

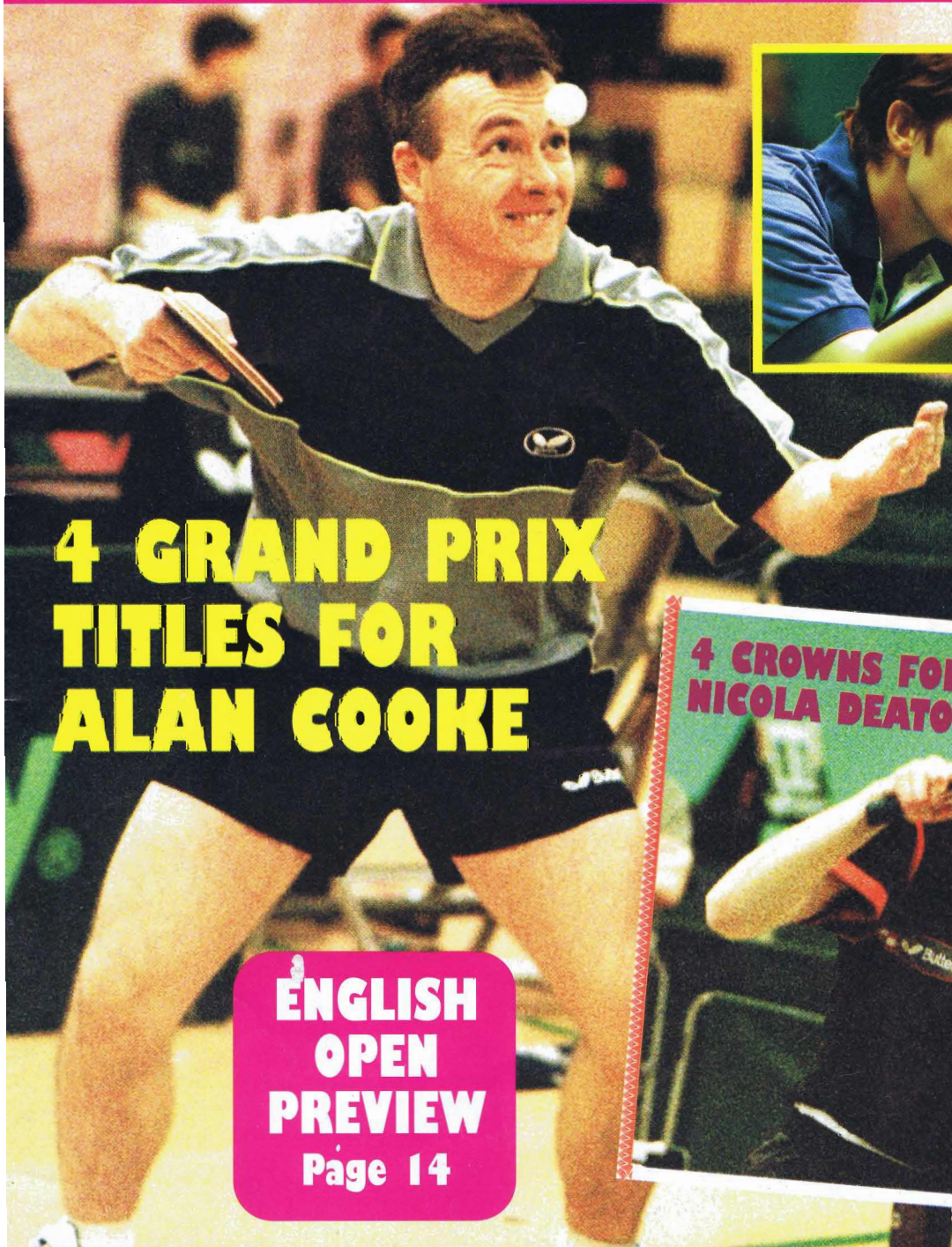
TABLE TENNIS



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No.275 JAN/FEB 2001

NEWS



**4 GRAND PRIX
TITLES FOR
ALAN COOKE**

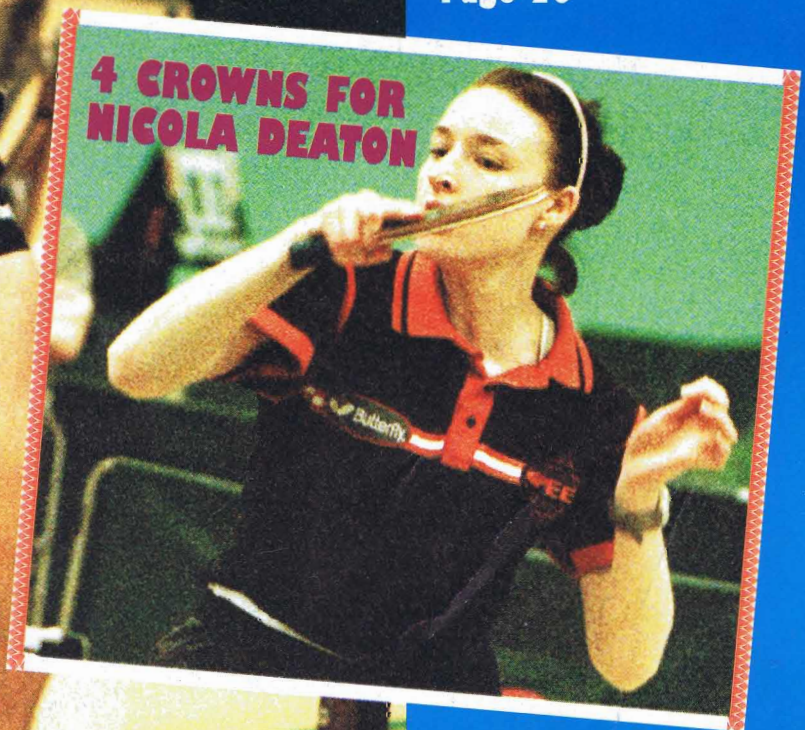
**ENGLISH
OPEN
PREVIEW**

Page 14



**HELEN LOWER
WINS THE
NEWCASTLE
OPEN**

Page 20



**4 CROWNS FOR
NICOLA DEATON**

STIGA

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TTN EXTRA
A 16 page supplement including 'County Notes', 'Results' and much more.

TABLE TENNIS NEWS & TTN EXTRA

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The ETTA would like to thank the following organisations for their support

COACHING at YEALMPSTONE

WOODY'S World

WELCOME to the first edition of Table Tennis News in the new year of 2001. The year that stages the Commonwealth Championships at New Delhi in India and the World Championships at Osaka, Japan.

This issue reports mostly on events of last December, but with an up to date flavour with a feature by Ken Muhr on some of those playing at the 64th English Open in Chatham, pages 14 to 16.

ETTA Chairman Alan Ransome's 'From the Chair' column informs the readers of an exciting new sponsorship opportunity, see page 5.

Alan Cooke and Nicola Deaton are featured on the front cover and elsewhere in the magazine, being the first pair this season to both win four Grand Prix titles.

We have for interest two interviews in this edition. On page 17, is the concluding interview by Brian Halliday with Terry Young, whilst on pages 28 and 29 Ken Muhr speaks to England's Senior National Coach Soren Ahlen, about the female players training at the National Training Centre in Nottingham.

Pages 18 and 19 reports on the success of the first ever Grand Prix to be held in Bourne-mouth.

This issue is published in the month of the 64th English Open at Buckmore Park, Chatham, Kent, an English Open that promises to be the biggest one yet, with top players from around the world doing battle for the trophies.

Hopefully I will see some old friends and meet some new faces.

John Wood

attack and defence.

Pride of Derbyshire Deaton then levelled the score for England with a superb all-out attacking victory over Israeli top-ranked performer Kravchenko.

With the match score at 2-2, this left Bawden with an unenviable task of playing the deciding match. She was beaten 19, 14.

• There is of course, no relegation this season or next. The performances of the nations under the new European League format will decide the line-up at Zagreb fifteen months from now at the 2002 European Championships.



Picture by kind permission of Plymouth Evening Herald

YEALMPSTONE FARM COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL is pictured above enjoying a coaching session with ETTA Level 4 Coach John Vincent,

This coaching is part of a Primary School Scheme to introduce table tennis to Plymouth children and has been funded to the tune of £13,740 by the Foundation of Sport and the Arts.

This after school club has 23 registered members and 13 of them have already passed their Dunlop Skills 'Rookie' Award.

Coaching by qualified ETTA Coaches is being done at seven

schools with the prospect of three other Primary Schools joining the scheme this year.

During the first three month period, October to December 2000, 764 children attended these coaching sessions, averaging 10.19 per session.

CLOSE TO GLORY ISRAEL only just beat England 3-2 in the European Womens League, at Nottingham on 12th December, writes John Woodford.

The two brightest spots for England was the overdue and so welcome return to the England squad of Nicola Deaton and the continuing improved

form of Katy Parker, who now seems to have risen above her other three rivals, and is certain to become a regular player for England at senior level.

Deaton should regain a place on the world ranking list after bringing down, in the penultimate game at Nottingham, the world No.74 Marina Kravchenko, 19, 16.

However, earlier in the first match of the evening, in front of a fairly



large audience, we saw Nicola lose -19, 17,-16.

Natalie Bawden battled hard in the second encounter, but she proved was no match for Kravchenko who won 8, 13.

England battled back with a great win by Parker 16, 16, over Yulia Daktiar. The Preston girl following in her mother's footsteps, engaged

TABLE TENNIS NEWS COPY DATES

ISSUE	COPY DATES
SEPTEMBER 2000	1st AUGUST 2000
OCTOBER 2000	1st SEPTEMBER 2000
NOVEMBER 2000	1st OCTOBER 2000
DECEMBER 2000	1st NOVEMBER 2000
JAN./FEB. 2001	1st JANUARY 2001
MARCH 2001	1st FEBRUARY 2001
APRIL 2001	1st MARCH 2001
MAY/JUNE 2001	1st MAY 2001

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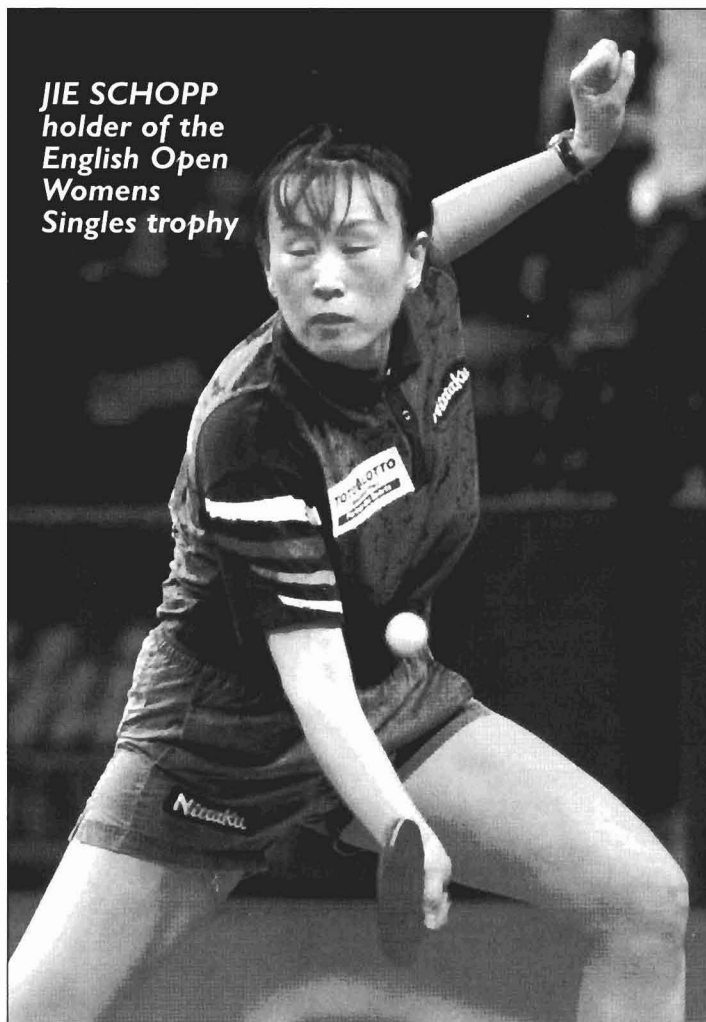
SPORTINGBET.CO.UK TO SPONSOR THE OPEN



Alan Ransome OBE,
Chairman of the ETTA

WITH an investment in table tennis of approximately £35,000, the internet bookmaker, **Sportingbet.co.uk** is the new title sponsor of the 64th English Open Championships which are to take place at Buckmore Park in Chatham, Kent from 6 – 11 February.

Sportingbet.co.uk are the owners of Sportingbet.com who hit the financial headlines recently with their listing on the AIM section of the London Stock Exchange. Sportingbet.com are based and licensed in Alderney in the Channel Islands, are regulated by British law but enjoy a betting tax free status. Sportingbet has over 50,000 registered customers in 103 countries around the world and employs 213 staff in its global operation. This is the second investment in sport for Sportingbet recently. They were the official shirt sponsor for the Embassy World Darts tournament that was televised on BBC last month, as well as being the



JIE SCHOPP
holder of the
English Open
Womens
Singles trophy

12 Champion, Werner Schlager of Austria, former World Doubles Champion, Jorg Roskopf of Germany and former European Champion Jean-Michel Saive of Belgium, plus the Swede, Peter Karlsson, who won the European title in April last year and was a member of the Swedish team that beat China in the final of the World Team championship in Kuala Lumpur twelve months ago.

China also provide the No 1 seed in the Women's Singles. Li Ju, the world No. 2 who won the silver medal in the singles and the gold in the doubles at the Sydney Olympics. For the first time for some years the European women have been making an impact against the Chinese and one of the best, Mihaela Steff from Romania, is likely to be the main threat to Li Ju at Buckmore Park. Having said that, the North Korean women's team are making one of their rare appearances in Europe at the Open. All four of their players have the surname Kim and any one might easily be the surprise package and make good progress in the Women's event.

From an English perspective, Matthew Syed is the top ranked player, supported by a squad of emerging players who will not have a better opportunity to impress on home tables. In particular it will be interesting to see how the younger element of Andrew Baggaley, Dale Barham and Katie Parker perform, as well as how Nicola Deaton fares with her first major international event for approximately two years.

Another breakthrough for table tennis, not just in England but also in Europe, is the agreement from Sky Sports to broadcast seven hours of live coverage on



RICHARD YULE

exclusive on line bookmaker for the darts competition.

The securing of the Sportingbet sponsorship has been achieved by tireless work by our Chief Executive, Richard Yule, and newly appointed Commercial Manager, Brian Spicer, who have brought the first major cash sponsor to English table tennis since the Woolwich Building society sponsorship of the junior programme some six years ago.

The 64th Open has attracted another quality large entry. When the Championship was played at Potters Leisure Centre in Great Yarmouth two years ago

the ETTA enjoyed up to that time the largest entry for any Pro Tour event and again the international table tennis community has responded with another bumper entry. The quality is also first class. The new ITTF Pro Tour Champion, Wang Liqin from China who recently was ranked No 1 in the world, will lead the Chinese squad in the event. Also included is the current holder of the English Open, Ma Wenge, who has reached the semi-final of both the Olympic Games and the World Championships.

From Europe the leading contenders are the Europe Top

Sunday, 11th February, finals day. Sky have been covering the ITTF Pro Tour extensively over the last couple of years with between 30 and 40 hours of coverage each year. However, this is the first time that they have taken any event live and never before can I recall a table tennis event outside China being given this amount of coverage on the finals day. The ETTA Marketing team are working hard to ensure that the setting is right for the event and with the intention of encouraging Sky and other broadcasters to invest more of their air time in covering table tennis.

The Pro Tour will also be widely reported on the internet. Updates will be posted regularly on the ETTA website, www.etta.co.uk and the ITTF have established their own Pro Tour website at www.ittfprotour.com where the ITTF's media chief, Peter Jensen, will be attending the event and providing updates as the matches are played on the site.

The staging of an event of this size with 38 national teams and 235 players is massive undertaking. I would like to thank the ITTF for their considerable encouragement and support and our own team of experienced volunteers from the

Marketing and Competitions Departments and our professional staff, for their dedication to producing a first class event.

MAJOR RULE CHANGES IN PROSPECT

TWO of the ITTF major committees, the Executive Committee and the Executive Board, met in Yokohama, Japan at the ITTF Pro Tour finals in January and agreed in principle to submit two major rule changes to the ITTF AGM which is due to take place at the forthcoming World Championships in Osaka, Japan at the end of April.

The first of the changes is to introduce a new scoring system for the sport based on 11 points up rather than 21. It is likely that the number of serves will also change to a change every two serves rather than 5 and that the amount of time permitted before the expedite rule being introduced will be significantly reduced. The ITTF have been carrying out a number of experiments and, in general, these tests have proved positive. They increase the number of crisis points in the game and are

and are regarded as being more interesting for spectators and television viewers.

The Butterfly Grand Prix tournaments in England has been using the 11 up system this season and, in general, the feed back from players and spectators has been positive. The scoring system within the Butterfly Grand Prix is the tennis tie break system whereby after the first serve each player has two services. The Grand Prix also tried the traditional five service option, however, this was found to be too long with the shorter game. Although there has been no decision taken, it is likely that best of three matches 21 up will become best of five 11 up and best of five matches 21 up will become best of 7 at 11 up.

Similar to the increase in the size of the ball from 38 to 40mm, there seems to be a general mood in favour of this change within the ITTF. Certainly it is being heavily promoted by the ITTF Executive Committee and its chances of being adopted in Osaka, at least at this stage, appear to be at least reasonable.

The second major change which is likely to be proposed is a major alteration to the service rule which at the national and international level will have a

major impact on the sport. The ITTF Executive Committee are concerned that the skills developed by many players at world level to disguise the service by hiding the ball from the opponent at the point of contact behind the free arm is giving the server too much advantage and effectively reducing the length and attractiveness of the rallies. The new rule would require the server to make the ball at the point of contact visible to both the opponent and the umpire. This would be achieved by requiring the server to strike the ball behind the end line of the table and in front of any part of the body. The effect of this is to make the hiding of the ball impossible and making redundant many of the forehand services which are used in the game today. It will be still possible to play a forehand service but spin and disguise imparted will be much more limited. One effect of this could be that the majority of the serves in future would be played with the backhand. Currently the support for this particularly amongst the better players is mixed, although it is likely that a large majority of the representatives of the national associations who vote at the AGM on this matter would prefer to see the sport improved as a spectacle. Therefore, I would not be surprised if this rule change was adopted in Osaka.

Both of the above changes are undoubtedly controversial and if any members have any strong views on the subject that they would like to have passed on to the ITTF, they may contact me either at my home address, "Conifers, Church Lane, Ormesby, Middlesbrough, TS7 9AU or by fax on 01642 300872 or via e-mail at ajransome@aol.com.

TABLE TENNIS on TV

Event	Date of Transmission	Time of Transmission	Channel
64th English Open	11.02.01	11.00 (7 hrs)	Sky Sports 3 Digital
64th English Open	13.02.01	11.30 (4 hrs)	Sky Sports 2 Digital
European Champions League 2000/01			
Frydek-Mistek (CZE) v Charleroi (BEL)	19.02.01	15.00	Eurosport
Pro Tour Finals	06.03.01	18.00	Sky Sports 3 Digital
Pro Tour Finals	06.03.01	24.00	Sky Sports 2 Digital
Pro Tour Finals	07.03.01	13.30	Sky Sports 2 Digital
European Champions League 2000/01			
Dusseldorf (GER) v Caen (FRA)	12.03.01	15.00	Eurosport
European Champions League 2000/01			
Ochsenhausen (GER) v Niederosterreich (AUG)	02.04.01	15.00	Eurosport
European Champions League 2000/01			
Granada(ESP) v Ochsenhausen(GER) or Niederosterreich(AUT) v Grenzau(GER)	09.04.01	15.00	Eurosport
European Champions League 2000/01			
Levallois(FRA) v Niederosterreich(AUG)	21.05.01	15.00	Eurosport
European Champions League 2000/01			
Final 1	18.06.01	15.00	Eurosport
European Champions League 2000/01			
Final 2	25.06.01	15.00	Eurosport

POSTBAG

NOSTALGIC

I NOTE that T.T. News is disposed to accept nostalgic comment - the article "25 years ago" in the November issue.

The Sussex Open features prominently and happened to be my last as organiser since officially taking over in 1957 - although I had a major involvement for several years previously. I have to express my thanks to Colin Hyland and Ron Spencer who have subsequently kept the Sussex Open going, and have coped so well with the many changes that have taken place in the organisation of our sport.

Also quoted is the European League match between England and Denmark, when I was one of the umpires on duty. It was my first big umpire occasion since gaining my I.U. status, and I was rather disappointed when the M.C. introduced me as a National Umpire! Anyway I controlled the top singles victories of Jill Hammersley and Nicky Jarvis. They did well in Sussex that year!

Happy memories!
Derek N. Tyler I.U. 74801.
Koksijde, Belgium.

EXPERIMENTAL

THE Butterfly Southern Open at Bournemouth was my first experience of playing where 11 up was operating. Although I had felt the Band I had applied to play in, would be too strong for me and that, probably, I would not progress through the group stage, the speed of my elimination came as an unpleasant shock to me.

Whenever I apply to play in tournaments, I have no illusions of winning anything. My sole aim is to play to the best of my ability (pretty limited) and to enjoy the experience. In so doing, I support the tournament financially, and contribute to the numbers attending. However, my feeling of discontent stemmed not from losing, but from the feeling that this mooted new system mocks the efforts of lower ability and journeyman players, and will leave them with the impression that their already short participation in the tournament is being further shortened - in this case by over 20%.

I came to this conclusion, from the fact that, under the '21 up' system,

my opponent had to score at least 42 points if he beat me 2 straight. With the '11 up' system he now only needs a minimum of 33 points to win 3 straight.

No doubt, this situation will suit the better players as their main concern is to progress as quickly as possible through to the rounds. However, for their vanquished opponent - the ever willing cannon fodder - the old saying about "not the winning, but the taking part" becomes more patronising words. The lesser players who happily accept their inevitable early exit from the tournaments may now start to question whether their entering is worth the time and expense. In my case, the Southern Open meant a total of 3 hours travel, £16 petrol plus the tournament fee. All this for less than 20 minutes playing time.

I really cannot believe that this radical proposed new system will benefit the sport. The psychological damage that will inevitably be done by a four or five point lead in a '11 up' match with a greatly reduced opportunity for the losing player to claw back the deficit, will mean heads dropping, and the normal determination of players to fight their way back in to the match being replaced with, in many cases, total surrender.

I do not believe more youngsters will be inclined towards taking up the sport, merely by compressing the time honoured present scoring system. Equally so, exciting table tennis is not necessarily generated by reducing the number of points needed to win. Indeed, it could be argued that a four or five points lead will greatly reduce the excitement for viewers or spectators.

Perhaps a compromise would be acceptable to both traditionalists and modernists viewpoints. Why not play '15 up', best of three (best of five for Grand Prix tournaments)? This would help to resolve the contentious issue of late night finishes of local league matches, and thereby encouraging new blood to take up the sport and, perhaps, enabling previous retirees to return to this great game of ours.

Mike Richardson
Bognor Regis, West Sussex.

Editor's Note: I agree that the experimental scoring system is not to everyone's taste, but something has

continued on page 8

COURTSIDE

by John Woodford

- **RIDERS** on the Pessimistic Bandwagon will always be interested in surveys on how many nations pay their senior professionals salaries as England did at one time. The answer is that very few pay more than expenses to their players who often have other valuable benefits, including medical and training facilities.

Scottish players squad who wish to be considered for the World Championships in Osaka must each find £1,200 - personal sponsorship must be the answer.

- **JUST** through the Eurotunnel things are so different. The French can afford to pay, mainly through club sponsors, a dozen of the top English players to play in their national league; Germany and Belgium likewise. Even Leeroy Pye (Norwich) No.27 on the England list plays for a French club.

- **TAKE** a look at soccer, comparing England with France and Germany. In the English football leagues there are fewer than 1000 UEFA qualified coaches, compared with 53,000 in Germany and 17,000 in France, who we are told, also have 200 table tennis coaches, mainly full time.

- **ANDREA HOLT** entered the Merseyside Grand Prix but was unable to play owing to her club team in France getting through to a cup final, on a date that clashed with the Liverpool tournament.

- **CHEN XINHUA** now has his two boys and his daughter living with him in China. Apparently, the boys prefer to live in China than be here at Maltby, Yorkshire.

- **MANCHESTER 2002** Commonwealth Games - table tennis in with the rest for the first time; this should be the biggest boost for table tennis in Britain since the World Championships in Manchester. The England selection policy will be to pick the strongest possible team. I would imagine that most of our top men will be available led by Matthew Syed. Now the England Womens squad will be sharpened by the inclusion of Nicola Deaton with Katy Parker looking a better prospect every day.

- **TONY BLAIR** will soon be deciding, we hope, on the date of the General Election. The most popular guess at the moment of writing is early May, which would clash with the World Championships in Osaka. If the Prime Minister chooses Thursday May 2nd, then the chances of Matthew Syed playing in Osaka are almost nil as he will be busy door-stepping for Labour at Wokingham.

- **MIKE JOHNS** is off to join the cricketing fraternity. We all wish him well with his move (with a well-known partner) back to his home county of Cheshire and a new career organising cricket tours all over the country, including Torquay and Potters. Cricketers are renowned for slaking their thirst with pints galore, so some serious drinking is on the cards - the taxi trade could do well when the bars close and the cricketers return to their hotels.

- **SOME** of the players amongst the top ten on the mens ranking list are not trying hard enough to fit in some of the English Grand Prix tournaments. Perhaps they do not need the prize money. Matthew Syed's commitments including the Japanese new circuit are huge. Alex Perry is studying hard with exams, but the other half dozen need to try harder to get to the 2001 Grand Prix venues.

- **SUPPORT** from the rank-and-file for the Grand Prix tournaments is still very good, but we do need two or three top men players at each venue. The women are responding well.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR continued

to be done to improve the image of table tennis, to make it more exciting for all concerned. With regard to the late night finishes of local league matches, this is where '11 up' will be most beneficial to youngsters entering the senior level, because parents of school children need matches to end at 10pm, so that they can get to bed early. The local leagues system has no future without school children.

Incidentally, a schoolboy playing in the Woolwich National Junior League commented, "When are the grown-ups going to play with our scoring system of 11 up."

Most players on the Grand Prix circuit now like the '11 up' system of scoring, but with the reservation that the serving should be tie-break, with 2 serves alternating, because with 5 serves the advantage is far too much in favour of the big spinny server.

Alan Cooke, who is well featured in this issue, has reached 6 Grand Prix finals, won 4 with tie break serving, and lost the two with 5 serves each.

CHANGING BATS

YOUR contributor Rowden Fullen. a

former Yorkshire coach ruled that in table tennis matches not subject to ITTF regulations changing bats during games is permissible provided that local league rules do not decree otherwise (TTN Dec).

My rule book, dated 1995-97, is in two sections - the first headed "The laws of table tennis", the second covering "Regulations for international competitions". One of the stated laws (2.12.2) is that "play shall be continuous throughout a match except that any player shall be entitled to claim an interval of not more than two minutes between successive games".

If this rule still applies it effectively bars changing bats during a game, otherwise play cannot be continuous - especially if an opponent exercises his right to inspect the changed equipment and have a brief knock-out to familiarise himself with it.

Changing bats on a whim, or as a deliberate tactic, might be deemed unfair, though under the main laws of the game (as stated in my rule book) no provision is made for dealing with misconduct or unsporting behaviour.

Incidentally, the threatened 'time

out' rule seems a backward step. Is it a ruse to prolong the new first-to-eleven mini games? Or is it seen as a less blatant alternative to the old ploy of accidentally treading on the hall to give a struggling player time to catch his breath and gather his scattered wits?

One of the drawbacks of modern table tennis is that rallies are too short, mainly because of the dominance of service. To make games worth watching, why not limit the server to two serves - one to the forehand court, one to the backhand - before changing service? Consistent stroke play would then become a necessity.

John Crossman,
Peterborough

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

I READ with interest the article in the November issue of the Table Tennis News re the Junior Grand Prix.

Firstly, I must state that, I am pleased that there is more encouragement for the young players to compete in the tournament

circuit. However, I am not happy with the way the 4 Star Tournaments are portrayed.

Four of the tournaments are shown in Bold print, however, the Stockton 4 Star is listed in much lighter print. This I feel, makes our tournament look sub standard to the others. In no way is this the case. We have been running this tournament for many, many years. Prior to its present title, it was known as the 'Cleveland Junior'

In our venue at Thornaby Pavilion we are pleased to have one of, if not the best hall in the country (I may be biased). We have an organisation second to none and have a weekend of Table Tennis where everybody is welcome.

Stockton Borough Council is happy to give us the use of this magnificent venue free of charge for 2.5 days during which time we receive as much help as required from the staff of the Pavilion

When we were advised by Jarvis Sports of their intention to sponsor the Junior Grand Prix series and asked if we wanted to be included, we had no hesitation in taking part. We did at that time advise them that there was no likelihood that we would be involved in any sponsorship from Jarvis Sports. Our sponsors are Stockton Borough Council. We hope that they will continue with their support in the future because without their support, we would find it difficult if not impossible to continue.

As some may think, we have no objection to Jarvis Sports. Nicky Jarvis is in fact, one of our local players who has reached the top in our sport. We wish his organisation every success with this venture. We continue to discuss with him, ways in which to make the Stockton 4 Star, an even better event

I would ask you therefore to make the printing for each event equal and then if necessary put an * next to the Jarvis Sports sponsored events. I can then rest and hope Stockton council do not read Table Tennis news in its present form.

Colin Davison,
Cleveland

Editor's Note: Colin, the article on the Junior Grand Prix in the November 2000 issue of Table Tennis News, was to introduce this new junior series and inform our readers that this event was sponsored by Jarvis Sports, so the events printed in bold was purely a typographical decision, and was in no way intended to degrade the Stockton Junior 4 Star Open, which is and has always been an excellent first class tournament.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR continued

continued from page 8

PRIMARY POTENTIAL

I WROTE to TTN a couple of issues ago bemoaning the lack of emphasis on the competition scene for young juniors - Under 12's in particular. No response!

This is not the case in the small town of Bridgwater in Somerset. Clubs have been established in 12 schools in the area - a lot of them Primary.

In the local league we have different playing formats in each division, with the bottom one accommodating the youngest players, and adults as player/secretaries. The league size has increased from 11 teams a few seasons ago to 26 in the current season.

I do understand that official development thrust is towards big Premier Clubs and our local club, Chiltern, is one.

However, may I make the point that unless we bring these young players into the game and provide competition for them table tennis in the U.K. is bound to struggle. Masses of young players means masses of

potential and we must surely get them in while at Primary School, before P.E. staff at Senior Schools indoctrinate them for their own favoured sports.

The hours and hours of practise sessions proposed in the Premier Club Scheme, is just not practicable without competition incentives. We lack the incentive of paddy fields or salt mines options to a serious table tennis career in this country. We really must do more at younger ages rather than relying on 'hot house' young players produced by keen table tennis parents.

Please write to Table Tennis News to add to this or disagree. Les Bridges, Bridgwater, Somerset

THE 40mm BALL

YOU may recall I wrote you earlier saying I wasn't in favour of the larger ball, because at the level I play at the rallies are long enough already and I didn't want to be finishing after Mid-Night.

So having just completed the first half of the Season playing with new larger ball, you may be interested in my reactions:

Facts - It's larger, heavier and more

visible.

Impressions - It's slower, bounces slightly higher, carries more spin over the table, less spin away from the table and produces the odd funny bounce, with some makes playing better than others.

Conclusions - Makes little difference either to enjoyment or the length of the game. But definitely not the antidote to 'gluing-up' and 'spin services' I had hoped for. Being likely in my opinion to make the game less televisable, as it makes spectacular long range backspin and topspin defensive play that much more difficult/less likely because the larger ball doesn't carry as well as the smaller one.

Michael Bunting
Croydon, Surrey

COMPLAINT

I WISH to register a complaint regarding the delivery of the December 2000 magazine.

Mine was delivered yesterday (9th January 2001). This is not at all satisfactory. On reading it I find reference to events at the beginning of January which have now passed (eg: Middlesex junior closed held last weekend) which I would have liked

to have gone to.

I debated long and hard about whether to renew my subscription. In the end I did so. It looks like a wrong decision if the delivery continues to be so late.

When is the next issue due?
Alan Harwood

Editor's Note: Although the above letter from Alan Harwood arrived after the deadline for publication, I have decided to include it in this issue's Postbag, because of it's subject matter.

With regard to the late delivery of TTN, I apologise Alan but this was beyond the control of the Editorial Board. I am also sorry that you missed the Middlesex Junior Closed, whose dates were published in Middlesex's 'County Notes', which is surely information that is readily available, well in advance, possibly in a Middlesex publication. The national tournament dates can, apart from in TTN, be found in the official ETTA Diary. I am very pleased that you have renewed your subscription to TTN. Publication of the January /February issue is due out in early February. But the Editorial Board cannot be blamed for the vagaries of the postal system.



