

TABLE TENNIS



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No.276 MARCH 2001

NEWS



WANG LIQIN & YOSHIE TAKADA WIN OPEN

FACE TO FACE WITH JEAN-MICHEL SAIVE

Pages 17 & 18



**FULL REPORT
PICTURES &
RESULTS OF
ENGLISH OPEN**
Pages 12 to 20



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TABLE TENNIS NEWS & TTN EXTRA

The Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association

Issue No.276
March 2001

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Subscription Rates
UK - £18, Europe - £30,
Rest of the World - £35

Printer
Printed in the UK by
Nima Print & Design Services, 91a
Ashford Road, Eastbourne,
East Sussex BN21 3TE
Telephone: 01323 430036

Unsolicited articles are welcome for possible publication but the English Table Tennis Association will accept no responsibility for the return of manuscripts and/or photographs.

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Lee Valley Park

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PARALYMPICS at CHATHAM

WOODY'S World



Successful Sydney Paralympics table tennis players from Great Britain, CATHY MILTON Individual Bronze, and Team Event Silver Medallists NEIL ROBERTSON, STEFAN TROFAN, and JAMIE RAWSON, who are pictured above being interviewed by Donald Parker for Sky Sports 3 TV, on Finals Day at the sportingbet.co.uk 64th English Open at Buckmore Park.

WHAT a month this has been, highlighted by the sportingbet.co.uk 64th English Open at Buckmore Park.

We just had time to squeeze in a seven page report on this top of the range ITTF Pro Tour event, commencing on page 12, balancing older news with more up to date news worthy items, like the English Open.

Words by Richard Eaton of The Times, John Woodford and Ken Muhr of the ETTA, plus pictures by John Wood of TTN, make this issue of Table Tennis News an edition which just must be read.

A 'Face to Face' interview with the Belgian No.1 Jean-Michel Saive, by Brian Halliday on pages 17 an 18 completes coverage at Chatham.

ETTA Chairman Alan Ransome also leads on the sportingbet.co.uk 64th English Open, see pages 5 and 6. Alan then goes on to talk about the forthcoming English National Senior Championships at Sheffield, and then reports on the exciting expansion of the County Championships.

I personally enjoyed my visit to Buckmore Park, where the table tennis was of the highest calibre, but not driving around the road works on the M2 and approach roads to the venue.

In the later stages of the Mens Singles it was obvious we were witnessing someone special, China's Wang Liqin, who is now so complete and exceptionally outstanding in his ability and technique, that surely this tall man will be the next world champion.

The many spectators, and there were many, far more than on previous occasions, will treasure the memories of seeing Wang Liqin in action, especially his devastating flashing forehand.

Whilst at the sportingbet.co.uk 64th English Open several people offered me their opinions on the proposed new 11up system, claiming that they would be losing 22%, true if you play best of five, but if you play best of seven then you would gain.

Read about Jean-Michel Saive's views on the 11up system, who claims that "There are so many pressure points - 11up is too dangerous."

John Wood

BIDDING FOR THE WORLDS

FIVE Associations have sent in bids for the World Championships 2003 and 2004. France and Brazil are bidding for the individual Worlds 2003, and China, Brazil and Qatar are

competing to host the team competition in 2004.

Vice President of the ITTF Nils Bergstrom will visit the bidding Associations to inspect the facilities during the next few months, and the decision about both events will be taken during the World Championships in Osaka at the AGM.

CHOP ABOVE

THE former ITTF Headquarters in St.Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex, has been sold for the sum of £55,000, following the move of the administration office to Lausanne in Switzerland, and will now be used as a hairdressing salon.

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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for "Attachments" save them as a
"Word" file, for words and
"JPEG" file, for photographs and graphics

ON THE MOVE

ON THE 14th MARCH 2001

JOHN WOOD
EDITOR OF
TABLE TENNIS NEWS
WILL BE MOVING TO:
25 ROSEVALE GARDENS, LUXULYAN, CORNWALL PL30 5EP
(TO DATE THERE ISN'T A NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER. THIS INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM ETTA HEAD OFFICE IN HASTINGS
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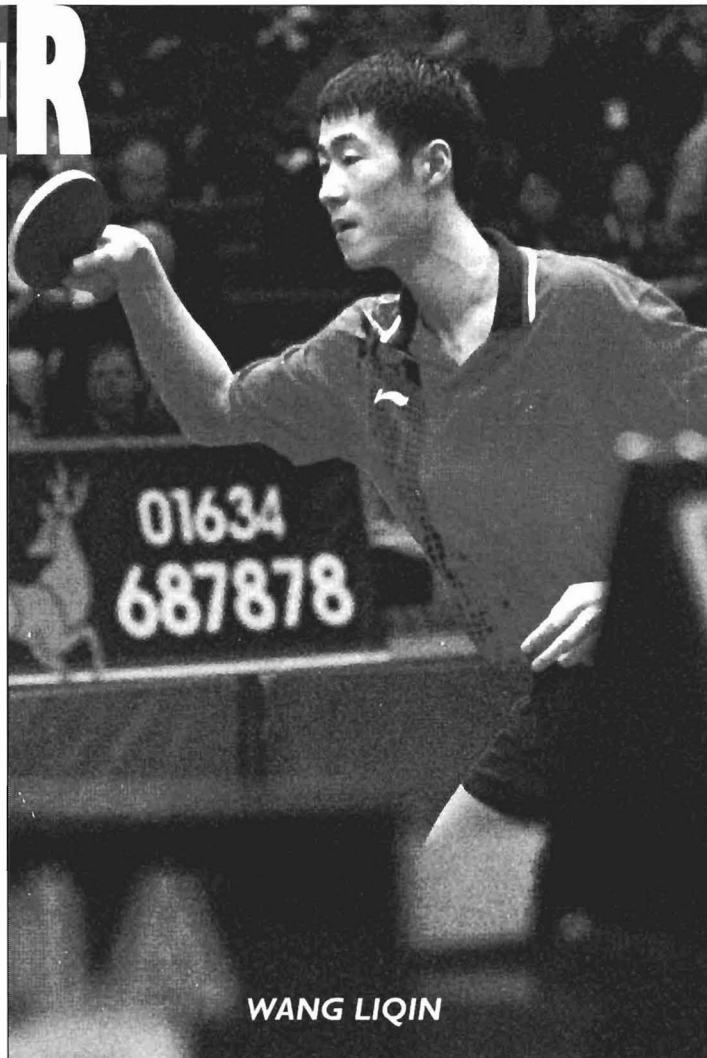
WANG LIQIN - THE SPORTINGBET WINNER

ONE of the most talented players ever to emerge from China, Wang Liqin, won his second major tournament of this year taking the Men's Singles in the Sportingbet.co.uk 64th English Open Championships at Buckmore Park, Chatham on 11th February. Described as the "complete player" with a very strong all round attacking game, Wang Liqin demolished most of his opponents en route to the title. One player who took a game from Wang was Chinese Austrian, Chen Weixing who had earlier defeated European Champion, Peter Karlsson. In the semi-final Wang walked through the leading Chinese Japanese player, Seiko Iseki who had earlier beaten both Jan Ove Waldner and Jean-Michel Saive. This victory was by 3 - 0 in a very short time.

Wang's final opponent was France's Christophe Legout, who had enjoyed a series of Houdini escape acts to reach the final. He beat both Matthew Syed and Damien Eloi 3 - 2 after being two down, Austria's second seed Werner Schlager from a 2-1 deficit and then in the semi-final the holder of the title, Ma Wenge at 21-18 in the 5th.

In the final Legout provided some real opposition to Wang in the first game losing 21-18, but from that point the Wang rollercoaster swung into action and the rest of the match was little more than a formality. Wang did equally well to win the ITTF Pro Tour final in Yokohama in January and if he is able to maintain this form, he must be the hot favourite to win the World title in Osaka in May.

The Women's event was a much closer contest, dominated by Asian players with six of the 8 quarter finalists coming from that Continent and one of the two Europeans, Jie



Schopp of Germany being originally from China. The winner was Yoshie Takada another former Chinese now playing for Japan. She beat three Korean players to reach the final - top seed Ryu Ji Hye from South Korea in the quarter-final and then the two Kim's from North Korea, Kim Hyang Mi and finally Kim Hyon Hui to lift the title. The final itself was a very close contest, eventually won by Takada at 19 in the 5th game in a match that could easily have gone the other way. The North Korean Kim Hyon Hui gained some consolation by winning the Women's Doubles with Kim Hyang Mi.

From a European perspective, the

young German players were impressive as Timo Boll, the former European Youth Champion, and Zoltan Fejer-Konnerth won the Men's Doubles and Bastian Steger the Under 21 Men's singles beating the Greek Panagiotis Gionis at deuce in the 3rd in an entertaining final.

From an English perspective Matthew Syed carried the best hopes and he did well to beat the German doubles winner, Zoltan Fejer-Konnerth in the first round, Matthew looked good when he was 2 - 0 ahead in his second round match with the 8th seed Christophe Legout. Legout recovered and Matthew ran into trouble with a bout of cramp in



Alan Ransome OBE,
Chairman of the ETTA

the 5th game and in the end the Legout won 21 - 10. In the Women's Singles, Nicola Deaton, Helen Lower, Linda Radford and Georgina Walker all reached the second round only to meet Asian opposition which inevitably proved too strong.

Reaching the second round in a Pro Tour singles event is a very creditable performance in itself, as the majority of international entry are eliminated in the qualifying groups, and most don't even manage to reach the knock-out stage.

A squad of young players from the World Class programme were all given the opportunity to compete and gain experience, however, whilst progress is being made there is still a lot of improvement necessary before we can expect a gold medal in a competition of this calibre.

From a promotional perspective the English Open was the most successful for a decade. The finals day was broadcast live by Sky for seven hours with the finals repeated two days later over a four hour period. Many of our members who watched the finals on television have commented to me how much they appreciated the opportunity to see table tennis live and how they enjoyed the broadcast. The English Open was broadcast by ESPN Star for six hours in South East Asia, including China, JSkyB in Japan, ESPN Brazil in South America, Sport 1 covered the event in several European countries, whilst the RDS French network showed one hour in Canada. Pathe Sport broadcast the English Open in France, Fox Sports World in the USA and TeleDeportes in Spain and Wizjatv in Poland. All of the international coverage was arranged by the ITTF who also provided through the ITTF Pro Tour website regular updated results throughout the competition and live scoring on the internet of the final rounds.

The publicity surrounding the event in this country through local television, press, radio and the internet was more extensive than any English Open in recent times and



"Thanks extended to RICHARD YULE, the Tournament Director, and his dedicated team of staff and volunteers".

provided a real boost for the sport.

The spectator attendance at Buckmore Park was the best for an English Open in recent times and the layout of the seating gave all the spectators the opportunity of having a good view and being close to the play which provided an excellent atmosphere for the matches and gave the fans the opportunity of real involvement in the play.

Our sponsors, Sportingbet.co.uk were pleased with their returns, particularly from the television coverage in both the UK and throughout the world. Richard Yule and Brian Spicer are already in talks with them with regard to further involvement in the sport. The event was also supported by Medway Council, Kent County Council, Buckmore Park, with the tables being provided by Joola and the balls by Schildkrot

Staging the Open at a venue such as Buckmore Park where much of the tournament infrastructure including the lighting, some of the seating and the floor needs to be specially built provides a major challenge for our organising team. Congratulations and thanks are therefore due to Richard Yule as the Tournament Director and his team of dedicated volunteers and professional staff who all worked beyond the call of duty to play their part in delivering the event.

ENGLISH NATIONALS HEAD FOR SHEFFIELD

THE next major championship to be staged in this country is the English

Nationals which are to be played at Ponds Forge in Sheffield from 9 – 11 March. This event is strongly supported by Sheffield City Council for the second successive year. As there is no clash with the Vets this year, veterans events have been re-introduced into the Nationals. From a spectator perspective the best day is Sunday, 11 March when the Men's and Women's singles are being played from round one onwards, with the quarter finals scheduled for 12 noon. The finals of all the senior events will be staged on Sunday afternoon/early evening.

For further information regarding this event check the ETTA website at www.etta.co.uk or contact the Events Department at the ETTA Head Office in Hastings, Tel. 014244 722 525.



COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS EXTENDED

At the last meeting of the National Council on 20 January, it was agreed to extend the number of divisions which are organised within the ETTA County Championships. Following wide consultations with county associations, the County Championships Committee recommended that there should be three new sections for next season, the Over 60 (Masters), Under 21 (Intermediate) and Under 14 (Cadet). Information regarding these



English National Champions Nicola Deaton and Matthew Syed

new sections will be circulated to county championship secretaries imminently and therefore ETTA members who are interested in competing for places in these new competitions should contact their county associations.

MORE TELEVISION

A provisional agreement has been reached in the last few days with the ITTF IEC, their European rights holder, the ETTA and Sky Sports to continue with the coverage of the ITTF Pro Tour on Sky Sports for the coming year. The events which are included in the ITTF Pro Tour are as follows:

- February 6-11 English Open, Chatham
- February 19-23 Qatar Open, Doha
- March 15-18 Croatian Open, Zagreb
- June 6-9 China Open, TBC
- June 28-1 Brazilian Open, Rio De Janeiro
- July 4-7 US Open, Fort Lauderdale
- September 15-18 Korea Open, Seoul
- September 21-24 Japan Open, Kobe
- October 18-21 German Open, Bayreuth
- October 25-28 French Open TBC
- November 22-25 Swedish Open, Skovde
- November 29-2 Danish Open, Farum
- January 11-14 Grand Finals TBC

*Alan Ransome
Chairman*

TABLE TENNIS on TV

| Event | Date of Transmission | Time of Transmission | Channel |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| ITTF Pro Tour Finals (Japan) | 06.03.01 | 18.00 | Sky Sports 3 Digital |
| ITTF Pro Tour Finals (Japan) | 06.03.01 | 24.00 | Sky Sports 2 Digital |
| ITTF Pro Tour Finals (Japan) | 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 Grensau(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

WORTHLESS

HAVING attended the recent Junior National Trials I would like to make a few comments that I hope your readers will find interesting. The trials took place in Fareham which is located between Southampton and Portsmouth. Myself and many others thought this to be a strange place to hold a national event, involving a long journey for most of the participants. The belief amongst all the people that I spoke with was that the venue was free and that was the reason it was held there. That in itself is not necessarily a bad thing because we all know the financial situation the E.T.T.A. is in. However I estimate that around £2000 was taken in entry fees. The referee, Tim Harris, announced that unfortunately no umpires were in attendance because they could not be afforded. Even with the most basic schoolboy maths the question arises, where has the money gone? That is a question that everyone was asking that weekend and is a question that is worthy of reply.

For many the trials are believed to be a very prestigious event. The players involved have to qualify through their counties and then regions. Indeed for many it is the highlight of their season, just qualifying is seen by them as a huge achievement. I personally can say that the three players that I was coaching felt a real sense of achievement through their qualification. Why then did it not feel that way? The hall was dimly lit, there were no umpires, nobody from the E.T.T.A. coaching or selection staff were in attendance and the event itself was located in a part of the country that incurred huge travelling and accommodation costs for most. Some players did not attend and I feel sure that the location and its associated costs were the reasons. So what messages are being sent to the young players in this country. Pay £10.80 entry fee and all the other costs (if your parents can afford it) travel huge distances, play in a poorly lit sports hall in a soulless atmosphere, nobody from the E.T.T.A. monitoring your play and if you get a decent draw and play well you could finish in the top six and qualify for the masters. Oh and while you're here do some umpiring because they cannot be afforded. Not

a great deal is it? Is it any wonder that we lose so many young players. The players at the trials are the very people we need to keep. Most of them will never play for England, perhaps some of them will never play for their towns and counties but without them and the others who did not qualify, we cannot have a strong and vibrant association now or in the future.

So I ask the question, do the powers at be think that the National Trials are important? If they do then they need to demonstrate it. Lets hold it in a place that is easier and more affordable to get to. Put it in a hall that has good lighting and atmosphere. Have umpires officiating the matches. Have representatives from the coaching and selection committees in attendance. Lets make it feel special, make the players feel special, for many it is the biggest day of their Table Tennis lives. It is easy to do this, spend the entry fees on the event! If this isn't done then the event will feel the way it did for me and many others this year, worthless, or worse still as one of my more cynical friends asked himself where the money went, cheated.

Simon Upson

Kinghurst, Birmingham

Reply from KEITH PONTING

Vice-Chairman (Competitions):

I am very grateful to be given the opportunity to respond to Simon Upson's letter. The first thing that has to be said is that there can be no complaints as his comments are fair and there is no point in taking issue with him. I attended both days at Fareham and was often made aware of the strong views expressed by very angry parents and coaches.

Following the trials I sent my Management Committee colleagues a lengthy report which, coincidentally, was in very similar vein to Simon's letter. This was discussed at a meeting in January when the short comings were recognised and regretted. It was readily acknowledged that something must be done to improve things.

Initially, my colleague Mike Holt, Vice-Chairman (Marketing) will ask his Events Unit to find a suitable venue in a more central location. In addition, other measures are being considered which it is hoped will restore the National Trials to one of the top events for our young players,

continued on page 8

COURTSIDE

by John Woodford

• **MIDNIGHT** oil was used by the bucketful, some officials were getting less than two hours sleep, but the Sportingbet English Open (World Professional Tour) was an undoubted success in nearly every way especially with huge crowds on the last two days.

• **THE ETTA** Management Committee will receive a report saying that the facilities for the media were totally inadequate. Without going into a lot of detail the meagre desk spaces intended for journalists and feature writers were taken over by ITTF web-site operators. In the Press Hospitality room we were down to one telephone line which was at times shared for computer-lines.

• **FOR** five mornings, media staff and reporters who like to work early were hampered by meetings of heads of departments held if you please in the Press room, during which time we had writers and photographers arriving early camped outside the door.

• **BUCKMORE PARK** is of course, a very new venue. We were only the second event of its size to be held there. There is no way an event of this size is going to happen anywhere without problems - example, the World's in Manchester. The grapevine says that it is possible that the ETTA will hire Buckmore Park again.

• **THE** biggest snag from the players point of view was the practice hall was a coach-ride away. I am told that the student-type accommodation on site cost as much as a three-star hotel, but objecting teams who were invited to move to hotels, decided to stay put.

• **DAILY TELEGRAPH** coverage, even if I say it myself, was generous. It may have had something to do with a written complaint I made to the sports department the previous week complaining of table tennis being left out day after day. They acknowledged the complaint and promised to make up for it, which they duly did with pictures on two days and other stories helped by antics from Dale Barham, red cards from the umpires, especially Brian Watkins and then drama on court as Matthew Syed collapsed on court with cramp and England could not afford to employ a physiotherapist with fourteen players at their home tournament.

• **MICHAEL GADAL** made a solid reply to Syed's attack on no physio, reminding people that his budget was cut in half to £850,000; England's priorities are two Commonwealth tournaments (Delhi and Manchester), the world championships and thirdly the English Open. The cost of a physio - £1,000 for the week - could not be justified. It would never happen in France.

• **THE ABSENCE** of Terry Young led to a story; he was in Japan as a replacement for Matthew Syed. Apparently, both players left it very late telling the ETTA what was happening - that caused some grief.

• **FEELINGS** on the forthcoming moves by the ITTF towards eleven points instead of twenty-one. Very many rank-and-file players do NOT want the change, we have to wait and see what will happen when the ITTF bring in their bulldozers in Osaka.

• **SUSSEX** coach Pat Ginnaw, a modest man from Arundel where he has coached young players with success over many years was made a vice-president of Sussex last July. He stood out like a sore-thumb sitting with the very very, VIPs at Chatham with all the local mayors. Putting on one hat as an ETTA vice-president or a second one as a Life Member of Sussex I would not have joined that row of chairs, but perhaps Pat knows someone I'm not acquainted with!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR continued

something they deserve for their hard work and dedication.

TRY NEW IDEAS

IN your little "Woody's World Column" TTN - December 2000 issue, you mention the new changes that have come into our game recently, ie: the new 40mm ball, now fully operative and the now possible new scoring system of 11 Up - already well focused and possibly to become law for the 2001-2002 season.

Also in the same issue Michael Wilkins from Leighton Buzzard in Bedfordshire, wrote a very fair and appropriate article which bore the heading "Better or Worse?, along the same lines.

Some of the more forgotten grass roots league players in "The South West Region" (many of whom do not take Table Tennis News), are now suddenly paying great attention because perhaps something is going to happen in the near future, that will personally affect them, they have already accepted the new sized ball - but the possibility of the new best of 5 up to 11 has I fear left them feeling totally ballistic.

Many of their fears stem from ignorance, few have ever attended a "Grand Prix", this season where the new ruling has taken place, and simply many just do not like change.

After being asked by the ETTA to help John Woodford with press & publicity at the first Grand Prix of the season at Cheltenham last August, I spoke to several of the leading players and administrators regarding the new scoring system, apart from a few veterans most people were in favour of the new rules.

There is no question or doubt in my mind that any sensible minded person needs to play league matches from 7.30 - 11.00 and in some cases even later, it is and has been in some league's a total deterrent for junior players as well.

Should the governing bodies of our sport - the ITTF - the ETTA and other world T.T. administrators vote for the new system of scoring on an international basis at 11 up (but change the service rule from 5 to 2), when they meet at Osaka, Japan for the 46th World Championships, then this is surely a move in the right direction for shorter matches everywhere, it will not please

everyone, but is this ever possible?

We must at least try new ideas now and again, to continue with many of our now out of date ideas, can only spell further disasters in our sport.

*Alf Pepperd,
Gloucestershire County & South West
Regional Press Officer*

CHANGING BATS

I CAN see how John Crossman (letters, Jan/Feb TTN) was misled, but it was myself, not Rowden Fullen, who wrote the short piece on 'Changing Bats during a Match' in the December issue. I tried to give the factual position: unless the local league has banned the practice in its own regulations, a player can change a racket during games provided he/she allows the opponent and the umpire to examine the new racket each time. However, John does point out an anomaly in the ITTF regulations, namely that although play should be continuous (apart from allowed intervals), this is only really an exultation without a sanction, unless a player can be deemed by the umpire to be deliberately wasting time - in which case the umpire, having at the first

incidence given a warning, can at his discretion deduct a point on the repetition of the 'offence'. In practical terms this means that examination of any new bat must be brief and there can be no practice against it (or with it) during the match, so that play is near continuous. It occurs to me that an opponent taking an excessive amount of time examining a new bat could also be deemed guilty of wasting time!

Any comment on this issue by those more knowledgeable than myself, such as umpires and referees, would be welcome.

*Ken Muhr
ETTA Information Officer*

BIG BALL SPIN

I THINK that I need to enlarge on the statement I made in my article on Spin, Flight & Bounce concerning the big ball because the situation is not quite so clear cut as the statement suggested.

The big ball has a larger cross sectional area, so it will suffer more air resistance which will tend to slow it down in flight, but this is offset by the fact that it is heavier, and a heavy object does not suffer so much retardation as a light one. If the weight is increased pro-rata with the size then the two cancel each other out and the two balls will travel at the same speed.

The ITTF specification for the big ball is not quite a pro-rata increase which will mean that it will travel about 2.5% slower. To achieve this weight the material for the big ball will need to be slightly thinner. I think that the ITTF have recognised that this might be difficult to achieve and still produce a ball which is consistently hard, so in the quality assurance tests they have specified a median value which is slightly larger. Balls meeting this value will travel about 1.5% slower. Further they have specified a maximum value which gives a pro-rata increase, so in this case the two balls will travel at the same speed.

It remains to be seen what can be achieved in practice but it would appear that the big will travel about 1% to 2% slower through the air.

If you drop a big ball and small ball they will both reach the ground at the same time, but the big ball will not bounce up quite so high.

Therefore it is the speed off the bat and the speed off the table where any significant reduction in speed is likely to occur. The actual reduction which is likely to occur is difficult to access. The reduction in speed in the drop test was for balls hitting the

continued on page 10

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Business

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR continued

continued from page 8

ground perpendicularly and without spin. In practice the balls do not meet the bat or the table perpendicularly and will contain spin. All these factors could affect the actual speed of the shot. (see my web site for more on non perpendicular contacts: bucom.freeserve.co.uk)

In some of the initial tests done by the research centre in Ottawa they found that the faster the hit the less difference there was between the big ball and the small ball. Can anyone explain this? The big ball has only been in use for half a season but early indications are that the slow end of the game is even slower but the fast end of the game has not been affected much, and this tends to confirm the Ottawa results.

Henry Buist
Kent

NO PROPER PHOTO LIBRARY

THE acute shortage of photographs of players in table tennis at all levels is one reason why we do not get our fair share of space in the media.

The Hastings office of the ETTA is probably the only administrative

headquarters of any sport where there is no proper library of leading players photos available, not even of our highest profile and only world-class player Matthew Syed.

At county level and locally, I can quote three sports that are our rivals for space. There are many others but I note that here in Sussex three sports - cycling, fishing and snooker have journalists like myself who churn out words day after day for an array of publications like the Evening Argus and many weekly papers.

These writers supply every week photographs to go with their words. These three sports see the need to retain a supply of photos of their leading sportsmen and women and of course, arrange photographic coverage for special events.

I have just managed to obtain the first photo of the Horsham No.1 player Laurence Trumpauskas. This was promptly used by the Argus ten days ago and led to the table tennis space being doubled for my Thursday column.

For the recent Eastbourne championships a staff photographer was requested and the result was a half-page spread in the Eastbourne Herald with five photographs of players. If it can be done at local level, it could be done at national

level. It is scandalous that the ETTA publicity department cannot build up a series of photos of leading players: the cost would not be great. Fans would like to know the identity of the twelve young players at the Nottingham academy. Why is "Table Tennis News" not carrying their photographs and short biographies instead of pages of waffle, far too long, of players of the past?

John Woodford,
Eastbourne, Sussex

Editor's Note: I am very pleased that you made good use of my picture of Laurence Trumpauskas, but with regard to a picture library at Hastings, I feel this will be difficult to achieve as there isn't a budget. You mention players of the past, but if there is a future in table tennis, then there is a present and a past as well.

ALL-TIME RANKING

I WOULD like to comment on your ALL-TIME ranking proposal in the yellow pages of TTN, November. I suggest that this is an impossible task, as with the wide range of post-war playing conditions one is not comparing like with like.

It is true that one must wonder how the great players of the 40's and 50's

would have coped with current techniques and playing equipment. Equally one does not know how modern players would have fared against THICK SPONGE, when neither the striker or receiver could be sure where the ball would go after being struck! I had the privilege of seeing most of the players of this earlier epoch in action, but would base most of my assertions on the World Championship records.

THICK SPONGE arrived with the Japanese exponents in 1952, and many of us saw its effects at the World Championships, Wembley 1954. This was the last World Championships participation for Victor Barna. He played in the doubles events, reaching the semi-finals of the mixed and the finals of the mens. Prior to this he had gained, I believe, 14 world titles. What more could he do to merit top ranking? Richard Bergmann was a legend with so many successes. Famous for his defence he could switch to a devastating attack.

The onset of THICK SPONGE was no obstacle for Ivan Andreadis, who when one counts individual and Swathing Cup medals, he probably won more medals than any other player. At Wembley 1954 he won all three matches against the Japanese



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LETTERS continued

in the Swathing Cup Final - plus the Mixed Doubles title. The following year in Utrecht he again won his three matches against Ogimura and co. - plus the Mens Doubles title. In Tokyo 1956 he gained a Silver in the Mixed Doubles, and then in Stockholm 1957 he was the winner of the Mens Doubles, finalist in the Mixed Doubles and semi-finalist in the Mens Singles.

