

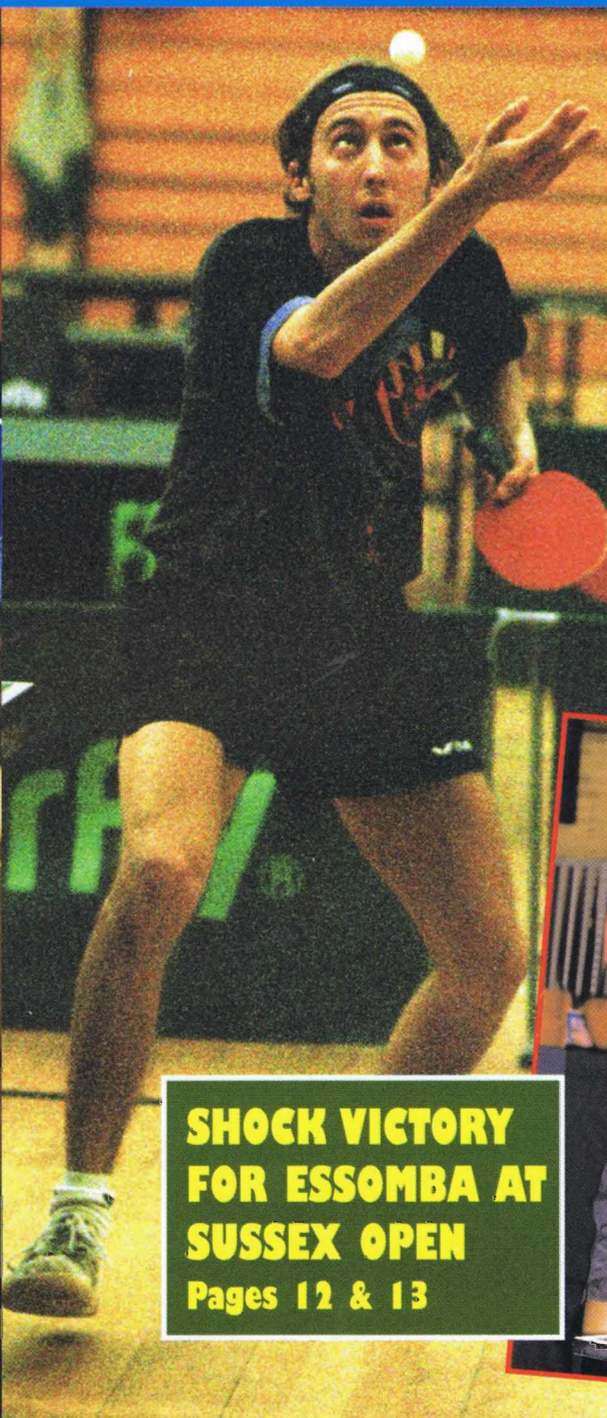
TABLE TENNIS



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No.273 NOVEMBER 2000

NEWS



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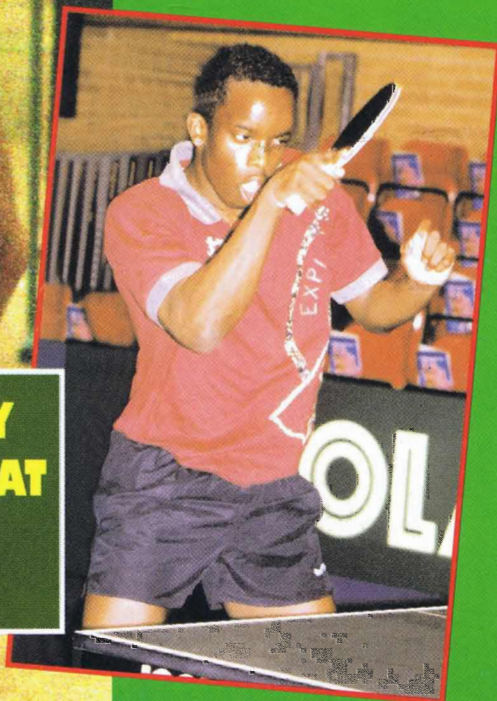
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HERBERT'S BEST WEEKEND

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TABLE TENNIS NEWS & TTN EXTRA

The Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association

Issue No.273
November 2000

Publisher
English Table Tennis Association
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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

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A BABY BOY FOR LISA

LISA LOMAS the darling of recent Womens English table tennis, has achieved another winner - this time not in table tennis but in the world of babies by becoming a mother.

On 11th October 2000 Lisa gave birth to a bouncing baby boy named Louis James Lomas, weighing in at 6 lb. 5oz.

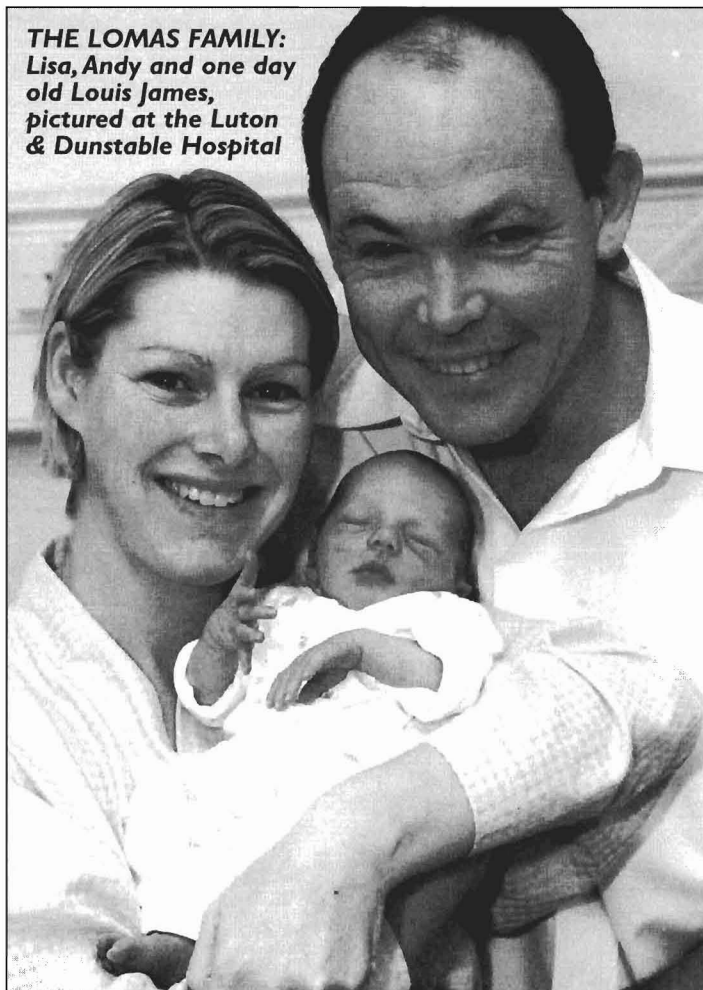
Baby Louis, who was born by an emergency caesarean, is now well on the road to recovery and doing fine. As is his mother.

Lisa said: "Being my parents first grandchild I think he is going to be spoilt. By the way he has big hands and big feet, so he will probably not play table tennis, so I think Louis is more likely to be a football goalkeeper like his father Andy."

Although Lisa is now retired from active table tennis, while she was pregnant, she has been active in helping other sports people, by being a member the 'Bedfordshire Olympic Appeal Committee', and helped to raise £20,000 to send athletes to Sydney.

NEW VENTURE

THE Southend & District Table Tennis League are entering into a new venture by running a Woolwich Junior Table Tennis League from the week commencing 6th. November. The Woolwich Building Society will sponsor the League by providing trophies, medals, handbooks, certificates, newsletters and



THE LOMAS FAMILY: Lisa, Andy and one day old Louis James, pictured at the Luton & Dunstable Hospital

stationery.
The League will operate from four

venues: The Warehouse Centre - the Rawreth Table Tennis Club (Friday evening 7:30-9:30); The Hullbridge Sports & Social Club, Lower Road, Hullbridge (Friday evening 7:30-9:30); The South Essex Table Tennis School, The Junior Training Centre, Cranes Farm Road [South-east end], Basildon (Friday evening 7:30-9:30) and St.Peters Church Hall, Church Road, Thundersley (Thursday evening 7:30-9:30). The teams will consist of two players, from a squad of three or more playing in rotation). We are anticipating nine teams taking part. The match format will be that each team will play four singles and one doubles set, each consisting of the best of five games, which are scored up to 11 points, subject to a two point winning margin, with each player taking a turn at umpiring.

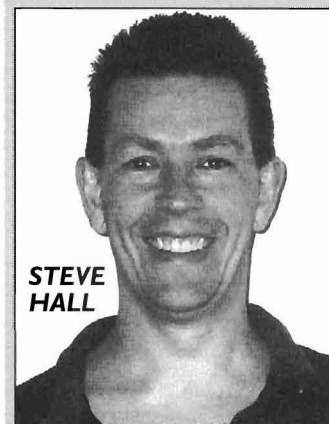
Southend TTL are encouraged by the interest shown by the juniors and hope that it will prove to be an exciting development. If anyone should be interested in taking part they will be pleased to hear from them, as there may be a few vacancies.

WOODY'S World

IT was really lovely to hear the news that Lisa Lomas gave birth to baby Louis James, last month. What a great picture (this page) of family happiness and joy.

Another family, the Hall's, are also celebrating after travelling in strength from South Wales, to the Sussex Open in Hastings, last month.

Steve followed up his triumph in Solihull, where he won the Mens



STEVE HALL

Singles, by winning the Mens Band 1 Singles title, once again mesmerising his opponents with his 'Dr. Neubauer Super Special' long pimped rubber. Steve's 13 year old daughter Laura won the Womens band 3, and his other daughter 11 year old Sarah triumphantly winning the Womens Band 4, whilst his 10 year son Sean nearly won a game.

Winners of the Mens and Womens singles at Hastings were Marco Essomba and Barbara Kiss, respectively, see pages 12 and 13.

Recently I visited Paignton to cover the Clare Pengelly Memorial Butterfly Grand Prix tournament, and I was very pleased to have been present to witness Alex Perry's coming of age in the Mens Singles, where he defeated Alan Cooke in the final. National Champion Nicola Deaton proved her class in winning the Womens Singles crown. See pages 14 and 15.