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BRITISH LEAGUE

100% PROGRESS

THE defending British League champions, London Progress, are now firm favourites to retain their title having completed the first half of the season with a 100% record, writes Aubrey Drapkin.

After thrashing Barnet 13-1 they visited their nearest challengers Darlington. Unbeaten performances by Andrew Eden and Cris Sladden ensured their success and further sets by Marco Essomba (2) and the doubles pairing of Sladden and Jason Sugrue made the final score 9-5 and gave the London club a four point lead at the top of the table. John Hilton did best for the North Eastern side with victories over Essomba and Sugrue. Darlington had also lost their previous match when a under strength team went down 5-9 at Horsham. Lawrence Trumpauskas was unbeaten for Horsham but was unable to sustain that form in the next match when a weekend Horsham side were held to a 7-7 draw at Norwich. Leeroy Pye and Jon Cockburn won two each for the home side with Phil Logsdon and Ian McLean taking one each and combining to win their doubles match. Horsham were grateful to Dominic Hall for salvaging a point when he beat Leeroy Pye who has previously accounted for both Trumpauskas and Ritchie Venner. With having to settle for only one point Horsham missed the opportunity to move into second place in the table but

they are now level on points with Darlington.

JAGS have moved away from the foot of the table with successive victories over Norwich and Byng Hall Farningham Print. Tom Cutler, Abdul Wuraola, and Clive Carthy all got two each against both Norwich and the Tunbridge Wells side. Farhat Rasul also got two against Byng Hall for whom Andy Cunningham was unbeaten.

OLOP are now in a comfortable mid table spot after an 11-3 victory over Byng Hall, who look as though they will struggle to avoid relegation, and an 8-6 win over Barnet. Justin Goodall and Dave Barr won all of their singles and combined to win their doubles match against Byng Hall and both players shared the player of the match award.

The rest of the divisions have now completed the second of four weekends of play and four teams boast a 100% record - Wellow House in division 1 North, Batts Team Peniel (1 South) Potteries (3 North) and KCD Stiga (3 South).

London Progress seconds have dropped only one point in division two South and their third team are in a similar position in division 3 South and West.

The closest fought division is two North where Darlington thirds, Coventry Phoenix and Ormesby all have ten points at the half way stage.

BRITISH LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
London Progress	7	7	-	-	78	20	14
Darlington	7	5	-	2	61	37	10
Horsham	7	4	2	1	58	40	10
OLOP	7	4	-	3	50	48	8
JAGS	7	2	1	4	43	55	5
Barnet	7	2	1	4	41	57	5
Byng Hall	7	1	-	6	35	63	2
Norwich	7	-	2	5	26	72	2
DIVISION ONE NORTH							
Wellow House School	6	6	-	-	40	8	12
Seasiders (Blackpool)	6	4	1	1	28	20	9
Kingshurst Briabr	6	3	-	3	27	21	6
Grantham IDS	6	3	-	3	27	21	6
Darlington II	6	2	1	3	17	31	5
Derwent	6	2	-	4	18	30	4
Uxbridge (Burton)	6	-	-	6	11	37	-
DIVISION ONE SOUTH							
Batts Team Peniel	7	7	-	-	42	14	14
DML Plymouth	7	5	1	1	36	20	11
Barnet II	7	4	1	2	34	22	9
Horsham II	7	3	2	2	30	26	8
Cippenham	7	2	2	3	29	27	6
PSP Moonrakers	7	1	2	4	20	36	4
Limberlost Pine Poole	7	1	-	6	17	39	2
Ellenborough	7	1	-	2	16	40	2
DIVISION TWO NORTH							
Darlington III	7	5	-	2	38	18	10
Coventry Phoenix	7	5	-	2	36	20	10
Ormesby	7	5	-	2	33	23	10
Dewsbury	7	3	1	3	23	31	7
Derwent II	7	3	-	4	27	29	6
Wellow House School II	7	2	1	4	16	38	5
Halton Croda	7	2	-	5	25	31	4
City of Manchester	7	2	-	5	24	32	4
DIVISION TWO SOUTH							
London Progress II	7	6	1	-	40	16	13
Tregorrick Palace	7	4	1	2	32	24	9
Byng Hall F.P II	7	3	2	2	33	23	8
Horsham III	7	2	3	2	28	28	7
Barnet III	7	2	3	2	27	29	7
Aylesbury League	7	2	2	3	29	27	6
De Vere Sudbury Netts	7	2	-	5	20	36	4
Fellows Cranleigh	7	1	-	6	15	41	2
DIVISION THREE SOUTH & WEST							
London Progress III	5	4	1	-	28	12	9
Ashford	5	3	2	-	29	11	8
PSP Moonrakers II	5	2	1	2	21	19	5
Birmingham Uni	5	2	-	3	20	20	4
OLOP II	5	2	-	3	17	23	4
KCD Stiga II	5	-	-	5	5	35	-
DIVISION THREE NORTH							
Potteries	7	7	-	-	48	8	14
Barrow	7	5	1	1	34	22	11
Darlington IV	7	4	1	2	33	23	9
Wellow House School III	7	3	1	3	27	29	7
Derwent III	7	1	3	3	26	30	5
Seasiders (Blackpool) II	7	2	1	4	24	32	5
Dewsbury II	7	1	1	5	16	40	3
Kingshurst Briabr II	7	-	2	5	16	40	2
DIVISION THREE SOUTH							
KCD Stiga	6	6	-	-	37	11	12
Middlesex Uni. P IV	6	3	2	1	31	17	8
Britannia HSP Ipswich	6	3	2	1	27	21	8
Batts Team Peniel II	6	2	1	3	25	23	5
Byng Hall F.P II	6	2	1	3	23	25	5
Hastings	6	1	2	3	21	27	4
De Vere Sudbury Netts	6	-	-	6	4	44	-

The British League Official Ball

Schildkröt

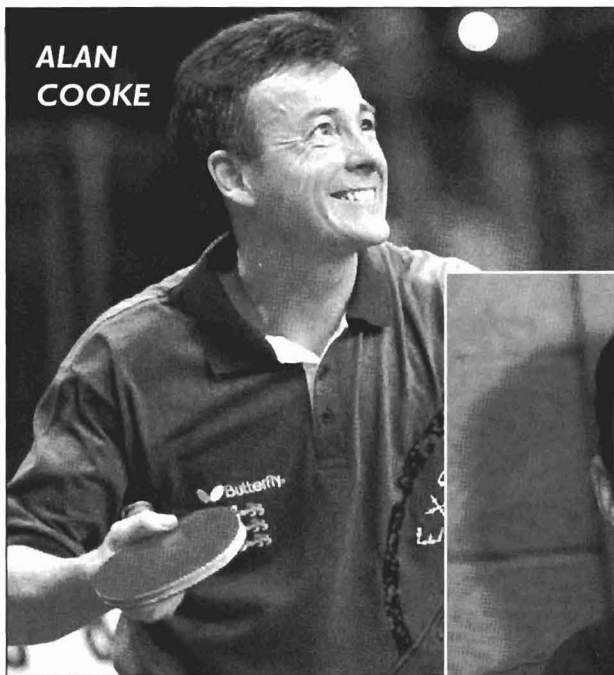
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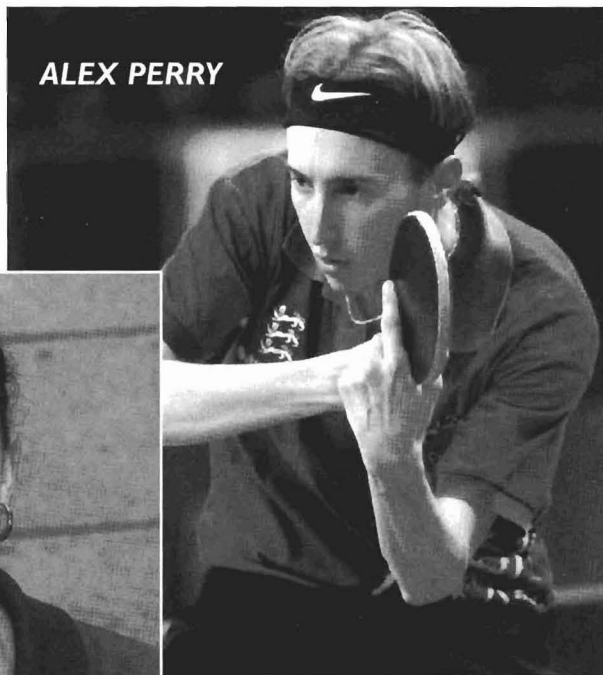
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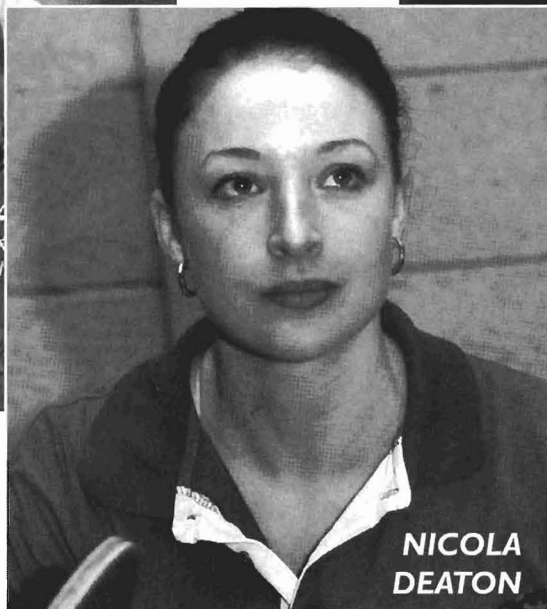
COOKE-DEATON DUO SCORE AGAIN



ALAN
COOKE



ALEX PERRY



NICOLA
DEATON

AT around 9.30 pm on the final day, Alan Cooke and Nicola Deaton completed the now familiar Derbyshire double winning from their top-seeded positions the two singles events, writes John Woodford on Merseyside.

Winning his fourth Grand Prix event of the season, the popular England coach put on another batch of master-class lessons for his younger opponents.

Cooke had to dispose of a couple of young pretenders who seem to be present and making waves at all the tournaments - Abdul Wuraola and Marco Essomba. But Cooke's top-spin proved to much for both of them - Abdul went down 2, 3, 5 and

Marco bowed out 7, 3, 4 in the Semi-finals.

In the bottom half, Alex Perry, still in the throes of his studies (like Nicola Deaton), had a fierce battle before he overcame Fabio Mantegazza in five - then he had a bye to the final as Laurence Trumpauskas astounded the organisers by pulling out to catch the last train to London!

"I will drive up here next time" said Laurence as he dashed for the exit door. It is 215 miles from Liverpool to London - trusting Virgin trains to deliver on time would be hazardous even if the trains were not in chaos.

Perry, the 1999 England champion seemed to fancy his chances in the final. He lost the first 8, but then won the second 9, before Cooke managed to close the door with the extra counter-hits. Perry was beaten 6 and 10 just when it looked as though a fifth game was on.

How long can Cooke maintain this form? He will carry for a couple of

seasons at least he told me after his victory.

We were all looking forward to a

grand final round in the Womens Singles - Deaton v Helen Lower, but the Wolverhampton lady was unable to oblige - she pulled out the plug with a wrist injury, leaving Kubrat Owolabi who eliminated Georgina Walker and Rebecca Sparkes (5, 5, 2) to reach the final.

Nicola was more assured than she was in the Newcastle final where she

MERSEYSIDE OPEN RESULTS

6th/7th January 2001 - Newcastle

Mens Singles: Alan Cooke (Dy) bt Alex Perry (Dv) 8, -9, 6, 10.

Semi Finals: Alan Cooke (Dy) bt Marco Essomba (Sy) 7, 3, 4;

Alex Perry (Dv) w/o Laurence Trumpauskas w/o.

Womens Singles: Nicola Deaton (Dy) bt Kubrat Owolabi (Mi) 8, 12, 4.

Semi Finals: Nicola Deaton (Dy) bt Katy Parker (La) 10, 4, 7;

Kubrat Owolabi (Mi) v Becky Sparkes (Sk) 5, 5, 2.

Band 1 Men: Ryan Owen (Wal) bt Steve Hall (Wal) 10, 7, -8, 9.

Band 2 Men: Paul Cicchelli (Ca) bt Niall Cameron (Sco) 11, -9, 6, -8, 9.

Band 3 Men: Daniel Welsh (Du) bt Zeke Dixon (Cu) -5, -7, 9, 16, 9.

Band 4 Men: Blake Taylor (Bu) bt Shaun Marples (Dy) 4, 7, -8, 7.

Band 5 Men: Paul Jablon (Mi) bt Lee Davies (Wal) -6, 4, 8, 1.

Band 6 Men: Paul Jablon (Mi) bt Andy Packford (Ox) 7, 5, 6.

Band 1 Women: Clare Newns (Ch) bt Judy Morley (Gs) 5, 7, 9.

Band 2 Women: Naomi Owen (Wal) bt Terri-Anne Nolan (Ch) 6, 7, -9, 9.

Band 3 Women: Lynsey Powell (Ch) bt Laura Hall (Wal) 10, 8, -9, -10, 2.

Band 4 Women: Julie Richley (Ch) bt Deborah Parker (Dv) Round-Robin.

U21 Men: Adam Robertson (Wal) bt Marco Essomba (Sy) 2, 8, 8.

U21 Women: Georgina Walker (Ng) bt Lucy Perry (Dv) 7, 9, 2.

Veteran Men: Keith Williams (La) bt Tony Gelder (Dy) 9, 8, 3.

Veteran Women: Jan Dunning (Wo) bt Brenda Buoey (La) 4, 8, -9, 7.

Mens Doubles: Alex Perry (Dv)/Alan Cooke (Dy) bt

Adam Robertson (Wal)/Marco Essomba (Sy) 6, 7, -9, -13, 6.

Womens Doubles: Nicola Deaton (Dy)/Kubrat Owolabi (Mi) bt

Katy Parker (La)/Georgina Walker (Ng) 6, 7, 4.



lost to Lower, her all-out attack proved decisive and was accurate enough to win 8, 12, 4 after surviving anxious moments in the middle of the match.

The four singles finalists combined to win both the doubles events. One of the most enthralling matches of the day was the Mens Doubles final when Adam Robertson and Marco Essomba almost took Cooke and Perry all the way. The senior pair triumphed 6, 7, -9, -13, 6.

Deaton and Owolabi did not have such a problem in their Womens Doubles final, they swept past Katy Parker and Georgina Walker 6, 7, 4. (in the quarters, Katy Parker failed to reach her best form all day, but she beat Karen Lockwood (Cheshire) 6, 11, 6, after almost losing to Sandra Roden. In the semi-finals, Deaton's power managed to cope with both the top-spin and the back-spin from Parker to win 10, 4, 7.

GLUE PROBLEMS

The tournament would have finished more than hour earlier but for problems with players gluing-up. It was too cold outside for the glue and almost too cold inside - lawn tennis indoor centres are not into the business of high temperatures.

Ken Armon MBE who did a great job on the public address system hurrying the 222 players onto the 24

tables, said "Something will have to be done about limiting gluing-up time."

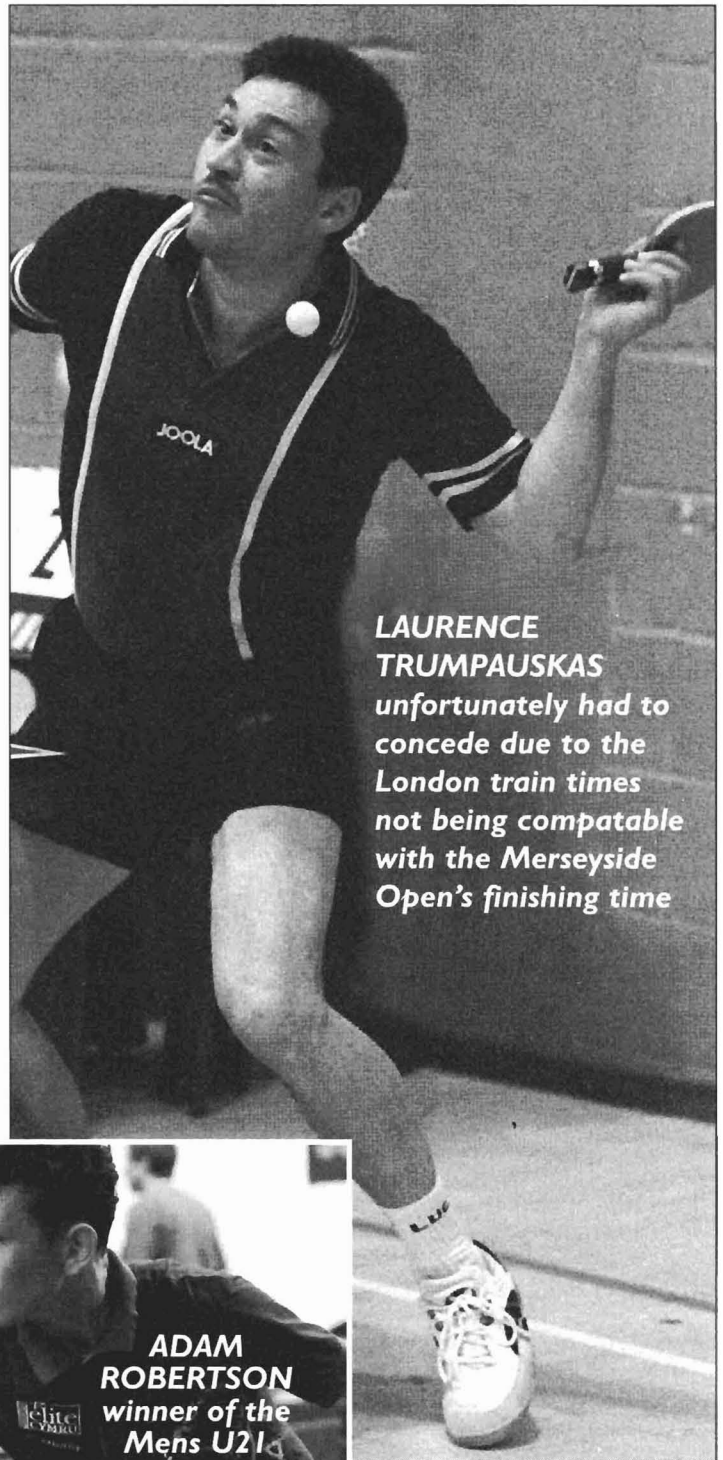
I have not heard of anyone with any ideas of how to overcome this problem. There is no way that glue is going to be banned, so it looks as though players are going to be scratched when organisers are pushing the programme through, especially on a late finish.

England No.17 organiser Keith Williams won the Veteran Mens Singles in the absence of top seed John Hilton who failed to show. Williams defeated Durham hero Tony Gelder in the final 9, 8, 3. Gelder produced the major shock of the day when he demolished Brian Johns 3, 8, 6. I am told that veterans in general are beginning to hate the 11 points scoring. The majority of top players like 11 points, but the debate is on.

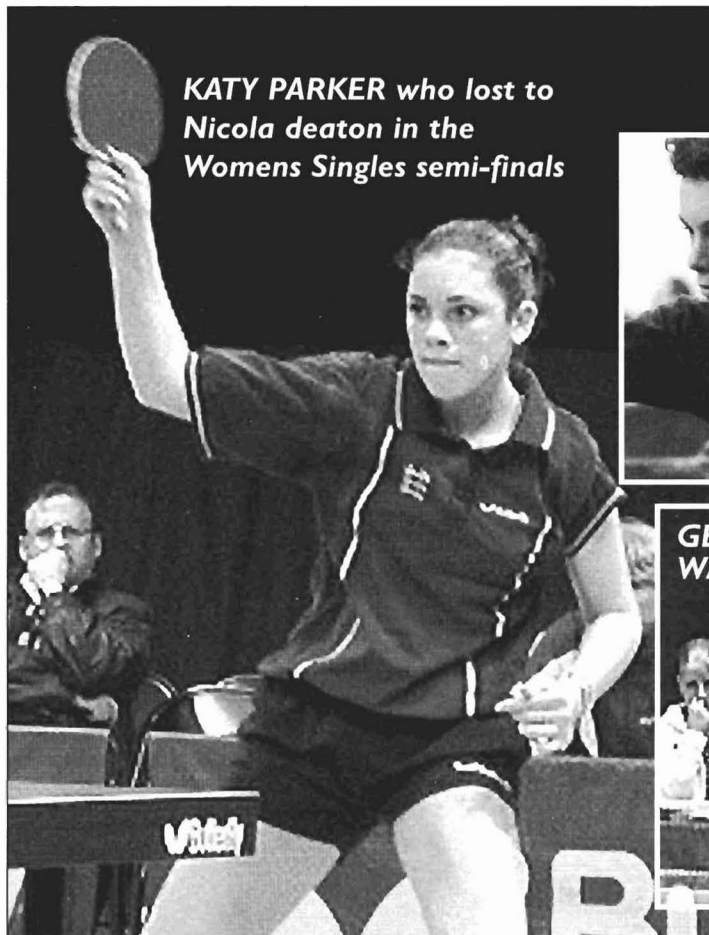
OH LORD

Amongst the veteran players was Edwin Clein who is the Lord Mayor of Liverpool and a keen vet in Lancashire circles.

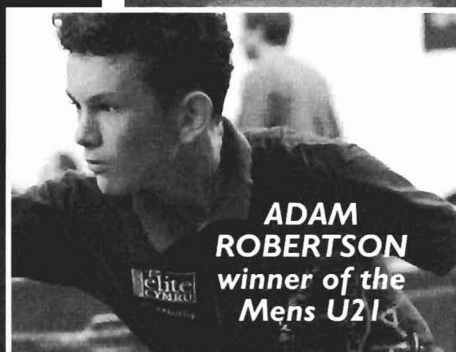
Adam Robertson was below his most lethal form, apart from the Under-21 final when he up-ended Essomba 2, 8, 8. But it was Essomba who gained revenge in the Mens Singles quarters when he defeated the Wrexham star -11, 9, -12, 8, 8.



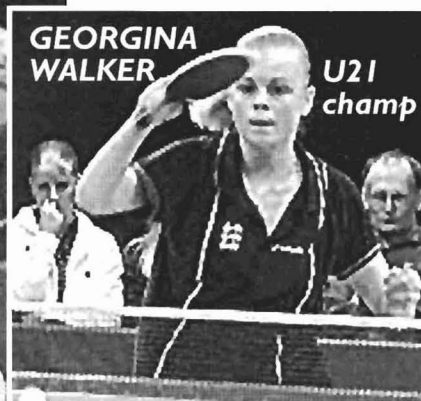
LAURENCE TRUMPAUSKAS
unfortunately had to concede due to the London train times not being compatible with the Merseyside Open's finishing time



KATY PARKER who lost to Nicola deaton in the Womens Singles semi-finals



ADAM ROBERTSON
winner of the Mens U21



GEORGINA WALKER U21 champ

Ryan Owen (Wales) was the victor in the Band 1 final over his Welsh compatriot Steve Hall. Owen also looked full of power Later when he took Laurence Trumpauskas to five games in the Mens quarter-finals.

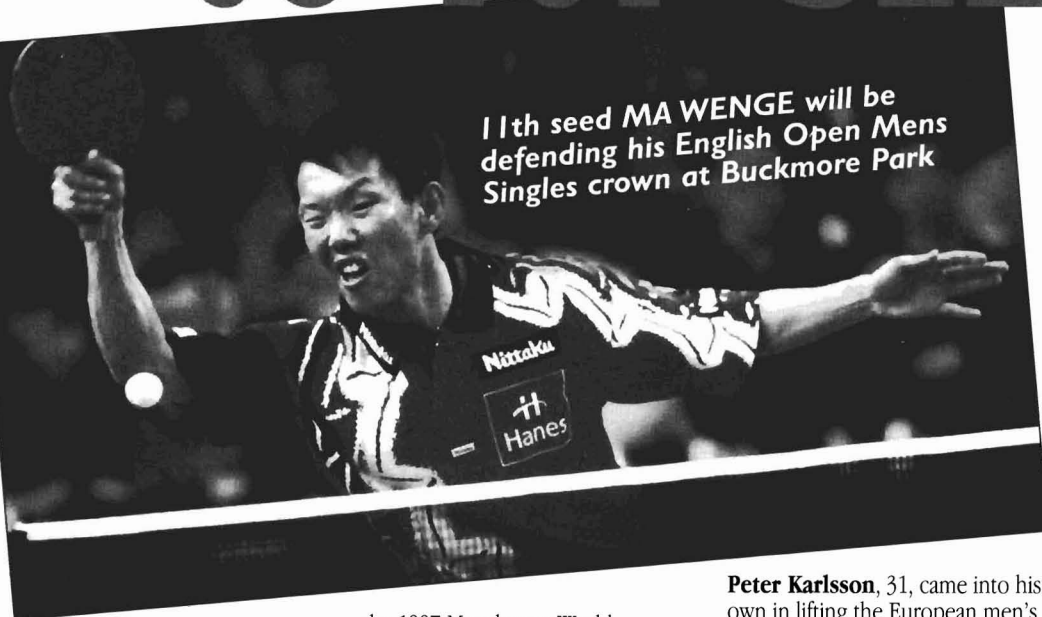
In the Womens Band 1 final Claire Newsn (Cheshire) managed to beat her way past the defensive screen owned by Judy MorLey, 5, 7, 9.

TWO FOR JABLON

Middlesex's Paul Jablon won both the Mens Band 5 and 6 singles.

WANG LIQIN & LI JU TOP SEEDS

11th seed MA WENGE will be defending his English Open Mens Singles crown at Buckmore Park



64th ENGLISH OPEN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS BUCKMORE PARK, CHATHAM, KENT, ENGLAND 6th-11th February 2001
Preview by Ken Muhr, ETTA Information Officer

THE 64th ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS with \$81,000 prize money will in their 79th year be not only the first and one of the biggest ITTF PRO TOUR events of 2001, but also the biggest international table tennis event in Britain. As I write, over 300 players from 38 countries have entered with late entries still possible. The entry is also full of top world players, and no English player strong enough to make the top 16 seeds in either the men's or women's singles. The seedings are subject to change but as we go to press (26th January) are as follows:

The top seed in the men's singles fittingly is the world No.1, **Wang Liqin** (China), aged only 22, who recently won the ITTF PRO TOUR Finals for the 2000 circuit. He won 4 PRO TOUR tournaments last year and English supporters will remember him as the strapping 18 year old with big forehand loop and rock solid backhand who beat former world champion Jorgen Persson (Sweden) over 5 pulsating games at

the 1997 Manchester World Championships

Seeded second is 28 years old Austrian **Werner Schlager**, the winner of the 2000 European top 12 competition who was a bronze medallist at the 1999 World Championships. His strong and versatile backhand loop is matched by a difficult forehand loop, and he is equally good away from the table.

Jorg Roskopf (Germany), 31, the 1992 European champion who is perhaps best known for his world doubles gold medal (with Steffen Fetzner) in 1989, has recently returned to form after injury and had a good Sydney Olympic Games. Possessed of one of the biggest backhands in the sport and early timing, the left-handed Roskopf is the third seed.

The all out athleticism and constant topspin of the 1997 English Open champion **Jean-Michel Saive** (Belgium), has taken him the 1993 world championships final and given him the European men's singles crown in Birmingham in 1994. Frequently ranked the world's best player in the period 1994-96, the 31 year old is seeded 4th at Buckmore Park.

Often overshadowed by his illustrious Swedish team mates Jan-Ove Waldner and Jorgen Persson, with whom he has won world gold medals in 1989, 1991, 1993 and 2000,

Peter Karlsson, 31, came into his own in lifting the European men's singles title in 2000. The world

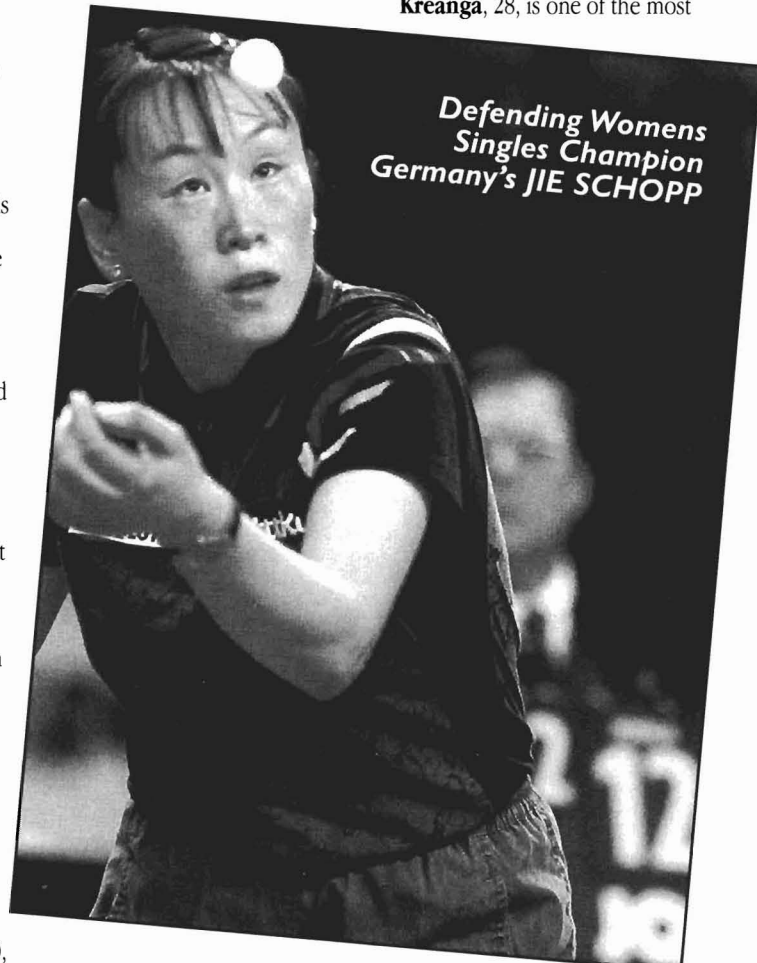
doubles champion with Thomas Von Scheele in 1991 and reaching no.4 in the world in 1994, he has a strong attacking game on both wings and is the 5th seed.

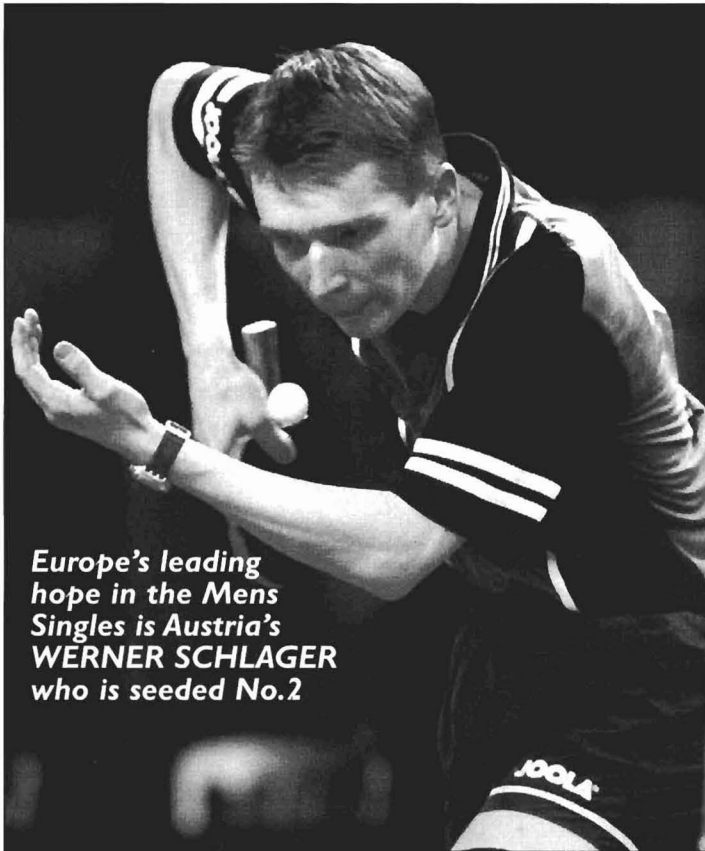
The super fast lefthander **Christophe Legout**, 27, is now the highest world ranked Frenchman and was a member of the French squad who came runners-up to China at Manchester in 1997. He was also a runner-up in the European Top 12 competition in 1999. He is the no.6 seed at the English Open.

The stylish 7th seed **Petr Korbel** (Czech Republic), 29, the 1988 European Youth Championships boys singles champion, plays with long flowing topspins and excellent ball control, lacking only in that extra power.

The 8th seed, the Greek **Kalinkos Kreanga**, 28, is one of the most

Defending Womens Singles Champion Germany's JIE SCHOPP





Europe's leading hope in the Mens Singles is Austria's **WERNER SCHLAGER** who is seeded No.2

dynamic athletes in the game, launching huge forehand and backhand loops from away from the table.