Surely the watershed must be the legislation at Dortmund 1959 concerning the covering of the racket blade. Previously it was required to be just 'not white, light coloured or reflecting'.

I would submit the list:- Barna, Bergmann, Andreadis, Leach and Sido. In modern times no one would dispute the overall superiority of Waldner - others I leave to your conjecture. This treatment should satisfy most enthusiasts.

Derek Tyler, I.U. 74801
Koksijde, Belgium

GOOD SERVICE?

RECENTLY, my local league Bury-St-Edmunds and District, reminded all players of the rules of the game concerning a 'Good Service', and yet again it becomes quite obvious to the majority of rank and file players that the rules are almost unenforceable.

In theory the rules are fine, but in practice its quite a different thing.

I suggest therefore that the administrators of this great game should once and for all time, revise the rules and use common sense allied with practicality, instead of relying on idealism.

Lets start by closely examining the rules themselves. Its quite clear that the starting point is the objective to ensure that *NO PLAYER OBTAINS*

UNFAIR ADVANTAGE WHILE SERVING. This must stay in the forefront of any thoughts on the subject.

It follows therefore, that it is quite acceptable for a player to devise any service technique which gives him or her an advantage *PROVIDED ITS WITHIN THE RULES.*

All we have to do is to ensure that the rules reflect this principle and are easy to interpret.

The difficulties start here because firstly we are led to assume that if any of the rules are not met, then the service is not met, then the service is *NOT GOOD*, and secondly we the players/umpires are required to act on our interpretation of the rules in a split second, and make a judgement. Also at the same time umpires are expected to watch for 'let' serves.

Sometimes the service action is so fast that the umpire cannot be certain of the legality of the service, and will only concentrate on the net.

It follows therefore that the player who seeks to to gain an unfair advantage will prosper, unless the administrators of the game take hold of this issue.

All we require are rules that are simple to understand and easy to apply. Then we can get on with the game and enjoy it.

Table tennis needs to live in the real world, let's have fair competition, not open house for cheating.

Colin Westney
Bury-St-Edmunds

Editor's Note: Colin's letter also included his observations of service rules from 2.6.1 through to 2.6.7, but lack of space meant that it had to be edited out.

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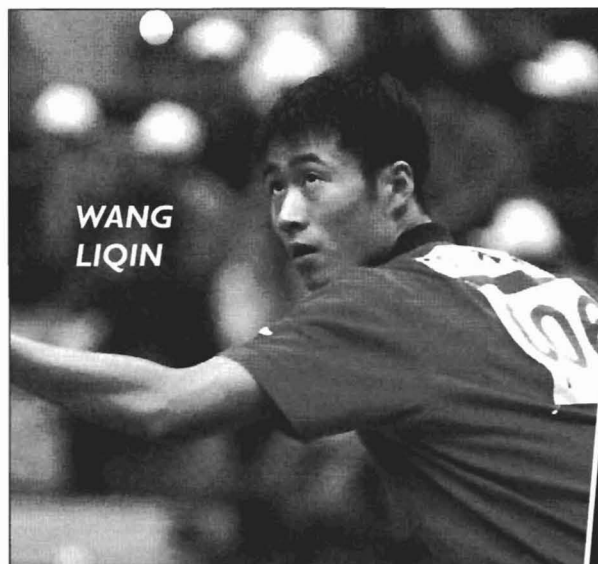
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| PREMIER DIVISION | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| London Progress | 7 | 7 | - | - | 78 | 20 | 14 |
| Darlington | 7 | 5 | - | 2 | 61 | 37 | 10 |
| Horsham | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 58 | 40 | 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 FP 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 | - |

WANG LIQIN & YOSHIE TAKADA TAKE THE TITLES



WANG LIQIN

WORLD number one Wang Liqin won the English Open, the first major tournament of the year, with such a thumping 21-18, 21-10, 21-9 success over the French number one Christophe Legout that it suggested the Chinese player will do better than the four Pro-Tour titles he won during 2000, writes Richard Eaton.

Wang trailed 11-14 in the first game and then dominated the final so utterly with his long-armed forehand looping and remarkably fleet footwork for so big a man that it soon developed into no contest.

Legout, who had eliminated another Chinese player, the defending champion Ma Wenge in

YOSHIE TAKADA pictured right celebrating with cup and flowers



the semi-finals, had played four five-game matches in a row and looked spent.

But Wang suggested that he is a new breed of Chinese player - one who would rather sit on struggling opponents when they are down and one who's able to keep the greater proportion of his prize money.

The evidence suggests that commercial sponsorship has brought a great deal of change to Chinese attitudes in the past four years or so, and Wang may well have been allowed to keep most or all of the \$100,000 prize money he won last year.

This distinguishes him from the Chinese greats of the past, who had to give the majority of their winnings to the federation, although he is

**Words by JOHN WOODFORD, RICHARD EATON & KEN MUHR
Pictures by JOHN WOOD**

similar in his current dominance of the game.

"I was trying to make technical and tactical preparations for the world championships (in Osaka in May)," claimed Wang. "I wasn't concerned about winning or losing."

If so, he should be sensational when he is. Chinese head coach Shi Meisheng apparently reckons that Wang has flaws - a weaker backhand and an allegedly moderate touch - and should try to build his style around his strengths.

Hence the 22-year-old appears to be perfecting a short serve which offers maximum opportunity for a fast forehand follow-up from any place on the court.

Shi reckons that, because the modern game has quickened up so much, Wang already plays to a higher standard than the Chinese legends of the past, like Guo Yue-hua and Jiang Jia-liang, and that there may be further improvement to come.

A Chinese player also won the



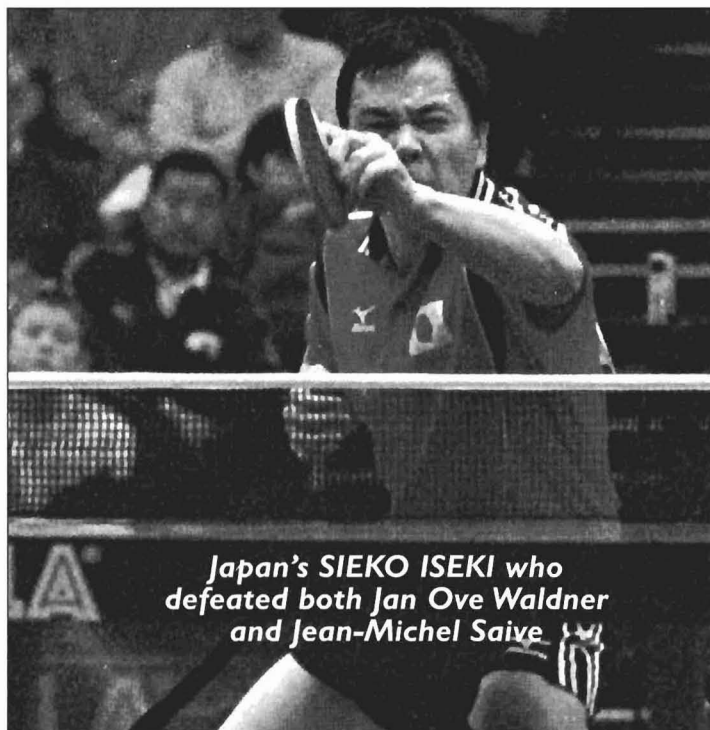
women's singles, except that the competitor formerly known as Fan Jian-xin is now called Yoshie Takada of Japan. The émigré won 17-21,21-12,16-21,21-15,21-19 against the North Korean Kim Hyon-Hui but Yoshie's long drawn out preparations for the rallies may have come close to costing her a match decided by only two points.

Yoshie was given a yellow card for time wasting in the first game by the German umpire Rolf Reincke and then a red card with a penalty point for the same offence in the fourth game. A further transgression would have brought a red card and two penalty points and possibly a controversial end to a mesmerising match of close to the table attack and counter-attack.

"I was preparing myself for what I might have to say to her team coach if she had been penalised again at 19-19 in the final game," admitted a relieved tournament referee Richard Scruton afterwards.

Yoshie was not the only player in the tournament to have changed name. Many people were mystified by vaguely familiar and the unexpectedly astute Japanese player, Seiko Iseki, who demolished two former world number ones in succession, in Jan-Ove Waldner and Jean-Michel Saive, and advanced to become a surprise semi-finalist.

It was only then that some of us twigged. This was none other than the one-time Chinese hero, Wei Qing-gang, the former world doubles champion, in another guise. It seems



Japan's SIEKO ISEKI who defeated both Jan Ove Waldner and Jean-Michel Saive



WANG LIQIN
proudly displays the English Open Mens Singles trophy

TALL MAN FROM SHANGHAI

like another age too. Iseki is 38. **EVERY now and again the Chinese coaches come up with the goods in the shape of a probable world champion. They have done it again with Wang Liqin. It was in Paris not long ago at the World Pro-Tour finals that a colleague spotted the exceptional talents and promise of the tall man from Shanghai, writes John Woodford**

Christophe Legout seemed up for

the final and he was capable of upsetting any opponent, but Wang who at times looked as though he was a visitor from another planet. But he claimed that he has several aspects of his game that needing sharpening up. If he fails to win the world title in Osaka in May, the whole table tennis world will be in shock, those that have seen him in action so far, that is.

continued on page 14



64th ENGLISH OPEN



64th English Open
Champions KIM
HYON HUI and KIM
HYANG MI from
Korea PRK

continued from page 13

Returning to the start of the 64th English Open, happily sponsored by 'sportingbet.co.uk', a major coup largely down to two men - chief executive Richard Yule and the newly-appointed commercial manager Brian Spicer who left his bed at 5 a.m. one morning to spend most of the day closing the deal, the first sponsorship deal for the ETTA for six years.

The qualifying rounds were far too long, the whole event could have been played in five days instead of six. But, the English players who appeared in the qualifying rounds were given the unique opportunity to appear in a world professional tour event and they should be grateful, some were, some were not and raised allegations of over-charging.

However, the qualifying rounds were enjoyed by some players - the four men who qualified were almost predictably - Marco Essomba, Fabio Mantegazza, Michael Isherwood and Abdul Wuraola.

Then came the story of how Terry Young came to be absent from Chatham and playing instead of Matthew Syed on the million-dollar

Kenshoen circuit in Japan.

It seems that both men left it rather late to inform Michael Gadal what the arrangements were. However, Young no doubt, deserved the four figure sum he picked up in Japan.

Earlier to that story breaking I telephoned Matthew at his hotel in Japan to find out the 'plot'. The result was a 'political cover-up', but the long-distance call led onto a path where I found out what was going on from other sources who I would not dream of revealing.

The week seemed to drag on at Chatham; Wednesday's story was the welcome success of the Essex accountant Linda Radford who made Daily Telegraph headlines when she went through with a great win over Belgian No.1 Peggy Regenwetter. Gareth Herbert was playing well at that stage but he went under eventually to the World No.73 Rio Yazawa from Japan.

We were at that juncture, looking forward to the appearance of the 'Bic-Guns' - Jan-Ove Waldner, Jean-Michel Saive, Jorg Roskopf and Werner Schlager whose progress towards the top of the world list for Austria who specialise in Chinese imports, is astonishing.

There is no doubt, that the key to high-flying success these days is regular practice with Chinese players, either through having them in the national squads and, or playing them in all sections of the Bundesliga - a good example was Carl Prean beating Ding Song and Dimitri Mazonov in the second division of the Bundesliga.

It was not that long ago that Ding



Mens Doubles
Champions
TIMO BOLL and
ZOLTAN FEJER-
KONNERTH of
Germany

Song was one of the shining lights in the Chinese national squad. Now he is difficult to spot on the world list, but strange things happen to Chinese players as new potential world stars emerge like Wang Liqin.

I was unhappy to have to write a story on the Thursday concerning yellow and red cards for Dale Barham. In the past year, his

behaviour in public has improved considerably. It was therefore disappointing to see him starting to lose ground after winning the first game against Sweden's Robert Nilsson.

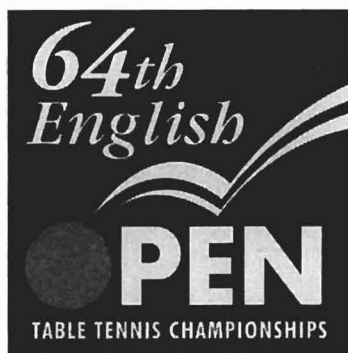
The deputy referee Borje Carlsson was called in to watch the third game between Barham and Nilsson. "He showed increasing bad temper throughout the match", said the deputy referee.

The ETTA now have a new system with red and yellow cards - they are all reported to higher authority, who then consider the player's record of behaviour and will act accordingly, using the Disciplinary Committee in extreme cases.

I was asked by the "Telegraph" if Barham was talented. The obvious

answer was "yes". They indicated that at sometime in the future they might use him in a feature - most clouds have a silver lining.

And so, into the last three days - Matthew Syed was drawn in Round 1 to play the German champion Zoltan Fejer-Konnerth, a youngish man with a big attack who was quite capable of



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CHAMPIONS

Under 21 Singles Champions: KIM YUN MI (left) of Korea PRK and BASTIAN STEGER from Germany.

bringing down Syed. Matthew came through 20, 17, 13.

On the same day, Nicola Deaton defeated Regenwetter, but in the second round she lost gallantly to Yun Mi (Korea) 9, 18, 17.

There is always drama when Syed plays. He went out in the second round to the finalist French No.1 Legout but only after leading 6-4 in the fifth and then collapsing with cramp in both upper and lower legs.

There was no physio available for the English squad, although a Swedish masseur helped out, but to no avail. Syed was angry that England did not have a physio in attendance for help prior to matches and to attend to this sort of emergency.

Since then, Michel Gadal has explained that the cost of a physio at Chatham would have been £1,000 for five or six days. The World Performance budget having been cut

in half to £850,000 these are the priorities - two Commonwealth Championships (New Delhi and Manchester) the World Championship, and the English Open.

It could be argued that this is one of the results of the savage cuts in the Lottery grants.

On the Saturday, Waldner was a victim of Japan's Seiko Iseki, the former Chinese high-flyer who is 38! If he plays in the World Veterans Championships in Yokohama two years from now, I doubt if anyone else has a chance. Another shock came when the European champion Peter Karlsson was knocked out 16, 14, 11, by Austria's Weixing Chen. Iseki went on to beat Saive senior, whilst Legout took out Schlager 16 in the fifth game.

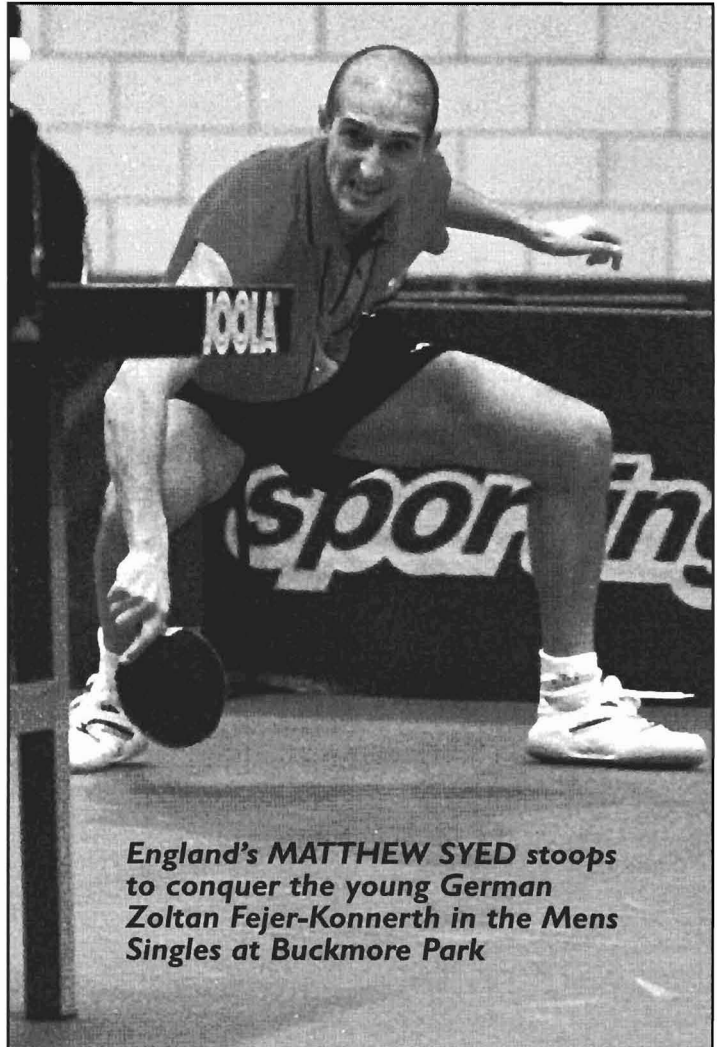
And, so to the final day with Wang and Japan's Yoshie Takada the final

victors. Prior to the men's final Christophe Legout queued up for his lunch. He asked for an extra portion of chicken but was turned down by the lady in charge of the cold buffet. I doubt if he had consumed a whole chicken if he would have done much better against the man who can expect to triumph in Osaka.

Venue comment: Taking into account this was a new venue, only their second world event - the first was roller-skating, the ETTA team did well. All venues produce problems - some stalwarts worked through the night to get the flooring and lighting

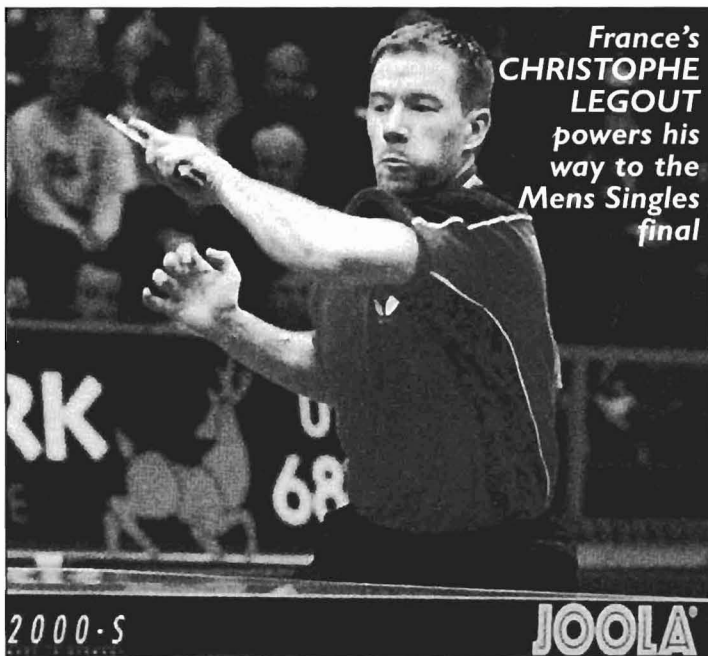
right. Getting about 1,600 crowds on the Saturday and Sunday was excellent. The biggest minus for the players was that the practice hall was a coach-ride away. The biggest snag for the inadequate media facilities (confirmed by ETTA vice-chairman Brian Halliday) was that the media centre was taken over by directors meetings for the first hour daily, leaving early-attending national writers and cameramen kicking their heels. But, the grapevine says we might go to Buckmore Park again.

continued on page 16



England's MATTHEW SYED stoops to conquer the young German Zoltan Fejer-Konnerth in the Mens Singles at Buckmore Park





France's **CHRISTOPHE LEGOUT** powers his way to the **Mens Singles final**

2000-5

JOOLA

REFLECTIONS OF BUCKMORE PARK

OWING to the gigantic effort of many people the sportingbet.co.uk English Open happened, and it was very good, writes Ken Muhr.

However, that was not how it felt at the beginning. Owing to Buckmore Park taking 3 days to put up the lights, thus delaying the setting up of the floor, tables and surrounds, the qualifying rounds were severely disrupted and very nearly cancelled. Indeed, behind the scenes there were many stressful challenges confronting the organisers of which the players and viewing public can have had no idea, leaving professional staff and voluntary workers sleep deprived and exhausted even before the first ball

was hit and first point scored. The initially oppressive atmosphere was compounded by some of the heaviest rain in history. Yet having said all that, the sportingbet.co.uk Championships at Buckmore Park (very accessible) were a great success, both from a point of view of the entry, the magnificent play, the media attention, and the biggest crowds for at least 10 years and probably much longer.

There will inevitably be criticism of the English players but I think on any reasoned analysis they did quite well. Matthew Syed looked good in containing the power of young German Zoltan Fejer-Konnerth in his opening, men's singles round 1 match, and was dreadfully unlucky to go down with cramp when leading 8th seed Christophe Legout (France) 6-4 in the final game of an epic round 2 encounter - or was it the lack of an English physiotherapist (because of the expense) or Matthew's relative lack of physical conditioning that was to blame? It should be noted that the classic

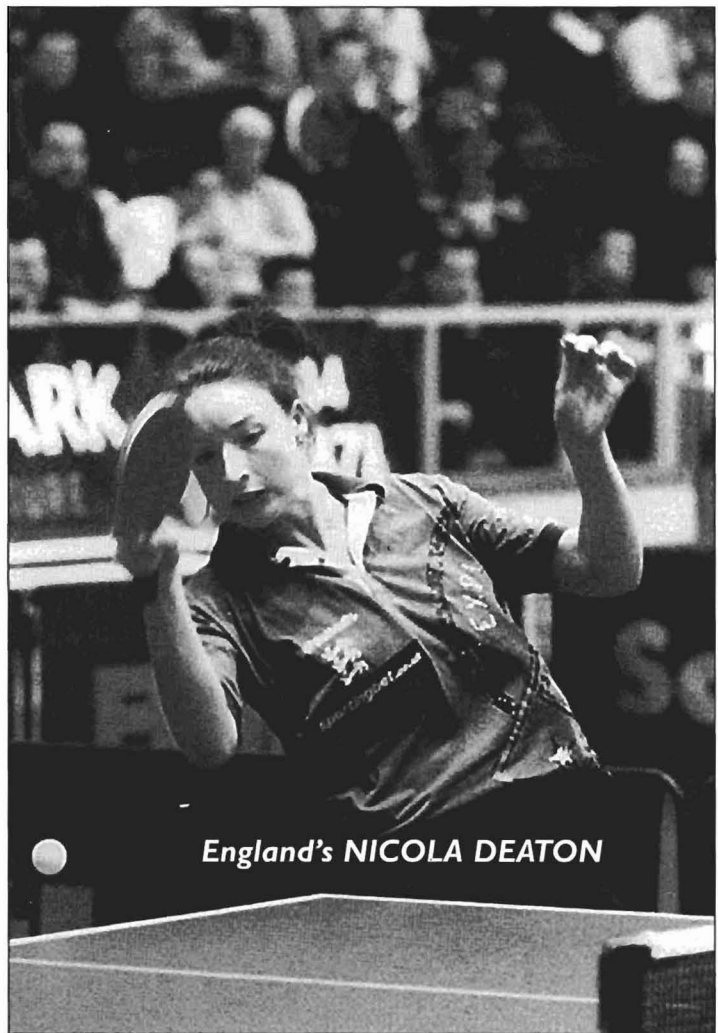
defender Ntaniel Tsiokas (Greece) in the men's and former European champion Nicole Struse (Germany) in the women's (and England's Alex Perry) had to retire owing to injury. Matthew's conqueror Legout proceeded to graft his way through 4 consecutive 5 game matches against Syed, Damien Eloi (France, former titleholder), Werner Schlager (Austria) and Ma Wenge (the titleholder) to reach the final, where he was outclassed by the modest 6'2" tall, world no. 1 Wang Ligin (China).

England's Nicola Deaton, Linda Radford and Helen Lower all performed well in winning their round 1 women's singles matches (and Nicola and Linda in topping

Yun Mi, in both the 2nd and 3rd games before losing 9-21, 18-21, 17-21 in round 2.

With 2 players in the semi-finals and the losing finalist in Kim Hyon Hui, (and the women's doubles winners, Kim Hyon Hui with Kim Hyang Mi, and under 21 women's singles, the aforesaid Kim Yun Mi), the Peoples Republic of Korea have leapt right back to the top level after years of isolation.

Andrew Baggaley (aged 17) and Gareth Herbert (20), both of whom had come second in their men's singles groups (in which Andrew overpowered his Welsh rival Adam Robertson), both were desperately unlucky to go down in their first



England's **NICOLA DEATON**

their groups as well), and special mention should be given to Nicola who has not, as far as I am aware, played in a best of 5 games up to 21 singles for 2 years or ever in an international open with the new ball. She actually led the awkward, young no. 14 seed from Korea (PRK), Kim

round under 21 men's singles matches after winning their respective groups, Andrew (the 6th seed) being edged out 18-21, 21-13, 22-20 by Ryusuke Sakamoto (Japan) while Gareth dropping the last 4 vital

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TABLE TENNIS NEWS EXTRA

Issue no. 276 March 2001

Editorial

Since returning from New Zealand before Christmas, my major focus, indeed that of ETTA headquarters, has been the sportingbet.co.uk 64th English Open Championships at Buckmore Park, Chatham, Kent, on 6th-11th February (see reports elsewhere). Now that it is over and we can relax (a little!) after a supreme effort, it is gratifying to receive much positive feedback... 'congratulations', 'superb event', 'fantastic players', etc.

Naturally we should not allow ourselves to become blasé because there were of course things we should have done better. As well as ourselves critically analysing what happened, we should be open to, welcome even, constructive, justified criticism and we have had some of that too. Unfortunately there is also a (minority) British tendency to disparage what we try to organise without acknowledging the good, but I hope that all fair-minded people will celebrate the fact that on balance the English Open was a **great success for the ETTA** - the collective term for everyone who is connected to that organisation.

Ian Marshall said in his January 2001 ITTF Table Tennis Illustrated editorial that there are players who are making comments like, '**They are ruining the game**, we shouldn't be changing the size of the ball, the old one was quite all right; now they are thinking of games up to eleven points and altering the service law. There's nothing wrong with the way we play at the moment'. The basic concept is that it was 'better in my day' and 'any changes are for the worse'. Ian's basic point was that **to do nothing was to ruin the game**: traditions should be respected but they must not be allowed to hamper innovative ideas.

However, I must make it clear that I don't see the expression of uncertainty about **changes to the game** as the problem - I had my own doubts about the big ball - but I do think that automatically impugning the integrity, knowledge and competence of the governing bodies and legislators is

wrong. Rather than perceiving some possible and actual rule changes as being a genuine attempt to widen the appeal and participation of table tennis (particularly amongst an audience and population that has little or no involvement with the game), and to reverse decline in some areas, there are die hard, grass roots players who seem to see the ETTA and ITTF (of which the ETTA are but one of 187 member associations, and whose laws we follow) as being involved in a vast autocratic conspiracy to wreck the sport!

Obviously there are different perspectives: the ITTF and ETTA must take the wider view for the greater good of the sport, whereas local league players are generally more concerned with their own individual experience. But there **needs to be a constructive debate** as to how to take table tennis forward by all concerned, because to keep things as they were, to retain the status quo, is to fall behind.

On **games up to 11**, I think that top players will adapt to it quickly because they are natural risk takers on pressure points, but I am worried that it may be a change too soon for older traditionalists in the local league who tend to play safe, so there could be a small haemorrhaging of membership. If the ITTF changes the laws at the BGM in April/May (which is possible), then games up to 11 will be mandatory for local leagues, although in my view there would have been a (theoretical only) case for allowing local leagues discretion as to which scoring system to use.

Naturally I feel any **criticism of Table Tennis News** personally, because of my involvement. The magazine is imperfect and will never please everyone, but people sometimes home in on such trivial things for dismissing or not buying it, without regard to the good things or changes we have made to improve it. For example, I agree that lateness has been a real problem, but much of the content of TTN is now feature and discussion based and in that sense its value is not time limited. Many glossy journals require copy two months before publication.

