon/Dave Wood bt Grant Woodhouse/Jonathan Crawford - 20,7,-20

#### Junior Girls' Singles

Chloe Gasson bt Faye Gasson 5,21

#### U12 Singles

All played in a group of 4  
Winner - Jonathan Crawford, Runner-up - Roger Pimblett

## ESSEX

by Steve Kerns

### BATTS SENIOR SUPER LEAGUES

The competition in the BATTS Senior two-a-side League has been absolutely superb and the list of leading players competing reads like a who's who of southern table tennis. 16 teams from Essex, Kent, Cambridge and Herts battle it out on a fortnightly basis on Tuesday evenings. No

team is allowed to postpone its matches and it is quite noticeable that all the big guns give the BATTs matches priority over other commitments. Bulletins are produced every week and access to the results can also be obtained on the internet. Southender Cris Sladden has recorded the most wins so far with 15 out of 16, his one loss coming at the hands of Marco Essomba who has won his eight singles. Other impressive records belong to Lorestas Trumpauskas with 11 wins out of 14, Jason Sugrue (10/12), John Taylor (10/12), Joe Kennedy (8/10), Mike Levene (9/12), Clive Carthy (7/10), newcomer David Atkinson (11/16) and Linda Radford (11/16). The quality of players with a 50% record is quite staggering and includes such notables as comeback King Dave Newman (8/16), Dave Randall (8/16), Chris Jamieson (7/14) and Paul Cicchelli (7/14). Chris Marlow, who has played quite brilliantly for Ellenborough in Division One of the National League might be a good one to ask about the standard of play in the BATTs league as his record of one singles win out of fourteen tells its own story (sorry Chris!!).

Progress, represented by Essomba, Sugrue, Anthony Corbin and another highly impressive newcomer Christian Hundhausen, lead the way followed by Barnet A (John Taylor and David Atkinson). Southend led by Cris Sladden can never be discounted and with Dave Newman looking increasingly threatening as the season progresses they should finish third. In his comeback after a seven year break Dave has already taken the scalps of Derek Rogers, Mark Romano and Lesley Radford. Peniel A have opted to give up their up-and-coming stars Chris Jamieson and Peter Cleminson valuable experience and Cleminson with five wins out of twelve has certainly not let them down. With occasional backing from John Holland Jnr. (6/6) they lie seventh.

### BATTs JUNIOR LEAGUE

The BATTs Junior League is divided into three divisions playing on alternate weeks with the senior teams, and the competition to take the first division title looks to be a three way battle between BATTs A and the leading two Peniel teams. Aaron Fennell with 9 wins out of 10 tops the individual averages with the girls Abigail Embling (6/8), Grace Brown (3/4) and Amy Wright (7/10) all handily placed. Fast-improving Harlow cadet Ian Witteridge has made great progress and his record of 7 wins out of 10 compares favourably with players ranked higher than him in the county. With Fennell and Witteridge playing so well BATTs A look to have all the credentials to take the title.

### CHELMSFORD LEAGUE

The standard of play within the Chelmsford League first division remains high although with many teams operating with large squads the standard week in week out is never as high as it could be on paper. ECC A lead the table by three points but ECC B in second place have a game in hand and will go top if they win it. ECC A (Steve Dettmar, Steve Kerns and Paul Cicchelli) were brought rudely down to earth by Elmtree Graphics for whom Lorestas Trumpauskas tore through the opposition despite never appearing to get out of first gear. ECC A's other squad members have included Andrew Doshier, Colin Carslake and Dave Birkett. ECC B led by Dave Cole and Dave Window have become much more competitive with the addition of Ian Brown, and with Paul Davison and Martin Hogg also at their disposal their threat is a real one. Maldon A are currently lying third and with Dave Newman in their line-up they will be looking to make the leading teams struggle next half. Rawreth A are in fourth place at present but after beating ECC A they can look to close the gap in the second half. Their best team would include John Taylor plus any two from John's son Duncan, Simon Woods and George Reeves. Their 6-4 win over a Dettmarless ECC side saw John Taylor make light work of Cicchelli, Doshier and Kerns, and Woods also got the better of Doshier and Kerns. Currently out of the reckoning are last year's champions Danbury A and Elmtree Graphics who both have very large squads although often they have had trouble fielding full teams. Danbury's squad of Cris Sladden, Derek Rogers, Tom Carr, Neil Brierley, Mike Hayes, Terry Guymer, Andrew Nash, Ben Warner and Colin Marco really takes some beating so it is surprising to see them off the pace. Much the same can also be said of Elmtree Graphics A who can choose from Trumpauskas, Rik James, Paul Lucas, John Holland Snr., Terry Dowsett, Chris Jacob, Steve Edmonds, Andy Wadling and Ev Lucas. Both of these teams could well have a major say in determining who actually takes the title.

### GLOUCESTERSHIRE by Alf Peppard

#### Gloucestershire Annual Closed Junior Championships

There was an excellent entry for the above championships which were staged at Deer Park School, Cirencester in mid-December under the watchful eyes of Mrs Gill Smith, the Hon. Referee.

There can be no question or doubt that it was a phenomenal event, never before in the history of junior closed table tennis have two 10 years olds actually won the under 17 singles, but that's just what happened when Gloucester's Stella Davis (unseeded) beat Celina Bell from Higham, Glos. 21-17, 23-21 to take the title.

Likewise, Harry Shahlaei (seeded no. 3), beat the top seed Dominic Wynn-Sands 21-13, 21-19 in the final to win the title - both players hail from Cheltenham. Those are the two most important events, now onto the rest of the events.

In the U14 doubles final, James De Jong and Harry Shahlaei beat Celina Bell and Stella Davis 21-13, 21-13.

The U17 doubles was won by Luke Davis and Dominic Wynn-Sands who beat Lawrence Shahlaei and Matthew De Jong 21-15, 17-21, 21-10. In the girls' U14 event which was run on the group system., Stella Davis beat Celina Bell in the final.

Another group event featured the girls' U12 where again Stella Davis proved her ability by winning this title, Emma Davenport was the runner-up.

In the boys U14 singles final, after a very shaky start the formidable Harry Shahlaei came through to beat James De Jong 22-20, 21-14. Once again young Harry Shahlaei was in the driving seat in the boys' U12 event, beating Michael Harvey 21-17, 21-15.

Finally, reverting back to the boys U17 singles, Rudford's Andy Shaw had a splendid 21-19, 21-14 win over Gloucester's Luke Davis in the quarter-finals but lost to YOU KNOW WHO in the next round (Harry Shahlaei!).

### Gloucestershire Disabled Performers Coach of the Year 1999

Pete Humble from Highnam, Glos, was awarded the Gloucestershire Disabled Performers 'Coach of the Year 1999' for his work in table tennis with the disabled.

He was nominated by Elaine Marshall, England's no. 1 disabled player in the ladies standing classes 6-11, and the award was presented by Steve Cotterill at the Cheltenham Town Football Club.

### Gloucestershire Schools Table Tennis Team Championships 1999/2000

The schools to represent Gloucestershire in the ESTTA National Schools Team Championships have now been determined, they are:

Under 11 Girls	Cirencester Junior School
Under 11 Boys	Randwick Junior C of E School

Under 16 Boys	St. Peter's High School, Gloucester
Under 19 Girls	Ribston High School Gloucester

The U11 and U19 girls went through unopposed. Two teams contested the U11 boys' event with the more experienced Randwick Junior C of E School beating Cirencester Junior School 8-0.

Two teams also played for the U16 boys' slot and this was won by St. Peter's High School, Gloucester, who overcame Sir Thomas Rich's School 6-2.

The next round will be played at Deer Park School, Cirencester on Sunday 23rd January 2000 where the opponents will be schools representing Avon, Bedfordshire and Northampton.

### COUNTY MATCHES

The fourth and final county matches for 1999 were all played at Deer Park School, Cirencester.

The seniors match v Buckinghamshire in Div 2D was postponed. I'm told that the visitors were unable to raise a suitable team.

Our veterans in Div 2D played Hants and we won 7-2, Gloucestershire took the first five games until Hampshire's Gill Larking rose to the occasion, and decided to do something about matters; Gill then beat Judy Morley 19, 18 and Maurice Shave won the other game beating Dave Adamson -20, 17, -16, Gloucestershire stalwarts - Dave Harvey and Alan Giles scored maximums in their singles.

Our juniors in Div 3D had a narrow 6-4 victory over Kent 3rds, all the Gloucestershire boys came through winning with flying colours, they were Dominic Wynn-Sands, Harry Shahlaei (Harry's only 10 years old?) AND Sam Ewens.

The girls, however, all lost to Kents Anusha Seneviratne and Jodie Stringer, a great match and excellent comradeship existed throughout the entire match.

### HAMPSHIRE

by Brian Lamerton

Clive Payne from Basingstoke and the Isle of Wight's Dean Whittington are this month's headline makers: Payne for becoming men's singles and men's veterans' singles title holder and Whittington for winning the junior and intermediate championships.

The junior event played just before the end of the old millennium was very much dominated by players from our friends across the Solent with Sam Rorke runner-up in the boys' junior event, Nathan Godolphin a semi-finalist, Harry Ovnik the

under 12 boys' winner, Joanna Hurt the under 12 girls' runner-up, Andrew Hooke (son of Roger) cadet boys' runner-up. Mainland successes were Jenny Dobson (Southampton) under 12 girls' winner, sister Emma Dobson junior girls' winner, Linda Halfpenny (Aldershot) cadet girls' winner, Daniel Noronha (Aldershot) cadet boys' winner, Noronha and Robert Mead (Aldershot) cadet doubles winners and runners-up Kieran Earl (Southampton) boys under 12, Jenny Dobson, cadet girls, Kate Mead (Aldershot) junior girls and Kieran Earl and Chris Willsher (Southampton) junior boys' doubles.

It seems but yesterday that Clive Payne was a leading county junior but following my amazement at seeing him competing at veteran level a check of the records shows that it was in fact 1977 when he was runner-up in the junior championships to the legendary Colin Wilson. Payne comfortably took the veteran title with a 21-15, 21-12 final win over Peter Matthews (Aldershot) before embarking on his attack on the mens' event where he defeated the holder Christos Hannides (Southampton) 21-19, 23-21 in the semis and another ex leading junior, Jeremy Wilson (Andover) in the final 21-17, 21-15. The other defeated semi-finalist, going down 21-16, 21-19 to Wilson, was a newcomer to the championships, Yiannis Demos, a Portsmouth student from Greece. In the intermediate (under 23) played together with the senior championships Whittington took the title by defeating Southampton's Stuart Williams in the final 21-18, 21-19.

With small entries for both ladies and ladies veterans' events (largely the same players in both) a group system was adopted. When one group of three took some 21/4 hours to complete international referee Mick Strode, for whom 5% tolerance is normally more than enough, had his schedules completely thrown out and with the Association's funds running out of sweeteners for the caretaker these events will be completed at a later date. The three doubles events were finished resulting in the following winners: mens, Rod McMullen & Yiannis Demos (Portsmouth); womens Barbara Savage (Winchester) & Ann Longland (Southampton); mixed Yiannis Demos & Sandra Simpson (Aldershot). All competitors at both events were presented with an engraved souvenir of participation in the millennium championships.

The county junior good run came to an end when they went down, 7 sets to 3, at home to neighbours Dorset: Dean Whittington winning twice to retain his individual 100% record.

Competition in the inter-town veterans leagues is as keen as ever with Portsmouth

currently leading Division 1, Bournemouth 'B' Division and a new 'open' (4 players of either sex) competition is led by Basingstoke.

Hampshire were shocked just before Christmas by the sudden death of their president Ron Wilshere at the age of 68. Ron was still an active player, recording a 100% average in the last season's Southampton division 4 but is best remembered for a near half century of coaching activity learning much in his early days from Jack Carrington and passing this on to hundreds of young players in clubs and schools throughout the county including son Chris (Hampshire veteran champion, 1999) grandsons Mark and Steve, both county junior players in their time and grandson Glenn currently ranked no. 5 junior and just waiting for his chance to win representative honours. To these all together with wife Margaret we offer our condolences and thanks for allowing us so much of his time.

### HEREFORDSHIRE

by Harry Jutle

#### **County Table Tennis Results on Saturday 15th January for 1999/2000 Season**

#### **Senior Div 2B**

Hereford played host to Devon 3rd resulting in a 7-3 win! Mark Owen, Sally Davies, Sue Seagust won 2 each and Harry Jutle won a single in a 3rd game decider.

*Scores: Mark Owen 21-9, 21-13 and 21-17, 21-11. Sally Davies 21-5, 21-4 and 21-15, 21-16. Sue Seagust 21-11, 21-15 and 21-13, 21-10. Harry Jutle 21-23, 21-15, 21-19 and 12-21, 15-21. Andy Castle 13-21, 19-21 and 17-21, 16-21.*

#### **Veterans Div 3D**

Hereford 1st played host to undefeated Devon 2nd with a 2-7 loss. Harry Jutle and Norman Merchant scored a win each. The men's doubles partnership of Harry and Norman forced a 3rd game decider to lose 18-21.

*Scores: Harry Jutle 23-21, 21-15 and 11-21, 16-21. Norman Merchant 21-12, 21-19 and 17-21, 18-21. Richard Owens 10-21, 14-21 and 15-21, 12-21. Carol Milnes 13-21, 11-21. Men's doubles Harry and Norman 10-21, 21-12, 18-21. Mixed doubles Richard and Carol 15-21, 16-21.*

Hereford 3rd played host to Devon 3rd resulting in a 2-7 loss. Trevor Davies scored a singles win and men's doubles partnering Mike Morgan. 4 sets out of 9 went to a 3rd game decider. This has been the best opposition our team has put up.

*Scores: Trevor Davies 17-21,21-19,21-18 and 17-21,14-21. Mike Morgan 14-21,21-18,6-21 and 19-21,15-21. Mike Belfield 7-21,15-21 and 17-21,8-21. Margaret Shock 8-21,14-21. Mixed doubles Belfield and Margaret 15-21,21-18,9-21. Men's doubles Morgan and Davies 26-24,12-21,21-19.*

### **Veterans Div 3C**

Hereford 2nd played host to Hampshire 4th resulting in a 0-9 loss. Both doubles and ladies' singles were almost pushed to a 3rd game decider. *Scores: Neville Meredith 15-21,13-21 and 17-21,12-21. John Hunt 8-21,14-21 and 3-21,8-21. Mike Wheatley 8-21,18-21 and 9-21,9-21. Linda Ashman 13-21,19-21. Mixed doubles Linda and Mike 14-21,19-21. Men's doubles Neville and John 19-21,20-22.*

### **Junior Div 3C**

Hereford played away against Gwent resulting in a 0-10 defeat. *Scores: Joe Davies 15-21,18-21 and 7-21,8-21. Sam Lloyd 6-21,9-21 and 16-21,11-21. Alistair Dawson 12-21,14-21 and 13-21,16-21. Jessica Davies 12-21,6-21 and 17-21,10-21. Nikki Segust 3-21,8-21 and 6-21,2-21.*

### **New Herefordshire TT League by Steve Watkins, County Development Officer**

A new table tennis league for Herefordshire has been started this season. Each team consists of two players and is aimed at encouraging juniors (U21) and beginners of all ages, into competitive table tennis. Each match only takes 1 1/2 hours to play so it finishes much earlier than the normal 3 player system. Because of this it has attracted many junior players who would not have entered the 3 player league.

18 teams have entered the league, which is split into 3 divisions. One division for any junior playing with a senior experienced player. A second division for a junior playing with a parent. The third division is made up of mixed teams of all juniors, all ladies, all over 60's or family teams where both the players are beginners.

With 1/3 of the matches played, the junior/senior leaders are the Predators team of Emily Birt (Junior) and Bob Davies with 150 points while the Spikes team of Greg Price (Junior) and Harry Jutle have 148 points with a game in hand. In the junior/parent division Nick Wilson (Junior) and his dad Kevin playing as the Leeds Lads lead with 126 points and with a game in hand over Tornadoes team of Michael & Robert Powell and dad George. In the mixed division, the all junior team of Ben Mason, Richard Bentley and Ed

Thornley playing as Herefordians lead the way with 196 points from the ladies team Christine Murfin and Liz Powell playing as the Phantoms, with 155 points. Further information is available from Steve Watkins on 07970 952364.

### **HERTFORDSHIRE**

by Brian Gale

### **Hertfordshire Junior Closed Tournament Barnett TT Centre, Sunday 5th December 1999**

The results were as follows:

#### **Boys' Under 17**

William O'Leary bt Chris Stone  
21-17,18-21,22-20

#### **Girls' Under 17**

Donna Greenberg bt Sara Fraser  
21-10,21-11

#### **Boys' Under 14**

James Dick bt Rory Bone  
21-17,19-21,21-15

#### **Girls' Under 14**

Samantha Gray bt Nikki Shah 21-10,21-16

#### **Boys' Under 12**

Tony Scibetta bt Terry Jin 21-12, 21-14

#### **Girls' Under 12**

Nikki Shah w/o Samantha Gray

#### **Boys' Doubles**

James Dance/Mark Cruse-Jungling bt  
Chris Stone/Daniel Gillett 21-19,21-10

#### **Mixed Doubles**

Mark Cruse-Jungling/Donna Greenberg bt  
Daniel Gillett/Sara Fraser 21-7,21-18.

### **ISLE OF WIGHT**

by John Prean

Our county team travelled to Horsham for the fourth match of the season against Sussex II, emerging the winners by 6-4 after yet another thoroughly interesting match. A pre-match count indicated that 6 wins would be all we could amass at the end of the day and, when one of these went wrong, a draw looked our best hope. Lucy Pointer had lost to Sara Coggon and, although she won the other match against Sheila King, we were 3-1 down in the ladies' matches. Alison Botha had played pretty well in her two, coming in for Jill Fothergill, but both matches went adrift.

Danny Burns beat the opposing no. 3 Mark Forder, as did Roger Hookey, and Carl Prean provided our two bankers. It was left to Roger Hookey again to turn the 5-5 into a 6-4 win and this he did by defeating Wes Bush-Harris, who is some 100 or more places ahead of him on the national ranking list. It was a famous victory by 16 & 20. Our hopes

remain high with three matches to go, two at home, but with Gloucester apparently in unbeatable form after their lapse on the Island, we cannot afford to make any mistakes. Gordon Burns thoroughly professional management, excellent team spirit (as Kevin Keegan might say "we are up for it...") and a superb home venue are as important as what happens on the table.

Sam Rorke is the new Island junior champion, a well deserved hard won honour. Dean Whittington did not compete, but won the Hampshire Junior title, following Danny Burns and Carl Prean even earlier. Well done. Harry Ovnik won the Island cadet title. He seems just as talented as his older brother James, whom we lost to mountain biking where, I hear, he is emerging as a national contender. James is one of a growing band of talents that was lost after the junior days.

Harry also won the Hampshire Junior U-12 title for the third time, mysteriously not entering the U14 where he would also have been favourite. Some of our juniors play for Hampshire, as we don't have a junior team. Ours competes in the Hampshire inter-town championships which seems the right standard and involves less travel. Most notably, the organisation of these events, in the hands of the admirable Harold Albery, puts much of what I see on the national scene to shame. Harold remains one of the unsung heroes of the sport, doing an enormous amount of work supremely well, never boasting or expecting anything in return.

I understand Lucy Pointer was selected for the Portuguese Junior Open, but spent much time on the bench. I hope she has better luck next time. With her hard hitting and high risk style, she could upset higher ranked opponents at any time, but this is hard from a position on the bench!

Our other international Carl Prean has turned down selection for the Commonwealth and World Team Championships. No doubt you will have read about this by the time these notes are published. Sad though we are to see this, I can understand his growing disillusionment with the incredible way things are now done in this country. English table tennis is now, as I see it, on collision course with reason and good sense after some disastrous appointments and sackings.

Carl assured me he is not retiring. He just does not want the heartbreak and sheer lack of professionalism of the present English scene as it is on the international stage. Like General McArthur, he "will return". Having lost our two best ladies, we have now contrived to lose also the male winner of five European medals, three Commonwealth golds and much else.

One often hears one should only write about county matters, leaving all else to the experts, in these columns, but the national scene affects us most deeply, particularly our efforts to help produce good players who will one day play for their country. It does not assist our efforts if the summit they work so hard to reach proves the shambles it is today.