Previously known as Wei Qingguang, 38 years old **Seiko Iseki**, now a member of the Japanese team, won the 1987 world men's doubles title with Chen Longcan for China. A short pimples penholder, he has also won the Asian Cup twice, in 1986 and 1988, and is seeded 9th at this tournament.

The 1995 English Open champion **Damien Eloi** (France), 31, the 10th seed, is a flamboyant, sometimes reckless, big shot player, famous for his windscreen wiper faded forehand. He was also a member of the French team that won the European Championships in 1994 and 1998 and lost in the 1997 World Championships final.

Table tennis supporters will be delighted that 32 year old Chinese **Ma Wenge** will be defending his 1999 English Open title and is seeded 11th this time. A former Olympic (1992) and world (1991) singles bronze medallist and a member of Chinese world championship winning teams in 1995 and 1997, he plays with variety and incredible forehand power for someone so slight in physique.

Originally from China, 37 year old short pimples penholder with a strong forehand attack, **Yang Ming**, helped Italy achieve an unexpected

team bronze medal in the 2000 World Championships and is the no.12 seed.

Lucjan Blaszczyk (Poland), 26, the European Junior Top 12 champion of 1992, is a slick, spin serve and loop merchant who can trouble the best. He is seeded 13th. The 14th seed is the tall, lefthanded Dutch stalwart **Danny Heister**, 29, who with partner **Trinko Keen** (also 29) will be defending his 1999 English Open men's doubles title. With Legout and Eloi and the absent Jean-Philippe Gatien, 30, lefthanded touch player with a big backhand **Patrick Chila**, 30, was an integral part of those very successful French men's teams of the 1990's and is the 15th seed. Another Japanese penhold attacker, who hits with reversed rubber on his forehand and blocks on his backhand, **Toshio Tasaki**, 26, completes the seeds at No.16.

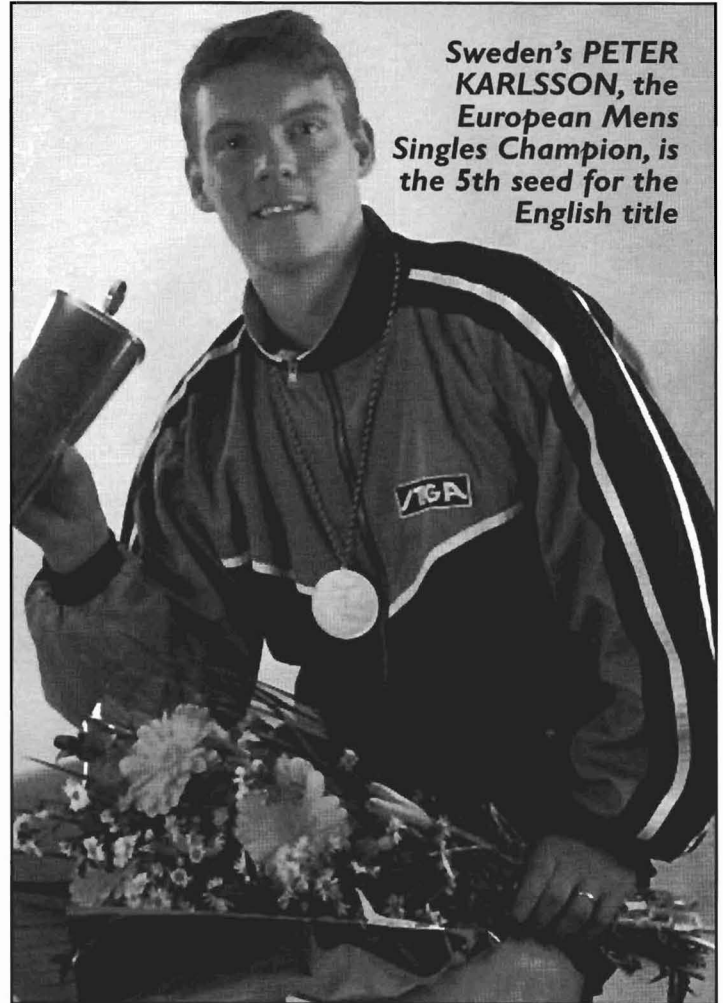
Two relative (European) youngsters just fail to make the seedings. 25 year old **Fredrik Hakansson**, the hard hitting 1998 & 2000 Swedish champion, may have been outshone internationally by his famous colleagues Waldner, Persson and Karlsson, but he was a member of the team that sensationally won the 2000 World Championships over China. And 19 years old lefthander **Timo Boll**, the 1997 and 1998 European junior singles champion, has the burden of being one of Europe's best longer term hopes.

LI JU TOP WOMENS SEED

World No.2 **Li Ju**, just 25, is the top seed in the women's singles. She was a member of the Chinese 1997 and 1999 world championship winning teams, and a singles silver medallist and doubles (with Wang Nan) gold medallist at the Sydney Olympics. Like most of the top

1998. A penholder with a close to the table, blocking and hitting game, and who switches from short pimples to long pimples on the backhand, she achieved her highest world ranking of 4 in 1998, when aged 34/35.

18 year old **Li Nan** (China), seeded 4, caused a sensation at the 1999 Eindhoven World Championships, when as an unknown, unseeded 17 year old who had to win through the



Sweden's **PETER KARLSSON**, the European Mens Singles Champion, is the 5th seed for the English title

Chinese nowadays, she uses a shakehands grip and is a strong, fast attacking player.

The 22 year old Romanian, lefthanded, two wing looper, **Mihaela Steff** is about Europe's best future prospect and got further than any other European born woman at the Sydney Olympics (quarter finals). The European Junior Top 12 winner of 1993, she lost in the European senior championships singles final in 2000. She is the second seed.

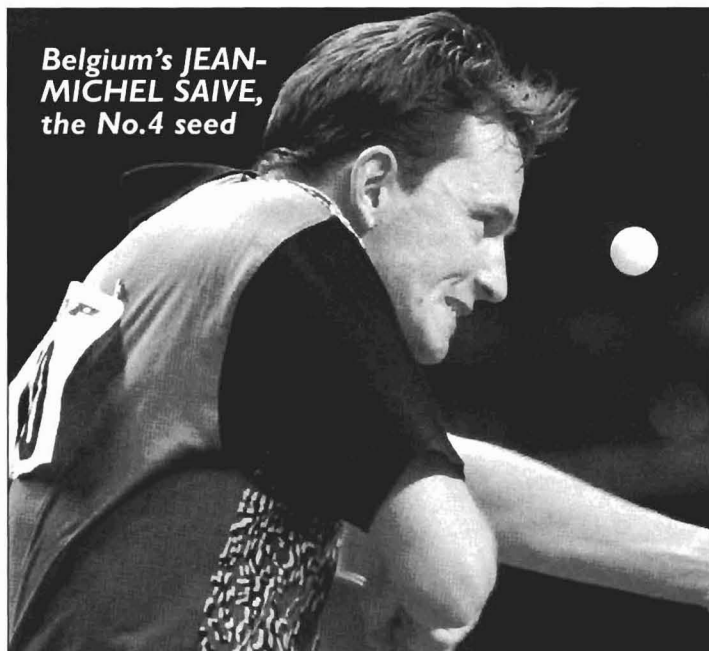
The oldest seed (No.3) is former Chinese player **Ni Xialian** – she was a member of their 1983 world championship winning team – aged 37, who as a Luxembourg representative became European champion in 1998, and European Top 12 winner in 1996, 1997 and

qualifying rounds, she reached the women's singles semi-finals! She is a left-handed penholder who, like some of the top Chinese men, has learnt to topspin on her backhand with reversed rubber.

An Konishi, the 20 year old 5th seed from Japan, is a right-handed, shakehands, hard, early hitting on both wings player, whose best is probably yet to come.

The defending 1999 English Open Champion **Jie Schopp** (Germany), just 33, is Chinese in origin and plays a tight chop defensive game with sudden hits. The 1994 European Top 12 competition champion and a member of German European championship gold medal winning teams in 1996 and 1998, she is seeded No.6.

64th ENGLISH OPEN



Belgium's **JEAN-MICHEL SAIVE**, the No. 4 seed

The 7th seed is another former Chinese who is now playing for Japan, **Yoshie Takada**, whose best results to date are coming runner-up in the Asian Cup in 1991 and runner-up in the Sweden Open PRO TOUR event 2000.

Niu Jianfeng (China) is a rising youngster – she won the 1997 Asian championships junior girls singles - who plays a western style game, attacking on both wings, and is seeded 8th. Originally from China, 18 year old Liu Jia as an Austrian became the European youth champion for 1998 and 1999, and the European Junior Top 12 champion,

also in 1999. She is a left-handed, shakehands grip, attacking player and the No. 9 seed.

Only 16 years old, **Bai Yang** (China), the 10th seed, is another right-handed, shakehands attacking player in the modern Chinese mode. Another expatriate now representing Germany for whom she has contributed to European team gold medals, is Olga Nemes, who as a Romanian won the European Top 12 in 1983 and 1989. The speedy counter-hitter is seeded 11th.

Sweden's **Asa Svensson**, 29, is an extremely fit, hard working, loop and hitter who with **Marie Svensson**,

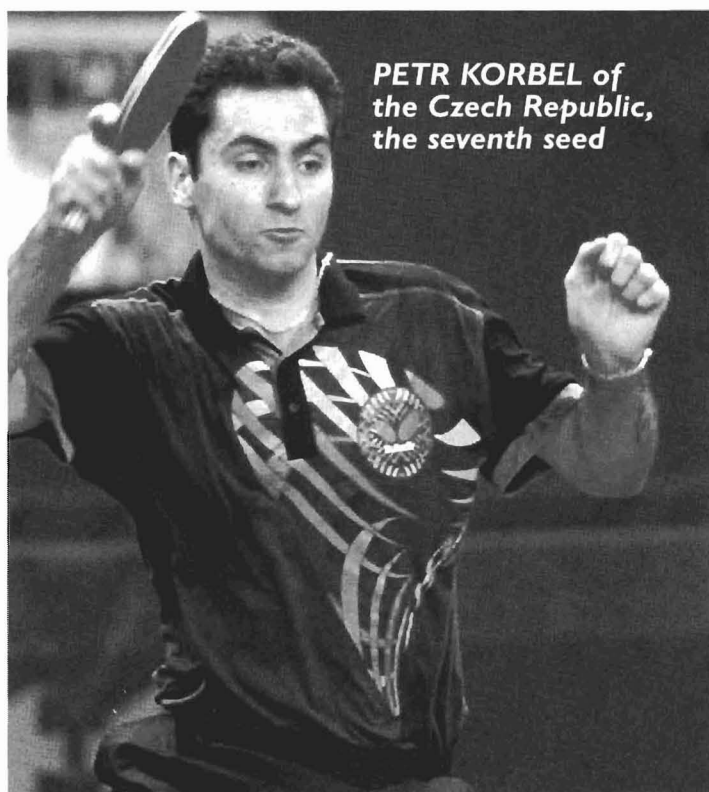
(33) the former European champion who is again in the draw at this years English Open, won the English Open women's doubles in 1995. She is the 12th seed.

Another Japanese player formerly from China is the right-handed defender **Junko Haneyushi**, 33, seeded 13th. The 14th seed is the 1997 English Open winner **Chen-Tong Fei-Ming** (Chinese Taipei), 32, who has been resident in England (Hampshire). She plays a strong shakehands attacking game with a particularly powerful pimped bat backhand.

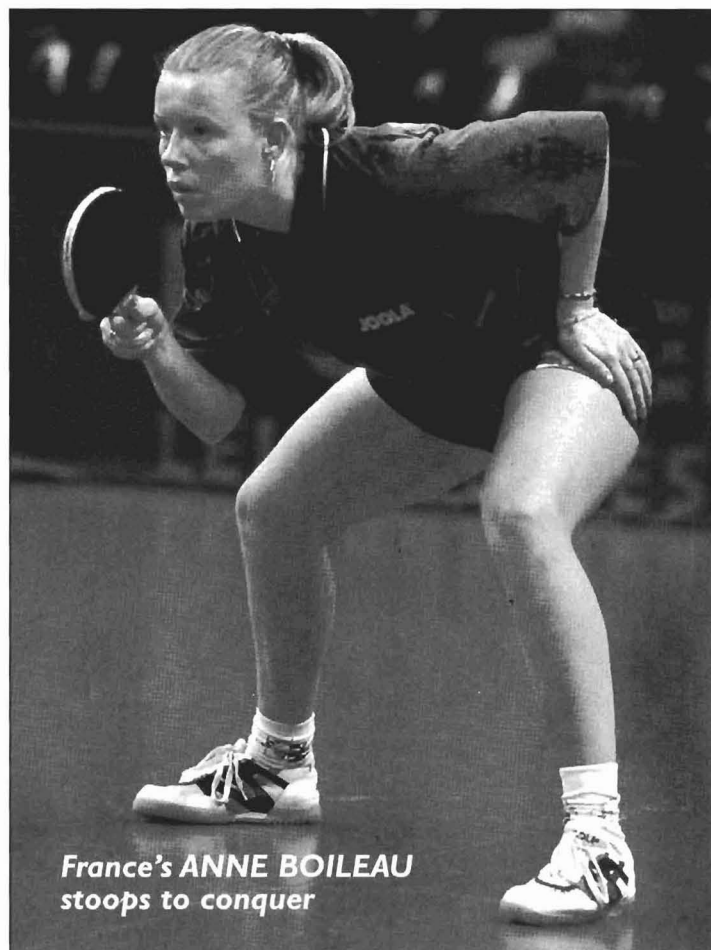
Otilia Badescu, 30, the quick hitter with the pimples bat forehand, was a member of the Romania 1992

finalist **Anne Boileau**, 25, the two wing looper from France.

Such is the strength of the draw that many top world players are unlikely to be seeded, including our own **Matthew Syed**, 30, the England and Commonwealth Champion who is probably the greatest and most spectacular retriever of the ball in the world today. On his day he is capable of beating anyone, so England supporters look out for his matches! Our national women's champion **Nicola Deaton**, 24, is on England duty again and she can be guaranteed to put up stiff opposition to anyone she meets. However, the England squad is largely a young one, building for the future, so all



PETR KORBEL of the Czech Republic, the seventh seed



France's **ANNE BOILEAU** stoops to conquer

European Championships winning women's team, and has twice been a European championships singles semi-finalist. She is the no. 15 seed. The last seed is 29 years old **Nicole Struse** (Germany), the 1996 European singles champion, and 1996 and 1998 team and women's doubles champion. She plays the classic modern European game of good serves followed by strong topspin loops.

Just outside of seeded positions are the 21 years old penholder attacker from Korea PRK, **Kim Hyon Hui**, and the 1999 losing English Open

encouragement from the crowd will be appreciated.

Development and Teaching and Training activities are taking place during the competition – come to the Development stand for more details on the 'Mini Open', coaching opportunities and further activities following the event. A launch of the 'Racial Equality Charter for Sport' is planned on a day during the championships, and Paralympics medallists will hopefully in attendance on the finals day, Sunday 11th February.

TABLE TENNIS NEWS EXTRA

Issue no. 275 January/February 2001

Editorial

The most important happening of the New Year must be the 64th English Open at Buckmore Park, Chatham, Kent, from 6th-11th February, the first ITTF Pro Tour event and easily the strongest tournament in Britain in 2001.

Whether you go to support our players (or to compete yourself!) or to enjoy the spectacle and the atmosphere, it is a **must to be there**. Coaches should bring along their pupils and all who still want to improve their games should come, because you can learn most by watching the best in the sport – the entry is certainly very strong. On the days you can't attend, don't forget that you can closely follow progress on that excellent **ITTF Pro Tour/Sportalasia website** <http://www.itffprotour.com> and that there will be **7 hours of (mostly) live television coverage of the finals from 11am to 6pm on Sunday 11th February on Sky Sports 3.**

Running the English Open will be a costly and time consuming affair, and undoubtedly there will be those detractors who will say that the ETTA should have taken on no responsibility or at least have put its money and effort elsewhere. But the Open is not merely a **showpiece event** that helps us maintain credibility and significance in the table tennis world, and a **higher profile** for the sport outside of it. It also helps maintain and develop the skills of our present and future top performers, officials and organisers – it gives them vital experience and purpose. For the Open is a **training ground** for honing the skills of all those participating in it, and if England is to remain an important player in the table tennis world this skills base is essential.

It is **great** to learn that England's top woman **Nicola Deaton is representing her country again**, winning one of her two singles in her comeback European League Division 1 match against Israel at Nottingham on 12th December, in which unfortunately her side went down 3-2, Katy Parker taking the other set. Three days earlier in Helsinki, 17-year-old **Andrew Baggaley had led England to a 3-2 victory over Finland**, the Milton Keynes youngster taking his two sets and Terry Young adding the other singles. All of these English players will be performing for England alongside our no.1 man Matthew Syed at the English Open.

Also in December, **England cadet girls Joanna Parker and Karen Shepherd**

were picking up a Portuguese Youth Championships team bronze medal, going out 3-2 to France in the semi-finals. It is nice to see Academy youngsters doing well. Incidentally, the **second open day at the National Training Centre, Nottingham, will now be on Saturday 23rd June** as opposed to 23rd February originally planned (contact **Tony Chatwin, tel. 01332 672534 for information**). The winners of the **National Regional Squad competition (teams of under 10, 12 and 14 boys and girls) will be attending the Centre the same day.**

Whilst it is **encouraging that some of the new (talent identification) Regional Squads for under 10s, 12s, 14s and 17s (linked through head coach training with the National Training Centre, Nottingham) have started off with a bang**, there is disappointment that in other regions attendance has been low (because of lack of communication or because coaches who feel threatened are reluctant to nominate players?). If England really is to produce the stars of the future, then **we must all work together to bring on gifted players good enough to challenge for national squad places.** As one of the regional coaches (for the South East), I can assure coaches that the Regional Squads are not about poaching players or self-aggrandisement of those in charge.

However fast, fit and talented athletes might be, it takes many years of hard graft to have a chance of reaching Olympic standard in table tennis. The attempt of outstanding 200 metres runner John Regis to gain from scratch a British bobsleigh team 2002 Winter Olympics medal (Guardian, 16 December) would be an impossible, unthinkable absurdity for our sport, because of the high skill factor – something that most sports commentators simply do not understand.

I thought it was a nice touch of **Brian Halliday's**, in his editorial to the December issue added while I was away, to **comment on some of the county contributions' content.** An example I should try to follow. And while on the subject of counties, I stand to be corrected but a December National Council paper indicates that **Cheshire, Derbyshire and Lancashire have all increased their affiliation figures! Have they lessons to teach the rest of us?**

It makes for a fascinating debate, but **Derek Tyler** (see letters) is of course **right that it is impossible to objectively make a ranking**

list of the all-time player greats. As the famous cricket writer Neville Cardus said, you have to "Judge every man against the context of his times" (and that is bound to be subjective). This is what **Alan Dickinson** does in the superb new league publication, **Halifax & District Table Tennis News.** He sums up a two and a half page article thus: "**In my judgement Richard Bergmann (hard bat era) and Jan-Ove Waldner (modern era) win the vote.**"

Other people, notably Hikosuke Tamasu in ITTF Table Tennis Illustrated Jan/Feb 2000, point to **Zhuang Zedong (Chuang Tse-tung)**, the Chinese world champion in 1961, 1963 and 1965. The problem in evaluating his relative merit was that Zhuang was not adequately tested by a wide field – the Europeans were relatively weak then (or was it that Zhuang was so outstanding?!). In his time, Bergmann had seen off the best of what there was – but they were mainly Europeans. A strong argument for Waldner is that over a period of exceptionally high standard of world play, he has seen off not only the best Europeans, but several generations of top Chinese and other Asian players as well. However, Waldner has been more inconsistent than these other champions. In the near future, the best Chinese seem only too likely to dominate the world scene, few Europeans being able to challenge them.

I like to see and read **local league newsletters** because you pick up so many interesting articles and facts. (So send examples of newsletters to me please!) **Henry Buist, editor of the Bromley & District TTA Newsletter**, informs readers in his No.2 2000/01 edition that he **has set up a table tennis science website** www.bucom.freeserve.co.uk to **publish some of the fascinating articles he has written over the last few years.** In an 'About Me' section on the website, the 66 year old classical hard bat veteran and professional telecommunications engineer, explains that an Open University degree gave him a grounding in maths and physics but he had gained most of the information for his articles from a book he had purchased 20 years ago: **The Physics of Ball Games** by **C B Daish.** A visit to the site is recommended.

Finally, my sincere apologies for the late delivery of the December magazine.

Ken Muhr

Berkshire by John Cunningham

Syed drops in at Sindlesham School, Wokingham

Commonwealth Champion Matthew Syed gave the boys and staff of Sindlesham Special School a thrill when he attended their morning assembly.

Syed, who is Labour's Wokingham candidate in the General Election, presented a sports award to the school.

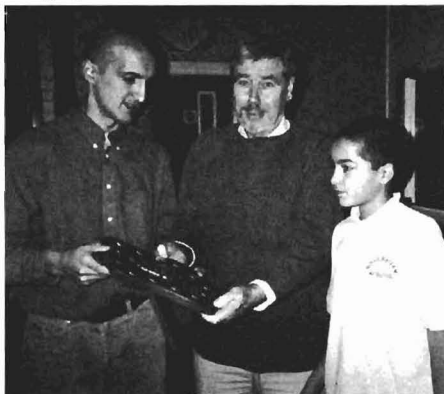
The award for outstanding sporting achievement and Service to Sport in the Community was handed to the staff and students of the school by Wokingham District Sports Council.

After presenting the award Syed talked to the boys and staff about the importance of sport in the community for all age groups, but in particular the young people who will become the champions of tomorrow. However, he also emphasised the importance of a good education and how both could go hand in hand to support each other.

Syed, who went to Aldrington and Maiden Erlegh School, obtained a first-class honours degree at Oxford University as well as reaching the top levels of his sport.

Sindlesham School head John Urwin thanked Syed, who had travelled from a major tournament in France to present the award, and also recorded the school's thanks to the Sports Council and the Our Lady of Peace Table Tennis Club, both of which have strong links with the school and supported the school's overall ethos.

Syed was then escorted around the school by Vasin El-Ghomairi before meeting the school's unbeaten football squad and signing autographs for students and staff.



Matthew presents the Wokingham District Service to Sport Award to the school table tennis coach Ken Banham and up-and-coming table tennis cadet Luke Bowry

Champ Syed Gives his Award to Coach

Matthew Syed received an award from the Wokingham District Sports Council at the annual personality awards held at Reading Cricket and Hockey Club, and then gave it away! The England player, who competed in

COUNTY NOTES

A look around the country

Issue no. 275

January/February 2001

the Olympics, handed the award to his mentor Peter Charters.

"It was a small token of my appreciation for all he has done, not just for me but for many other table tennis players as well." said Syed.

Commonwealth Champion Syed said that more than 20 years ago Charters was his guiding light when he took up the sport at Aldrington Primary School in Earley,

"Peter used to coach me and my brother Andrew at what was then the Omega Club in Green Road," said Syed, who was living in Earley at the time.

"Peter did it all on a voluntary basis. We never ever paid him a penny. He is a fine example of all those people who give up their time to coach youngsters. I have never forgotten what he did for me, so when the Wokingham and District Sports Council gave me an award for taking part in the Olympics I felt I just had to hand it over to Peter as a token of my appreciation."

Calcutt first winner of new Post cup

Reading teenager Lee Calcutt is the first recipient of a brand new Evening Post trophy.

The award will be presented annually to the area's top junior, not necessarily the most outstanding player but the one who offers the best support to table tennis.

Calcutt, 18, is an outstanding youngster but it was in the most important category where he stood out.

Having been a county regular since the age of 13, Lee has played more than 30 matches for Berkshire. In the 2000 season, his last at under-17 level, Lee captained and co-ordinated the Berkshire teams as they lifted the championship with an unbeaten record.

"I am honoured to be nominated as the first winner of this new Evening Standard Post Trophy," he said.

OLOP Table Tennis Umpire appointed for English Open

International Umpire Mick Reynolds was confirmed as one of the 18 English umpires

appointed for the 64th English Open Championships taking place from 6th - 11th February at Buckmore Park, Chatham, Kent.

Mick is an Applications Engineer for Taunton based Technique Limited, a major distributor of flow, pressure and level instrumentation products.

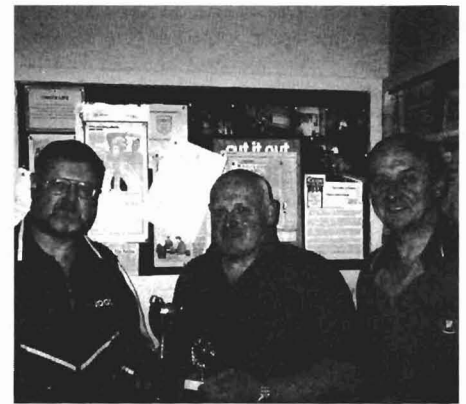
Aust finishes on top

Rank outsider Mick Aust has won the Finn Cup.

He won Group 1 of this handicap tournament held in memory of the founder of the Polish Table Tennis Club.

In the semi-finals, Aust (handicap 8-0) beat Harrison 21-11, 21-17 while Maynard (0-6) defeated Lean 21-15, 15-21, 21-19.

Aust (12-0) beat Maynard, the Berkshire county veteran, 21-17, 21-16 in the final.



Reading League Chairman Robin Lockwood presents the Finn Cup to the winner Mick Aust (centre) runner-up was county veteran Mick Maynard (left)

Cheshire by Alan Blears

The National Junior League goes from strength to strength in the N. West, the number of new teams necessitating an additional third division in the South, mostly Cheshire, area.

Of some concern, though, is the low number of girl participants. In divisions 1 and 2 of the South area there is only one all-girl team, Bramritsar 'A' from Stockport, for whom no. 1 Amanda Pollard has played 17 of her 18 sets against boys for a very creditable 61% average.

Karen Shepherd

After a slow start to the season Stockport's Academy-based star Karen Shepherd had a successful visit to Stockton-on-Tees for the Junior 4 star Select. Partnered by Joanna Parker she won the Cadet team event, was runner-up to Joanna in the Cadet girls' singles, losing 21-19 in the third, and lost in three games to Louise Durrant in the Junior girls' semi-final.

In the Portuguese Youth Open she and Joanna took the bronze medal in the Cadet girls' doubles.

Cheshire Schools Team Tournament

There was a disappointing entry for this event, the results being as follows:

The boys under 16 competition was won by Bishops High School, Chester. Bishops drew 4-4 with Henbury High School, Macclesfield. As both schools had won all their other games the title was decided on countback of sets.

The under 13 boys was also won by Bishops and the under 13 girls was won by Whitby High School, Ellesmere Port.

Cornwall by John Wood

Cornwall's Esme (Stevenson) Denslows achieved her 100th Senior County Championships appearance when she played against Avon in a senior Division 2B match on Saturday 9th December 2000, which Cornwall won 8-2.

Esme, who has been a loyal servant of Cornish table tennis, lost her first game narrowly to Avon's Claudia Heerman -18, 17, 18, but bounced back to celebrate her century beating Carey Barrett 13 and 11. This is the first time that a woman has achieved this feat in Cornwall, and probably in the British Isles.

To mark this tremendous occasion the Mayor of Restormel Borough Council, Councillor Tom Menear, made a congratulation speech in her honour and assisted Esme to cut her celebration cake. Esme, who is now 32, also played for Cornwall as a junior between 1981 and 1983, and was married last April.

After cutting the cake, Esme said, "I'm looking forward to my next 100 appearances."

Earlier in the day the senior 1st team of Jeremy Williams, Adrian Noott, Graham Worth, Esme Denslow and Shirley Luckhurst, beat the 2nd team 9-1 with Michelle Turner recording the 2nds only win, when she won a monumental battle with Shirley Luckhurst -11, 19, 14.

Lunchtime saw the 1st team overwhelm Devon 2 majestically 8-2, whilst the 2nd team of Mark Brookes, Graham Reed, Steven Lobb, Michelle Turner and Kate Alken lost a close encounter with Avon 4-6, where Reed won both of his singles with Lobb and Turner winning one apiece.

Devonshire by John Vincent

A Happy New Year to all table tennis enthusiasts in Devon.

Newly qualified Level 2 coaches

Congratulations to the following five Plymouth-based coaches who did the course at Egguckland Community College or have passed their assessment to become ETTA

Level 2 coaches: Louise Gibson, Tom Bruty, Ben Warren, Brian Prestidge, Andrew Sawczynszak.

They will now have an opportunity to gain experience by assisting the Beacon Electrical Plymouth and District Table Tennis League with their Primary Schools Project. As Plymouth Coaching Officer I look forward to working with you.

South West Region Junior Trials

These were played this year in St. Austell where the following county players qualified for the National Trials:

<u>Cadet Boys</u>	<u>Cadet Girls</u>
Jacob Kodicek	Lisa Radford
Simon Poyner	Lizzie Binks
	Res - Sally Smith
<u>Junior Boys</u>	<u>Junior Girls</u>
Shaun Gibbs	Michelle Barrett

Devon Schools Team Champions

The County schools Team championships were held in the Plymouth & District League H.Q. Our champions will play in the area finals against Somerset and Cornwall on Saturday 20th January 2001 at Egguckland Community College in Plymouth.

Under 19 Boys - Tavistock Community College; Under 16 Boys - Bideford College; Under 13 Boys - Exmouth Community College; Under 11 Boys - St. Peter's R.C. Primary (Plymouth); Under 19 Girls - Devonport High; Under 16 Girls - Plymouth High; Under 13 Girls - Exmouth Community College; Under 11 Girls - Exeter Road Primary, Exmouth.

County Results

Junior I played three matches in Cippenham and recorded three victories. We defeated Berkshire 10-0, Hampshire 10-0 and Buckinghamshire 6-4. These matches were in Division 1B of the County Championships.

Junior 2 had a comfortable victory 10-0 over our own Junior 3rd team in Division 3C.

Senior II playing in Division 2B of the County Championships had the following results:- beat Hereford I 8-2, lost to Cornwall I 2-8 and beat Cornwall II 7-3.

Veterans IV in Division 4C lost 10-0 to Wiltshire II

Senior I playing in the Premiership recorded the following results:- lost to Middlesex 4-6, beat Surrey 6-4 and lost to Kent 4-6.

National League

DML/Plymouth continued their good form in Division I South of the National League when they played three matches in London. They won two matches against Cippenham (Reading) 5-3 and Limberlost (Poole) 6-2.

Their third match against a very strong BATTs Peniel side ended in a 3-5 defeat. Junior Craig Bryant almost earned the

Plymouth team a draw when he took Joe Kennedy to 19-21 in the third. Gregory Bridgett was in brilliant form winning 5 out of 6 games. He received good support from all his teammates.

Dorset by Joe Turner

November 4th saw the first round of County Junior matches in Division 1B, using the new 1 day format of all teams at the same venue, each playing three matches in the day.

Dorset took a squad of 4 boys and 2 girls to the event, with 4 of the team, Neil Cartwright, James Whitehorn, Ellen Turner, and Joy Whitehorn all being cadets (Joy being the youngest at only 9 years old). The experience in the side was provided by Kenny Smith and Ben Cooper, both in their last year as juniors.

First match of the day resulted in a 7-3 victory against Worcestershire. Neil led from the front playing as no.1 with two comfortable victories, whilst Ben playing No.3 also won both singles. Kenny however was out of sorts losing -16, -13 to Chris Webb, before getting back to winning ways against Craig Norwood 17, -15, 17. Ellen and Joy played well with each collecting one victory.

Next opponents were Glamorgan. Kenny unhappy with his form asked to miss the encounter, so James stepped into the team. Neil again won his games comfortably, but played particularly well in beating Glamorgan No.1 Aled Howell 14, 10. Ben promoted to No.2 also won both matches, including a 3 set game again at the expense of Aled 12, -20, 16. The performance of the day came from James who after his first victory met Glamorgan No.2 Craig Marsh. At 1 set all James trailed in the third, at times as many as 5 points adrift, but Craig was caught at 18 all, and James went on to win -15, 16, 18. Both of the girls will be the first to admit they were outplayed losing all 4 singles in Dorset's 6-4 win.

The final game brought a further 6-4 victory, this time against Hampshire. Neil and Ben maintained their 100% records, whilst a rejuvenated Kenny returned with 2 good wins. All of the girls matches were close affairs with Ellen going down in 3 sets on each occasion (Emma Dobson 15, -12, -18, and Jenny Dobson 9, -18, -15). Joy also came close but again without success (Emma -8, -22, Jenny 19, -18, -18). With a little more experience and luck all of these could so easily have been converted into victories.

Finally mention and thanks should be made to the Cippenham Club who made everyone welcome, as well as providing food and beverages during the day.