This issue also sees published the Womens British League report by Brian Lamerton, on page 29. This article was written from home as Brian had unfortunately badly sprained his ankle, leaving him unable to walk or drive.

Get well soon Brian.
John Wood

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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MAJOR BOOST FOR THE YOUNGER GENERATION



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

BOTH the English Table Tennis Association and the European Table Tennis Union have announced new programmes in the last month or so to boost participation and playing standards amongst the younger age categories. This follows a pattern which has been commonplace in China for many years where youngsters of under 10 years have already developed very good skills and are playing table tennis seriously. China have dominated the women's game for many years and, together with some of the top Europeans, have been the best in the world in the men's game. At the recent Olympics China swept the board winning all four gold medals.

The initiatives in England stem from recommendations of the ETTA Performance Director, Michel Gadat, who is keen to see a higher standard of youngsters fighting for places in the World Class programme.

Michel recognises that this can only be achieved if the standard of play amongst the youngsters throughout the country is significantly improved. In England there will be four new programmes commencing this season:

1) Regional Squads

With co-operation between the ETTA Selection, World Class, Teaching & Training and Development departments, each of the ten ETTA Regions are in the process of forming a new Cadet Squad with players in Under 10, Under 12 and Under 14 age levels. The intention is that each squad will meet between 15 and 30 days per year under the direction of a professional head coach approved by Michel Gadat. It is intended that each of the Regional Squads will receive a visit from one of the World class coaches during the season. The sessions will be held on weekends and in school holidays. Some regions have already commenced their programme whilst others are due to start shortly.

2) National Competition for Regional Squad teams

To provide competition for each of the ten Regional Squads, a national competition for the squads will take place on 29th April at Fenton Manor in Stoke. Each regional team will consist of 12 players, six boys and six girls, two of whom must be under 10, two under 12 and two under 14. Each match will consist of 12 singles. The ten regions will play in two groups of five, plus one cross over match for the final ranking, so playing five team matches in all during the day. Members of the winning team will be invited to attend a training camp at the ETTA National Centre in Nottingham.

This competition is being organised by the ETTA Competitions Department with support from Teaching & Training, Selection and Development.

3) Cadet National League

The Development Department have launched a new competition for the coming season, the Cadet National League. This will follow the same format of the highly popular National Junior League which was established four years ago and will be held in the coming season with approximately 200 club teams participating. The Cadet National League will take place over four single weekend days, club teams will consist of three players for each match playing two singles each, six in total. The competition will be played at eight venues geographically spread throughout the country with three or four matches taking place on each of the allocated dates. The winners of each of the regional leagues will qualify for the national finals which are to be played at the end of the season. The first three dates have been fixed as December 16, February 3 and March 31 with the fourth date and final to be arranged.



ETTA Performance Director MICHEL GADAT

Entry forms are available from the organiser, Mike Lewis, 31 Comb Paddock, Bristol BS9 4UG Tel. 0117 962 0877. Any clubs wishing to participate for the coming season should contact Mike immediately as places are limited and entries close before the end of November.

4) FAST TRACK TRAINING FOR ADVANCED COACHES

In a bid to improve the standard of high level coaching in England the World Class programme in conjunction with the Teaching and Training Department are holding an intensive course for the Regional Squad coaches mentioned above and coaches working within the ETTA Premier Clubs of excellence and advanced levels. The intention is to offer 20 days training over the next year at the ETTA National Training Centre in Nottingham. On some occasions the coaches will be able to bring some of their players with them to the National Centre. The course will be staffed by Michel Gadat, Soran Ahlen, Jai Liu and other members of the World Class professional team. The initial dates are 14 January, 10 February at the English Open, 25 March and three days during the school holidays.

In medium term, our aim is to encourage the establishment of cadet and under 12 squads within our Premier Clubs throughout the country and to assist the coaches to upgrade their knowledge of high level table tennis. The Premier Club squads would compete against each other for regional and national honours as well as benefit from their best players involvement in regular training within the regional squads.

EURO KIDS

With the intention of boosting European chances of gold medals in future Olympic Games, the European Table Tennis Union are introducing a programme designed to bring the best boys and girls aged between 10

FROM THE CHAIR - 2

and 12 together for free intensive training camps each year. National associations will have the opportunity to nominate their best prospects who have the skill, correct mental approach and dedication to be future Olympic Champions. The successful applicants will be invited to attend these camps together with their National Coaches. The first of the training camps is being scheduled for the new Italian National Training Centre which holds approximately 40 tables in Terni near Rome in the 2001 Easter holidays. A second camp is scheduled for late August, with the third camp immediately prior to Christmas. The duration of these camps will be approximately seven days. Nomination for these camps is restricted to players selected by their National Associations and selection will be made by the ETTU Teaching & Training Committee whose chairman is the former Swedish National coach, Glenn Osth.

NEW FACILITY DEVELOPMENTS

I am pleased to see that the ETTA policy of encouraging the provision of new facilities for table tennis is continuing to make progress with news of five further developments underway. A new facility for **Okehampton** is under construction in the centre of the town and is due for completion in early 2001. The new centre which will house six match tables or 8-10 for practice and coaching and is the initiative of

the Okehampton Table Tennis Club and in particular Colin McLean and Duane Elliott, with support from Simon Essex a local businessman and John Pettit the architect. The cost of the construction is in excess of £300,000 with funding and support from the Sport England Lottery Fund and the Foundation for Sports and the Arts. The facility will be managed entirely by the club and will include a secondary activity room, social area with catering facilities, plus changing rooms and toilets.

Work has also commenced on a new centre for the English Champions **Progress Table Tennis Club** at the Ealing Tertiary college in North London. This is a new build sports centre with a hall big enough for six match tables just for table tennis and has a multi sports hall which can cater for nine tables. A full range of additional facilities including a fitness suite etc will be included and the total cost is in excess of £3,000,000 with funding from the Sport England Lottery Fund and the College. The key people involved in this development have been Jon Kaufman the ETTA Regional Development Officer for London and David Rooney of Ealing Tertiary College.

One of the West Midlands' long established clubs, **Woodfield in Wolverhampton** is in the process of developing a new table tennis playing hall for four match tables. The multi sports club project also includes four new tennis courts and additional facilities in the club pavilion. The scheme is currently at the detailed

design stage with completion anticipated by the end of next year. The total cost of the project is in excess of £1,000,000 with funding from the Club itself and the Sport England Lottery Fund. The key people behind this programme are John Harvey and Sandra Roden.

Fellows Cranleigh of East London, another long standing famous table tennis club whose former members include players such as Chester Barnes and Stuart Gibbs, have linked with Barking Abbey Specialist Sports College in which the club have taken over the school gym for every evening of the week. One of the key movers behind this development is another famous international, Lesley Radford together with her husband, Peter, plus John Tendler and Faizal Mauthoor.

Northfield School in Billingham is another Specialist Sports College which has recently opened a new wing to its sports facility to house six match tables. The school also has other sports facilities which enable up to 20 tables to be used for coaching and school competitions. Northfield School is linked very closely with the Stockton League and the Kiora Table Tennis Club which recently lost its premises has been accommodated within the new facility. Table tennis is one of the key focus sports at the school and as part of its table tennis plan have recently appointed Jane Durham, one of the North East top lady players, as a full time professional coach operating an extensive

programme of coaching and competitions within the school and in a network of nearby primary schools that feed into the college. Northfield has also developed strong links with the Ormesby Club and joint training sessions between the two organisations take place regularly. The key person in the Northfield School is one of the teachers, Steve Burge, who has been running table tennis at the school for many years and is also the Cleveland Schools secretary.

Specialist sports colleges are now expanding all over the country and provide an ideal partner for table tennis clubs who need new or additional facilities and are ready to work in partnership with a college.

ENGLISH OPEN

Arrangements are progressing well for the English Open Championships which are due to take place at the new Buckmore Park Leisure Centre in Chatham, Kent between 6 - 11 February 2001. A very strong entry from the region of 40 countries is anticipated. The Chinese TTA have already advised us that they are hoping to send a strong team. We can also expect the majority of leading European countries including Sweden, France and Germany to participate. From a spectator perspective the Buckmore Centre is very accessible particularly for residents in the South East of England as it is located next to the M2 motorway just south of the M25 link.

TABLE TENNIS on TV

Event	Date of Transmission	Time of Transmission	Channel
Italian Open	10.11.00	23.00	Sky Sports 3 Digital
Italian Open	11.11.00	09.00	Sky Sports 2 Digital
Italian Open	11.11.00	11.30	Sky Sports 3 Digital
Italian Open	11.11.00	15.30	Sky Sports 3 Digital
Italian Open	13.11.00	13.00	Sky Sports 2 Digital
European Champions League Ochsenhausen v Levallois	13.11.00	15.00	Eurosport
French Open	18.11.00	15.30	Sky Sports 3 Digital
French Open	20.11.00	16.00	Sky Sports 3 Digital
French Open	21.11.00	15.00	Sky Sports 2 Digital
Polish Open	09.12.00	12.30	Sky Sports 2 Digital
Polish Open	09.12.00	24.00	Sky Sports 2 Digital
Polish Open	11.12.00	15.00	Sky Sports 2 Digital
Swedish Open	15.12.00	18.00	Sky Sports 3 Digital
Swedish Open	15.12.00	22.00	Sky Sports 2 Digital
Swedish Open	16.12.00	03.00	Sky Sports 2 Digital
Swedish Open	16.12.00	12.30	Sky Sports 3 Digital
Swedish Open	17.12.00	06.00	Sky Sports 1 Digital
European Champions League Kalmar v Charleroi	18.12.00	15.00	Eurosport

RICHARD YULE
English Open
Tournament
Director



The two showcase days are Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th February with the last 16 and quarter final matches being played on the Saturday and the semi-finals and finals on the Sunday. Whilst details are still to be finalised, it is likely that Sky Sports will be covering the finals live. The distribution of promotional materials and tickets are in the process of being prepared and will be despatched shortly. Tournament Director is Richard Yule, and further information can be obtained from the Tournament Organiser, Harvey Webb, at the ETTA Head Office in Hastings.

Alan Ransome, ETTA Chairman

POSTBAG

NATIONAL COUNCILLORS?