**KENT**  
by Adrian Hall

### **KENT SENIORS UNBEATEN BUT FINISH THIRD**

Kent senior first team playing in the premier division of the county championships for the first time in some years finished the second weekend at Grantham, 15th/16th January, unbeaten to finish 3rd behind Middlesex and Sussex who both beat Kent on the first weekend prior to Christmas. Maidstone's Claire Moore was Kent's star performer being unbeaten over the weekend.

#### **Kent 1st 8 - Hertfordshire 1st 2**

Justin Goodall, Joe Kennedy and Claire Moore were all unbeaten as Kent got the weekend off to a winning start.

Kent: Justin Goodall (Folkestone) 2, Mark Brown (T. Wells) 1, Joe Kennedy (Bromley) 2, Helen Amos (Ashford) 1, Claire Moore (Maidstone) 2.

#### **Surrey 1st 4 - Kent 1st 6**

Kent got a hard earned win over a strong Surrey side that contained England international Darren Blake. Kent ladies, Helen Amos (Ashford) and Claire Moore (Maidstone), won their four matches and were well supported by an excellent win by Joe Kennedy over Surrey's Robert Pountney who also lost to Kent's Mark Brown in the final match to give Kent the win. Justin Goodall (Thanet) was in a good position to have beaten Blake but lost a substantial third leg lead to finally lose 21-13, 16-21, 19-21.

Kent: Justin Goodall 1, Mark Brown 1, Joe Kennedy 1, Helen Amos 2, Claire Moore 2.

#### **Kent 1st 6 - Nottinghamshire 1st 4**

The ladies were again the backbone of Kent's final match win over Nottinghamshire 6-4. With Kent's no. 1 Justin Goodall withdrawing from the match with a back strain, reserve Paul Amos had to win the last match of the day against the Notts no. 2 Mark Green, which he duly did 16-21, 21-18, 23-21.

Kent: Mark Brown 1, Joe Kennedy 0, Paul Amos 1, Helen Amos 2, Claire Moore 2.

### **KENT JUNIORS UNBEATEN**

Out of form Justin Dodd (Gravesend), Kent's no. 1 junior, was replaced at the last minute by Medway's Ross Walker, who had the previous weekend qualified for the Junior Masters. Despite this setback and theoretical weakening of the team, Kent's juniors were unbeaten in the Premier division of the county championships at Grantham over the weekend 15th/16th January 2000 to finish third.

#### **Kent 5 - Cheshire 5**

Cheshire's Daniel Horner caused an upset beating Kent's Stephen Beerling 23-21, 21-14 and although Hazel Clucas nearly caused an even greater upset only just losing 9-21, 21-17, 18-21 to Cheshire's Karen Shepherd, Kent were unable to get better than a draw. Kent: Stephen Beerling (Thanet) 1, Dominic Hall (Maidstone) 2, Ross Walker (Medway) 2, Hazel Clucas (T. Wells) 0, Joanne Hubbard (T. Wells) 0.

#### **Yorkshire 3 - Kent 7**

Joanne Hubbard had an exceptional win over Yorkshire's England no. 14 Janine Donnelly 15-21, 21-17, 21-19 and with the boys taking all six matches as expected Kent had a comfortable 7-3 win over Yorkshire.

Kent: Stephen Beerling 2, Dominic Hall 2, Ross Walker 2, Hazel Clucas 0, Joanne Hubbard 1.

#### **Kent 7 - Devonshire 3**

Joanne Hubbard was again in good form winning both her matches including a good win over the higher ranked Michelle Barrett 13-21, 21-19, 21-19.

Kent: Stephen Beerling 2, Dominic Hall 2, Ross Walker 1, Hazel Clucas 0, Joanne Hubbard 2.

#### **Middlesex 5 - Kent 5**

Kent came back from 5-2 down to gain a draw against Middlesex. Luis Dominguez had surprisingly beaten Kent's Dominic Hall 21-19, 9-21, 21-17 to put Middlesex in an unexpectedly strong position before Hazel Clucas caused probably the biggest upset of the weekend when she beat England no. 11 Aparna Narendran 21-19, 15-21, 22-20 to earn Kent a draw.

Kent: Stephen Beerling 2, Dominic Hall 1, Ross Walker 1, Hazel Clucas 1, Joanne Hubbard 0.

#### **Ross Walker Qualifies for Masters**

It looks as if Kent juniors will not be as well represented at the Junior Masters as their rankings would indicate. With three northern pre-qualifying tournaments played

before players were informed of the pre-qualifying rules and with an England training camp organised for the weekend of the Regional Trials, it looks unlikely that Justin Dodd, Stephen Beerling and Dominic Hall will reach the qualifying standards. Kent will be represented though by Medway's Ross Walker who won through from the Regional Trials.

**LEICESTERSHIRE**  
by Derek Butt

We have now reached the halfway stage of the Leicester and District League and Knighton Park first string are the leaders into the new millennium of Division One, they have yet to be beaten this season. Karen Smith is leading her team well and has lost just one of her games, this putting her in second place in the averages. Keith Fellows of Loughborough Kingfishers is at the top unbeaten. Karen is well supported in the Parks challenge for the title by Matthew Cant and Darren Bramhall. In second place are Rushey Mead first string having lost one of their matches. Rushey's second team are third, some five points behind the leaders. At the bottom of the table Syston Casuals and Loughborough Kingfishers seconds are facing the drop, especially the latter who are well behind on points.

In Division Two the leaders and favourites for the title are Goons who find themselves with a one hundred per cent record at the halfway mark with nine wins, their squad of Barry Robinson, John Reay, Dave Tanner and Steve Adams are all playing well. Knighton Park thirds are in second place, but have played a game more. At the bottom are Rushey Mead and they look certain of relegation as they have lost all ten of their matches played.

Most of our competitions are into the final stages which is good news. Rushey Mead and Knighton Park will feature in the final of the Lillian Williamson Trophy.

Onto the Hinckley (Calor Gas) Division One and Ridge Lane are the leaders at the halfway stage and find themselves unbeaten in eight games: their team of Ian Baxter, Alan Jenkins and Geoff Stratford are having a tremendous season. In second place are Nalگو 'B', last season's champions, but having lost a couple of games find themselves twelve points adrift of the leaders (note that a point is gained for every game won in the Hinckley League).

Nalگو 'B' are in third place and are just three points behind their own B side. In the relegation area, two teams are on level points; they are East Midlands Electric 'A' and Market Harborough 'E'.

## LINCOLNSHIRE by Beryl Pickwell

### Success for Lincolnshire Juniors at Regional Trials

The East Midlands Regional Cadet Trials were held at Wellow House School on 27th November and the following Lincolnshire players were selected from the County Ranking Trials: Boys, Shaun Rogerson (Grantham), Gavin Mcleod (Gainsborough) and Kyle Hatch (Grantham) - Girls, Lauren Springthorpe, Kathy & Susie Staples all from Grantham. Congratulations to Shaun who qualified for the National Trials and to Lauren, who is still only nine, qualified as first reserve.

The Junior Trials were held at Grantham the following day. The boys entered were Mark Sharman (Boston), Chris Barnard (Lincoln), Darren Swift (Gainsborough) and Oliver Browne (Boston). Congratulations to Mark Sharman who qualified for the National Trials. The girls entered were Katie Barwood (Grimsby), Laura Dixon (Grantham) and Hayley Hooton (Boston). Congratulations to Katie who qualified for the National Trials.

### WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS KUALALUMPUR

Lincolnshire international umpire Bill Moran together with Staffordshire's Derrick Sherratt have been selected to umpire at the World Team Championships in February in Kuala Lumpur. Those of you who watched the French Open on Sky TV will have seen Bill umpire the men's singles final.

### County Matches Junior County Teams

The two county junior teams turned out for matches on 16th October & 11th December. Our first team playing in Div 2A was made up of Mark Sharman, making his first appearance for the juniors, Shaun Rogerson, Chris Barnard, Katie Barwood and Laura Dixon (debut). In our group, Lincs were up against Essex, Herts, Leics, Notts 1, Warwickshire 2, South Yorks and Norfolk. Over the two days, the team won 2, lost 3 and drew 2. Notts 1 ended up overall winners.

Our second team in Div 3B was Gavin Mcleod, Darren Swift, Oliver Browne, Hayley Hooton and 9 year old Lauren Springthorpe. This group comprised of Cheshire 2, Cleveland, Durham, Northumberland, Notts 2 and Northampton. Lincs won 2, drew 2 & lost 3. Overall winners were Cheshire 2.

### Senior County Team

The County Senior Team had a successful weekend when they completed 4 wins out of 4 by winning 9-1 against Suffolk 2, 7-3 against Norfolk 2, 8-2 against Hertfordshire and 10-0 against Northamptonshire.

Andy Wignall playing at number one for the men won his 8 rubbers without dropping a single game, a feat also performed by number two lady Nicola Massingham. They were ably supported by 6 wins each from Steve Brophy and Jane Strawson, 4 from Mark Donaghue, with the other two from Jimmy Brewster.

This placed Lincolnshire joint top of the table with Norfolk 1 and Warwickshire. All the counties have an identical rubber average with Norfolk clinching the top spot on games difference.

This has set up an exciting weekends table tennis to be played at Hitchin in January when these counties will meet to contest the championship.

### Vets County Team

#### Clwyd v Lincs

Lincs made a very long journey to Clwyd and suffered a 7-2 defeat. Played under extremely poor light conditions for a county match Lincs struggled. Tight games went against Lincs, with Mick Corry losing 26-24 in the third to John Spence after leading 20-17.

The only successes were Sue Allison's first victory of the season 7 & 12 against Jill Whitaker and Steve Welch's hard fought 20-13, 14 win over Carter. If some of the three gamers could have been reversed, the result would have been more respectable.

### NORTHANTS

#### by Dennis Millman

Graeme McKim, six times Northants men's singles champion (1983-1988) and 11 times winner of the Kettering men's singles (1983-1993) is the surprise leader in this season's first issue of the Queensberry Scimitar county ranking list.

After more than a year's inactivity, McKim returned to play in the Northampton League alongside previous no. 1 Andy Trott, with one of their earlier fixtures against a Doddridge side containing England no. 7 veteran David Welsman. The outcome of both clashes was vital, and with McKim succeeding where Trott had failed, it was McKim taking over in pole position.

A total of 588 players from the Northampton, Wellingborough, Kettering and Towcester Leagues are included on the list, with the leaders placed as follows.

1. Graeme McKim

2. Andy Trott
3. David Welsman
4. Malcolm Francis
5. David Gatiss
6. Ryan Keates
7. David Gallo
8. Richard Elliot
9. Steve Silk
10. Rafe Miller
11. Adrian Roper
12. Ian Bird
13. Alan Cherry
14. Chris Gibbons
15. Steve West
16. Mark Nannery
17. Julian Marhsall
18. Dave Smith
19. Ian Sclater
20. Gordon Shaw
21. David Murphy
22. Ray Kingston
23. Michael Edwards
24. Brian Wooding
25. Gary Webb
26. Richard Bashford
27. Mick Perry
28. Geoff Atkinson
29. Brian Dangerfield
30. Steve Brown
31. Greg Yarnall
32. Bill Fletcher

County Chairman, and longest serving National Councillor Ken Marchant has collected another prestigious award, this time from the Torch Trophy Trust, an organisation which rewards unsung heroes for their dedication in helping people through sport.

The Torch Trophy Award was presented to Ken by the Duke of Edinburgh at a special ceremony at Queen's Club, London and he was one of 21 people who received awards for their work in a wide range of sports that included athletics, cricket and horse racing.

Ken, who maintains an active role in both local and regional coaching, has been fully involved in table tennis for more than 30 years.

He said "It was tremendous for me, and to be presented to royalty as well was an honour. When Prince Philip presented me with the award he asked me a few questions about table tennis and we also spoke later. It was a really enjoyable evening and a superb way to end the century."

In the Wellingborough Premier Division much improved form from Paul Gatiss, allied with the usual consistency of Chris Gibbons and Michael Edwards, has enabled Old Grammarians A to take a clear lead at the top, though last season's champions Higham Band A, with two games in hand, could still make a late challenge. Leading positions:

Old Grammarians A	9	9	0	0	80
Thrapston A	10	5	0	5	63
Westfield A	9	7	1	1	61
Higham Band B	10	4	2	4	53
Westfield B	11	4	2	5	53
Higham Band A	7	6	0	1	52

In Kettering, title-holders Higham Band look likely to retain the Premier Division championship, with Richard Elliott, Mark Nannery and Steve Brown providing most of their points but supplemented from time to time by Ryan Keates and Chris Handshaw. Elliott, who last season remained unbeaten in his 63 games, just completed an unbeaten run of 100 encounters, a feat previously accomplished by Graeme McKim and John Palmer.

Last league positions:

Higham Band	9	9	0	0	83
Thrapston A	10	7	1	2	68
Corby Town A	9	5	1	3	62
Thrapston B	10	6	1	3	58
Thrapston C	10	4	2	4	50
Braybrooke A	9	5	1	3	49

After two rounds of three handicap cup competitions, only Rothborough A from the Premier section and Second Division leaders Burton Baptists retain an interest in all three events.

## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

by Brian Jones

### Nottinghamshire Schools' Table Tennis Championships

Wellow House School was packed in January with the stars of the future in the National Schools Championships. As often happens, the best matches were the semi-finals. In the Under 11 Girls Nicola White beat Aimee Barnet (both from Redlands, Worksop) 20-22, 21-18, 24-22. Another excellent semi-final was fought out between Richard Wesley (Valley, Worksop) and George Yardley (Wellow House, Newark), Wesley winning 21-19, 21-19. The winners were: Under 11 Boys - Jason Tweed, (Redlands School, Worksop), Under 11 Girls

- Sarah Perks (Redlands) Under 13 Girls - Sarah Ogle (Tuxford School) Under 13 Boys - Richard Wesley (Valley School, Worksop) Under 16 Girls - Kerry Radford (Kirkby-in-Ashfield) Under 16 Boys - Thomas Hughes (Kind Edwards', Retford). The finals were umpired by RMSC-Wellow House team manager Howard Knott; was he talent spotting for next season?

### Wellow House 2 Star Grand Prix

A reasonable man might think faced with a record entry in the second Wellow House Table Tennis Grand Prix, the local talent would struggle. Have none of it! 51 players came from as far away as Somerset but in all events the Nottinghamshire challenge was strong and it dominated some of them. Harthill's Matthew Dodds reached the Under 10 final, losing in the third game, Nicola White was also an Under 10 runner-up and Richard Wesley won an exciting final against Matthew Stanton (East Markham), 21-11, 10-21, 21-18 but brother Thomas Wesley and George Yardley are the top three in the Under 14 Boys' list and Matthew Dodds is top of the Under 10 Boys' list. In fact, Nottinghamshire is in pole position.

### Around the Leagues...

In Worksop's Division One, Priory A and Priory B are slightly ahead in a fierce competition and one match's worth of points covers the top three teams. Sarah Smith, Mick Bartrop and Khartik Lakhani are still unbeaten after half a season. Division Two is a similarly tense affair with two points separating the top three teams. In the Cadet Divisions, Harthill were promoted mid-season and they have immediately stretched the Division One leaders, Dronfield A to the narrowest 3-2 win and split them away from the other pace-setters, Wellow Scousers.

In the Mansfield Premier Division, Big Barn Lane have the points on the board but The Fringe look dangerous with four matches in hand and two unbeaten players, Dave Brooks and Mick Bell. St. Wilfrid's have a comfortable lead in Division One (T. Clifton, R. Soar, R. Parker & D. Walton) and in Division Three, Ravenshead Oak Tree seems to be completely shading the competition. Competition in other parts of the league looks very close and it is good to see plenty of young players high in the averages.

## OXFORDSHIRE

by Avril Haynes

### Greg Wins Three Titles

The Junior Oxford City Tournament was held at Kidlington Forum Club in January and

Greg Boone was once again the star.

### Results in finals:

Boys' Under 11: Matthew Beahan bt Adam Wells 21-14, 21-17  
Boys' Under 13: Greg Boone bt Sam Harrison 21-9, 22-20  
Boys' Under 15: Greg Boone bt Sam Harrison 21-18, 21-18  
Boys' Under 17: Greg Boone bt Stewart Hamilton 21-16, 21-13  
Girls' Under 17: Joanne O'Donovan was the victor over Lauren East  
Graded Tournament: Matthew Beahan bt Anthony Weaver 21-9, 21-12  
Under 17 Handicap Doubles: Sam Harrison & Edward Halmarack bt Stewart Hamilton & Joanne O'Donovan in an exciting doubles 21-17, 23-25, 21-18.

### Oxon Juniors Have Good Win

**Oxfordshire 10 Surrey (2) 0**

Oxfordshire had a decisive win over Surrey with Kevin Cruickshank, Ashley Cox, John Camilleri, Gemma Gilbert and Joanne O'Donovan all winning two singles each.

### Veterans 2nd Team

**Herefordshire (2) 2 Oxon (2) 7**

Dave Harse had two singles wins and the mixed doubles with Mary Darling. Alf Davies and Neil Hurford won a singles each and combined to win the mens' doubles. Mary Darling also won her singles.

**Oxon (2) 5 Wiltshire (2) 4**

Dave Harse and Neil Hurford won two singles each. Dave Harse and Alf Davies won the mens' doubles.

### Veterans 3rd Team

**Norfolk (4) 6 Oxon (3) 3**

Tony Wheeler and Chris Lansley both won a singles. Chris Lansley and Anne Borrowdale won the mixed doubles.

## SOMERSET

by Martin Rumary

Congratulations are in order for Kate Steward who over two days at Cheltenham won not only the cadet final ranking trials but also the junior title as well.

Seeded at one in the cadets she overcame Gemma Chapman of Berkshire over three games in the final.

On the Sunday she was seeded second but when she met the number one, Lucy Pointer from the Isle of Wight, she took that title as well. She now goes on to the cadet and junior masters at Cippenham later in the year.

Naomi Wilson did exceptionally well to reach the cadet masters also. In a close

fought group she came through in second place to Chapman and then met the number three seed in the quarters. Having lost there she had to play-off against Kelly Craven-Griffiths ranked seven in England where she overcame her at 21-19 in the third of a very tense battle.

She picked up a great win over Zoe Cheeseman in the juniors to qualify from her group but then met Lucy Pointer in the last sixteen who was too experienced and powerful for her.

Daniel Strutt had a good time also. In his group he finished third so just missed out on making the knock-out stages.

County results since the last report are as follows, the big disappointment for the Vets 1 being their loss at home to Wiltshire 1sts which means they will probably finish top of the division instead of Somerset.

Vets 1 v Wiltshire lost 4-5  
B. Reeves 1, J. Musslewhite 0, G. Green 0, S. Dark 1, Men's & Mixed Doubles  
Vets 1 v Hampshire 2 won 6-3  
B. Reeves 2, J. Musslewhite 2, J. Crabtree 0, S. Dark 0, Men's and Mixed Doubles  
Vets 2 v Wiltshire 3 won 5-4  
M. Withyman 2, A. Stone 0, M. Tarr 0, W. Price 1, Men's and Mixed Doubles  
Vets 2 v Sussex 3 lost 4-5  
M. Withyman 1, P. Butterworth 0, P. King 1, W. Price 1, Mixed Doubles  
Juniors v Shropshire 1 lost 2-8  
D. Strutt 1, P. Tillotson 1, G. Duddridge 0, C. Howe 0, C. Roper 0  
Seniors v Glamorgan 2 lost 3-7  
A. Rumary 0, M. Morley 0, R. Mullis 1, C. Cowell 1, N. Wilson 0  
Seniors v Cornwall 1 won 2-8  
A. Rumary 0, M. Morley 1, M. Hurley 0, C. Cowell 1, N. Wilson 0  
Seniors v Cornwall 2 won 6-4  
A. Rumary 1, M. Morley 1, R. Mullis 0, C. Cowell 2, N. Wilson 2

## SUSSEX

by John Woodford

Tournaments at most levels seem to be bursting at the seams with players. The Grand Prix events are now turning away around 40 players. The further good news is that many of the extra numbers are juniors - any sport not nurturing its younger players these days is in trouble.

Even the Eastbourne championships entry was nearly 80 which meant an 8am start at the Shinewater Club and a finish almost 14 hours later.

64 year old players are 'pulling up trees' in Sussex. Ramesh Bhalla who played for Hampshire for 20 years, scored twice when he was brought into the Horsham team by

Ritchie Venner. He is 64. Also 64 is one John Atkins, who, like Bhalla, has an allround game, defence and attack.