Essex by Steve Kerns

BATTs Senior 2-a-side League

Now in its third year this competition has lost none of its impetus and the battle to take the title looks like a straight fight to the finish

between Progress I and Fellows Cranleigh I. Both sides have given little away and the ever-present Marco Essomba (Progress) leads the individual averages with 16 wins out of 16. He will have won many friends with the quality of his play and also by the way he goes out of his way to give the lesser players a game – easing off slightly but without making it blatantly obvious. His support has come from Jason Sugrue, Christian Hundhausen and Eli Baraty. Fellows Cranleigh who are placed second looked to be in trouble against Brentwood when Linda Radford hitting superbly got the better of a previously undefeated Lawrence Trumpauskas but Gary Tendler was having none of it and saw off Steve Rand after a close match. He then produced a stunning finale from 17-17 in the third end to get the better of Linda 21-17 in the last match of the night. Gary's record of 14 wins out of 16 is perhaps the perfect illustration of the progress he has made in 2000.

Barnet I are placed third with the redoubtable John Taylor leading the way with 12 wins out of 14. His partner has been the brilliant if unpredictable Neil Charles who produced some of the best table tennis seen at BATTs as he got the better of John Holland Jnr over three ends. Cris Sladden is leading the challenge of Progress II and apart from two losses to Progress I's Essomba and Sugrue in the first week of the season he has been the model of consistency as he has won his other 14 matches.

Another player who has impressed is Roland Zaunmayr (Fellows Cranleigh B) – 10 wins out of 14 whilst John Tendler produced perhaps the biggest shock of them all with a stunning success over Jason Sugrue.

Another impressive feature of this League has been the way that the organisers go out of their way to call up reserves when regular players are unavailable. They always make attempts to call in players of a similar standard and it has been great to see the appearances of such notables as Mick Harper, Stuart Gibbs, Brooke Shi and Paul Cicchelli playing in restricted roles.

Veterans Premier Weekend

Without wishing to duplicate the reports on the County Championships the fantastic performances of the County Veterans first team cannot be allowed to pass without mention. Having to play the three favourites in the first weekend was expected to be a tough task but Essex equipped themselves superbly with two 5-4 wins and a narrow 5-4 loss against champions Kent.

In their first match against Surrey I Clive Carthy playing brilliantly got the better of both Dave Welsman and Richard Yule whilst Dave Randall (Essex senior second team captain some 15 years ago) excelled with wins over Dave Harding and Dave Welsman to the tune of 10-0 (ouch). Marjorie Dawson completed the job with a 17-in-the-third win over Margaret Maltby. Essex's 5-4 defeat against

Kent saw Carthy get the better of old rival Joe Kennedy at 19-in-the-third whilst John Payne took Kennedy out 13, 16. Kent's hero was John Burleton who got the better of both Dave Randall and John Payne.

The match against 1998/9 champions Cheshire saw Essex slip 2-0 behind before John Payne produced one of the biggest upsets of the weekend with a win over John Hilton and then Dave Randall beat England no. 1 Brian Johns 22-20 in the third of a spell-binding game. Clive Carthy was no match for John Hilton on this occasion but with the score poised at 4-4 John Payne produced another fantastic effort to get the better of Mike Johns – 5,11,19 to seal one of the best wins in recent Essex history.

The team was captained with typical enthusiasm by Neil Brierley and he has reported the even more astonishing news that spectators have been enquiring where the next round of matches are going to take place.

Happy New Year to everyone.

Gloucestershire by Alf Peppard

Junior County Closed Championships

The above event was held at Deer Park School, Cirencester in December 2000, there was an exceptionally good entry in all of the seven championships.

In the boy's singles, Cheltenham's 11-year-old pocket dynamo Harry Shahlaei completely dominated all his opponents by winning the boys U12s in which he beat Michael Harvey 14, 14 in the final. Michael Harvey and Harry Shahlaei again reached the final of the U14's event, and victory came their way by winning 13, 9. To top it all, in the final of the boys U17 singles, Shahlaei took the title by beating the current county junior no. 1 Dominic Wynn-Sands – 15, 20, 20 in which the last two games were nip and tuck all the way. In the girls' U14 singles, Gloucester's Celina Bell beat the current no. 1 girl Stella Davies from Tuffley – 17, 9, 16. Davis, however, regained her composure to successfully defend her U17 singles by beating Bell on the group system and should remain number one for the remainder of the season.

In the boys U14 doubles, Harry Shahlaei and Michael Harvey beat Simon Friling and Craig East 17, 16. The U17 doubles was won by Stephen Gummer and Tom Burdett, who beat Matthew Fitzsimmonds and James De Jong 19, 15, in the final. This event was organised by Rob Willsher from Stroud and refereed by Mrs Gill Smith (TR) of Cheltenham.

2001 Official Gloucestershire Boys' and Girls' Rankings

Junior Boys:

1. Harry Shahlaei (C)
2. Dominic Wynn-Sands (C)
3. Steve Gummer (G)

4. Michael Harvey (C)
5. James De-Jong (C)
6. Tom Burdett (G)
7. Matt Fitzsimmonds (C)
8. Andrew Merrick (C)
9. Sam White (Cir)
10. Craig East (C)
11. Simon Friling (C)
12. Tom Putney (Cir)

Junior Girls:

1. Stella Davis (G)
2. Celina Bell (G)
3. Joanne Pigott (G)
4. Nicola Burton (C)
5. Jessica Hurford (S)
6. Emily Bell (G)

Code: Cir = Cirencester, C = Cheltenham, S = Stroud, G = Gloucester

County Matches

Winding up the Gloucestershire County matches for the first half of the season, the following matches were played in December.

The senior team of Dave Harvey, Brian McRandall, Darren Griffin, Suzy Robinson and Judy Morley travelled to Cippenham TT Centre in Slough, Berkshire, to play Surrey 2nds in which Gloucestershire ran out 9-1 winners, Brian McRandall losing the one match to Steve Davis 18, -23, -19. The same Glos team beat Bucks by the narrow margin of 6-4, and stand a very good chance of winning Division 2D.

After a long journey to Fareham our Senior Veterans in Div 3D were well and truly beaten 7-2 by Hants 2nds. Our team comprised of Alan Giles, Robert Willsher, Guy Greening and Linda Probert, our two sole wins both coming from Guy Greening who beat Graham Outrim 19, -11, -22 and Maurice Shave 14, -10, -16.

Our 2nd Veteran team beat Hertfordshire 6-3 in Division 4C at home at Forest Green TTC, Nailsworth.

The Cotswold 4 Star Junior Select

This very popular junior tournament will this year be celebrating its 34th season at the Cheltenham Recreation Centre on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th January 2001.

This is a computer-ranking tournament and is part of the Jarvis Sports Junior Grand Prix series, approved by the ETTA and promoted by the Gloucestershire TTA with the support of the Cheltenham Borough Council.

Isle of Wight by John Prean

Our County team hit hard times recently with defeats against Middlesex II (1-9) and Essex (3-7). The latter result flattered, as our opponents were one short. However, we were without Carl Prean, which probably did not assist our cause. He was on duty in the

German Cup. The two we did win were both chalked up by Lucy Pointer, who, despite an injury, remains a ball of fire.

The long trip north of Cardiff to play Glamorgan produced a more respectable result, helped by Carl's usual two and one from Lucy against Hayley Thomas. Her second game was probably as good as any she has played.

Relegation is staring us in the face with two matches remaining, both at home against Wiltshire and Hampshire, our neighbours across the Solent. Miracles will be needed. Even such may not have the required effect. I read in the same issue of TT News in which I argue for the status quo, that a majority have voted or declared for a County Championships system in which all matches will be played over two weekends. I would be surprised if we would enter a team at all under such circumstances. There are, or should be, three dimensions in such representative matches. The first is of course the one of playing but there are two others, that of spectating, i.e. a social side, which brings members together and also that of publicity and P.R., if only via our local press, now our main source of publicising our sport. I do not see how riveting copy can be compiled from a weekend of three or four matches, how readers can be other than confused by a report of 30 or even 40 individual encounters. Be that as it may, it cuts the 'opportunities to see' down from seven per season to two and that cannot be good. It may be argued that (a) people don't come to county matches any more and (b) local press is also diminishing. One can only reply that, if such are the trends, one should fight them rather than roll over and so afford encouragement to yet another coffin nail or declining asset. The few prepared to spend long weekends on the sport will also decline, as they wear out their enthusiasm and body strength as well as the ability to do their civilian job, which pays for all this. It looks very much as if county table tennis will disappear from the island after such a promising start with our nice venue empty. The alternative of a British League team does not exist, as similar policies have been adopted. To the credit of the governing body, it tried to halt this madness, but in vain. The sport is in the grip of a death wish, which is sought via "a thousand cuts". The "cuts" do not extend to costs, which continue to rise.

Our first division has settled to a one horse race, not least as the top players from other teams, viz Roger Hookey, Alex Rorke and Mike Turner, play in the Portsmouth League, which means that Newport Vics with Danny Burns, Chris Angus and Lucy Pointer are unbeatable. The above also play in the British League for Stiga KCD, albeit in the lowest section, but generally win most of their matches. The weekends seem hectic, but expensive.

Carl Prean's German second division club has just made a little history by becoming, so I am told, the first such to reach the semi-finals of their cup. A friend who watches a lot of

German table tennis was kind enough to ring me to tell me that he had seen Carl play his best for some years in his defeat of Dimitri Mazunov and Ding Song, which helped towards a 3-2 win against Frickenhausen, currently third in the Bundesliga. Ding Song was till not long ago a member of the Chinese national team and last season headed the Bundesliga averages. Carl won 16 in the third. - perhaps one of the best wins of his career.

I end on a sad note with the death of Pat Knowles at 80, one of the greats of the Island game. Although a member of the great Shanklin team that won our first division nine times in succession and twice Island Champion, Pat's great triumph was perhaps, over illness, coming back from a string of operations and returning to his beloved sport. He began the comeback in Division 3, moved up to Division 2 and then a season in Division 1 where he achieved an average of 25% at the age of 79! It was a remarkable achievement. Our sympathy goes out to Hazel, his wife and wonderful friend and his family. Death came quite quickly and in sporting terms Pat ended right at the top. One could not imagine him anywhere else.

Kent by Adrian Hall

Kent Seniors unbeaten

Kent senior first team playing in the Premier Division of the County Championships beat Derbyshire and Devon and drew with Middlesex on the first weekend of the championships played at BATTs, Harlow.

Derbyshire 1st 2 Kent 1st 8

Kent U21 champion Stephen Beerling, playing his first match for the first team, won both his matches. Kent: Justin Goodall (Folkestone) 1, Mark Brown (T. Wells) 2, Stephen Beerling (Thanet) 2, Angie Bristow (T. Wells) 1, Helen Garlick (Canterbury) 1.

Kent 1st 5 Middlesex 1st 5

Kent ladies supplied three of Kent's five victories with T. Wells' Angie Bristow being unbeaten. Kent: Justin Goodall 1, Mark Brown 0, Joe Kennedy (Bromley) 2, Angie Bristow 0, Helen Garlick 1.

Devon 1st 4 Kent 1st 6

Canterbury's Helen Garlick and Bromley's Joe Kennedy were both unbeaten for Kent. Kent: Justin Goodall 1, Mark Brown 1, Joe Kennedy 2, Angie Bristow 0, Helen Garlick 2.

Four wins out of five for Kent Juniors

Kent's juniors had an excellent start to the Division 2B of the County Championships with wins over Essex III, Middlesex II, Surrey III and Gloucestershire. The only hiccup came against Surrey II, where Kent led 4-3 only for

Surrey to make an excellent comeback to take the last three matches for a 6-4 win.

Kent II 4 Surrey II 6

Medway's Jodie Stringer was unbeaten for Kent but the greater strength of the Surrey boys won them the match. Kent: Sean Owen (Folkestone) 0, Bobby Huntley (Folkestone) 1, Ben Orhevba (Bromley) 0, Gemma Yarnley (Folkestone) 1, Jodie Stringer (Medway) 2.

Essex III 3 Kent II 7

Kent's girls Gemma Yarnley (Folkestone) and Jodie Stringer (Medway) were both unbeaten and were well supported by the boys who each won one match. Kent: Sean Owen 1, Bobby Huntley 1, Ben Orhevba 1, Gemma Yarnley 2, Jodie Stringer 2.

Middlesex II 2 Kent II 8

A good team effort from Kent with the girls again unbeaten as was Bromley's Ben Orhevba. Kent: Sean Owen 1, Bobby Huntley 1, Ben Orhevba 2, Gemma Yarnley 2, Jodie Stringer 2.

Kent II 7 Surrey III 3

Ashford players were unbeaten as Kent beat Surrey 7-3. National U11 champion Anusha Seneveratne was well supported by Michelle Hogben and Robert Worrall. Kent: John Everest (T. Wells) 0, Andrew Ewer (T. Wells) 1, Robert Worrall (Ashford) 2, Anusha Seneveratne (Ashford) 2, Michelle Hogben (Ashford) 2.

Kent Veterans League

North West Kent 'A' and Medway 'A' are both unbeaten in the first division of the Kent League. The popularity of the veteran's game has resulted in a near record entry of vets teams in the three divisions of the Kent league. Unbeaten players after the first two matches are Bob Cox (Medway), John Glass (Canterbury), Mick Kilden (NWK) and Ted Tydeman (Medway)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Medway A	2	1	1	0	13	7	13
NW Kent A	2	2	0	0	12	8	12
Dover	2	0	1	1	9	11	9
Sittingbourne A	2	0	0	2	9	11	9
Canterbury A	1	0	1	0	5	5	5
Thanet	1	0	0	1	2	8	2

Lancashire by Tony Meredith

Congratulations to Manchester's Adam Bleakley on being selected to represent England at the forthcoming Portuguese Youth Open. Adam's inter-league team Salford & Farnworth came through their Leach Cup group as winners with three wins out of three. The team of Adam, James Fletcher and Robert

Hall will now represent the county at the quarter-final stage.

Lancashire & Cheshire League

Norman Cook Memorial Trophy

Sue Cook played a major part in Lancaster & Morecambe's surprise 5-3 victory over Bury. She beat top junior Kim Barnard in straight games and teamed up with Paul Stebbing to take the mixed doubles. Stebbing was superb with victories over Phil Riley and Graham Jefferies. Former winners Lytham St. Annes were outclassed at Halton, their only success coming from on-loan junior Clara Howard.

Dennis Smith Memorial Trophy

Wirral disposed of Lytham St. Annes 5-3 but the match was well contested with level pegging scorelines of 2 all and 3 all. Rookie Robert Wylie played a prominent part for Wirral with two excellent wins.

Manchester overhauled Blackpool 8-2 in the men's premier where John Hope was superb. Bolton drew with Mid-Cheshire – Darren Howarth being unbeaten and gaining a point for his team in the final set – a 23/21 in the third victory over Brian Johns. Mid-Cheshire made certain when they defeated Manchester 7-3 with Brian Johns and Terry Turner both unbeaten. Preston just pipped their 'A' team 6-4 in one north. Ellesmere Port beat Mid-Cheshire 'A' in one south. The visitors' Nigel Rafferty won their three sets Stockport trounced Halton 9-1 where they conceded only the doubles. In men's two Barrow overwhelmed Halton 'A' 10 nil and Warrington scored a 7-3 success at Manchester thanks to the evergreen Jack Evans. Manchester did slightly better against Rochdale – they whitewashed them 10 nil.

There was another whitewash in the ladies division where Oldham saw off Macclesfield without the loss of a single game. Liverpool beat Blackpool 7-3 with Brenda Bouey and Alice Howard proving to be just too good. Sharon Norman won all three for Wirral at Oldham but the home side won the remaining sets. Macclesfield tasted success at Halton 6-4.

Harry Carter was the star for Barrow as they drew at Southport in the junior premier. Manchester took out Preston 8-2 in junior one thanks to the efforts of Jason Riding and Shweab Sadiq. Manchester 'A' scraped a 6-4 victory over Wigan with Kamran Pervez undefeated. Daniel Richardson steered Wigan to a credible draw against Preston.

Preston edged out Blackburn in the vets premier. Stockport slated Halton 9-1 with only the loss of the doubles. Brian Clements starred when Manchester triumphed 6-4 over Liverpool 'A'. Macclesfield were 8-2 victors over Wirral in vets one thanks to stalwarts Phil Mayman and Roger Moss. Preston 'A' proved too strong for Trafford (7-3) where Bill Ingram was in good form. Ian McElwee won

three for LBH in their 8-2 success over Mid-Cheshire. Wirral's Phil Luxton gazundered Oldham 'A' in the 6-4 win.

Rochdale ran out 8-2 winners over Manchester 'A' in vets two with Phil Myers in the winning mood. Blackpool had John Lynch to thank for their narrow 6-4 win at Rochdale. Tameside faced their 'A' team and scored an expected 7-3 success with Geoff Ogden winning three. Oldham kept a clean sheet against Salford & Farnworth. Rochdale got the verdict over their 'A' team 6-4 where "very funny batter" Derrick Buckley was in winning form. Geoff Ogden did it again as Tameside clinched a 6-4 victory over Manchester 'A'.

Alec Johns and Mick Mahoney were unbeaten as Liverpool 'B' beat Southport 8-2 in vets three. Joe Thornber was the man in form for Hyndburn in the 8-2 success over Oldham 'C'. Barrow drew at Halton with Roy Warriner unbeaten. Joe Green was in a class of his own when Wigan took a 7-3 advantage over Lytham St. Annes. In vets four north Barrow 'A' and 'B' battled out a 5 all draw where Alan Turner came out on top. The 'A' team also drew at Oldham. Bolton whitewashed Wirral 'B' in four south as did Warrington at Wigan. Bill Stanley was unbeaten for Wirral 'C' but Warrington 'A' won the match 'A'.

Northants by Dennis Millman

In the last series of County Championship matches Northants experienced one of those weekends that don't happen very often – five matches, five wins.

For the Veteran Firsts the number five had even greater significance, for as far back as anyone can remember it was the first time in 30 years that the vets had taken the first five rubbers to seal victory.

Warwick Thirds were the victims with Chris Gibbons, Gordon Shaw and Michael Edwards all winning in straight games to set Northants on the road to success. Both doubles then ended in Northants' favour, with Sue Moloney making a winning start. Warwicks did pull two back but Gibbons and Shaw remained unbeaten as they extended the winning margin.

The Veteran Seconds went two down to Lincolnshire before Ian Sclater stemmed the tide. Doubles expertise was again much in evidence as first Sclater and Janet Wright, and then Alan Ashberry and Gerald Finney, held firm to take the honours. Lincs took the ladies singles to square the match, but Ashberry, and finally Sclater with his third win put Northants in an impregnable position.

The Junior Firsts had three matches to play in Division 3B, with Notts B, Notts C and Durham providing the opposition.

Once again, the boys proved too strong for their opponents with Tom Yarnall, Greg Yarnall and Dannel Pang winning all 18 singles without recourse to a decider.

However, for the girls it was a different story as they battled hard without success, so three

6-4 victories, added to two wins and a draw from the opening series, gave Northants second place in the table.

The Queensberry Scimitar County Ranking List issued at the beginning of December contains more than 600 names and a new no. 1.

Former top player Andy Trott has vacated the stage leaving Graeme McKim in pole position. However, before the list had been published McKim went down to Greg Yarnall, leaving the consistent David Gatiss in top place. Leading players are as follows: 1. David Gatiss 2. Graeme McKim 3. David Welsman 4. Simon Rockall 5. Malcolm Francis 6. David Gallo 7. Rafe Miller 8. Ryan Keates 9. Keiran Dabbs 10. Alan Cherry 11. Ian Bird 12. Adrian Roper 13. Steve Silk 14. Chris Gibbons 15. David Murphy 16. Richard Elliott 17. Steve West 18. Dave Smith 19. Greg Yarnall 20. Mark Nannery.

Although Higham Band now have Graeme McKim added to the original squad of Richard Elliott, Ryan Keates, Mark Nannery and Steve Brown, they currently lie in third place in Kettering's Premier Division, albeit with games in hand.

	P	W	D	L	Pts
SAS Thrapston	10	8	1	1	75
Corby Town A	9	6	1	2	65
Higham Band	7	6	0	1	56
Corby Town C	10	4	0	6	49
Kettering Town A	10	4	0	6	48
Corby Town B	7	6	0	1	47
Thrapston Kestrels	9	4	1	4	47

Northumberland by Pauline Long

The WENADE (UK) County senior and veteran teams both played their first series of Division 1A matches at Walsall and Halifax respectively over the weekend of 28/29 October – which just missed the deadline for the December issue of TT News.

The senior team of Eddie Smith, Andrew Wilkinson, Dave Godbold, Caron Guthrie and Karen Newby remained unbeaten, defeating a depleted Norfolk side 9-1, and drawing 5-5 with both Worcestershire and Suffolk. Dave was unbeaten from the no. 3 position, and Eddie and Andrew each won four sets out of a possible six. Caron was successful in three sets and Karen in two.

The veterans' team of "Benny" Robertson, Geoff Salter, Malcolm Lusk, Rob Dodds and Pauline Long lost their first two matches 4-5 against Oxfordshire I and Yorkshire II, but recovered well on the second day to beat Cheshire II 6-3 and Hertfordshire I 5-4. "Benny" led the way with seven wins – losing only to Herts. No. 1 Stuart Seaholme – with Geoff taking five and Malcolm four. The new men's doubles pairing of "Benny" and Malcolm won three out of a possible four in that event, losing only to Oxfordshire 30-32 in the third game – which ultimately affected the final result of the match. This will probably mean that we will have to win one more match

during the second weekend on 3rd/4th March to be certain of staying up.

Meanwhile, the junior boys, although not competing in the County Championships, have been extremely active elsewhere. In the recent Northern Region trials at Billingham, Kevin Wilson was ranked no. 5 in the junior section, while David Graham finished at no. 3 in the cadet rankings.

The WENADE (UK) Northumbria League season has at the time of writing just finished for the Christmas and New Year break, and was to resume on 8th January. Current leaders are as follows: Premier Division: Birtley 'A', Division 1: St. Jude's, Division 2: Cramlington Stingers, Division 3; Cramlington Tigersm Division 4; Cramlington Rejects. The Team Handicap Knockout Cup had reached the second round stage, with all matches having to be completed during the week commencing 11th December.

Oxfordshire by Avril Haynes

Oxford City Tournament

Ian Takes Two Titles

Ian Packford won a close encounter in the semi-finals against Mark Newns and then defeated brother Andy in the final with some fine play 21-16, 21-15. Andy Packford defeated Tony Wheeler in the other semi-final. The Packford brothers then combined to defeat Mark Newns and George Byles comfortably to take the mens' doubles 21-16, 21-13. The veteran singles was won easily by Tony Wheeler who defeated George Byles 21-10, 21-10. The ladies' title was won by Maggie Beahan who won all her matches. The decisive one was against sister Mary Darling, winning 21-11, 21-16.

The Mike Jobling Handicap Competition was won by junior county player Joanne O'Donovan who proved too strong against Brian Sandison winning 21-8, 16-21, 21-14.

County Matches

Junior

Oxon 10 Wiltshire 0

Oxfordshire had an excellent win against Wiltshire. Greg Boone, John Camilleri, Sam Harrison, Joanne O'Donovan and Alex Childs were the victorious team.

Veteran

Herts (5) 5 Oxon (3) 4

Oxfordshire had another close match at Barnet, Chris Lansley starred for Oxfordshire, winning both his singles, well backed up by Anne Borrowdale and Ian Arnold who both won a singles each.

Oxon (3) 6 Norfolk (4) 3

Oxfordshire entertained Norfolk and had a good victory. Tony Wheeler and Chris Lansley both had two good singles victories each. Anne Borrowdale recovered in the third game of her singles to emerge the winner 22-20. Chris Lansley had a close mixed doubles with Anne Borrowdale which they won 21-16 in the third game.

Oxon (2) 2 Sussex (2) 7

Oxfordshire travelled to Haywards Heath and lost the match despite two singles wins by Neil Hurford.

Middlesex (3) 5 Oxon (2) 4

Oxfordshire lost a close match at Ashford with Alf Davies on form winning both his singles and the men's doubles with George Pullin who also won a singles.

Midland League

Junior

Oxford 8 Gloucester 2

Oxford had a good victory against Gloucester with Greg Boone in the starring role winning his three singles and the doubles with Stewart Hamilton. Sam Harrison and Stewart Hamilton completed the victory winning two singles each.

Senior

Oxford 6 Stafford 4

Oxford won an exciting match at the Forum in Kidlington. Jeremy Flint and Andrew Flint won two singles each and then combined to win the doubles. Andy Packford completed the victory with one singles win.

Veterans

Kidderminster 5 Oxford 5

Oxford drew a well-fought match at the Lye Youth Centre. Ian Arnold starred for Oxford with three excellent wins backed up by Nigel Taylor who had two singles wins.

Shropshire by Terry Ridgway

County Senior Ranking List

At their first meeting of the season on 21st November, the management committee issued the first county ranking list for senior members of the Association. This ranking was based on current available information including the last Shropshire County Championships and the results of inter-league matches.

1. D Corfield (Shrewsbury)
2. S Roberts (Telford)
3. N Merchant (Ludlow)

4. C Tarr (Telford)
5. G Phillips (Telford)
6. D Pountney (Shrewsbury)
7. A Aston (Ludlow)
8. T Davies (Ludlow)
9. M Croft (Shrewsbury)
10. G Pritchard (Shrewsbury)
11. G Roberts (Oswestry)
12. M Chambers (Oswestry)
13. G Thompson (Shrewsbury)
14. M Dudley (Bridgnorth)
15. T Ridgway (Bridgnorth)
16. E Moran (Shrewsbury)
17. N Foreshaw (Ludlow)

It is proposed to issue the next ranking list after the 2001 championships which will, once again, be held at Lilleshall (on 4th March) combined with inter-league match results.

Shrewsbury

The Shrewsbury League Division One is a close run thing with Shrewsbury Cricket Club currently leading, their trio of Rod Francis, Nigel Holding and Mathew Croft, just holding off the challenge of Pontesbury A who have county no. 1 Darrell Corfield and the Mansfield brothers Paul and Rob on top form. Cricket Club 'C' have a game in hand but with Mike Dudley playing some superb table tennis they also could be a good outside bet for the title. Unison 'B' in Division 2 are heading for a runaway success and could replace their 'A' team in Division 1 at the end of the season.

Telford League

Last season's champions St. Gobain are on the heels of current leaders Albrighton 'B'. The leaders have ex-National League player Malcolm Langford and Terry Jones hitting their peak form and St. Gobain have Tony Ackroyd, Jim McGill and Shropshire no. 5 Graham Phillips in a good all-round squad. The family side of Industrial Bearings have two games in hand and could be in with a chance, father John Hurding and sons Rob and Nigel providing a good challenge to the top sides.

Somerset by Martin Rumary

Most of the local leagues are close to or have reached the halfway stage of the season so here is a roundup of the situation in some of the leagues as far.

The Bridgwater League runs on the two points for a win basis and at the time of going to press Sydenham B are level on points if not 'goal difference' with Edingworth.

The Sydenham team of Allsopp, Martin, Daly and Yarole are top having lost only once and that was to the Edingworth side that includes not only Phil Payne but Mike Hurley.

Division Two is led by Phil Kidby's Ashcott and Moorlync'h 'B'; while Wembdon B are hot on their heels led by Paul Barrett and Tim Preece.

The Mendip League is a bit of a one horse race at the moment with the strong Frome Dragons side cantering along with just Blagdon managing to keep somewhere in touch.

Paul Hewitt's team of not only himself and son Andrew but county players Jerry Musselwhite and Richard Jones did have one setback however. In the division one cup final they lost out to Continuforms to ensure not all the trophies go one way at the end of the season.

County matches so far have shown rather mixed results so at the moment it doesn't look as if anyone is about to achieve promotion by the end of the season.

Seniors

Devon (2) 6 Somerset 4
(M Morley 0, M Hurley 1, D Strutt 0, C Cowell 2, N Wilson 1)

Glamorgan (2) 6 Somerset 4
(A Rumary, 0, R Jones 1, D Strutt 1, C Cowell 1, N Wilson 1)

Juniors

Devon (2) 6 Somerset 4
(P Tillotson 2, G Duddridge 1, R Fortune 1, C Howe 0, C Roper 0)

Devon (3) 3 Somerset 7
(P Tillotson 2, G Duddridge 2, R Fortune 2, C Howe 1, C Roper 0)

Shropshire (2) 2 Somerset 8
(P Tillotson 2, G Duddridge 2, R Fortune 1, N Wilson 2, C Roper 1)

Shropshire (1) 7 Somerset 3
(P Tillotson 0, G Duddridge 1, R Fortune 0, N Wilson 1, C Roper 1)

Veterans 1

Dorset (2) 5 Somerset 4
(B Reeves 2, J Musselwhite 1, J Crabtree 0, S Dark 0, Mixed Doubles 1)

Devon (1) 4 Somerset 5
(B Reeves 2, J Musselwhite 1, J Crabtree 1, S Dark 0, Mixed Doubles 1)

Kent (4) 1 Somerset 8
(B Reeves 2, J Musselwhite 2, J Crabtree 2, S Dark 1, Mixed Doubles 1)

Bucks 6 Somerset 3
(B Reeves 1, J Musselwhite 0, J Crabtree 0, S Dark 1, Mixed Doubles 1)

Veterans 2

Dorset (3) 9 Somerset 0
(M Withyman 0, A Stone 0, R Deakin 0, W Pryce 0)

Devon (3) 6 Somerset 3
(A Stone 1, M Withyman 0, P King 0, W Pryce 1, Mixed Doubles)

Glamorgan 8 Somerset 1
(M Tarr 0, P Butterworth 0, B Atkinson 1, W Pryce 1)

The regional preliminary trials at St. Austell featured a few of the Somerset youngsters. Phil Tillotson and Gareth Duddridge just missed out on going through to the knockout stages and Leigh Wallmark as a late replacement acquitted himself exceptionally well.

Naomi Wilson, seeded number one, was in good form and finished the day unbeaten to go through to the National Trials at Fareham in January.

Suffolk by Andrew Doshier

Plenty to report about this month, first off the Stowmarket & District League concluded their pilot scheme with its second Sunday night two man team fixture. This had proved initially quite popular and it is hoped other players will play as it commences in earnest in February.

Situated in central Suffolk, Stowmarket is ideally placed for players to travel from all over the country and note to have to travel too far.

One point that does get mentioned often is that many players in Suffolk don't get to play others within the county. This could change with this new venture and was highlighted by the attendance of Ian Brown from Lowestoft and former county champion Mick Palmer from near Lakenheath, which produced a terrific match!

If anyone is interested in playing please contact Geoff Brook on 01449 774153.

On the county front, the second side of Andrew Doshier, Gary and Gavin Bloomfield, plus Vicky Gray and Aimee Sparkes, travelled to Nottinghamshire for their first county weekend.

After four matches the team finished with one win and three defeats. Essex was far too strong though we got a creditable three games here, though we were a little disappointing against Beds. & Northants. In our final match we beat Herts by a staggering scoreline of 8-2 though this was a little flattering as a number of the games were close, Doshier, Gavin Bloomfield, Sparkes and Gray all getting maximums here. With Cambs & Lincs amongst our opponents in the next round we must beat Norfolk seconds if we are to have a chance of avoiding the wooden spoon.

The Britannia Top 16 invitation event was a rousing success and arguably the best so far. Based on the 555 World Cup, after groups (four in total) the top two went through to the quarter-finals. Everybody once eliminated played off for places to add to the fun.

The quarter-finals were straightforward apart from David Gatiss showing stern resistance to

Mark Donahue. The semis produced two of the most dramatic games.

In the first, Andy Wignall & Donahue, the no. 1 and no. 2 seeds (paired only because Donahue came second in his group) went toe to toe, both know each other's game and produced many good rallies away from the table. It was a titanic finish as Donahue came back from a huge deficit but just went down at deuce in the third, giving Wignall his hardest test.

In the second, Andrew Doshier looked down and out against Kevin Gray, the form player of the moment from Cambridge, as he dropped the first set at 17, but then rescued the second at 18. In a pulsating decider Gray had leads of 10-5 and 17-9, but then Doshier started to return the serve better and attack more fluently. Aided also perhaps by Gray relaxing at 18-17 down, Doshier won four of the last five points to steal the match at 19.

The final was an anti-climax as Wignall won comfortably in the end with an endless display of power drives of either wing, restricting Doshier to just eight points in the last set, who didn't play quite as well as in their first match but nevertheless had to accept defeat to the better player.

At the last National League weekend in Harlow, Britannia Hanbury FP from Ipswich won two matches and drew one to finish the halfway stage joint second on points with Middlesex Progress but third on countback, With games on the third weekend against both Progress & KCD Stiga to be held at the Dome Ipswich, the outcome of the top three places could well be decided.

In the Ipswich & District League Premier Division, St. Margaret's lead but title favourites Britannia Eagles have a game in hand and have yet to play 'Margies' this half.

The decision to split up last year's champions Britannia A of Andrew Doshier, Charles Fulcher, Ian Brown and Andrew Holmes has meant a more open season, as Hospitals with Simon Ball, Dave Halliday and ace defender John Tallent have beaten St. Margaret's & Britannia A, also restricting Eagles to a 5-5 draw.