As organiser of the National Junior league I talk to many coaches, parents, team secretaries. When the discussion moves on to topics outside my remit of the NJL I always refer these activists to their National Councillor for a solution. Responses to this suggestion would imply that all is not well with the idea of NCs representing the views of their county membership. Are there terms of reference for a NC, are they obliged to go out and seek the opinions of the leagues, do they regularly go to league events and talk to players, are opinions sought about agenda items at Council, are their names and contact addresses known to players, do they issue a manifesto when elected? Certainly one opportunity to circulate was missed on the 14th October when the Council meeting was at Walsall. 60 teams from all over the country were playing in the Junior British League only a few miles away at Wolverhampton and yet I saw only Lancashire and Derbyshire Councillors there. 2 out of 40!

Mike Payne
Organiser of National Junior League Leicestershire

LACK OF BRITISH LEAGUE PUBLICITY

I see that the ETTA have not updated their own website showing British League results for ANY of the divisions, except the Premier.

On top of this, there have been no results for their division - and this includes the press.

Do I conclude the ETTA has given up attempting to publicise the British league?

Graham Carter
Press Officer, Horsbam Table Tennis Club and Sports Editor, Crawley Observer

SOREN AHLEN INTERVIEW

THE above (TT News Sept.) represents a welcome development in terms of actually discussing in

public what was hitherto kept private and secret. I would not argue with 90% of what Soren Ahlen tells us. He finds it strange that people (here) write letters rather than telephone. He obviously does not know our tradition in recent years of ignoring practically everything that members or parents (of juniors) have to say. If they write, they at least feel they have recorded their reservations and pleas.

Despite vast funds we now achieve results substantially worse overall than in the days we operated on a shoestring under the management of Don Parker. Insufficient time has been devoted to the discussion and solution of such facts. I have heard the complaint, which seems justified, that there is too much 'interference' from the funding body, from people, who, in the nature of things, do not know our sport. One realises that they have a duty to make sure that funds are well and honestly spent, but they seem to lack the essential fundamentals of knowledge of our sport. No doubt, from the best of intentions, conditions have been imposed which have helped to bring about the present problems.

Mr Ahlen records that he found a playing staff worse than that he had on his previous short spell with us, viz "Carl Prean refuses now to play (for England)". Others have stopped playing, he mentions Alan Cooke and Bradley Billington, but omits the complete ladies' team of Lisa Lomas, Andrea Holt and Nicola Deaton.

As Lady Bracknell might say, it may be careless to lose one player, but so many? Is it not basic good management to ask why? One may, probably wrongly, describe one or two players as "difficult" or that "they have had enough", but such vast losses must point to a much deeper malaise.

I think the basic fault is the absurd theory that players can live on air or on their parents and it is voiced most often by coaches who are very well paid these days. Our coaches feel entitled to issue orders or bestow selections which may keep both unpaid and underpaid players away from both their homes and any chance of earning a living for weeks at a time. This is and remains a basically ridiculous situation and our best players have opted out of it, much as they may like to "play for

continued on page 8

COURTSIDE

by John Woodford

• **BOTH** in Delhi and in Osaka next April and May, it now seems likely that I shall be occupying a lonely role, unaccompanied by John Prean, as the 'Last of the Mohicans'. I did not seriously expect John to come to India with its medical hazards but I had hopes that he might just enjoy watching the world championships in the comfortable Media seating in Osaka.

• **HIS** technical knowledge of the sport is of course, superior to many other people and his enjoyment at writing is plain to see over many years. My hope was, that as Osaka will see the team events and individual events together for the last time, he might be tempted to see it for himself and give us all his opinions and the pearls of wisdom that so frequently are sent off from the Isle of Wight on the famous buff paper!

• **NICOLA DEATON** continues to make space in the national press with her continuing boycott of the England administration. I was pleased to read in The Guardian that "she may be repairing the rift that has seen her refuse to play for England for two years". I hope that is true, but I have my doubts.

• **SHE** has known for a long time that if there were major changes at the top of the England coaching structure, the rules on pay for the senior professionals would stay the same, unless anyone like Matthew Syed manages to reach the top areas of the world ranking list.

• **OUR** players have advantages at Nottingham unheard of not long ago, most of all, chances to practice regularly with top players now including guests like the Welsh prodigy Adam Robertson, who carries my label as Britain's brightest prospect in his age group.

• **AS** Nicola joins the Uxbridge club at Burton-on-Trent for an alleged four-figure sum, plays regularly in France and increases her involvement in the British Grand Prix, what other possible conclusion can be reached for the squad boycott?

• **SHE** is now off the world ranking list. She wants to earn as much money as possible as a professional. She also is looking towards a career in teaching and is doing well down that road.

• **WHAT** she does NOT want is to return to the England squad and find herself up against a brick wall comprising Russians, Ukrainians, Hungarians, few of whom she is likely to beat.

• **WE** all enjoy winning, we do not enjoy losing. Many professionals the world over pick and choose their events - Jan-Ove Waldner does it all the time, although as a millionaire he can well afford to do so.

• **THE** pressure on Nicola to don an England shirt could be greatest eighteen months ahead when table tennis joins the Commonwealth Games in Manchester. Let us hope she accepts that challenge.

• **AFTER** watching Courtside at Solihull, Cheltenham and Cardiff, there seems to very little controversy on the Big Ball. The vast majority of players have accepted it with very few complaints, although some makes of the 40mm missile are more fragile than others.

• **ON THE 11** points scoring, again, the players on the whole are happy. On the serving however, changing every two points will win the day, changing after five will get very little, if any, support.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR continued

England", or they have taken up coaching which is so much better paid. Great disappointment is felt and expressed, rightly or wrongly, that the top coaches have not fought the players' corner.

There has been endless spouting about "youth policies" but one noted that the Swedes had won both European and World Championships men's team titles with a couple of 35 year olds.

Recording that a player "refuses" to play for England is hardly sufficient - a good manager will try to find out why. He will try to have a relationship where such things do not happen and that is part of good management. Mr Ahlen does not need me to record our performances in the World championships, the worst in our history by a very long way.

I have to record that in the days of Don Parker management and relationships were such that things which upset players and hurt our chances of success were thrashed out. Plenty of rows and misunderstandings resulted, but in the end we were a respected nation capable of winning European medals.

I do not particularly blame Mr Ahlen (whom I do not know), but

somehow the "collective wisdom" at work has failed us and the big debate as to how to escape a quagmire of our own making does not seem to be taking place.

My warm thanks again to Brian Halliday and Ken Muhr for such an interesting piece, both what is revealed and what is between the lines.

*John Pream
(Chairman ETTA 1987-91)*

SPIN DOCTOR

CAN you please instil within the mind of John Woodford that he is not a 'spin doctor'. It is becoming rather tedious reading his article which tries to convince us that reforms proposed with regard to scoring are the best thing since sliced bread. And I can assure him that despite his report, the 'new ball' is not being received favourably (and it's not so durable either).

As far as the grass roots are concerned the introduction of the two colour bat was heresy, the farcical increase in ball size has done nothing to improve the game and tinkering with the scoring system is simply going to lead to more discontent.

It's all well and good saying the players questioned about the experimental scoring up to 11 were happy with it, but you must first accept that these were the ones who were already 'captive' to start with, having entered into the competition. The real question one must ask, along with questioning the new ball size, is 'Are the changes beneficial to the game and do the majority of players within the country feel that they have or will improve their enjoyment of their sport'.

As far as I can fathom out, these changes are designed to make our sport more entertaining for the spectator. It's the player that counts, not the minimal number of Internationals, but the vast majority who have no desire to see further changes. The majority of us can count up to 21, and even beyond, so we don't need the game simplified. (In any event, changing serve every two points is hardly likely to simplify anything).

Before we are subjected to further change, lets have a vote on it, and I don't mean by a selected few. Ask the majority of affiliated players their opinion, otherwise you might well find the number of affiliated players is likely to dwindle.

Personally, I've always been concerned about the gradual decline in participation in our sport, but having made efforts to redress this, I am getting very frustrated by the actions of the E.T.T.A. in trying to hammer in more nails.

*Colin Wiles
Sheppy, Kent*

Editor's Note: Actually these new rules are international, as they are ITTF rules, and as the ETTA is a member of the International Table Tennis Federation, we have to adhere to these new regulations. The '40mm Ball' is now in worldwide use and as the old 38mm ball is no longer in production, it is impossible to return to the smaller size. The proposed new scoring system, which is experimental this season in England and is only being used in the Butterfly Grand Prix circuit, is likely to become law next season. With most players to date surveyed preferring the two service option, as the five serves alternative gives unfair advantage to the player with heavy spin serves. Many administrators and players were surveyed worldwide and in their opinion the game of table tennis needed changing and shortening. Many league players in England that you refer to, actually have taken on board the new 40mm ball with an open mind, and now like it. Myself, I actually struggled to get to grips with it at first, but I now prefer it because it has slowed down the speed giving me more time to play my shots, and as I no longer have 20-20 vision, I can now see the ball clearer, picking up it's flight much quicker.

PLEASE HELP

I was a guest of the ETTA in Birmingham for Euro'94 with my pin and badge collection.

I now need help from my friends in England once again, as I am preparing a Table Tennis Museum in Germany.

I have already been kindly helped by Ron Craydon and Colin Clemett, from whom I was able to get a huge amount of programmes of English Opens and Worlds.

I am still looking for programmes of the English Open from their start to 1936, plus 1938, 1994 and after 1996.

For the World's I am looking for 1928, '29, '30, '31, '32, '33, '34, '36, '37, 1975 and 1987.

I would be very happy if you could help me. Thankyou in advance.

*Gunther Angenendt,
Langacker 10a,
44869 Bochurn, Germany.
Tel/Fax: 0049 2327 77117*

continued on page 10

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR continued

continued from page 8

OLDEST ON TV

HAVING just read TT News in which there is talk about TV coverage, I thought readers would like to know that I too have been on TV.

In July I was invited to play in the World Corporate Games in Aberdeen where there were 19,000 competitors in 24 different sports, and I was the oldest lady, at 81 years, across the board.

I was interviewed by Sky TV. I found this quite scary, but someone who saw it said that it was okay and surely they wouldn't have told me if it had been awful. I was also interviewed by Grampian and they sent me a tape which delighted me.