For the second year in succession he created upsets at the Eastbourne championships. After winning the Hastings veterans title, he won at Eastbourne and also reached the men's singles semi-finals, beating on the way the reigning champion Stuart Hobden.

John Atkins drives twice weekly to the Graham Spicer Club at New Malden from his home not far from Hastings just for practice, often arriving home at 2am. Howzat for dedication? Most local players are fortunate to escape from their families for their weekly league match!

Peter Bartram, 39, the leading player in the Worthing and Brighton areas for years is poised to play in the World Veterans Championships in Vancouver in May, but, because his birthday is in September he cannot play as a veteran in England until the 2001-2002 season.

When he does finally qualify with his venomous topspin Sussex have ideas about re-gaining a spot in the Top division of the veterans county championships.

## Sussex Juniors:

Boys

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Gareth Mann     | 7. Gareth McGovern  |
| 2. John Wilson     | 8. Lloyd Crathern   |
| 3. Michael Simpson | 9. Gary Wilson      |
| 4. Ian Hussey      | 10. Nathan Derby    |
| 5. Neil Brown      | 11. Elliot Crathern |
| 6. Luke Bridge     | 12. Luke Tearall    |

Girls

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Samantha Simpson | 7. Tracy Zimmatore |
| 2. Claire Hodger    | 8. Samantha Monk   |
| 3. Gina Rogers      | 9. Joanna Clarke   |
| 4. Sharon Roberts   | 10. Sonia Gough    |
| 5. Polly Duncan     | 11. Linda King     |
| 6. Sarah Clarke     | 12. Shayma Osman   |

## WARWICKSHIRE

by Caroline Williams

At the Warwickshire Closed held just before Christmas, Birmingham and Leamington players shared the limelight.

The men's singles and men's doubles were an all Birmingham affair. Ian Ferguson, runner-up last year, went one better to take the singles title defeating Mark Read. Pete Waite and Mike Browne were the losing semi-finalists. Ferguson and Read paired up last year to take the doubles event overcoming Chris Leach and Pete Waite. Leamington's best duo Jon Williams and Phil Paine fell in the semi-finals to Leach and Waite whilst the other semi-finalist was Mike Browne with youngster Leigh Bradford (Birmingham).

In the ladies singles the titles were wide open as Leamington's Kate Ryan has retired from table tennis to try her hand at other sports. Leamington rose to the challenge producing the new champion Liz Haynes and the runner-up Samantha Meredith. These two joined up with Birmingham Ladies for the ladies doubles. Samantha Meredith with Claire Baker took the title, Liz Haynes was runner-up with Helen Turner.

In Kate Ryan's footsteps Liz Haynes gained a third trophy, pairing with Jon Williams (Leamington) to take the mixed doubles title. Their final match was against Birmingham duo Mark Read and Helen Turner, who had ousted Leamington's Samantha Meredith paired with Kate Ryan's former partner Trevor Bradley in the semi-final. Haynes and Williams' semi-final was against fellow Spa duo Kelly Sibley and Mark Woolerton.

Leamington's young ladies also dominated the junior and cadet events. Samantha Meredith successfully defended her junior girls' title overcoming Sarah Riach (Birmingham) in the final. Samantha Meredith also paired up with Claire Baker (Birmingham) to take the junior girls doubles for the second time, runners-up were Kelly Sibley (Leamington) and Sarah Riach (Birmingham). The cadet girls was a rerun of last year with 11 year old Kelly Sibley (Leamington) again beating off a challenge from 11 year old club-mate Stephanie Hawkins.

The strength of Birmingham is shown in the cadet and junior boys where they produced all the semi-finalists in singles and doubles. Last year's runner-up Gareth Hayward beat off Simon Gleeson in the final with Purdip Singh and Leigh Bradford the respective losing semi-finalists. The junior boys doubles had Leigh Bradford and Tim Carroll the eventual winners and Adam Madeley and Scott Prime the runners-up. The cadet boys' singles was taken by Peter Kirkham with Matthew Scandrett runner-up defeating Adam Madeley and Mark Thompson in the semis. Leamington however found consolation in the junior plate with Terry Smith running out a clear winner with John Harrison (Birmingham) his final opponent. A more cosmopolitan entry in the veteran singles with Coventry's Kevin Pilgrim the champion, Andy Hare (Birmingham) second and Leamington's Mike Bishop and Phil Paine the semi-finalists. Bishop and Paine paired to take the veteran doubles trophy for the second year running against strong opposition from Kevin Pilgrim (Coventry) partnered by Malcolm Macfarlane (Leamington). It was Malcolm Macfarlane's lucky day - he went on to win the veteran over 50 singles with Warwickshire's Deputy Chairman from Birmingham's Jim Woodhead second.

## WEBSITES

### JobsCircuit.co.uk

Nike, Adidas, Reebok and the Pentland Group have backed the December launch of jobs website, committing themselves to becoming some of the first companies to advertise their vacancies on JobsCircuit.co.uk. Operated by The Sports Industries Federation and endorsed by Sport England and the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR), profits raised from JobsCircuit will be used to provide grants for sports, leisure and fitness activities.

Said Michael Johnson, the Federation's Chief Executive, "We aim to make JobsCircuit an important resource for people looking for work in these sectors."

As the 11th largest industrial sector in the UK, the sports and leisure industries employ 410,000 people. Although Internet recruitment has grown enormously in recent years, there is no single jobs website specifically for the UK sports, leisure and fitness industries. JobsCircuit will aim to fill this gap. Visitors to the site will have the option to have current vacancies sent to them directly via email and to apply on-line to jobs as soon as they become available.

For more information, visit [www.JobsCircuit.co.uk](http://www.JobsCircuit.co.uk) or telephone the JobsCircuit team on 024 76 693461.

The Sports Industries Federation (tel. 024 766 93461) is the largest sports trade body in Europe, representing 28 autonomous trade associations and over 600 companies, having a mission "to increase participation in sports and fitness to promote, foster and protect industry growth and vitality.

### Sport England website

The Sport England website [www.english.sports.gov.uk](http://www.english.sports.gov.uk) was launched in October 1997. It gives a lot of information on Sport England programmes, structures, personnel, reports, facts and figures, etc. I found the breakdown of the Lottery Sports Fund awards particularly interesting and revealing and hope to print some of the data in a future edition. The website is worth a visit.

### Worldsport.com website

The editor was very impressed with the [worldsport.com](http://www.worldsport.com) website coverage of the Dawei World Team Championships in Kuala Lumpur on 19-26 February, the reports, interviews, analysis and photographs (well most of them - Jorgen Persson and Michel Gadad came over on the print-offs looking like zombies!) being excellent. The only minor disappointment was that there was a time lag of a day for the detailed results. [Worldsport.com](http://Worldsport.com) is an

initiative of the General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF) including the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF).

### EVER THOUGHT OF...

#### **Some ideas for coaches by Peter Hirst, ETTA Director of Coaching...**

When numbers are dropping and you are ageing fast in premature retirement then get off your b-m and:

Look for a venue as cheap as possible, especially in the facilities of a large school.

Make friends and establish a working relationship with the Head of P.E. or a member of staff who has an interest in table tennis and is willing to help.

Organise an educational table tennis demonstration within the school...

- Within school time.
- Not lunch time or after school as you need a captive audience (too many coming and going otherwise).
- With a group of at least 100.
- Not just the ones who are interested but everyone.
- Rehearse a programme that shows table tennis in a good light with some educational as well as spectacular play.
- Take along two or three good juniors to play for them (peer pressure works wonders).
- You will need an area approx. the size of a badminton court with one table in the middle and the audience packed in tight.
- Involve at least 30 of the audience if only to try and return a spin service - don't try to trick them but show how it's done. A round of applause for a successful one.
- Run a series of six to eight sessions either in the school or at the close by venue during the twilight hours between 3.30 and 7pm for the ones who are interested. Arrange this with the school contact person to send/select suitable people.
- Make sure that you start and finish on time so that parents can pick up and collect.
- Work with two or three starter groups for as many as you and the venue can handle.
- After the introductory sessions invite/select an intermediate group to do further work with, starting off new introductory groups at the same time.

Go back to GO and collect £360. Yes, you can charge them!

Six sessions x 20 players x 3 groups @ £1 each = £360.

## BRITISH UNIVERSITIES SPORTS ASSOCIATION

### **Individuals Table Tennis Championships by Mike Payne**

These championships returned to Warwick University on 12th/13th February. 130 students competed in men's and women's singles and men's, women's and mixed doubles. This was the same as in 1999 but concealed a step change in standard with the top seed Fabio Mantegazza on 3913 ranking points which would put him at 11 in the England ranking.

The withdrawal of second seed Andreas Johansson (Middlesex) gave the number 3 George Pittas (Aberdeen) a relatively easy run to the final in the bottom half of the draw. The top half gave the match of the weekend between Mantegazza and Abdul Wuraola in the semi-final. Both were always seeking the early kill and the advantage went from one player to the other throughout the match. There were many rallies where both players were using all parts of the table in efforts to out hit the other before Mantegazza took the third 21-17.

The difficulties of seeding was illustrated in the women's singles with Bose Kaffo (Middlesex) not having a formal ranking. However, her fast attacking style ensured she passed easily to the final where she beat Clare Newns 6, 11. She partnered Wuraola in winning the mixed doubles - an event not seen too often on the tournament round.

As always with the Universities there was a good crowd to watch all the later stages and stay for the presentations as they come as clubs rather than individuals. There was also a good round of applause in appreciation for the referee and umpires.

Results:

#### **Mixed Doubles**

B Kaffo/A Wuraola (Middlesex) bt L Knowles/A Al Kandari (Northumbria) 20, 11

#### **Men's Doubles**

N Cameron/G Pittas (Aberdeen) bt A Brewer/A Wuraola -17, 18, 12

#### **Women's Doubles**

L Smith/T Yoshitomi (Birmingham) bt J Allen/A Mellor (Newcastle) -21, 11, 17

#### **Women's Singles**

Semi-finals: C Newns (Worcester) bt J Cambridge (Nottingham) 7, 8

B Kaffo bt A Howard (Liverpool) 9, 13

Final: B Kaffo bt C Newns 6, 11

#### **Men's Singles**

Semi-finals: F Mantegazza (UMIST) bt A Wuraola (Middlesex) 15, 14

G Pittas (Aberdeen) bt D Zaunthe (Birmingham) 15, 9

Final: Fabio Mantegazza bt G Pittas 17, 7

## Table Tennis in the World Corporate Games

Aberdeen, 12th - 16th July 2000

Details of the programme plus entry forms and brochures can be obtained through contacting the official website [www.corporate-games.com](http://www.corporate-games.com) or the Director, Dr. Ken O'Bryan on email [sfl@dial.pipex.com](mailto:sfl@dial.pipex.com). The official charity for the Games is the Grampian Heart Foundation.

### FUTURE TOURNAMENTS

#### Millennium Bangor Open 31st March/1st April

*This popular tournament, which always attracts a strong entry from England, is again being held at North Devon Bangor & Arts Institute of Higher and Further Education, this year on Friday evening 31st March and all day Saturday 1st April 2000. There will be men's and women's open singles, veteran's singles and junior singles as well as juniors singles class 3/band 3, intermediate singles class 2/band 2 and open 21 singles and men's, women's and mixed doubles. Entry fees are reasonable and there is always a good social atmosphere. To obtain an entry form (closing date 24th March 2000), contact Vincent O'Regan, 80 Thornleigh Gardens, Bangor BT20 4NP. Tel. 01247 459089. Accommodation is listed on the back of the form.*

#### Essex 3 Star Youth Tournament April 23rd/24th (Easter Weekend)

Alan Shepherd points out that this long running tournament, to be held on 19 tables at Colchester Leisure World, is now the only big junior tournament in the south and east of England. Included in the programme are under 21 events for men and women as well as the usual under 17, 14 and 12 competitions plus consolation singles for juniors and cadets. There, apparently, is a lovely swimming pool in the building and a McDonalds next door! Forms (closing date 25th March) are available from Alan Shepherd, Flat 6, 32 Green Road, Southgate, London N14 4AU.

#### Greater London Millennium Closed 27th - 29th May 2000

Also available from Alan Shepherd (above) are forms (closing date 6th May) for this big

event, to be held at Middlesex University Sports Hall, Oakwood, Middlesex, for people born in, resident in, or having worked or gone to school or college in London for upwards of one year immediately prior to the tournament.

### EVENTS DIARY by Mike Johns National Events & Marketing Manager

#### ETTA Grand Prix

Potters East Anglian Open, which was held at Potters Leisure Resort on 12/13 February, was again one of the few GPs not to attract a full house. The entry of 130 was approximately the same as last season, but when the 'norm' is almost twice that amount it is very disappointing.

Entries for the Eastern Open at King's Lynn have also dropped, although in this case the lower entry can be accounted for with the Northern Vets being held over the same weekend. Although the entry is down the standard is very high. Top seeds are Alex Perry and Tong Fei Ming. Other leading players scheduled to appear include: Alan Cooke, Terry Young, Gareth Herbert, Ryan Jenkins, Michael Isherwood and Darren Blake in the men's singles and Nicola Deaton, Helen Lower and Barbara Kiss in the women's. Further interest is added by a large non-English entry which includes 13 Japanese, 2 from Taipei (Tong Fei Ming and her sister), 1 from Switzerland (Herbert Neubauer, the world and European over 50's champion), 1 Italian, 1 Hungarian, 1 Lithuanian as well as 8 from Wales and 1 from Scotland. The Grand Prix are truly becoming international.

The Eastern Open will be held at Lynnsport, King's Lynn on Saturday and Sunday 25th and 26th March.

Entry forms for the South West Open, at St. Austell over the Easter weekend, are now available from the ETTA's Event Unit, as are forms for the English Junior National Championships.

### SPORTS ACTION ZONES

Sports Action Zones are a proactive initiative to create an effective and substantial sporting infrastructure in areas of high social and economic deprivation and ensure there is more participation in sport. They are about raising aspirations and empowering local communities to participate in sport on their terms. Sport England will provide support to dedicated local staff and partnerships to work within the community

to undertake a recreational needs assessment from which an action plan will be developed. The action plan will form the basis of bids to Sport England for funding to deliver projects to meet the identified recreational need.

To increase participation and reduce inequalities the initiative will focus on supporting PE and extra curricular sport within local schools, networking sport clubs, community sports clubs and community groups, and improving access to facilities.

Sport England intends to designate up to 30 Sports Action Zones over the next 10 years and will provide support to each zone for at least 5-7 years. Initially, a manager for every zone will be appointed and funded by the Lottery Sports Fund.

The first twelve designated Sports Action Zones are listed below:

Birmingham; Bradford; Cornwall & The Isles of Scilly; Southwark & Lambeth; Liverpool; North Notts/North Derbyshire coalfields; East Manchester; Leicester; Luton; South Yorkshire coalfield area; Wear Valley in County Durham; West Cumbria.

For further information, contact:

Sport England, 16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H0QP. Tel: 0171 273 1500, Fax: 01717 383 5740, email: [info@english.sports.gov.uk](mailto:info@english.sports.gov.uk), [www.english.sports.gov.uk](http://www.english.sports.gov.uk)

### COMPARATIVE LEAGUE/COUNTY AFFILIATIONS (1998/99 & 1999/2000)

Despite the overall 4.4% drop in affiliations up to 15th November indicated in figures prepared by Andy Seward, there are interesting variations.

Five counties (Berkshire, Isle of Wight, Northants, Shropshire and Wiltshire) actually showed an increase, led by Northamptonshire with a commendable 19 extra teams. Three other counties (Cumbria, Oxon) stood still. Easily the biggest decline (actual and proportionate) was shown by Buckinghamshire which lost a whopping 58 teams. Looking at individual leagues, huge credit must be given to Wakefield, Yorkshire (from 13 to 28 teams) and Tameside, Cheshire (from 6 to 15) for more than doubling their size. Other leagues to catch my eye were Reading (+8), Wisbech (+6), Basingstoke (+4), Portsmouth (+7), Watford (+5), Tonbridge (+7, a huge proportionate increase), Wembley (+5), Daventry (+4), Kettering (+8), Northampton (+5) and Eastbourne (+4). It is good to see Manchester grow (from 23 to 29) through

from a smallish base for such a large city, but I wonder how long the year-on-year increase demonstrated again by Kendal (43 to 47) can last in an area that can draw from a much more limited population.

In total terms lost no league has fared worse than High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire (-26) amongst several who dropped in double figures. The worst proportionate loss was by Stowmarket (21 to 11), Battle Woolwich Junior League (32 to 20) and Macclesfield (29 to 19). No doubt there are many stories and lessons to be learned behind these successes and failures - plus some wrong conclusions drawn!

### COACHING COURSES 2000

Readers are reminded that the National Coaches' Conference is to be held at Lilleshall National Sports Centre, Shropshire on 8-10 September 2000 so book early! It is possible that it will become the National Teaching and Training Conference, with umpires, tournament organisers and development officers also invited.

#### Level 3 Coaching Course

This will be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday 23rd/24th/25th June and 22nd July 2000 at Lilleshall National Sports Centre, Shropshire. The weekend provides much of the course work required by ETTA Level 2 coaches wishing to qualify for ETTA Coach Level 3. The Physiology course will be on Saturday 22nd July with the Level 3 practical assessment.

#### Cost:

Residential & Physiology course	£180
Non-residential course and Physiology course	£127.50
Physiology course and practical assessment	£20.00
Practical assessment only	Free
(£10 discount for ATTC members)	

For an application form contact Jill Parker, Coaching Administrator on 01772 461325.

#### NORTHWEST REGION

27/28 May

**Sport Leader/Teacher/Level 2**

Venue: Manchester

Contact: John Dwan (0161) 2264736

#### SOUTHEAST REGION

20/21 May - Level 2

Venue: Canterbury

Contact: Dave Benrman (01732) 872566

#### EASTERN REGION

18/19 March - Level 2

Venue: Stowupland

Contact: Sandra Collins (01376) 552525 ext.2342

**15 April - Introduction to Coaching**

Venue: Benfleet Contact: as above

**20/21 May - Level 2**

Venue: Benfleet Contact: as above

#### LONDON

**11/12 March Sport Leader**

Venue: Brent

Contact: John Standing (01689) 829882

**March Sport Leader**

Venue: Southwark Contact: as above

**March Sport Leader**

Venue: Lewisham Contact: as above

**March Sport Leader**

Venue: Brent Contact: as above

**October Sport Leader**

Venue: Brent Contact: as above

### County Championships Results on the ETTA Website

In the last edition Mick Strode stated that it was almost impossible to get results to show on the ETTA website ([www.etta.co.uk](http://www.etta.co.uk)). We should point out that Mick's article was an old one which we had been unable to publish in the December issue for lack of room. Mick assures us that the situation regarding results has greatly improved since then. However, what goes on the website are the compiled tables which administrator Les Smith sends to the ETTA Office around once a month, plus the results which county match secretaries are requested to put on the ETTA answerphone on the weekend of the match. Unfortunately, many results are not 'phoned in. If these results are not given to the ETTA by at least the Monday morning, then they will not be sent to Mick Strode for inclusion on the website. The huge amount of work by volunteers like Les Smith and Mick Strode is recognised and greatly appreciated, and any bad feeling is much to be regretted. They do a great job for the sport.

#### COACHINTERVIEW-STEVE HEYLIGER

by Ken Muhr

Apparently nicknamed the 'Yannick Noah of table tennis' after the French tennis player, owing to his distinctive dreadlocks, Steve 'Cool' Heyliger is a Level 2 Coach in Nottingham active in schools, youth clubs and community centres. He has been quoted in The Times as saying, "When I strut my stuff and unleash my bat, the kids say, 'Wow, I wish I could play like that.'

**What brought you into coaching?**

"I used to be a junior player and I have just loved the sport ever since, and always wanted to be involved in it. After taking a 4 or 5 year absence from it, I just went back into it."

**So did you make a choice to go into coaching?**

"Yes, I did. It was basically because of the way I was coached. There was one coach who was very influential in my life, not so much in my game but in my life, and that really swung it for me and I stayed back in the game. I realised what an impression he made on me and I thought that I could do the same for someone else."