At the halfway stage the leading players are as follows:

Premier Division

Andrew Doshier 19/20, Richard Hutchinson 31/33, Rebecca Sparkes 22/24, Charles Fulcher 23/25, Andrew Warner 19/21, Ian Brown 22/27, Barry Thain 23/29, John Tallent 21/27, Dave Halliday 20/27, Michael Wright 18/26, Andrew Holmes 18/27.

It would be greatly appreciated if Associations other than Stowmarket could send me info, as the majority of info seems to be centred on Ipswich. To my knowledge there is activity in Sudbury, Lowestoft and Bury St. Edmunds!

My address is 13 Shrublands Avenue, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 5EA, tel: 01473 431272.

Sussex by John Woodford

The 65-year stint by stalwarts of the Hastings TTA running the oldest tournament in the country – the Sussex Open – has come to an end. Despite the fact that the event is now on the Grand Prix circuit, the current organiser Ron Spencer has announced that he is pulling out of that job and his committee will be following suit.

In a letter to the other Sussex Leagues and the county body he has asked for any offers to run the tournament due next 6th/7th October.

Swift action by the county headed by Keith Jackson the county chair has led to an offer, yet to be fully confirmed, that it will take place at Crawley Leisure Centre with major assistance from the local authority leisure department.

It is a long time since any major events have been held at Crawley. Some can recall international matches there, one against Hungary. The hall is bigger than the Hastings and may accommodate 16 or more tables. This will allow a bigger entry than the maximum of 170 at Hastings on the 11 tables.

The all-Sussex roadshow has been grounded. Following a superb spell of nearly two years, 2,000 schoolchildren have been introduced to our sport by the two-man team of Dave Ward and Ray Forder.

They transported four tables to a large number of schools and used their coaching experience to put on a real show enjoyed by all the youngsters in the hope that a number would continue with table tennis in schools and in youth clubs and eventually in main leagues.

But Dave Ward is off to America, possibly permanently, so Ray Forder has the task of finding another coach with time to spare during the day. If such a person is found the show will go on, if not, the best development scheme I have seen in years will vanish.

Development amongst youngsters and beginners continues on a regular basis in the Brighton area. ETTA Sussex Councillor Carol Beames is running a table tennis festival on 19th January for beginners at Moulescoomb Community Centre.

Injuries to leading players and congestion of fixtures continue to give cause for concern in Sussex. British League and county players Adrian Moore and Mayur Majithia have both suffered injury problems recently.

Moore's absence from the Horsham championship-challenging Premier Division team in the British League has almost certainly cost Horsham the chance of finishing second, although they have just signed Ian Girdler from Surrey who is ranked no. 10 in the veterans' list.

Crawley's Ifield club, winners of the Ormesby Cup four times in the past, are through to the second stage and should proceed further at least until they clash with London Progress for whom Marco Essomba is pulling up trees all over the tournament scene.

An example of the fixture congestion is that Sheila King was hoping to play prominent

seeded roles in both the Eastbourne and Hastings championships but she cannot play in either as there is a clash with the Veterans' British League at Wigan.

After considering three sets of dates it now seems that the all-Sussex championships will be held 31st March – 1st April at the Cardinal Newman School, Hove. Organiser Roger Gillett has been facing a similar nightmare situation trying to find dates that do not clash with the smaller amount of other tournaments.

But something had to clash and it is the Eastern Grand Prix Major at King's Lynn, an event I shall be forced to cover by telephone.

Rose Rainton won her first open tournament of the season at Cippenham when she defeated Amanda Alabaster of Kent in the women's final. She is also one of the few ladies playing in the men's British League, appearing for Hastings who is having a struggle to get off the bottom place in Division 3 South.

Something will have to be done about delays at tournaments caused by players' gluing-up, according to Ken Armson MBE. I watched the action at Liverpool at the Merseyside Open and came away with the impression, confirmed by Ken, that play was delayed by at least an hour by glue!

Warwickshire by Caroline Williams

An outstanding performance from Kelly Sibley at the Warwickshire Closed Championships led to her becoming perhaps the youngest ladies champion ever. At only 12 years of age Kelly Sibley (Leamington) was unstoppable, winning no less than five titles in a clean sweep of the ladies events. In the ladies' singles, Kelly defeated last year's runner-up Samantha Meredith (Leamington) and she paired with Sarah Riach from Birmingham to take the ladies doubles, Samantha Meredith runner-up with Nikki Pilgrim from Coventry.

Samantha Meredith had hoped to take the junior girls singles for a third and final time but she met the in-form Kelly Sibley again in the final for Kelly's third title. Kelly and Samantha joined forces to swoop through the junior girls doubles, with Stephanie Hawkins, also from Leamington, runner-up with Sarah Riach.

And just to confirm how young Kelly is she added the cadet girls' singles championships (Stephanie Hawkins runner-up). With nine girls entered for this event the standard was high for this age group and must be the envy of leagues nationwide.

Not to be outdone, Leamington's Jaz Allen-Sutton dominated the cadet boys defeating John Harrison (Birmingham) in the final. Scott Prime took the junior boys singles against Leigh Bradford and the junior boys' doubles playing with Gareth Hayward from Daniel Whitfield and Leigh Bradford runners-up in all Birmingham finals. In the junior plate, Gareth Hayward was successful, Sarah Riach second. In the men's event, Ian Ferguson from Birmingham dominated,

winning the men's singles, the mens' doubles and the mixed doubles. Like last year Ian defeated Mark Read (Birmingham) in the singles and joined with Mark for the doubles. There they saw off Leamington's Andy Cockerill and Phil Paine. Ian partnered Sarah Riach for the mixed with Andy Cockerill and Julie Richardson being runners-up.

The veterans' events were the province of Coventry's Kevin Pilgrim. He took the singles, beating his clubmate Ron Vose. They teamed up to take the doubles overcoming Birmingham's John Chandler and Simon Upson in the final. Coventry's Bill Fletcher took the over 50's singles; his final opponent was County Secretary Alan Healey.

Warwickshire Closed Championships

St Nicholas Park Leisure Centre, Warwick, 17th December 2000

Men's Singles, semi-finals: Ian Ferguson bt Shayrar Massodi 21-13, 21-14; Mark Read bt Andy Cockerill 21-13, 21-7. Final: Ian Ferguson bt Mark Read 19-21, 21-14, 21-18. Women's Singles, final: Kelly Sibley bt Samantha Meredith 21-14, 21-18; Men's Doubles, final: Ian Ferguson/Mark Read bt Andy Cockerill/Phil Payne 21-19, 21-12; Women's Doubles, final: Kelly Sibley/Sarah Riach bt Nikki Pilgrim/Samantha Meredith 21-19, 21-11; Mixed Doubles, final: Sarah Riach/Ian Ferguson bt Julie Richardson/Andy Cockerill 21-10, 21-17; Junior events - boys: Scott Prime bt Leigh Bradford 21-15, 21-14, girls: Kelly Sibley bt Samantha Meredith 21-18, 21-13; Veterans events: singles: Kevin Pilgrim bt Ron Vose 21-12, 17-21, 21-17. Over 50: Bill Fletcher bt Alan Healey 21-14, 21-19, Doubles: Ron Vose/Kevin Pilgrim bt John Chandler/Simon Upson 21-19, 21-12; Cadet Boys: Jaz Allen-Sutton bt John Harrison 21-19, 21-16; Cadet Girls: Kelly Sibley bt Stephanie Hawkins 21-11, 21-17; Junior Boys, doubles: Gareth Hayward/Scott Prime bt Daniel Whitfield/Leigh Bradford 21-14, 21-19. Junior Girls, doubles: Kelly Sibley/Samantha Meredith bt Sarah Riach/Stephanie Hawkins 15-21, 21-18, 21-15; Junior Plate: Gareth Hayward beat Sarah Riach 21-12, 21-15.

Worcestershire by Martin Clark

The Championships were held at Christopher Whitehead School, Worcester, on Sunday 12th November, attracting an entry of 42 boys and 7 girls, which is comparable with the entries in 1999. The Championships were again dominated by Kidderminster players.

Junior Boys' Singles:

Semi-finals: Chris Webb (Kidderminster) bt Craig Norwood (Kidderminster) –15, 13, 13; Tom McDermott (Kidderminster) bt William Pritchard (Kidderminster) 17, 19; Final: Chris Webb bt Tom McDermott 20, 17.

Junior Girls' Singles:

(played on group basis) winner: Kendall Smith (Kidderminster), RU: Laura Steele (Kidderminster).

Junior Boys' Doubles:

Semi-finals; Chris Webb/Tom McDermott bt Andrew Thomas/William Pritchard 19, 19. Kevin Halton (Kidderminster)/Craig Norwood bt Stephen Lasota/Bruce Ford (Evesham) 8, 18; Final: Webb/McDermott bt Hatton/Norwood 15, 10.

Junior Girls Doubles:

(played on a group basis); Winners: Kendall Smith/Becky Talbot (Evesham), RU: Laura Nelson (Kidderminster)/Emma Williams (Worcester)

Cadet Boys' Singles:

Semi-finals: Tom McDermott bt Stephen Lasota 11, 9; Daniel Page bt Bruce Ford 16, 18; Final: Tom McDermott bt Daniel Page 14, 16

Cadet Girls' Singles:

Final: Kendall Smith bt Laura Steele 10, 12

County Junior Inter-League Team Tournament

The Cadets section was once again dominated by Kidderminster teams A & B with the A team finishing undefeated and the B side only losing to their team mates.

Final Table:

Kidderminster A
Kidderminster B
Dudley
Evesham
Worcester
Malvern

A surprise in the Junior section is that Evesham remained unbeaten to stop Kidderminster's successful run for many years.

Final Table:

Evesham
Kidderminster A
Dudley
Kidderminster B

Senior 2nds

The unbeaten run continues for the 2nds, coming away from the clash with neighbours Herefordshire with a creditable 7-3 victory at Cripplegate.

Captain Mark Fiddian needed treatment from physiotherapist, and no. 1, Dave Rogers, in order to be fit enough to compete in the match following a neck injury. The treatment had the desired effect as he, Rogers and Zia Khan all won one set each to complement maximum performances from both Kate Hughes and Joanne Hill. The team now look forward with confidence to the visit to Cornwall in their quest for promotion.

Veterans

The introduction of Max Crimmins and Janet Dunning was a much needed boost to the 1sts, who, as expected, were too strong for the 2nds winning 10-0.

Eric Hardman proved to be the backbone of the 1sts who then took on Dorset 2nds to win 5-4. Max Crimmins lost to Brian Garraway, as did Ray Dixon, who by his standards had a disappointing day. The 2nds match against Dorset was not so profitable, going down 2-7, with only Mervyn Wood and Martin Clark getting any joy.

With the season halfway through it looks as though the 1sts may survive in the division, however, the difficult task that faced the 2nds in the wake of the reorganised division looks now even more daunting.

Around the Leagues

Kidderminster

In a season which appears more open than in a number of years, Kidderminster Harriers A and RB Iron & Steel are the early pacesetters. Martin Madkins, who has won the averages for the past seven seasons, is also looking to repeat his success.

Dudley

Joint winners of the league last season, Bromley A & Jim's Gym A, together with Hill Top, are again the teams to beat. It looks as though this season may be just as nail biting! Individual winner Steve Horton has been joined by brother Lee and father-in-law Mike Meredith at Bromley to make it a real family affair.

Bromsgrove

The annual battle for honours between champions for the past three years, Licky Monarchs, and Newtown Works A. The Works having stolen an early advantage with a 6-4 victory over their rivals with both sides being otherwise unbeaten.

Yorkshire by Rea Balmford

The 'lead' this month must be off the table, with sincere congratulations going to Halifax on their 16-page 'glossy' – Halifax and District TT News, a copy of which I was fortunate to see recently.

A very professional production, in full colour throughout, it makes interesting reading, even for someone like myself who is no longer in 'week to week' nevermind 'day to day' touch with the personalities who come under the spotlight. Add some excellent photography, and the result is a 'mag', which a very much livewire Halifax can be proud of.

N.B. A note to the editor – don't forget to drop a copy of any interesting events in your area to me for inclusion in these notes.

The future of our game looked to be in good hands at the regional junior trials, staged at the Hull Y.P.I. TT Centre, under the watchful eye of Richard Hudson – I think the only organiser I have never heard say "please can we have an umpire on table?". Youngsters from the East and West Ridings went head to head with finalists from South Yorkshire as they battled it out for starting places in the national trials.

A high standard of play was maintained throughout – not only, may I add, from those who made the top four, but right down the line, and when it is remembered that at least one cadet still has to reach double figures where age is concerned, the future must be bright.

Top Yorkshire placings were:

Junior Boys: 1 = Stephen Denny (Bradford), 3 = Chris Wragg (Hull), Philip Hinks (Doncaster)

Junior Girls: 1 = Nicola White (Bradford), 2 Zoe Cheesman (Wakefield), 3 Amanda Bell (Leeds)

Cadet Boys: 2 Alistair White (Wakefield), 3 Nick Clegg (Bradford), 4 Izbal Manjothi (Wakefield).

Cadet Girls: 1 Heather Shutt (Bradford), 2 Hannah Clarke (Harrogate)

It is with great regret that, in this month's notes, the county has to report the death of Ron Wilson on the evening of 26th December.

40 years ago Ron was known as a local league player in Gateshead, and his involvement continued when some 20 years ago he moved down to his adopted county of Yorkshire, where he became involved in administration, taking over the reign of office as County Umpires Secretary, a post he held for many years and in which he was still in harness at the end.

He was well respected as an International Umpire and a Tournament Referee, not only in this country but also across Europe, and will be sadly missed by his colleagues at future events.

The funeral service took place at the Lawnswood Crematorium in Leeds on January 5th, where many umpires from outside the county, together with colleagues from all branches of the sport within the bounds of the Broad Acres, gathered to pay their respects.

Mrs Wilson would like to say a sincere 'thank you' to all those who sent cards and letters of condolence, to all who attended the funeral, and for the contributions to the British Diabetic Association.

A final personal word – I shall miss the only committee man who regularly arrived in Batley before myself, particularly for the quiet 'asides' when, as often happened, we occupied adjacent seats.

Finally, a very sincere thank you to Lewis Ward, who has supplied much of the background information for these notes.

MUHR'S MEMO

Information Officer Messages from Ken Muhr

I was away in New Zealand through much of November and December so I may have missed some national table tennis media coverage. Certainly it has once again been **John Woodford** who in his **Daily Telegraph** lines has kept table tennis in the public eye, covering issues such as the return of Nicola Deaton to England duty, various European League matches, the forthcoming English Open and Butterfly Grand Prix tournaments etc.

Regarding the latter, I was impressed to see the full-page-with-photos coverage achieved (before and after the event) for the Newcastle Open Grand Prix on 16-17 December in the Newcastle Evening Chronicle.

But by far the biggest exposure for table tennis was through **Matthew Syed's nearly full page article** (again with photographs – of Matthew playing, lounging at Heathrow airport, and shaking hands with PM Tony Blair, and of his Conservative opponent at Wokingham, John Redwood, and with another table tennis action picture of Matthew on the front page of the Sports section) in **The Times on 6th January**. Matthew contrasted his life as an international sportsman with the canvassing he will soon be doing as the Labour Party candidate in the Parliamentary constituency of Wokingham. This article has had a big impact with several people in the media referring to it. I am aware from cuttings that John Cunningham has sent me, that the local media around Wokingham and Reading is also giving Matthew a lot of attention.

Matthew has been active in promoting table tennis in other ways, setting up a live interview and feature of Nicola Deaton on East Midlands television (12th December), Look North feature and interviews with Alan Ransome, Carole Moore and Paul Drinkhall (broadcast several times throughout 9th January). Matthew with Andrew Baggaley and Georgina Walker are to help publicise the English Open through an appearance on BBC TV's Blue Peter children's programme on 30th January.

Thank you Tony Mooney of Stowmarket TT Club for advising that he was interviewed by BBC Radio Suffolk on 20th November in a slot called 'People's Passions'. He not only mentioned his club and himself but also plugged the Study Support Programme that they are piloting on behalf of the ETTA.

Mike Smith sent me a copy of another University of Nottingham article on their

illustrious student, former world and Olympic Champion Deng Yaping (shown photographed with Vice-Chancellor Sir Colin Campbell and a replica of the Olympic torch), this time in their Annual Report 1999-2000. Howard Jacobson's table tennis novel *The Mighty Walzer* is still getting media attention, being listed in The Guardian by actor and writer Maureen Lipman as one of her books of the year: "I had the most fun with *The Mighty Walzer*, which achieved the impossible and still leaves a glow whenever I think of it."

16 year-old table tennis player Louis Rosenthal from Manchester and his 70 year-old outdoor bowls playing uncle Mervyn Gordon were given the lead page on the Jewish Telegraph Online Sports section for representing Great Britain in their respective sports in the 2001 Maccabi Games in Israel.

Although Alan Ransome gives the same message in his *From the Chair* column, I have been asked by the European Table Tennis Union to advertise the fact that **Liebherr European Champions League 2000/2001 matches are broadcast regularly for one hour on Mondays on EuroSport TV** (16th Feb, 10th March, 31st March, 6th April, 19th May, 18th June and 25th June). These are excellent, high quality matches, with commentary from Matthew Syed and Don Parker. Viewing is highly recommended!

There should also be excellent media coverage of the **English Open on 6-11 February**. If you are unfortunate enough not to get there, don't forget that there is **7 hours of live coverage on the finals day (Sunday 11th) on Sky Sport 3, ongoing reporting on the website <http://www.ittfprotour.com> and reports on the ETTA website <http://www.etta.co.uk>**

Famous People Who Played Table Tennis

I have virtually run dry on material for this feature, so more contributions please.

Star Iranian footballer, Karim Bagheri, a hero in his country but who now plays for Charlton, could, according to The Guardian (30th December), "easily have become the Desmond Douglas of Tabriz. He played county-level table tennis and volleyball but opted for football."

Unique Service

A Mr Lim Bora (e-mail chlim@moak.chonbuk.ac.kr) is offering a videotape of his 'sharply curved and unique' but legal service technique.

NEW ZEALAND TRAVELS

by Ken Muhr

After the wettest autumn in Britain for countless years, my mother and I arrived in New Zealand in the coldest November for 50 years! Nevertheless, I quickly became aware of the reality of ozone layer depletion (which lets ultra violet light through) when, starting out in the North Island just north of Whangarei, I got quite badly burned in 30 minutes of walking under a cloudy sky! We travelled the length and breadth of New Zealand and I followed the wisdom of using skin protection and wearing a hat – and indeed we did have some days of glorious sun.

However, this is a table tennis magazine so you won't want to read of the varied and beautiful scenery; the superb (and relatively cheap) food and wine – I recommend 1998 Hawkes Bay/Marlborough Cabinet Sauvignon/Merlot reds, though they cost much more in Britain – the comfortable (and unhurried) standard of living; the friendly, but sometimes inward looking, people!

My only brief encounter with table tennis, apart from meeting Peter Hirst's wife Sally (an old school, Cambridge YMCA and Cambridgeshire County team colleague of mine) in Lower Hutt, was visiting Pete's son Steve at the Nelson TT Academy in the South Island. Having got playing out of his system – he had a spell in the German Bundesliga – Steve has followed his father into coaching, and he was currently working at the Academy, which offers day-time and residential course coaching on 4/5 tables in a converted wing of a former psychiatric hospital. Stevie relates very well to the kids, but I don't think they are used to hard graft! I gave about an hours coaching to a very promising (and tall) 13 year old, Jack, who I was surprised to meet again the next day at Nelson College, the boarding and day school which two of my uncles and my cousin (with whom we were staying) had attended. Apparently, the table tennis academy is planning to move to Nelson College, which will suit Jack, a pupil there.

In fact table tennis seems quite strong in Nelson, a moderately sized town, having about 80 players in a local league that had not existed when I had visited the area with Peter around 13 years earlier. The sport is not very large in New Zealand, but there are some very big clubs and I saw quite a few mentions for it in local and regional papers – although coverage was of course dwarfed by that given to rugby, cricket, tennis, soccer etc.

A trip to New Zealand is recommended and you can be comfortably poor there, with the exchange rate currently very favourable to us!

Note: Peter Hirst, currently ETTA Director of Teaching and Training, is a former New Zealand TTA Director of Coaching.

Study of Janie Kirby who plays TT in both Gloucester and Cheltenham

by Alf Pepperd



Ken Muhr and Steve Hirst

Janie Kirby would be the first to admit that she hardly falls into the category of top star player. However, her credentials in other aspects of life, and table tennis especially, are indeed worth every mention – read on.

She originated from Poole in Dorset but left in 1968 to take up studies at Bristol in Marketing. In between brief respites she visited Hamburg and Munich and became conversant in both German and French.

However, it was in London that table tennis became an important factor in Janie's life when she joined Lever Brothers and played for Unilever in the Big City Business Houses League. This was 1971 vintage; she stayed with them for five years until the firm moved to Kingston-upon-Thames, whereupon at the latter she played for the YMCA at Surbiton for two years.

In 1976 Janie married Stewart who came from Liverpool. Still at Lever Brothers, Janie was in Marketing and shared an office with Ann Widdecombe – the current Tory Shadow Minister for Home Affairs – they still exchange Christmas cards to this very day.

Janie and Stewart were blessed with twins George and Sarah in 1982 and both followed cross-country running in which they have achieved the distinction of getting to the finals of the National Schools events, both are now at university.

In 1983, a year after the twins were born, Janie resumed her table tennis activities by playing for the Alexander Club in Tolworth, Surrey, in the Thomas Valley League. This lasted until January 1992 when her husband's job entailed moving to Gloucestershire. Her very first introduction to TT in the county came when she played for Electric Nuclear at Barnwood. After two years she moved to a club virtually on her doorstep in the village of Apperley and registered in the Cheltenham League. After three years she joined 'The Outcasts' in Cheltenham and remained there for one year.

Currently, Janie has her own table tennis club – a tailor made brick building in the village of Tirley (Glos) and these spacious premises well measures up to the ETTA playing specifications and are in very close proximity (only a few yards) to her dwelling house. Along with Gloucester's Pete Humble and Cheltenham's Pete Dainty and Jeff Steers they all combine to play as the Tirley Tigers in Division 3 of the Cheltenham League.

As well as playing for the Tirley Tigers, Janie also plays in the Gloucester City League for Sir Thomas Riches School 'A' team with the school's headmaster Ian Kellie, Janie is instrumental in running all three teams at this school and also does a high proportion of administration on the Gloucester City Committee for the annual Handicap Tournament in which she is helped by Colin Bruton and John Davis. This past year she

has helped Gill Smith (TR) to run the summer league in Cheltenham.

Janie's table tennis clubroom was built three years ago and is perfectly suitable for county matches. Furthermore, players of the calibre of Dave Harvey (the 1991 all-England Veteran Champion) and Dominic Wynn-Sands (the current County no. 1 Junior) and up and coming 11-year-old Harry Shahlaei have all practised there.

Janie also manages to take exams in Ballroom and Latin American dancing three times per year and has been known to enter competitions in such.

She also has a fascination for all things Chinese, including Chinese painting; she played table tennis in China while on a three week holiday there in 1988.

Janie is always prepared to turn out for veteran county matches when short of players – and has done this five or six times to.

Finally, one other very interesting factor to emerge about this very energetic player is that she is a member of MENSAs.

ETTA Personal Performance Sessions

Come and improve your skills at the National Training Centre in Nottingham.

17th March – Local League Players

21st April – Women's Day

22nd April – Veterans

Cost: only £25 per day

For full details contact:

Jill Parker, Coaching Manager, The Spinney, 50 Egerton Road, Ashton, Preston PR2 1AL
Tel: 01772 461325 Fax: 01772 461326 e-mail: jparkeretta@cablenet.co.uk

Note that the National Training Centre Open Day is now on Saturday 23rd June. For information contact Tony Chatwin (tel: 01332 672534)

ETTA Level Three Coaching Course

Friday, Saturday, Sunday 22nd-24th June & 21st July at Lilleshall National Sports Centre.

The weekend provides much of the course work required for ETTA Level 2 Coaches wishing to qualify to 'ETTA Coach' Level 3. The physiology course will be on Saturday 21st July with the Level 3 practical assessment.

Cost: Residential £165

Non-residential £105

1 day only (Physiology course) 21st July.

20 places only. For further information and a form contact Jill Parker, Coaching Manager (above), to whom applications have to be made by Friday 25th May 2001.

ETTA Approved Laws of Table Tennis – "Changing Rackets", Play in Local Leagues – ETTA Rule (2000/1) 44.3

It seems that there is some misunderstanding relating the effect of a change to an ITTF Regulation for International Competitions (2000-2001: 3.5.2.5, previously 1997-99: 3.5.2.8) which was made by the ITTF Council in February 2000. The regulation concerns a player changing racket "during an individual match".

This change to an ITTF Regulation for International Competitions does not change the ITTF Laws of Table Tennis, and therefore does not change the ETTA Approved Laws. THE REGULATION DOES NOT APPLY TO PLAY IN LOCAL LEAGUES that is governed only by the ETTA Approved Laws. The relevant Law which does apply is "2.4.8. At the start of a match and whenever he changes his racket during a match a player shall show his opponent and the umpire the racket he is about to use and shall allow them to examine it".

The situation may change if the substance of the regulation is put into the ITTF Laws by the ITTF Annual General Meeting in April 2001. This would change the ETTA Approved Laws (which govern Local League play) unless ETTA Rule (2000/1) 44.6 or 44.7 was operated.

Greater London Regional Closed Tournament, 27th-30th December 2000 at Middlesex University, Trent Park

by Alan Shepherd

(Greater London is such a vast area that we exceptionally publish this 'closed' tournament report – Ed.)

Once more our entries were up – 138 this time – and a very strong men’s entry, so much so that the likes of Joe Kennedy, Chris Beckley and John Payne were unseeded. The entry of women, on the other hand, was very disappointing, only eight entries received, and so Shelley Ruocco, Linda Radford, Brooke Shi or Barbara Kiss, who certainly would have made things more interesting.

On day one (Wednesday) we played off the Under 12 and Under 14 events. The former proved to be an easy exercise for the precocious 10-year-old, Darius Knight, from the Gideon Ashison stable in Surrey. He did not lose a game. The Under 14 boys’ event was far more competitive, as in contention were Israel’s Niv Bogen, a tremendous prospect, Daniel Flash, the Progress 11-year-old Marc Armstrong of Middlesex, and the pride and joy of Essex and Fellows Cranleigh, Umair Mauthoor, who is 13. In the top half Darius reached the semi-final, but Niv was too strong for him. In the bottom half Umair was through to meet Mossford’s William Thoresby, a good winner over Marc Armstrong. As with Niv, Umair proved too strong for William. A wonderful final saw Umair victorious over Niv.

There were only enough girls (7) for an Under 14 round robin and this produced as its winner the expatriate Gina Rogers, now living in Hastings. She was unbeaten while Tina Jian from Walworth only lost once.

On Thursday we staged the Under 17 and Under 21 events. Since this was the morning of the big blizzard in London we were lucky that most people managed to make it to the venue.

The Under 17 boys’ event was won by Tim Holtam of Middlesex, who was class above his rivals, although for quite some time in the final he was challenged by Umair Mauthoor. Previously, Umair had won another great match with Niv Bogen, and once has visions of Umair going to the very top during his four further years as a junior. Holtam/Bogen secured the boys’ doubles, but the Mossford pairing of Daniel Bronzet and Robin Ashleigh proved tough opponents.

The Under 17 and Under 21 girls’ events had virtually the same players in them, and two round robins were played off. In the first of these Joanne Hubbard from Kent defeated Aparna Narendran of Middlesex, but in the Under 21s it was Aparna who triumphed. The Under 21 men’s event had quite a few ‘heavyweights’ such as Eli Baraty, Tim Holtam, Jason Sugrue (all Middlesex) and Marco Essomba (Surrey). It was Jason and Marco who reached the final, however, without either losing a game. A superb match then ensued and Jason just prevailed in the third game.

Friday was when the big guns came on the scene in the men’s open singles. Six groups of six players each played off in the morning with three from each going through to the K/O competition. Chris Beckley was the only non-seed to reach the last 7, but this was due (maybe) to the non-arrival of Nick McKoy.

Both Marco Essomba and Lawrence Trumpauskas had easy passages to the semi-final stage but then had very big opponents to contend with. Lawrence lost narrowly to his Essex colleague Cris Sladden, but Marco won a tremendous battle with Surrey player Abdul Wuraola. The final was especially hard-fought, with Marco just prevailing over Cris Sladden.

Despite the poor entry numerically the women’s singles included Bose Kaffo (Nigeria), Aparna Narendran, Marianna Rolikova (Surrey) and Sarah Horsnell (Middlesex). Of these players, Bose was by far the strongest, although Marianna put up a brave fight in the final.

The doubles (open to women if they chose to enter – which they did) was predictably won by the Essomba/Wuraola pair, although they only just got home in the final against Sladden/Sugrue. Defeated semi-finalists were John Payne/Joe Kennedy and Clive Carthy/Laurestas Trumpauskas.

The final day’s play brought out the veterans and the men’s banded entrants. The former included such old favourites as Henry Buist (it was great to see him again), Chris Pickard, the former Hants no. 1, Derek Balding and Tom Carr. John Payne did not make it for the Saturday, and Clive Carthy arrived too late to play! Joe Kennedy battled past Henry on the teams and then beat John in the final. Tom had previously won very tough matches against Gary Morgan (Wembley) and Chris Pickard.

The banded event had in it some very good players and some great play. Again Umair Mauthoor was impressive, beating Matthew Spero (Mossford) in the quarter-final. He then lost to the re-emerging Tim O’Leary in the semi. Another face from the past to reach the semis was Paul Jablon (Middlesex) but he lost to the little known Darek Zurowski from Progress. Then in the final, Darek confounded everybody by beating Tim fair and square – an excellent performance.

Throughout the tournament, Regional Development Officer Jon Kaufman, when he was not lauding the achievements of his Progress players, found time to dispense potatoes in their jackets, sandwiches, tea, coffee and all manner of snacks, which were greatly appreciated by those who attended.

Detailed Results

Under 12 Boys’ Singles: Darius Knight (Sy) beat Sam Cannon (E) 16, 11; Under 14 Boys’ Singles: Umair Mauthoor (E) beat Niv Bogen (Mi) 18, -18, 15; Under 14 Girls’ Singles (round robin): Gina Rogers (Sx) -1, Tina Jian (Sy) -2; Under 17 Boys’ Singles: Tim Holtam beat Umair Mauthoor (E) 16, 16

Under 17 Boys’ Doubles: Tim Holtam/Niv Bogen (Mi) beat Daniel Bronzet/Robin Ashleigh (E) 18, 19; Under 17 Girls’ Singles (round robin): Joann Hubbard (K) -1, Aparna Narendran -2; Under 21 Men’s Singles: Jason Sugrue (Mi) beat Marco Essomba (Sy) 18, -18, 19; Under 21 Women’s Singles (Round

Robin): Aparna Narendran (Mi) -1, Joanne Hubbard (K) -2; Men’s Singles: Semifinals: Marco Essomba (Sy) beat Abdul Wuraola -12, 16, 19; Cris Sladden (E) beat Lawrence Trumpauskas (E) -18, 12, 17, Final - Marco Essomba beat Cris Sladden -16, 20, 18; Women’s Singles: Bose Kaffo (Nigeria) beat Marianna Rolikova (Sy) 19, 16; Men’s Singles (Banded): Darek Zurowski (Mi) beat Tim O’Leary (Mi) -16, 6, 14; Veteran’s Singles (040) Joe Kennedy (K) beat Tom Carr (He) 17, 11; Doubles (for men and women entrants): Marco Essomba/Abdul Wuraola (Sy) beat Jason Sugrue/Cris Sladden (E) 18, 20.

FRED EVANS

Fred Evans, who is brother of the table tennis playing journalist Harry Evans who became famous as the Editor of the Sunday Times and Chairman of Random (Publishing) House, was himself a table tennis player who worked in the newspaper business.

Those Were The Days

I became interested in table tennis during the war. My aunt had a Morrison shelter in one of her rooms. A Morrison shelter was like a great big cage with a strong metal top. It was big enough to take three or four people lying down, and had a mesh side. It was on the top of this that my elder brother Harold and myself first played table tennis. There was not much room, but we at least learned how to handle a bat and some of the rudimentary strokes needed to play properly.

After I left school I went to work at the Daily Mirror office in Hardman Street, Manchester. Nearby was the Manchester Junior YMCA. It didn’t take me long to find my way there and to begin to play table tennis quite seriously. The warden was rather a go-ahead man, and one time invited Victor Barna to come to play there. Barna was very good and played many of the club members. He did, at the special request of the warden and several of the members, play the best player that we had there. The only problem was the best player had a very big head, and made the rest of us feel so inferior. Barna played him and absolutely thrashed him 21-0. Most others scored ‘a few points’.