I'm sure they made me look much better than I am and my voice surprised me, I didn't know that I sounded so posh - I don't very much like people who talk like that.

Grampian not only interviewed me but also showed me actually playing.

I was entered as a 60+ player but as there weren't any other players of that age in table tennis, I entered in the under 35 event and won it.

Obviously this seems impossible, but unbeknown to me we played with the new bigger 40mm ball, and

it evidently suited me. I think it slowed down my opponents, just enough to give me more time to play my shots.

I hadn't even seen this new ball before!

Dolly Harmer

Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire

JUNIOR SUPPORT

WHILE initiatives to support junior table tennis such as the Jarvis Sports Junior Grand Prix are very welcome, I would like to see more coverage of juniors and junior competition in Table Tennis News and TTN Extra. We do receive occasional reports on junior tournaments, not enough but there is little talent identifying, profiling, career monitoring and discussion on up-and-coming stars. I wondered whether there was any person out there, knowledgeable and objective enough to write a regular feature on similar lines to With the Juniors penned by Laurie Landry some 30-40 years ago? Any responses to John Wood, Editor, or myself please, but note that it would have to be a job done for love, not financial reward! Meanwhile, more contributions on the national junior scene please. Our players of the future deserve recognition and

encouragement.

Ken Muhr

ETTA Information Officer (Editor of TTN Extra)

ROY RETIRES

IT was with sadness that I heard that ROY PUGH that stalwart of coaching in Kent, has decided to hang up his coaching bat.

Roy has been one of those rare breed of coaches that since time began for so it seems has quietly and without any fuss, just got on with the job. Never has he asked for praise or recognition, never has he been unprofessional in his manner towards players or fellow coaches and never has he decried the state of table tennis. His passion for table tennis has carried him through even the darkest of hours and his love of the game has enthused countless numbers of players both young and old over many, many years.

Roy's involvement in table tennis is both wide and varied. Apart from his years of coaching in Kent and London - many will remember his time at St Bride's - he has been the Regional Coaching Chairman for the South-East Region and the Kent representative to this same coaching committee. Roy was one of the first

tutors for coach education and his down to earth approach will be remembered by many as their inspiration for joining the coaching fraternity. Roy has worked for the ITTF as tutor, running numerous coach education course far and wide. Unfortunately, it was on one of these trips, that Roy picked up a virus that has the habit of returning periodically and this has influenced his decision to quit.


I personally, have the fondest memories of time spent coaching with Roy, both at the Littlehampton summer camps and on his own patch in Margate (where I always left several pounds heavier than when I arrived, thanks to the excellent fare served up by Roy's wife Margaret).

I have appreciated Roy's honest and blunt approach to coaching, and always valued his opinions, so his decision to retire is a great loss to table tennis and in particular to coaching. People like Roy are hard to replace. However, Roy has earned his 'freedom', and so on behalf of the ETTA, I send our best wishes to Roy and our sincere thanks for all his dedication to the sport.

Gail McCulloch

ETTA Vice Chairman, Teaching & Training

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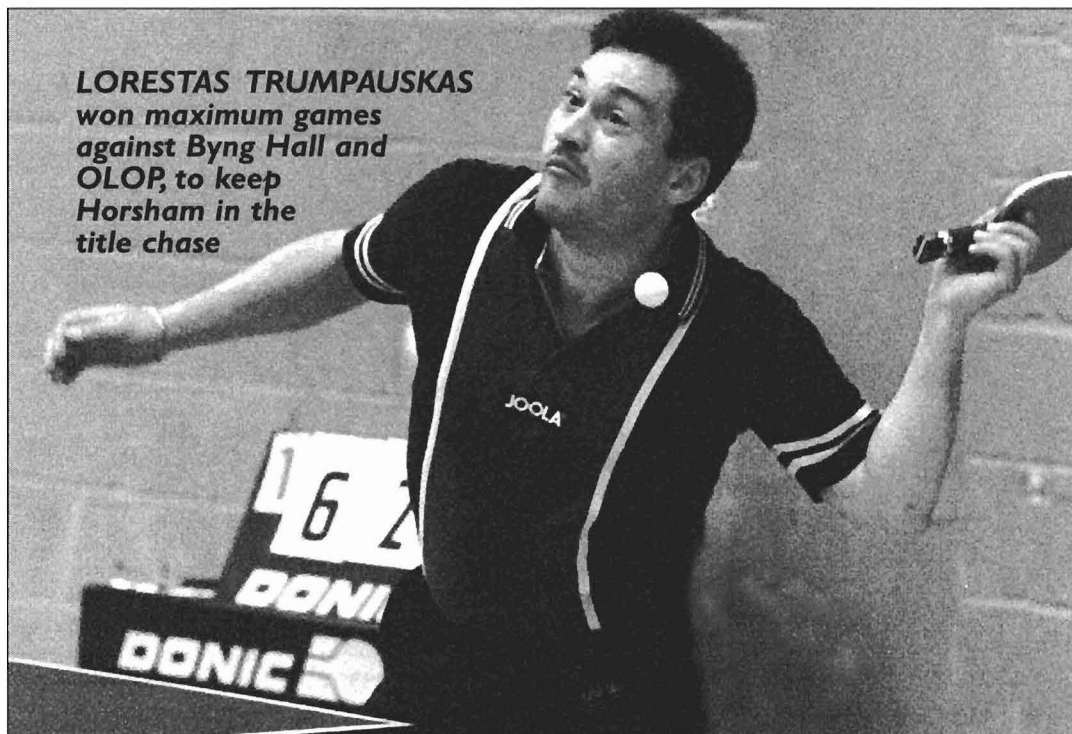
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BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR PROGRESS



LORESTAS TRUMPAUSKAS
won maximum games against Byng Hall and OLOP, to keep Horsham in the title chase

THE British League champions London Progress, started the new season in the Premiership showing that they are all out to retain the title when they defeated newly promoted Norwich Todd Foxwood 13-1 in their opening match of the new campaign. Their team of Cris Sladden, Marco Essomba, Jason Sugrue and Christian Hundhausen completely dominated the match with Norwich's only success coming when Leeroy Pye beat Sugrue late in the day, writes Aubrey Drapkin.

Progress then visited the other newly promoted side Byng Hall Farningham Print, with Eli Baraty replacing Hundhausen but this time they were made to fight all the way to pick up both points. The match was eventually won in the last set of the day when Essomba beat Mark Romano.

Player of the match was without a doubt the Byng Hall number one, Mark Brown, who recorded victories over Essomba, Sladden and Sugrue. Phil Cox, Andy Cunningham and Romano all beat Baraty but Progress took both doubles sets, the final

score being 8-6.

By contrast, Horsham defeated Byng Hall 13-1 on the opening day with Lorestas Trumpauskas, Adrian Moore and Nigel Eckersley all unbeaten. Dominic Hall picked up two sets, losing only to Cunningham in the final set of the day.

The Sussex side then visited OLOP and again got into double figures with an 11-3 victory. Ritchie Venner was back in their team in place of Hall and he duly won all three of his sets, as did Trumpauskas with Eckersley and Moore notching two apiece.

Stephen Beerling was successful against Eckersley, Justin Goodall beat Moore and the doubles combination of Goodall and Robert Pountney narrowly defeated Venner and Trumpauskas.

Last years runners up Darlington took on Harvey Barnet on the first day of the season without any of their foreign legion and only just managed to take both points with an 8-6 win, having trailed 1-3 in the opening stages. Eddie Smith (3) John Hilton (2) Louis Rosenthal (2) and the doubles pairing of Smith and Andrew Wilkinson got the eight sets for the North Eastern side whilst

a 14-0 win for Darlington. Early indications are that Norwich are going to struggle in the top flight whilst Darlington will again be in contention for the title.

JAGS also look as though they are in for a tough time in the Premiership having lost 4-10 at home to OLOP and then 6-8 away to Barnet.

Clive Carthy (2) Tom Cutler and the doubles pair of John Dennison and Cutler got their sets against OLOP whilst Cutler and Abdul Wuraola got two each at Barnet. OLOP's David Barr and Justin Goodall were both unbeaten against JAGS as was Barnet's Neil Charles.

The other divisions are now all being played at central venues over four weekends. Early leaders after the first set of matches are as follows: Division 1 North - Wellow House School

Division 2 North - Darlington 2nds
Division 2 South - London Progress 2nds

Division 3 South and West - London Progress 3rds

Division 3 North - Potteries

The results from Division 1 South and Division 3 South are not available at the time of writing.

A full report of these weekends will appear in TTN in December's issue.

Barnets scorers were Neil Charles (2) Costas Papantoniou (2) Barbara Kiss and the doubles combination of Kiss and David Atkinson. Fabio Mantegazza and new signing Samuel Coutollison replaced Rosenthal and Wilkinson in the Darlington side that visited Norwich. The match turned out to be a very one sided affair with

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MARCO ESSOMBA THE RISING STAR

MARCO ESSOMBA, the 20-year-old London-based student from the Cameroons created havoc in a seven-hour magic spell at Hastings on October 15, when he swept all the opposition aside to win a hat-trick, the mens singles, the under-21 mens singles and the mens doubles with Ritchie Venner, writes John Woodford.

After winning the mens singles final 5, -7, 14, -7, 7, against the favourite and top seed Alan Cooke, Marco with eyes blazing from sheer delight at winning his first open tournament said, "I am so pleased to win my first open. I was playing well through all the events. I am hoping to continue to win tournaments now I have made a start".