**Who was that? Who are the coaches that influenced you? How?**

"That person was David Fairholm. Dave Fairholm influenced me a lot in the variety in the way he coached. In other words, he was stern when he needed to be as well as the match play side, the tactical side. Everything was encompassed in maybe one session. We would go through so many different things in one session and that made it so much better for me rather than it being boring and tedious. I tried to instil the same kind of thing myself in my sessions.

Ralph Green was very influential in my earlier stages coming through and he is still an active coach coaching in Nottingham - holding the flag up. There are also one or two coaches on the way that have influenced me. Barry Russ who was originally from Wales, and Gordon Fearn, who was in the same school year as me and we were in the same table tennis team, and he has come up now to be a regional coach. And he has kept going all the this time, which is one of the main reasons why I respect him because when I dropped out he was still going. I have got to respect him for his staying power!"

**Have you had successes, however you define them?**

"Everybody I coach who comes back more than three times is a success. I have met a lot of good friends who are parents of the children through their successes, so I believe as far as I am concerned that I am a successful coach and I always maintain that I am a successful coach because I have happy, smiling kids. It is not a matter of me having world champions or no. 1's, because they are all no. 1's to me."

**Do you have an essential message about coaching, something that gets you going**

**or that you think is worth offering to the world?**

"Table tennis is cool. People need to know that the sport is cool. It has been stuffed up for so many years, an old, stuffy sport that people of a certain age play. It's a cool sport to play and you have to be cool to play it. And I am one of the instillers of 'cool'. So when I go round the schools, I say, you want to be cool then come on my sessions and you will get an element of cool, but I won't give you all my cool because I don't want it to move off all over the place! Basically: humour, funk, excitement, it's all there - it's all interactive. There is more entertainment in a game than there is in a play station, and it's cheaper!"

**Anything else you would like to say about coaching?**

"The situation I am in at the moment is that I want to coach more. That is the main reason that I came for my Level 3, is so that I can coach more players to a standard. Also, what I would like to instill, again, is that fact that it is cool. It is cool, and I am going to endeavour the year 2000 onwards in any way I possibly can to make this sport even more cool. I know if I put my twopence in and everyone else puts their twopence in, then maybe we will get there."

#### **COACHINTERVIEW#2 BRIAN SPICER by Ken Muhr**

Brian Spicer became Coaching Chairman for the South East Region after returning to England after 8 years in Portugal. He has held high office for the ETTA and is married to former Scottish international Janet Smith.

**Why are you attending this (Level 3 Coach) Course?**

"In 1992 I gained my Level 3 Award in coaching and I came up here (Lilleshall) to basically review the situation and to see some new methods. I am delighted to say that Peter Hirst is certainly achieving a lot of new thoughts in the game and we are learning a lot."

**What brought you into coaching in the first place? What motivated you to go into coaching?**

"When I started playing in London back in 1968 I joined the Albion Club, Bethnal Green with Jack Carrington and he was pretty well my mentor in table tennis. In fact I got my first club coach award when I was 23. Elsie and Jack were my great pals. I moved up

from Hastings, my home town in 1966, and lived in London, and got in touch with Jack as ETTA Director of Coaching and played over there for some 6 years. It was great fun."

**While you have been coaching, what sort of success stories have you had, however you define them?**

My background really is with Sussex, from 1960 to 1970 I was involved there. I was non-playing captain for 3 years and looked after the junior and second team. I was coaching secretary for 3 years. Then I founded Limpsfield Table Tennis Club in Surrey when I moved there in 1985, and was handling roles such as the National Council and Regional Director for London and the South East for the Association, so I was much more involved in development but also wanted to keep a hand in with playing and also coaching. I have had quite a varied role really."

**You are Regional Coaching Chairman now, but are you doing much coaching?**

"I haven't done any coaching since coming back from Portugal because it has taken me a year to become involved with the Association again and we have a little son who is 3 - he has taken some interest with Janet my wife, and Janet doesn't play as much now but she is hoping to play with him and we are hoping to get Limpsfield set up and going again. So we do go down there from time to time."

**Did you get involved at all while you were in Portugal?**

"Oh yes, quite heavily really. I spent quite a time at the sport in Lisbon. Janet played for them for two seasons and I used to go down there to knock, not really at a senior level regarding coaching, but helping the children and we used to take them to tournaments. Janet played four years in the National League there - that was after retiring from European and World Championship play for Scotland in 1994. She spent four more years playing until 1998 in Portugal."

**What are you hoping to do in the future coaching-wise?**

"The Regional Chairmen in the past have been active coaches who have had no time to do any work in terms of building a team. We don't really have any satellite centres in which to establish table tennis and I think if we are going to spend any money in the south east, then we are going to spend it in three centres: 1 in Kent, 1 in Surrey and 1 in

Sussex, and we will just try to set up satellite centres and get the coaches more co-ordinated. Obviously that will mean that I have got to get out there practically and do it and show them how. There is a lot to go for."

**Do you have one burning message that you would like to put out to the world about coaching?"**

"The same message as Peter Hirst says. We have got to get our budgets reflected specifically in coaching budgets rather than generally in development, so that we have some money available to be able to expand the business. And we have got to get away from the fragmented situation of so many gnomes working for themselves and their own players and get a team effort. So build a complete structure for all coaching."  
*Ed's note: The coach interviews were conducted in the summer of 1999.*

#### **THOUGHTSONTHE RECENT ITTF LEGISLATION CHANGES by Mike Prior**

I've had concerns about the new ball, but if it can improve and increase our TV coverage then we should try it. Anyway, the decision has been taken and we now need to get on with it. I don't, however, follow Alan Ransome's comment that "subject to the AGM and National Council approval in England it is most likely that we will use the new ball for all ranking point competitions from September 2000, but allow local leagues and counties the option to continue for a period with the smaller ball". This surely cannot be acceptable?

Firstly, any decision must be taken and communicated quickly, not like last year's 'time-out' rule change. Secondly, there is no real alternative but to adopt the new ball universally.

We cannot expect players; juniors, senior and vets, to play with the 'big' ball at weekends and the 'small' ball during the week. Even players who do not enter weekend tournaments often play in more than one league and could find that some leagues adopt the new ball and others do not. Surely this is madness. Whether we like it or not, the decision has been taken and we must all get on and use the new ball. Only a delay of the introduction date by the ITTF can affect this.

This does of course have ramifications for clubs, suppliers and manufacturers who no doubt have stocks of the 'old' balls. But I would have expected the powers that be to have consulted at least with the major suppliers and manufacturers to minimise any

losses. Hopefully, consideration has also been given to modification kits for Robots, at least for all current models. Some, I know, are adjustable.

We would naturally like to prepare our county junior players by practising with the new ball through the summer. However, I gather that the 'big' ball is not yet into mass production since no agreement has yet been announced on the exact weight on the new ball. Has anyone any idea when this ball, in white, will be generally available?

From the outside this looks like a big fiasco. How can decisions be taken without due care and thought for the real commercial and practical implications?

The use of the new ball is not akin to previous situations such as the introduction of the red/black rubbers or the changes to the long pimples, which could be introduced at local league level over a longer period. Juniors, seniors and vets should not be expected to play with a large ball in some competitions and the old ball in others. Perhaps the implementation date will have to be put back a season unless some urgent action is taken.

I appreciate that you probably don't know much more than we do. That unfortunately is indicative of the problem. Good luck with your endeavours to sort it out for us.

As regards the possible service law change, we must await the final wording. As long as it only relates to stopping the 'masking' of the ball, and does not introduce other restrictions it will be in line with what most probably believe is within the spirit of the game. Above all, the wording must result in a service rule that is clear and capable of being easily understood and applied by both officials and players. What I find incredible is that a change can be approved, albeit for limited trials, without having been fully defined.

The move away from the 21-up system is long overdue. Although probably most local league players would prefer not to change, it is generally accepted that matches lasting 3 to 4 hours or more are not socially acceptable these days, particularly for juniors and female players. It is a significant handicap to increasing our membership. As significant, and obviously linked is the effect on spectators on TV viewing, with few 'pressure points' recognised except by current players.

Personally, I would like to see more trials of the system already tried in Croatia, whereby each block of five services is transferred into a game. The player who first wins three points, wins the game. The player who first wins five games wins the set. If the result reaches four games all, then there is a tie break which is played like the present system at 20 : 20.

Sets and, therefore, matches are generally shorter. In the present system of scoring when players reach 20 : 20 they would have both served four times. In this system, theoretically the longest set can be just as long as a set in the present system. However, in practice, the sets are much shorter because seldom is there a series of five serves. The games generally end with a score of 3 : 0 or 3 : 1. If a player wins five games, each game 3 : 0, they would win the set after scoring only fifteen points. In trials in Croatia, it is reported that the sets were significantly shorter by up to 20 - 30%.

Although, as in tennis, this system would appear to increase the significance of the serve, the opposite is the case. Still very important of course but actually some emphasis is taken away from the serve.

The serve loses some of its importance because with one good series of serves a player only wins one game (out of 9) so in turn does not gain such a huge advantage as when they win five points in a row from serving in the present system. The resulting deficit when losing 5 straight points would frequently result in the loss of the set, and your opponent is 50% towards winning a best of 3 set match.

More importantly, matches become more interesting for spectators. The format, being similar to tennis, is already understood and it makes for a more interesting playing system because there is always tension during the set and there are always some deciding points within each game. The spectators do not need to wait until the score is 18 : 18 to encounter tension building rallies.

Is this system being seriously considered? Has anyone in this country tried this system or have any players experience of it?

Although I want to see change, options should be tried and monitored before full introduction. The 21-up scoring system is so intrinsically linked to the game of table tennis, and yet, I feel its replacement so critical for the future of the game that we must ensure we get it right first time.

#### FAMOUS PEOPLE WHO PLAYED TABLE TENNIS

I am beginning to run short of material for this feature - contributions anyone?

In an article in the Daily Express last year headed 'No ping pong, no love', it was claimed that reggae singer Bob Marley wielded a table tennis bat almost as frequently as his guitar. A friend, photographer Dennis Morris, revealed that in addition to football, "his other great love was table tennis, and he was good...really

fast".

According to the Observer (06.09.98), President of the International Olympic Committee, Juan Antonio Samaranch, played "a nifty game of table tennis with the reigning women's Olympic champion Deng Yaping."

Adam Twiss, who readers may recall as the youngest ETTA umpire (at 12?) and the designer of the ranking scheme (at 15?) is, now around 24, a paper multi-millionaire through his company Zeus Technology, which he co-founded with Damien Reeves while they were students at Cambridge University in 1995. Zeus develops internet server products. Adam's father Geoff is the well known member of the ETTA Ranking Policy Committee and the ETTA Ranking Scheme Panel, who will no doubt advise me if I have got any of my facts wrong. He perhaps could also let us know whether Adam ever plays our great game nowadays.

#### GEORGE GRAHAM'S FOOTBALL COMMANDMENTS

I thought a few of the 10 commandments for young footballers that George Graham, one time manager at Arsenal and now manager at Tottenham Hotspur, laid out in his 1995 book, 'The Glory and the Grief', are very relevant for young table tennis players:

**"Desire must come from within, not as a result of being driven by coaches or parents."**

**"The only thing that counts is your dedication to the game. You run on your own fuel, it comes from within you."**

**"You cannot get much done in life if you work only on the days that you feel good."**

**"If anyone uses 'tired' as an excuse for losing, I'll find someone to play who isn't tired".**

**"A man who commits a mistake and does not correct it is committing another mistake."**

Of no relevance to the above and certainly not promoting the dynamic image we would wish for table tennis, I have been reminded of the recommendation by prison reformer Lord Longford of "hours of ping pong for prisoners as a great sedative!" (Guardian) Presumably he means that it keeps prisoners occupied and out of trouble.

**EUROPEAN TABLE TENNIS  
CHAMPIONSHIPS,  
BREMEN, GERMANY,  
21ST APRIL - 1ST MAY 2000**

Apparently, the venue and presentation will be fantastic!

**For tickets contact:**

Ticket Service,  
Centre Bremen,  
Bugerweilde,  
28209 Bremen, Germany  
(Tel: 0049 421353637, fax: 0049 42135363839)  
email: ticketorder@tsc.de Internet: <http://www.tsc.de>

**For hotels contact:**

BTZ Bremer Touristik,  
Zentrale GMBH  
Findorffstr. 105,  
8215 Bremen, Germany  
(Tel: 0049 1805 5101030, Fax: 0049 4213080089, email: [btz@bremen-tourism.de](mailto:btz@bremen-tourism.de)  
Internet: <http://www.bremen-tourism.de>)

**NEW YOUTHSPORT TRUST  
PROGRAMMES**

**TOP Skill** is a non-sports specific programme being developed to support teachers in challenging 11-14 year olds to extend their sporting skills and knowledge.

**Ecclesiastical Insurance TOP Link** is to enable 14-18 year olds to take a lead in the organisation of sport. It is enhanced by the Millennium Volunteers scheme, which supports young people undertaking voluntary activity through sport. In an attempt to improve participation rates of 11-14 year old girls, the YST, in conjunction with Nike, has established a **Girls in Sport** partnership to develop innovative strategies to increase girls' involvement.

**Nutella Sports Parent** has been designed to raise awareness of the important role played by parents and carers in the development of sporting opportunities for young people and a range of resources are offered.

**Sportsability** provides specially developed resources and equipment for young people with high support needs, including work being undertaken in partnership with a range of disability sports organisations.

For further information contact the Youth Sport Trust (tel: 01509 228293 or website [www.youthsport.net](http://www.youthsport.net)), your RDO or Judy Rogers (tel: 01414 722525).

**ASHE CONSTRUCTION NORTH  
HERTS TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION  
GRAND PRIX**

The most prestigious table tennis event ever in this area took place at Hitchin Boys School Sports Centre on 19/20 February 2000. This was the first ETTA ranking tournament to take place in Hertfordshire.

Many players ranked in the top 100 in the UK participated from around the country and as far afield as Somerset.

On the Saturday it was the ladies event and veteran men, North Herts players did extremely well with Sandra Harper winning both the band 1 ladies and the veterans ladies, her sister Janice Laing won the band 3 ladies, the family affair continuing when Sandra's husband Mick Harper (taking part in his first major tournament for many years) won the men's veterans event.

Sunday was all mens day with Chris Stone winning the band 5 and Martin Gray from Cambridge winning band 3. The band 1 final for the top players was a superb and electrifying final won by Chris Beckley, ranked 95 beating Abdul Wuraola, ranked 38 in the UK, 21-19 and 23-21.

Our thanks go to HSBC for their excellent venue, to John Jermyn the Referee and to ASHE Construction for their sponsorship of the crystal prizes.



*Chris Beckley and John Jermyn*

*Ed's note: As we have a gap as we go to press I have exceptionally included this very recent tournament report.*

**ITTF ADMINISTRATIVE  
HEADQUARTERS**

Our colleagues for many years at St. Leonards-on-Sea, the International Table Tennis Federation headquarters, are to move some time after 1st October to Lausanne, Switzerland to be alongside the ITTF Technical and Olympic Office. The office

will move but probably not the present staff, led by Administrative Director Eve Williams. Any historian interested in looking at the archives they hold, including Ivor Montagu papers and records of all world championships since 1926, should contact them before they go at: ITTF Headquarters, 53 London Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN37 6AY. Tel: 01424 721414, fax: 01424 431871, email: [itff@itff.com](mailto:itff@itff.com) (World Wide Web <http://www.itff.com>).

It should be noted that, until further notice, subscriptions (apart from members of the ETTA Gold Licence scheme) for the excellent journal Table Tennis Illustrated, should continue to be sent to the ITTF at St. Leonards-on-Sea. For people interested in technical and coaching articles, there is much in the journal for you, as well as information, reports, results, analysis, player profiles and photographs etc, from the world scene.

**ITTF EDUCATION COURSE ON  
MENTAL TRAINING**

This course, presented (in English) in co-operation with Deutscher Tischtennis Bund at Bremen, Germany on April 28-30, alongside the European Championships, will be composed of six seminars and workshops (1. A Model for the Coach 2. Sports Psychology - Basic Principles and Definitions 3. The Importance of Quality Goals and Evaluation 4. Self Confidence - The Single Most Important Factor for High Performance 5. Mental Training 6. Sports Psychology for Younger Players). Speakers will include Danish Sports Psychologist Jom Ravnholt who currently works for the Danish Elite Sports Institute, Team Denmark, but has worked with the National Danish TT Coaches, and Mikael Anderson, former Danish National Coach who is now ITTF High Performance Director. Cost: 379 DM including hotel (double occupancy) and tickets for European Championships or 508 DM to extend your stay, either 25-26 April or until May 1st. For further information and a form (return by 15th March) contact Mikael Anderson (tel: 1 613 733 2468, email: [mikael@itff.com](mailto:mikael@itff.com)) or Rene Stork, German TTA (tel: 49 69 6950190, fax: 49 69 69501913, email: [stork.dttb@tischtennis.de](mailto:stork.dttb@tischtennis.de)).

**TABLE TENNIS MUSEUM IN ITALY**

Francesco Lucesoli and friends in Italy have set up a table tennis 'museum' and are looking for all sorts of TT items from around the world, such as t-shirts, stamps, phonecards, postmarks, pins, penants etc. If necessary he is willing to pay for items and postage. Francesco Lucesoli can be

contacted at: Via Dei Faggi 16, 60016 Marina Di Montemarciano (Ancona), Italy. Tel: 071 9198329, email: [f.lucesoli@fastnet.it](mailto:f.lucesoli@fastnet.it)

### SWEDISH VOTE WALDNER THEIR ALL-TIME GREATEST

The findings of a survey of top players, coaches, journalists, officials and enthusiasts who were asked to list in order who they thought were the greatest ever Swedish players, were published in the December 1999 edition of the Swedish Association's journal, Pingis, and unsurprisingly everybody voted Jan-Ove Waldner top.

The first six, all great players came out exactly as I would have put them! The top 10 were as follows: 1. J-O Waldner 2. Jorgen Persson 3. Stellan Bengtsson 4. Kjell Johansson 5. Mikael Applegren 6. Hans Alser 7. Tage Flisberg 8. Erik Lindh 9. Peter Karlsson 10. Ann-Chr Hellman. Ann-Christin Hellman heads a women's only list, followed by Britgitta Radberg and Marie Svensson but as there are fewer internationally famous Swedish female players, the complete list is not published.

### SUMMER PARALYMPIC GAMES, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA 14TH-24TH OCTOBER 2000

Fourteen players, the biggest Great Britain squad since players had to qualify, will be going to the Paralympic Games in Sydney, with Cathy Mitton (1996 Paralympic silver, 1999 European silver and bronze) our best hopes for individual gold medals. Other previous individual medal winners in the squad are James Rawson (1992 Paralympic bronze, 1999 European bronze) and Dave Hope (1992 Paralympic gold, 1999 European silver). These and Arnie Chan and Mark Palmer (1999 European Class 4 Team silver) have also been successful in lifting team gold and silver medals, and Great Britain has a strong chance of a Class 3 team gold this time. Confident of doing better than the 1 silver and 2 bronze medals from Atlanta 1996, the squad, with 2 wild cards to be announced, is: Cathy Mitton (Yorks), Lynne Riding (Lancs), James Munkley (Wales), James Rawson (Notts), Neil Robinson (Wales), Stefan Trofan (Yorks), Arnie Chan (Notts), Martin Evans (Wales), Scott Robertson (Wales), David Hope (Yorks), Farrel Anthony (Yorks) and Barry Crook (Lancs).

### GLOUCESTERSHIRE CADET 2 STAR TOURNAMENT, 16/01/00

The above table tennis tournament especially aimed for the benefit of cadet

players, attracted a very large entry from players as far afield as Kent, Bucks, Warwickshire and Surrey, being an OPEN TOURNAMENT the standard of play was very high.

Overall, five Gloucestershire boys took part and two Gloucestershire girls of which Celina Bell won the girls open by beating Gloucester's Stella Davis 21-17, 21-17, Bell was the no. 2 seed, Davis was unseeded. Stella Davis however was the runner-up in the Girls Band 1 event losing to Kent's Jodie Stringer, no success for any of the local boys in terms of winning but their time will come.