When the warden left, a few of us took charge of the Junior YMCA, and I often played there until one or two in the morning, and so became quite good. On one occasion I played for the Manchester Junior YMCA against Sheffield Junior YMCA. I can’t remember the outcome match but I do remember it was most exciting.

During that time I did go to Belle Vue Manchester to watch Johnny Leach play Bohemil Vana in the World Championship, which Vana won.

My elder brother Harold had a friend, Ronnie Allcock, who later played for England.

He and Harold played together often, and one time when I played Ronnie, for me the most memorable thing was that in one game I actually beat an England International.

When I came out of the services I joined Newton House Community Club in Newton Heath, Manchester, mainly because they had a table in the basement. Without wishing to boast, because I didn't know then that I was good at the game, I became the club champion and other members used to queue up to play against me. During that time I taught my wife to play and she developed one of the most vicious forehands I have ever seen, and it was when she was hitting the ball I was driven back to the far wall defending.

Harold (known as Harry) lived by then in London and on one visit he and I played our wives. It would have been rather a one-sided match, but H & I didn't use bats – we offered to use our shoes as bats. The offer was accepted and eventually after a very long game we won, but only just.

Since that time I have played virtually no games, and the times when I have I have found it extremely difficult to handle the sponge rubber bats, for I played with rubber pimples on a hard bat.

In the days when I was playing the rules had just been changed about finger spin, and it (serving) had to be from the flat of the hand, and also the serve had to stand within the edge lines of the table. That's something that seems to have gone by the board nowadays.

From 'Ping' to 'Pop' Steve Heyliger

Table tennis coach Steve Heyliger from Sycamore TT Club, Nottingham, has another string to his bow, reaching number 23 in the UK Charts as one half of garage act 'Monsta Boy'.

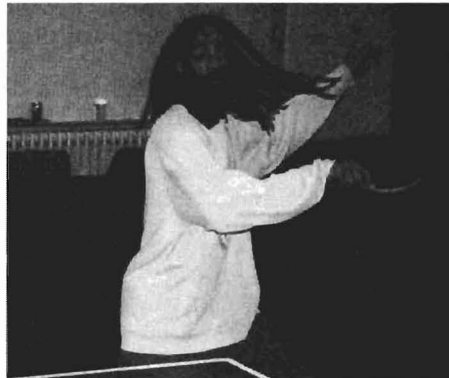
The UK Garage Awards nominees were pleasantly surprised by their success but maintain the 'feet on the ground' concept and get on with their other activities – in Heyliger's case as a table tennis coach at various schools and also at Holme Pierrepont. When asked about music he replied: "I have been involved in the music business since I was 15, playing drums for my father's steel band and playing in my own band. From there, I became a session musician, playing with the likes of Laurel Aitken, Incognito, Salt 'n' Pepa, Aswad, amongst many others. I have been a member of the Guild of International Songwriters and Composers for many years, writing songs for other artists such as Geno Washington and many up and coming artists. My musical life is a far cry from the table tennis as music is such a cut throat business which doesn't necessitate talent, but without table tennis it would be difficult to channel my frustration with the business."

Asked about coaching and the future of the sport, Heyliger said "we are sadly pushed to the back of the queue when it comes to priority

sports. In this country, we have some brilliant talent that needs to be supported and promoted in any way possible. I see many of our hopes for the future at Holme Pierrepont and it's clear to see that with the amount of hard work these players put in they deserve more support. I will endeavour to support the players in any way I can but it's difficult to promote something without a proper concept in that I personally believe the way the sport itself is being 'sold' to the general public is a bit 'passe' today.

If you look at football, tennis, even snooker, the dynamics of the sports are clearly what make them so popular and they are funded with incredible amounts of money. We on the other hand have to make do with spare TV coverage, etc. I only really coach at grass roots level even though I'm halfway through my Level 3 it won't change the way I coach. I believe coaches should get more respect, as it's them who have to maintain motivation and try to get the best out of players. It has taken me over 20 years to get in the top 30 charts, so with patience, belief, hope, sheer hard work and a bit of talent, great things can be achieved".

"Sorry (I Didn't Know)" is available at most record shops now, Cat. numbers L0X 125CD, L0X 125MC. Look out for "Monsta Boy" in the future with a new release in December/January. Support your sport!



Teaching and Training Courses 2001

Coach Education Courses

North West:

17th & 24th Feb – Sport Leader/Teacher/Level 2, Manchester, contact Jennine Sutton 0161 2323113

Northern:

25th Jan, 1st, 8th & 15th Feb – Sports Leader/Teacher/Level 2, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, contact Mark Smith, tel: 07977 230167

Yorkshire:

13th Feb – Top Up Course, Scarborough, contact Mark Smith as before

21st Feb – Top Up Course, Richmond, contact Mark Smith as before

24th Feb – Top Up Course, Sheffield, contact Mark Smith as before

1st March – Top Up Course, Sheffield, contact Mark Smith as before

8th & 15th March – Introduction to Coaching, Barnsley, contact Mark Smith as before

24th & 25th March – Level 2, Leeds, contact Mark Smith as before

London:

3rd & 4th Feb – Sport Leader/Teacher/Level 2, Barking, contact John Standing 01689 829882

South East:

24th & 25th February - Level 2, Cranbrook, contact Wesley Bush-Harris, tel: 07980 586450

10th & 11th March - Level 2, Brighton, contact Wesley Bush-Harris as before

18th & 25th March - Level 2, Medway, contact Wesley Bush-Harris as before

East/West Midlands:

Feb – Sports Leader/Teacher/Level 2, Ancaster, contact Chris Newton, tel: 0410 155971

TTDO Courses

18th Feb – Taunton, contact Philip Irwin-Brown, 07747 011185

3rd March – Nottingham, contact Martin Ireland: 0973 411559, Chris Newton: 0410 155971, Mike Watts: 01376 551414 ext. 2342

3rd March – Barking, contact Jon Kaufman 0705 0042671

4th March – Crawley, contact Wesley Bush-Harris 07980 586450

17th March – York, contact Mark Smith 07977 230167

Ledbury Woolwich National Junior League expands to 10 teams

Malvern A made a big effort to reduce the dominance of Hereford A in the second set of matches of Woolwich National Junior League played at Ledbury Leisure Centre, by signing on a new player, Eak Sugkrarook, who also

plays in the Hereford and Malvern Table Tennis Leagues for Colwall. Eak managed to beat Hereford's Joe Davies, who had not been previously beaten, -17, 16, 13, by controlled pushing against the long pimples but could not manage to control the powerful top spin attack of the other unbeaten player, Ali Dawson, and lost 16, -16, -13 in what was the most spectacular game of the day. The Hereford A team managed to hang on for a draw and so retain their unbeaten record to lead the division.

This new event for any player under 17 is being run by the ETTA with the Herefordshire County Table Tennis Association development team and sponsored by David Watkins, Estate Agents, has now increased by four teams and 20 players to a 10 team league. The new entries have come from Herefordshire and Worcestershire in the form of a second team from Malvern, who have split their original team and added a few new players who had heard what an enjoyable time their fellow players had had in the last round of matches. The same happened in Evesham so they have added a third team while John Masefield School, which has joint use of the wonderful new sports hall, have entered two teams from their squad of 30 players currently being coached by local ETTA coach Steve Watkins.

Tournament Results from Cippenham TTC

Cippenham U9/10/11 Star Open Championships (10.12.00)

U11BS: Luke Alderson (Wal) bt Gavin Evans (Bu) -19, 21, 19
 U11GS: Melanie Farquhar (Bk) bt Rachel Jamieson (E) 15, 10
 U10BS: Myles Evans (Bu) bt Dorian Robinson (So) 7, 6
 U10GS: Rachel Jamieson (E) bt Sophie Kempner (Bu) 11, 13
 U9BS: Myles Evans (Bu) bt Billy Deville (E) 15, 16
 U9GS: 1. Stephanie Mitchell (Bu) 2. Jessica Macken (E)
 U11BSCon: Matthew Tucker (Bu) bt Andrew Linz (Sy) -19, 12, 16
 U11GSCon: Hannah Judge (Sy) bt Ceri Anne Paine (Wal) 20, -8, 14
 U10BSCon: Adam Kendall (Bu) bt Darren Richardson (K) 17, 14
 U10GSCon: 1. Rachel Farquhar (Bk), 2. Aiden McNeil (E)
 U9BSCon: Alexander Lovell (Bu) bt Andrew Lee (E) 9, 10

Cippenham 2 Star Open Championships (07.01.01)

MS: Martin Adams (Bk) bt Steve Davis (Sy) 8, 23
 WS: Rosemary Rainton (Sx) bt Amanda Alabaster (K) -19, 12, 7
 MSCon: Ken Phillipson (Bu) bt Patrick Caunt (Sy) 22, 13
 WSCon: Gail Davey (Sx) bt Flavia Wade (Mi) 19, 16

Buckinghamshire Junior Closed Championships (03.12.00)

JBS: Robert Hansell (Hw) bt James Milton (Si) 17, 10
 JGS: Helen Smith (SI) bt Emily Tucker (SI) -17, 14, 17
 CBS: David Hayes (Si) bt James Milton (SI) -16, 10, 18
 CGS: Emily Tucker (Si) bt Sylvana Bielec (SI) -17, 6, 7
 U12BS: James Milton (Si) by Myles Evans (SI) 10, 12
 U12GS: Sylvana Bielec (Si) bt Caroline Linz (SI) 14, 12
 JBD: Robert Hansell (Hw)/Tom Mitchell (SI) bt James Milton (SI)/Chris Hansell (Hw) 21, 15
 JGD: Francesca Parnell/Emily Tucker (SI) bt Helen Smith/Emma Human (SI) 17, 20 (Hw - High Wycombe, SI - Slough)



Martin Adam (top) & Myles Evans

Press Release - January 2001

Dunlop Slazenger continue support of English Schools Association

ESTTA is pleased to announce the continued support of Dunlop Slazenger International Ltd. in sponsoring its major events for the season 2000/1.

Dunlop will supply equipment for the finals of the Dunlop School Team Championships 2001 - to be held at Kesteven Table Tennis Centre, Grantham; the Dunlop Individual Championships 2001 - to be held at Fenton Manor Leisure Centre, Stoke-on-Trent and at

the Schools' Invitation International Championships to be held at Lilleshall, at which teams from Scotland, Ireland and Wales will join the host country.

Peter Merrick on behalf of the Dunlop Slazenger Group confirmed his company's pleasure in extending the contract first signed in 1983 with the hope that the agreement would continue after the current season.

If table tennis is to flourish, like all other sports, it must continue to be played in school. Its development there is to be encouraged, not only by school teachers and the local education authorities, but by local authority sports development staff and ETTA personnel working in conjunction with local leagues.

However, schools' table tennis, again like other traditional school sports, needs a structure for competition within an educational framework. John Arnold, President of ESTTA, believes the Association provides this, but can only function with the help of sponsorship. The Association is therefore grateful for the continued support of Dunlop.

OLOP Journey to Spain

We apologise that a photograph of coaches from the Teaching and Training Conference was wrongly published in the place of a photograph of the OLOP and L'Escola teams that should have appeared alongside John Cunningham's report in the December issue. The latter picture is now printed below



GRANT SOLDER TABLE TENNIS SUMMER SCHOOL

Running from 18th-22nd August at Barking Abbey School Leisure Centre, Barking, Essex this is one of several commercial coaching courses being held over the summer months. Organised by former professional player Grant Solder, now a professional coach, and being directed by England international and former National Coach Nicky Jarvis, the course can boast an impressive staff line-up. Assisting full-time will be England international Andrew

Eden and ETTA Psychologist Mark Bawden, with former England and Commonwealth champion Alan Cooke, England's greatest player of recent times Desmond Douglas and current international Terry Young also assisting on particular days.

The cost person will be £239 non-residential and £329 residential. For further information or an application form, contact Grant Sólter, 6 Bennions Close, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 6TR Tel: 01708 551778 Mobile: 07930 275940.

WINNING

by Rowden Fullen A Yorkshireman coaching in Sweden

The big difference between the winner and the loser is in the attitude towards defeat, and indeed not only defeat but towards problems, setbacks and handicaps. The winner does not wallow in self-pity or give way to depression; rather he regards losses in a constructive manner as part of the developmental process. If you look into the lives of many prominent people and world leaders how often do you find a battle against adversity – they often faced misfortunes but didn't give up, they learned from their experiences and moved forward.

It is only by admitting you have faults that you can hope to change and progress – the secret of winning and continued development is to always look for the lessons to be learned from losing. If you succumb to the very human tendency of making excuses and manufacturing external reasons for your failure, then you throw away the chance to profit from the experience and to learn something. To progress you must face reality.

And in this we must be searching and ruthless. Too many coaches, trainers and parents are too easy-going and protective of their charges, and not always ready to face the ordeal of discussing and evaluating performance with their player. However upset a player may be after a bad loss, he or she should appreciate the value of talking it over with their trainer as soon as possible, while details are still fresh in the mind. It does not have the same impact two or three hours or even days later. There is certainly no value in brooding over the loss; this only reinforces the negative aspects.

Look at things objectively, find out what went wrong, decide what to do next time in similar circumstances, and then forget the matter. If there are lessons to be learned, changes or improvements to be made in your game, then these aspects should be looked at in training and corrected. If the other player was better trained or just better at this moment in time, that is also something you should be ready to admit.

Another tendency in defeat is to be often totally negative about us and our performances in many cases without justifiable reason. We say such things as – “I can't play today”, “I can't get my forehand on”, “my serve won't work”. In other words, we set about destroying our confidence, and from there our performance, often while we are still playing. All this does is to reinforce our opponent's confidence – our total body language says we are going to give the game away – and kill off whatever chance we have of winning.

Your mind is like any computer, it responds to data that is fed in. If you keep telling it that you have no chance, and you're going to lose, it will indeed help you to do just this. Equally, if you emphasise that anything is possible, there is a way and you are going to find it, then the mind starts working to support you. Sooner or later positive thinking will attract solutions.

Recent studies in Sweden into the motivation of top players has thrown out the fact that the younger age group (up to 20 years of age) differ markedly from other groups, in that they focus predominantly on results. It is more important to them to win tournaments and to beat certain opponents. Often, however, their overall level preparation and their knowledge of how to reach their destination are basically very limited. No one can win all the time and over concentration on results means self-confidence and motivation diminish in direct proportion to the number of losses.

In contrast the older age group of top players (especially 25 years and over) have the deepest understanding of our sport, how to plan and prepare for the season and carry through their programme. Also they are most aware of their own capabilities. They are much more focused on their continuing development and less on results – individual upsets are taken in their stride and confidence does not suffer because losses are part of the learning and developing cycle. These older players have fewer worries about the future.

This emphasises that although the winner is the sort of person who sets goals and works towards them, what goals you set are not self-limiting in terms of confidence and motivation. Table tennis is one of the most difficult and complicated sports to master and to reach top-level takes a long time. It requires enormous patience and motivation – rather the aims and goals you work towards should be long term.

But to succeed in any long-term project you must really look at development in stages. You don't become a top player overnight, progress is made one small step at a time, and this is how you must view it. You should continually monitor your attitudes – if you maintain a good attitude throughout training and matches, you will steadily progress and continue to move forward.

High motivation comes from inner satisfaction, from the appreciation that the activity is of value to the individual. It is when outside influences or needs strengthen over a period of time that motivation diminishes – it can be for example when it becomes more important to earn money, win trophies, break into the national team, rather than develop as a sports person. This is when one starts to weigh the advantages against the costs, and even the value of continuing.

Of course what makes our sport enjoyable differs from individual to individual. Some players love the competition and the pressure of contestant, enjoy being taken to their limits, some the satisfaction and challenge of mastering new techniques and of seeing progress in their game. However, one thing that many top players do agree on is that one of the prime sources of success are the areas they have control over and the capability of influencing – the internal factors.

What we are talking about here is basically attitude – the qualities and the approach you bring to training and competition. The desire and willingness to train and train in the right way, to prepare for the big events, to fight and indeed fight hard under pressure, and above all never to give in. This spirit of extreme stubbornness is a quality often found in the winner, and one emphasised by many top players when they talk about what it takes to be champion.

Above all however, these are the areas where you the player can take charge and steer your own course. If you focus completely on working and fighting for every point, then you have very little time and energy for doubt and worry and being negative. If you remain calm and in control and do not allow emotions, irritation, anger and fear to creep in, then you have time to think how you should play, to consider different tactics.

As we said at the beginning of this article, the big difference between the winner and the loser is in attitude. If you too will be a winner learn to control the negative aspects that threaten your concentration, become a fighter who never gives up, and above all feed only positive thoughts into your mental computer.

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“TOGETHERNESS AS A TOOL FOR SUCCESS ON THE TABLE”

IN PART 1 Terry Young revealed how he progressed from the cadet and junior ranks to representing England. In the following interview Terry talks frankly about his time in the Nottingham Centre and what the future holds for him.

BRIAN HALLIDAY: How have you found the set-up in Nottingham?

TERRY YOUNG: There were problems at first. Some promises were broken. After a year and half we sat down with the coaches to discuss problems. From then on the relationship with the coaches improved dramatically. You know that when I was at Kingfisher it was like a family with Colin Dyke, yourself, the problems we had were ironed out and I think that bred success. I am sure Soren and Michel use that family type togetherness as a tool for success on the table. Professional players need to sort things out between themselves. Another thing is that we recognise that Michel Gadal has to work within budget restraints. Both Gareth and myself were very grateful of the opportunity to go to China and that was very beneficial in our development. In Nottingham now I can see that players like Dale Barham and Andrew Rushton are on the right lines. All is not perfect but we are getting there. Certainly Dale at 14 is better than I was at that age.

BH: I am sure that we are all delighted to hear such positive comments.

TY: Dale Barham is a great talent, but the game has so much that requires mental toughness. All the great players have this, and you have to be



a very special player to have all the facets that go to make a supreme champion.

BH: If you hadn't been involved in table tennis what career would you have followed?

TY: When I was 13 I was quite good at golf (off 18) and I was even offered a scholarship. It was tempting and I discussed it with my family and I decided to stick with table tennis and give it my best shot.

BH: What career will you take up when your table tennis days are over?

TY: I always think about this, it is something to worry about. I was not an academic - it was always table tennis day in day out at Kingfisher with Gareth. If I don't make it as a player then I must have something to fall back on. Perhaps coaching or something along those lines. I think that maybe I would be a good coach, because I have been coached by some of the best coaches in the

world and I feel able to pass that expertise on. Michel Gadal has taught me a lot and even from the basic level with Ken Phillips and Jim Stokes I learned so much.

BH: Your girlfriend is American?

TY: No actually she is Italian and moved to America.

BH: Any thought on moving over there?

TY: None at all. I love the people but I don't think I would be happy there. I must be happy in what I do, I think that is very important.

BH: Back to technical side. What blade and rubbers do you use?

TY: I am not sure as to my blade at the moment as the big ball does have an affect. I use Sriver L 2.4 and Sriver L Black.

BH: How then has the big ball affected your game?

TY: I went to China and used the big ball. In the first week I got so upset with the way I was playing. I eventually started to get it together but when I came back to my German club it was back to the small ball. My record in Germany is won 8 and lost 3 which is not too bad considering the standard.

BH: Have you found out that there is a decrease in spin?

TY: For sure. Before the big ball my service was one of my main weapons but now I have to practise very hard with my services as they are not so effective. It also makes a difference away from the table, your upper

body has to be much stronger. With the speed and spin there is so much difference. With the big ball you can see it so much clearer on TV. I hope so much that it will benefit the game. I really think the game should be explained and marketed in the right way.

BH: I can assure you that the Management Committee is aware of this and we are all working hard on this aspect at this time. Things are moving.

TY: I spoke to the new Commercial Manager, Brian Spicer recently and he expressed his support for all the players, which is what we wanted to hear. Encouragement is so important.

BH: What about the set-up in your club in Germany?

TY: I am fortunate in playing alongside Carl Prean and Marc Rosset, however there is always pressure on us to perform. I am learning all the time both from my team-mates and my opponents.

BH: How much training do you do?

TY: 20 hours a week Monday to Friday. Playing 2 hours in the morning and 2 hours in the afternoon. 9 sessions a week

BH: Do you have to watch your diet?

TY: Don't mention the subject of food at Nottingham. Let's say its variable. Maybe it could be of better quality.

BH: Favourite Film?

TY: I am a complete movie fanatic. I loved Shawshank Redemption, Carlito's Way, and The Green Mile. They don't call me Barry Norman for nothing!

BH: Remaining ambitions?

TY: So many. I would like to be No 1 in England, but that is really for my family, and especially for my Granddad. I want to finish my career knowing that I have played the best I could. I would like to spend from 10 to 15 years as a professional player.

BH: Thanks Terry, especially for being so honest. I hope the future for Francesca and yourself is all that you would want it to be.

DERBYSHIRE'S DOUBLE VICTORY

ALAN COOKE and NICOLA DEATON emerged from the finals session at the Sir David English Sports Centre, Bournemouth as the deadly Derbyshire duo taking the singles titles, writes John Woodford

After 20 months refusing all invitations to play for England Miss Deaton lifted the Bournemouth crown, winning her third GP tournament in a row and remaining unbeaten in Britain.

She came under considerable examination before she overcame Kubrat Owolabi 11, -6, 11, 14, 13 in the final in which both girls displayed exquisite counter-hitting.

The Chesterfield title holders present form against English opponents is that she can overpower Owolabi, Helen Lower and Andrea Holt in third or fifth games when the chips are down to the best-counter-hitter.

In France, two days after Bournemouth she defeated Andrea Holt but again, in the third game. Nicola, who is now training three days a week at Nottingham, has no trouble powering past most of the young players - she defeated Rebecca Sparkes in the semi-final 4,13, 7,



DERBYSHIRE'S DOUBLE: ALAN COOKE and NICOLA DEATON, who swept all before them at Bournemouth, winning the Mens and Womens Singles, respectively.

After his victory Cooke said, "The two finals I have lost this season have been when the service was five points in a row. This one, two services in succession, is the one that suits me best and no doubt the rest of the players. There is no way five services in a row will become law if and when we go to eleven points"

Scottish squads looked after by Kevin Satchell are making regular and successful appearances on the circuit. At Bournemouth the squad from north of the border was headed by Gavin Rumgay and Claire Bentley, both of whom looked impressive.

Both Rumgay and Niall Cameron reached the quarter-finals of the mens singles - Rumgay lost to Jenkins and Cameron went down 4, 2, 2 to

Cooke.

Nicola Deaton said after the finals, "With the world championships only four months away, I am pleased to be back."

The grapevine says that England are already preparing for the next but one Commonwealth Championships in Manchester in 2002 - Nicola could be the England spearhead.

Marco Essomba, playing almost as well as he did at Hastings where he won the Sussex Open Grand Prix, landed the Mens Under-21 title against Gavin Rumgay 7, 7, -9, 9, whilst the Womens Under-21 crown went to the Buckinghamshire girl Gemma Chapman, a player who can defend and attack - she brought down Catherine Davies -7, 6, 7, 6 - a tremendous victory.

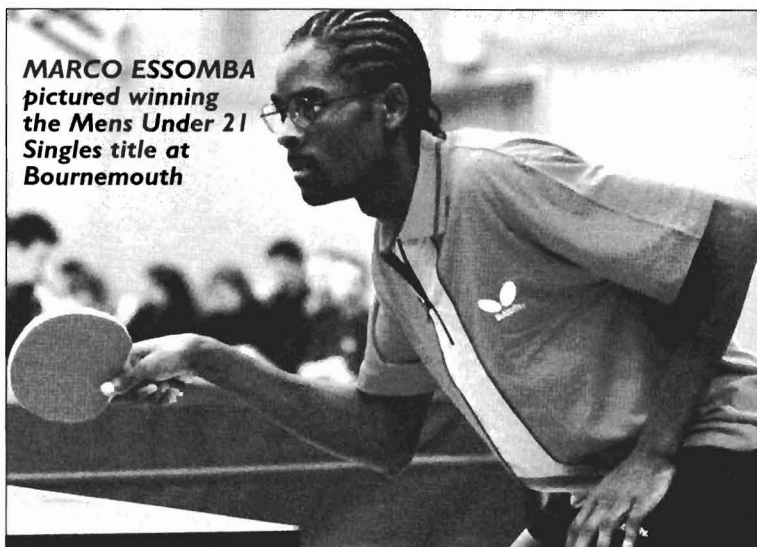
The best match of the weekend was the Mens Doubles final when play reached European standards - Cooke and Essomba came from behind to beat the Welsh brothers Ryan and Stephen Jenkins -6, -3, 7, 7, 13, a memorable display of attacking with players hitting winners from the back of the court.

The arrangements in Bournemouth were in the hands of Mike Johns making his penultimate appearance as Grand Prix supremo-organiser and the new events manager Harvey Webb in his home town where top-class table tennis has not been seen for some years. Playing conditions

**Words by
JOHN
WOODFORD
Words &
Pictures by
JOHN WOOD**

whilst Owolabi had the more difficult draw taking out Catherine Davies (Wales) 9, 2, 5 in the quarters and Marianna Rolikova 10, 14, 4 in the semi-finals.

Alan Cooke, having lost in two finals made sure this time with a skillfully crafted revenge win over Marco Essomba 6, 4, 5 and then another convincing win 10, 9, 4 over Ryan Jenkins who clearly did not expect to lose so easily.



**MARCO ESSOMBA
pictured winning
the Mens Under 21
Singles title at
Bournemouth**

SIR DAVID ENGLISH SPORTS CENTRE, BOURNEMOUTH

were first-class, not too much room for spectators with 18 tables, but acceptable.

At the tiny control table, crowded like sardines were Mick Strode, Elise Baker, Roger Vardon and Doris Moors - they got the tournament through by 8pm on the Sunday, nearly an hour ahead of schedule!

The tournament was well-supported by Holmes Place Leisure Management. That the event will return to the venue is a fair bet for next season.

Comment: The GP format is now set to a pattern, I cannot see why it is necessary to crowd the two main events the mens and womens singles into the last four hours of the tournament. These days you do NOT see large crowds at the end of tournaments. I cannot see any logical reason why the singles cannot start and finish earlier leaving the far less important final doubles rounds to the end. National publicity would of course, also benefit.

SCOTTISH & WELSH ARMIES

THE Scottish and Welsh squads dominated the banded events like marauding armies, as their players swept through the opposition, writes John Wood.

Scotland's Gavin Rumgay beat his fellow compatriot Niall Cameron in the final of the Mens Band 1 event, winning 6,-8,-9, 9, 7.

However, Cameron bounced back to take the honours in the final of the Mens Band 2 Singles, beating Welshman Neil Page 9, 8, 11.

To break the Celtic stranglehold on these events Dorset's Brian Garraway flew the flag for England by winning the Mens Band 3 event, beating Surrey's Steve Giles 4, 7, 6.

But back swept the Scottish and Welsh tide in the Mens Band 4, where Scotland's Nicol Graig took the title beating Wales' Lee Davies 6, 5, 9, in the final.

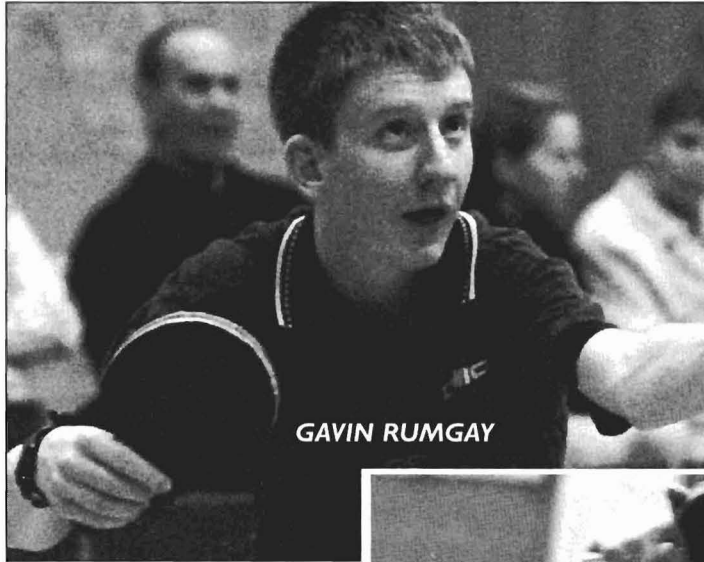
The remaining Bands 5 and 6 went to England's Tim O'Leary and Mark Werner, respectively.

Catherine Davies of Wales was triumphant in the Womens Band 1 final, beating Devon's Lucy Perry -8, 6,-8, 6, 7.

Whilst, Abigail Embling of Essex and Sarah Brown also of Essex won the Womens Band 2 and 3, respectively.

ENGLISH U21 VICTORIES

SURREY'S Marco Essomba won a very tight battle with Scotland's Gavin Rumgay in the final of the Mens Under21 Singles, 7, 7,-9, 9, whilst



GAVIN RUMGAY



GEMMA CHAPMAN



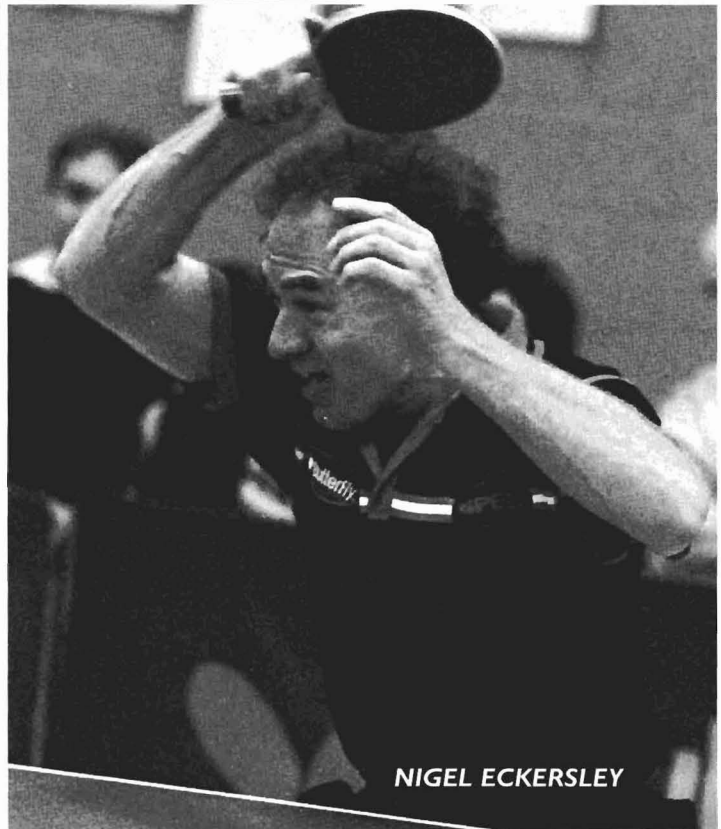
SHARON MITCHELL

Buckinghamshire's Gemma Chapman out-defended and out-attacked Catherine Davies from Wales in the final of the Womens Under 21 Singles.

SUPER FIT ECKERSLEY

Nigel Eckersley, now domiciled in Sussex, won a very close Veteran Mens Singles final against former fellow England International Tony Clayton, due to his superior fitness 5,-10, 9, 8.

Berkshire's Sharon Mitchell was triumphant in the Veteran Womens Singles final, beating Judy Morley of Gloucestershire 9,-6, 4, 7.



NIGEL ECKERSLEY

SOUTHERN OPEN RESULTS

Mens Singles: Final: Alan Cooke (Dy) bt Ryan Jenkins (WALES) 10, 9, 4.
s/f: Cooke bt Marco Essomba (Sy) 6, 4, 5; Jenkins bt Abdul Wuraola(Sy) 7, 8, 3.
Womens Singles: Final: Nicola Deaton (Dy) Kubrat Owolabi (Mi) 7,-6, 4, 11. s/f: Deaton bt Rebecca Sparkes (Sk) 4, 13, 7; Owolabi bt Marianna Rolikova (Sy) 8, 4, 4.
Band 1 Men: Gavin Rumgay (SCOTLAND) bt Niall Cameron (SCO) 6,-8,-9, 9, 7.
Band 2 Men: Niall Cameron (SCO) bt Neil Page (WAL) 9, 8, 11.
Band 3 Men: Brian Garraway (Do) bt Steve Giles (Sy) 4, 7, 6.
Band 4 Men: Nicol Craig (SCO) bt Lee Davies (WAL) 6, 5, 9.
Band 5 Men: Tim O'Leary (He) bt Ian Packford (Ox) 8, 5,-3,-8, 7.
Band 6 Men: Mark Werner (Ha) bt Paul Jablon (Mi) -4, 8, 5, 8.
Band 1 Women: Catherine Davies (WAL) bt Lucy Perry (Dv)
Band 2 Women: Abigail Embling (E) bt Sara Coggon (K) 10,-10,12,-5, 8.
Band 3 Women: Sarah Brown(E) bt Diane Melville (Mi)-11, 5, 6, 10.
Band 4 Women: Catherine Eakin (E) bt Helen Parton (Dv) 6, 5, 8.
U21 Men: Marco Essomba (Sy) bt Gavin Rumgay (SCO) 7, 7,-9, 9.
U21 Women: Gemma Chapman (Bu) bt Catherine Davies (WAL) -7, 6, 7, 6.
Veteran Men: Nigel Eckersley (Sx) bt Tony Clayton (Do) 5,-10, 9, 8.
Veteran Women: Sharon Mitchell(Bk) bt Judy Morley(Gs) 9,-6, 4, 7.
Mens Doubles: Marco Essomba (Sy)/Alan Cooke (Dy) bt Ryan & Stephen Jenkins (WAL) -6,-3, 7, 7, 13.
Womens Doubles: Nicola Deaton (Dy)/Kubrat Owolabi (Mi) bt Rose Rainton/Sheila King (Sx) 6, 6, 5.