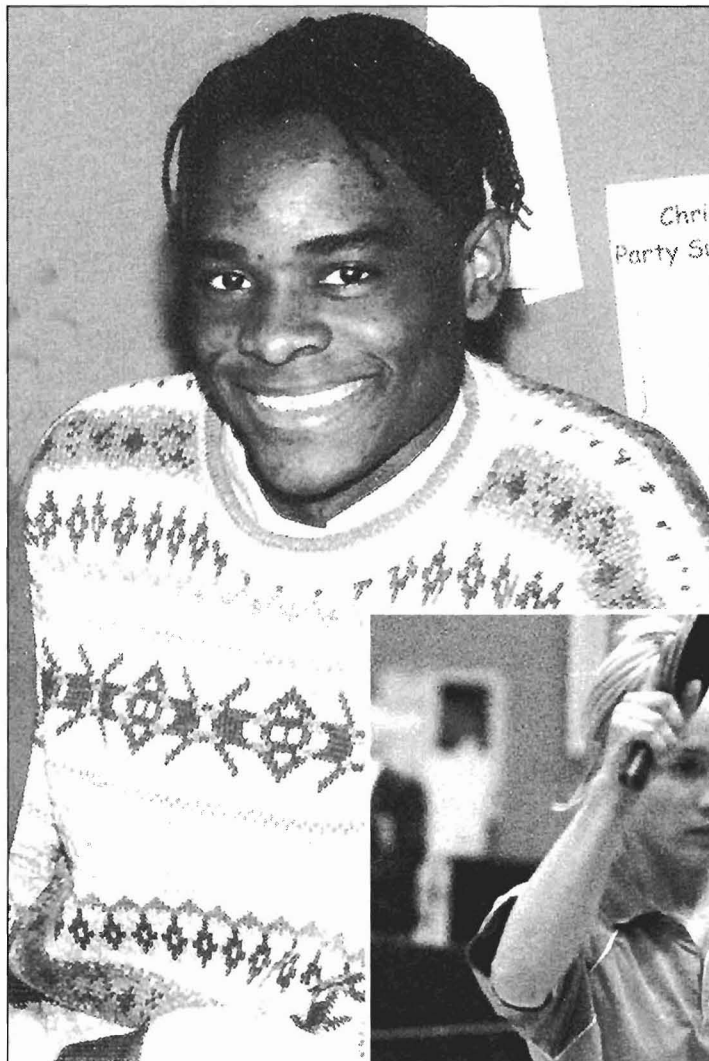
Marco is on a full-time computer studies course at Middlesex University and practices at the London Progress club only two or three times a week.

In the past year or so however he has spent a lot of time at the English training camp at Nottingham. That must have helped him develop such a devastating attack. Although his recent spell at Nottingham did not do a lot for the England set-up as according to him "he was thrown out"! Nottingham's loss is London's gain - the chances of him losing games for the Progress club in the British League after this majestic show of power and accuracy at Hastings seem remote.

Alan Cooke, master of the top-spin was seeking his sixth tournament victory and his second of the season after winning at Cheltenham in August. It was a magnificent final between Essomba and Cooke. The Derbyshire coach was never far from the winning post - his top-spin came pretty close to victory, but the slim young man from the Cameroons showed skill and determination. He fully deserved his victory after taking out Abdul Wuraola in the semi-finals - 4, 3, 8, 9, and previously in the quarters his doubles partner Ritchie Venner 5 -10, 6, 3.

A further accolade for Essomba came from Venner who said, "I was playing well but his power was almost unbelievable."

The tournament lost some seeds -



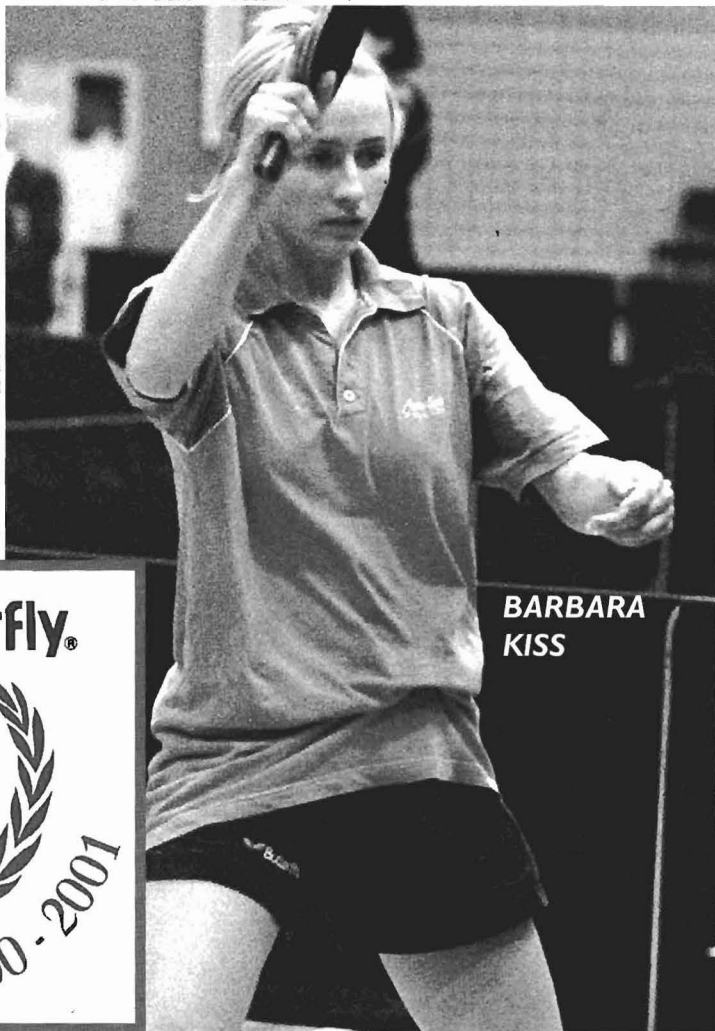
MARCO ESSOMBA

Michael Isherwood went off to play in northern Spain, whilst Nicola Deaton answered a call from her French club Metz that clashed with Hastings.

Fabio Mantegazza, the pride of Keith Wilson's Darlington stable reached his appointed spot in the semi-finals, but Cooke roasted him 3, 10, 11, proof that the Derbyshire coach, three times champion of England was not having a bad day, but when he has to give away ten years or more to the young players, experience and vicious top-spin will not always win the day.

ASTONISHING

Abdul Wuraola (Surrey) reached his second successive mens singles semi-final, but this time by a devious route that needs some attention.



BARBARA KISS



SUMMERFIELDS LEISURE CENTRE - HASTINGS

In the groups Abdul was two games up against young James Whiteman (Devon) and then pulled out claiming to be unwell. This left him as the group runner-up and a move to the bottom half of the draw away from Cooke - had he beaten Whiteman he would probably have met Cooke in the third round.

He made an astonishing recovery to fitness progressing to the later stages in the bottom half.

There was a similar happening in the Grand Prix at Kings Lynn last

season when a member of the Welsh squad quite clearly threw a game to change halves. Action was taken on the Kings Lynn fiasco. Wuraola will feature in the referee's report at Hastings to the ETTA.

KISS IS TOPS

Barbara Kiss, another London-based student won the womens singles title at Hastings. She will shortly re-enter the national ranking list at a position around the No.6 mark.

I first spotted Miss Kiss years back

in Budapest when as a very young junior she was training with the Hungarian womens squad. A very quick hitter and counter-hitter, after coming through to the final at Hastings against Catherine Davies and Rebecca Sparkes she quite comfortably defeated the local hope Rose Rainton 11, 7, 6, in the final.

Is it possible she could be in contention for a place in the England squad? Possibly not on, but the England womens squad needs a boost.

The organisation of the event at Hastings was again first-class - there were eight or nine qualified umpires in attendance making it look more professional than most of the other Grand Prix tournaments.

The results were posted quickly on public wall-charts thus reducing the pressure on the control tables.

The venue is I believe, the smallest on the circuit with eleven tables squeezed into a smaller-type hall, but play finished in good time - all over by 8.15 pm on the Sunday.

EVERY 2 POINTS

Players everywhere seem to be getting accustomed to the larger ball. The 11 points scoring drew compliments from players at Hastings, but they are sure that serving should change every two points, a much better arrangement than five serves in a row.

RESULTS:

Mens Singles Final: Marco Essomba (Sy) bt Alan Cooke (Dy) 5,-7, 12,-7, 7. *S/f:* Alan Cooke (Dy) bt Fabio Mantegazza (Italy/La) 3, 10, 5; Marco Essomba (Sy) bt Abdul Wuraola (Sy) 4, 7,-11, 5.

Womens Singles Final: Barbara Kiss (Hungary/He) bt Rose Rainton (Sx) 11, 7, 6.

S/f: Rose Rainton (Sx) bt Sarah Davison (Sk) 8, 11, 9; Barbara Kiss (He) bt Rebecca Sparkes (Sk) 7, 6, 8. *Under 21 Mens Singles:* Essomba (Sy) bt James Whiteman (Dv) 7, -9, 2, 5.

Under 21 Womens Singles: Catherine Davies (Wales) *Round Robin.*

Veteran Mens Singles: Ian Girdler (K) bt Graham Outsim (Ha) 6, 7, 8.

Veteran Womens Singles: Judy Morley (Gs) bt Catherine Eakin (K) 3, 6, 5.

Mens Doubles: Essomba (Sy)/Ritchie Venner (Sx) bt Cooke (Dy)/Joe Kennedy (K) 9,-5, 11, 9.

Womens Doubles: Barbara Kiss (He)/Kate Steward (So) bt Rose Rainton (Sx)/Sheila King (Sx) -11, 9, 7,-4, 6.

Mens Band 1: Steve Hall (Wales) bt Ian Girdler (K) 8, 6, 4.

Mens Band 2: Jerome Jonah (Sy) bt Ian Girdler (K) 9, 8, 11.

Mens Band 3: Neil Wright (He) bt Keith Yarnley (K) 4, 8, -9, 8.

Mens Band 4: Blake Taylor (Bu) bt Tony Rowell (Sx) 8, 11, 1.

Mens Band 5: Tim O'Leary (He) bt Simon Philips (K) -12, 10, 7, -6, 8.

Mens Band 6: Tim O'Leary (He) bt Peter Ives (K) 5, 5, -8, 12.

Womens Band 1: Rose Rainton (Sx) bt Kate Steward (So) -10, 9, 3, 5.

Womens Band 2: Lucy Pointer (IOW) bt Heidi Smith (K) -7, 3, 10, 7.

Womens Band 3: Laura Hall (Wales) bt Catherine Eakin (K) -10, 6, 5, 4.

Womens Band 4: Sarah Hall (Wales) bt Catherine Eakin (K) 7, 10, 9, -3, 7.