All final results below:

**Girls' Consolation:** Eleanor Tweedy (Bucks) bt Kerry Davey (Shrops) 21-17, 21-13  
**Girls' Open:** Celina Bell (Glos) bt Stella Davis (Glos) 21-17, 21-17, **Boys' Open:** Chris Brown (Devon) bt Robert Lemon (Surrey) 21-17, 21-14, **Boys' Consolation:** Chris Hansell (Bucks) bt Jon Humphreys (Wilts) 21-9, 21-13, **Girls' Band 1:** Jodie Stringer bt Stella Davis (Glos), both unseeded in a group of 4, **Boys' Band 1:** David Hayes bt Chris Brown 21-15, 20-22, 21-19, **Boys' Band 2:** No seeds for this event. Johns Hardley (Kent) bt Stephen Head (Kent) 21-7, 19-21, 21-19

The Hon. Referee for this tournament was Mrs Gill Smith of Cheltenham and the Organiser Ken Bridle from Cirencester. The entire tournament was run at Deer Park School.

### Cotswold National Junior Open Table Tennis Championships

The above four star tournament, which was promoted by the Gloucestershire Table Tennis Association, took place at the Cheltenham Recreation Centre over the weekend of 29th/30th January 2000.

Played on 17 tables, this year saw its 33rd consecutive event with an entry of well over 200 players all seeking those all important ETTA computer points.

Local players did exceptionally well - many of whom got through their initial group stages, but the pressure from the more experienced players proved too strong for any of the Gloucestershire youngsters to actually win an event.

One 10 year old from Cheltenham, Harry Shahlaei was presented with the 'The Lenn Huff Trophy'; this award goes every year to the adjudged BEST PLAYER IN THE TOURNAMENT FROM GLOUCESTERSHIRE. There were 8 events overall, 4 on the 29th and 4 on Sunday 30th - here are all the finalists and the outright winners.

**Cadet Girls U14:** Lisa Calcutt (Berks) bt

Abigail Embling (Essex) 21-14, 21-16, **Cadet Boys U14:** Gregory Baker (Staffs) bt Craig Bryant (Devon) 18-21, 21-15, 21-18, **Grade 1 Cadet Girls' Singles:** Hannah Stone (Berks) bt Joanne Hubbard (Kent) 21-18, 21-12, **Grade 1 Cadet Boys' Singles:** Bradley Evans (Bucks) bt Liam Thomas (Powys) 21-14, 16-21, 24-22, **Junior Girls' Singles U17:** Hannah Yardy (Essex) bt Georgina Walker (Notts) 21-19, 15-21, 21-13, **Boys' Open Singles U17:** Justin Dodd (Kent) bt Matthew Kenny (Yorks) 21-10, 23-21, **Grade 1 Junior Girls' Singles:** Lisa Calcutt bt Nicola Todd (Essex) 21-16, 21-19, **Grade 1 Junior Boys' Singles:** Jonathan Whitaker (Essex) bt Nathan Thomas (Powys) 21-23, 21-13, 21-11

The above tournament was again graced by **BBC RADIO GLOUCESTERSHIRE** on the first day of its running. The new county no. 1 junior Dominic Wynn-Sands from Cheltenham and Gloucester's no. 4 junior Luke Davis both gave LIVE broadcasts from the championship venue on the first day, the BBC were with us for just over one hour.

### FRENCH MISSION TO 'SAVE' BRITISH SPORT

Michel Gadai is not the only Frenchman trying to shake up a British racket sport. Formerly director of men's tennis in France where he coached Yannick Noah and Henri Leconte, Patrice Hagelauer, the new LTA Director of Coaching appointed last year, said (Guardian 21.02.00) regarding British team spirit, "I've been really disappointed. I noticed in tennis that everybody was criticising everybody else. Criticism is cancer." Not only does he think that internal criticism by coaches must stop, but also that clubs must start junior programmes. The club system, 20 years behind the French, Spanish, Germans and Swedes, has shown more interest in competitions for veterans than in allowing youngsters on the courts but, "The culture of the clubs must change". All tennis clubs are to be graded according to their management, junior and adult coaching and competitive programmes, etc. with financial rewards for the best. "This is an emergency, because without an injection of young players the clubs will die, while there is no possibility of improvement at the elite end of the sport. We need thousands and thousands of kids in the clubs...unless we change this (barrier by clubs to the young) we will lose the battle". The strategy sounds like the ETTA Premier Club Programme, but with money! And as Michel Gadai has said, we must compete with other sports (like tennis) rather than squabbling amongst ourselves.

# JOHNS LEADS THE WAY

**FOR the second year running the Police Athletic Association, led by Brian Johns, outplayed rivals Larkhall Spicer to win the Veterans British League Premier Division title, at Potters Leisure Resort, but it was mighty close, writes Jim Beckley.**

PAA lost to Larkhall in the first leg at Stratford, but didn't make the same mistake twice winning the decider 4-2, in a thriller on the table. It was a tremendous battle between two well matched sides.

Brian Johns maintained his super record by losing only one match from twenty played over two weekends, with Dave Welsman losing only one match from fourteen.

St.Marks are the new ladies champions after a last ditch challenge from Midlands side Colebridge.

With virtually the same players as won the title for Dagenham last season, St.Marks took the the honours after a shock 5-1 defeat to Bribar Bramley. But by then it was all over.

A late Colebridge challenge almost came off despite starting the final weekend four places adrift of the leaders.

Lesley Radford and Sheila King led the way for the new champs, with Joan Humphrey-Middlemore topping the Colebridge averages.

Stockport who have won promotion for the last three years, did it again and now find themselves mixing with the big boys in the premier division next season. Their only crisis occurred on the last day when they were taken to a draw by strugglers PAA 2nd.

They trailed 3-1 before pulling back the final two matches thanks to wins by Roger Hampson and Paul Collins.

In one of the closest title chases for years the ladies from Hammond Studdards finally claimed the Division One title beating off a close challenge from early leaders Ellenborough.

Margaret Maltby led Hammond to the title and also received the 'Female Player of the Year' title.

Second Division side Irish Shamrocks with Tommy Caffrey in excellent form completed the weekend with an unbeaten record. Only Plymouth and Thompson Insurance managed to take points from them, now they return to the first Division after just one season.

## VETERANS BRITISH LEAGUE

### FINAL TABLES 1999/2000

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
<b>MENS PREMIER</b>							
Police Athletic Association	10	9	0	1	43	17	18
Larkhall Spicer	10	8	0	2	43	17	16
Racquetsports A	10	5	1	4	34	26	11
Swinton	10	5	1	4	34	26	11
Fullerians	10	2	0	8	17	43	4
Bournemouth	10	0	0	10	9	51	0
<b>MENS DIVISION ONE</b>							
Stockport	10	7	2	1	40	20	16
Barclays Bank TTC	10	6	2	2	37	23	14
Jims Gym Juniors	10	6	2	2	36	24	14
OLOP	10	2	4	4	28	32	8
Police Athletic Assoc. II	10	0	4	6	20	40	4
East Lancashire	10	1	2	7	19	41	4
<b>MENS DIVISION TWO</b>							
Shamrocks	10	8	2	0	41	19	18
Plymouth Exremes	10	4	4	2	32	28	12
Thompson Insurance	10	4	3	3	32	28	11
Ellenborough	10	2	5	3	31	29	9
Newbury Park	10	1	3	6	22	38	5
Merrow TTC	10	1	3	6	22	38	5
<b>MENS DIVISION THREE</b>							
Cippenham	10	9	1	0	45	15	19
Graham Spicer	10	7	0	3	41	19	14
Pritchitt Annahilt	10	6	1	3	35	25	13
Lillington	10	2	3	5	22	38	7
Tokyu World Transport	10	1	2	7	20	50	4
Trident Blinds	10	0	3	7	17	43	3
<b>WOMENS PREMIER DIVISION</b>							
St.Marks	10	7	2	1	44	16	16
Colebridge B.C.	10	6	2	2	38	22	14
Bribar Brambley	10	3	4	3	31	29	10
H.E.L. Ladies	10	3	4	3	25	35	10
Worcester Ladies	10	2	5	3	26	34	9
Colleens	10	0	1	9	16	44	1



**BRIAN JOHNS** (above) who led Police Athletic Association to victory, whilst pictured below is 'Female player of the Year' Margaret Maltby of Hammond Suddards



Cippenham were the outstanding side in Division Three winning the title and not losing a match en route. Clive Payne was their outstanding performer finishing with 100% record.

South Essex were head and shoulders above the rest of the teams in Division Four and return to Division Three. It was not all one way though with three of their matches ending in a draw.

Success for L.B. Vets who were runaway winners of Division Five. They finished the final match with a crushing 6-0 win over Bribar Kingfisher who finished in second place.

### TABLE TENNIS NEWS & TTN EXTRA

# COPY DATES

for 1999/2000

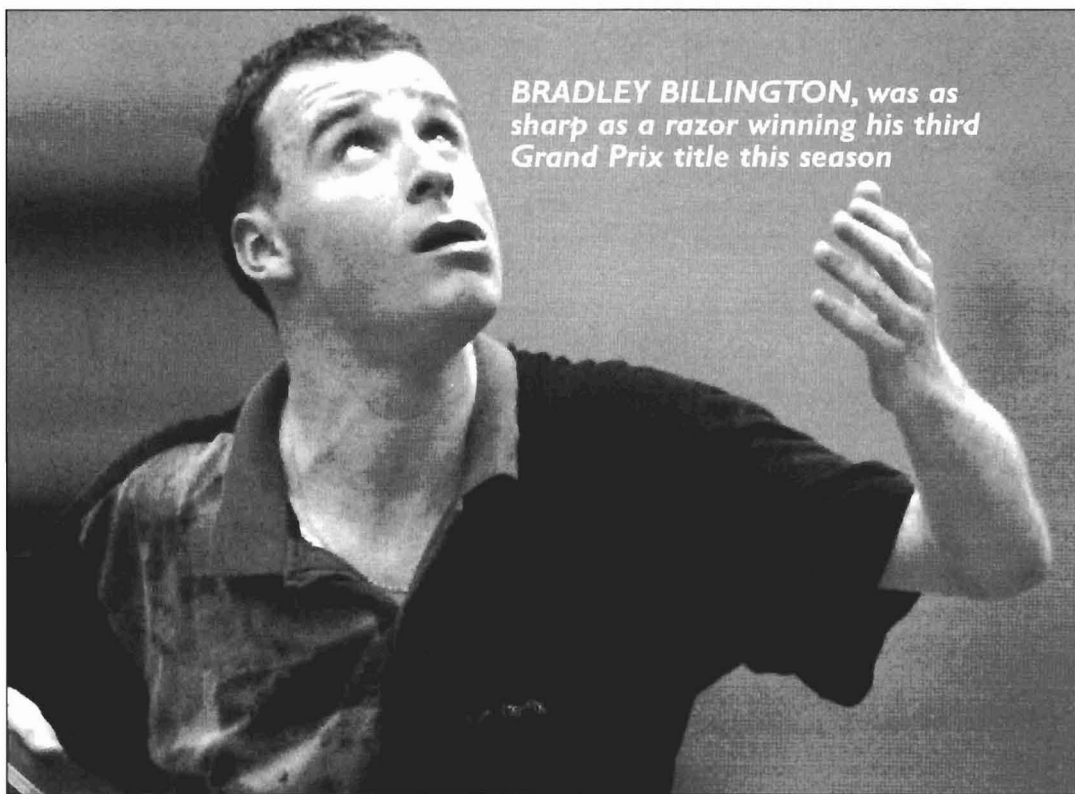
#### ISSUE No./DATE

263 OCTOBER  
264 NOVEMBER  
265 DECEMBER  
266 JAN/FEB'2000  
267 MARCH  
268 APRIL  
269 MAY  
270 JUNE/JULY

#### COPY DATE

15 AUGUST  
15 SEPTEMBER  
15 OCTOBER  
15 DECEMBER  
15 JANUARY  
15 FEBRUARY  
15 MARCH  
15 MAY

# COACHES UPSET THE STARS



*BRADLEY BILLINGTON, was as sharp as a razor winning his third Grand Prix title this season*

**ENGLAND** squad players had their egos dented as the coaches taught them some lessons at Stratford-upon-Avon. The coach to emerge on the top of the pile of victims was Bradley Billington, who was appointed as an England national coach only a week previously in place of Alan Cooke who resigned from staff last November, writes John Woodford.

Winning his third open Grand Prix title, Billington as sharp as a razor, defeated the gallant Alan Cooke 23, -18, 19 in the quarter-finals, after tearing off a piece of finger-nail, leading to an easy final and a win over the ever-improving Andrew Rushton 13, 10 in the final.

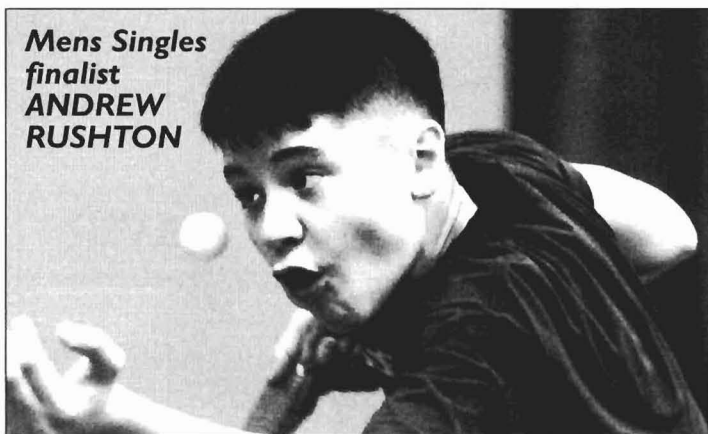
Rushton seems to win easily the accolade as the most improved player in the England junior squad

this season.

But the match-of-the-day was the defeat of Matthew Syed by Cooke. It brought back memories of the Commonwealth Championships final in Glasgow two years ago when Syed

**Words by  
JOHN WOODFORD  
of the Daily  
Telegraph**

**Mens Singles  
finalist  
ANDREW  
RUSHTON**



survived match-points against the Derbyshire top-spinner for whom the Syed defence does not hide the problems it does for others.

Cooke patiently applied the inevitable top-spin until the returns were high enough to kill to win 12, 16. Syed said afterwards, "Alan played very well, there was very little I could do".

Matthew has been "hit-off" this fashion many times and I regret to say, increasing in numbers. Unless he can find some alternative to just returning balls as target practice, I fear for his future progress.

There is no doubt that the Taraflex flooring now common in major tournaments helps defenders - they get more time to get to the ball. The surface for most sports centres these days, even new centres, is wooden, often sprung (worse still for defenders) and marked up in startling colours for other sports.

The return of Alan Cooke to the courts after a two-year break would have been a fairy tale completed but it was to be Bradley Billington's day - beating his Derbyshire team-mate in the quarters, even with a damaged finger that brought about a ten-minute break.

Billington commands respect by all the players. Unlike some other coaches he can still be a winner when competing and that commands extra respect.

## FLU VICTIMS

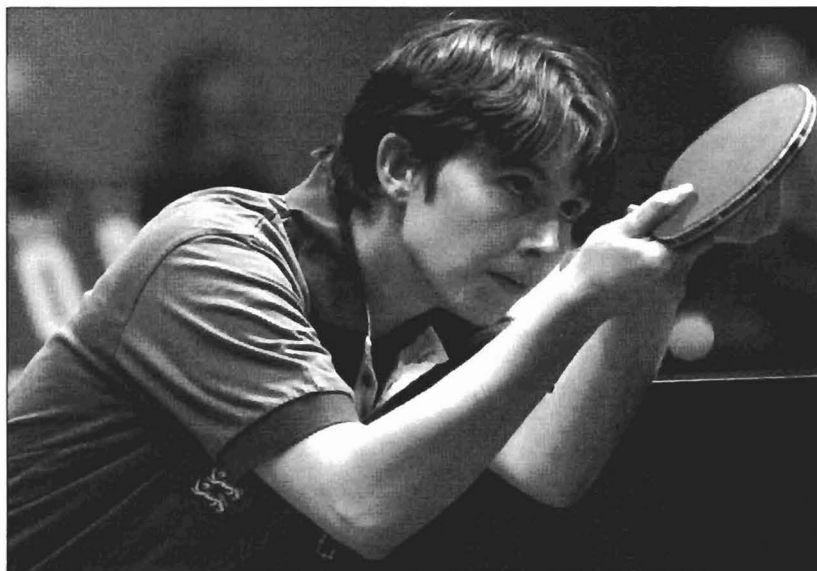
About a dozen players were absent with the 'flu' bug including Alex Pery the second seed. Kubrat Owolabi did not appear and did not apologise for her absence. Top seed Tong Fei Ming was delayed on her way back from China and was also absent. Linda Radford was unwell all day, and pulled out of the womens doubles final, making a farce of that event.

Katy Parker reached her first senior womens singles final after taking out

close rival Helen Yardy (Essex) 17, 12 in the semis. Helen Lower took the title as expected winning the final 5, 16.

Not having seen Katy in action recently I was impressed by her capability of defending and then attacking, not unlike of course, her famous mother and similar to the tactics of Andrea Holt.

After the defeat of Syed, the second biggest shock came when Gareth Herbert went under -20, -19 to the Welsh No.3 Ryan Owen. Gareth has found the Welsh lad difficult before; again it could have been a slight lapse of concentration that cost Gareth a vital match. Owen was defeated in the next round by Brian Johns 13, -13, 14, who had an excellent day.



**Pictured left is the winner of the Womens Singles title at Stratford, HELEN LOWER, whilst below is former England No.1 and Coach ALAN COOKE who defeated ace defender Matthew Syed**

## WELSH STRENGTH

The Welsh squad is looking stronger each tournament. I understand that Alan Griffiths has instructed them to play in all the Grand Prix tournaments if they want to play for Wales. At least three Welsh lads are showing progress - Ryan Jenkins, Stephen Jenkins, and Adam Robertson, and amongst the girls - Bethan Daunton, Catherine Davies and Siwan Davies. The Welsh squad picked up a lot of glassware prizes in the banded events.

There was a huge entry of about 270 - forty entries had to be sent back - another warning for players to get their entries in early otherwise they may well be excluded, no favours are being shown to highly ranked players, last in, first out. Despite the 'flu' virus, when it came to the mens singles groups on Sunday afternoon a scratch entry was being sought by Dale Barham, but even though he turned up with his ardently supportive family, he failed to get in as there were no vacancies.

The Stratford Leisure and Visitors Centre continues to be a popular venue, right in the centre of the country, hotels close by, station just down the road. Finishing times were not brilliant - tennish on the Saturday, 10.38 pm on the Sunday.

The organisers elected to convert the 18 tables down to 8 at latter stages, this was done and looked worthy of a Major Grand Prix with eight blue-coated umpires (best so far), but the time involved in the changeover was nearly half-an-hour by my Seiko watch, vital time that caused the final of the mens singles to be watched by about a dozen weary spectators and even more weary officials.

*Footnote:* Time was spent on

working out Alan Cooke's seeding as he returned to the computer listings after his break coaching. No doubt, in terms of figures ninth position was correct, but I feel and others, that some flexibility should be allowed in such circumstances. He should not have been seeded lower than four or five and would in probability, have clashed with Matthew Syed later than the third round.

### RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES: SF: B. Billington b M. Isherwood 11, -12, 11 A. Rushton b S. Shaw 19, -19, 19. FINAL:

BILLINGTON b Rushton 13, 10. WOMENS SINGLES: SF: K. Parker b H. Yardy 17, 12 H. Lower b C. Davies 13, 13 FINAL: LOWER b Parker 5, 16.

MENS DOUBLES: Final: A. Cooke and Billington b G. Herbert and D. Blake 14, 7.

WOMENS DOUBLES: H. Shields and L. Simpson w/o H. Lower and L. Radford.

VETERANS SINGLES: B. Johns b D. Harding 13, 14.

MENS UNDER 21 SINGLES: Final. R. Jenkins b A. Rushton 13, 13.

WOMEN UNDER SINGLES 21: Final: R. Sparkes b S. Davies 16, -11, 8

### BANDED FINALS

#### MEN

BAND 1: R. Owen (Wales) b S. Jenkins (Wales) 16, 19.

BAND 2: C. Carslake (Essex) b C. Jamieson (Essex) -16, 12, 20.

BAND 3: T. Holmes (Middlesex) b J. Peckham (Wales) 22, -20, 17.

BAND 4: J. Whitaker (Essex) b C. Lam (Essex) -7, 10, 21.

BAND 5: G. Davies (Wales) b N. Thomas (Wales) 19, -16, 5.

#### WOMEN

BAND 1: H. Yardy (Essex) b C. Newns (Cheshire) 14, 11.

BAND 2: L. Reid (Worcs) b G Brown (Essex) 19, 188.