And what has happened to supporting our sport through supporting what it does and its publication? Table Tennis News costs a relatively small amount so why are people so reluctant to pay for it? **Please readers, continue to give your criticisms and suggestions for improvement, but unless you think it is absolutely awful, carry on buying it!**

My long held solution for making the ETTA self supporting and Table Tennis News financially viable is to have an annual, one payment only, **individual membership** of the ETTA (at around £30-£40), to include subscription to TTN - but I don't expect this to be approved by the membership!

There is a nasty side to the British character that is jingoistically exclusive, though this fortunately is not very evident in table tennis. It is not only morally right that all of our ETTA opportunities and activities should be fully open and accessible to all people, of whatever race or ethnicity, but to our advantage also, because by being fully involved people are contributing to the health of our sport. Our public pledge in support of **The Racial Equality Charter for Sport**, signified by ETTA Chairman Alan Ransome signing the document during the sportingbet.co.uk English Open (see in main magazine), is therefore very much to be welcomed.

No surprise about the large number of Kendal players at the Cumbria Closed (Gordon Brown Cumbria notes) at Kendal but what has happened to players from Carlisle - no entries? It is a rare treat to receive Durham notes from Keith Wilson and the Primary Schools Initiative and the initiative of the Darlington League in allowing all junior teams to play on two tables and all matches at home are innovations which appear worthy of copy and emulation by others. While we miss Carl Prean on the domestic tournament scene and from England duty, we are pleased to learn from father John (Isle of Wight notes) of his good form in Germany. We also applaud the commitment and stoicism of Dennis Millman (Northants) who continues to send in quality notes on a regular basis despite suffering poor personal health. Thank you all our **County Notes** and other contributors.

Ken Muhr

Berkshire by John Cunningham

This year's Reading Individual Handicap saw the first ever female winner as Tidmarsh's Denise Weller took the title, beating Colin Byers (+8) in the final.

Martin Adams became the first Cippenham member to win the men's singles title at the Cippenham Two Star Open Championships on Sunday 7th January at the sixth running of the event.

Adams, who plays for Cippenham in the British League and spearheads the Cippenham Aces team in the new Cippenham Super League, was largely untroubled throughout the day. After winning his group (the top seed Roland Zaubmayr accounted for) he then demolished Berkshire county player Hari Gehlot 21-4, 21-10 in the quarter-final.

The semi-final saw Adams beat another Cippenham Super League player, Karl Bushell, the Oxfordshire no. 1, 21-19, 21-16 before beating Surrey's Steve Davis 21-8, 25-23 in the final. The second game of the final brought out the best in both Adams and Davis who fought out a series of rallies with the ball spinning furiously and travelling at breakneck speed.

Davis's semi-final victim had been Neil Wright of Hertfordshire, the no. 6 seed, who had scored an impressive victory over second seed Ramesh Bhalla in the semi. Another Cippenham member Maurice Isaacs, turned back the years by beating Geoff Grange and Tom Adams before falling to Davis in the quarters.

Cheshire by Alan Blears

Cotswold 4 Star Junior Select

Stockport's Academy-based Karen Shepherd had mixed fortunes in this prestigious event. In the Cadets she was knocked out in the semis by energy-saving expert, but always dangerous, Lisa Calcutt. It was a different story in the juniors, which she won after victories against Aparna Narendran, Kelly Sibley and Abigail Embling. Her opponent in the final was her Academy colleague Nicola White.

National Junior League

Cheshire teams continue to dominate the North West Area South with Wirral 'A' leading Division 1, Halton 'B' Division 2 and Macclesfield 'B' Division 3. Tom Page of Wirral 'A' leads the averages with 100% from 16 sets.

Cornwall by John Wood

Cornwall's Neville Reed, playing his first ever county match, played like a dream winning his two debut singles, in Cornwall's big 7-2 victory over Somerset 2nds, in the Veterans Division 4D section of the ETTA

COUNTY NOTES

A Look Around The Country Issue no. 276 March 2001

County Championships, in January at the St. Austell Table Tennis Centre.

Reed, from Redruth, with his awkward combination bat, beat Somerset's Terry Millard 21-16, 21-12, and Mike Withyman 23-21, 21-16. Reed was well supported by Cornwall's Roger Jacobs from Truro and Bob House of St. Columb Major, who also won two singles each.

Reed and Jacobs combined well to win the men's doubles, whilst House and Elaine Lewis from Liskeard narrowly lost the mixed doubles event. In the senior matches Cornwall 1 retained their unbeaten record with a fourth straight win, beating Worcester 7-3, but the seconds just lost out to Worcester, losing 4-6 with the crucial deciding set being very narrowly lost by Cornwall's Graham Reed 24-26 in the third to the Worcester no. 1 Dave Rogers.



Neville Reed of Cornwall

In the National Schools Team Championships Brannel School took on Penair School in the Under 16s county final, at St. Austell Table Tennis Centre, for the right to represent Cornwall in the South West Area final at Eggbuckland School in Plymouth on 20th January 2001.

Penair had earned the title of Cornwall Champions for the past two years, with the same four players Alistair Randall, brother

Jonathan, Adam Tatlow and David Crozier, who are all members of the People's Palace Club. Brannel's Andrew Broad was in top form as he won both his singles, recording victories over brother's Alistair and Jonathan Randall, as Penair ran out 6-2 winners.

However Penair's effort to become South West Champions in the finals at Plymouth were not rewarded as they lost by the narrowest of margins, losing by 10 points in a count-back, after drawing with Bideford School 4-4.

Cumbria by Gordon Brown

Richard Johnson of 8 Brigbourne Drive, Seaton, has just chalked up 34 years of being involved in the organisation of Cumbria Association's annual tournaments. He was assistant organiser to Ron Rigg, of Inkerman Terrace, Whitehaven, for around 10 years before becoming tournament secretary. His assistant for the last 20 years has been Ken Douglas of Harrington Young People's Club.

Years ago the Association organised a closed tournament which used to attract competitors from all over the north to Carlisle Market Hall, but nowadays they just run a closed tournament for county competitors.

Richard and Ken played for Harrington YMCA in the Workington League and Richard played for them in both the Workington and Whitehaven Leagues. Said Richard: "I would love to see a Workington League going again. Anyone interested should ring me on 01900 608415."

At this year's 'closed' there were no Carlisle players for the first time. But there were 44 entries from Kendal and 20 from Barrow. The event was staged at Kendal Leisure Centre, where local hero Zeke Dixon completed a four-cornered triumph. He won the men's singles after being runner-up last year, the junior boys' singles for the third time in succession and shared in the men's and junior doubles.

Barrow sisters Chloe and Faye were also stars. Faye beat Chloe in the women's singles final and partnered her in a women's doubles triumph. Faye and Jonathan Crawford were winners in the mixed doubles over Mike and Chloe Gasson. Chloe got her own back on Faye in the junior singles final, retaining the title she took last year.

Runners-up for the second year running were Carl Stebbing, of Kendal, in the veterans' singles, and fellow townie Roger Pimblett in the under 12s singles. Jonathan Crawford took his initial under 14 singles' title after being losing finalist last season.

Men's singles: Zeke Dixon (Kendal) bt David Archer (Kendal) 21-14, 21-16. Women's singles: Faye Gasson (Barrow) bt Chloe Gasson (Barrow) 21-6, 21-8. Men's doubles: Dixon/Archer bt Keith Mallinson/Alan Turner 19-21, 21-16, 21-19. Women's doubles: Faye/Chloe Gasson bt Helen Crawford/Jane New (Barrow) walk over, New injured, Mixed doubles: Jonathan

Crawford/Faye Gasson bt Mike/Chloe Gasson (Barrow) 18-21, 21-14, 21-17. Junior boys' singles: Dixon bt Harry Carter (Kendal). Junior girls' singles: Chloe Gasson bt Faye Gasson 21-8, 21-4. Under 14 singles: Jonathan Crawford (Barrow) bt Stuart Oldham (Kendal) 21-10, 21-8. Junior doubles: Dixon/Carter bt Ben Mesters/David McGovern. Veterans' singles: Chris Knowles (Kendal) bt Carl Stebbing (Kendal) 21-19, 21-19. Under 12 singles: Peter Dennress (Barrow) bt Roger Pimblett (Kendal).

Dorset by Joe Turner

January brought about the second round of matches in Division 1B of the Junior County Championships. The event was again hosted by the Crippenham Table Tennis Centre.

It transpired that the day held in store some more exciting and nail biting matches for the Dorset squad, who were starting the day joint top of the division with Devon, both teams having secured 3 wins out of 3 from the first round of matches.

The first match was against Berkshire who was hampered by the last minute withdrawal of their second girl player, leaving Lisa Bosley to fly the flag on her own, which she duly did winning both her matches, this despite Dorset being strengthened by the return of Becky Watts as no 1 girl for her first county match of the season. Dorset's boys fared well, although Neil Cartwright had to dig deep to claim his two victories, both in three sets. Ben Cooper, without playing as convincingly as previous games also managed to win both of his singles, which included snatching victory from the jaws of defeat against Ben Gates -13, 22, 14, this having been match points down in the second set. Conversely Kenny Smith suffered defeat in three legs by Sean Cox when having seemingly been in control, although Kenny did recover his composure to take a creditable win against David Chaytor 8, 9, to record a 7 - 3 Dorset victory.

The second match was against the home side of Bucks. It turned out to be very enjoyable, very close, and a match that enthralled all who watched and took part. Bucks were well supported by a very vociferous and partisan group of supporters, it's a shame that other counties (Dorset included), can't produce a similar following. Ben Cooper lost his way and for the first time this season failed to record a victory. Kenny, having lost his first game, then played a blinding match to beat Stuart Tweedy 14, 16. Neil again played with poise and control to come from a set down against Mark Jenner, producing what proved to be a devastating second set that was enough to give him the initiative going into the third where he secured a -15, 4, 12 victory. This was followed up with an almost faultless display by Neil against Thomas Mitchell, who had looked very strong in beating Kenny, but yet

again Neil's control proved too much for his opponent and another win was secured. Dorset's saviour in this match came from the girls, where Becky, playing against higher ranked opponents, rarely looked troubled in winning her singles against Francesca Parnell and Emma Human, the latter being an especially satisfying result, after Emma had beaten Becky with ease in last season's decider against Bucks I for promotion to the premier division. Although not contributing a victory, Ellen Turner as Dorset's no 2 girl also took a lot from this match putting up a creditable performance against two much stronger players, with 3 of her 4 sets being lost at the score of 18. The final result was a draw 5-5, and although the boys felt they performed below par, the result was a fair reflection of a hard fight.

The day concluded with a game against Avon who had the added incentive of needing to achieve a draw to retain their place in the division. Dorset made two changes to their team, with James and Joy Whitehorn coming into the side at the expense of Ben and Ellen. Neil weighed in with what now appears to be almost his obligatory two wins, whilst James also looked more than comfortable in taking two victories. Kenny's match with Dave Porter was a keenly played affair made more fiercely contested by the fact that they are friends, but Dave got the upper hand, winning in two straight sets. Luckily Kenny managed to return to winning ways in his last game. For the girls Becky enjoyed another victory in a very close game against Rachel Allan, coming from 19-16 down in the third to win 18, -19, 20. Becky was not so lucky against Stephanie Dauncey, this time losing narrowly in the third -19, 17, -16. Joy gained more useful experience in what was only her second match for the county, although finding both of the opposition girls a little to strong, Joy (who had only recently had her tenth birthday) had no fears in taking on opponents four or five years her senior. The result, another Dorset victory, 6-4.

So with one game remaining to be played in the division, there is an element of deja vu. Last season Dorset and Bucks I were both unbeaten going into the last match which was against each other, with a place in the premier as the prize. This season finds Dorset's last game being against a very strong Devon side that are looking to return to the premier division at their first attempt, and you have guessed it, both teams are unbeaten with promotion waiting for the winners. Results against the other counties suggest that Devon are much the stronger team, but win, lose, or draw, the season can only be considered a success for Dorset, with the bleeding of a number of very promising young players. A minimum of two cadets have played in every match this season, with that figure being as many as four on one occasion.

| Team | Games | Won | Draw |
|--------|-------|-----|------|
| Devon | 6 | 6 | 0 |
| Dorset | 6 | 5 | 1 |

| | | | |
|----------|---|---|---|
| Glam II | 7 | 5 | 0 |
| Bucks II | 7 | 4 | 1 |
| Berks | 7 | 2 | 1 |
| Worcs | 7 | 1 | 2 |
| Avon. | 7 | 1 | 1 |
| Hants | 7 | 0 | 0 |

| Devon | Lost | For | Against | Points |
|----------|------|-----|---------|--------|
| Dorset | 0 | 37 | 23 | 11 |
| Glam II | 2 | 44 | 26 | 10 |
| Bucks II | 2 | 42 | 28 | 9 |
| Berks | 4 | 26 | 44 | 5 |
| Worcs | 4 | 26 | 44 | 2 |
| Avon | 5 | 30 | 40 | 3 |
| Hants | 7 | 16 | 54 | 0 |

Durham by Keith Wilson

Darlington British League club is leading a new Primary Schools Initiative thanks to a Sportsmatch grant. Darlington moved their allegiance from Butterfly to Donic and the improved sponsorship via Jarvis Sports has resulted in a £5,000 grant towards a project that is set to involve over 80 primary schools.

Based on the successful formula of last year's Millennium Youth Games, schools will receive visits from coaches and players, 10 Primary School Festival events will be held with the grand finals on Saturday 30th June.

Durham's junior side finished in 3rd place after the final round of county matches. With only Ryan Rafferty over age next season, and the rest of the squad aged between 10 and 14, Durham has the nucleus of a team that should do well in the coming seasons.

It was interesting to read John Prean's Isle of Wight notes in which he commented on Lucy Pointer's form and the roleplayed by the Academy. Had John been present at the National Junior Trials at Fareham, no doubt he would have had more ammunition to fuel the pen. Here Durham's Claire Wilson surely gained the best result of the day with a 21-19, 22-20 win over the top 10 ranked girl.

Juniors from around the county are now benefiting from special training camps under the guidance of Darlington's former European Champion John Hilton. Just why England refrain from utilising such obvious experience is beyond comprehension as the Durham squad are showing remarkable improvement.

This year's Durham Closed will be held over the weekend of 10/11th February, again at the impressive Greencroft Schools sports hall. With such a huge junior entry last year, the organising committee have moved the Under 17 events to the second day with day one concentrating on Cadet and Under 12 events.

On the Grand Prix circuit, watch out for a meteoric rise up the national ranking list for Tony Gelder. Beginning the season around the 50 mark in the Veterans, Tony won't be far away from the same position in the Men's list if he continues in the form that has seen him gain numerous 'maximums' at 'Newcastle and Liverpool, including the scalp of No. 1 Vet, Brian Johns. Brian is actually

the no. 1 as the ETTA computer has somehow placed George Pittas at no. 1, some achievement for a 24 year old!

In an age when many local leagues struggle to attract juniors, it might pay dividends to follow the lead of the Darlington League. They decided to allow all junior teams to play on two tables and play all matches at home, thus providing a reasonable finishing time for parents, good matchplay for the young players, and an increase in the number of teams in the league. Unless other leagues follow a similar line, surely their demise is only a few seasons away.

Essex by Steve Kerns

Rawreth take no chances

Rawreth A went a long way towards claiming the first division title in division one of the Chelmsford League with a 7-3 win over second-placed ECC A. Rawreth took no chances and turned out their very best team of Cris Sladden, John Taylor and Ryan Savill and ECC may well consider themselves the real winners by securing a point. Dave Cole played superbly to beat Sladden at 19-in-the-third and Taylor at 22-20 in the third. A very relaxed Savill, who these days rarely plays more than once every couple of weeks, completed his hat-trick with a 17-in-the-third win over Cole. With Rawreth (who have George Reeves, Duncan Taylor and Rob Harris waiting in the wings) seemingly home and dry there should be some keen competition for second place between ECC A (Cole, Dave Window, Paul Davison, Steve Joslin, Martin Hogg and Ian Brown) and Danbury A. (Stuart Gibbs, Derek Rogers, Niel Brierley, Tom Carr, Terry Guymmer, Colin Marco and David Jacobs). The player who appears to have made the greatest achievement this season is 15-year-old Clacton starlet Keiran Lally, who has averaged 63% in his first season. Barry Mays takes the accolade for being the most improved player in the whole League with an average of 56%. Not bad for someone languishing in division three two years ago.

County Junior Challenge

Long-standing Junior Match Secretary Alan Shepherd reports that Essex Junior first team has made the best possible start to their campaign to regain their Premier division status with a 9-1 win over Derbyshire, an 8-2 success over Suffolk and a 7-3 victory over South Yorkshire in junior division 1a. The whole team was outstanding and Aaron Fennell, Umair Mauthoor, Keiran Lally, Nicole Todd and Amy Wright certainly look capable of winning this division. The best games of the weekend included a 11, -23, 15 success for Fennell over England no. 18 Gary Bloomfield (Suffolk) and a stunning 15, 13 success for the very talented Umair Mauthoor

over the same player. In the South Yorkshire match Fennell scored a fine 8, 18 win over John Cade and won a thriller against the powerful Ben Wall 14, -16, -19. Promising first year junior Rachel Baldi scored a fine win over our Nicole Todd but Amy Wright, who is vastly improved against 'funny-bat' players this year beat her comfortably.

Gloucestershire by Alf Pepper

I suspect that inclement weather conditions have played havoc all over the country with county matches and some tournaments having to be postponed, or even maybe cancelled, and by the time this write up makes it to you the reader, the season's league play will almost be over.

In Gloucestershire over a very long time it has been the custom to do a second issue of senior county rankings during the first week of the New Year, rightly or wrongly, however, I understand that these rankings may be held over until the County Closed Championships, which is scheduled for Cirencester on 4th February 2001.

Mike Brown (Editor) of Cheltenham's "Net & Edge" still manages to produce some five or six very interesting newsletters per season that are always full of news to read. It is with regret that I have to report that the former Gloucester City newsletter "Top Spin" has now folded, this is mainly because of lack of news and support from the media. Our editor, Trevor Oliver, is in no way to blame for its demise – if the playing public in general do not offer their support, then no editor can be expected to carry on.

County Matches

Only two matches of late have taken place and both centre around the Gloucestershire Veteran teams.

In the 3rd Division our 1st team beat Berkshire 3rds 8-1, the Gloucestershire team consisted of Roy Morley, Alan Giles, Guy Greening and Judy Morley – our sole loss came when Greening and Giles lost to John Morris and Barry Morton 20, -20, -20 in the men's doubles.

On the same day, 13/01/01, and at the same venue our 2nd veteran team in Division 4C consisting of Dave Adamson, Rob Willsher, John Fannin and Linda Probert, beat Herefordshire 3rds 9-0. Owing to structural building work being carried out at Deer Park School, at Cirencester, we were forced to seek an alternative venue – the county TTA therefore wish to thank British Energy at Barnwood, Gloucester, for the use of their hall for both matches.

The South West Region is England's largest geographical table tennis area, although one must admit not the most densely populated table tennis wise. I think a record amount of county reports suddenly sprang to view in December's Table Tennis News, there were positive reports from Cornwall, Dorset,

Devonshire, Gloucestershire and Somerset, considering that Cornwall's P.O. John Wood manages to edit TTN and Devon's John Vincent doubles as Press Officer, along with all the hard work that he does on coaching, speaks well for the activities of both; I'm equally sure that other press officers not mentioned play a somewhat double-up role as well.

Hampshire by Brian Lamerton

The seeds sown by Hampshire's 'Millennium Awards for All' grant are now bearing fruit and following the upgrading of Rob, Stacey and Glen Medcalf to coach level 3 status, we now have 8 new fully qualified coaches – so congratulations to Anne and Gary Longland, John Stubbs, Albert Harding, Rowland Spencer-Smith, John Simmons, Pat Edgehill and Gordon Long – this is very encouraging for the three Southampton clubs who have expanding junior membership. Chamberlayne, Waterside and West Southampton.

14-year-old David Woodacre from Portsmouth was the star of Hampshire's Junior Championships, winning both cadet and junior singles and also both doubles events. The Southampton sisters, Jenny and Emma Dobson took the girls' cadet and junior girls' titles respectively, whilst Gosport's Mark Nixon and Sophie Willsher (Southampton) are under 12 champions.

Whilst we were pleased to have the National Junior Ranking Trials in the county (at Fareham) it was somewhat disappointing to have only one Hampshire player on view but congratulations to Jenny Dobson for getting that far. The County Junior team have had a disastrous season – now completed – and will regroup next time out in Division 2. On the bright side there were some promising performances from cadet players when the inter-town competition was completed with Bournemouth (Neil Cartwright, David Sclanders, Mark Perkins and Mark Grimley) winning Division 1 and Portsmouth (David Woodacre, Callum Shipp, Matthew Robertson and Lee Wilson) Division 2.

Southampton, after poor closed tournament entries in past seasons, are this time offering free entry to all registered members. The tournament date is 1st April (this is NOT an April fool's joke) – we could still be playing next season!

Hertfordshire by Mike Harber

Hertfordshire referee, John Jermyn, was absolutely delighted to accept the invitation from the Japanese Table Tennis Association to referee in the forthcoming World Championships. The letter arrived through the ETTA a few weeks ago and arrangements have been made for his trip to the other side of the world in late April/early May. Have a

wonderful journey, John, and enjoy the experience.

In recent weeks Hertfordshire have held their championships for both seniors and juniors. Much good table tennis was played and seen by all spectators. Results are as follows:

Men's Singles: Glen Wilkes bt Tom Carr 15,17; Ladies' Singles: Caroline Seaholme bt Janice Laing 17, 14; Men's Doubles: Tom Carr/Garry Morgan bt M Murrell/Mike Boardman 15, 14; Ladies' Doubles: C Seaholme/J Maybanks bt K Morton/L Dare 13, 19; Veteran Singles: Derek Balding bt Tom Carr -10, 16, 19; Veteran Ladies: Lesley Dare bt June Maybanks 12, -16, 18; Veteran Doubles: C Budden/J Craggs bt J Felstead/A Harding 19, 14; Mixed Doubles: S & C Seaholme bt A Phipps/J Laing 14, 17; Senior Veterans: C Pickard bt D Robinson 13, 10.

Juniors

Boys under 17: Chris Stone bt James Goodhead 16, 7; Girls under 17: Caroline Nicholls bt Katie Lawrence 16, 15; Boys under 14: Rory Bone bt Matthew Broughton 5, 9; Boys' Doubles: J Dick/M Broughton bt A Boast/R Tomback 18, -12, 8.

It is always good to hear where Lottery money goes and I am pleased to report that a grant has been awarded to Little Furze School in Watford. The grant helped to provide new equipment for the school where many youngsters are enjoying table tennis and are being coached to "do all the right things". I am sure the new equipment will help them improve greatly in the future.

Isle of Wight by John Prean

When these notes are published, we shall know our fate in the County Championships. When I wrote them, I did not have that pleasure. The result may prove somewhat academic, as we remain unenthusiastic about the idea of block weekends, which make these matches routine occasions to be concluded as quickly as possible. Whilst we travel far and wide, our own excellent venue will remain empty and the small but welcome following we have attracted will again go elsewhere. So we continue to shoot ourselves in the foot – or someone else does it for us. For once, no one can blame the 'leadership', which had no part in the killing of what was once part of the sport.

Lucy Pointer took part in the National Trials and emerged with both good and bad news. The good part was in qualifying for the main event, the curiously named 'Masters' for junior girls. The bad part was losing a couple of group matches, which really hurt in terms of ranking points. Although sharing some parochial pain, I must congratulate Claire Wilson, daughter of Keith, a great man of table tennis, who at the age of 13 achieved a

fine win against a ranked player. I am sure there will be many more.

Lucy never complains, but soldiers on, but the pain is obvious in respect of her ankle injury that has now dragged on for the best part of a year, which she suffered during her stay at the ETTA Academy in Nottingham. A further visit to a specialist is now on the agenda and we all hope that an end is in sight, one different to a further long wait for national health treatment and cure. It looks, on the basis of earlier specialist advice, like an operation with several months' recovery time.

Our first division has turned into a procession, Newport Vics (with Danny Burns, Lucy and Chris Angus) quite unshakeable, always good for at least 7 out of 10 and usually for more. Ryde 'A' are in second place. Nothing new there either. Bob and Billy Pegg won our 'Family Tournament' for the third time. This is remarkable, as this is a handicapped event in which all pairs theoretically have an equal chance. Billy has improved leaps and bounds, a rare type who actually enjoys practice, but sadly he and father Bob are leaving the island in the summer. They will be greatly missed.

Carl Prean has been playing some of his best table tennis since he was in the World's top 20, both in 1983 (at the age of 15) and 1991, and his form did much to project his 2nd division team into the semi-finals of the German Cup. Sadly, a pulled groin muscle in training a few days before the semi ruled him out of further glory and his team went down 3-0. A friend, who took the trouble of phoning from Germany, told me his win against Ding Song was one of the best matches he had ever seen and one in which both players played with combination bats.

So much for the much-maligned long pimples! Carl's next win against Dimitri Mazunov was even more dramatic, as he gave up 5 match points in the second game and then came from behind to win the third and the whole match 3-2. Very high drama, the stuff of high blood pressure!

Kent by Adrian Hall

Kent Reliance Closed Championships

The Kent Reliance Senior and Junior Closed Championships will be held again this year at the University of Kent at Canterbury on 21st /22nd April 2001. The Senior Championships will be held on Saturday 21st, with the Junior Championships the following day. Entry forms are available from either Reg Thompson (01634) 235865 or Barry Skates (01732) 840626.

Masters place for Dominic

Maidstone's Dominic Hall, now resident at the ETTA National Academy in Nottingham, was the only Kent player to qualify for the National Trials held in Fareham for the Junior

Masters later in the season. Hall seeded at no. 2 reached the final without dropping a leg, but was finally beaten by Surrey's top seed, Michael Chan 11-21, 21-18, 14-21.

Ashford's Anusha Seneveratne (Cadet Girls) and Tunbridge Wells' Hazel Clucas (Junior Girls) are both first reserves for the Cadet and Junior Masters respectively having both finished in seventh place.

Bromley Newsletter

I am indebted to Henry Buist who regularly sends me a copy of the Bromley Newsletter that he edits. Bromley run a ranking system similar to the ETTA system and each newsletter gives a full ranking list with a list of 'ratings jumpers' allowing players from the lower divisions to get some headlines. I hope George Watson (Eltham Manor C) from division 5, top points jumper (+ 238) in their last issue, will appreciate his moment of glory. Top of the ranking list are Joe Kennedy 2801, Selwyn Campbell 2767, Mark Brown 2752, Gary Tendler 2701 and Andy Cunningham 2700.

I am also informed that the London area has the most extensive junior competition programme in the country, with special mention made of Len and Julie Pilford and Coaching Chairman John Standing. It has been a long time since the London Boroughs affiliated to Kent have produced any quality juniors, let's hope the initiatives that are under way produce some new county players.

Lancashire by Tony Meredith

At the time of writing I still haven't received any information re. county activities. David Higginson, the new Secretary of the Lancashire and Cheshire League, is doing an excellent job and has been sending me info every month.

Lancashire and Cheshire League

Norman Cook Memorial Trophy

Holders Liverpool ran out 5-0 winners at home to Mid-Cheshire. The result did not reflect the competitive nature of the match as four of the five sets were close in the third encounters. The interesting result was Alice Howard's 15 in the third success over Jan Dunning.