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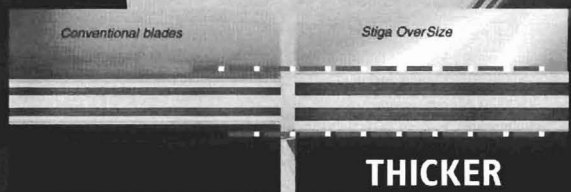
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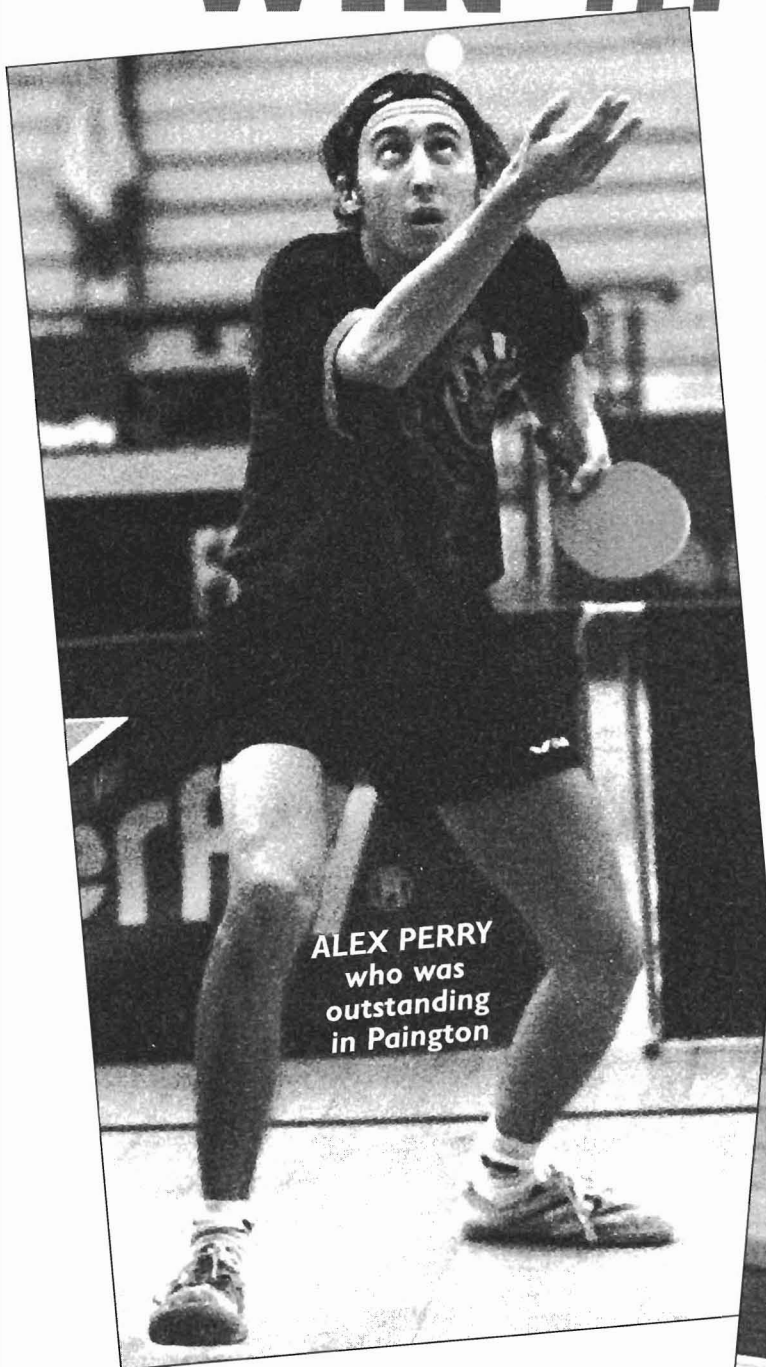
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PERRY & DEATON WIN *in* DEVON



ALEX PERRY
who was
outstanding
in Paignton

ALEX PERRY lived up to his great promise in his home county of Devon to take the Mens Singles title at the Clare Pengelly Memorial Butterfly Grand Prix tournament, whilst National Womens Champion Nicola Deaton added another trophy to

her cabinet winning the Womens Singles crown, writes **John Wood**.

Champagne Perry looked in awesome form as he sailed through the early rounds, and by the time the man of Devon reached the final he was firing on all six cylinders, playing breath-taking

table tennis.

Perry lost the first leg 8-11, but after that he seemed to raise his game several gears, reaching new heights as he came of age, winning the next three games against Alan Cooke 12-10, 11-3, 11-5.

The crowd went wild in the crucial second game witnessing attacking topspin table tennis of the highest calibre with stunningly fast rallies, which went point for point upto 10-10, before Perry took the vital last two points.

After this fantastic final Alex said: "I played really well, the second game was crucial. I was trying to be positive and play more diagonally, playing wide played off.

"I like playing at the Clare Pengelly Memorial, so I always try keep space in my busy schedule for this one, as I know the Pengelly family really well."

In the semis Cooke won a real nail-bitingly close battle against Welsh ace Ryan Jenkins 9-11, 11-4, 8-11, 11-5,

13-11. After Jenkins had led 10-9 in that vital 5th. The Welshman almost done it but perhaps the excitement of the moment got to him when he was 10-9 up and all he needed to do was roll the ball back to win the point, but he went for the big shot and missed, allowing Cooke back in and an opportunity to win.

Perry's semi was less spectacular as he finally ended the progress of Tommy Cutler 11-6, 3-11, 11-4, 11-3.

Reaching the semis Cutler played some of the best topspin fast attacking table tennis that I have ever seen him play.

Just like Perry, Cutler seemed to come of age at Paignton, firstly he beat in the surprise of the tournament Michael Isherwood in the last 16, then he went even better playing out of his skin as he out-

Words & Pictures
by
JOHN WOOD



National Champion NICOLA DEATON (pictured left) followed up her triumph in Cheltenham with another victory in Devon

Mens Under 21 Singles winner Gregory Baker



JOANNA PARKER (right) who defeat local favourite Lucy Perry in the Womens Under 21 Final, had spent a month prior to playing in Paignton, training in China with the 40mm ball said, "I like the new ball and I like the new scoring system, but I don't like the 5 point services, its better with 2 serves."



attacked Ian Musk in the quarter-finals, winning in three, taking the decider 11-4.

DEATON TAKES THE HONOURS

NICOLA DEATON, won the Womens Singles final 3-0 against Hungary's Barbara Kiss 11-8, 11-9, 11-8.

This final was a tactical game with both players playing the backhand and the middle of the table, to prevent each other using their forehands.

Deaton, who combines playing in France and the English Grand Prix circuit, also had time this year to pass two 'A' levels, English and Biology.

The semis saw Deaton beat Catherine Davies from Wales 11-7, 11-7, 11-7, whilst Kiss rolled over England international Kubrat Owolabi 11-6, 11-3, 11-7.

BAKER & PARKER WIN UNDER 21's

GREG BAKER won a tremendous see saw battle in the Mens Under 21 Final against local boy Craig Bryant 4-11, 11-7, 11-4, 8-11, 11-7.

This was a final that was so exciting that neither boy deserved to lose, but there has to be a winner and Baker came out on top in the end.

But 14 year old Bryant was a winner when he won the 'Clare Pengelly Memorial Cup', for the most improved player in Devon.

Joanna Parker won this year's Womens Under 21 title when she defeated Lucy Perry in the Final 11-4, 7-11, 12-10, 11-5.

This was a classic example of attack and defence, where the defence of 13 year Parker was far too tight and had too much backspin for Lucy to cope with.

In fact Joanna plays with a temperament far beyond her very tender years.

DOUBLE FOR LUCY POINTER

LUCY POINTER had a good Saturday when she won both the Womens Band 1 and 2 Singles.

In Band 1 she beat Devon's super defender Penny Perry, showing true grit after being 6-11, 10-12 down, she fought back in style to win the next three games 11-6, 11-8, 11-8.

Pointer from the Isle of Wight beat Somerset's Naomi Wilson in Band 2 11-6, 11-5, 8-11, 11-3.



CRAIG BRYANT winner of the Clare Pengelly Memorial Cup



TOMMY CUTLER (left) who had a sensational tournament, probably playing some of the best table tennis of his so far short caeer

RESULTS

- Mens Singles:** s/f: Alan Cooke (Derbys) bt. Ryan Jenkins (Wales) 9-11, 11-4, 8-11, 11-5, 13-11; Alex Perry (Devon) bt. Tom Cutler (Middlesex) 13-11, 3-11, 11-4, 11-3. FINAL: Perry bt. Cooke 8-11, 12-10, 11-3, 11-5.
- Womens Singles:** s/f: Nicola Deaton (Derbys) bt. Catherine Davies (Wales) 11-7, 11-7, 11-7; Barbara Kiss (Hungary) bt. Kubrat Owolabi (Middlesex) 11-6, 11-3, 11-7. FINAL: Deaton bt. Kiss 11-8, 11-9, 11-8.
- Men's Doubles:** Cooke (Derbys)/Michael Isherwood (Derbys) bt. Fabio Mantegazza (Italy)/Abdul Wuraola (Surrey) 11-9, 11-7, 11-4.
- Women's Doubles:** Kiss (Hungary)/Kubrat Owolabi (Middlesex) bt. Michele Cohen (Wilt-re)/Jenny Harrison (Essex) 11-3, 11-7, 12-10.
- Mens Under 21 Singles:** Greg Baker (Warwicks) bt. Craig Bryant (Devon) 4-11, 11-7, 13-11, 8-11, 11-7.
- Women's Under 21 Singles:** Joanna Parker (Surrey) bt. Lucy Perry (Devon) 11-4, 7-11, 12-10, 11-5.
- Veteran Mens Singles:** Mike Short (Devon) bt. Steve Davis (Surrey) 11-3, 13-15, 9-11, 11-3, 11-8.
- Veteran Womens Singles:** Judy Morley (Gloucs) bt. Penny Perry (Devon) 12-10, 3-11, 11-1, 7-11, 13-11.
- Mens Band 1:** Andrew Wilkinson (Northumberland) bt. Abdul Wuraola (Surrey) 11-8, 12-10, 12-10.
- Mens Band 2:** Gary Baldwin (Avon) bt. Phillip Handy (Dorset) 11-3, 11-2, 12-10.
- Mens Band 3:** Craig Bryant (Devon) bt. Tom Williams (Devon) 11-6, 11-4, 11-8.
- Mens Band 4:** Rohan Lewis (Surrey) bt. Glen Freeman (Wiltshire) 11-1, 11-7, 10-12, 11-3.
- Mens Band 5:** Daniel Strutt (Somerset) bt. Greg Yarnell (Northants) 11-9, 11-5, 7-11, 7-11, 11-9.
- Mens Band 6:** Ian Packard (Oxon) bt. John Harley (Kent) 12-10, 11-5, 11-3.
- Womens Band 1:** Lucy Pointer (Isle of Wight) bt. Penny Perry (Devon) 6-11, 10-12, 11-6, 11-8, 11-8.
- Womens Band 2:** Lucy Pointer (Isle of Wight) bt. Naomi Wilson (Somerset) 11-6, 11-5, 8-11, 11-3.
- Womens Band 3:** Catherine Eakin (Essex) bt. Naomi Wilson (Somerset) 8-11, 11-6, 8-11, 11-7, 11-4.
- Womens Band 4:** Catherine Eakin (Essex) bt. Helen Parton (Devon) 11-13, 11-7, 11-8, 7-11, 11-8.