BAND 3: C. Emmerson (Suffolk) b A. Wright (Essex) 7, 17.



## FOUR DAY EASTER COACHING COURSE BY NICKY JARVIS

Prior to the South West Open Grand Prix at St.Austell, over the Easter weekend, former England No.1 player and England Team Coach, Nicky Jarvis will be running a 'Coaching Course', at Tregorrick Park Table Tennis Centre, from Monday 17th April to Thursday 20th April. Everyone will be welcome. Each day coaching will commence at 11 am.

For further information, costs and booking forms please contact John Wood, telephone 01726 70607.

# COOKE'S TOO HOT

**ALAN COOKE** slipped superbly back into top gear as a first class player, when he took the Mens Singles title at Potters East Anglian Open Grand Prix, at Hopton-on-Sea, over the weekend of 12th/13th february, writes John Wood.

Cooke's talent and skill was still too much for the up and coming youngsters, for whom he was too hot to handle.

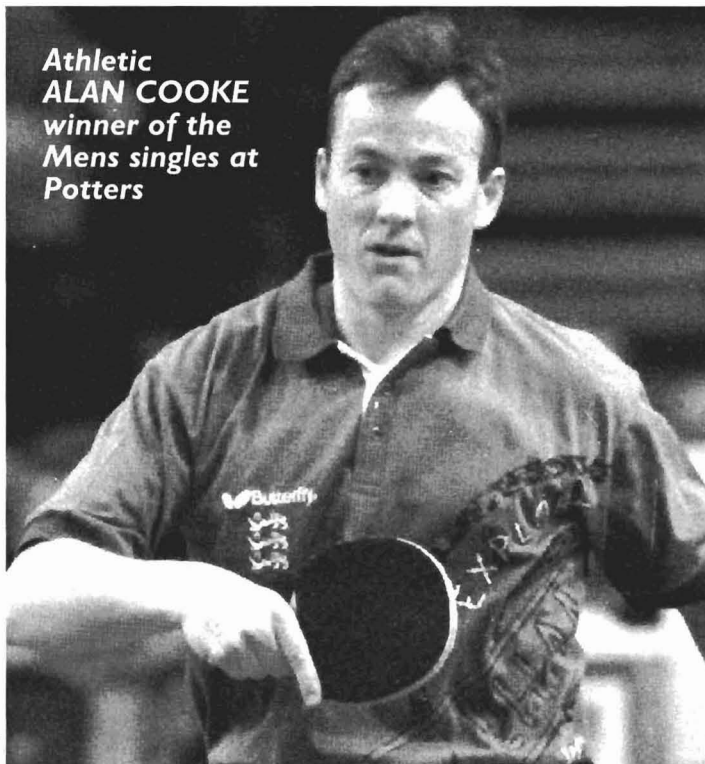
In the semi-finals Cooke finally overpowered a spirited challenge from Derbyshire's Steven Shaw 23-21, 21-16.

Then the former England No.1 turned up the heat in the final where he beat fellow Derbyshire player Michael Isherwood 21-19, 21-9.

In the first leg, which was a tremendous fast topspin battle, Cookey took a tumble rolled over, got up and exclaimed "I'm not a spring chicken anymore". And duly won the opening game.

The second leg saw Cooke playing in top gear with precision hitting, rolling over Isherwood 21-9.

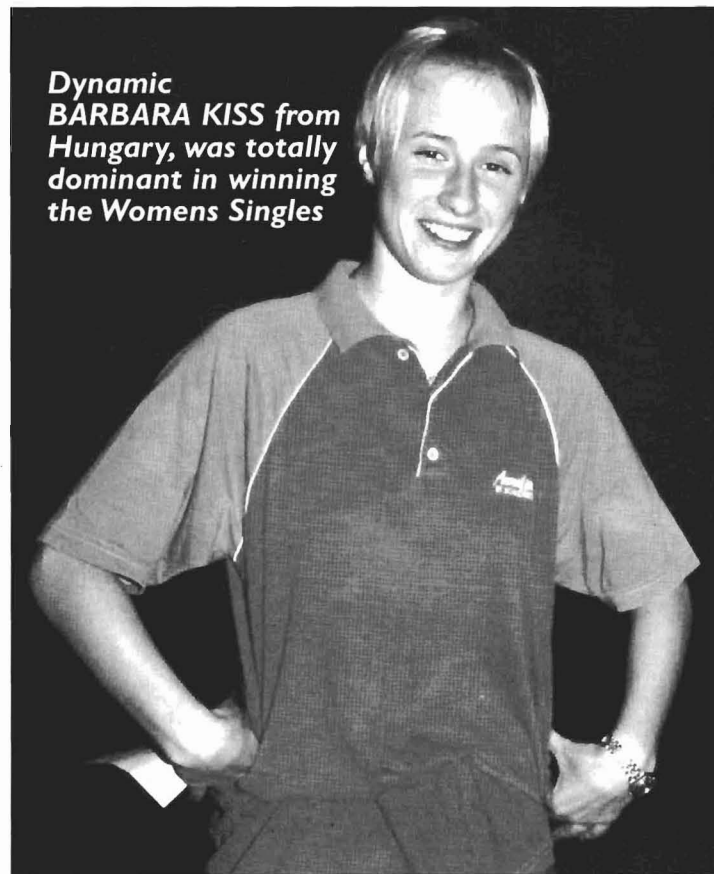
However, Isherwood did have his moment of glory when he defeated England's Darren Blake 21-19, 21-15.



*Athletic  
ALAN COOKE  
winner of the  
Mens singles at  
Potters*

## HUNGARIAN KISS

Barbara Kiss from Hungary, was just too powerful for the opposition at



*Dynamic  
BARBARA KISS from  
Hungary, was totally  
dominant in winning  
the Womens Singles*



*HANNAH YARDY winner of  
both the Womens Under 21, the  
Womens Band 1 and the  
Womens Doubles titles, with  
Rebecca Sparkes*



Potters in the Womens Singles event.

Kiss defeated Rebecca Fisher in the final 21-18, 21-9.

The first leg was a real non-stop attacking game with Fisher keeping her nose in front up to 18-17. Then Kiss' greater variety of shots, especially her forehand loop saw her take the first.

The second game saw Kiss totally dominant as she took the title 21-9.

In the semis Kiss defeated Hannah Yardy 21-12, 21-14, whilst Fisher won her place in the final by winning a three set thriller, beating Lucy Wang 21-10, 9-21, 21-16.

## DOUBLES SUCCESS

Alan Cooke added to his tournament success by winning the Mens Doubles final, in partnership with Darren Blake, when they defeated the Derbyshire pairing of Michael Isherwood and Steven Shaw, 20-22, 21-16, 21-17.

The Womens Doubles title went to local girl Rebecca Sparkes who teamed-up Hannah Yardy, beating Rebecca Fisher and Sarah Horsnell 21-16, 21-7.

## JENKINS & YARDY

### WIN UNDER 21's

Stephen Jenkins of Wales won the Mens Under 21 crown at Potters when he lived up to his huge promise by comfortably overpowered the talented Surrey youngster Robert Pountney 21-10, 21-15.

Hannah Yardy added yet another trophy to her collection when she defeated her doubles partner Rebecca Sparkes 21-13, 19-21, 21-16.

## VETERAN TROPHIES GO TO HARVEY & HARRISON

Gloucestershire's Dave Harvey won the Mens Singles title when he defeated Potters' Sports and Operations Manager Russell King, 19-21, 21-18, 21-13.

King, who had an excellent tournament, won his Veteran group beating Yarmouth player Mick Broughton 21-12, 21-13, and super defender from Hertfordshire Dave Seaholme 21-17, 21-15.

The Womens Veteran Singles title went to Essex girl Jenny Harrison

who won a close final, beating Bedfordshire's Di Jermyn 21-12, 16-21, 21-14.

## GASCOYNE BEATS CARTHY IN BAND 1 SINGLES

In the Banded events, there was a surprise win for Nottingham youngster Craig Gascoyne when he beat Clive Carthy of Essex, 21-16, 16-21, 21-17, in the Mens Band 1 Singles.

The Womens Band 1 Singles was won by Hannah Yardy who defeated the highly talented Somerset Cadet Kate Steward, 21-19, 21-11.

## OTHER RESULTS

MENS BAND 2: Gavin Rumgay (Scotland) b. Jeff Rigby (Bucks) 21-14, 26-24.

MENS BAND 3: Paul Cronin (Kent) b. Peter Cleminson 21-19, 21-19.

MENS BAND 4: Tim Yarnall (Northants) b. Peter Cleminson 22-20, 21-19.

MENS BAND 5: Paul Cooper (Essex) b. Del Ayoola (Surrey) 21-11, 19-21, 23-21.

WOMENS BAND 2: Kate Steward (Somerset) b. Amy Wright (Essex) 21-13, 21-14.

WOMENS BAND 3: Abigail Embling (Essex) b. Grace Brown (Essex) 21-17, 21-19.

*Pictured below is* **TIM YARNALL** winner of the Mens Band 4 Singles and **KATE STEWARD** winner of the Womens Band 2 Singles



**STEPHEN JENKINS** celebrates his victory in the Mens Under 21 final, outside the new entrance to Potters Leisure Resort at Hopton-on-Sea.



**GRAIG GASCOYNE** winner of the Mens Band 1 Singles



**RUSSELL KING**, Sports Operations Manager of Potters, who reached the Veteran Mens final

# MIDDLESEX PIP SUSSEX

**THE final set of matches in the Junior and Senior Premier Divisions were played at the South Kesteven T.T.C. over the weekend of 15th/16th January 2000, the first time the two championships have been held in the same venue at the same time and very successful it proved to be, writes Stan Clarke.**

## SENIOR PREMIER

History will show that Middlesex won the Premiership for the season 1999/2000 by sets difference over Sussex, what it won't show is the tension and excitement that ran through the four match session of the weekend as the lead changed hands several times, with the final outcome resting on not just the final matches but on the final sets of the final matches, one set lost by either of the two front runners would make the difference between winning and finishing second.

After the first weekends matches Middlesex were ahead by just one set and entered the final four matches as divisional leaders, the first round of matches paired Middlesex with Berkshire and Sussex with Surrey. Middlesex had the easier start as Berkshire to their shame could only field one woman player thereby immediately gifting Middlesex two sets and with only David Barr disturbing their progress with a fine win over Tommy Cutler. Middlesex cruised to victory picking up two points and more importantly 9 sets. Sussex were slightly less successful against Surrey, managing only an 8/2 win, never the less an excellent victory over a team containing Darren Blake, Marco Essomba and Robert Pountney, but with Nigel Eckersley losing both sets to Blake and Pountney, Sussex were two sets adrift though level on points.

The second set of matches on the Saturday paired Middlesex with Yorkshire and Sussex with Nottinghamshire. The Yorkshire youngsters were in no mood to lie down before Middlesex, Peter Marshall 21/15, 21/9 against Tommy Cutler, Mark Smith 25/23, 18/21, 21/18 against Neil Charles and Carol Judson 21/9 21/14 over Rebecca Fisher slowed the Middlesex juggernaut, match 7/3 to Middlesex. Two tables away Sussex were romping home with a 10/0 thrashing

of Nottinghamshire, so at the end of the day Sussex had reversed the positions and were leading by one set.

The Sunday morning dawned crisp and clear and the match that could well be the deciding match of the season was first on table, Sussex versus Middlesex, a pity it wasn't scheduled in the last round of matches, but you can't have everything. Middlesex must have thought their goose was well and truly cooked as Sussex roared into a 4/0 lead with wins by Ritchie Venner over Tommy Cutler, Adrian Moore over Neil Charles, Sally Weston over Leslie Keast and old faithful "Eck" over Jason Sugrue, but in stepped Rebecca Fisher to stop the rot by beating Rose Rainton, 4/1, Tommy then beat Adrian, 4/2, Sally however was taking no prisoners and duly disposed of Rebecca, 5/2 to Sussex, Middlesex reeling and about to be flushed away? Not on your life. Back roared Jason to beat Ritchie 5/3, next Leslie turned over Rose 5/4, the last set of the match, Neil against my old mate Nigel, "Eck" took the first game 21/14 experience and cunning overcoming brash youth, "Wicked", unfortunately Neil was working to a different script and fought back to take the second game 21/15 into the decider and youth managed to overcome the tiring legs of "Eck" Neil winning 21/14, incredibly Middlesex had snatched a draw.

Into the last round of matches, Sussex still ahead by just one set points level, game on, all to play for, Sussex needed to beat or at least equal the sets won by Middlesex, Hertfordshire versus Middlesex Yorkshire versus Sussex. Middlesex must have been just a little worried by loosing the first set, Anthony Corbin beating Jason Sugrue, however they quickly got back on course to establish a 3/1 lead before the set that I consider turned the course of the championship, Leslie Keast against Caroline Seaholme, one game all and Leslie 19/16 down in the third only to hold on to take the game and the set 22/20, that one set would have been enough to see

Sussex victorious but resulted in Middlesex running out victors 9/1.

The result between Hertfordshire and Middlesex meant that Sussex needed to beat Yorkshire by not less than 8/2 to secure the title and that looked to be a distinct possibility as they zoomed into a 6/2 lead only Michael James offering any opposition with wins over Adrian Moore and Nigel Eckersley (What a match that was) but then up stepped Joanna Roberts, having hung up her football boots for the weekend to beat a very nervous Rose Rainton, match score 6/3, the championship lost by a single set, Adrian Moore duly won the last set of the match against Mark Smith but by then it was all over bar the presentations.

Congratulations to both teams on a tremendous fight, it was somewhat amusing to see the Middlesex players roaring on Michael James in his game against Nigel but that just goes to show how close the final outcome was and how committed the players were.

Oh yes you may well ask what happened to the other teams, well it's goodbye to Berkshire and Nottinghamshire who will be back in the first divisions next season, hopefully Berkshire will have learned the lesson that it doesn't make life any easier when you play with players short, I will be sorry that David Barr will not be around next season (in the Premier I mean) his skills are a delight to watch and he still manages to turn over players much higher in the rankings. I watched his match against Marco Essomba, Dave taking the first 21/18 Marco the second 21/16 then roaring into a 11/5 lead in the third only to find himself 12/13 down as Dave fought back and eventually win 21/18 a great game but the part I found amusing was after the game when I was speaking to them and Marco remarked "You need to be very fit to beat a player like that", excuse me Marco but in the game I saw it was Dave who was doing all the running around as defenders tend to do and isn't he just a few years older than you?

## JUNIOR PREMIER

Congratulations to Glamorgan roaring from third place after the first round of matches to take the Championship from second place Surrey by one place. The championship has only once before been won by a team from outside England and that was as long ago as season 1950/51 when it was Glamorgan again who took the championship back to the principality. The team of Gavin Jones, Stephen Gertson, James Haymur Charlotte Cooksley and Hayley Thomas proved unbeatable over the weekend, accounting for Middlesex 8/2, Surrey 6/4 Cheshire 7/3 and Yorkshire 9/1. Surrey effectively blew their chances with the defeat by Glamorgan, Cheshire finished in a creditable third place.

On the bottom of the division, Lancashire bid a swift farewell to the top flight unable to register a single point, well what do you expect when your top players can't be bothered to turn out, opting to play in a local tournament rather than in the premier division? The second relegation place goes to Devonshire who will be very upset having finished on the same points total as Yorkshire, exactly the same sets difference but loosing out on games won and lost 65/96 as against Yorkshire' total of 67/94, that's how tight it was.

## MISSING UMPIRES

I said at the start of the season that I was going to ease off administrators this time round, and so far I have succeeded, however I must draw to their attention regulation 17.8 of the County Championships regulations, yes it's the one that deals with the provision of UMPIRES for County Championship matches. At a recent divisional weekend only two of the eight Counties represented bothered to send umpires, this is clearly a breach of regulation 17.8 by the Counties concerned, so don't be surprised if the fines start dropping on your carpet in the near future and if you are the captain of an away team who finds that the home County have not bothered to appoint an UMPIRE, make a note of it on the score sheet.

# COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS LEAGUE TABLES by Leslie Smith

Tables include results of all matches received by 22th January 2000

## SENIORS

PREMIER	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesex	7	6	1	0	53	17	13
Sussex	7	6	1	0	52	18	13
Kent	7	5	0	2	43	27	10
Hertfordshire	7	2	2	3	29	41	6
Yorkshire	7	2	1	4	33	37	5
Surrey	7	1	2	4	28	42	4
Nottinghamshire	7	1	1	5	24	46	3
Berkshire	7	1	0	6	18	52	2

## DIVISION 1A

Derbyshire	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
Leicestershire	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Suffolk	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Northumberland	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Cambridgeshire	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Worcestershire	2	1	0	1	7	13	2
Lancashire	2	0	0	2	7	13	0
Bedfordshire	2	0	0	2	5	15	0

## DIVISION 1B

Essex 1st	5	5	0	0	46	4	10
Devonshire 1st	5	4	0	1	32	18	8
Wiltshire	5	4	0	1	30	20	8
Middlesex 2nd	5	2	1	2	27	23	5
Kent 2nd	5	2	1	2	20	29	5
Hampshire	5	2	0	3	19	31	4
Essex 2nd	5	0	0	5	15	34	0
Devonshire 2nd	5	0	0	5	10	40	0

## DIVISION 2A

South Yorkshire	5	5	0	0	36	14	10
Yorkshire 2nd	5	4	0	1	32	18	8
Lancashire 2nd	5	3	0	2	26	24	6
Cheshire	5	2	1	2	28	22	5
Cleveland	5	2	1	2	23	27	5
Warwickshire 2nd	5	1	1	3	22	28	3
Cumbria	5	0	2	3	17	33	2
Leicestershire 2nd	5	0	1	4	16	34	1

## DIVISION 2B

Glamorgan 1	5	5	0	0	47	3	10
Cornwall 1	6	5	0	1	46	14	10
Glamorgan 2nd	6	5	0	1	35	25	10
Worcestershire 2nd	5	4	0	1	32	18	8
Herefordshire	6	2	0	4	23	37	4
Somerset	6	2	0	4	21	39	4
Cornwall 2nd	6	1	0	5	22	38	2
Devonshire 3rd	6	1	0	5	20	40	2
Avon	6	1	0	5	14	46	2

## DIVISION 2C

Norfolk 1st	4	4	0	0	34	6	8
Lincolnshire	4	4	0	0	34	6	8
Warwickshire	4	4	0	0	34	6	8
Suffolk 2nd	4	1	1	2	16	24	3
Hertfordshire 2nd	4	1	1	2	15	25	3
Northamptonshire	4	1	0	3	10	30	2
Huntingdonshire	4	0	0	4	9	31	0
Norfolk 2nd	4	0	0	4	8	32	0

## DIVISION 2D

Isle of Wight	5	5	0	0	32	18	10
Gloucestershire	5	4	0	1	35	15	8
Sussex 2	6	3	0	3	35	25	6
Kent 3rd	5	2	0	3	24	26	4
Buckinghamshire	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
Surrey 2nd	6	2	0	4	23	37	4
Oxfordshire	4	1	0	3	19	21	2
Berkshire 2nd	5	1	0	4	13	37	2

## JUNIORS

### PREMIER DIVISION

Glamorgan	7	6	1	0	51	19	13
Surrey	7	6	0	1	49	21	12
Kent	7	3	3	1	38	32	9
Cheshire	7	4	1	2	37	33	9
Middlesex	7	3	1	3	33	37	7
Yorkshire	7	1	1	5	26	44	3
Devonshire	7	1	1	5	26	44	3
Lancashire	7	0	0	7	20	50	0

### DIVISION 1A

Essex	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Yorkshire 2nd	3	2	1	0	21	9	5
Derbyshire	3	1	2	0	17	13	4
Cumbria	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Warwickshire	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Suffolk	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Clwyd	3	0	1	2	6	24	1
Lancashire 2nd	3	0	0	3	8	22	0

### DIVISION 1B

Buckinghamshire	5	5	0	0	46	4	10
Dorset	5	5	0	0	38	12	10
Hampshire	5	2	2	1	28	22	6
Avon	5	2	1	2	24	26	5

Worcestershire	5	1	2	2	21	29	4
Glamorgan 2nd	7	2	0	5	26	44	4
Glamorgan 3rd	6	1	1	4	21	39	3
Middlesex 2nd	6	1	0	5	16	44	2