Dennis Smith Memorial Trophy

Liverpool Vets also kept a clean sheet against Mid-Cheshire in this competition. Lancaster and Morecambe played well to defeat Halton 5-1 where George Gibson gave a very sound display.

In the men's premier Bolton kept a clean sheet against neighbours Bury. A new name appeared for Bolton – L. Rosendale, who must be a fair old player with wins over the likes of Mick Dore and Jim Chadwick. Mid-

Cheshire accounted for Macclesfield 7-3 in one south with Brian Johns and Terry Turner both unbeaten. Mal McEvoy and Ken Connor both hit form for Halton in the 7-3 win at Trafford. Lancaster and Morecambe overhauled a strong Preston side 8-2 in one north. The Dixons, Steve and Zeke, were both superb. Lytham St. Anne's pipped Wigan 6-4 but went down 9-1 at Oldham where Andy Jackson and Daryl Meredith were both in winning ways.

Oldham Ladies sneaked a 6-4 win at Southport with Karen Richardson the breadwinner. Southport's Sylvia Graham must have been pleased with her victory over the very steady Doreen Schofield. Manchester emerged as 7-3 surprise victors over Blackpool and Liverpool pasted Macclesfield 9-1 – a treasured victory here for Macclesfield's Anne Greenough over Sue Burgess. Tom Page inspired Wirral to an 8-2 success against their 'A' team in the junior premier. In junior one Manchester disposed of their 'A' team 7-3 with Shweab Sadiq in command. Blackburn failed to field a team away to Manchester 'A'.

Blackburn and Oldham fought out a 5 all draw in the vets premier – Oldham's Larry Bainbridge winning his three. The next result takes some believing. Stockport clinched a 6-4 result in the final set over Liverpool's second string but credit must go to Mike Mahoney who performed the feat of the century with wins over Roger Hampson, Phil Biggs and Peter Pownall. Would like to know what he's on as I could do with a portion of it myself. Barry Crook was prominent as Preston beat Halton 8-2. In vets one Macclesfield raced to an 8-2 victory at Mid-Cheshire thanks to Phil Mayman. Wirral scored a narrow 6-4 success at LBH and Oldham 'A' beat Trafford by the same margin.

In vets two Ron Bennett and John Lynch were responsible for Blackpool's 8-2 victory at Oldham. Salford and Farnworth steamrollered Rochdale 'A' 9-1 with Barry Elliott and Brian Doxey both winning their three. Southport edged out Halton 'A' 6-4 in vets three. Lytham St. Anne's had Brian Oldfield unbeaten but lost out 7-3 to Hyndburn. Wigan's Joe Green won this three and contributed in the doubles win only for his team to go down 6-4 at Liverpool. Roy Warrener was unbeaten in Barrow's 5-all draw with Lancaster & Morecambe. Halton 'A' saw off Oldham 'C' 8-2 with Bob Hughes and Frank James both on song. Brenda Buoey showed the way as Liverpool 'B' scored an 8-2 success at Barrow. Joe Green's class showed when Wigan defeated Hyndburn 7-3.

Oldham 'E' beat Blackburn 'A' 6-4 in vets four north. Oldham 'F' was successful at Lytham St. Anne's by the same scoreline where Alf Barker was in fine form. Lytham's Gary Benson took the scalp of the very awkward Bob Johnson. Oldham 'D' won 8-2 at Barrow thanks to the sound play of Dave Buckley and Stewart Clarke. Chris Nebard

steered Lytham St. Anne's 'A' to an 8-2 victory at Bolton. Oldham 'F' landslided Bolton 'A' 9-1 with that man Stewart Clarke and the evergreen Dennis Bradshaw in the driving seat. Wirral 'A' met their 'C' team in four south – the result: a resounding 10 nil whitewash for the 'A' team.

Lincolnshire by Beryl Pickwell

Lincolnshire Vets Match Report

Lincolnshire veterans made a 300 plus miles round trip to the Wirral in Cheshire to play Cheshire Four in a County Veterans 4A league fixture.

Cheshire fielded an extremely strong side with all the men ranked in the top 120 veterans in the country. As expected, the Lincolnshire men were outclassed and this showed in the first game when Mick Corry, even with his experience, could not return Alex Johns' serves and lost 21-9, 21-12. The same was to follow when Steve Welch faced Phil Luxon whose amazing returns from below the level of the table, which spin at a 90 degree angle left or right when the ball makes contact with the opponent's side of the table, left Welch floundering in a 21-10, 21-12 defeat. Peter Heath then met Cheshire's number one, Dave Roberts, and gave a good account of himself in the first game before losing 21-17, but could not cope with Roberts' consistency in the second and lost 21-12. In the mixed doubles Corry and Sue Gurbutt were a little unfortunate to lose 21-15, 21-18 as they led 17-13 in the second before good play by Johns and Ann Dakin and a net cord broke their spirit. Welch and Heath faced Luxon and Roberts in the doubles but were never really in it and lost 21-12, 21-14. Lincolnshire's highlight of the afternoon was the ladies' singles when Gurbutt beat Dakin 21-15, 21-12. Game seven saw Welch meet Johns and, having similar difficulties with his serves as Corry, lost 21-10, 21-11. Now fairly demoralised, Corry had Roberts to play. He lost the first game 21-12 but matched Roberts point for point in the second and led 19-17 before a net and edge against him in the last four points saw Roberts through 21-19. The last game was Luxon against Heath and again those amazing returns from Luxon caused Heath too many problems and he lost 21-10, 21-13. This was a heavy defeat for Lincs but a surprise was in store for them. The county administrator noted that Cheshire had fielded two ineligible players and expunged their results from the match score leaving Lincs as 5-4 winners.

Lincolnshire veterans faced a home game with Hertfordshire VI with some confidence after the availability of their number one, Steve Forbes, was confirmed. Peter Heath opened the match against Larry Gregory and lost 21-17, 12-10, followed by Steve Welch's 22-11, 21-13 defeat at the hands of Hertfordshire's Steve Fox. Forbes pulled one back when he beat Barry Phillips 21-16, 21-

19, but was less successful in the mixed doubles with Sue Gurbutt, losing 16-21, 17-21 to Mary Nicholls and Gregory. Welch and Heath met the same fate in the men's doubles against Phillips and Fox, losing 21-19, 15-21, 10-21. Now 4-1 down, Lincolnshire were relying on Gurbutt beating Nicholls to keep them in the game. Gurbutt was favourite and completely fooled Nicholls with her 'long pimples' in the first to win 21-15. The second saw Nicholls adjust her tactics and, in a long drawn out game, she went from 17-17 to win 21-17. The third saw Gurbutt move into an 8-3 lead but gradually Nicholls, with some good attacking play, caught up and at 8-8 a tremendous fifteen shot rally took place that Nicholls won. The loss of this point had a devastating effect on Gurbutt and Nicholls went on to win the game 21-12. Lincs had now lost the match and with only their pride at stake Heath beat Fox 23-21, 21-12 and Forbes beat Gregory 21-16, 21-14. In the final game Welch lost to Phillips 10-21, 18-21 for a final match score of 6-3 to Herts.

Lincolnshire's latest match was a trip to the village of Braybrooke to play Northants second team. Northants are having a bad season and Lincs, even without Forbes, felt they could get a result. The match started well for Lincs with Mick Corry beating Alan Ashberry 23-21, 21-18 and Steve Welch defeating Gerald Finney 13-21, 21-17, 21-18. This was to be short-lived as Northants struck back with Ian Schlater easily beating Peter Heath 21-15, 21-7, Janet Wright and Schlater defeating Sue Gurbutt and Corry 15-21, 21-17, 21-18 in the mixed doubles and Ashberry and Finney beating Welch and Heath 21-19, 19-21, 21-12 in the men's doubles. Now 3-2 down, Lincolnshire needed a Gurbutt victory over Wright to level the score and this she achieved with a 21-12, 21-10 win. The match was now all square at 3-3 when Welch faced Ashberry but, unfortunately, Welch couldn't cope with Ashberry's unconventional style and lost 21-11, 21-15. The pressure was now on Corry to beat Schlater to level the scores one again but Schlater was too strong and came through 21-23, 21-11, 21-11. The final game saw Heath defeat Finney 21-16, 21-17 to leave Northants the winners 5-4.

Northants by Dennis Millman

Gary Webb made one of Northants best ever debuts in the County Championships when he won two singles and a doubles as the Veteran Firsts lost to a strong Yorkshire outfit. Robert Williams also ploughed a lone furrow for the Junior Seconds, keeping his head to win, while all about him were losing theirs.

Meanwhile, Greg and Tim Yarnall continue to prosper with Greg qualifying for the National Junior Masters Finals while Tim's latest honour is his selection at Under 14 level to represent England against France.

The Wellingborough League's Premier Division has also proved a happy hunting ground for the brothers, who, together with a

variety of no. 3's, have propelled an unbeaten Westfield A into fourth place. However, with games in hand they will remain seriously engaged in a four-way fight for the title. Latest positions:

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|---|---|---|----|
| Old Grammarians A: | 8 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 67 |
| Higham Band A: | 11 | 9 | 0 | 2 | 66 |
| Thrapston A: | 9 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 66 |
| Westfield A: | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 65 |

During the past few weeks there have been encouraging signs of increased involvement with both juniors and those of more mature years. At junior level it is pleasing to report that both Nicola Deaton and Alan Cooke have conducted day coaching courses, while Cooke – a former Kettering singles champion, made a return journey to provide the recently formed Harborough Club with his professional expertise.

Two recent happenings in the Kettering League illustrate the untapped potential of older players. In the first, Burton Baptists B accomplished a unique achievement – three victories fielding the same three players, in three different knock-out cup competitions on three consecutive nights. The team, in its first season, comprised Phil Preece, who played his first match well into the veteran stage, Julian Allwood and Steve Smith who also not in the first full flush of youth, played his first game just three months earlier.

In the second when Brian Candlin found himself unavailable for a points cup fixture, he turned to his younger brother Andy, who had never been involved in competitive play despite a peripheral interest going back more than 20 years.

Andy's colleagues for this encounter were Dick Cole, with more than 50 years' playing experience in Kettering, and 12-year-old Sam Piranty, while his opening opponent turned out to be John Palmer, who in the 1970s went four years without defeat.

Candlin managed five points in the first end and a solitary one in the second while his next visit to the table was rewarded with a further six. With the initial handicap of 236 fast ebbing away, he then played the ninth singles against county junior Robert Williams. The 11 points gained brought his final tally to 23 and with the Cole/Piranty duo standing firm in the doubles, Candlin's timely contribution helped his side to a 13-point victory.

Table tennis is without doubt a game for all people.

Northumberland by Pauline Long

There is very little activity on the WENADE (UK) County senior and veteran front at present, with no further matches due until the weekend of 3rd/4th March. Both teams are at present lying in joint third position in their respective Divisions 1A.

The WENADE (UK) Northumbria League junior representative side of Kevin Wilson, Dave Graham and Mark Hetherington, all

from Cramlington Table Tennis Club, travelled to Bradford for their group matches in the Carter Cup competition. Unfortunately, they lost 3-5 to both Bradford and Hull with Kevin winning two and David one in each case. Eligible players will also be taking part in the Schildkrot Cadet League, which was due to start at Billingham on 3rd February.

Due to clashes of dates with other events, the JOYNSON OFFICE EQUIPMENT County Closed Championships has now been postponed until Saturday 7th April at Northumbria University's Coach Lane Sports Centre.

The WENADE (UK) Northumbria League resumed on 8th January following the Christmas and New Year break, and current leaders are: Premier Division, Birtley 'A': Division 1: Washington 'B'; Division 2: Cramlington Stingers; Division 3: Cramlington Tigers; Division 4: Cramlington Rejects. The three Cramlington teams could be set to pull off a notable championships hat trick, as they have lost only one match between them to date, and appear to have a healthy enough lead to retain their current positions.

All three plus a fourth team, the Knights, are still in Round 3 (the last 16) of the Team Handicap Knockout Cup Competition, which was due to be played during the week commencing 19th February, a week free of League matches.

We were saddened to learn of the death on 27th December of Ron Wilson, who many of us knew as a League player, Committee member and National Umpire before his move to Leeds some years ago. Our sympathies are extended to his family accordingly.

Oxfordshire by Avril Haynes

County Matches - Junior

Oxon Juniors still unbeaten

Sussex (3) 0 Oxfordshire 10
Oxfordshire's young team of John Camilleri, Greg Boone, Sam Harrison, Alex Childs and Joanne O'Donovan completed a clean sweep at Brighton with only one set needing three games.

Sussex (2) 3 Oxfordshire 7
Oxfordshire completed the double over the Sussex teams who like the home team were unbeaten. John Camilleri and Greg Boone both had two good wins in the singles backed up by Sam Harrison, Alex Childs and Joanne O'Donovan with one singles win each.

Oxfordshire 8 Gwent (2) 2
Oxfordshire registered their fifth win of the season with John Camilleri, Greg Boone and Alex Childs all having two good singles wins each. Sam Harrison and Joanne O'Donovan both had a singles win to complete the victory.

Midland League - Veterans

Oxfordshire unbeaten

Leominster 4 Oxford 6
Nigel Taylor starred for Oxford by winning all his three singles and the doubles with Ian Arnold; Tony Wheeler and Ian both won a singles each to complete the victory.

Oxford 7 Birmingham (B) 3
Oxford kept their unbeaten record with a hard-fought match against Birmingham. Nigel Taylor once again starred for Oxford with three excellent singles wins and the doubles with Ian Arnold who also had two good singles wins. Tony Wheeler had an exciting win over John Taylor after being down 18-20 in the first game when the game went to expedite, eventually winning 23-21, 21-17.

Juniors

Oxford 10 Coventry (B) 0
The Oxford trio of Greg Boone, Sam Harrison and Stewart Harrison were in great form in winning all their sets in two games.

Oxford League – Handicap Shield for Season 1999/2000

The delayed final was won by the FORUM (A) team of Karl Bushell, Andrew Flint and Jeremy Flint who defeated the Crown House (A) team of Ian Packford, Andy Packford and Richard Taylor. That completed the double for the FORUM team who were also league champions.

Chesham 2 Star Tournament

Under 13
Sam Harrison won all his six sets to take the title beating David Harris (Bu) in the final.

Under 14
Greg Boone won all six sets to take the title beating James Whithorn (Dorset) in the final.

Under 17 Grade 1
Greg Boone won the title with an excellent win in the final against Adam Baker (Bu).

Under 17 Grade 3
Stewart Hamilton finished as runner-up after losing the final to M Kessell.

Ashford Veterans Tournament
Eddie Herity reached the final of Band (A) beating Steve Davis on the way but losing to Andy Meads. Janet Brown won the final of Band (B) against Jenny Gillam.

Shropshire by Terry Ridgway

Juniors
Shropshire's junior table tennis squad are heading for a March showdown with top of

the table Devon 2nds, both sides are currently unbeaten and Shropshire's no. 1, Shrewsbury's Edward Moran, is also unbeaten, having won 8 out of 8 in the division. The Shropshire squad consists of 15-year-old Moran (England's no. 26 junior), Shifnal based Christopher and Tom Gregory, Market Drayton's Rachel Stevenson and Bridhnorth's Emily Chill (both 15-years-old).

The crucial final game will take place at Idsall School in Shifnal on Saturday 24th March.

Shrewsbury

The Shrewsbury Premier Division is becoming a three horse race as Pontesbury 'A' currently holds top position but Shrewsbury Cricket Clubs 'C' and 'A' sides are on their heels. Cricket Club 'B', who have been playing most of the season with Shropshire's no. 6 Dean Pontrey and no. 14 Mike Dudley and a number of promoted present players, have strengthened their squad and could possibly make a late challenge.

Telford League

Last season's runners-up Albrighton 'B' hold a five point lead at the top of Division 1 but Industrial Bearings and St. Gobain have games in hand and vital matches to play. Bridgnorth 'B' side in Division 2 appear to be cruising to promotion having not lost all season, their squad of Geoff Bristow, Dave Sharland, Simon Chill and Karen Worc look too strong and will prove hard to beat in the top league next season.

Somerset by Martin Rumary

The last county notes gave an update on two of Somerset's domestic leagues so here is a report on the current standings in the Taunton and Weston-super-Mare areas.

The Premier of the Taunton League could at the moment go to any of four teams. YMCA Oranges are holding off three Trinity sides but Trinity Kings with Daniel Strutt, who has lost only one match this season, are close behind with a match in hand.

| | P | W | D | L | Pts |
|--------------------|----|---|---|---|-----|
| YMCA Oranges | 11 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 75 |
| Trinity Kings | 10 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 71 |
| Trinity Blues | 8 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 58 |
| Trinity Cricketers | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 55 |

The Weston League is also in the situation of the leading team being pressed by teams with games in hand. Nailsea Sports with Bill Bruton and Steve Voysey in their ranks lead at the moment but others challenging are YMCA B (Steve Palmer and Gary Pincott), YMCA A (Barry Lewis and the 'Butterworths') and Cleeve and Claverham (Mike Withyman and Bill Atkinson).

| | P | W | D | L | Pts |
|----------------|----|---|---|---|-----|
| Nailsea Sports | 11 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 75 |

| | | | | | |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|----|
| YMCA 'C' | 9 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 64 |
| C & C Vipers | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 54 |
| YMCA 'B' | 7 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 52 |

Doreen Henderson, who has long been associated with coaching in the area for many years, has decided to retire and the county's best wishes and thanks go out to her for her considerable efforts.

The county seniors have picked up their first point of the season following a draw away at Hereford following three 4-6 score lines. Daniel Strutt and Shirley Dark were mainly instrumental in the success with the two wins each plus the crucial win of Mike Hurley over Hereford's three.

Herefordshire 5 Somerset 5

(A. Rumary 0, M. Hurley 1, D. Strutt 2, S. Dark 2, W. Pryce 0)

Avon 6 Somerset 4

(A. Rumary 0, R. Jones 0, D. Strutt 1, C. Cowell 2, N. Wilson 1)

The juniors haven't been in action lately but both veterans teams have played since the last report. The second team travelled a long way to Cornwall to receive a heavy defeat against what I am told is a strong side/ Wendy Pryce won her singles and in tandem with Terry Millard took the mixed doubles. The firsts were at home to Worcestershire 2nds and secured their third win of the season.

Somerset I 8 Worcs II 1

(B. Reeves 2, J. Musselwhite 2, J. Crabtree 1, S. Dark 1, Mixed Doubles 8 Men's doubles).

Cornwall 7 Somerset II 2

(M. Withyman 0, A. Seward 0, T. Millard 0, W. Pryce 1 + mixed doubles)

Congratulations again to Kate Steward, this time on winning the final ranking trials held at Fareham. She will now go on to the Masters later in the year.

South Yorkshire by Alan Lowe

A few months have passed without reports due to the lack of information but the performances of our under 12 pair Ben Barlow (Rotherham) and Matthew Dodds of Sheffield have forced my rusty reporting skills into action. In the Regional Trials 11-year-old Ben was the winner with 10-year-old Matthew hot on his heels. Bearing in mind this is an under 14 class for all of Yorkshire, the promise of these two is obvious. Matthew's other successes this year have been the Chandlers U12 title and the runner-up in the Derwent 2* U12. Matt started to play table tennis when he was 8 years old, his coach is my mate Mick Vessey, and he plays three times a week.

At Handsworth Grange Junior School in Sheffield, Terry Hudson has been coaching for some time now. His talents seem quite

considerable as he had four teams involved in the schools finals in Leeds, I'm told all his players enjoyed the experience but were a little short of the standard to excel.

Shaun Alley of the Castle TT Club in Sheffield has recently taken on Dore Primary School immediately after receiving his level two coaching badge. Reports from the school show he has taken to coaching like a duck to water. Shaun also has an England ranking as a disabled player; in class eight he is 5th in Great Britain and 49 in the world. I had the pleasure of watching a demonstration match between Shaun and Maurice Lee of the Vulcan TT Club at the launch of the Disability Table Tennis session at the Castle Club. There were lots of top players on view both able-bodied and disabled. Silver medals from the Paralympics were passed around; all the players were champions in my eyes. The high point of the evening though, was the rally between Bill Grant and Andrew Horsfield, which, after approximately 20 shots, cumulated in the Lord Mayor's beer being knocked over. The quick reactions of Bill saved about a third of a pint, which Andrew downed like a steel works furnace man. Unfortunately, the TV cameras were switched off.

It's my intention to get regular reports or quotes from people in South Yorkshire who are working for the good of our sport. The following came in from the Yorkshire Regional Coaching Chairman:

"Over the Christmas period I have had time to reflect on table tennis around the County. Things look bleak for the future, the regular social teams which make up the majority of our local leagues starting to dwindle due to age and disabling illness.' New members are getting harder to find which then affects recruitment in the administration and playing structures.

Times have changed and so have the successful clubs within our sport. Where once membership was plentiful and the sole job of officers was to organise their members, now a modern organisation MUST have a good development plan.

If club, league and county officers can answer yes to the following questions, then new growth can occur or the result will be certain extinction.

Does the above organisation have an active development committee? Does the above organisation have active links within schools? Does the above organisation offer the required support in development and competition in all ages? Does the above organisation recruit and fully utilise all of its volunteers within its membership?

The county junior team had a delayed start to competition due to the petrol shortage; the rearranged date for the next matches is on 7th April in Grantham. Our first year in Junior Division 1A is proving difficult for our small county made up of three leagues, and the depth of the larger counties showed when we went into our first match against Lancashire,

which we lost 9 games to 1, John Cade of Rotherham being our only winner. Our second match against Derbyshire was more to our standard where we played a closely fought match giving us a 5-all draw. The nail biting match was between Sheffield player Stephen Roberts aged 14 who just missed out to Sam Boulton 23-21 in the third. Our last match was against Essex, who is expected to win this division. Our team seemed to relax and a good performance was made by all our players, we lost 7-3 but 4 of the 10 matches went to three sets. We played all our team, which consists of Ben Wall and Stephen Roberts from Sheffield and John Cade, Rachael Baldi and Helen Reynolds from Rotherham.

Sheffield's Junior Pairs League is going strong thanks to the efforts of the South Yorkshire coaching Secretary Phil Wright, and Castle TT Club's Denise Ward. For more details ring Phil on (01246) 416984. Anyone wanting to find out about junior, senior or disabled table tennis in the Rotherham area can contact me on (01709) 324548 (how about that – not one mention of the Scorpions Club!).

Suffolk by Andrew Doshier

The main interest in the county this month was the county closed veterans & junior events held together at Stowupland High School. Number three seed Andrew Holmes took out the men's singles title in the veterans event by overcoming last year's champion Ian Brown in two sets.

Holmes had to prove his worth as he beat former champion Barney Garrod in the quarters and then former men's Suffolk champion Mick Palmer (who has recently started playing again) in perhaps the most anticipated match of the day. Holmes came through this at 9 in the third after just scrapping the second, having been easily beaten in the first.

Ian Brown beat David Halliday to win the over 50's event. Gary Bloomfield, last year's Suffolk player of the year, won the junior boys' event yet again over Keiron Hills. Hills had no respect for the defence of his opponent and blasted away, but was eventually downed by the consistent retrieving of the champion 17 & 9. Aimee Sparkes seems to get better and is potentially a top 20 woman player within the next three years. She easily won the girls' event beating Kelly Skeggs 11 & 17 in the final.

British National League

There was disappointment in the third national league weekend held at the Britannia Table Tennis Club, Ipswich, in early February. In their first match Britannia Hanbury got a creditable draw against a strong Progress team. Charles Fulcher was in outstanding form and for the second time this season against the Middlesex side won the

man of the match award, completing a double over Tim O'Leary and Jognes Seniorin.

Against Hastings they lost 5-3, which saw the Ipswich side lose three matches at 19 in the third! Britannia's Richard Ingle was involved in two of these and gave a good account despite the losses.

KCD were far too strong, canning the host team 7-1 in our final match. Their Isle of Wight star Danny Burns was in particularly good form. This run of results means it will be difficult to come second in order to have any chance of promotion for next season!

The author of this article was unable to play due to injury in either the first or third weekends, and with our other leading player injured at times this was too much for us to bear.

County Ruling

An interesting subject came up at the last County meeting; County eligibility. Just how do players qualify to play for their county?

Suffolk lays down strict criteria to be met. This came up because it was brought to the committee's attention that Phil Logsdon, the no. 1 ranked player in Suffolk, hadn't played in a Suffolk League for years. Nor did he live there. The committee after much deliberation felt that the player concerned should continue to play for the county if he chose to because at the beginning of his Suffolk days he played in the Beccles League (in Suffolk) and due to pressing work away from the area found it hard to find time to play but had always supported the county well when playing for Suffolk.

Suffolk Senior Championships

The Suffolk Closed Championships are being held on Sunday 22nd April at Stowupland High School. Unfortunately this date clashes with a Norwich Foxwood Premier National League match so it is unlikely either Phil Logsdon or defending champion Paul Cicchelli will attend. This does mean though it will be quite an open contest as to who will capture the men's title.

Last year's finalist Andrew Doshier and 1999 champion Richard Hutchinson will be the top two seeds, and are likely to be pursued by Tim Avis, Paul Davison and Charles Fulcher as genuine candidates, though Ian Brown who hasn't played to his normal standard this season could be there or thereabouts. In a major attempt to sell this event the committee are trying to inform all local league players of this fixture (many of whom are not ranked) as often the message put across is that players weren't aware that the event was taking place. This being the case players like Michael Wright, Andrew Warner and John Tallent could do real damage to the seeded players.

Current Senior Ranking:

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Men: | Women: |
| 1.Phil Logsdon | Rebecca Sparkes |

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 2.Paul Cicchelli | Sarah Davison |
| 3.Andrew Doshier | Claire Emmerson |
| 4.Richard Hutchinson | Claire Lowe |
| 5.Ian Brown | Aimee Sparkes |
| 6.Tim Avis | Vickey Gray |
| 7.Paul Davison | Dawn Collins |
| 8.Lee Balaam | Carole Clarke |
| 9.Charles Fulcher | Sonja Smith |
| 10.Andrew Holmes | Hanna Temple |

Surrey by John Sabourin

The Surrey Schools Table Tennis Association Individual Championships were held at the Sutton Youth Centre on 14th January.

The following will now represent Surrey Schools at the ESTTA National Finals.

U19 Girls: Debbie Flint (Nonsuch), Julia Fenton (Reigate); U19 Boys: Ed Qualtrough (Whitgift), Shaun Robertson (Bishop Reindorp); U16 Girls: Ros Flint (Nonsuch), Tina Tian (Nonsuch); U16 Boys: Robert Lemon (Bishop Reindorp), Chris Sabourin (Richard Challoner); U13 Boys: Adam Leow (Thomas Moore), Phil Ah Kin (Wilson); U11 Boys: Sam Sidkin (Kings).

Thames Valley League

At the end of the third week of the second half of the season, Graham Spicer 1 has increased their lead in Division 1 to 22 points over Ashford 1, Graham Spicer 2 and Graham Spicer 3 all on 65 points, followed by Chessington a further 13 points behind. Steve Davis (Graham Spicer 1) still on 100% for the season followed in the averages by Richie Bolton and Març Burman of Ashford on 87%. The Thames Valley Closed Tournament produced the following results:

Open Singles Final: Dave Harding bt Nick Pearson 11, 13; Open Doubles Final: Tom Adams/Dave Harding bt Steve Hunt/Graham Brown 16, 18; Division 2 Singles Final: Roland McLellan bt Keith Foot 15, 16; Division 3/4/5 Singles Final: Stuart McMillan bt Jon Humphrey 19, 13; Handicap Singles Final: Keith Mellor (0) bt Roland McLellan (+2) 17, 15; Vets Singles Final : Tom Adams bt Mick Pearson 20, 11.