NEWCASTLE OPEN BUTTERFLY GRAND PRIX

COOKE & LOWER TURN UP THE HEAT

ALAN COOKE landed his hat-trick of Grand Prix crowns this season with another solid, professional show after winning the Mens Singles at Cheltenham, Bournemouth and now the Newcastle Open, writes John Woodford.

Meanwhile Helen Lower fought her way to victory in the Womens Singles beating National Champion Nicola Deaton.

Eldon Square Leisure Complex is a multi-table venue on the third floor of the massive shopping centre.

The entry of around 170 was not huge, but Newcastle-upon-Tyne is a long way from most other places. Players from the Ormesby and Darlington clubs were there in force and a strong squad from Scotland led by Stewart Crawford the Scottish No.2 who pulled off the biggest shock when he defeated second seed Fabio Mantegazza of Darlington in the quarter-finals 6, -9, 11, -3, 7.

With due respect to Stewart Crawford, whose bogey player is Dale Barham, that result I saw as the biggest shock of the campaign thus far. When that result happened I have never seen Keith Wilson look so shocked.

But, Crawford's elation was short-



HELEN LOWER
conquers Nicola Deaton

lived - he was then taken out by the shock finalist Jimmy Walsh 9, -6, 7, 4. Walsh, 34, lives in Stevenage and is No.94 on the England list!

His only other success at tournaments was last season at Potters Grand Prix when he won Band 1.

In the final, no surprise when Alan Cooke proved too strong for the Ellenborough club secretary, winning 9, 6, 8. Earlier, Cooke had beaten Walsh in the mens singles groups.

LOWER'S DAY

Over to the Womens Singles: It was Helen Lower's day. When she is in a fighting mood, as she usually is, she is difficult to beat for any British player. Helen from Wolverhampton (one of the new cities) stormed past Kubrat Owolabi 7, -11, 9, 14 in the semi-finals. Kubrat was awarded a yellow card near the end of that game for stamping on service.

In the other womens semi-final Nicola Deaton, following her return to the England squad, defeated Karen Lockwood from Cheshire 7,4,6.

Nicola, delighted to be back I feel,

in the England fold after being out in the cold for 20 months, knew that she would have to be at her very best to defeat Miss Lower.

The Wolverhampton girl had nothing to lose. She piled on the pressure especially severe backhand crosscourt, causing the England champion to lose her way, but it was a long battle, so close as this scoreline suggests, 10, -11, 13, 11.

It looks a sure thing - that if England had played Helen Lower against Israel in the European League we would have won the match.

Team players from Wales, Scotland and Ireland secured ten wins in the supplementary events including the Under 21s and in the banded events.

The Band 4 womens winner was ten-year-old Lauren Springthorpe from Lincolnshire.

Aubrey Drapkin was the referee who guided the tournament through without any problems, supported by the deputy referee Trevor Openshaw and the tournament organiser Graham Rogerson. Also prominent was the county chairman Colin Davison and the ETTA chairman Alan Ransome who paid a visit to the tournament on the Sunday afternoon.

The event was supported by Newcastle Metropolitan Borough Council and it appears to be strong enough in all respects to hold its place on the Grand Prix circuit.

NEWCASTLE OPEN RESULTS

Mens Singles: Alan Cooke (Dy) bt Jimmy Walsh (He) 9, 6, 8. Semi-Finals: Alan Cooke (Dy) bt Michael Isherwood (Dy) 6, 6, -10, 6; Jimmy Walsh (He) bt Stewart Crawford (Sco) 9, -6, 7, 4.

Womens Singles: Helen Lower (St) bt Nicola Deaton (Dy) 10, -8, 13, 11. Semi-Finals: Nicola Deaton (Dy) bt Karen Lockwood (Ch) 7, 4, 6; Helen Lower (St) bt Kubrat Owolabi (Mi) 7, -7, 9, 14.

Band 1 Men: Ryan Owen (WAL) bt Gavin Rumgay (Sco) -9, -0, 10, 6, 7.

Band 2 Men: Niall Cameron (SCO) bt Dave Robson (Du) 8, -7, 9, 7.

Band 3 Men: Stuart Matthew (SCO) bt Rohan Lewis (Sy) -16, 8, -8, 5, 7.

Band 4 Men: Simon Noutch (Y) bt Nick Corking (Cv) -9, -7, 7, 10, 8.

Band 5 Men: Lee Davies (WAL) bt Richard Moss (Y) 9, -7, -13, 9, 11.

Band 6 Men: Leo Veinsreider (Sy) bt Ray Jordan (K) 11, 5, 9.

Band 1 Women: Andrea Glover (IRE) bt Noelle Lennon (IRE) 4, -8, 2, 5.

Band 2 Women: Laura Rumgay (SCO) bt Clara Howard (Ch) 9, 3, 9.

Band 3 Women: Laura Rumday (SCO) bt Stephanie Howard (Ch) 11, 7, -4, -4, 6.

Band 4 Women: Lauren Springthorpe (Li) bt Joanne Meads (Du) 7, 4, -9, 3.

U21 Men: Gavin Rumgay (SCO) bt Eoin Byrne (IRE) 4, -5, 10, -6, 1.

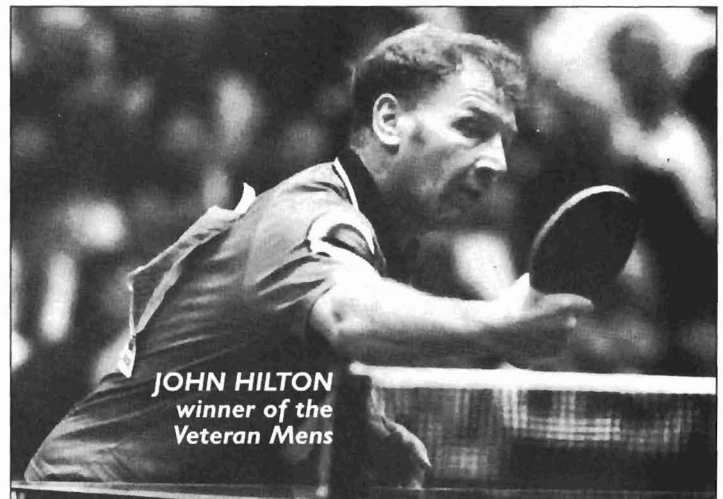
U21 Women: Noelle Lennon (IRE) bt Brioni Lane (IRE) -13, 7, 3, -6, 1.

Veteran Men: John Hilton (Ch) bt Nigel Eckersley (Sx) 9, 2, 9.

Veteran Women: Jane Durham (Cv) bt Linda Simpson (Y) 5, 5, -9, 9.

Mens Doubles: Michael Isherwood (Dy)/Alan Cooke (Dy) bt Abdul Wuraola (Sy)/Fabio Mantegazza (La) 7, 5, -9, 5.

Womens Doubles: Nicola Deaton (Dy)/Kubrat Owolabi (Mi) bt Helen Lower (St)/Trudie Bloor (Sp) 6, 7, 6.



JOHN HILTON
winner of the
Veteran Mens

NATIONAL JUNIOR LEAGUE 2000/2001



Successful young players at Preston College (l to r) DAVID MARSHALL, TOM PETERSON, ADAM SLATER, GRAHAM SMITH and LOUISE CASTLE

Picture: Simon Stock

THE first round of the NJL has been completed. The date in the ETTA calendar is noted as nominal and this season the local organisers spread the first day from 30th September to the end of October. This is the fourth season of the National Junior League and it now has 200 teams in total with four players per team, which means there are now 800 young table tennis players taking part at 20 sites throughout England, writes Mike Payne.

The first 2 days are about fine-tuning the divisions based on ability. It is difficult sorting 12 teams into 2 divisions if very little is known of their abilities at the start. It is a little boring to list league leaders from all the sites so I have concentrated on 1 centre.

This was the first season for the NJL at the recently opened Ledbury Sports Centre. There are already 12 teams each at Wood Green and the Griffin Centre at Rugby and Ledbury is the centre for the south of the West Midlands Region. 6 teams played on the first day with Hereford A coming out as leaders. Their team of Greg Price, Ali Dawson and Joe Davies was unbeaten on the day. Already Steve Watkins, the Match Day Organiser is looking to the future and it is probable

that 8 teams will contest the remaining days. This shows the scope of the NJL to adapt to local requirements. They also played teams of 3 with 9 matches with 4-team matches/day as opposed to the more usual 6 matches with 5-team matches/day. The main picture with all the players also shows local initiative towards sponsors. You can also see that it is a mixed division and the Hereford C team of Lauren James, Nikki Segust and Jessica Davies had an average of 33% wins against the boys.

This is my last season as National Organiser. I have raised some terms of reference for the task. If anybody is interested in taking over then he or she can give me a call. Telephone 01332 557162.

JUNIOR LEAGUE AT PRESTON COLLEGE

PRESTON's Junior Table Tennis Club, which now operates out of Preston College Sports Centre, has entered two teams into the Northern Divisions of this National Junior League. All eight players in the teams started their table tennis careers at the Preston College Sports Centre.

Since commencing last November the junior sessions average twenty young people every Tuesday evening (7pm-8.30pm).

The Treasurer and Secretary of the Association, Jim Clegg said: "Without this facility, Preston Table Tennis Association would not be able to organise the coaching we do.

"We have some of the youngest players who have only started playing this year. The National Junior League is specifically designed for them. We already have a junior team with players who have been playing for some years and who compete at regional and county level. So, in effect we enter our second and third team for the National competition.

"The league is a fantastic opportunity to give the youngsters an opportunity to 'have a go'. In the first meeting in October each team won only one match out of six, but they thoroughly enjoyed themselves and had the opportunity to get a feel for well-organised tournaments and how to conduct themselves."

The next round of the league competition was held at Preston College Sports Centre on Saturday 9th December 2000, where the youngsters enjoyed having another go and picking up some more pointers.

25 YEARS AGO

• **JILL HAMMERSLEY** won the Norwich Union International Womens Singles crown at Brighton, when she beat Sweden's Ann-Christin Hellman 3, 10, 13.

England's Mens Team of Denis Neale, Brian Burn and Desmond Douglas, also tasted success when they beat Sweden in the final 3-0.

Then Douglas and Neale went on to take the Mens Doubles title.

Sweden's Stellan Bengtsson took the Mens Singles beating Yugoslavia's Anton Stipancic.

England's Paul Day beat Scotland's chief flag bearer, the present ETTA Chief Executive Richard Yule, 18, 18, 18, in round 3 of the Mens Singles.

The Press Tournament was won by Ron Moseley of the Press Association, he beat John Woodford in the final.

• **ANDREW BARDEN** won the Boys Singles title at the Yorkshire Junior 'Select' Open, defeating Paul Day in the final 20,-17,15.

The Girls crown went to Angelica Schreiber who beat Melody Ludi 9, 17, in the final.

Cadet Boys title went to Graham Sandley who just came out on top of Colin Wilson 20, 22.

The Cadet Girls Champion was top seed Alison Gordon who beat Mandy Smith in an all Berkshire clash 17, 20.

• **CHESHIRE** were sitting proudly on top of the Premier Division of County Championships, two points in front of Cleveland, whilst Yorkshire were also two points in front of Surrey in the Junior Premier.

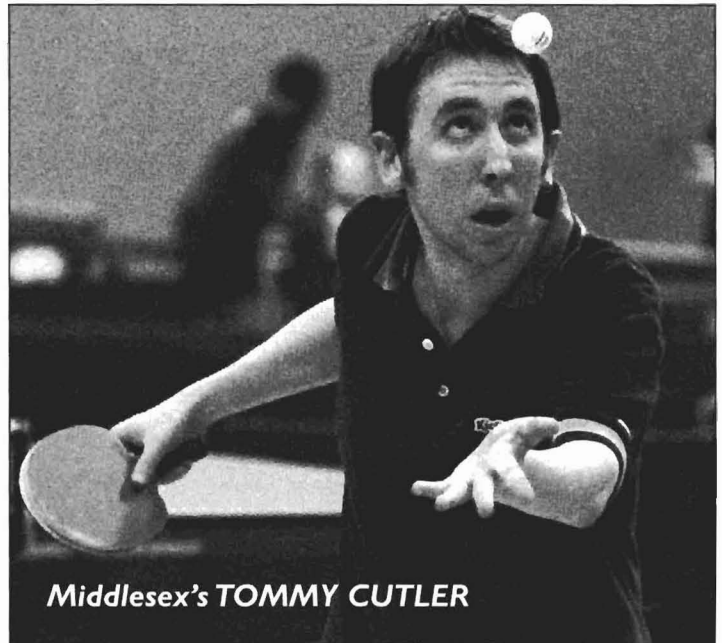
• **CARTER CUP** victory for Carlisle over Barrow League, produced a narrow 5-4 result.

THREE WAY TIE IN SENIOR PREMIER

THE SENIOR PREMIER DIVISION held at Harlow in November the first round of three matches brought together the "Cream" of the County Championships competition, a measure of the quality of the competition can be determined by the fact that no team attained maximum points, writes Stan Clarke.

Yorkshire, Middlesex and Kent won two and drew one over the weekend resulting in a three way tie on five points and are currently in first second and third places respectively. Yorkshire's young team of Michael James, Peter Marshall, Mark Smith, Nicola Silburn and Caroline Reeh currently head the division by virtue of a superior sets average. Sussex,

last years runners-up are in fourth place having won two and lost one, the euphoria of a ten nil win over Hertfordshire on the Saturday quickly evaporated in the cold light of the Sunday morning when they were soundly thrashed 8/2 by Yorkshire, before recovering their composure to beat Surrey 6/4 in the last round of matches. The sight of the Yorkshire team must send shivers down the spine of the Sussex team, as it was the white rose County who were responsible for depriving them of the championship last season, when from a seemingly secure position they were held to a draw by the "Yorkies" allowing Middlesex to snatch the title by one set.



Middlesex's TOMMY CUTLER



ESME (STEVENS) DENSLow is pictured above cutting her celebration cake with the Mayor of Restormal Borough Council, Councillor Tom Menear, following her 100th County Championships appearance for Cornwall Senior Team, when she played against Avon in Division 2B, in December.

In fifth and sixth places are the newly promoted Counties of Devonshire and Derbyshire, both teams having won one and lost two but Devon have a vastly superior sets average. Derbyshire must be fairly satisfied by their position when you realise that they were unable to call on the services of Alan Cooke, Michael Isherwood, John Holland and Nicola Deaton who were instrumental in gaining promotion last season, if they can turn out the missing players for the last four matches they could well turn the division on it's head as they are scheduled to play both Yorkshire and Middlesex next time around.

Surrey and Hertfordshire occupy seventh and eight places respectively. Surrey have one point by virtue of a draw with Yorkshire, interestingly five of the ten sets in this match went to three games and Hertfordshire won all five, perhaps the Yorkshire team were still recovering from their long journey south.

Hertfordshire are in deep trouble having lost all of their matches, winning only three sets along the way and losing twenty seven, it's too early to condemn them to relegation, but it will require a super human effort to keep them safe. Mind you they did little to help their cause when they had only one

woman player in their first match against Sussex and conceded the fifth set between Sue Felstead and Jane Vickers in their match against Derbyshire on the Sunday, although Sue did play in the seventh set beating Helen Rainford.

The match between Kent and Middlesex ended in a draw and it was nip and tuck all the way, Middlesex took the first set when Jason Sugrue beat Mark Brown 23/21, 10/21, 21/19, Kent roared back to take a 3/1 lead with wins for Joe Kennedy over Neil Charles, Angie Bristow over Sarah Horsnell and Jason Goodall over Tommy Cutler. Middlesex levelled the match at 3/3 after Aparna Narendan beat Helen Garlick and Neil Charles beat Mark Brown, not dismayed Kent took the seventh set when Helen Garlick beat Sarah Horsnell, The match was level again as Jason Sugrue beat Justin Goodall 20/22, 30/28, 21/12, before Angie Bristow again nudged Kent into the lead 5/4 with a win over Aparna 21/12, 12/21, 21/11. The last set brought Joe Kennedy and Tommy Cutler to the table, Tommy managed to hold it all together to pip Joe 21/18, 24/22, quite a game and quite a match, a defeat at that stage would almost certainly have meant goodbye to any chance of winning the championship for either team.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS LEAGUE TABLES by Leslie Smith

Tables include results of all matches received by 28th December 2000

SENIORS

PREMIER	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yorkshire	3	2	1	0	23	7	5
Middlesex	3	2	1	0	21	9	5
Kent	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Sussex	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Devonshire	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Derbyshire	3	1	0	2	9	21	2
Surrey	3	0	1	2	13	17	1
Hertfordshire 3	0	0	3	3	27	0	

DIVISION 1A

Leicestershire	3	2	1	0	21	9	5
Lancashire	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Nottinghamshire	3	2	0	1	22	8	4
Northumberland	3	1	2	0	13	11	4
Worcestershire	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
South Yorkshire	3	1	0	2	10	20	2
Suffolk	3	0	1	2	10	20	1
Norfolk	3	0	0	3	3	27	0

DIVISION 1B

Essex	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Glamorgan	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Middlesex 2nd	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Berkshire	4	1	1	2	16	24	3
Wiltshire	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Kent 2nd	2	1	0	1	12	8	2
Isle of Wight	5	0	1	4	14	36	1
Hampshire	2	0	0	2	5	15	0

DIVISION 2A

Yorkshire 2nd	5	4	1	0	44	6	9
Cleveland	5	3	2	0	29	21	8
Leicestershire 2nd	5	3	1	1	25	22	7
Lancashire 2nd	5	2	1	2	23	27	5
Warwickshire 1st	5	2	1	2	22	25	5
Cheshire	5	2	0	3	22	28	4
Warwickshire 2nd	5	1	0	4	18	32	2
Cumbria	5	0	0	5	14	36	0

DIVISION 2B

Cornwall 1st	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Devonshire 2nd	4	3	0	1	22	18	6
Worcestershire 2nds	3	2	1	0	21	9	5
Avon	4	2	0	2	15	25	4
Glamorgan 2nd	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Somerset	2	0	0	2	8	12	0
Cornwall 2nd	3	0	0	3	9	21	0
Herefordshire	2	0	0	2	5	15	0

DIVISION 2C

Essex 2nd	4	4	0	0	26	14	8
Bedfordshire	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Northamptonshire	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Hertfordshire 2nd	4	2	1	1	20	20	5
Cambridgeshire	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Lincolnshire	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Suffolk 2nd	4	1	0	3	17	23	2
Norfolk 2nd	4	0	0	4	12	28	0

DIVISION 2D

Gloucestershire	4	4	0	0	29	11	8
Kent 3rd	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Sussex 2nd	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Buckinghamshire	4	2	0	2	24	16	4
Surrey 2nd	4	1	1	2	1 X	22	3
Oxfordshire	4	0	1	3	13	27	1
Berkshire 2nd	4	0	0	4	6	34	0

JUNIORS

PREMIER DIVISION

Surrey	3	3	0	0	18	12	6
Buckinghamshire	3	2	1	0	20	10	5
Glamorgan	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Cheshire	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Yorkshire	3	1	0	2	16	14	2
Warwickshire	3	1	0	2	15	15	2
Middlesex	3	0	0	3	10	20	0
Kent	3	0	0	3	5	25	0

DIVISION 1A

No Matches Played Yet

DIVISION 1B

Devonshire	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Dorset	3	3	0	0	19	11	6
Glamorgan 2nd	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Buckingham 2nd	4	2	0	2	22	18	4
Worcestershire	4	1	1	2	15	25	3
Berkshire	4	1	1	2	14	26	3
Avon	4	1	0	3	19	21	2
Hampshire	4	0	0	4	10	30	0

DIVISION 2A

Lincolnshire	4	4	0	0	28	12	8
Norfolk	4	3	0	1	23	17	6

Lancashire 2nd	4	3	0	1	22	18	6
Cleveland	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Cheshire 2nd	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Warwickshire 2nd	4	1	0	3	17	23	2
Essex 2nd	4	1	0	3	16	24	2
Huntingdonshire	4	0	0	4	14	26	0

DIVISION 2B

Surrey 2nd	7	5	1	1	37	33	11
Gwent	3	3	0	0	27	3	6
Kent 2nd	5	3	0	2	30	20	6
Middlesex 2nd	5	2	2	1	24	26	6
Sussex	2	2	0	0	19	1	4
Surrey 3rd	5	2	0	3	25	25	4
Gloucestershire	7	0	2	5	18	52	2
Essex 3rd	6	0	1	5	20	40	1

DIVISION 3A

Leicestershire	4	4	0	0	29	11	8
Hertfordshire	4	4	0	0	29	11	8
Suffolk 2	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Bedfordshire	4	2	0	2	21	19	4
Huntingdonshire 2nd	4	2	0	2	17	23	4
Norfolk 2nd	4	1	0	3	17	23	2
Cambridgeshire	4	0	0	4	14	26	0
Bedfordshire 2nd	4	0	0	4	8	32	0

DIVISION 3B

Lincolnshire 2nd	6	5	1	0	45	15	11
Northamptonshire	6	5	1	0	39	21	11
Nottingham 2nd	6	4	0	2	44	16	8
Durham	6	3	0	3	38	22	6
Nottingham 3rd	6	2	0	4	28	32	4
Conway 1st	6	1	0	5	13	47	2
Conway 2nd	6	0	0	6	3	57	0

DIVISION 3C

Devonshire 2nd	5	5	0	0	41	9	10
Shropshire 1st	5	5	0	0	38	12	10
Cornwall 1st	6	4	0	2	42	18	8
Somerset	4	2	0	2	22	18	4
Devonshire 3rd	5	2	0	3	18	32	4
Cornwall 2nd	6	1	1	4	18	42	3
Herefordshire	6	1	1	4	18	42	3
Shropshire 2nd	5	0	0	5	13	57	0

DIVISION 3D

Oxfordshire	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Sussex 2nd	5	4	0	1	32	18	8
Buckingham 3rd	4	3	0	1	31	9	6
Wiltshire	4	1	1	2	15	25	3
Northampton 2nd	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Kent 3rd	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Gwent 2nd	3	0	1	2	9	21	1
Sussex 3rd	4	0	0	4	6	34	0

VETERANS

PREMIER	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Kent	3	3	0	18	9	6
Cheshire	3	2	1	20	7	4
Surrey	3	2	1	18	9	4
Essex	3	2	1	14	13	4
Dorset	3	1	2	12	15	2
Lancashire	3	1	2	10	17	2
Middlesex	3	1	2	8	19	2
Leicestershire	3	0	3	8	19	0

DIVISION 1A

Yorkshire 1st	4	4	0	24	12	5
Yorkshire 2nd	4	3	1	20	16	6
Durham	4	2	2	19	17	4
Northumberland	4	2	2	19	17	4
Hertfordshire	4	2	2	16	20	4
Cheshire 2nd	4	1	3	16	20	2
Oxfordshire	4	1	3	15	21	2
Norfolk	4	1	3	15	21	2

DIVISION 1B

Surrey 2 d	3	3	0	21	6	6
Avon	3	2	1	16	11	4
Kent 2nd	3	2	1	16	11	4
Hampshire	3	2	1	15	12	4
Sussex	3	2	1	14	13	4
Berkshire	3	1	2	14	13	2
Hertfordshire 2nd	3	0	3	7	20	0
Wiltshire	3	0	3	5	22	0

DIVISION 2A

Bedfordshire	4	4	0	23	13	8
Cambridgeshire	5	4	1	27	18	8
Warwickshire 1st	3	3	0	19	8	6
Lancashire 2nd	3	2	1	18	9	4
Yorkshire 3rd	3	1	2	15	12	2
Essex 2nd	5	1	4	15	30	2
Norfolk 2nd	3	0	3	10	17	0
Essex 3rd	4	0	4	8	28	0

DIVISION 2B

Buckinghamshire	3	3	0	21	6	6
Somerset	4	2	2	20	16	4
Dorset 2nd	3	2	1	15	12	4

Kent 3rd	3	2	1	14	13	4
Kent 4th	4	2	2	17	19	4
Devonshire	3	1	2	13	14	2
Worcestershire 1st	3	1	2	12	15	2
Worcestershire 2nd	3	0	3	5	22	0

DIVISION 3A

Nottinghamshire	4	4	0	21	15	8
Staffordshire	4	3	1	23	13	6
South Yorkshire	3	2	1	16	11	4
Leicestershire 2nd	3	2	1	15	12	4
Northamptonshire	3	1	2	14	13	2
Yorkshire 4th	4	1	3	17	19	2
Cheshire 3rd	3	1	2	12	15	2
Warwickshire 3rd	4	0	4	8	28	0

DIVISION 3B

Buckingham 2nd	5	5	0	35	10	10
Middlesex 2nd	3	3	0	22	5	6
Middlesex 4th	4	2	2	19	17	4
Bedfordshire 2nd	4	2	2	19	17	4
Hertfordshire 3rd	4	2	2	18	18	4
Norfolk 3rd	3	1	2	9	18	2
Hertfordshire 4th	5	1	4	9	36	2
Kent 5th	4	0	4	13	23	0

DIVISION 3C

Berkshire 2nd	4	4	0	31	5	8
Middlesex 3rd	4	3	1	22	14	5
Sussex 2nd	4	3				

SUMMER CAMPS

ALAN COOKE'S MASTER CLASS

ALAN COOKE is one of the most popular player/coaches on the UK scene today. Still winning Grand Prix tournaments, the former National and Commonwealth Champion spent two years at the ETTA National Academy, Nottingham working as an England coach. Alan's coaching tips appear regularly in 'Table Tennis Illustrated' the official magazine of the ITTF.

Next June Alan will be running 'The Alan Cooke Master Class', a table tennis training camp, with the



assistance of former England International Nick Mason, at the fabulous Potters Leisure Resort, near Great Yarmouth.

The course will be suitable for all standards of play and all age groups and will be ideal for coaches wishing to update their knowledge.

Participants will receive over 20 hours of tuition.

When not playing you can enjoy the many benefits of Potters award winning Leisure Resort including fantastic food, world class entertainment, superb sports facilities and comfortable

accommodation in twin, double or family chalets (a limited number of singles are available at a small additional charge on a first come first served basis).

For players and coaches the cost including all meals from evening meal on Monday 11th June until after breakfast on Friday 15th June is £325. For non players £205.

The course is organised by SportBreak. For further information and booking form please contact Mike Johns at SportBreak, PO Box 246, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 9FJ. Tel 01606 45766, e-mail, sportbreak@amservice.net

FIRST FOR COOKE AND DEATON

THE first ever Cooke and Deaton Summer School looks forward to offering you an ideal opportunity to take advantage of some of the best and most up to date coaching techniques available. Our team of highly qualified professionals will improve your game over five days by using training techniques used by national teams, such as multi-ball, video analysis, seminars from the coaches and England Team Sports Psychologist Mark Bawden, and unique one-to-one tuition with our own international practice partners.

The course will take place at the impressive Grantham College, offering comfortable all-inclusive accommodation, with practicality as the sports hall, which is equipped with fifteen international tables, is within walking distance. The venue is an easily accessible location being close to the A1, allowing parents the opportunity to visit or stay at a reduced rate.

The summer school will cater for all standards and abilities and will be highly enjoyable as well as extremely beneficial to all.

The date of the Cooke & Deaton Summer School is 6th to 10th August 2001, and the cost will be £299 for participants and £175 for non-participants.

COOKE AT TEES SPORT

ALAN COOKE is going to be busy this coming summer as he is also coaching at the Tees Sport Summer School. Details to follow in the next issue of Table Tennis News.

GRANT SOLDER TABLE TENNIS SUMMER SCHOOL 2001

THE COUNTRY'S LEADING TABLE TENNIS COURSE

To be held at Barking Abbey School Leisure Centre,
Woodbridge Road, Barking, Essex IG11 9ET
SATURDAY 18th AUGUST until TUESDAY 21st AUGUST 2001

COURSE ORGANISER: GRANT SOLDER (ALL 4 DAYS)

Age 28, Former professional table tennis player. Currently a Professional Table Tennis Coach working fulltime at Peniel Academy. Former coach of England Junior, Cadet, and Under 12 players. Former Essex No.1, London No.1, and England No.12 Mens. Represented England at Junior and Senior level. Former England No.1 Junior; England Under 18 Champion, Spanish International Open Champion, Essex and London Junior Mens Singles Champion. Grant has organised nine previous Coaching Courses. He played most of his professional table tennis in the Belgium Super League and Norwegian Premier Division for four seasons. An ETTA Qualified Coach.

COURSE DIRECTOR: NICKY JARVIS (ALL 4 DAYS)

Nicky is a professional table tennis coach working full time at Peniel Academy. He is former England Junior and Senior Mens No.1, and England National Coach. World highest ranking No.27 and European No.14. A very experienced coach and is regarded as one of England's leading coaches. An ETTA Qualified Coach.

COACH: ALAN COOKE (2 DAYS ONLY, SAT. & SUN.)

Former England Mens No.1, three times English Champion, former Commonwealth Champion. Alan was a great England player with an excellent hard working attitude. He 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: DESMOND DOUGLAS (1 DAY ONLY, SAT.)

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: TERRY YOUNG (2 DAYS ONLY, SUN. & MON.)

Terry is playing professionally in the German Bundesliga and is a current England International. Currently his England ranking is No.5. Highest England ranking of No.3. Terry reached the final of the National Mens Singles Championships in 1999, where he defeated England No.1 Matthew Syed. Won a Commonwealth Gold Medal in the Team event. One of the leading servers around, so he will be doing his best to help you improve your serves.

COACH: ANDREW EDEN (ALL 4 DAYS)

Aged 27, Andrew is a former England No.5 and was a regular member of the England team. His 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 (ALL 4 DAYS)

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. He 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 £239 PER PERSON NON-RESIDENTIAL (INCLUDES LUNCH)

£329 PER PERSON RESIDENTIAL - FULL PRICE INCLUDES:

Accommodation - Saturday, Sunday and Monday 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, on Donic tables, with excellent lighting.