## DIVISION 2A

Nottingham	7	7	0	0	53	17	14
South Yorkshire	7	6	0	1	50	20	12
Norfolk	7	3	2	2	40	30	8
Essex 2nd	7	2	3	2	31	39	7
Lincolnshire	7	2	2	3	33	37	6
Warwick 2nd	7	0	3	4	26	44	3
Leicestershire	7	0	3	4	25	45	3
Hertfordshire	7	0	3	4	22	48	3

## DIVISION 2B

Berkshire	6	5	1	0	47	13	11
Surrey 2nd	7	4	2	0	44	26	10
Kent 2nd	6	4	2	0	38	22	10
Buckingham 2nd	5	2	3	0	30	20	7
Sussex 1st	6	3	0	3	35	25	6
Surrey 3rd	6	2	0	4	20	40	4
Cornwall	7	1	0	6	20	50	2
Sussex 2nd	7	0	0	7	16	54	0

## DIVISION 3A

Huntingdon 1st	4	3	1	0	32	8	7
Huntingdon 2nd	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Bedfordshire 1st	3	2	1	0	21	9	5
Norfolk 2nd	3	2	1	0	17	13	5
Hertford 2nd	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Suffolk 2nd	4	0	1	3	16	24	1
Cambridgeshire	4	0	1	3	14	26	1
Bedfordshire 2nd	3	0	1	2	5	25	1

## DIVISION 3B

Cheshire 2nd	6	5	0	1	44	16	10
Cleveland	6	4	2	0	36	24	10
Northamptonshire	6	3	1	2	31	29	7
Lincolnshire 2nd	6	2	2	2	31	29	6
Durham	6	3	0	3	29	31	6
Nottingham 2nd	6	1	1	4	22	38	3
Northumberland	6	0	0	6	17	43	0

## DIVISION 3C

Gwent	6	5	1	0	47	13	11
Shropshire 1st	6	4	2	0	43	17	10
Powys	6	4	1	1	36	24	9
Devonshire 2nd	6	3	1	2	37	23	7
Devonshire 3rd	6	2	0	4	25	35	4
Somerset	4	1	1	2	21	19	3
Herefordshire	6	1	0	5	9	51	2
Shropshire 2nd	6	0	0	6	12	48	0

## DIVISION 3D

Essex 3rd	5	4	1	0	36	14	9
Gloucestershire	4	3	1	0	31	9	7
Oxfordshire	3	2	1	0	22	8	5
Wiltshire	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Kent 3rd	4	0	2	2	17	23	2
Sussex 3rd	4	1	0	3	11	39	2
Berkshire 2nd	5	0	0	5	8	42	0

## VETERANS

PREMIER	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Kent	3	3	0	20	7	6
Surrey	3	2	1	19	8	4
Cheshire	3	2	1	18	9	4
Dorset	3	2	1	15	12	4
Yorkshire	3	1	2	12	15	2
Norfolk	3	1	2	9	18	2
Leicestershire	3	1	2	7	20	2
Essex	3	0	3	8	19	0

## DIVISION 1A

Lancashire	4	3	1	29	7	6
Yorkshire 2nd	4	3	1	21	15	6
Hertfordshire	4	2	2	9	17	4
Cheshire 2nd	4	2	2	8	18	4
Northumberland	4	2	2	4	22	4
Oxfordshire	4	2	2	4	22	4
Essex 2nd	4	1	3	6	20	2
Worcestershire	4	1	3	3	23	2

## DIVISION 1B

Hampshire	3	3	0	18	9	6
Middlesex	3	2	1	16	11	4
Berkshire	3	2	1	15	12	4
Sussex	3	2	1	15	12	4
Avon	3	2	1	14	13	4
Kent 2nd	3	1	2	13	14	2
Essex 3rd	3	0	3	9	18	0
Devonshire	3	0	3	8	19	0

## DIVISION 2A

Durham	5	5	0	36	9	10
Leicestershire 2nd	5	4	1	30	15	8
Warwickshire 1st	5	4	1	26	19	8
Lancashire 2nd	5	2	3	22	23	4
Yorkshire 3rd	5	2	3	22	23	4
Nottinghamshire	5	2	3	16	29	4

Warwickshire 3rd	5	1	4	17	28	2
Northamptonshire	5	0	5	11	34	0

## DIVISION 2B

Bedfordshire	4	4	0	27	9	8
Hertfordshire 2nd	4	4	0	25	11	8
Norfolk 2nd	4	3	1	23	13	6
Hertfordshire 3rd	4	2	2	17	19	4
Kent 5th	4	2	2	15	21	4
Cambridgeshire	4	1	3	16	20	2
Buckingham 2nd	4	0	4	11	25	0
Middlesex 3rd	4	0	4	10	26	0

## DIVISION 2C

Surrey 2nd	6	6	0	47	7	12
Kent 4th	5	4	1	22	23	8
Buckinghamshire	5	2	3	22	23	4
Surrey 3rd	5	2	3	19	26	4
Middlesex 2nd	5	2	3	19	26	4
Essex 4th	5	2	3	18	27	4
Kent 3rd	3	1	2	15	12	2
Sussex 2	4	0	4	9	27	0

## DIVISION 2D

Wiltshire	5	5	0	27	18	10
Somerset	5	4	1	29	16	8
Warwick						

# PUT AN END TO PAIN

**CONTINUING Table Tennis News' features on health aspects, we started last month with an article on Magnetotherapy, this issue we take a look at possible relief for sufferers of chronic pain.**

**XPain 2000**

If your main opposition on court is chronic pain, you need to learn some new tactics to win the game - and that doesn't mean turning to painkillers.

Instead, there is a new device on

the market that offers an effective route to pain relief without the need for repeat prescriptions.

It's called the XPain 2000 and it is already proving successful in treating long term pain caused by a range of conditions, including old injuries, pulled muscles and sore limbs.

Even better - it won't keep you away from the table tennis court and you can use it anywhere - in your home or in the changing rooms.

The XPain 2000 has been developed by doctors specifically to help people

## LILLESHALL N.S.C. SUMMER CAMP

with Desmond Douglas, Nicola Deaton and other top coaches  
Monday 7th August - Friday 11th August 2000  
**Desmond Douglas**

Former World No.7, European No.4, Winner of European Top 12 Season 86/87 and eleven times English National Singles Champion. Des works with many of the top juniors at the National Academy in Nottingham and has more than 20 years of experience playing at top class international level. Des is considered by most as a table tennis legend of the modern era, ranking amongst the greats such as Grubba, Secretin, Waldner and Appelgren.

**Nicola Deaton**

Currently No.1 in England, Nicola is twice English National Singles Champion in 1997 and 1999, twice Ladies Doubles Champion in '96 and '99 and four times Mixed Doubles Champion in '91, '96, '98, '99. Nicola was the youngest ever Senior international, representing England at the age of 14, winning Triple Bronze at the 1991 Commonwealth Championships in Singles, Ladies Doubles and Mixed Doubles. She won European Team Bronze at Birmingham in 1994 and a Team Silver at the Commonwealths in '97.

**Michael Auchterlonie**

Scottish International and ETTA Advanced Coach. Michael finished 4th in last year's ETTA Mens Singles Grand Prix. He represented Scotland in last year's World Championships in Eindhoven and at the French Open in Lievin. Michael is currently working as a professional table tennis coach in the south and south west regions and this will be his fourth year of running summer camps.

**Brian Etherington**

Has been a coach to 4 Junior Internationals and 1 Senior International, Brian is an ETTA Advanced Coach and has a vast experience of running summer camps. He is currently working as a professional table tennis coach and is a well known face on the Junior and Senior National Tournament circuit.

**Lilleshall National Sports Centre**

Lilleshall NSC is situated in Shropshire and is surrounded by an extensive area of beautiful grounds. It is a perfect environment for running sports training camps, with facilities which cater for many sports including: tennis and squash courts, a fitness suite, several sports halls, an astroturf pitch, snooker room, sauna, seminar rooms. The centre has an excellent accommodation and catering facilities, providing single and twin rooms usually with en-suite facilities, and breakfast, lunch and dinner throughout the week. It has been the venue for the Football Association's National Training Academy for many years and at one time was home to stars like Andy Cole of Manchester United.

**Activities on the Camp**

Activities will include: demonstrations by top class internationals, robot work, multiball, video analysis, in depth technique work, psychology of the game, matchplay, final day tournament. Evening entertainment, including: tennis, football, sport and pop quizz night and team tournament.

**Cost £190pp non-resident (incl. Lunch and Dinner), £275pp residential**

For further information contact: Michael Auchterlonie, 27 Hurst Park Road, Twyford, Berkshire. RG10 0EZ. Telephone: 0118 9321017 or Mobile 0850 850 496

*There are a limited number of places available - BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT*



**XPain 2000: Lasting relief for chronic pain**

troubled by chronic pain. It works by transmitting sensation-free electronic impulses from a small unit via two electrodes to your spinal column. All you need to do is attach the two self-adhesive electrodes to your back and switch on the unit which can be clipped to your belt or waistband allowing you complete freedom of movement.

A treatment of just 20 minutes is often enough to give relief for up to several hours and, because there are no known side effects, you can use it as often as you need to.

The device is accredited by the Medical Devices Agency and is in use in pain management clinics and hospitals around the country.

It has no known side effects, does not interfere with other medicines and will not prevent you from feeling pain that needs immediate medical attention such as that caused by a new injury, appendicitis or dental abscess.

XPain costs £169 and can be ordered from the manufacturers, Advanced Pain Management Ltd (APM) by calling 01254 611 431.

*The above claims for XPain 2000 are those of the manufacturers, and not that of Table Tennis News who publishes this information in good faith.*

## RACKET COVERINGS

The next list of Authorised Racket Coverings - NO.21 - will be issued on the 1st April 2000. The list will contain coverings that are authorised from 1st July 2000 to 30th June 2001.

The present list (No.20) is valid until 30th June 2000.

## GLUE APPROVAL

The following glues have been approved by the ITTF: ANDRO Tensor Strong BANCO Tensor Strong BJORNSSON ROTATION Extreme "Sport Plus" SCHILDKROT Tensor Strong TIBHAR Individual

## ITTF TIES

The ITTF now has a supply of new ties in both blue and burgundy (red) featuring the ITTF logo centred in gold (as before) with shadowed logos throughout the rest of the tie. Price: \$5.00 Europe and £6.00 ROW.

# PLAYING AGAINST LONG PIMPLES Part 3

by Henry Buist

## Playing Against the Defender

Very few defensive players use pimples on both sides of the racket so you could play down the non pimped side. However, most players use the pimples on their weaker side so the other side will be much stronger and often contain a heavy chop and a good hit. Therefore, there is much to be said for playing down the pimples because you can determine what kind of spin you get back. You will have much more control over the game. So let us just consider the pimped side.

### Explore the Surface

During the knock up you are unlikely to get much chance to find out what the pimples do because most pimped players will hide them from you and play both forehands and backhands with their spinny side. Therefore you will have to assess their characteristics during the game.

During the early part of the game do not be too anxious to win points, rather try to get to grips with the surface and explore its characteristics. By not being too desperate to win points will keep you calm and enable you to think more clearly.

- **Push a number of balls and try to remember that they will contain mild topspin, so play them down.**

- **After a few pushes try a soft hit.**

Push the return, remembering there will now be a small amount of backspin on the ball. Then go back to the pushing sequence again, but remember his first push back will contain topspin

- **Try a harder hit, remembering that this time the return will contain a large amount of backspin so push it back.**

But remember his return from your push will contain topspin.

By playing in this way you will gain knowledge because you are trying to gain knowledge and not trying to win points. If you do lose points, don't worry, try and think why you lost them and take the appropriate action.

## Playing for Points

When playing against a defensive player you have got to win the points - he won't lose them. But it's got to be aggression with common sense and caution. The most common way for an attacking player to lose points against a long pimped player is illustrated in Rallies 2, 3 & 4 in Part 2 so look at them again.

- Play soft and gentle with a minimum amount of spin
- Hit slow topspin shots most of the time.

If he chops it (which is most likely) the ball will come back with just a small amount of backspin on it - just the amount you would expect from a normal bat with the same action.

- After a few soft hits pick out a ball to hit hard

If it comes back you could be back to Rally 2 again, so be wary and do not do more than one hard hit at a time

- After doing a hard hit do two pushes

Your first push will come back with topspin but, in the heat of the moment, you will expect backspin. You will be well fired up and there will not be sufficient time for you to cope with the sudden change of spin and you are likely to hit it off the end - see Rally 3. But if you do a second push you will have time to think more clearly and calm down ready to start the slow and easy process again. However, remember to keep your second push down otherwise you will be back to Rally 4.

When you have done this a few times you can then try to hit his push. The lack of chop on the ball and the fact that your opponent will be close in to the table gives you a good chance to win the point. If you hit it off the end don't panic, just remind yourself of the reasons.

- Don't be too anxious to win a point

That's not to say you cannot try and win some points quickly you can. It's just that if your third ball kill comes back don't try to turn it into a five ball kill, go back to slow and easy again - else you will be in Rally 2 again.

- If it starts going wrong during the game, and you can be sure it will from time to time, don't try to play harder and harder, which will be your natural instinct, go back to the exploration phase again

This should help calm you down and get you thinking more clearly. But be warned if your opponent has just won a few points and senses that you are on the run he may have a go himself and do a number of hits, especially if your pushes go a little high

- Spinny Serves - Don't use them

You will get your own spin back and it could get you in all sorts of trouble

- Third ball kill - be wary

Make sure you know what is coming back from your serve before trying them.

A chop serve will get you back a float

A topspin serve will get you back a chop



# ETTA NATIONAL RANKING LIST

## TOP OF THE TABLE

February 2000 - LIST 75

Further details please ring Doreen Nightingale 01424 722525

### Senior Men

Pos	Name	Rtg	Fgl
(1)	1 SYED, Matthew (SY.)	4586	
(2)	2 PERRY, Alex (DY.)	4549	
(3)	3 PREAM, Carl (IW.)	4516	
(4)	4 BAGGALEY, Andrew (BU.)	4374	
(5)	5 YOUNG, Terry (BK.)	4374	
(6)	6 COOKE, Alan (DY.)	4370	
(7)	7 HERBERT, Gareth (BK.)	4266	
(8)	8 BILLINGTON, Bradley (DY.)	4164	
(9)	9 ISHERWOOD, Michael (DY.)	4054	
(10)	10 BLAKE, Darren (SY.)	3978	
(11)	11 EDEN, Andrew (LA.)	3957	
(12)	12 RUSHTON, Andrew (LA.)	3950	
(13)	13 SHAW, Steven (ST.)	3781	
(14)	14 MASON, Nick (ST.)	3718	
(15)	15 SLADDEN, Chris (E.)	3659	
(16)	16 VENNEN, Ritchie (SX.)	3633	
(17)	17 SMITH, Eddie (ND.)	3617	
(18)	18 GOODALL, Justin (K.)	3531	
(19)	19 SATCHEL, Kevin (WI.)	3529.1	
(20)	20 CUTLER, Tom (MI.)	3501	
(21)	21 BARHAM, Dale (CA.)	3497	
(22)	22 MOORE, Adrian (K.)	3473	
(23)	23 ROGERS, Chris (LE.)	3463	
(24)	24 BARR, David (BK.)	3454	
(25)	25 SUGRUE, Jason (MI.)	3450	
(26)	26 ECKERSLEY, Nigel (SX.)	3436	
(27)	27 CHARLES, Neil (MI.)	3431	
(28)	28 JOHNS, Brian (CH.)	3417	
(29)	29 SLATER, Stephen (ST.)	3417	
(30)	30 SMITH, Mark Richard (Y.)	3382	
(31)	31 HILTON, John (CH.)	3361	
(32)	32 THOMPSON, Christian (K.)	3360**	
(33)	33 JAMES, Michael (Y.)	3343	
(34)	34 SAMUELS, Keith (BD.)	3315*	
(35)	35 JOHNSON, Ben (BK.)	3308**	
(36)	36 NEIL, Lee (NG.)	3304	
(37)	37 MARSHALL, Peter (Y.)	3295	
(38)	38 WHITING, Paul (DY.)	3288	
(39)	39 TAYLOR, John (HE.)	3287	
(40)	40 GANNON, David (LE.)	3256	
(41)	41 BROWN, Mark (K.)	3247	
(42)	42 CAMPBELL, Selwyn (ST.)	3233	
(43)	43 WURAOA, Abdul (SY.)	3231	
(44)	44 HORSFIELD, Andrew (YS) (Y.)	3229	
(45)	45 WILKINSON, Andrew (ND.)	3221	
(46)	46 CLAYTON, Tony (DO.)	3197*	
(47)	47 DOLDER, Kevin (LA.)	3176**	
(48)	48 ATKINSON, David (CA.)	3168	
(49)	49 SMITH, Richard A (Y.)	3144	
(50)	50 CHAN, Michael (SY.)	3144	
(51)	51 NEALE, Denis (Y.)	3140	
(52)	52 ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3133	
(53)	53 CATHRYN, Clive (E.)	3128	
(54)	54 PAPANTONIOU, Costas (MI.)	3118	
(55)	55 POUNTNEY, Robert (SY.)	3108	
(56)	56 HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3106	
(57)	57 CORBIN, Anthony (HE.)	3105	
(58)	58 CHAUSSÉ, Christophe (YS)	3104	
(59)	59 SHORT, Mark (YS.)	3102	
(60)	60 FESEATHSON, Daniel (MI.)	3062*	
(61)	61 MCKOY, Nick (MI.)	3060	
(62)	62 ROGERS, Martin (E.)	3032	
(63)	63 WIGMALL, Andy (LI.)	3020	
(64)	64 ADAMS, Martin (BK.)	3018	
(65)	65 ROCKALL, Simon (BU.)	3016.1	
(66)	66 TENDLER, Gary (E.)	3011	
(67)	67 KENNEDY, Joe (E.)	3008	
(68)	68 RAINFORD, Paul (K.)	3007	
(69)	69 GASCOYNE, Craig (NG.)	3006	
(70)	70 OWEN, Mark (HR.)	3004	
(71)	71 WELSMAN, Dave (NP.)	3002	
(72)	72 MCLEAN, Ian (NK.)	3000	
(73)	73 HARDING, David (SY.)	2999	
(74)	74 MUSK, Ian (BU.)	2997*	
(75)	75 ROOFE, Eddie (WI.)	2991	
(76)	76 GREEN, Mark (NG.)	2990	
(77)	77 PAYNE, Phil (SO.)	2990	
(78)	78 MAJITHIA, Mayur (SX.)	2982	
(79)	79 GRIFFIN, Darren (GS.)	2966**	
(80)	80 BARTRAM, Peter (SX.)	2962	
(81)	81 TURNER, Steven (LA.)	2957*	
(82)	82 WALKER, Andy (SX.)	2956	
(83)	83 WALSH, Jimmy (HE.)	2952	
(84)	84 BRIDGETT, Gregory (DY.)	2941	
(85)	85 DENNISON, John (E.)	2937	
(86)	86 DYSON, Tim (Y.)	2933	
(87)	87 LOGSDON, Philip (NK.)	2930	

(88)	88 WILLIAMS, Keith (LA.)	2925
(89)	89 BEERLING, Stephen (K.)	2921
(90)	90 SHORT, Mike (DY.)	2920
(91)	91 BARRY, Paul (SX.)	2917*
(92)	92 BECKLEY, Chris (SY.)	2916
(93)	93 LIGHTOWLER, Richard (Y.)	2914
(94)	94 SANDLEY, Graham (MI.)	2910.1*
(95)	95 ROMANO, Mark (K.)	2907
(96)	96 JAMES, Simon (Y.)	2906
(97)	97 BREWER, Chris (NK.)	2896
(98)	98 CARSLAKE, Colin (E.)	2888
(99)	99 READ, Mark (WA.)	2886
(100)	100 STEAD, Mike (Y.)	2882*