Sussex by John Woodford

Trying to arrange dates and venues for a number of tournaments within the county borders has been a nightmare for several people, especially national councillor Carol Beames and organiser Roger Gillett.

The latest changes are that the all-Sussex senior championships that years ago attracted an entry of 200 players on 16 tables at the Brighton Corn Exchange, is now reduced to four tables at Broadbridge Heath SC, the home of the Horsham Club. Horsham Secretary Derek Bunday says that around 40 players can be accommodated on four tables in six hours of play.

I can only see that happening with a 6pm finish if groups are cut out, straight knockout. Not so many people these days are seeking an exhausting day.

In Eastbourne recently we had a player at the local championships swearing four-letter words at a lady on the control because he was called upon to play quickly after his last game.

Years ago, I can recall on entry forms: "players are warned that in the later stages, they may be called upon to play continuously". I think this warning has a place on all entry forms.

The new date for the senior event at Horsham is April 1 - a very appropriate day; the junior event (all-Sussex) is on the following Saturday, 7th April, and the veterans on the next day, 8th April, both at Hove.

Carol Beames is also heading a small team trying to find a new home for the Sussex Open Grand Prix in October, after Hastings pulled out of the event they have run for 64 years. Two possible options are Bewbush SC at Crawley and The Triangle at Burgess Hill.

Horsham's hopes of winning second place in the premier division of the British League have evaporated after losing to Jags at Dulwich. Both Ritchie Venner and Laurence Trumpauskas have been too busy at work to get the practice they need. But Sussex, led by Ritchie Venner, is still in the race for the county championships premier title and Sussex veterans first team has won promotion to the premier division.

Warwickshire by Caroline Williams

Leamington Success at National Trials

Several Leamington juniors participated in the National Trials held at Fareham in January. Kelly Sibley, aged only 12, had recently reached number 9 in the Cadet Girl ranking list following her successes around the country as well as the Warwickshire Closed Championships where she won the cadet, junior and ladies titles. She had qualified for both the Cadet and Junior Girls and was joined by Samantha Meredith (Junior Girls) and Jaz Allen-Sutoon (Cadet Boys).

In the Cadet Girls, Kelly Sibley excelled in winning the trial by beating England no. 5 Kelly Craven-Griffiths in the semi-finals and no. 11 Lauren Spink in the final. In her group, Kelly reversed the result of the Warwickshire trials by beating Kendall Smith from Worcester for the first time. Every one of the 10 matches Kelly played was a two set straight win showing her domination of the event. This result means that in Kelly's first year as a cadet she qualifies for the prestigious Cadet Masters tournament held at the end of the season.

In the Cadet Boys Jaz was unable to qualify from his group. In the Junior Girls, Kelly Sibley worn out from her previous day's exploits also went out in her group but Samantha Meredith qualified with a 2 straight

win over England ranked Annabelle Sorrentino. Samantha, now 17, then progressed to the quarter-finals before she was defeated. This qualifies her as first reserve to the Junior Masters event, which makes it very likely that she will finish her junior career on a high note at that event. My apologies for a short report. A broken wrist on 'copy date' has cramped my style!

Worcestershire by Martin Clark

Juniors

National Trials

At the National Trials held at Fareham on 6th January we were represented by Tom McDermott and Kendall Smith in the Cadets. Kendall finished second in her group and progressed to the knockout stage where she reached the last eight. Tom finished fourth in his group. A creditable achievement for both of them.

County Junior Championships – Crippenham, 13th January 2001

A much better all-round performance recovering from the lacklustre day previously at Glamorgan. Dave Roden doubled up as chauffeur and umpire, ably assisted by John Turner. The young squad comprised Chris Webb, Tom McDermott, Craig Norwood, William Pritchard, Kendall Smith and Emma Talbot deputising for Emma Steele at extremely late notice.

By securing a draw in a very tense match with Avon we gained the vital point that secured our place in Division 1 again next season. With a very young squad this bodes well for the coming years. On the day we lost to Buckinghamshire II 3-7 with wins from Chris, Tom and Kendall, with other sets going close.

Our next encounter was the crucial match with Avon. Chris, Tom and Kendall again picked up a set each with "super sub" William playing at number 3, winning both his sets, thus setting up the point that was so important to us.

The final match of the day was against last year's premier side and leading team, Devon. Kendall beat her opposite number, but despite a number of sets going to the wire, we ultimately lost 1-9, which did not reflect the tough match that we gave them. So, despite having to lose Chris Webb, we are well set for next season full of optimism.

Veterans II

The trip to Yeovil proved to be as unsuccessful in terms of performance as the previous matches in Division 2B. Mervyn Wood, Chris Maiden, Martin Clark and Dot Macfarlane made the journey and it has to be said that we all were below par and were beaten convincingly by Somerset. It wasn't

until the final set of the day that Chris beat John Crabtree to gain our only set. At this stage in the season survival in a very strong division looks unlikely.

Senior II

Mark Fiddian must be tearing his hair out wondering where-oh-where are the missing seniors prepared to represent their county.

Mark's job of putting a team out to play two matches in St. Austell, Cornwall, were hindered by his own back injury putting him out of the reckoning. Another absentee was Zia Khan, overseas on business matters. Following many calls to ranked players it ultimately fell on Chris Maiden (who had just returned from Veterans duty in Somerset) and another veteran Tony Bartram, drafted in at the last minute, to make the journey.

The matches against Cornwall I and II, being played simultaneously, had mixed fortunes. Dave Rogers, Kate Hughes and Joanne Hill all did well to win all their sets against Cornwall II to secure a 6-4 victory. The ladies also won one each against Cornwall I to go with a set conceded by the opposition when the number 1 man failed to arrive on time. These, however, were not enough to overcome a good Cornwall team who won 7-3.

Chris, who had to drive the long journey following his excursion to Somerset the previous day, and Tony not surprisingly came back empty-handed, but the question of commitment of those seniors who were not prepared to make themselves available, must come into question. It does seem that such problems mainly occur in respect of away matches involving some to distance travel!

Yorkshire by Rea Balmford

Excellent news from two areas of the Broad Acres this month – the thriving resort of Scarborough up on the north east coast, and my own native city of Hull, a seaport known to sailors across the world.

First to Scarborough, who have stepped in to host the Yorkshire Closed Championships over the second weekend (7th/8th) of April – happy memories of those wonderful weekends at the resort when the North East of England Open attracted the top stars not only from England but from across the world.

Congratulations go to the Scarborough League and Development Officer John Caton, who has worked hard with sponsors to put on an attractive event. Let us hope that TT enthusiasts from across the county flock to the resort and make this April weekend at the North East a regular date in the calendar.

And then on to Hull, where the club of which I have been a member since my introduction to the sport over 50 years ago, Hull Y.P.I., has been accepted by the ETTA as a Premier Club – the first in the city.

The club, the largest in the city with no less than 23 teams, is now playing in a spanking

new six table centre, and congratulations on their achieving this status go to club chairman and former Yorkshire player Dave Bartlett, who has proved a real live-wire since he took over the reign of office.

There is only one way in which Dave will not come up-to-date – he still plays, and at Premier Division level – with old Barna “hard bat”!

Finally a very sincere apology to the Halifax League – your notes were received, but as ever in a busy office staged by an incompetent secretary – me!! – they have gone AWOL. Since I am on deadline, I will do my best to uncover them in time for the next ‘mag’.

Stockton-on-Tees Junior Select – 18/19 November 2000

Final Results

Junior Boys’ Singles:

Semi-finals: Dale Barham (Ca) bt Gavin Rungay (Sco) 8, 11; Matthew Kenny (Y) bt Chris Jamieson (E) 18, 15

Final: Dale Barham (Ca) bt Matthew Kenny (Y) 13, 19

Junior Girls’ Singles:

Semi-finals: Katy Parker (La) bt Joanna Parker (Sy) 24, 21; Louise Durrant (Ng) bt Karen Shepherd (Ch) –19, 18, 2

Final: Katy Parker bt Louise Durrant 14, 10

Grade 1 Boys’ Singles:

Semi-finals: Daniel Rees (E) bt Ryan Hutchinson (Dy) 20, 13; Umair Mauthoor (E) bt Andrew Woodhead (Y) 11, 16

Final: Daniel Rees (E) bt Umair Mauthoor (E) 19, -15, 20

Grade 1 Girls’ Singles:

Semi-finals: Karin Eggar (Sco) bt Kelly Sibley (Wa) 17, 13; Laura Rungay (Sco) bt Clara Howard (Ch) 16, 11

Final: Laura Rungay (Sco) bt Karin Eggar (Sco) –16, 16, 13

Cadet Boys’ Singles:

Semi-finals: Adam Bleakley (La) bt Greg Baker (St) –15, 18, 18; Tim Yarnall (Np) bt Stephen Denny (Y) 15, 12

Final: Tim Yarnall (Np) bt Adam Bleakley (La) 18, 13

Cadet Girls’ Singles:

Semi-finals: Joanna Parker (Sy) bt Clara Howard (Ch) 13, 11; Karen Shepherd (Ch) bt Abigail Embling (E) 10, 10

Final: Joanna Parker (Sy) bt Karen Shepherd (Ch) 15, -13, 19

Under 12 Boys’ Singles:

Harry Shahlaei (Gs) bt Paul Drinkhall (Cv) 17, 18

Under 12 Girls’ Singles:

Lauren Springthorpe (Li) bt Heather Shutt (Y) 17, 16

Junior Boys’ Team – Final

Scotland bt Peniel A 3-0

(Gavin Rungay bt Peter Cleminson 11, 17, Stuart Matthews bt Chris Jamieson 10, 17, Rungay/Matthews bt Cleminson/Jamieson 13, 10)

Junior Girls’ Team – Final

Peniel A bt Peniel B 3-1

(Gemma Heard lt Elizabeth Dewhurst –22, -19, Grace Brown bt Jessica Cleminson 11, 8, Heard/Brown bt Dewhurst/Cleminson 9, 18, Gemma Heard bt Jessica Cleminson 12, -17, 12)

Cadet Boys’ Team – Final

Nanjin Boys bt Salford Juniors 3-0

(Tim Yarnall bt Chris Gregory 15, -11, 15, Greg Baker bt Adam Bleakley 16, 12, Yarnall/Baker bt Gregory/Bleakley 18, -16, 19)

Cadet Girls’ Team – Final

Addleshaw Booth bt Wright Hassall 3-0

(Karen Shepherd bt Kelly Sibley 11, 10, Joanna Parker bt Lauren Spink 12, 12, Shepherd/Parker bt Sibley/Spink –18, 11, 10)

Tournament Results from Cippenham TTC - Cippenham Junior 3 Star Open Championships (03.02.01)

Boys’ Singles: Bradley Evans (Bu) bt Robert Hansell (Bu) 13, 9; Girls’ Singles: Gemma Chapman (Bu) bt Gemma Yarnley (K) 10, 9

BCons: David Hayes (Bu) bt Myles Evans (Bu) 9, 9; GCons: Francesca Parnell (Bu) bt Eleanor Tweedy (BU) 11, 9.

International Paralympic Committee Bans Learning Disability Athletes bBy Judy Rogers, National Development Officer for People with Disabilities

In an announcement from the International Paralympic Committee Offices in Bonn on 29th January an official confirmed that all intellectually disabled athletes had been suspended after most of the gold medal-winning Spanish Paralympic team were found to have no learning disability.

The Committee, in a statement, said “Because serious problems regarding the determination of eligibility of athletes with an intellectual disability became evident during the last few months, the IPC excludes all athletes with an intellectual disability from all IPC activities”. The IPC went on to say that it would make another decision on the issue after further investigation. In addition, it also suspended the membership of the International Sports Organisation for Athletes with an Intellectual Disability and their President, Fernando Martin Vicente, from the IPC’s ruling executive committee.

Australian Disability Services Minister Robert Lawson commented that the decision to suspend all athletes with intellectual disability from Paralympic competition was a devastating blow for the athletes and their families. He went on to say “this decision is a gross over-reaction. It is like banning a whole sport because of a few drug cheats. Most of these athletes are dedicated and hard working and deserve their chance to compete at the highest level possible and represent Australia on a world stage. It must come as a bitter disappointment to people with disabilities to realise that because of the unscrupulous actions of some that they will be the ones punished.”

A number of organisations including the English Sports Association for People with Learning Disabilities and the UK Sports Association for People with Learning Disabilities have written to the IPC expressing their concern. Geoff Smedley, Chief Executive for the latter organisation, expressed real concerns at the IPC’s actions, especially with regard to athletes’ positions in the light of the ban and their World Class Performance funding.

The ETTA has also written to the IPC expressing concerns over the worldwide ban and urging the organisation to review the situation with some urgency.

All organisations involved with people with learning disabilities have felt for some time that the eligibility criteria has been open to misinterpretation by some countries and needs a more formal evaluating system to protect athletes. However, all athletes in England are closely scrutinised and all criteria strictly met.

The decision has been a great shock but we all hope that it will be resolved quickly and that a clear uncompromising set of eligibility criteria will be established that will not allow this situation to arise again in the future.

Table Tennis – Help!! by Les Bridges

In its early days Table Tennis News was an attractive, low-cost activity in which it was often only needful to loosen your tie. Perhaps not the best group from which to descend great visionaries, committed organisers and workers. It is hoped that this guide will assist the many table tennis help-seekers to identify helper, non-helpers and those in-between.

A ‘YUDO’

(You do organising-person)

Usually a keen player gradually getting older along with most of his league. Not worried. There will always be someone to organise the over 80’s.

A ‘WISP’

(Will if it suits- person)

Will perhaps – but often won’t!

A ‘CAP’

(Certain as possible-person)

Once the responsibility cap is on will give the task priority. Perhaps only one task, but it will be done.

A 'CRAMP'

(Consistent regard to all matters-person)

Tends to take on multiple tasks rather than see anything collapse. Make sure this person doesn't get organisers cramp or your league may collapse.

Now see if you can identify the heading for these people (cases from my own experience):

Coach to casual helper: "I am on holiday in three weeks' time, can you cover one night for me?"

Helper: "It should be OK!"

Coach: "But there's going to be around 30 children turning up and the tables need unlocking, etc".

Helper: "I am 95% certain it will be OK!".

It was thought that the new youth league should have two supervisors to attend. One week there was no one there.

Supervisor 1: "I assumed that Tom would be there"

Supervisor 2: "I assumed that Bert would be there"

Hint: they were not 'CAPs' or 'CRAMPS'

An amazing lot of things could be achieved if we could get more reliable helpers.

Teaching and Training Courses 2001

Coach Education Courses

Yorkshire

1st March – Top Up course, Sheffield, contact Mark Smith (07977) 230167

8th/15th March – Introduction to Coaching course, Barnsley, contact as before

24th/25th March – Level 2 course, Leeds, contact as before

London

3rd & 10th June – Sport Leader course, Enfield, contact John Standing (01689) 829882

12th/13th July – Teachers course, Westminster, contact as before

South East

10th/11th March – Level 2 course, Brighton, contact Wesley Bush-Harris (07980) 586450.

18th & 25th March – Level 2 course, Medway, contact as before

East/West Midlands

19th/20th May – Sport Leader/Teacher/Level 2, Northampton, contact Chris Newton (0410) 155971; 30th June/1st July, Sport Leader/Teacher /Level 2, Derbyshire, contact as before

TTDO Courses

3rd March – Nottingham – contact Martin Ireland (0973) 411559, Chris Newton as

before, 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

Tournament Organisers Courses

3rd March – Barking, contact Jon Kaufman (0705) 0042671

17th March – Swindon, contact Phillip Irwin-Brown (07747) 011185

31st March – (Southern Region TBC) contact Wesley Bush-Harris (07980) 586450

7th April – Staffordshire, contact Chris Newton (0410) 155971

Umpires Seminar

3rd March – Barking, contact Jon Kaufman as before

Level 3 course

22nd/24th June & 21st July at Lilleshall, contact Jill Parker (01772) 461325

Level 3 – London region

31st March/1st April, 12th/13th May, contact John Standing (01689) 829882

ETTA Teaching and Training Conference, 7th – 9th September 2001, Lilleshall

This will take place at Lilleshall on 7th-9th September. The following courses will be held at the conference: the new Level 4 coaching course, Level 3 Tournament Organisers course, Gold TTDO a top level Umpires course. If you know of any coaches who wish to progress to Level 4 please notify them of this date. We will of course be having the awards dinner on the Saturday. Forms for the Coach of the Year Awards will be ready very soon in the year. Please have a think of any coaches who you would like to nominate in your region for the various categories.

Personal Performance Courses

17th March – Local League Players

21st April – Women's Day

22nd April – Veterans

Cost £25.00 per day

For full details contact:

Jill Parker, The Spinney, 50 Egerton Road, Ashton, Preston, Lancs PR2 1A1. Tel: 01772 461325. E-mail: jparkeretta@cableinet.co.uk

National Training Centre Open Day, Nottingham

This is going ahead on 23rd June with prize winners for the Regional competition. For information contact Tony Chatwin (tel. 01332 672534).

Sportingbet.co.uk English Open HIGH PERFORMANCE COACHING COURSE

by Neil T. Houghton

Buckmore Park is associated with high performance already since it is at this Kart track that Formula One's Johnny Herbert cut his teeth – a beautiful setting with woodland, chalk cliffs and a high speed downhill section! Maybe they shouldn't have asked an ex-karter to do this!

The other high speed goes on, thanks to the recently built sports complex, centred around how fast the new ball was travelling from the bats of some of the best table tennis players in the world!! The main impression I got was that even if the new ball does make little difference overall, it does not appear to achieve greater spectacle as the top players wind up to hit harder than ever.

Watching Christophe Legout powering his way through to the final was definitely worth seeing; unfortunately the finesse of Liqin Wang and his apparent effortless skill with power created an impression of anti-climax for the final. The women's final with Hyang Mi Kim and Jie Schopp was more exciting in its closeness.

The coaches' course was co-ordinated by Gail McCulloch and Jill Parker, and the main speakers were Michel Gadal and Peter Hirst. With Peter's original comments and Michel's stylish enthusiasm this promised to be entertaining as well as instructive. Mind you, I only heard Michel say (without training hard, etc) "you 'ave no chance" twice in the whole morning!

HIGH LEVEL PLAYERS

Michel's brief for the morning was to talk about how to approach the needs of high level players and firstly he emphasised the necessity for following good coaching paths EARLY in a player's development. Whether coaching a player of obvious talent and early wish to get to the top or a group of youngsters in a club; if they are to have the potential to succeed then the PRINCIPLES OF COACHING are no different in content.

Michel went into ideas and findings about common qualities of top players and from these produced the headings –

- ADAPTABILITY
- ANTICIPATION
- SPEED
- PRECISION
- CONCENTRATION

As expected he also quickly moved into additional and inclusive psychological links with these main areas. Michel also outlined some problems in England, for example, difficulty in developing good concentration habits when practising so soon after school in the evening. (In Europe they mostly end school latest 2pm, but I don't know how the

Japanese manage with their 7am-10pm (!! extended school day!). Players must be able to perform well under pressure and if a mistake is made then switch back onto the task quickly so that the effect is minimised.

He also made special emphasis that players should be RESPONSIBLE for their own work. The coach can help and encourage but at the end of the day it is the player who decides how much work they are prepared to put in and if it is not enough then they should realise they 'ave no chance!

A PLAYER'S FINAL LEVEL IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE NUMBER OF BALLS YOU HAVE PLAYED DURING YOUT LIFE. Michel assured us that this was backed up by research, in particular interviews with top players. U12's need 10-12 hours of practice per week.

DO THEY LOVE PLAYING TABLE TENNIS?

| | |
|-------|----------------------|
| U14's | 14-16 hours per week |
| U17's | 16-20 hours per week |
| 18-23 | 20-25 hours per week |

After 23 years then the volume of practice is less important as all the technique is there and also they need to play more matches as they are older. SOME players fit in background training and practice during the same training period as matches, especially when aiming to peak for a later tournament.

MATCH PLAY OBSERVATION POINTS

In its own right, and linked with the morning session, Peter Hirst took us into the afternoon's observation. With some discussion to follow, he outlined his points to look out for in match and player analysis.

Very interesting within this area, and in reporting back, was that however much we tried to put psychology in its own category, it did tend to percolate through every aspect of the game. Actually, looking at things from a spectator viewpoint rather than a coach analysing every small event, it did seem that close matches between top players come down to sheer stickability and battle of wills. Peter would analyse this within the area of "creating and handling pressure".

Below are outlined the main points looked at and when the study groups reported back from the men's matches and later the women's matches, it was interesting that without being told which sets to look at we found that almost all the groups tended to pick the same match to observe. THIS WAS J-O WALDNER V ISEKI SEIKO AND HYANG MI KIM V JIE SCHOPP. The latter was partly 'tied down' and changed for analysis as expedite came in after the first game and yet this provided an interest in itself, especially for the study of psychology and mental aspects. Another interesting game observed was DANNY HIESTER V JEAN-MICHEL SAIVE.

A few of the key points coming from the match analysis were the INTENSE FOCUS ON SERVE AND RECEIVE, FOLLOWING THE PATH OF THE BALL AND THEN SWITCHING THE TIMING POINT AND/OR SPEED OF THE BALL IS AN EFFECTIVE WEAPON. Whatever technique is used the main aims are TO APPLY PRESSURE AND TO CURT DOWN ON THE OPPONENT'S ORGANISATIONAL TIME. UNPREDICTABILITY IS NEEDED SO THE OPPOSING PLAYER HAS MORE DIFFICULTY (AND HOPEFULLY CAN'T) ADAPT TO THE SUBTLE OR BIGGER WELL-DISGUISED CHANGES!!

MATCH PLAY OBSERVATION POINTS:

PERCEPTION

Anticipation; Adaptability; Focus Attention; Vision; Pressure; Hick's Law – anticipation is reduced by the increased number of opponents options.

- PSYCHOLOGY Pressure; Concentration; What changes; Coach Reaction; Calm.
- PRINCIPLES (Technical) Bat speed; Movement speed; How generated
- SERVICE AND RETURN
- TACTICAL

MATTHEW SYED

During the afternoon, Matthew came in to answer questions and join in discussion on the modern game. Some interesting areas covered were –

His own approach to this tournament and comments on his fifth game epic with Christophe Legout. His comments on what makes a top player and some fascinating information relating to a one-time discussion he had with J-O Waldner (!! about the best players under the pressure of the big occasion! As interesting as those who were best were also a few comments on mega-skilful bottlers!

I was about to say that such interesting discussion with good players were what makes a course like this but the true answer is that EVERYTHING MAKES A COURSE LIKE THIS. Meeting other coaches and to combine comments and advice from top coaches as well as players, together with observation and discussion on some of the best matches, is tremendous experience and a fascinating and interesting exercise just for its own sake!! Add to this the tournament itself and having a greater opportunity to meet top players and it is a mega-experience!!

Finally, a quote from J-O himself, when I asked what he was thinking when behind in fourth and fifth games against Alexander Karakasevic. While coming back from all-but dead and buried to win both after 20 all, he assured me in his usual laid-back manner that as it was all in a day's work – I was just thinking that in table tennis we play to 21!!!!

The Sportingbet.co.uk 64th English Open - A Different View by Richard Rogers, aged 15

This article is my first in Table Tennis News. I will be giving a quite different (and frank) view about the Open.

When I got to Buckmore Park, I thought what a very big place to hold the Open. The parking was a different matter however. When I first entered the hall, it was like the hall at the (now de-commissioned) Peniel 5 Star. It was very big, had two sets of stands, it was very well lit, and it looked the part.

I was very disappointed that no English players got past the second round and that there seemed to be only one European player in the semi-finals. I think that if we are (England) to be an international table tennis winner, then we have to get more funding, which is very much a case of 'easier said than done'.

I first watched the first of the women's semi-finals, which was quite a good match. I was then ripped out of my seat by my mum to cart around various bags full of stuff for the Paralympic stars.

I thought that Buckmore Park was possibly the best venue that you could get. It was big, had good wheelchair access (in most places) and you had on-site accommodation and restaurants.

I got back into the hall to watch the semi-final between Wang and Iseki. It was a whitewash and the pen hold style player from Japan had no chance. Next, I watched the very fast and very exciting match between Wenge and Legout – who was stranded at Buckmore Park by his teammates. This match was very exciting because it was so fast, and the fact that there was a European in the semis. I personally thought it was all over for Wenge after the second game – but his perseverance paid off and he pulled back two. The women's doubles final between Korea and Japan was surprisingly quick and appeared to be easily won by the Koreans.

The men's doubles final was also very exciting – with some very good shots. The game was very tense. The German pairing just won it though. The Japanese team so far hadn't won a thing. I was really pleased that the young German pairing (both U21 players) were beating more experienced players from Japan. I think that the future could be very good for the next 10 years or so for European players.

The next match (the women's final) was an amazingly long two hours. I found it hard to concentrate because there was no apparent rhythm to the game. It was a case of slow preparation for the serve and fast points. It was getting so slow that the Japanese girl was penalised twice for her time wasting. I thought that this was a very bad blotch on an otherwise exciting day for the Open.

I went out after the third game and roamed around the building. I went out and stood watching the final from a viewing gallery above the permanent stand. There were a few

men from the gym that had come up – and they were moaning about how boring table tennis is purely by watching that final, which I thought was a very unfair criticism of the game.

When the men's final started, I thought we were going to see something really special - a European beating an Asian player in a final. The first game was very good, because it was very tight but fast-paced. Somehow, in the second and third games though, Wang found an extra gear and just outclassed his French counterpart. In every match, Legout just seemed to get worse and worse. In the third game, Legout was so out of it, that he was losing 12-3 at one point. Wang was the class act of the tournament, being too good for anyone else to cope with. When Wang won the match, virtually all of the people left before the presentation of the cups. This was very harsh and totally out of order. I was very angry that instead of getting a big hearty applause from the crowd, they got a few ripples from the real fans.

All in all, I thought that the Open was a very good occasion, and that the turnout reflected the hard work, dedication, perseverance and effort put in by people behind the scenes who had helped the easy running of the tournament. I think that these are the people who are the real stars and they deserve a pat on the back!

Making Coaching Real

By Peter A. Hirst – Teaching & Training Director - ETTA

If you don't know where you are going – how do you know when you get there?

Table tennis is a game of direct competition, similar in many ways to combat sports such as fencing, boxing or judo. The prime skill of table tennis is to read the game and adapt in an ever-changing situation.

Many coaches throughout the world only teach players how to hit the ball, when it is far more important to teach people how to read and play the game. Table tennis is a game made up of a series of different strokes that occur in an ever-changing environment and sequence to meet the demands of the situation.

Especially in England we have this obsession with technique and style of play, which is only part of the picture. Rarely if ever do we emphasise what it is that we are trying to achieve, i.e. the outcome or the result of where we are trying to put the ball, with what spin and speed, etc. In other words, what would put the opponent under pressure?

I have had the fortune to coach on every continent in the world and I always ask the same question which is – What is it that you want to know or be able to do as coaches? The answer is usually the same – We only want to know how to produce good players! But to answer effectively we have to know

what the demands of players at different levels are.

The prime skill is the ability to read and adapt to the ever-changing situations.

At **early learning stages** players need to develop an understanding of what the person at the other end of the table is doing, what they are trying to achieve with each stroke that they play and an ability to execute.

During the **intermediate stages** players need to develop skills to apply pressure to an opponent. This is achieved through lots of skills and drills with the emphasis on the ever-changing situations that table tennis requires.