KONG & WANG WIN GOLD MEDALS

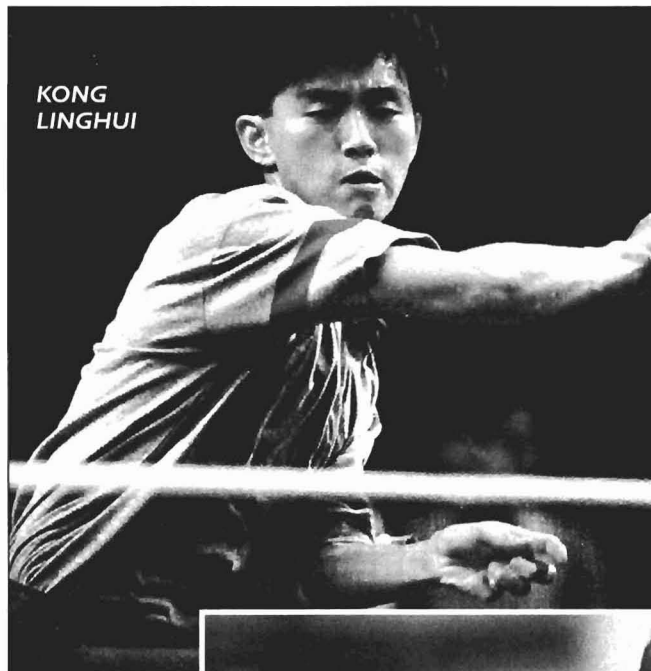
THE contest between China's Kong Linghui and Sweden's Jan Ove Waldner, was the last major international tournament with the old 38mm ball, which saw Kong win 16, 19,-17,-14, 13, in the Mens Singles and take the Gold Medal at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

This encounter reflected the whole history of the wonderful sport of table tennis. In the space of one hour Sydney saw how table tennis had evolved in the past 100 years; each stroke possessed effort, technical secrets and innovations that has made table tennis a truly great sport.

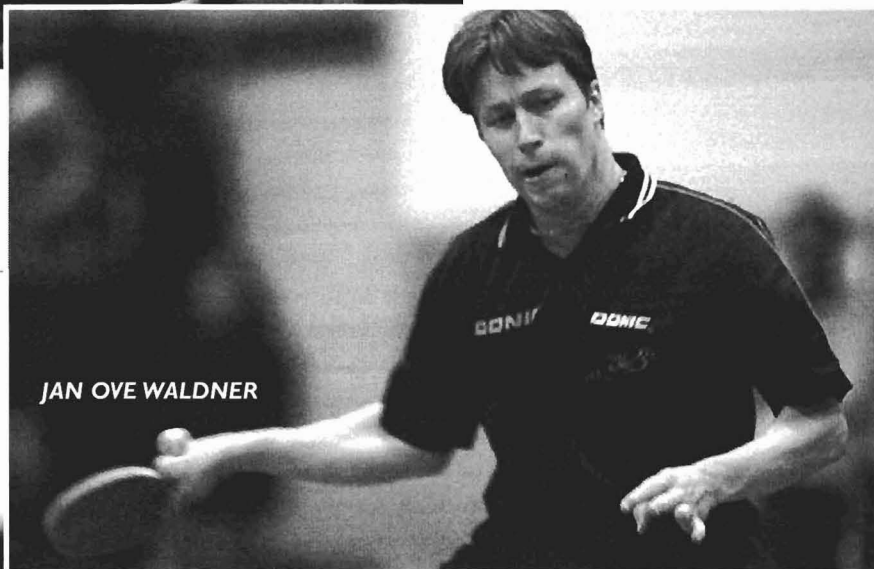
Kong took an unassailable 10-1 lead in the crucial deciding game, with vicious spin backhand serves, a lead that was too great in the end for Waldner.

In the semis Kong beat Sweden's Jorgen Persson 12,-13, 16, 13; whilst Waldner beat China's Lui Guoliang 19, 16, 19. The Bronze Medal went to Lui who defeated Persson in the play-off, 18,-19, 14, 13.

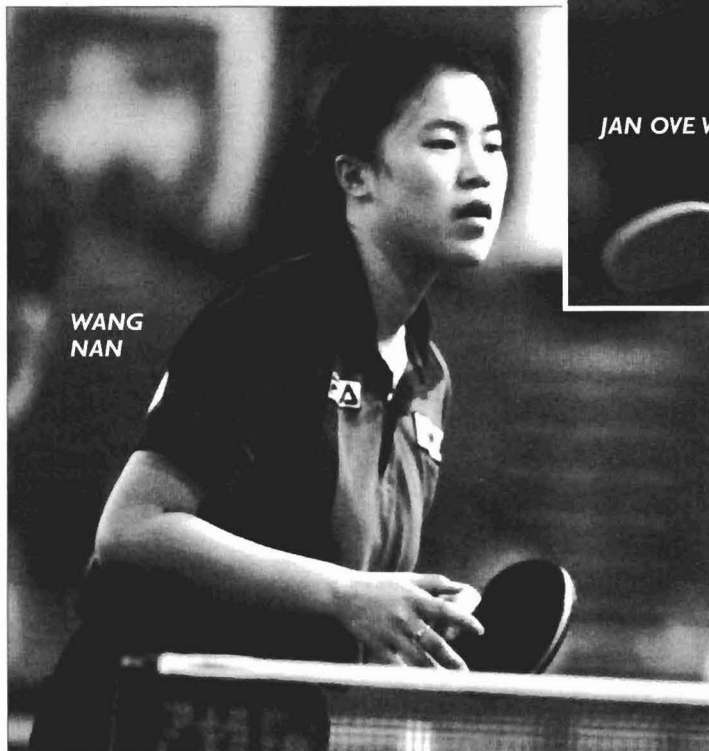
The Womens Singles final was between two Chinese ladies, which saw Wang Nan take her place on the winners podium, following in the



**SYDNEY
2000
MEDALS**



THERE WAS A TREMENDOUS BATTLE FOR THE MENS SINGLES GOLD IN THE FINAL - WHICH SAW KONG LINGHUI FROM CHINA, TRIUMPH OVER SWEDEN'S JAN OVE WALDNER



footsteps of Deng Yaping, when she defeated Li Ju 12,-12,-19, 17, 18.

In the semis Nan defeated Taipei's Chen Jing -12, 20, 17, 15; whilst Li beat Jing Jun Hong from Singapore - 15, 13, 12, 19.

The Bronze Medal was won by Chen when she won -18, 14, 15, 10.

DOUBLES

The Mens Doubles saw victory and Gold Medals for China's Wang Liquin and Yan Sen when they beat fellow countrymen Kong and Lui in the final 20,-17, 19, 18.

The Bronze Medal went to Jean Philippe Gatten and Patrick Chila of France when they narrowly defeated Korea's Lee Chul-Seung and Yoo Seung-Min 20,-21, 20, 10.

Womens Gold went to Wang and Li when they defeated fellow Chinese countrywomen Sun Jin and Yang Ying 18, 11, 11. The bronze was won by Korea's Kim Moo Kyo and Ryu Ji-Hye who beat Hungary's Csilla Batorfi and Krisztina Toth 18, 19,-22, -19, 19.

•Information kindly supplied by the ITTF's Table Tennis Illustrated

TABLE TENNIS NEWS EXTRA

Issue no. 273 November 2000

Editorial

A significant point I did not make in October about the Sydney Olympics men's singles semi-finals, was that all 4 men, Jan-Ove Waldner & Jorgen Persson for Sweden and Kong Linghui & Liu Guoliang for China, had played in the Kuala Lumpur World Championships men's team final in February, all were former world singles champions and Waldner and Liu Guoliang were former Olympic champions as well, with Kong of course becoming one.

Numbered amongst them was likely to be the best player ever. A 'Who is the Greatest Male Player of all Time?' poll on the China pages of that excellent American website www.tabletennis.about.com has Waldner in the lead, closely followed by Liu Guoliang, with Zhuang Zedong (better known as Chuang Tse-tung) in reasonable contention. The others in order were: Guo Yuehua (China), Jiang Jialiang (China), Victor Barna (Hungary/England), Richard Bergmann (Austria/England) and Ichiro Oigimura (Japan). I would certainly concur that at his best – e.g. Manchester 1997 – Waldner is/was probably the greatest there has ever been, and undoubtedly the most talented.

However, I read somewhere, probably on the same website, a strong argument for Kong to be considered the greatest. At 25 he is aged 10 years younger than Waldner, but has now won almost as many major singles titles and many more doubles titles. He plays stylish, elegant strokes, apparently modelled on J-O, and is far more consistent than the Swede (whose indifferent attitude on and off the table at the recent World Cup, we are told, went down badly in the host country China). Obviously he has not remained at the top for such a long period but he could do, particularly as Europe is not throwing up much to challenge him in the next 5-10 years: Vladimir Samsonov (Belarus), aged 24, frequently beats him but only one other relatively young European, Timo Boll (Germany), reached the last 16 at Sydney. (The Romanian, Mihaela Steff, was the only youthful European to make the women's singles quarter-finals.)