For an application form or any further information, please contact:
Grant Solder, 6 Bennions Close, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 6TR
Telephone: 01708 551778 or Mobile: 0930 275 940



ETTA NATIONAL RANKING LIST

TOP OF THE TABLE

December 2000 - List 84
Further details please ring Doreen Nightingale 01424 722525

Senior Men

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 STED, Matthew (SY.)	4727	
(2)	2 BAGGALLEY, Andrew (BU.)	4590	
(3)	3 COOKE, Alan (DW.)	4542	
(4)	4 PREAM, Carl (IW.)	4530*	
(5)	5 PERRY, Alex (DV.)	4478*	
(6)	6 YOUNG, Terry (BK.)	4464	
(7)	7 HERBERT, Gareth (BK.)	4359	
(8)	8 RUSHTON, Andrew (LA.)	4041*	
(9)	9 MANTEGAZZA, Fabio (ITA)	3942	
(10)	10 ISHERWOOD, Michael (DY.)	3926**	
(11)	11 BARNAM, Dale (CA.)	3909	
(12)	12 ESSOMBA, Marco (SY.)	3849	
(12)	13 COUTOLLEAU, Samuel (NG.)	3841*	
(15)	14 TRUMPASKAS, Lawrence (E.)	3745	
(17)	15 SLADEN, Kris (E.)	3689	
(16)	16 PITTAS, George (DU.)	3686**	
(19)	17 VENNER, Ritchie (SX.)	3575	
(18)	18 MARSHALL, Peter (Y.)	3572	
(20)	19 GOODALL, Justin (K.)	3564	
(21)	20 CUTLER, Tom (MI.)	3534	
(18)	21 WURAOA, Abdul (SY.)	3533	
(23)	22 SUGRUE, Jason (MI.)	3528	
(22)	23 JAMES, Michael (Y.)	3508	
(24)	24 SMITH, Eddie (ND.)	3499	
(26)	25 BARR, David (BK.)	3486	
(29)	26 JOHNS, Brian (CH.)	3485	
(33)	27 ECKERSLEY, Nigel (SX.)	3475	
(31)	28 BROWN, Mark (K.)	3468	
(27)	29 PYE, Leeroy (NK.)	3464**	
(32)	30 KENNY, Matthew (Y.)	3434	
(25)	31 MOORE, Adrian (K.)	3408	
(28)	32 ROGERS, Chris (LE.)	3406	
(37)	33 HILTON, John (CH.)	3375*	
(36)	34 SLATER, Stephen (ST.)	3370	
(35)	35 SMITH, Mark Richard (Y.)	3363	
(38)	36 WILKINSON, Andrew (ND.)	3360	
(41)	37 WHITING, Paul (DV.)	3344	
(40)	38 DOLDER, Kevin (LA.)	3335*	
(34)	39 CHAM, Michael (SY.)	3319	
(42)	40 ATKINSON, David (CA.)	3298***	
(43)	41 PAPANTONIOU, Costas (MI.)	3298	
(44)	42 HUNDHAUSEN, Christian (MI.)	3294	
(39)	43 TAYLOR, John (HE.)	3288	
(30)	44 CHARLES, Neil (MI.)	3284	
(47)	45 NEIL, Lee (NG.)	3264	
(46)	46 CARTHY, Clive (E.)	3255	
(47)	47 AUCHTERLONIE, Michael (BK.)	3242	
(50)	48 GANNON, David (LE.)	3221*	
(49)	49 BRIDGETT, Gregory (DV.)	3219	
(48)	50 CRIMMINS, Max (WO.)	3219	
(45)	51 CLAYTON, Tony (DO.)	3211	
(51)	52 SMITH, Richard A (Y.)	3189	
(55)	53 GIRDLER, Ian (SY.)	3173	
(53)	54 GREEN, Mark (NG.)	3170*	
(73)	55 POUNTNEY, Robert (SY.)	3168	
(56)	56 SHORT, Mark (YS.)	3168	
(57)	57 CAMPBELL, Selwyn (SY.)	3150*	
(58)	58 MCKOY, Nick (MI.)	3147*	
(59)	59 ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3136***	
(54)	60 LOGSDON, Philip (NK.)	3134	
(62)	61 WIGNALL, Andy (LI.)	3134	
(61)	62 PAYNE, Phil (SO.)	3130	
(52)	63 JAMESON, Christopher (E.)	3123	
(63)	64 HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3114*	
(64)	65 YULE, Richard (SCO)	3113*	
(60)	66 HORSFIELD, Andrew (YS) (Y.)	3112	
(66)	67 BEERLING, Stephen (K.)	3107	
(68)	68 ADAMS, Martin (BK.)	3098	
(67)	69 GODBOLD, David (DU.)	3083*	
(75)	70 HALL, Dominic (K.)	3079	
(78)	71 RANKIN, John (LA.)	3069	
(82)	72 MCLEAN, Ian (NK.)	3059	
(71)	73 WELSMAN, Dave (NP.)	3058	
(87)	74 KENNEDY, Joe (K.)	3054	
(69)	75 BAKER, Gregory (ST.)	3036	
(80)	76 JONAH, Jerome (K.)	3032.1	
(76)	77 GASCOYNE, Craig (NG.)	3032	
(78)	78 GRIFFIN, Darren (NG.)	3026**	
(68)	79 DENNISON, John (E.)	3022	
(77)	80 TENDLER, Gary (E.)	3018	
(74)	81 COX, Philip (K.)	3010	
(79)	82 OWEN, Mark (HR.)	3008*	
(86)	83 HILL, Brian (LI.)	2995	
(94)	84 WALSH, Jimmy (HE.)	2988	
(85)	85 MUSK, Ian (BU.)	2985*	
(93)	86 BARTRAM, Peter (SX.)	2984	
(85)	87 ROOFE, Eddie (WL.)	2980	

(84)	88 JAMES, Simon (Y.)	2980***
(81)	89 HARDING, David (SY.)	2977
(88)	90 WALKER, Andy (SX.)	2977
(90)	91 WILLIAMS, Keith (LA.)	2957
	92 GIBSON, Sean (E.)	2955 N
(98)	93 SHORT, Mike (DV.)	2951
(89)	94 AVERY, Vincent (E.)	29491**
(91)	95 JOHNS, Mike (Ch) (SX.)	2948
(92)	96 READ, Mark (WA.)	2938
	97 CUNNINGHAM, Andy (K.)	2937 N
(96)	98 FORD, Christopher (LA.)	2915
(97)	99 HALEY, Terry (SY.)	2913
	100 BARRY, Paul (SX.)	2912

Senior Women

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 DEATON, Nicola (DY.)	3962	
(2)	2 LOWER, Helen (ST.)	3791**	
(3)	3 RADFORD, Linda (E.)	3650	
(4)	4 OWOLABI, Kubrat (MI.)	3585	
(5)	5 PARKER, Katy (K.)	3535	
(6)	6 KISS, Barbara (HE.)	3476	
(7)	7 WALKER, Georgina (NG.)	3380*	
(8)	8 DURRANT, Louise (NG.)	3364	
(9)	9 BAWDEN, Natalie (E.)	3271	
(10)	10 SMITH, Karen (LE.)	3250*	
(12)	11 RUIOCCO, Shelley (E.)	3171*	
(14)	12 DUNNING, Jan (WO.)	3159	
(13)	13 HARRIS, Jill (ST.)	3158***	
(15)	14 LOCKWOOD, Karen (CH.)	3125*	
(18)	15 SPARKES, Rebecca (SX.)	3105	
(16)	16 IYARDY, Hannah (E.)	3098	
(17)	17 STEWARD, Kate (SO.)	3094**	
(19)	18 WESTON, Sally (SX.)	3065	
(21)	19 BONGERS, Jose (ST.)	3048***	
(20)	20 RAINTON, Rosemary (SX.)	3045	
(22)	21 RODEN, Sandra (WO.)	3032*	
(24)	22 COHEN, Michele (AV.)	3004**	
(25)	23 NEWNS, Clare (CH.)	3004***	
(26)	24 HURLING, Emma (HE.)	3003**	
(27)	25 HOWARD, Alice (CH.)	2983***	
(28)	26 PARKER, Joanna (SY.)	2976	
(23)	27 BLOOR, Trudie (SP.)	2970	
(28)	28 REEH, Caroline (GER)	2970	
(29)	29 BUOEV, Brenda (LA.)	2927	
(30)	30 MILVEK, Kai (EST)	2913***	
(33)	31 SILBURN, Nicola (Y.)	2859	
(35)	32 SIMPSON, Linda (Y.)	2858	
(54)	33 ROLIKOVA, Marianna (SY.)	2841	
(34)	34 RIDER, Sandra (Y.)	2834	
(32)	35 SMITH, Sarah (NG.)	2831	
(31)	36 PERRY, Penny (DV.)	2822	
(37)	37 GARLICK, Helen (K.)	2821 N	
(36)	38 BENNETT, Teresa (SX.)	2812**	
(37)	39 MARLING, Samantha (MI.)	2810*	
(55)	40 CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.)	2808	
(40)	41 SHIELDS, Helen (Y.)	2800	
(49)	42 FISHER, Rebecca (MI.)	2798	
(39)	43 SCHOFIELD, Doreen (CH.)	2790*	
(42)	44 WANG, Lucy (E.)	27821*	
(43)	45 SHORT, Elaine (DV.)	2777***	
(50)	46 HARPER, Sandra (BD.)	2777**	
(48)	47 PEARCE, Diane (K.)	2776	
(38)	48 MORLEY, Judy (GS.)	2773	
(44)	49 JUDSON, Carol (Y.)	2770	
(46)	50 LLOYD, Gemma (CH.)	2764*	
(53)	51 ROBINSON, Suzanne (GS.)	2760	
(51)	52 SMITH, Nicola (Y.)	2757*	
(63)	53 NARENDRAN, Aparna (MI.)	2754	
(49)	54 MALTYB, Margaret (NP.)	2753	
(52)	55 DEARING, Emily (Y.)	2750**	
(47)	56 KING, Sheila (SX.)	2746	
(47)	57 BAWDEN, Marilyn (E.)	2739	
(62)	58 PERR, Lucy (DV.)	2739	
(56)	59 DAVISON, Sarah (Sk) (E.)	2737	
(45)	60 SEAROLME, Sarah (HE.)	2737	
(74)	61 DAWSON, Marjorie (E.)	2727	
(60)	62 HORSNELL, Sarah (MI.)	2718	
(59)	63 POINTER, Lucy (IW.)	2718	
(61)	64 KNIGHTLEY, Gillian (BK.)	2704	
(65)	65 DIGNUM, Margaret (WO.)	2702	
(58)	66 STEEL, Pauline (SX.)	2699	
(68)	67 SOLLEY, Jo (MI.)	2695.1	
(69)	68 BURGESS, Suzanne (CH.)	2694	
(64)	69 HUMBLE, Ann (GS.)	2693***	
(66)	70 LEHMAN, Bettina (LE.)	26881*	
(57)	71 HARRISON, Jennifer (E.)	2684	
(76)	72 VAJDI, Carmen (SY.)	2684	
(73)	73 H-MIDDLEMORE, Joan (WA.)	2680	

(70)	74 GELDER, Shirley (DU.)	2679
(80)	75 COGGON, Sara (SX.)	2670
(67)	76 BRISTOW, Angie (K.)	2668
(71)	77 BAX, Sally (HE.)	2662
	78 VICKERS, Jane (E.)	2661
(79)	79 FLOWERDAJ, Anne (E.)	2649*
(79)	80 SEYMOUR, Tamar (OK.)	26461*
(72)	81 BROWN, Janet (OK.)	2646
(77)	82 SHALER, Eileen (LE.)	2640
(84)	83 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)	2638
(83)	84 REID, Lynda (WO.)	2630
(75)	85 HALES, Linda (E.)	2630
(82)	86 JOHNSON, Susan (BK.)	2610***
(85)	87 SEAROLME, Caroline (HE.)	2600***
(86)	88 MAY, Elizabeth (DV.)	2582
(87)	89 GUTHRIE, Caron (ND.)	2578*
(81)	90 EMBLING, Abigail (E.)	2572
(89)	91 NOLAN, Terri-Anne (CH.)	2567*
(88)	92 WHITE, Jean (LI.)	2560
(153)	93 INGHAM, Katy (CH.)	2554
(94)	94 DARK, Shirley (SO.)	2547
(91)	95 HUGHES, Kate (WO.)	2544*
(90)	96 ECKERSLEY, Carol (SX.)	2544*
(97)	97 HICKMAN, Susan (E.)	2538
(92)	98 SPENCER, Tracey (ST.)	2531***
(93)	99 LARKING, Gill (HA.)	2516
(94)	100 GRAHAM, Sylvia (LA.)	2514***

Junior Boys

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 BARHAM, Dale (CA.)	3909	
(2)	2 KENNY, Matthew (Y.)	3434	
(3)	3 CHAN, Michael (SY.)	3319	
(5)	4 ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3136***	
(4)	5 JAMIESON, Christopher (E.)	3123	
(6)	6 HALL, Dominic (K.)	3079	
(6)	7 BAKER, Gregory (ST.)	3036	
(11)	8 CLEMINSON, Peter (E.)	2867	
(10)	9 BRYANT, Craig (DV.)	2854	
(8)	10 DRINKHALL, Bryn (CY.)	2842	
(9)	11 BARHAM, Lee (CA.)	2837	
(13)	12 HONNER, Daniel (CH.)	2690	
(12)	13 YARNALL, Tim (NP.)	2632	
(14)	14 HUGHES, Tom (NG.)	2615	
(15)	15 HANDY, Philip (DO.)	2455	
(16)	16 DAVIES, Stephen (LI.)	2369	
(17)	17 HOLIAM, Tim (MI.)	2144	
(18)	18 BLOOMFIELD, Gary (SK.)	2016	
(19)	19 BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA.)	2014	
(20)	20 HANSELL, Robert (BU.)	2011	
(21)	21 DIXON, Zeke (CL.)	1981	
(25)	22 NOUTCH, Simon (Y.)	1904	
(21)	23 EVANS, Bradley (BU) (BK.)	1874	
(22)	24 POUNTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1870	
(30)	25 YARNALL, Greg (NP.)	1857	
(27)	26 CARTWRIGHT, Neil (DO.)	1849	
(24)	27 BROOKS, Warren (BU.)	1841	
(26)	28 GREGORY, Christopher (SP.)	1813	
(28)	29 MORAN, Edward (SR.)	1713	
(29)	30 CANT, Mathew (LE.)	1687*	
(36)	31 FENNEL, Aaron (E.)	1684	
(37)	32 DENNY, Stephen (Y.)	1660	
(33)	33 HAYWARD, Gareth (WA.)	1649	
(31)	34 WOODHOUSE, Grant (CU.)	1644**	
(32)	35 COOPER, Mark (E.)	1621	
(36)	36 PEEBLES, Robin (SIN)	1614 N	
(39)	37 CAMILLER, John (OK.)	1607	
(50)	38 WYNN-SANDS, Dominic (GS.)	1591	
(34)	39 MCQUEEN, Harris (LE.)	1591*	
(40)	40 GIBBS, Shaun (DV.)	1563	
(47)	41 MOSS, Richard (Y.)	1558	
(41)	42 SHIPWAY, Adam (DV.)	1554	
(40)	43 HEATLEY, Ian (CH.)	1552	
(35)	44 SHUTES, William (NK.)	1519	
(43)	45 BRADFORD, Leigh (WA.)	1510	
(48)	46 CLARKE, Martyn (CV.)	1509	
(42)	47 MAUTHOOR, Umair (E.)	1500	
(44)	48 MANN, Alexander (SK.)	1492*	
(45)	49 MITCHELL, Thomas (BU.)	1467	
(46)	50 MARPLES, Shaun (DY.)	1466	

Junior Girls

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 PARKER, Katy (LA.)	3535	
(2)	2 WALKER, Georgina (NG.)	3380*	
(3)	3 DURRANT, Louise (NG.)	3364	
(4)	4 BAWDEN, Natalie (E.)	3271	
(5)	5 STEWARD, Kate (SO.)	3094**	
(6)	6 PARKER, Joanna (SY.)	2976	

(7)	7 CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.)	2808
(9)	8 NARENDRAN, Aparna (MI.)	2754
(8)	9 POINTER, Lucy (IW.)	2718
(11)	10 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)	2638
(11)	11 EMBLING, Abigail (E.)	2572
(22)	12 INGHAM, Katy (CH.)	2554
(12)	13 WRIGHT, Amy (E.)	2414
(16)	14 SPARKES, Aimee (SX.)	2390
(13)	15 FLINT, Deborah (ST.)	2374
(14)	16 BROWN, Grace (E.)	2367
(21)	17 WILSON, Naomi (SO.)	2337
(15)	18 SORRENTINO, Annabelle (CH.)	2325
(18)	19 CALCUTT, Lisa (BK.)	2313
(17)	20 CHEESMAN, Zoe (Y.)	2298
(20)	21 TODD, Nicole (E.)	2258
(19)	22 TONG, Rebecca (LA.)	2251*
(23)	23 MEREDITH, Samantha (WA.)	2189
(27)	24 CRAVEN-GRIFFITHS, Kelly (LE.)	2065
(25)	25 DONNELLY, Sarah (Y.)	2029
(26)	26 GRAHAM, Cherith (LA.)	2029
(24)	27 ROBERTS, Simon (LA.)	2022
(31)	28 BROWN, Sarah (E.)	2015
(28)	29 BARNARD, Kimberley (LA.)	2013
(32)	30 RADFORD, Terry (NG.)	2008
(29)	31 WHITE, Nicola (Y.)	1983
(30)	32 HOWARD, Clara (CH.)	1923
(42)	33 SIBLEY, Kelly (WA.)	1912
(33)	34 BARRETT, Michelle (DV.)	1858
(35)	35 LANGFORD, Clare (CH.)	1831
(34)	36 HUBBARD, Joanne (K.)	1803
(36)	37 SPINK, Lauren (NK.)	1782
(37)	38 VAJDI, Christina (SY.)	1632
(50)	39 SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LI.)	1630
(38)	40 HUMAN, Emma (BK.)	1618
(39)	41 DAUNCEY, Stephanie (AV.)	1590
(40)	42 STONE, Hannah (BK.)	1555*
(41)	43 HEARD, Gemma (E.)	1554
(47)	44 WALLER, Tanya (Y.)	1516
(44)	45 CLEMINSON, Jessica (E.)	1486
(46)	46 BELL, Amanda (Y.)	1440
(45)	47 DEWHURST, Elizabeth (E.)	1428
(46)	48 BLAKE, Camille (SY.)	1425*
(49)	49 WEIL, Emma (E.)	

MABEL NEARY

1939 - 2000

IT is with great sadness that I have to report the rather sudden passing of Mabel Neary on Wednesday 6th December 2000 after a short illness. Only three weeks earlier she had played in a match in the Liverpool League.

"Our Mabel", as she was affectionately known, was, without doubt, one of the greatest characters the game has ever known. Players from all over the world held her in great esteem. Wherever she went people were always aware of her presence. She was a truly wonderful, wonderful ambassador for the game.

Mabel was in her twenties when she began playing in the Liverpool League in the early sixties but by 1969 she became the no.1 lady player in the city. She was twice Liverpool Ladies Champion and holds a unique record for the longest time-gap between singles titles in the Liverpool Closed (1970 and 1987). Her style of play was unique - probably because she was self-taught. She had the best gazunda shot of any lady player I have ever seen (second only to Phil Luxon). She originally played for Crawfords Biscuits but latterly gave her services to Wavertree Labour Club. For many years she also played in the Southport League where she was ten-times ladies singles champion and represented them in inter-league matches. She was also ladies champion in the Liverpool Business Houses League. As a veteran she represented Lancashire and won many titles at the VETTS tournaments. However, her involvement was not just as a player. She ran the Southport Table Tennis Club where she coached and encouraged many young players. Her other loves were cycling and above all a very fond affection for her pet cats.

Several years ago she became a county umpire and gave up a lot of her time to umpiring at open tournaments. It has been my privilege to have enjoyed Mabel's wonderful company at many events over the past few years. Nothing will ever be quite the same without her. I can truly say that I have only ever heard people speak of Mabel with great affection. Liverpool stalwart Ken Armson remarked on hearing of her passing "We have reached the end of an era".

Tony Meredith - Lancashire Correspondent

RON WILSON

IT is with great sadness that I write this tribute to one of Yorkshire's loyal and conscientious servants.

Ron Wilson, a well known and popular figure, far beyond the boundaries of Yorkshire, died suddenly over the Christmas holiday period.

His funeral service at the Leeds Crematorium was attended not only by colleagues from across the county, but also by those from much further afield, an indication of his status on the national stage.

Ron's early days in the sport were spent in his native Tyneside where he was, in his own words a very modest player, but he soon became interested in administration, and took the first step towards what was to become a lifetime interest in table

tennis when he qualified as a County Umpire.

He soon moved up the ladder, joining the Y.T.T.A. in the 84/85 season as a member of the umpires sub committee, progressed rapidly to the top status of International Umpire, and took over the reins of Umpires Secretary in 91/92 - an office which he held, with the exception of just one season, until his passing.

Always approachable, always efficient, and always respected when he was in the 'Chair', Ron widened his interests as he 'got into' computers and took responsibility for setting up and maintaining a Y.T.T.A. Website, which has steadily increased its number of 'visitors'.

But what we have lost is Ron, the man, the colleague, the friend, the individual - as such, he will never be replaced, but always fondly

remembered.

Our loss, however, cannot compare with that of wife Muriel, to whom go our sincere condolences on the loss of her husband.

Rea Balmford,
Press Officer, Yorkshire T.T.A.

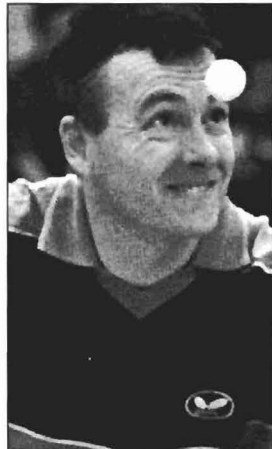
TIM WILTSHIRE

THE Cornish table tennis world was in a state of shock in January following the sudden death of one of its leading characters.


Tim Wiltshire, a player for more than 40 years, died at Tregorrick Park Table Tennis Centre, St.Austell, during a West Cornwall League match.

An obituary will be published in the next edition of Table Tennis News.

SUMMER SCHOOL



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“I SHOULD SAY THERE IS HUGE PROGRESS”

KEN MUHR: Could you say a little about the women training at the National Training Centre – how they are training as a start-off?

SOREN AHLEN: I shall speak about the time since I arrived. I should say there is huge progress. In the beginning I think the level was very low and it took a long time to improve. I think progress started in February or March but now I think some of the girls have improved a lot – it looks much more positive for the future than it looked 6 months ago. I believe there are good chances now, even for the girls.

KM: What sort of chances? What sort of standard are you hoping they are going to achieve, within what sort of time limits?

SA: For me the target is always to get the player as close as possible to their own maximum and at this stage it is very difficult to say what that maximum is because they are mostly still very young adults. But hopefully of course, to start with, top European seniors. It has been so far in (recent) history very hard for top European women to be top world women because of the strong Asian block. But of course, if they see the possibilities of getting to be top European players, they then have to think out how to beat the top Asian players.

KM: Do you have any feelings about how we should try to beat the top Asian women?

SA: I have been working a lot with girls in Sweden and Japan so of course I have a good picture but to use that picture you must start somewhere, and to start to think about beating the good Asian girls when they are struggling against most of the European girls is, I think, too early. Hopefully the girls should show this summer, next summer, that they can compete well in the European Youth Championships, and maybe here and there they can get some good wins when they get the chance to play in European League

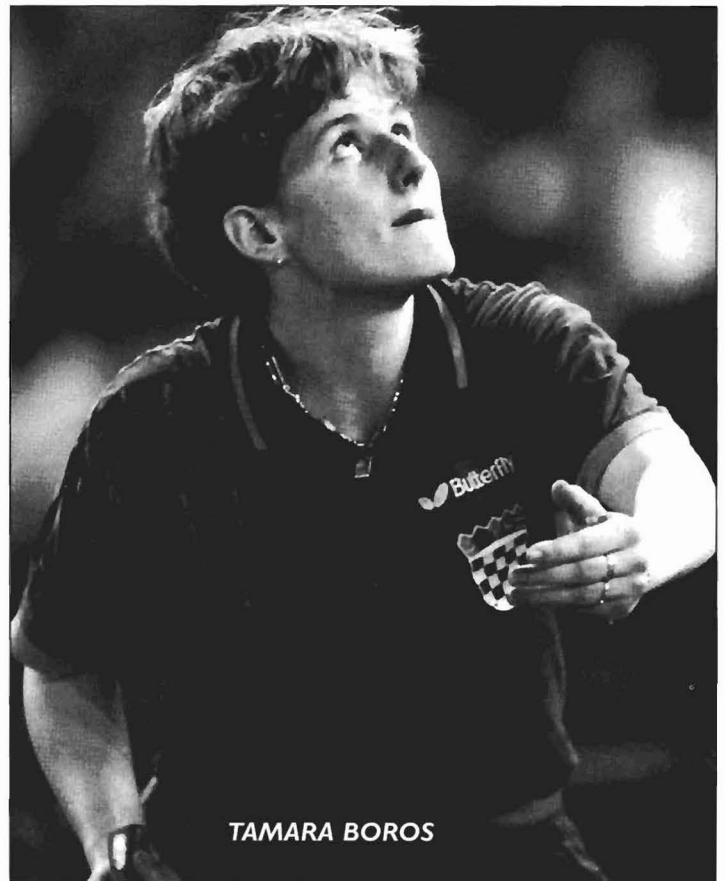
SOREN AHLEN, Senior National Coach, Talks to Ken Muhr about the Female Players Training at The National Training Centre, Nottingham.



essential that the girls are doing the practice as hard as the boys because they have to be fit as well as the boys – if you are watching the game the big difference is that there is much more power in the men's game, but rallies are normally longer for the women and there are a lot more chop defensive players at the senior level as well as junior level so you have to be as fit as the boys to be a good player. Then you have the

natural difference but the gap should not be bigger - there is no reason to run the girls softer but of course you have to build it up differently because you start from different levels: if you take 15 year old boys and girls, the boys are stronger so they can do different practises, but you can't run the girls too hard - that is not what I mean – because then you just get injuries. Watching the games, the big differences as I said are longer rallies and not that much power and spin. It is more fast but they don't play with so much spin and spin variation, so of course you build up different practises with that in mind.

If you compare Asian girls to European girls, the biggest difference is of course the quantity of practice, I



games or senior international competitions.

KM: How do you train girls differently than the boys, physically and technically? Is there much difference?

SA: Basically, you can say the difference is that it is natural that men are a bit stronger and have better VO2 max (maximum consumption of oxygen) conditioning, and therefore it is

mean they have lots of hours more practising per week in their practice halls. Therefore we have to increase the practice hours, but normally at seniors we are not at the same level so we have to be clever to beat them. I mean it is possible on the men's side where the Asian also have much more hours in the practice hall, so why shouldn't it be possible to beat the Asian players on the women's side? So of course it is possible if you believe in yourself, it is a big part in your game to believe in yourself because you don't have to be born in China or Sweden or Korea to be a good player. You can be born anywhere.

KM: The argument used to be with the European men that they had two wing power topspin whereas the Asians mostly had only one wing power topspin. I have often argued that maybe a two wing looper like Boros, if she took take the ball slightly earlier, would have the ability to beat the top Asians.

SA: They are coming closer and closer. You have Steff and Boros today, Toth is also a good player, and they are close sometimes to having big wins. So they are on the right way.

KM: Is it just one possibility that they have two wing heavy topspin?

SA: Oh no, table tennis is not like that! Every player is an individual. Even if you are watching the top 15 men and top 15 women they are all different styles, everyone. When you are coming to that level it is very important that you are as complete as possible because then opponents have a problem to find a good tactic against you, but it might be easier for you to find a good tactic against some player if you can find where they have the problem. At that level it is not so much how hard you practise because everybody practises hard and well, it is very much about understanding the game and finding a good tactic. If you play clever and can stay calm in your head – can be very strong minded and don't get nervous - then you get the chances and of course it is possible to beat all the players if you are a good player.

KM: So it is not a style of play, it is more an individual thing?

SA: No. I mean, why can't a chopper from Europe be good when you have good Asian choppers? Why can't a smasher from Europe be good when you have good Asian smashers? You have to be a good player to win, and when you are a good player you have to understand the game and play clever and be strong-minded. The clue is to come to that level

where you are a good player and then exposing small defects with tactics are much more important. In the beginning it is just to learn and understand the game, learn the techniques, learn to practise hard, learn to be fit, learn to be

with the England team again?

SA: I am very pleased that Nicola phoned me up and then we had a meeting on Tuesday. From the 30th October, she started practising regularly 3 sessions a week, and her main target, she told me, is to try to

be selected and playing well at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester in 2002. That is fine by me, it is a long term target. Of course 3 sessions a week is not that much if you are aiming for medals, but it is a good start for Nicola and better than before, because before she was not coming to the Centre at all, and it means that we can watch her regularly, we can help her with technical detail, and also we can pick her in the future and improve her tactical progress. We will have to see whether her personal situation will make it possible to increase her number of hours in the practice hall next season, because now she has a very busy schedule at college. Of course it is good for us that Nicola comes, the quality will increase with the best girl in England coming for the practice, and it is good for Nicola to come as we can then help her as we have not been able to so far. She will not go down (academically) at school to increase her number of hours of practice and I have accepted that. She will try her best, we will try our best to help her and then we will see what happens.

Soren Ahlen was interviewed at the Jarvis Sport East Midlands Junior 4 Star Open Grantham, on Sunday 29th October 2000.

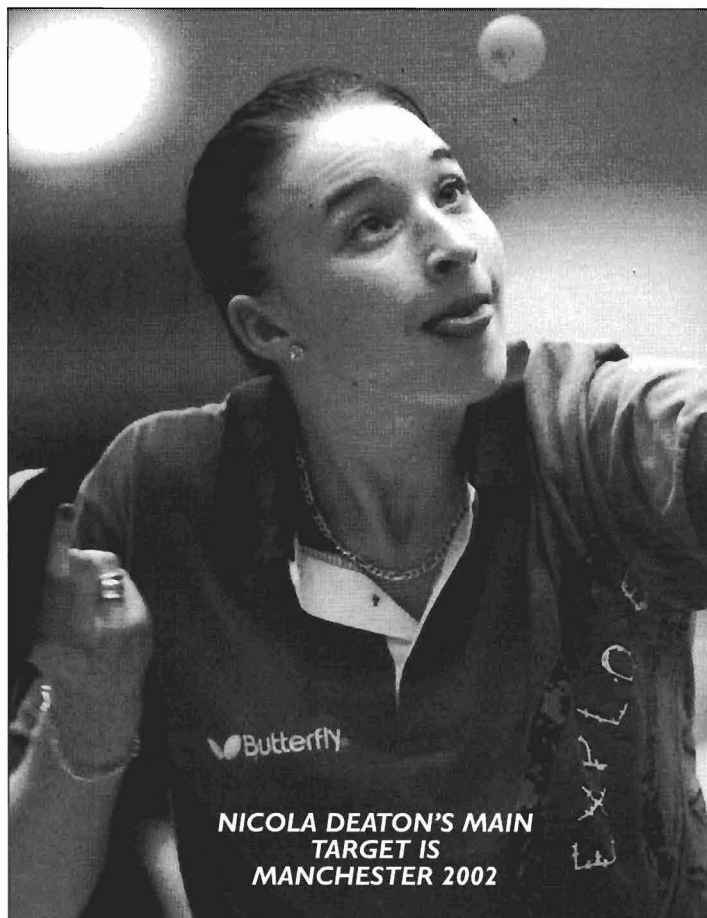
“YOU CAN LEAD A HORSE TO WATER BUT YOU CAN'T MAKE IT DRINK”

professional outside of the table tennis – that is a long progression. At the moment it is happening in the practise hall in England but we still want to see bigger professionalism in some areas. Even if I am very, very positive at the moment, the best thing is that there is still a lot to work on. If the girls can adapt and learn from the advice they get, then they have good chances and possibilities, but they must also understand that it is very, very difficult to be a good player. It is not just to be talented – I think they have good hand skills – they also need the body, need the head, need the maturation, need to buy the whole package to be good.

KM: Do you think they are coping better with defeat? At one time they felt they could not win.

SA: I think they understand now that they have come much closer to the top. We are working very hard at the Centre, giving the players advice at every session – I speak to them a lot. You can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink, so if they listen and follow the advice then they are doing what they can.

KM: A final question. What can you say about Nicola Deaton getting involved in some way



NICOLA DEATON'S MAIN TARGET IS MANCHESTER 2002

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 3rd Leach & Hammersley Cups R2
 3rd-4th National Cadet League (3)
 3rd-4th European Junior Top 12
 3rd-4th British League Weekend (3)
 3rd-4th European Junior Top 12
 4th Carter Cup & Bromfield Trophy R2
 6th-11th ITTF MAJOR ENGLISH OPEN Chatham, Kent
 11th ESTTA Regional Team Finals
 17th Exeter Junior 1 Star
 17th-18th Blackpool Open Butterfly Grand Prix
 17th-18th Junior British League (2)
 18th Derwent Junior 2 Star
 24th Carter Cup & Bromfield Trophy R3
 24th Ormesby & Gainsford Cups R2
 25th Cirencester Under14/17 1 Star
 25th British League (11) Premier Division

MARCH

- 3rd-4th Western Open Butterfly
 Grand Prix (re-arranged date) Bath
 3rd-4th Derby Junior 4 Star Select
 3rd-4th North Herts Banded 2 Star GP
 3rd-4th County Champs. Veteran Premier (2)
 10th-11th English Senior National Champs. Sheffield
 17th ESTTA National Team Finals
 17th Wilmott Cup & Rose Bowl R2
 17th Veterans County Championships
 18th Leach (R3), Pat Archdale (R1) &
 Hammersley (R3) Cups
 18th British League (12) Premier Division
 24th-25th County Championships (7) Senior
 Premier (2) & Junior Premier (2)
 24th-25th VETTS Northern Masters Blackpool
 25th Selby Senior Banded 2 Star
 31st National Cadet League (4)
 31st-1stApr. Cadet Masters
 31st-1stApr. Eastern Open Butterfly Grand Prix Kings Lynn

APRIL

- 7th Ormesby & Gainsford R3 Cups
 7th Alec Brook Trophy R2
 7th County Championships (7)
 8th British League (13) Premier Division
 14th-15th South West Open Butterfly
 (Easter) Grand Prix St. Austell
 14th-20th Commonwealth Championships New Delhi, India
 15th-16th Essex 3 Star Youth Championships
 21st Chesham High School Junior/Cadet
 21st Wilmott Cup & Rose Bowl R3
 21st-22nd Junior Masters
 22nd British League (14) Premier Division
 23rd-6thMay 46th World Championships Osaka, Japan
 28th Abbey Junior 2 Star
 28th ESTTA Individual Championships
 28th-29th Midlands Open Butterfly
 Grand Prix Wolverhampton
 28th-29th VETTS Southern Masters Bracknell

MAY

- 5th National Junior League (4)
 5th National Cadet League Finals
 5th Alec Brook Trophy R3 & Pat Archdale Cup R2
 5th-6th British League Weekend (4)