At the **elite levels** the emphasis is placed on sound tactical ploys, which is the sum, knowledge and abilities accumulated. Players that aspire to an elite level do so with a deep understanding of how table tennis is played, a sound technique based upon mechanical principles, performed skillfully in a highly pressured competitive situation.

Table tennis is also a sport shrouded in many myths. Many believe that players can only get better by playing with players who are better than them - when in truth they need to practice at three levels:

- With players better than them to learn new things.
- With players of similar standard to work out new tactics and
- With players of a lesser ability where there are more opportunities to practice the more powerful strokes.

Practice partners should not just be feeders – remember that the prime skill is to read and adapt in ever changing situations, not to become a mechanical robot.

The big question has to be – What are the differences between the world-class player and the also ran? Many of the answers lie in:

- That world-class players read the situation and adapt.
- That they learn quickly in the ever-changing situations of international competition.
- That they have sound techniques that produce bat speed that can be transferred into spin-speed-power.
- That they play well under pressure.

If you feel the urge to find out more about coaching or training opportunities then ring Vicki on (01424) 431222 and she will send you the details.

[First published in the Sportingbet.co.uk 6th English Open Programme, February 2001]

Wellow House School, U10/12/14 2 Star, 27th January 2001

U10 Boys' Singles: Joe Dunn (Y) bt Stewart Mudie (Li) 22, 14; U10 Girls' Singles: Emma Vickers (Dy) bt Frances Hallam (Ng) 13, 11; U12 Boys' Singles: Matthew Dodds (Y) bt Tim Mitchell (Dy) 14, 8; U12 Girls' Singles: Sarah Perks (Ng) bt Emma Vickers (Dy) 10, 10; U14 Boys' Singles: Richard Wesley (Ng)

bt Adam Frost (Dy) 15, 18; U14 Girls' Singles: Sarah Perks (Ng) bt Jessica Hall (La) 12, 15.

Harold Evans scores in 1947-48 English Open, Manchester

Harry Evans, a former table tennis correspondent from Manchester who went to edit the Sunday Times and become Chairman of Random (Publishing) House, is writing his biography and would like to find out his actual scores whilst competing at the 1947-48 English Open Championships at Belle Vue, Manchester, in November 1947. Harry, now New York based, says "I saw Ron Allcock recently; we were doubles partners. I started before him but he became much better than me. In the 1948 English Open we played against Leach and Carrington. I was whipped (in the singles) by the French national champion Bordrez. Ron went on to play for England". If anyone has a programme with the actual scores please inform Ken Muhr at the ETTA (kenmuhr.etta@talk21.com) and he will tell Harold.

Harry, who was behind the Sunday Times Super League, a precursor of the British League, also says, "When I was editor of the Sunday Times we beat the Chinese Embassy at the match. I still play when I can and am teaching my kids. My daughter, Isabel, 10, is turning into a good player. We tried the new ball the other day and I found it has made life tougher in that my chop seems easier to overcome!"

Valentine's Day Chat up Line?

We thank Independent reader Jeremy Harrington for spotting, the following, published on 14th February: Rowan Pelling, founder of The Erotic Review, a literary magazine for sensualists everywhere, was asked by Independent reader Deborah Reid from Rochdale:

"Have you ever heard a single chat-up line that made you feel more warmly disposed towards a strange man at a party? What was it?"

Rowan Pelling: "I was once at a party where a strange man asked me and my two sisters when we had last driven down to the Embankment in an open-topped car, prior to having supper at the Oxo Tower, followed by drinks in a nightclub, before retreating to a penthouse suite near the Ritz for a spot of table tennis. The ping-pong swung the day. He took us all out and is still a friend!"

'Legends of Table Tennis' by Zdenko Uzorinac, in English

Journalist and historian Zdenko Uzorinac's superb book 'Stolnoteniske Legende', replete with photographs of table tennis greats from the beginnings of the sport through to the late

'90s, originally published in Serbo-Croat in 1999, is to be republished in English as part of the 75th Anniversary of the International Table Tennis Federation. We talk about 'musts', but if table tennis enthusiasts don't buy this book then I don't know what they would buy! KM

Famous People Who Played Table Tennis

Thanks to Carol Beames I learn from an article in the Brighton Evening Argus that former Brighton and Hove Albion and West Ham midfield footballer, George Parris, is helping deaf and dumb youngsters enjoy competitive table tennis. He takes a group to the newly-formed Brighton and District Community League, based at Cardinal Newman School, Hove. Parris, who is delighted to be helping pupils aged 11-17 at Ovingdean Hall School with varying deaf and dumb disabilities, said, "We give them all sorts of activities to do out of school and table tennis is the one they really love."

Parris and his pupils join 100 players in a competition set-up to revive the sport and help the community, founded by former player Tony Denman who has returned to table tennis after 20 years. "The sport has been left behind over the last 20 years. I hope we can re-establish grassroots table tennis and the youngsters can progress. But at least it will stop some ending up on street corners doing nothing. It's already proving a big success. It is something away from the computer and so easy. All you need is a bat, ball and table. Youngsters are loving it and so are a few of the young at heart." KM

TABLE TENNIS ILLUSTRATED The Official Journal of the ITTF

The advertising says, 'Table Tennis News, what's happening and where, who's who in the table tennis world, full colour pictures of your favourite players, tips from experts to better your game, and much more!' With the collaboration of the new ITTF Media Communications Manager and Editor Ian Marshall, the ITTF is striving to improve their official journal Table Tennis Illustrated, forthcoming changes likely to be all colour pages and more personality articles. It is published 6 times a year, at \$6 (USA) an issue, or annual subscription \$24 (postage included), to be sent to ITTF, Avenue Mon-Repos 30, 1005 Lausanne, Switzerland (Tel. 0041 21 340 70 90 Fax. 0041 21 340 70 99 E-mail. ittf@ittf.ch).

Wrong UK & Ireland Corporate Games Contact Telephone Number

It is regretted that the wrong telephone number for the Director of Sport, Claire Waddell, of the Corporate Games taking place in Limerick, Ireland on 15-17th June (table tennis 16th/17th June) was quoted in the

December issue. The number should be 01733 380 888 (E-mail: info@corporate-games.com Website: www.corporate-games.com) as opposed to 01722 380888.

John Burtenshaw: North Somerset Sports Council's Sports Administrator of the Year 2000

Alf Pepperd wrote a portrait of John Burtenshaw for the November issue, but on 1st December, John was presented with the above award, so Alf has provided a little resume: John M Burtenshaw aged 67, dedicated to his sport of table tennis, has been involved for 50 years in administration. A Diploma Coach since 1963, he is currently an ETTA Level 4 Coach. He has held many posts within the sport at club, league, county, regional and national level and is currently ETTA South West Regional Chairman and as such a member of the National Development Committee. He was also awarded this (Sports Council) honour in 1985 and is the first person to receive it twice. He is also a life member of the Ashford, Kent, TT Association and Western-super-Mare DTT Association, Somerset.



John Burtenshaw

Maidstone Mind Donated 2 Table Tennis Tables

The publicity surrounding the sportingbet.co.uk English Open at Buckmore Park, Chatham, Kent may have helped one local organisation. When Jackie Brewer of Maidstone was interviewed on BBC Radio Kent and said they would like a table tennis table, the radio station 'phoned Ken Muhr at the ETTA asking where they might obtain a table from. Whether it was the original interview or the subsequent appeal for a table on BBC Radio Kent that delivered the goods, Maidstone Mind were donated two tables, one by Gordon Seal of Tudely, Tunbridge Wells, and the other by Mike Ellis of West Malling Golf Club. Table tennis - 'non-threatening' - is already proving to be very popular at Maidstone Mind's College Street base, while

the second table is to be placed at the Lenworth House Day Centre.

Teeside's Sporting Greats: A celebration of 100 years of sporting achievement Reviewed by Ken Muhr

This book, researched and written by educationist John Wilson and Middlesborough Evening Gazette chief sports writer Eric Paylor with support from the Evening Gazette and Northumberland Water, chronicles the careers and achievement of 95 of Teeside's top sportsmen and sportswomen over the last 100 years. Not unexpectedly for an area so fanatical on sport, there are profiles on nationally and internationally famous names such as Brian Clough (football), George Hardwick (football), Jack Hatfield (swimming), Wilf Mannion (football), Alan Old (rugby union), Chris Old (cricket), Mary Reveley (horse racing), Don Revie (football) and Rory Underwood (rugby union).

Of particular interest to the table tennis fraternity is that included amongst the great are four of our own, each achieving three or four glossy pages of text and photographs - Nicky Jarvis, Carole Knight-Moore, Denis Neale and Alan Ransome. An interesting point is that all four were in their younger days good footballers - there is strong correlation between being good at football and good at table tennis which I think goes way beyond the fact that football creams off most of the best talent in this country.

Each section is sympathetically written, though perhaps unsurprisingly the writer appears to take the side of the athlete - at least not question his/her point of view - in any difference with authority! Of the table tennis personalities, Denis, Carole and Nick were all wonderful players, achieving high world rankings, but the common link is our current ETTA Chairman Alan Ransome (no mean player himself) and the famous Ormesby Club in the hut at the end of his father's garden. It is Alan and Josie's book copy, donated to the ETTA, which I am reading as I write this review. Published by Juniper Publishing, Liverpool, in 2000 (ISBN 0952862263), the book has a cover charge of £16.99. I found it pleasurable to read.

ITTF Website being modernised

The ITTF website, www.ittf.com, is to be re-launched at the end of February. The redesigned site will feature all information on the World Championships, world ranking, directory and calendars. And once it's running, a database will be created with profiles and biographies on players, historical results, head-to-head results, etc.

Display Coaching Photographs

Is anyone interested in large (74 x 75 cm) laminated photographs, 6-7 years old, of

young players (e.g. Gareth Herbert, Emma Smith, Vince Avery, Dale Barham and B.F.L. Grove B Woolwich Junior British League winning team) and coaching situations, used by the ETTA for display purposes but now no longer required? Contact Ken Muhr (tel. 01424 722525, e-mail: kenmuhr.etta@talk21.com)

MUHR'S MEMO: Information Officer Messages from Ken Muhr

Despite a huge number of press releases, the **pre-publicity given in the national media to the sportingbet.co.uk 64th English Open Championships** at Buckmore Park on 6th-11th February was generally a little disappointing, although I sent releases so far and wide that I may have missed some previews that were published. True, John Woodford got his customary copy in the Daily Telegraph, and several people have told me that they viewed the appearance of **Matthew Syed, Andrew Baggaley and Georgina Walker on BBC TV's Blue Peter programme** on 30th January. There was a well-written and informed piece, 'Sultans of Spin' by sports editor **Ros Atkins in Time Out** and I understand another preview (I did not see it) in either the Sky glossy magazine or the Sky TV listings paper. All newspapers and appropriate magazines in fact mentioned the Sky Sports 3 & 2 coverage on their TV listings, and some gave brief notice in their sports events diaries. I should add that our website www.etta.co.uk plus the website www.itffprotour.com gave excellent exposure to the Open, both before and during the event. (Incidentally, I am told that the latter website achieved 100,000 hits on Friday 9th February, when Matthew Syed played.)

The **coverage during the event was much better**. It was great that our friend of old, **Richard Eaton, writing for The Times and Guardian, joined John Woodford of The Telegraph** towards the end of the week, ensuring reports in all these three papers. (Some results shorts also appeared in some papers, presumably as a result of John's Press Association reports). Apart from allocating John Woodford fairly generous space, **The Telegraph sent a feature writer (Sarah Edworthy)** along who concentrated (positively) on Belgium Jean-Michel Saive and our chairman Alan Ransome, plus (twice) a **photographer**, with pictures of Saive and men's singles winner Wang Liqin being published.

Although his words were cut from the space originally allocated to him, **Daily Express feature writer Richard Lewis** interviewed and wrote a full column, with photograph, on **Nicola Deaton**, again with a fairly positive spin. A greater coup was the full page, including large photograph, that was published in the (London) **Evening Standard**, a paper that has given scant attention to table tennis in recent years. That

journalist **Kate Battersby's initial scepticism was mellowed** by ETTA Vice Chairman Brian Halliday is reflected in the article, so that she finishes her piece almost glowing with enthusiasm. Plainly she was influenced, for the next week she followed up with a near full-page sparkling report on an interview with table tennis player/politician **Matthew Syed**.

Matthew in his **Times** journalist capacity got another **large** (Wang Liqin illustrated) **article** in 'The Thunderer' on Friday (9th February), in which he was able to link Lottery funding, the English Open and sportingbet.co.uk sponsorship. As a player, his cramp-assisted loss the same day to Christophe Legout, after such a promising start, became the main subject for English Open reports in the Saturday morning papers. I was very disappointed that **The Independent** virtually ignored the Open, though they partially redeemed themselves with a **'questionnaire' article on Syed** on Monday 12th February. But the biggest irritation of all was that The Daily Mail gave no coverage whatsoever, something we have come to expect from the more down market tabloids but not with the Mail. **I would strongly urge readers of The Daily Mail and possibly also The Independent, to express their dissatisfaction by writing to their papers about this.** Consumer power and agitation does have a real influence.

Although we did well on the big articles and features – which matter most - I think I may be partially to blame for there being fewer shorts and snippets. I seemed far too busy to work on my own press releases and in fact prepared and sent out only 3 during the tournament – this was more like my daily tally at Potters. My role at Buckmore Park was more to service the role of others.

The **superb, mostly live, 7 hours coverage on Sky Sport 3 TV**, of the finals day, with highlights 2 days later on Sky Sports 2, was obviously the media highlight of the Open, and the major factor in securing sportingbet.co.uk sponsorship. I wish we could have also got television coverage of the Friday and Saturday play, when for excitement I think the play was even better! There were some TV disappointments. An early Thursday morning BBC TV feature on a few international players playing and being interviewed live from the Shepherd's Bush, London, studio was pulled by the 'Beeb' at short notice because the producer considered that it was getting too complicated to organise. And the Big Breakfast showed no further interest in the Open when I informed them that, no, there were no fat people with waist measurements of more than 44 inches taking part!

As well as on television, there was **newspaper and radio coverage of the sportingbet.co.uk English Open throughout the world**. Richard Eaton did some agency work, but representatives (journalists and photographers)* from the **BBC World Service, Xinhua (Chinese) Agency and**

Allsport (world wide photograph agency) were also present.

In a minor way I did work with the local media, including doing a few radio interviews, but I should pay tribute here to the **tremendous role of Kent TTA Press Officer Adrian Hall with the local press, TV and radio** (before, during and after the event). He got a huge amount of copy, with photographs, into the papers (who were obviously also interested in the performance of his son Dominic), was interviewed several times on **BBC Radio Kent** (who did constant updates on the Open) and also arranged for England stars Nicola Deaton and Matthew Syed, plus Dominic, Michel Gadal, Jill Parker and Richard Yule to be interviewed, and also ensued excellent attention from **Meridian TV**, who came twice and interviewed, among others, Nicola, Matt, Michel, Dominic and himself. I am also aware that other local press officers were gaining coverage of the Open, including Jim Beckley in Manchester.

I also acknowledge the huge effort, in frequently difficult circumstances, of **Brian Halliday and Dot Macfarlane, in running the press centre and producing the well appreciated Daily Bulletin**. During the Open I managed to interview ITTF Media Communications Manager Peter Jensen, and this will appear in the next issue.

More happened for table tennis in the media, than for the English Open only. For example Matthew Syed was behind the **Tyne Tees (North East) Café Sport TV interviews of Alan Ransome, Carole Moore and Paul Drinkall**. Mike Holt has sent me a **Times cutting of the Government's Culture, Media and Sport Secretary Chris Smith playing table tennis** – is it a Labour politician's sport?! This may be old information for some, but I see that the <http://www.ettu.org> is a good website for those wanting to find out what is happening in the European Table Tennis Union.

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BRIAN HALLIDAY FACE TO FACE WITH JEAN-MICHEL SAIVE

JEAN-MICHEL SAIVE of Belgium is a legend in his own country. Twice voted "Sportsman of the Year", his face is recognised all over Belgium. He has even made a pop record! He was the European Champion, a title he won in Birmingham in 1994, and was ranked No. 1 in the same year, and again for a short time in 1995, and then again in 1996. He was runner-up to Gatién of France for the World Singles title in 1993 and won the USA Open in 1998. In the following interview I wanted to find out his views on current trends, and of course what it is like to have reached the pinnacle of your chosen sport.

BRIAN HALLIDAY: I would like to ask you about your life as a professional player, your views on the big ball, the service law. As a professional player what sort of routine do you go through?

JEAN-MICHEL SAIVE: It is so much different to say what it was like 10 years ago. For instance last week I was in Top Twelve, then I flew to Dusseldorf for Andro (sports equipment), I practised on Tuesday, then I rested on Wednesday, then I flew to England. Generally I find it quite difficult. I am living in Liege, also I have a flat in Charleroi. I play for them along with Johnny Huang, Primorac, and Samsonov. I play for them in the European Club League and we practise together at that club. I also have a physical trainer who was Belgium Judo Champion and I try to work with him twice a week. When I have a free week I try to practise 6 or 8 times, and 1 or 2 times physical work. We travel a lot and this includes 4 or 6 times to Asia.

BH: It must be difficult for you to peak at the right time.

J-MS: Yes. When I was No.1 in 1994 it was easier, I would be focused for European and World Championships and prepare properly, and this would include World Cup, European League and Cup matches. Now I go for Open events, 12 Pro Tour events, European masters, Top 12, World Cup, 10 matches in Champions League, 5 matches in Belgium, then World Championships for 2 weeks, say 60 or 70 dates.

BH: Presumably it is better for you financially now?

J-MS: I was probably earning more in the mid nineties, especially in Asia at that time the money for me was good when you did well. Last year for



example on the Pro-Tour I earn \$7000 which is not big money.

BH: When you are playing someone at your own level or better, is there thought of financial reward?

J-MS: No never. When I am alone afterwards reflecting on defeat or victory then perhaps, but never when I am playing.

BH: You still like the travel and playing?

J-MS: I had a time in late '98 when I was a little bit tired and I played like it was a job with no pleasure. I was afraid that if I took a break it would be difficult to resume, but fortunately the World Championships were postponed and I had no option but to take a break. So for six days a

week I concentrated on my physical shape, running, power-lifting, cycling and golf. This was for 4 or 5 hours a day, so when I came back in Eindhoven it was difficult to come to terms with being No. 5 in the world when you have previously been No.1.

BH: Hang on. There were millions below you!

J-MS: OK. So much later when I was alone on the beach on holiday I thought so now I am No. 14 and I suppose that is something quite special really. To put it in perspective, if I was the 14th best lawyer, or architect in the world, well that would be good. So I compared it with that. You have to realise to yourself that it is good. I still enjoy what I do so much. I love to play table tennis. Now if people say to me "You are only No. 14" it does not matter so much.

BH: You have this all action game which must be very demanding. Are you finding it more difficult as you grow older?

J-MS: Yes it is hard as the Asians are so strong, and in Europe you have players like Waldner and Samsonov etc., you can't play and practise like you did at age 20. Now you can do 1 and a half hours at a time, not 2 and a half., nevertheless you have to ensure that the quality of practise is very high.

BH: How do you practise?

J-MS: When I am really focused I score it all in my mind. I don't say to my opponent that I am counting as if it were a match. I count in my head. This makes me focus all the time. Sometimes I am not concentrating, I go to pick up the ball, and say out loud 14-12. My opponent says "Ah! you are counting". Then I have to explain. (joint laughter).

BH: Wonderful. That is a real "tip from the top".

J-MS: Sometimes I get to 19 all in my head. Then there is real pressure. This prepares me well for real matches..

BH: What is your opinion on the introduction of the 40mm ball?

J-MS: You know I heard that in a major tournament two players used the big ball in game 1 and the 38mm ball in game 2. Neither the umpire, coaches, or the crowd noticed any difference. You can only see the

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BRIAN HALLIDAY FACE TO FACE WITH JEAN-MICHEL SAIVE

continued from page 17

difference when you have the two ball in your hand. From a players point of view there is a difference. When we had finished at the Olympics (with the smaller ball) the next week was very hard, we all seemed to play too fast with the bigger ball.

BH: Do you think the rallies are longer?

J-MS: Maybe this is true in spin to spin rallies. It is still very fast after service. Generally for TV I cannot imagine that there is much difference.

BH: Do you think defenders are finding it more difficult?

J-MS: I don't know because I have just played once with Matsushita in practise. I have not played with Matthew (Syed). Maybe he finds it difficult especially as he is travelling to and from Japan.

BH: Now what about the proposed changes to the service law?

J-MS: It depends how they make the rule. Players have to adapt to all these changes. There have been many changes in the scoring systems recently and it has not been easy for players to adjust. Players have maybe perfected forehand services over say a 20 year period and it will be difficult to change and perfect backhand services, so I think that this change is infinitely more important than the scoring system or the bigger ball. With services the rules are still not followed strictly. There is one country whose players always serve behind the body, but they are never picked up by the umpire. In 1993 they were strict but now players are cheating more and more. I don't think it correct that the service law is in need of change provided umpires enforce strictly the present laws.

BH: There is a problem from the spectator aspect. What looks to be an easy return is sent off the table or into the net.

J-MS: Table tennis is about spin. Players learn how to use it and then read it. You don't want to go back to the time of wooden bats and correspondingly very little spin - perhaps 5 hours for one match as happened 50 years ago. The game today can be very exciting. For example the game now is a mixture of all different shots, strokes, and styles. If you lobbed all the time it

“THERE ARE SO MANY PRESSURE POINTS 11 UP IS TOO DANGEROUS”

would be boring so I think todays game is attractive for both players and spectators. Now about the scoring system. If you play best of three or five games, if you are a player like Grubba, Chen Xin Hua, or maybe me, and you have a commanding lead you can then play those truly outrageous and spectacular points that the crowd love. If the game is only up to 11, there are so many pressure points and it is too dangerous to make the big crowd pleasing rallies.

BH: This seems a good case to make against the 11 up system of play.

J-MS: Generally for me I am against

all these changes. Changes only affect those inside the sport. I really believe that they will have very little affect on spectators and those outside of the game. You know table tennis in Belgium was not known until I arrived on the scene. Then when I became good they showed European League and cup matches live on TV from 8.00pm through to 12.30am. Then perhaps I go to the Supermarket next day and a guy comes up and says because of you I cannot sleep! 19 all and it was so exciting.” So I say that there is nothing wrong with our sport provided you have the right players to sell it properly. Take Davis Cup or Wimbledon tennis, they take a long time to serve, and there are long breaks between games, but in table tennis it is very fast, and now they want to make it shorter.

BH: You have very strong views.

J-MS: When we had a players association, maybe it was better. There are big stars in sport like Michael Jordan and Tiger Woods, and I would like the I.T.T.F. to concentrate on putting more effort into the promotion of top table tennis stars. You know a guy said to me recently “ Who are we to try to change the sport, when for the Chinese it is the biggest sport of all. We should listen to them”. In Europe we would not dream of changing the rules on American Baseball, so who are we to change the rules that would affect the millions of Chinese who play.

BH: Thank you very much for your frank views on all these subjects. Good luck for the future.

J-MS: It has been a real pleasure.

JEAN-MICHEL SAIVE
is pictured below in action at
Buckmore Park



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points when leading Stefan Feth 19-17 in the deciding game in his 15-21, 21-18, 1921 loss.

To be fair to the other young English boys (Andrew Rushton, Dale Barham, Matthew Kenny, Dominic Hall and Daniel Horner) and girls (Katy Parker, Georgina Walker, Louise Durrant and Natalie Bawden), we know that it is too early to expect many results from them and that this was a learning experience. I believe that given time and support they will continue to improve collectively as a group, and that it is very difficult for any individual to make headway ahead of the others. They will set a new standard for newcomers to the national squad to emulate, thus raising the overall standard, but it is a slow and tough process. We must also hope that Dale Barham's bat throwing incident after losing to Swede Robert Nilsson is but a temporary relapse, for his temperament has generally much improved and he has undoubted talent. The gap between the English (all juniors) girls and the players, particularly Asians, who dominated the under 21 women's singles is quite a wide one, but although Bastion Steger (Germany) who scraped through the defensive Greek Panagiotis Gionis 21-13, 8-21, 22-20 to win the under 21 men's is certainly a classy player, he is not beyond our boys' reach.

Operating from the press room, I personally felt too busy to watch enough play or to give proper time to the many old friends I met around the venue - it makes me consider how many people I must have missed in the audience who I knew well and that everyone's experience of an event must necessarily be different, unique in fact. Another truism about table tennis reinforced for me is the vastly differing standards of our sport: players who looked good at the beginning of the week like Marco Essomba and Michelle Cohen were eclipsed by others in the qualifying groups, and they in turn were made to look alorans in the early rounds. From round three of the main singles we were in a new dimension of skill and athleticism, whilst the men's singles winner, Wang Liqin, was a class apart, combining awesome power with slick-smooth movement and all-round control. Unfortunately the England tournament scene can give players a false impression of how well they are doing vis-a-vis international play. Whereas once a good home tournament player might be able to put up a reasonable



ETTA Chairman ALAN RANSOME (left) is pictured thanking the sponsors of the 64th English Open



HAPPY GIRLS: MANDY SAINSBURY (left) and ALISON (Gordon) BROE, both former England internationals, who enjoyed their visit to the English Open. Mandy said, "I am amazed how the game has changed, the men attack the short serve, we would have pushed it back." She then added, "That there generally seemed to be a lack of emotion in the game today."

showing at a national open, the gap in standard between the two types of competition is now massively wider and growing.

It may be the last time that we will have seen the great Jan-Ove Waldner competing on these shores. The Swedish superstar, on disappointing form at Buckmore Park, is 35 now and could retire after the forthcoming world championships in Japan. However, top European players, including many competing at Buckmore Park, do stay at the top longer - into their late 20's and early 30's - and peak later nowadays. But I saw little at the Open, save perhaps Timo Boll (Germany) taking the men's 13th seed Lucjan Blaszczyk to

19th in the fifth (and with young compatriot Zoltan Fejer-Konnerth, winning the men's doubles), that

gives me confidence that the new generation of European players will be as good as the previous one or be able to challenge the best in Asia in the future. I was disappointed that one the few young European women, 22 year old Mihaela Steff (Romania) who could take on the Chinese, pulled out, as did the Chinese contingent to this tournament, allegedly for the absurd reason that they could not get visas owing to the Chinese Embassy being closed for the Chinese New Year!

I have no scientific proof, but I suspect that the bigger ball did marginally increase the length of rallies (and show up a little better). As a spectacle, some of the play was fantastic, particularly on Friday and Saturday, and particularly in the men's singles - I hope I am not being too sexist in saying that I found the women's singles a little 'samey', although choppers Jie Schopp (Germany) and Junko Haneyoshi (Japan) were good to watch. Sometimes in the men's singles there were just too many good matches going on at once! The atmosphere



64th ENGLISH OPEN

was great and the crowds appreciative.

No great technical changes were evident to me, just a continuation of recent trends, but possibly players are blocking/containing better, and able to touch and flick return services more instead of relying on long fast pushes. That the bigger ball dies quicker may be making it tougher for defenders, particularly those who play a long way back like Matthew Syed.

I left the sportingbet.co.uk English Open Championships at Buckmore Park, both feeling physically shattered but also elated that it had on reflection been a wonderful event that had done the cause of table tennis no end of good.