### Senior Women

Pos	Name	Rtg	Fgl
(1)	1 DEATON, Nicola (DY.)	3839	
(2)	2 HOLT, Andrea (LA.)	3783****	
(3)	3 LOWER, Helen (ST.)	3650	
(4)	4 RADFORD, Linda (E.)	3542	
(5)	5 OWOLABI, Kubrat (MI.)	3499**	
(6)	6 SCHWARTZ, Gemma (BK.)	3386**	
(7)	7 MARLING, Sally (Y.)	3271	
(8)	8 SMITH, Karen (LE.)	3268	
(9)	9 DURRANT, Louise (NG.)	3173	
(10)	10 RUOCCO, Shelley (E.)	3159	
(11)	11 YARDY, Hannah (E.)	3156	
(12)	12 LOCKWOOD, Karen (CH.)	3155**	
(13)	13 HARRIS, Jill (ST.)	3115	
(14)	14 WESTON, Sally (SX.)	3091	
(15)	15 SPARKES, Rebecca (SK.)	3080	
(16)	16 COLLIER, Susan (BK.)	3065	
(17)	17 PARKER, Katy (LA.)	3040	
(18)	18 KENDALL, Jade (CU.)	3031	
(19)	19 BONGERS, Jose (ST.)	3015	
(20)	20 BLOOR, Trudie (SP.)	3004	
(21)	21 DUNNING, Jan (ST.)	3003	
(22)	22 HURLING, Emma (HE.)	3003**	
(23)	23 COHEN, Michele (AV.)	2999	
(24)	24 RADFORD, Lesley (E.)	2999	
(25)	25 ROBERTS, Joanna (Y.)	2978	
(26)	26 NEWNS, Clare (CH.)	2965	
(27)	27 RAINTON, Rosemary (SX.)	2965	
(28)	28 SMITH, Angela (MI.)	2951	
(29)	29 BUOY, Brenda (LA.)	2951**	
(30)	30 BAWDEN, Natalie (E.)	2947	
(31)	31 RODEN, Sandra (WO.)	2939	
(32)	32 SMITH, Sarah (NG.)	2901	
(33)	33 FISHER, Rebecca (MI.)	2892	
(34)	34 SHIELDS, Helen (Y.)	2887	
(35)	35 PERRY, Penny (DY.)	2884	
(36)	36 WALKER, Georgina (NG.)	2877	
(37)	37 HOWARD, Alice (CH.)	2861	
(38)	38 JUDSON, Carol (Y.)	2842	
(39)	39 SMITH, Emma (Y.)	2826***	
(40)	40 MOORE, Claire (K.)	2822	
(41)	41 MARLING, Samantha (MI.)	2818	
(42)	42 RIDER, Sandra (Y.)	2809	
(43)	43 SIMPSON, Linda (Y.)	2807	
(44)	44 LOWE, Claire (SK.)	2799***	
(45)	45 SEAHOLME, Sarah (HE.)	2790	
(46)	46 SILBURN, Nicola (Y.)	2785**	
(47)	47 KEAST, Lesley (MI.)	2785.1	
(48)	48 AMOS, Helen (K.)	2781	
(49)	49 HALTBY, Margaret (NP.)	2776	
(50)	50 SCHOFIELD, Doreen (CH.)	2769	

### Junior Boys

Pos	Name	Rtg	Fgl
(1)	1 BAGGALEY, Andrew (BU.)	4374	
(2)	2 RUSHTON, Andrew (LA.)	3950	
(3)	3 BARHAM, Dale (CA.)	3497	
(4)	4 CHAN, Michael (SY.)	3144	
(5)	5 ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3133	
(6)	6 GASCOYNE, Craig (NG.)	3006	
(7)	7 BEERLING, Stephen (K.)	2921	
(8)	8 DODD, Justin (K.)	2878	
(9)	9 KENNY, Mathew (Y.)	2876	
(10)	10 JAMIESON, Christopher (E.)	2788	
(11)	11 YARDY, Timothy (E.)	2721	
(12)	12 PEARCE, Robin (DY.)	2652	
(13)	13 HALL, Dominic (K.)	2633	
(14)	14 CLEMINSOON, Peter (E.)	2562	
(15)	15 BARHAM, Lee (CA.)	2529	
(16)	16 HUGHES, Tom (NG.)	2510	
(17)	17 RULE, Martin (BU.)	2338	
(18)	18 BRYANT, Craig (DY.)	2324	
(19)	19 GIBBS, Stuart (OV.)	2298	
(20)	20 YARNALL, Tim (NP.)	2272	

(21)	21 WELSH, Daniel (DU.)	2243
(22)	22 HORNER, Daniel (CH.)	2210
(23)	23 BAKER, Gregory (ST.)	2123
(24)	24 DOMINGUEZ, Luis (MI.)	2107
(25)	25 DAVIES, Stephen (LI.)	2089
(26)	26 HANDY, Philip (DO.)	2076
(27)	27 HANSELL, Robert (BU.)	1994
(28)	28 POUNTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1967
(29)	29 BAILEY, Steven (CV.)	1953
(30)	30 WHITAKER, Jonathan (E.)	1918
(31)	31 RUDLAND, Simon (ST.)	1897
(32)	32 WALKER, Ross (K.)	1876
(33)	33 BLOOMFIELD, Gary (SK.)	1858
(34)	34 HOLTAM, Tim (MI.)	1790
(35)	35 DRINKHALL, Bryn (CV.)	1771
(36)	36 TAYLOR, Blake (MI.)	1738
(37)	37 COSTELLO, Paul (CV.)	1700
(38)	38 WOODHOUSE, Grant (CU.)	1653
(39)	39 HEPTINSTAL, Matthew (Y.)	1626
(40)	40 SPEED, Douglas (SY.)	1607
(41)	41 BROOKS, Warren (BU.)	1604
(42)	42 CARTWRIGHT, Neil (DO.)	1594
(43)	43 MASON, Wayne (NK.)	1566
(44)	44 NOUTCH, Simon (Y.)	1566
(45)	45 FENNEL, Aaron (E.)	1556
(46)	46 YARNALL, Greg (NP.)	1535
(47)	47 MANN, Alexander (SK.)	1524
(48)	48 MOORE, Paul (ST.)	1523**
(49)	49 LINDLEY, Iain (LA.)	1490
(50)	50 HOUGHTON, James (Y.)	1479

### Junior Girls

Pos	Name	Rtg	Fgl
(1)	1 DURRANT, Louise (NG.)	3173	
(2)	2 YARDY, Hannah (E.)	3156	
(3)	3 PARKER, Katy (LA.)	3040	
(4)	4 BAWDEN, Natalie (E.)	2947	
(5)	5 WALKER, Georgina (NG.)	2877	
(6)	6 STEWARD, Kate (SO.)	2719	
(7)	7 DEARING, Emily (Y.)	2698	
(8)	8 PARKER, Joanna (SY.)	2559	
(9)	9 POINTER, Lucy (IW.)	2533	
(10)	10 CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.)	2473	
(11)	11 HUGHES, Kate (WO.)	2436	
(12)	12 NARENDRA, Aparna (MI.)	2436	
(13)	13 GIBBS, Claire (SO.)	2387	
(14)	14 SORRENTINO, Annabelle (CH.)	2385	
(15)	15 FLINT, Deborah (SY.)	2363	
(16)	16 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)	2340	
(17)	17 BROWN, Grace (E.)	2330	
(18)	18 CALCUTT, Lisa (BK.)	2321	
(19)	19 DONNELLY, Janine (Y.)	2222	
(20)	20 WRIGHT, Amy (E.)	2212	
(21)	21 EMBLING, Abigail (E.)	2205	
(22)	22 SPARKES, Aimee (SK.)	2182	
(23)	23 MEREDITH, Samantha (WA.)	2161	
(24)	24 CHEESMAN, Shaun (LI.)	2149	
(25)	25 SPINK, Paisley (ST.)	2115	
(26)	26 TODD, Nicole (E.)	2086	
(27)	27 TONG, Rebecca (LA.)	2062	
(28)	28 BALDI, Andrea (YS) (Y.)	2004	
(29)	29 DONNELLY, Sarah (Y.)	1968	
(30)	30 VICKERS, Kate (DU.)	1961	
(31)	31 BARNARD, Kimberley (LA.)	1915	
(32)	32 INGHAM, Katy (CH.)	1876	
(33)	33 POWELL, Lynsey (CH.)	1791	
(34)	34 GOLDSTRAW, Claire (SP.)	1759	
(35)	35 WILSON, Naomi (SO.)	1751	
(36)	36 CRAVEN-GRIFFITHS, Kelly (LE.)	1728	
(37)	37 WILLIS, Rachel (WI.)	1687	
(38)	38 LANGFORD, Claire (CH.)	1631	
(39)	39 HORSTEAD, Julie (NK.)	1617	
(40)	40 CAIN, Joanne (LA.)	1571	
(41)	41 DAUNCEY, Stephanie (AV.)	1562	
(42)	42 HUMAN, Emma (BK.)	1548	
(43)	43 BELL, Amanda (Y.)	1548	
(44)	44 ROBERTS, Hannah (LA.)	1544	
(45)	45 STONE, Hannah (BK.)	1523	
(46)	46 HOWARD, Clara (CH.)	1513	
(47)	47 GRAHAM, Cherith (LA.)	1479	
(48)	48 GABEROW, Iva (MI.)	1453	
(49)	49 BARRETT, Michelle (DV.)	1450	
(50)	50 HEARD, Gemma (E.)	1396	

### Cadet Boys

Pos	Name	Rtg	Fgl
(1)	1 BARHAM, Dale (CA.)	3497	
(2)	2 CLEMINSOON, Peter (E.)	2562	
(3)	3 BRYANT, Craig (DY.)	2324	

(6)	4 YARNALL, Tim (NP.)	2272
(7)	5 HORNER, Daniel (CH.)	2210
(8)	6 BAKER, Gregory (ST.)	2123
(9)	7 DRINKHALL, Bryn (CV.)	1771
(10)	8 WOODHOUSE, Grant (CU.)	1653
(11)	9 BROOKS, Warren (BU.)	1604
(12)	10 CARTWRIGHT, Neil (DO.)	1594
(13)	11 NOUTCH, Simon (Y.)	1566
(14)	12 MOORE, Paul (SY.)	1523**
(15)	13 BRZEZNIAK, Kacper (Y.)	1467
(16)	14 MITCHELL, Thomas (BU.)	1425
(17)	15 EVANS, Bradley (BU.)	1409
(18)	16 BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA.)	1284
(19)	17 GREGORY, Christopher (SP.)	1271
(20)	18 MARPLES, Shaun (DY.)	1267
(21)	19 DENNY, Stephen (Y.)	1263
(22)	20 SHUTES, William (NK.)	1249
(23)	21 ROGERSON, Shaun (LI.)	1148
(24)	22 POWELL, Neil (CH.)	1122
(25)	23 FLETCHER, James (LA.)	1103*
(26)	24 BROAD, Lee (K.)	1054**
(27)	25 WOODHEAD, Andrew (Y.)	1004

### Cadet Girls

Pos	Name	Rtg	Fgl
(1)	1 WALKER, Georgina (NG.)	2877	
(2)	2 STEWARD, Kate (SO.)	2719	
(3)	3 PARKER, Joanna (SY.)	2559	
(4)	4 CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.)	2473	
(5)	5 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)	2340	
(6)	6 CALCUTT, Lisa (BK.)	2321	
(7)	7 EMBLING, Abigail (E.)	2205	
(8)	8 WILSON, Naomi (SO.)	1751	
(9)	9 CRAVEN-GRIFFITHS, Kelly (LE.)	1728	
(10)	10 LANGFORD, Claire (CH.)	1631	
(11)	11 BELL, Amanda (Y.)	1548	
(12)	12 STONE, Hannah (BK.)	1523	
(13)	13 HOWARD, Clara (CH.)	1513	
(14)	14 GRAHAM, Cherith (LA.)	1479	
(15)	15 HEARD, Gemma (E.)	1396	
(16)	16		

# NEW SPONSOR for NATIONAL TEAM COMPETITIONS

**THE English Table Tennis Association is pleased to announce that 'Weather or not', a promotional merchandising company, has agreed to sponsor the National Team Competitions for the next three years.**

The sponsorship, which starts with the 2000/2001 season, is worth £8,500 and covers all 10 National Team Competitions.

"This is a natural tie-up for 'Weather or not', who wish to offer their products and services to the leagues and clubs", said Mike Johns, National Events and Marketing

Manager, who negotiated the sponsorship on the ETTA's behalf.

'Weather or not', who already supply the ETTA with a number of items of merchandise, are one of the market leaders in their field, and will now become an ETTA Official Supplier.

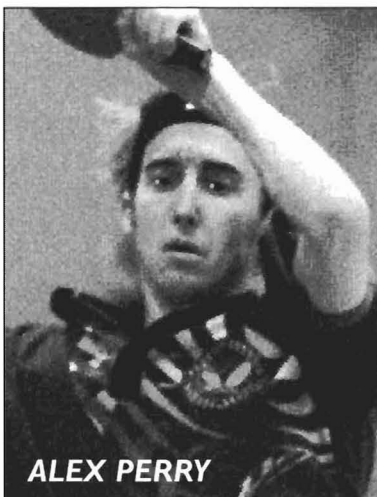
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ALEX PERRY

## NATIONAL SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Entry forms for this seasons National Senior Championships will be available from the ETTA Events Unit, at Hastings from 20th March 2000. The Championships will be held at Ponds Forge Leisure Centre, Sheffield on the 13th/ 14th May.



NICOLA DEATON

# SUVI'S SUCCESS



**Pictured left are the Premier Division winners Suvi Sportsweart, (left to right) Jan Dunning, Mayoress Mrs. Mary Howard, Mayor of Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley Councillor John King, Sarah Smith Jill Harris and Karen Smith. Pictured below are the winners of Division One and 'Team of the Weekend' Ulster Ladies (l to r) Jing Yi Gao, Mayor John King, Jennifer Thompson, Mayoress Mary Howard and Norah Tallon**

**A NEW CENTURY, a new venue (Kirkby Sports Centre) and a new name but for the third time in four seasons Karen Smith and Jill Harris are premier division champions of the Women's British League and recipients of "The Butterfly Bowl". Playing under the name of their sponsors, Suvi Sportsweart, a 4 sets to 2 final match victory over runners-up, Irish Ladies, saw them home, writes Brian Lamerton.**

Suvi's team was completed in the first half by Natalie Bawden and, at Kirkby over the week end of 29/30th January by Sarah Smith. Suvi's only hiccup came on the Sunday morning when the holders Jim's Gym made a last ditch effort to hold onto their title and came from love 2 down to defeat the eventual winners 4-2. Jim's Sally Weston won both of her sets in this match and retained a 100% record throughout the weekend, a feat matched only in the premier division by Sally Marling. Sally M. completed the double over Karen Smith; Karen's only other defeat throughout both week ends being at the hands of Jim's Jose Bongers.

Ulster Ladies ran away with division 1, the superiority of their No. 1. Player, Jing Yi Gao virtually giving them a 2 love lead in each match but she was well supported by Jennifer Thompson (who lost only to Shinewater British Queen's Rose Rainton) and Nora Tallon. - hopefully this team will be able to keep together to launch a challenge in the premier division next season. Bristol Dragons and Shinewater British Queen had a close run battle for the second promotion spot although both had somewhat disappointing weekends, Bristol collecting only five and Shinewater six points from the ten available; in the drawn match between the two Bristol's Hayley Thomas won twice. Most successful player away from the top three was Pinewood Fullertians Angela Smith who won 7 from 8, losing

to Rose Rainton but avoiding Jing Yi Gao.

The Division 2 title also left English shores being won by Scottish Ladies despite winning only one, but drawing three, of their five matches at Kirkby. With six draws and four 4-2 results this was the closest contested of all divisions, the Scots Gillian Edwards and Kim Chambers of Norwich Gels the most



successful of players with 8 wins out of 10 for each.

Sutton at Hone with a crushing six sets to love last match victory over runners-up East Midland Ladies kept the Division 3. title at home, Kate Wadling the star winning 9 from 10 for a team completed by Sandra Collins, Crystal Hall and Carol Homewood. Kate Wadling who was ever present lost only to Cippenham's Joanna Parker whilst second top individual in this division was Clare Atkinson of East Mids. winning 6 out of 8, losing to both Crystal Hall and Sandra Collins in the third game.

The event was well supported by The Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley; Chairman of Leisure Councillor Graham Morgan opened proceedings on Saturday morning and the Mayor, Councillor John King, watched by the Mayoress and four more councillors presided over the presentations. In addition to the divisional winners and runners-up presentations were made to 'Player of the Weekend', Rose Rainton, 'Team of the Weekend' Ulster Ladies, a first presentation of The Solihull Trophy (a crystal trophy given by the Metropolitan Borough of Solihull for presentation on an annual basis to a person player or official - who has enhanced the Women's British League by any combination of fairness, character, endeavour, skill and profile) to organiser Christine Lewis and one of a number of occasional awards engraved, "For Being Special", to umpire George Tyler.

## WOMENS BRITISH LEAGUE

### FINAL TABLES 1999/2000

PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Suvi Sportsweart I	10	7	2	1	42	18	16
Irish Ladies	10	6	2	2	38	22	14
Jim's Gym	10	6	1	3	36	24	13
Hull Sandhill	10	3	4	3	29	31	10
Grove I	10	1	2	7	19	41	4
Leeds Ladies	10	0	3	7	16	44	3
DIVISION ONE							
Ulster Ladies	10	9	1	0	47	13	19
Bristol Dragons	10	5	2	3	33	27	12
Shinewater British Queens	10	4	4	2	32	28	12
Pinewood Fullertians	10	3	4	3	30	30	10
Global Sports	10	1	2	7	20	40	4
Ellenborough	10	1	1	8	18	42	3
DIVISION TWO							
Scottish Ladies	10	6	3	1	39	21	15
Cippenham I	10	6	2	2	39	21	14
Norton Ladies	10	5	2	3	33	27	12
Norwich Gels I	10	3	4	3	28	32	10
Limberlost Pine	10	3	0	7	21	39	6
Suvi Sportsweart II	10	0	3	7	20	40	3
DIVISION THREE							
Sutton at Hone	10	8	1	1	44	16	17
East Midland Ladies	10	6	2	2	38	22	14
Grove II	10	2	3	5	36	24	12
Cippenham II	10	4	0	6	27	33	8
The LFC's	10	3	2	5	22	38	8
Norwich Gels II	10	0	1	9	13	47	1

# CALENDAR

## MARCH

- 4th County Championships Senior and Veterans (6)
- 4th Senior Top 12 (3 & 4)
- 4th-5th Derby Junior 4 Star
- 5th British League (11)
- 11th Humberside Cleefields Junior 2 Star
- 11th Willmot & Gainsford Cup R2, and Rose Bowl R2
- 12th Seasiders Graded Grand Prix 3 Star
- 12th Alex Brook Trophy Round 2
- 18th ESTTA National Team Finals
- 18th County Champions (7)
- 19th Junior Training day
- 19th British League (12)
- 25th-26th ETTA Grand Prix Major Kings Lynn
- 25th-26th VETTS Northern
- 25th-26th Junior Masters
- 26th Cippenham Cadet 3 Star

## APRIL

- 1st Brighton Newman Junior 2 Star
- 1st Wilmott Cup R3
- 1st Pat Archdale Cup R1
- 2nd Carter Cup R3
- 2nd Bromfield Trophy R3
- 2nd Gloucestershire Banded U12 2 Star
- 2nd Brighton Newman Senior 2 Star
- 8th Chesham School U12/U14 2 Star
- 8th Abbey Junior 2 Star
- 8th-9th Blackpool 4 Star Major Grand Prix Blackpool
- 8th-9th Cadet Masters
- 9th Leach & Hammersley Cup R3
- 16th British League (13)
- 20th-1st May European Championships Germany
- 22nd-23rd ETTA South West Grand Prix St.Austell
- 23rd-24th Essex 3 Star
- 29th Hollington Junior 1 Star
- 29th-30th VETTS Southern Masters
- 30th British League
- 30th Junior Training Day
- 30th Gloucester Banded 2 Star
- 30th Hollington Senior 1 Star

## MAY

- 6th Mid Yorks 2 Star
- 6th-7th National Team Finals
- 7th Seasiders Graded 3 Star
- 7th Idsall 2 Star
- 13th Cippenham U12 2 Star
- 13th Wellow Hse. Sch.U10/12/14 2 Star
- 13th-14th ETTA Senior National Championships Sheffield
- 13th-14th VETTS National Championships Thornbury
- 20th-22nd ETTA Junior National Championships Stratford-upon-Avon
- 22nd-27th World Veteran Championships Vancouver

## JUNE

- 3rd-4th ETTA U10/11/12 Championships
- 10th-11th ETTA Grand Prix Finals Bath

## JULY

- 1st ETTA Annual General Meeting
- 7th-16th European Youth Championships