ETTA SIGNS RACIAL EQUALITY CHARTER FOR SPORT

ALAN RANSOME, Chairman of the ETTA signed the Racial Equality Charter for Sport at a ceremony at the sportingbet.co.uk English Open Championships, Buckmore Park on Thursday 8th February, pledging to commit the ETTA to challenge and remove racial discrimination and achieve equity in the sport, writes Ken Muhr.

National Development Officer for



ETTA CHAIRMAN ALAN RANSOME OBE, is pictured signing the Racial Equality Charter for Sport. at the English Open, flanked by ETTA National Development Officer JUDY ROGERS (left) and National Development Officer Sporting Equals LORNA SHACKLEY-BROWN.

Sporting Equals, Lorna Shackley-Brown, said that table tennis was one of the first sports in England to sign up and work at the Preliminary level of achieving racial equality - the other sports are athletics, rugby union, rugby league, cricket, basketball, swimming (and the National Coaching Foundation). The Charter is not only about playing participation but also protection from harassment and abuse, and involvement at all levels of administration, management and coaching. The governing body (the ETTA) will be monitored on meeting

standards via a written policy and action plan.

For the ETTA Alan Ransome said that the association had always taken a positive lead, with notable players from ethnic minorities including Desmond Douglas, Chen Xinhua and the current national and Commonwealth champion Matthew Syed, the latter also being very involved on the public side of the sport. The ETTA will fully publicise its commitment to the Charter.

The pledge means that the ETTA:

- Makes a public commitment to challenge and remove racial

discrimination and to achieve racial equality in sport.

- Encourages people from all communities to become involved in sport.
- Welcomes employees and spectators from all communities and protects all employees from racial abuse and harassment.
- Encourages skilled and talented individuals from all communities to become involved in all levels of sports administration, management and coaching.
- Develops the best possible race equality policies and practices that are subject to regular review and update.
- Celebrates cultural diversity in sport.

SINGLES RESULTS

MENS SINGLES FINAL:

WANG Liqin b. Christophe Legout 18, 10, 9.

WOMENS SINGLES FINAL:

TAKADA Yoshie b. Kim Hyon Hui -17, 20,-16, 15, 19.

U21 MENS SINGLES FINAL:

Bastian STEGER b. Gionis Panagiotis -17, 17, 19.

U21 WOMENS SINGLES FINAL:

KIM Yun Mi b. Fujinuma Ai 20, 15.

Full results and more action shots plus English Open update in April's issue of TTN.



A few of the participants in an English Open Coaching Course



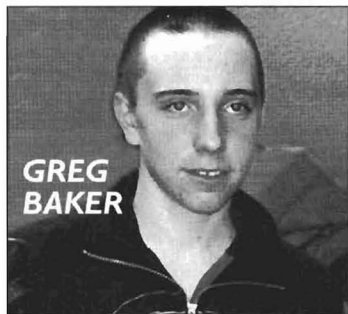
sportingbet.co.uk

JARVIS SPORT JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

TOP TEN PLACES

THE forthcoming Derby Junior 4 Star Open, on 3rd/4th March 2001, will decide the honours in this the inaugural year of the Jarvis Sports Junior Grand Prix series.

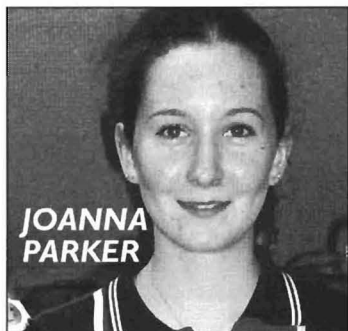
Matt Kenny just leads the Junior Boys table by a mere 7 points from Greg Baker, with Dale Barham only 5 points behind Baker.



GREG BAKER

In the Junior Girls section Karen Shepherd has a handsome 52 points lead over second placed Georgina Walker, and looks a likely winner.

The Cadet Boys is a close run affair Tim Yarnall just 17 points in front of Greg Baker, whilst the Cadet Girls is also close with Joanna Parker leading Abigail Embling by 18 points.



JOANNA PARKER

Jarvis Sports Junior Grand Prix Top Ten Points Tables

Junior Boys Singles

| | Es | EM | ST | Cot | De | Total |
|---------------------|----|----|----|-----|----|-------|
| Matt KENNY (Ys) | 38 | 97 | 65 | | | 200 |
| Greg BAKER (Wa) | 37 | 53 | 30 | 73 | | 193 |
| Dale BARHAM (Ca) | 98 | | 90 | | | 188 |
| Bryn DRINKHALL (Cv) | 73 | 38 | | 30 | | 141 |
| Dominic HALL (K) | 38 | | | 98 | | 136 |
| Tom HUGHES (Ng) | 28 | 53 | | 38 | | 119 |
| Daniel HORNER (Ch) | | 38 | 37 | 38 | | 113 |
| Peter CLEMINSON (E) | 53 | 37 | 20 | | | 110 |
| Chris JAMIESON (E) | 24 | 8 | 65 | | | 97 |
| Craig BRYANT (Dv) | 28 | 38 | | 28 | | 94 |

Junior Girls Singles

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|----|----|----|--|-----|
| Karen SHEPHERD (Ch) | 38 | 52 | 45 | 98 | | 233 |
| Georgina WALKER (Ng) | 73 | 98 | | | | 171 |
| Abigail EMBLING (E) | 28 | 38 | 37 | 53 | | 156 |
| Natalie BAWDEN (E) | 98 | 53 | | | | 151 |
| Louise DURRANT (Ng) | | 73 | 65 | | | 138 |
| Joanna PARKER (Sy) | 53 | 38 | 45 | | | 136 |
| Nicola WHITE (Y) | 25 | 4 | 16 | 74 | | 119 |
| Aparna NARENDRAN (Mi) | 38 | 38 | | 25 | | 101 |
| Grace BROWN (E) | 28 | 27 | 37 | 0 | | 92 |
| Kelly CRAVEN-GRIFFITHS (Le) | 38 | | 27 | 25 | | 90 |

Cadet Boys Singles

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|--|-----|
| Tim YARNALL (Np) | 97 | 45 | 90 | | | 232 |
| Greg BAKER (Wa) | 73 | | 45 | 97 | | 215 |
| Stephen DENNY (Y) | 28 | 53 | 52 | 53 | | 186 |
| Bradley EVANS (Bu) | 28 | 98 | | 53 | | 179 |
| Adam BLEAKLEY (La) | 38 | 73 | 65 | | | 176 |
| Simon NOUTCH (Y) | 53 | 37 | 30 | 38 | | 158 |
| Richard MOSS (Y) | 53 | 38 | 37 | 25 | | 153 |
| Umair MAUTHOOR (E) | 28 | 38 | 27 | 28 | | 121 |
| Chris GREGORY (Sp) | 38 | 5 | 37 | 37 | | 117 |
| Paul DEWHURST (E) | 17 | 28 | 37 | 25 | | 107 |

Cadet Girls Singles

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|----|----|----|--|-----|
| Joanna PARKER (Sy0) | 98 | 98 | 90 | | | 286 |
| Abigail EMBLING (E) | 53 | 73 | 45 | 97 | | 268 |
| Karen SHEPHERD (Ch) | 53 | 53 | 65 | 52 | | 223 |
| Nicola WHITE (Y) | 73 | 38 | 37 | 38 | | 186 |
| Sarah BROWN (E) | 38 | 53 | 37 | 38 | | 166 |
| Lauren SPRINGTHORPE (Li) | 25 | 28 | 37 | 51 | | 141 |
| Lauren SPINK (Nk) | 38 | 37 | 37 | 18 | | 130 |
| Clara HOWARD (Ch) | 38 | 36 | 45 | 1 | | 119 |
| Kelly SIBLEY (Wa) | 25 | 3 | 27 | 38 | | 93 |
| Kelly CRAVEN-GRIFFITHS (Le) | 38 | | 27 | 28 | | 93 |

Es = Essex, EM = East Midlands, ST = Stockton, Co = Cotswold and De = Derby

25 YEARS AGO

• ENGLAND'S GOLDEN GIRLS: JILL HAMMERSLEY and LINDA HOWARD really made one feel proud to be English, when between them they achieved two Gold and one Silver medal in the 10th European Championships, Prague.

But to Jill must go the supreme accolade for quite magnificent performance in winning the Womens Singles title to become the first English player, as an individual, to mount the topmost step of the podium. In the final she beat Rumanian Maria Alexandru 21, 16,-17, 19.

Following the disappointment of losing the Womens Team Final to Russia, Jill and Linda beat local girls Dana Dubinova and Alice Grofova in the Womens Doubles Final.

• SIMON HEAPS a rangy 20 year old postman from Reading HPO, won the Mens Singles final of the National Civil Service Table Tennis tournament after a great fight at the King Edward Building, London.

Heaps, European Cadet Champion and junior international, needed all his skill and cunning to outwit THQ's Henry Buist, who took the first 21-16. Heaps pipped a nail-biting second 19, and finished an exciting decider 21-16.

• BEVERLEY BOYS SCHOOL, New Malden, Surrey won the Under 19 National School Team Finals, at Lea Green, Matlock.

The team, Steven Boxall, Gary Stewart, Steven Critchley and David Hill were presented with their trophy by Nicky Jarvis. See picture left.



Beverley Boys' School, New Malden, who received the Norman Cook Cup from Nicky Jarvis for winning the Boys' Under-19 event.

THE OLDEST & LARGEST DOMESTIC COMPETITION

THE results of the second questionnaire on the future of the County Championships competition have been received and evaluated by the committee and a synopsis of the results sent to the County Associations, writes Stan Clarke.

Andy Seward and his team have considered the responses to the various questions and have advised the Counties of their conclusions. Of

the forty five questionnaires sent out thirty were returned, I suppose a response of 66% is quite high but it does make you wonder at the apparent lack of interest from the remaining 33% of Counties, we are after all talking about proposals which could alter the course of the oldest and largest domestic competition run by the association and yet it would seem that a third of the Counties involved are so

disinterested that they cannot take the time to reply to a simple questionnaire which could have far reaching effects on their County.. Having said that I must say that I found the opinions expressed by the respondents very interesting, it is clear that a majority of Counties would prefer their teams to play either on two weekends or on three Saturdays, however it is clear that a minority of Counties are not prepared to consider weekend play and have indicated that they would withdraw from the competition if weekend play became mandatory, in light of this the committee have little choice but to continue with the status quo. This does not of course preclude Counties from agreeing to play matches over weekends as they do a present and hopefully the practise will continue.

There does seem to be a large degree of support for expanding the championships to take in additional sections i.e. over sixty veterans, over twenty one's and under fourteen's and it is likely that ,with the approval of National Council, the introduction of additional sections could soon be with us, watch this space.

JUNIOR DIVISION 3A

This division played their first round of four matches at St.Neots T.T.C. on Saturday 9th December 2000, first matches starting at 10am, second at 12.30pm, third at 3.00pm and the final matches starting at 5.30pm., a long day but an indication as to how it is possible to condense a full division's play into just two days. I know there will be some who will wring their hands and bemoan the loss of purity at such goings on, but on the practical side the players will have enjoyed playing eight sets in the day, as opposed to two in the normal course of events, and it must have proved very cost effective in terms of venue hire and travelling, especially to those Counties with restricted

income.

With each team having played four matches Leicestershire and Hertfordshire head the division each with four wins, eight points and a sets difference of 29 won 11 lost only a count back of games won and lost separating the two teams. Leicestershire beat Bedfordshire 2nd 8/2 in their first match of the day before beating Norfolk 2nd, Bedfordshire 1st and Cambridgeshire all by 7 sets to 3. Hertfordshire started with a 7/3 defeat of Suffolk 2nd then trounced Bedfordshire 2nd 9/1 and Norfolk 2nd 7/3 before having to work very hard to beat Bedfordshire 6/4.

In third place are Suffolk 2nd with three wins and six points whilst Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire lie in fourth and fifth places, both with two wins and two defeats, Bedfordshire having the superior sets difference. Norfolk 2nd are in sixth place with two points and Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire 2nd bring up the rear, neither team having achieved any points but Cambridgeshire have a much superior sets advantage.

VETERANS DIVISION 3A

Staffordshire entertained Warwickshire 3rd at Burton Manor on 16th December and humbled their fellow midlanders with a 9/0 whitewash, nothing much to get excited about there I suppose but it must have been a busy day for Martin Pickles, not only was he team captain and number three player for Staffordshire but he was also the MATCH REFEREE!! Another case of blue coats being conspicuous by their absence - and in a County which has so many active Umpires.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

**ON THE 14th MARCH 2001
JOHN WOOD
EDITOR OF
TABLE TENNIS NEWS
WILL BE MOVING TO:
25 ROSEVALE GARDENS,
LUXULYAN,
CORNWALL PL30 5EP
(TO DATE THERE ISN'T A NEW
TELEPHONE NUMBER. THIS
INFORMATION WILL BE
AVAILABLE FROM ETTA HEAD
OFFICE IN HASTINGS, AND
PUBLISHED IN THIS MAGAZINE
THE FOLLOWING ISSUE)
MOBILE TELEPHONE NUMBER
AND EMAIL REMAIN THE SAME**

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 | 0 |
| DIVISION IA | | | | | | | |
| 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 IB | | | | | | | |
| Middlesex 2nd | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 32 | 18 | 8 |
| Essex | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 27 | 13 | 6 |
| Glamorgan | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 25 | 15 | 6 |
| Berkshire | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 16 | 24 | 3 |
| Kent 2nd | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 8 | 2 |
| Wiltshire | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 11 | 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 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 32 | 8 | 8 |
| Worcestershire 2nd | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 30 | 20 | 7 |
| Devonshire 2nd | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 23 | 27 | 6 |
| Avon | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 21 | 29 | 6 |
| Glamorgan 2nd | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 24 | 16 | 5 |
| Somerset | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 12 | 18 | 0 |
| Cornwall 2nd | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 13 | 27 | 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 IA | | | | | | | |
| Essex | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 6 | 6 |
| Lancashire | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 8 | 6 |
| Yorkshire 2nd | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 11 | 6 |
| Nottinghamshire | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 13 | 17 | 2 |
| Cumbria | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 13 | 17 | 1 |
| Suffolk | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 11 | 19 | 1 |
| Derbyshire | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 21 | 1 |
| South Yorkshire | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 21 | 1 |
| DIVISION IB | | | | | | | |
| Devonshire | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 51 | 9 | 12 |
| Dorset | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 37 | 23 | 11 |
| Glamorgan 2nd | 7 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 44 | 26 | 10 |
| Buckingham 2nd | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 42 | 28 | 9 |
| Berkshire | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 26 | 44 | 5 |
| Worcestershire | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 24 | 46 | 4 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|----|
| Avon | 7 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 30 | 40 | 3 |
| Hampshire | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 16 | 54 | 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 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 38 | 12 | 9 |
| Middlesex 2nd | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 29 | 31 | 7 |
| Sussex | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 30 | 10 | 6 |
| Kent 2nd | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 33 | 27 | 6 |
| 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 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 41 | 9 | 10 |
| Buckingham 3rd | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 39 | 11 | 8 |
| Sussex 2nd | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 32 | 18 | 8 |
| Wiltshire | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 25 | 3 |
| Northampton 2nd | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 15 | 25 | 2 |
| Kent 3rd | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 11 | 19 | 2 |
| Gwent 2nd | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 29 | 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 IA | | | | | | | |
| 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 | | |
| Norfolk | 4 | 1 | 3 | 15 | 21 | 2 | |
| DIVISION IB | | | | | | | |
| Surrey 2nd | 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 | | | | | | | |
| Warwickshire 1st | 5 | 5 | 0 | 36 | 9 | 10 | |
| Cambridgeshire | 6 | 5 | 1 | 32 | 22 | 10 | |
| Bedfordshire | 4 | 3 | 1 | 22 | 14 | 6 | |
| Yorkshire 3rd | 6 | 3 | 3 | 26 | 28 | 6 | |
| Lancashire 2nd | 4 | 2 | 2 | 22 | 14 | 4 | |
| Essex 2nd | 6 | 2 | 4 | 21 | 33 | 4 | |
| Essex 3rd | 6 | 1 | 5 | 17 | 37 | 2 | |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|---|----|----|----|--|
| Norfolk 2nd | 5 | 0 | 5 | 13 | 32 | 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 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 28 | 17 | 10 | |
| South Yorkshire | 4 | 3 | 1 | 22 | 14 | 6 | |
| Staffordshire | 5 | 3 | 2 | 25 | 20 | 6 | |
| Cheshire 3rd | 4 | 2 | 2 | 19 | 17 | 4 | |
| Yorkshire 4th | 5 | 2 | 3 | 23 | 22 | 4 | |
| Leicestershire 2nd | 4 | 2 | 2 | 17 | 19 | 4 | |
| Northamptonshire | 4 | 1 | 3 | 17 | 19 | 2 | |
| Warwickshire 3rd | 5 | 0 | 5 | 11 | 34 | 0 | |
| DIVISION 3B | | | | | | | |
| Buckingham 2nd | 6 | 5 | 1 | 38 | 16 | 10 | |
| Middlesex 2nd | 4 | 4 | 0 | 28 | 8 | 8 | |
| Hertfordshire 3rd | 5 | 3 | 2 | 24 | 21 | 6 | |
| Middlesex 4th | 5 | 2 | 3 | 22 | 23 | 4 | |
| Norfolk 3rd | 4 | 2 | 2 | 16 | 20 | 4 | |
| Bedfordshire 2nd | 5 | 2 | 3 | 19 | 26 | 4 | |
| Kent 5th | 5 | 1 | 4 | 22 | 23 | 2 | |
| Hertfordshire 4th | 6 | 1 | 5 | 11 | 43 | 2 | |
| DIVISION 3C | | | | | | | |
| Berkshire 2nd | 5 | 4 | 1 | 34 | 11 | 8 | |
| Middlesex 3rd | 5 | 4 | 1 | 28 | 17 | 8 | |
| Sussex 2nd | 5 | 4 | 1 | 26 | 19 | 8 | |
| Essex 4th | 4 | 2 | 2 | 21 | 15 | 4 | |
| Surrey 3rd | 4 | 2 | 2 | 21 | 15 | 4 | |
| Hampshire 4th | 5 | 1 | 4 | 11 | 34 | 2 | |
| Oxfordshire 2nd | 5 | 1 | 4 | 12 | 33 | 2 | |
| Sussex 4th | 5 | 0 | 5 | 9 | 36 | 0 | |
| DIVISION 3D | | | | | | | |

DUNLOP SLAZENGER CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ENGLISH SCHOOLS

ESTTA is pleased to announce the continued support of Dunlop Slazenger International Ltd. in sponsoring its major events for the season 2000/2001.

Dunlop will supply equipment for the finals of the Dunlop School Team Championships 2001 - to be held at

South Kesteven Table Tennis Centre, Grantham; the Dunlop Individual Championships 2001 - at Fenton Manor Leisure Centre, Stoke on Trent and at the Schools' Invitation International Championships 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. It's 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.

THE 40MM BALL

THE ITTF has now fixed all specifications for the approval of the 40mm ball. These specifications can be downloaded from the ITTF web site www.ittf.com, where you will also find a list of all ITTF approved balls. From January 2001, any ball brand to be approved by the ITTF has to fulfill all specifications given in the ITTF Technical Leaflet T3, including all technical specifications B1 - B12. The approval fee for a new ball brand is Swiss francs 4,200 per brand. The testing fee for a ball brand to be newly approved is Swiss Francs 1,500 per brand.

A total of 673 ball brands (40mm) have been approved by the ITTF to date.

OLYMPIC MIXED DOUBLES

THE ITTF has made an application to the International Olympic Committee to have mixed doubles included in the Olympic Games. The decision is expected to be made during the course of April 2001.

If the IOC accepts, the ITTF has to ensure that the addition of mixed doubles does not mean an increased number of days, players, matches of officials.

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, Gattien, 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, Gattien, 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: 07930 275 940



ETTA NATIONAL RANKING LIST

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Further details please ring Doreen Nightingale 01424 722525

Senior Men

| Pos | Name | Rtg | Flg |
|-------|--------------------------------|----------|-----|
| (1) | 1 SYED, Matthew (SY.) | 4727* | |
| (2) | 2 COOKE, Alan (DY.) | 4598 | |
| (3) | 3 BAGGLEY, Andrew (BU.) | 4577 | |
| (4) | 4 PREAM, Carl (IW.) | 4532 | |
| (6) | 5 YOUNG, Terry (BK.) | 4511 | |
| (5) | 6 PERRY, Alex (DV.) | 4488 | |
| (7) | 7 HERBERT, Gareth (BK.) | 4408 | |
| (8) | 8 RUSHTON, Andrew (LA.) | 4233 | |
| (11) | 9 BARHAM, Dale (CA.) | 4054 | |
| (10) | 10 EDEN, Andrew (LA.) | 4009 | |
| (12) | 11 ISHERWOOD, Michael (DY.) | 3933 | |
| (13) | 12 ESSOMBA, Marco (ST.) | 3929 | |
| (9) | 13 MANTEGAZZA, Fabio (ITA) | 3880 | |
| (14) | 14 COUTOULLAU, Samuel (NG.) | 3826 | |
| (15) | 15 SLADDEN, Cris (E.) | 3758 | |
| (14) | 16 TRUHPAUSKAS, Lawrence (E.) | 3736 | |
| (16) | 17 PITTAS, George (DU.) | 3686*** | |
| (19) | 18 GOODALL, Justin (K.) | 3579 | |
| (18) | 19 MARSHALL, Peter (Y.) | 3574 | |
| (17) | 20 VENNIE, Ritchie (SK.) | 3565 | |
| (22) | 21 SUGNIE, Jason (ML) | 3525 | |
| (23) | 22 JAMES, Michael (Y.) | 3521 | |
| (20) | 23 CUTLER, Tom (ML) | 3520 | |
| (21) | 24 WURAOOLA, Abdul (SY.) | 3520 | |
| (25) | 25 BARR, David (BK.) | 3499 | |
| (33) | 26 HILTON, John (CH.) | 3495 | |
| (29) | 27 PYE, Leeroy (NK.) | 3494 | |
| (24) | 28 SMITH, Eddie (ND.) | 3476 | |
| (28) | 29 BROWN, Mark (K.) | 3463 | |
| (27) | 30 ECKERSLEY, Nigel (SK.) | 3454 | |
| (30) | 31 KENNY, Mathew (Y.) | 3427 | |
| (26) | 32 JOHNS, Brian (CH.) | 3422 | |
| (31) | 33 MOORE, Adrian (K.) | 3408* | |
| (32) | 34 ROGERS, Chris (LE.) | 3406* | |
| (34) | 35 SLATER, Stephen (ST.) | 3370 | |
| (39) | 36 CHAN, Michael (SY.) | 3355 | |
| (37) | 37 WHITING, Paul (DV.) | 3344* | |
| (38) | 38 DOLDER, Kevin (LA.) | 3335** | |
| (35) | 39 SMITH, Mark Richard (Y.) | 3319 | |
| (44) | 40 CHARLES, Neil (ML) | 3310 | |
| (41) | 41 PAPANTONIOU, Costas (ML) | 3298 | |
| (40) | 42 ATKINSON, David (CA.) | 3298**** | |
| (43) | 43 TAYLOR, John (HE.) | 3297 | |
| (42) | 44 HUNDHAUSEN, Christian (ML) | 3294* | |
| (36) | 45 WILKINSON, Andrew (ND.) | 3276 | |
| (45) | 46 NEIL, Lee (NG.) | 3264* | |
| (47) | 47 AUCHTERLONIE, Michael (BK.) | 3242* | |
| (97) | 48 CUNNINGHAM, Andy (K.) | 3234* | |
| (48) | 49 GANNON, David (LE.) | 3221** | |
| (50) | 50 CRIMMINS, Max (WO.) | 3219* | |
| (49) | 51 BRIDGETT, Gregory (DV.) | 3219* | |
| (52) | 52 RICHARDSON, Keith (CA.) | 3217 | |
| (51) | 53 CLAYTON, Tony (DO.) | 3211* | |
| (46) | 54 CARTHY, Clive (E.) | 3205 | |
| (54) | 55 GREEN, Mark (NG.) | 3170** | |
| (56) | 56 SHORT, Mark (YS.) | 3163 | |
| (57) | 57 WALSH, Jimmy (HE.) | 3163 | |
| (55) | 58 POUNTNEY, Robert (SY.) | 3160 | |
| (53) | 59 GIRDLER, Ian (E.) | 3156 | |
| (62) | 60 PAYNE, Phil (SO.) | 3151 | |
| (58) | 61 MCKOY, Nick (ML) | 3151 | |
| (57) | 62 CAMPBELL, Selwyn (SY.) | 3150** | |
| (52) | 63 SMITH, Richard A (Y.) | 3148 | |
| (69) | 64 GODBOLD, David (DU.) | 3141 | |
| (61) | 65 WIGNALL, Andy (LL) | 3134* | |
| (70) | 66 HALL, Dominic (K.) | 3132 | |
| (60) | 67 LOGSDON, Philip (NK.) | 3126 | |
| (64) | 68 HARVEY, Dave (GS.) | 3125 | |
| (63) | 69 JAMIESON, Christopher (E.) | 3123* | |
| (65) | 70 YULE, Richard (SCO) | 3113** | |
| (67) | 71 BEERLING, Stephen (K.) | 3107* | |
| (68) | 72 ADAMS, Martin (BK.) | 3104 | |
| (66) | 73 HORSFIELD, Andrew (YS.) | 3101 | |
| (138) | 74 GELDER, Anthony (DU.) | 3068 | |
| (75) | 75 CHAUSSE, Christophe (E.) | 3067 | |
| (74) | 76 KENNEDY, Joe (K.) | 3062 | |
| (71) | 77 RANKIN, John (LA.) | 3059 | |
| (73) | 78 WELSMAN, Dave (NP.) | 3058* | |
| (78) | 79 GRIFFIN, Darren (GS.) | 3055 | |
| (80) | 80 TENDLER, Gary (E.) | 3046 | |
| (75) | 81 BAKER, Gregory (ST.) | 3045 | |
| (56) | 82 ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.) | 3044 | |
| (76) | 83 JONAH, Jerome (K.) | 3032** | |
| (77) | 84 GASCOYNE, Craig (NG.) | 3024 | |
| (79) | 85 DENNISON, John (E.) | 3022* | |
| (102) | 86 DODD, Justin (K.) | 3015 | |
| (81) | 87 COX, Philip (K.) | 3010* | |

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|-------|--------------------------|----------|
| (82) | 88 OWEN, Mark (HR.) | 3010 |
| (110) | 89 CICHHELLI, Paul (SK.) | 3006 |
| (91) | 90 WILLIAMS, Keith (LA.) | 3001 |
| (86) | 91 BARTRAM, Peter (SX.) | 2993 |
| (87) | 92 ROOFE, Eddie (WL.) | 2983 |
| (83) | 93 HILL, Brian (LI.) | 2976* |
| (136) | 94 WHITEMAN, James (DV.) | 2964 |
| (85) | 95 MUSK, Ian (BU.) | 2963 |
| (89) | 96 HADJING, David (SY.) | 2958 |
| (117) | 97 DRINKHALL, Bryn (CY.) | 2956 |
| (92) | 98 GIBSON, Sean (E.) | 2955** |
| (93) | 99 SHORT, Mike (DV.) | 2951* |
| (94) | 100 AVERY, Vincent (E.) | 2949**** |

Senior Women

| Pos | Name | Rtg | Flg |
|-------|-------------------------------|----------|-----|
| (1) | 1 DEATON, Nicola (DY.) | 3985 | |
| (2) | 2 LOWER, Helen (ST.) | 3945 | |
| (3) | 3 RADFORD, Linda (E.) | 3650 | |
| (4) | 4 OWOLABI, Kubrat (ML) | 3604 | |
| (5) | 5 PARKER, Katy (LA.) | 3591 | |
| (7) | 6 WALKER, Georgina (NG.) | 3562 | |
| (6) | 7 KISS, Barbara (HE.) | 3476* | |
| (8) | 8 DURRANT, Louise (NG.) | 3335 | |
| (9) | 9 BAWDEN, Natalie (E.) | 3318 | |
| (10) | 10 SMITH, Karen (LE.) | 3250** | |
| (11) | 11 RUOCCO, Shelley (E.) | 3171** | |
| (14) | 12 LOCKWOOD, Karen (CH.) | 3161 | |
| (13) | 13 HARRIS, Jill (ST.) | 3158**** | |
| (15) | 14 SPARKS, Rebecca (SK.) | 3134 | |
| (17) | 15 STEWARD, Kate (SO.) | 3124 | |
| (12) | 16 DUNNING, Jan (WO.) | 3123 | |
| (26) | 17 PARKER, Joanna (SY.) | 3115 | |
| (16) | 18 YARDY, Hannah (E.) | 3098* | |
| (18) | 19 WESTON, Sally (SX.) | 3065* | |
| (20) | 20 KENDALL, Jade (CU.) | 3050 | |
| (23) | 21 NEWNS, Clare (CH.) | 3050 | |
| (20) | 22 RAINTON, Rosemary (SX.) | 3045* | |
| (21) | 23 RODEN, Sandra (WO.) | 3043 | |
| (19) | 24 BONGERS, Jose (ST.) | 3014 | |
| (27) | 25 BLOOR, Trudie (SP) | 3011 | |
| (26) | 26 COHEN, Michele (AV.) | 3004*** | |
| (24) | 27 HURLING, Emma (HE.) | 3003*** | |
| (28) | 28 REEH, Caroline (GER) | 2970* | |
| (33) | 29 ROLIKOVA, Marianna (SY.) | 2953 | |
| (30) | 30 MILVEK, Kai (EST) | 2913**** | |
| (29) | 31 BUOYE, Brenda (LA.) | 2913 | |
| (25) | 32 HOWARD, Alice (CH.) | 2891 | |
| (48) | 33 MORLEY, Judy (GS.) | 2859 | |
| (31) | 34 SILBURN, Nicola (Y.) | 2859* | |
| (35) | 35 SMITH, Sarah (NG.) | 2854 | |
| (40) | 36 CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.) | 2838 | |
| (34) | 37 RIDER, Sandra (Y.) | 2834* | |
| (39) | 38 MARLING, Samantha (ML) | 2829 | |
| (36) | 39 PERRY, Penny (DV.) | 2823 | |
| (37) | 40 GARLICK, Helen (K.) | 2821** | |
| (58) | 41 PERRY, Lucy (DV.) | 2819 | |
| (38) | 42 BENNETT, Teresa (SX.) | 2812*** | |
| (50) | 43 LLOYD, Gemma (CH.) | 2809 | |
| (59) | 44 DAVIDSON, Sarah (SK.) (E.) | 2805 | |
| (41) | 45 SHIELDS, Helen (Y.) | 2800* | |
| (32) | 46 SIMPSON, Linda (Y.) | 2799 | |
| (42) | 47 FISHER, Rebecca (ML) | 2792 | |
| (43) | 48 SCHOFIELD, Doreen (CH.) | 2790** | |
| (51) | 49 ROBINSON, Suzanne (GS.) | 2783 | |
| (44) | 50 WANG, Lucy (E.) | 2782.1 | |
| (45) | 51 SHORT, Elaine (DV.) | 2777**** | |
| (46) | 52 HARPER, Sandra (BD.) | 2777* | |
| (47) | 53 PEARCE, Diane (K.) | 2776* | |
| (62) | 54 HORSNELL, Sarah (ML) | 2773 | |
| (49) | 55 JUDSON, Carol (Y.) | 2772 | |
| (52) | 56 SMITH, Nicola (Y.) | 2757** | |
| (54) | 57 MALTRY, Margaret (NP.) | 2753* | |
| (55) | 58 DEARING, Emily (Y.) | 2750** | |
| (57) | 59 BAWDEN, Marilyn (E.) | 2739* | |
| (60) | 60 SEAHOLME, Sarah (HE.) | 2737* | |
| (53) | 61 NARENDRA, Aparna (ML) | 2728 | |
| (61) | 62 DAWSON, Marjorie (E.) | 2727* | |
| (56) | 63 KING, Sheila (SX.) | 2708 | |
| (105) | 64 DURHAM, Jane (CY.) | 2708 | |
| (64) | 65 KNIGHTLEY, Gillian (BK.) | 2704* | |
| (65) | 66 DIGNUM, Margaret (WO.) | 2703 | |
| (66) | 67 STEEL, Pauline (SX.) | 2699* | |
| (67) | 68 SOLLEY, Jo (ML) | 2695** | |
| (69) | 69 HUMBLE, Ann (GS.) | 2693**** | |
| (104) | 70 DONNELLY, Janine (Y.) | 2691 | |
| (73) | 71 H-MIDDLEMORE, Joan (WA.) | 2689 | |
| (70) | 72 LEHMAN, Bettina (LE.) | 26881** | |
| (72) | 73 VAJDI, Carmen (E.) | 2684* | |

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|------|-----------------------------|----------|
| (71) | 74 HARRISON, Jennifer (E.) | 2684* |
| (68) | 75 BURGESS, Suzanne (CH.) | 2670 |
| (75) | 76 COGGON, Sara (SX.) | 2670* |
| (81) | 77 BROWN, Janet (OX.) | 2669 |
| (76) | 78 BRISTOW, Angela (K.) | 2668* |
| (77) | 79 BAX, Sally (HE.) | 2662* |
| (78) | 80 VICKERS, Jane (DY.) | 2661* |
| (88) | 81 MAY, Elizabeth (DV.) | 2661 |
| (63) | 82 POINTER, Lucy (IW.) | 2653 |
| (79) | 83 FLOWERDAY, Anne (E.) | 2651 |
| (80) | 84 SEYMOUR, Tamar (OX.) | 26461** |
| (83) | 85 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.) | 2642 |
| (82) | 86 SHALES, Eileen (LE.) | 2640* |
| (85) | 87 HALES, Linda (E.) | 2630** |
| (84) | 88 REID, Lynda (WO.) | 2630* |
| (90) | 89 ENBLING, Abigail (E.) | 2627 |
| (74) | 90 GELDER, Shirley (DU.) | 2621 |
| (86) | 91 JOHNSON, Susan (BK.) | 2610**** |
| (87) | 92 SEAHOLME, Caroline (HE.) | 2600**** |
| (89) | 93 GUTHRIE, Caron (ND.) | 2578** |
| (92) | 94 WHITE, Jean (LI.) | 2560 |
| (95) | 95 BALDWIN, Brenda (WL.) | 2553 |
| (94) | 96 DARK, Shirley (SO.) | 2552 |
| (96) | 97 ECKERSLEY, Carol (SX.) | 2544** |
| (97) | 98 HICKMAN, Susan (E.) | 2539 |
| (95) | 99 HUGHES, Kate (WO.) | 2536 |
| (98) | 100 SPENCER, Tracey (ST.) | 2531**** |

Junior Boys

| Pos | Name | Rtg | Flg |
|------|-------------------------------|----------|-----|
| (1) | 1 BARHAM, Dale (CA.) | 4054 | |
| (2) | 2 KENNY, Mathew (Y.) | 3427 | |
| (3) | 3 CHAN, Michael (SY.) | 3355 | |
| (6) | 4 HALL, Dominic (K.) | 3132 | |
| (5) | 5 JAMIESON, Christopher (E.) | 3123* | |
| (7) | 6 BAKER, Gregory (ST.) | 3045 | |
| (4) | 7 ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.) | 3044 | |
| (10) | 8 DRINKHALL, Bryn (CY.) | 2956 | |
| (9) | 9 BRYANT, Craig (DV.) | 2898 | |
| (8) | 10 CLEMENSON, Peter (E.) | 2886 | |
| (11) | 11 BARHAM, Lee (CA.) | 2773 | |
| (13) | 12 YARNALL, Tim (NP.) | 2716 | |
| (12) | 13 HORNER, Daniel (CH.) | 2690* | |
| (14) | 14 HUGHES, Tom (NG.) | 2571 | |
| (15) | 15 LI, Hung Kei (HE.) | 2500** | |
| (15) | 16 HANDY, Philip (DO.) | 2412 | |
| (16) | 17 DAVIES, Stephen (LL) | 2385 | |
| (21) | 18 DIXON, Zeke (CU.) | 2228 | |
| (22) | 19 NOUTH, Simon (Y.) | 2208 | |
| (50) | 20 MARPLES, Shaun (DY.) | 2090 | |
| (19) | 21 BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA.) | 2088 | |
| (17) | 22 HOLTAM, Tim (ML) | 2084 | |
| (47) | 23 MAUTHOOR, Umair (E.) | 2068 | |
| (25) | 24 YARNALL, Greg (NP.) | 2023 | |
| (20) | 25 HANSELL, Robert (BU.) | 1986 | |
| (26) | 26 BLOOMFIELD, Gary (SK.) | 1961 | |
| (18) | 27 BROOKS, Warren (BU.) | 1862 | |
| (28) | 28 GREGORY, Christopher (SP) | 1857 | |
| (24) | 29 POUNTNEY, Paul (SY.) | 1845 | |
| (23) | 30 EVANS, Bradley (BU.) (BK.) | 1831 | |
| (26) | 31 CARTWRIGHT, Neil (DO.) | 1819 | |
| (51) | 32 DRINKHALL, Paul (CY.) | 1778 | |
| (46) | 33 CLARKE, Martyn (CV.) | 1772 | |
| (32) | 34 DENNY, Stephen (Y.) | 1742 | |
| (29) | 35 MORAN, Edward (SP) | 1729 | |
| (31) | 36 FENNELL, Aaron (E.) | 1713 | |
| (30) | 37 CANT, Mathew (LE.) | 1696 | |
| (34) | 38 WOODHOUSE, Grant (CU.) | 1644**** | |
| (42) | 39 SHIPWAY, Adam (DV.) | 1633 | |
| (35) | 40 COOPER, Mark (E.) | 1621* | |
| (41) | 41 CAMILLER, John (OX.) | 1619 | |
| (36) | 42 PEEBLES, Robin (LA.) | 1614** | |
| (33) | 43 HAYWARD, Gareth (WA.) | 1607 | |
| (38) | 44 MCQUEEN, Harris (LE.) | 1591** | |
| (41) | 45 MOSS, Richard (Y.) | 1570 | |
| (46) | 46 BOGEN, Niv (ML) | 1550 N | |
| (47) | 47 WYNN-SANDS, Dominic (GS.) | 1530 | |
| (39) | 48 SHUTES, William (NK.) | 1516 | |
| (53) | 49 POWELL, Neil (CH.) | 1502 | |
| (48) | 50 MANN, Alexander (SK.) | 1492** | |

Junior Girls

| Pos | Name | Rtg | Flg |
|-----|--------------------------|------|-----|
| (1) | 1 PARKER, Katy (LA.) | 3591 | |
| (2) | 2 WALKER, Georgina (NG.) | 3562 | |
| (3) | 3 DURRANT, Louise (NG.) | 3335 | |
| (4) | 4 BAWDEN, Natalie (E.) | 3318 | |
| (5) | 5 STEWARD, Kate (SO.) | 3124 | |
| (6) | 6 PARKER, Joanna (SY.) | 3115 | |

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|------|----------------------------------|--------|
| (7) | 7 CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.) | 2838 |
| (8) | 8 NARENDRA, Aparna (ML) | 2728 |
| (9) | 9 POINTER, Lucy (IW.) | 2653 |
| (10) | 10 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.) | 2642 |
| (11) | 11 ENBLING, Abigail (E.) | 2627 |
| (12) | 12 INGHAM, Katy (CH.) | 2444 |
| (13) | 13 WRIGHT, Amy (E.) | 2389 |
| (15) | 14 FLINT, Deborah (ST.) | 2374* |
| (16) | 15 BROWN, Grace (E.) | 2367* |
| (14) | 16 SPARKS, Aimee (SK.) | 2348 |
| (19) | 17 CALCUTT, Lisa (BK.) | 2313* |
| (20) | 18 CHEESMAN, Zoe (Y.) | 2286 |
| (17) | 19 WILSON, Naomi (SO.) | 2280 |
| (18) | 20 SORRENTINO, Annabelle (CH.) | 2242 |
| (22) | 21 TONG, Rebecca (LA.) | 2239 |
| (32) | 22 HOWARD, Clara (CH.) | 2217 |
| (21) | 23 TODD, Nicole (E.) | 2207 |
| (24) | 24 CRAVEN-GRIFFITHS, Kelly (LE.) | 2188 |
| (23) | 25 MEREDITH, Samantha (WA.) | 2185 |
| (27) | 26 ROBERTS, Hannah (LA.) | 2185 |
| (31) | 27 WHITE, Nicola (Y.) | 2167 |
| (26) | 28 GRAHAM, Cherith (LA.) | 2159 |
| (28) | 29 BROWN, Sarah (E.) | 2015* |
| (25) | 30 DONNELLY, Sarah (Y.) | 2000 |
| (30) | 31 RADFORD, Kerry (NG.) | 1995 |
| (23) | 32 BARNARD, Kimberley (LA.) | 1982 |
| (33) | 33 SIBLEY, Kelly (WA.) | 1953 |
| (37) | 34 SPINK, Lauren (NK.) | 1882 |
| (35) | 35 LANGFORD, Clare (CH.) | 1838 |
| (34) | 36 BARRETT, Michelle (DV.) | 1821 |
| (36) | 37 HUBBARD, Joanne (K.) | 1793 |
| (39) | 38 SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LL) | 1745 |
| (41) | 39 DAUNCEY, Stephanie (AV.) | 1632 |
| (38) | 40 VAJDI, Christina (ST.) | 1596 |
| (40) | 41 HUMAN, Amanda (BK.) | 1582 |
| (46) | 42 BELL, Emma (Y.) | 1570 |
| (42) | 43 STONE, Hannah (BK.) | 1555** |
| (44) | 44 WALLACE, Tanya (Y.) | 1546 |
| (43) | 45 HEARD, Gemma (E.) | 1515* |
| (46) | 46 GABEROWA, Iva (ML) | 1514 |
| (45) | 47 CLEMENSON, Jessica (E.) | 1486* |
| (52) | 48 HOLLETT | |

HORACE MALLETT

FOR a very long time the name of Horace Mallett, who died on Monday 8th January 2001, has been associated with the world of table tennis. He also held important positions in the Civil Service, rising to the position of HM Sheriff.

A man of considerable mental ability, Horace took a great interest in Guernsey affairs until the very end of his life. He was a good conversationalist and had strong views, which he expressed with vigour.

Educated at Melrose School and the State Boys' Intermediate, he entered the grocery and provisions trade in 1934, but in 1943 during the German occupation of Guernsey, he became a clerk with the Controlling Committee Essential Commodities.

In 1952 he transferred to the Public Works Department and later moved to the Labour and Welfare Committee. Then in 1968 Horace was appointed Deputy HM Sergeant and Secretary of the State's Prison Board, becoming HM Sheriff in 1979 where he remained until his retirement in 1985.

Away from the disciplines of his chosen career, Horace found relaxation in sport, and above all table tennis in which he excelled as a player.

It was at the age of 12 in 1931 that he became involved with table tennis when he was a member of the 4th Guernsey Town Church Scouts. He was impressed by the playing of Rover Scout Lloyd Strappini, and from then on he was hooked.

Horace played his part in bringing famous names to the island to play exhibition games. Then there was the big celebration to mark the 50th anniversary of table tennis in Guernsey, followed by the hosting of the Commonwealth Championships in 1977.

He was justly the recipient of the International Table Tennis Federation Award of Merit for outstanding service to the Commonwealth Table tennis Association. In 1991 he was made

a Personal Honorary Member of the Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation.

Among the positions he held was Guernsey Delegate, European Table Tennis Union, and a member of the International Table Tennis Federation.

He packed a great deal of activity into his life, always supported by his wife Helga.

Even when he retired he joined his wife in charity work, especially

with the Guernsey Motor Neurone Disease Association and the allied society Neuro Concern. Both he and Helga were particularly dedicated to these charities and worked hard towards keeping these solvent.

Here was a man who could have just enjoyed table tennis, and no more, but Horace took upon himself the burden of administration which must have involved burning the midnight oil on many occasions.

"Throughout table tennis, not just locally, but worldwide, the tireless work he did for the sport will never be forgotten," said Derek Webb, the President of Guernsey Table Tennis Association.

TIM WILTSHIRE

BECAUSE of a delay in receiving the obituary for Tim Wiltshire, due to be published this issue, it will now hopefully appear in the next issue.

COTSWOLD 4 STAR JUNIOR OPEN

HU KEI LI is a new name on the junior tournament circuit, having arrived in this country just 4 months ago. He is such a brilliant prospect that his future seems assured, writes Alf Pepperd.

In the Grade 1 Cadet Boys Singles nine and a half year old Hu Kei Li from Nottingham beat Tom Page (Ch). Hu is quite a formidable force to be faced, despite his extreme youth. Whilst in the Grade 1 Junior Boys Singles young master Hu Kei Li took the championship honours, with a great win over Richard Mess.

The 34th staging of the above took place at "The Cheltenham Recreation Centre" over the 27th & 28th of January 2001, there were 8 events on each respective day and taking each one in order of play (with the final scores at the end), this is how things developed.

On the first day of play the final of the Girls U14 Singles was a complete reversal of last years event in which Abigail Embling beat Lisa Calcutt (last years winner), in straight games.

The Boys U14 Singles was dominated by the top seed Gregory Baker who easily disposed of Tom Mitchell in the final.

The two Lauren's Springthorpe and Spink got to the final of the Girls Grade 1 Cadet Singles, only 1 point separated these two in the National rankings, but Spink ran out an easy two straight winner.

Karen Shepherd won the Open Girls U17 Singles final when she beat Nicola White following a very closely fought game.

The Boys U17 Singles was between Dominic Hall and Gregory Baker, with Hall running out the ultimate winner.

Kelly Sibley won the Grade 1 Junior Girls Singles by beating Lauren Springthorpe in the final.

One interesting factor emerged in this Tournament - all 8 events were determined in two straight wins, not one event went to three.

Local boy Michael Harvey reached the s/f of the Grade 1 Cadet Singles, likewise Harry Shahlaei in the Grade 1 Junior Singles.

Dominic Wynn-Sands beat the young chinese high flyer in the initial group Grade 1, but later lost to him in the U17 Junior Singles.

Media Coverage

TV Coverage was applied for but as often in the past NOT GRANTED, However BBC Radio Gloucestershire once again came to our rescue and LIVE broadcasts took place with Michael Harvey, Harry Shahlaei and George Novoth-our County Coach, I wound up the first days broadcasting at 5.50pm on the first day.

This Championship was a computer ranking tournament and is part of the Jarvis Sports Grand Prix Series.

RESULTS

Saturday 27th January 2001

Girls Singles U14:

Abigail Embling (E) bt Lisa Calcutt (Bk), 14,14.

Boys Singles U14:

Gregory Baker (St) bt Tom Mitchell (Bu), 10, 9.

Grade 1 Cadet Girls Singles:

Lauren Spink (Nk) bt Lauren Springthorpe (Li) 11,13.

Grade 1 Cadet Boys Singles:

Hu Kei Li (Ng) bt Tom Page (Ch), 15,12.

Sunday January 28th 2001

Girls Singles U17:

Karen Shepherd (Ch) bt Nicola White (Y), 21,15.

Boys Singles U17:

Dominic Hall (K) bt Gregory Baker (St), 19,16.

Grade 1 Junior Girls Singles:

Kelly Sibley (Wa) bt Lauren Springthorpe (Li) 20,16.

Grade 1 Junior Boys Singles:

Hu Kei Li (Ng) bt Richard Mess (York), 16,20.

SUVI SPORTSWEAR PREMIER WINNERS

SUVI SPORTSWEAR retained their Women's British League premier division title when this seasons programme was completed at Bishop Heber sports hall in Malpas, Cheshire over the week end of 27/28th January. The unfortunate late withdrawal of first half leaders Ulster Ladies had left this division wide open but two wins (plus a walkover) and two draws saw Suvi home, writes Brian Lamerton.

The victories were 4-2 against Hull Sandhill and 6-0 over Cippenham with draws against Horsham and the eventual runners-up Leeds Ladies. Suvi's Karen Smith lost but one set, 22-20 in the third to Hull's Joanna Roberts and was, as ever, well supported by Jill Harris (6 wins) and Sarah Smith (3). Leeds Ladies, long time supporters of the league, finished in their highest ever position and are now considering exercising their option to enter European competition next season. Leeds were represented by Clare Newns, Nicola

| PREMIER DIVISION | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--------------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Suvi Sportswear I | 10 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 38 | 22 | 14 |
| Leeds Ladies | 10 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 36 | 24 | 12 |
| Hull Sandhill I | 10 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 31 | 29 | 10 |
| Horsham Ladies | 10 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 31 | 29 | 10 |
| Ulster Ladies | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 21 | 39 | 9 |
| Cippenham I | 10 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 23 | 37 | 5 |
| FIRST DIVISION | | | | | | | |
| Scottish Ladies | 10 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 48 | 12 | 18 |
| Shinewater British Queen | 10 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 43 | 17 | 15 |
| Pinewood Fullerians | 10 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 36 | 24 | 14 |
| Global Sports | 10 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 23 | 37 | 6 |
| Ellenborough | 10 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 16 | 44 | 4 |
| Ashford | 10 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 14 | 46 | 3 |
| SECOND DIVISION | | | | | | | |
| SEH Windows and Doors | 10 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 44 | 16 | 17 |
| Norton Ladies | 10 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 43 | 17 | 16 |
| Midland Ladies | 10 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 29 | 31 | 11 |
| Sutton at Hone TTC | 10 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 20 | 40 | 6 |
| Cippenham II | 10 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 23 | 37 | 5 |
| Norwich Gels I | 10 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 21 | 39 | 5 |
| THIRD DIVISION | | | | | | | |
| Halton Table Tennis | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 49 | 11 | 20 |
| Darlington | 10 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 36 | 24 | 12 |
| Hull Sandhill II | 10 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 34 | 26 | 11 |
| Byng Hall | 10 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 31 | 29 | 11 |
| Suvi Sportswear II | 10 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 23 | 37 | 6 |
| Norwich Gels II | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 7 | 53 | 0 |

Silburn and "woman of the week end" Rebecca Sparkes. Leeds 6-love drubbing of former champions Horsham was perhaps the most surprising result of the whole week end.

Despite dropping points in drawn matches with second team Shinewater British Queen and third placed Pinewood Fullerians Scottish Ladies retained their position at the head of division one and together with Shinewater will sample premier division play next season. Scottish Nicola Bentley was the only player to remain unbeaten in both of these drawn matches and remained unbeaten throughout the week end. Seven wins from Claire Bentley and 6 from Gillian Edwards completed the Scottish score. Shinewater, who were defeated 4-2 by Pinewood (Catherine Davies and Sarah Seaholme 2 each) were represented by Rosemary Rainton (8 wins), Sara Coggin (7) and Sheila King (6).

Despite defeating an injury stricken SEH Windows and Doors in the final match Norton Ladies were unable to



PREMIER CHAMPIONS: SUVI SPORTSWEAR, Karen Smith, Jill Harris, and Sarah Smith, proudly display their winners trophies.





'Team of the Weekend' and Third Division runner-up DARLINGTON (left), SARAH NOUCH, SHIRLEY GELDER and KATE VICKERS. Pictured receiving their trophies from Councillor Charles Higgle. Picture below is ALAN HARWOOD being presented a 'Special Award' by Organiser CHRISTINE LEWIS



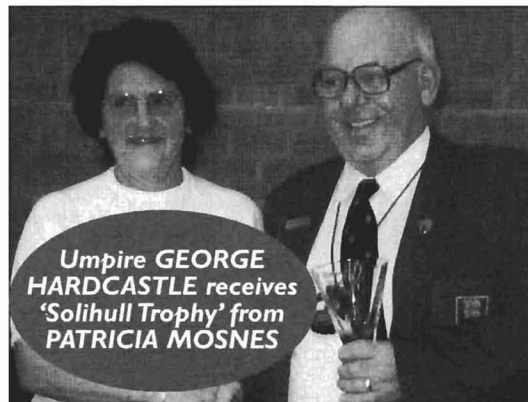
Eight wins for ROSE RAINTON of Shinewater British Queens

overtake their opponents at the head of division two although both will qualify for promotion. SEH Vicky Gray returned a 100% average from ten visits to the table, Sarah Steadman winning 7 from 10 and Clair Emmerson 5 from 8. Julie Fawkes was Norton's most successful player (7 from 10) whilst Pauline Steele's 8 victories were insufficient to lift Norwich Gels off bottom place.

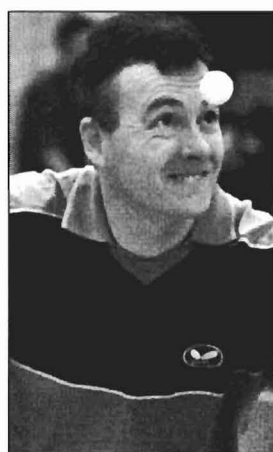
As expected Halton Table Tennis romped away with division three, the only team in the whole league with a 100% record so congratulations to Gemma Lloyd, Katy Ingham, Brenda Buoeuy and Nicola James; Lloyd and Ingham were each defeated but once only at Malpas and Buoeuy not at all; Lloyd losing 21-17 in the third to Darlington's Shirley Gelder and Ingham, also 21-17 in the third, to Heidi Smith of Byng Hall "Team of the week end" Darlington just made second spot by drawing with both their close rivals Hull Sandhill and Byng Hall and in both matches Shirley Gelder, Sarah Nouch and Kate Vickers won one set each.- a real team effort.

The Solihull Trophy presented to a player, coach, administrator or official who has in any way enhanced the Women's British league was, by club nomination, awarded to umpire George Hardcastle and another long time supportive umpire, Alan Harwood, was presented with an occasional award engraved "for being special". County Councillor Charles Higgle presided at both opening and presentation ceremonies and we were all well looked after by the sports and catering staff of Bishop Heber High school which is a specialist language college.

This friendly, but highly competitive, competition has now completed thirteen seasons and the committee are keen to see it restored to its former glory of 30 teams - applications should be made to the organiser, Christine Lewis (0117 962 0877)



Umpire GEORGE HARDCASTLE receives 'Solihull Trophy' from PATRICIA MOSNES



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CALENDAR

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-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 East Lancs 3 Star
- 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
Bracknell
- 28th-29th VETTS Southern Masters

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)
- 12th Wellow House School U10/12/14 Newark
- 12th-13th South Yorkshire Open (Major)
Butterfly Grand Prix Sheffield
- 19th-20th VETTS National Masters Thornbury, Bristol
- 19th-20th English Junior National Championships
- 26th Mid-Yorkshire Junior 2 Star
- 25th-27th International Junior Championships
of Slovakia Malacky, Slovakia
- 26th-27th National Team Championships

JUNE

- 1st-3rd Idea Polish Youth Open Poland
- 2nd-3rd Butterfly Grand Prix Finals Potters Leisure Resort
- 2nd-4th International Youth Cup Hasselt, Belgium
- 3rd-4th 14th Deutschland Cup Trier, Germany
- 9th-10th National U10/11/12 Championships
- 23rd-24th Schools International
- 30th ETTA Annual General Meeting