This brings into focus the current relative impoverishment of young European talent. The aging top senior European men of today had mostly reached high into the world and European rankings while they were still juniors or very soon thereafter. To pick two examples, Waldner was ranked 22 in the world when he was 16 (in 1982), reaching 8 in the world when he was 17 and still European junior no.1 in 1983 (when incidentally Carl Prean was the no.2 European junior boy, Alan Cooke 10, Nicky Mason 20 and Lisa Bellinger the no.2 girl). Our own Carl Prean as a 15 year-old prodigy hit no.25 in the world senior rankings in 1983, though the red/black rubbers rule change then diminished his subsequent progress as a pimple bat twiddler. I don't wish to demean the current top European boys because if you are the best of your cohort you are still the best, but European youth champion Constantin Cioti (Romania) is ranked 157 in the world, 16 year old Adam Robertson, the Welsh silver medallist, is 372, and our bronze medallist Andrew Baggaley, aged 17, is 235. Players may develop later now, but if these are to be world beaters they have much to do.

Regarding youth, it is perhaps regrettable that 19 year old Middlesex University student Marco Essomba has not got British nationality, following the former Cameroon international's impressive defeat of Alan Cooke in the Sussex Open Butterfly Grand Prix men's final at Hastings on 15th October.

Britain is still amongst the world's elite in disabled person's table tennis, so there was a little disappointment at the team's Sydney Paralympics medal haul of one silver (James Rawson, Neil Robinson and Stefan Trofan, Class 3 men's wheelchair team) and one bronze (Cathy Mitton, Class 2 women's wheelchair singles), the rest of the world rapidly catching up after Britain's head start in taking disabled person's table tennis seriously. But it was a wonderful and well-supported event.

While still on international table tennis, I would share John Wood's sorrow at the passing of Jean-Phillipe Gatién's father Rene. His trumpet playing spirit and extrovert, outgoing personality whilst supporting the French team had a resonance that transcended nationality – he

added infectious enthusiasm and excitement to table tennis. Former French national coach, now England's Performance Director, Michel Gadal, wrote a moving tribute to Rene in the ITTF Table Tennis Illustrated.

In England players have had time to get used to the 40mm ball, but it was significant that the stars who did well at the Men's World Cup in Yangzhou, China, on October 12-15 – the first time the ball had been used at a major international event – were not those who reached the latter stages of the Olympics. They had had more time to practise with the larger ball, particularly the winner (of \$44,000) Ma Lin (China), who was the only player not to have gone to the Olympics. Nevertheless, players seemed supportive of the change. Said semi-finalist Jean-Michel Saive (Belgium), "In the long run I think it will be good for table tennis. Once the ball got in play we saw beautiful long rallies in this World Cup. It is easier to make topspin on topspin with the new ball and it is much more difficult to finish the point, because your opponent has more time to get in position." The main complaint was over ball quality and that shielded serves are still too effective.

England teams have had a poor start in their European League Division I matches, the men losing 3-0 away to Italy and the women 3-0 at home to the Ukraine. However, they fielded mostly young players, and by the time you read this there may be better results.

It may not be only the increasing cost or declining reserves of petrol/diesel that could make future travel to and from table tennis events more difficult, but also increasingly the weather. Having crawled and shuddered back from the East Midlands 4 Star Select at Grantham in atrocious wind and rain, makes one wonder how far the direct (cost and availability) and indirect (global warming?) effects of using fossil fuel are going to impact on our national competitive structure.

My e-mail, kenmuhr@talk21.com, is operating properly again, touch wood! It would still be sensible to send a copy of reports to admin@ettahq.freeseerve.co.uk as a back-up though.

Ken Muhr

BERKSHIRE by John Cunningham

Maidenhead Roll of Honour

The Maidenhead and District Table Tennis League, founded in 1947, gets underway this season with a full quota of four divisions Premier champions Kingfisher TTC and Our Lady of Peace, both from Reading, have high hopes of taking the top titles, while Stoke Poges and Wamsdad Warriors could capture divisions two and three respectively.

Roll of Honour 1999/2000

Premier Champions – Kingfisher TTC; Runner-up – Altwood Royals; Division One Champions – Stoke Poges Hitachi; Runner-up – Old Gords Sparrowhawks; Division Two Champions – OLOP AWCS B; Runner-up – Bovingdon Green Falcons; Division Three Champions – Phoenix Minstrels; Runner-up – Castle Hill Bears; Youth Division Champions – Old Gords Eaglets; Runner-up – Altwood Kings; Senior Knockout Champions – OLOP B; Consolation Knockout Winners – BBC Bears; Youth Knockout Champions – Old Gords Eaglets; Susan Blackburn Memorial Trophy – Sally Weller – Most Improved Youth League player; The Wilkinson Sword Trophy – Highest Premier League Player – Tim Heaps; The Gwen Sweetzer Trophy – Most Improved Junior Girl – Nisha Thakran The Hugh Bartholemew Trophy – Most Improved Junior Boy – Gareth Guidetti



Tim Heaps receives the Wilkinson Sword Award from Hugh Bartholemew

CORNWALL by John Wood

Cornwall table tennis players were given the rare opportunity of being coached by the former England number one, Alan Cooke, at the Tregorrick Park Table Tennis Centre, St. Austell, during half-term last month.

This coaching course is the second in the new approach in Cornwall, following on from the highly successful course last Easter, run by Nicky Jarvis, where top England international players are being

invited to coach our youngsters here in Cornwall.

The first division of the Handicapped Summer League has finally come to a conclusion, with Neville Reed and his highly promising 10-year-old son Darren just winning the title from his brother Graham and daughter Lisa.

Following the county junior trials the two junior teams will be First Team: Boys – Chris Brown, Alistair Randall, Adam Tatlow, Girls: Michelle Turner, Lisa Reed; Second Team: Darren Reed, Jonathan Randall, Thomas Rashleigh, Girls: Mo Willis, Natasha Michel.

The first of four Junior National League competitions started at the Tregorrick Park Table Tennis Centre on Saturday 14th October. A report of this event will appear in the next issue of this magazine, as will the Alan Cooke 4-day coaching course.

DEVONSHIRE by John Vincent

National League Table Tennis

DML/Plymouth are running one team only this year. The team, consisting of Paul Whiting, Mike Short, Kevin Buddell and Craig Bryant, made a great start in Division One South, winning three of their first four matches. They defeated Horsham II 5-3, Ellenborough 7-1 and Moonrakers 6-2. In their other match they gained a point by drawing 4-4 with Barnet, Paul Whiting and Craig Bryant winning two each.

Bryant playing at number four was the surprise packet, winning 7 out of his 8 games. No. 1 Paul Whiting led his team well, also taking 7 out of 8, and with Mike Short and Kevin Buddell providing good support and each winning four games, the Plymouth side returned to Devon on a high.

Clare Pengelly Memorial Trophy

This is an annual award to the county junior who has impressed the selectors most during the season with their attitude, dedication and progress Craig Bryant, who at one stage was ranked number 2 cadet nationally and now in his first season as a junior is ranked two, is a worthy winner of this prestigious trophy. It will be presented to him at the Clare Pengelly Memorial Open (Butterfly Grand Prix) in Torquay. Craig will also receive a cheque for £100 towards his expenses.

Junior County Results

The first matches in Division 3C of the County Championships were played at St. Austell on Saturday 9th September.

Junior Seconds

The County team of Daniel Mayhew, Jacob Kodicek, Simon Poyner, Helen Parton and Rebecca Wherrett made a good start to the

season with three wins. They beat Hereford 10-0, Cornwall II 9-1, Cornwall I 6-4. Simon Poyner had an excellent weekend, winning all six of his matches.

Cornwall I had two strong players, Chris Brown and Michelle Turner, who both scored maximums against us.

Junior Thirds

This was mainly a cadet team using a squad system. The squad of Tom Sampford, Paul Christie, Joe Clifford, Sam Bruty, Lizzie Binks, Lucy O'Callaghan and Sally Smith did well, winning two of their matches. They beat Hereford 7-3, Cornwall II 7-3 and lost to Cornwall I 1-9. The experienced Tom Sampford was in excellent form, winning 5 out of 6 games.

ESSEX by Steve Kerns

County Junior Trials

Alan Shepherd reports from the County Trials held at BATTs, Harlow, in September.

The traditional pre-season curtain raiser, the County Junior Trials, attracted a very good entry in the younger boys' categories. Up-and-coming Romford cadet Umair Mauthoor had a fantastic weekend taking both the U14s and U17 Boys' categories, winning 10 matches in both events without tasting defeat. 33 boys contested the U14s and Umair's brand of high-octane attack-attack-attack, table tennis proved unstoppable except against Michael Andrews from Colchester who only succumbed 14-20,20. Fast improving Andrews was also involved in another cliff-hanger with Max Cornhill from Ilford, another outstanding prospect, which Cornwall edged 18-17,20. Surprisingly the Junior Boys attracted a smaller entry than the Cadets and pleasingly all the leading protagonists were present. It was Umair, last year's no. 3 in the third team who showed the greatest improvement, beating the two survivors of last year's team as well as all of the second team. The match between Aaron Fennell and Umair was the best of the weekend. Umair raced home 21-12 in the first end but Aaron looked to have enough but no one had told Umair. The younger player, fighting for every point, gradually clawed his way back and took a real thriller at 21-18. Elsewhere, Neil Disley (Southend) had a bad day by his high standards, whilst Tony Halling (Southend) and Matthew Staines (Braintree) both recorded some good wins and Keiran Lally (Clacton) was very consistent. Samuel Cannon (Fellows Cranleigh) was outstanding in the U12 Boys' event, winning 11 out of 12 of his matches, whilst the hitherto unknown Billy Childs from the thriving Mossford Club was also highly

impressive. Cannon is already ranked at no. 4 at U17 level.

The numbers of entries in the girls' events were not overwhelming and 10-year-old Sarra Wang (Braintree) stamped her authority with wins in the U12 and U14. She has already played for the county last season and not only won the events without dropping a single game but looked completely unlikely to do so. Her mum Lucy won the Ladies Singles' title at last year's Essex Closed tournament. As Becky Jackson (Braintree) was absent their head-to-head clash did not materialise until the U17s and as Becky won she took the top U14 ranking. Becky also scored a fine win over Karla Bryant (Romford) whilst Laura Lesser (Ilford) did very well to win four of her seven games in the U17s round-robin event. With Natalie Bawden (ETTA Academy) and Nicole Todd (Harlow) both giving the weekend a miss, Amy Wright came through unscathed winning her seven singles.

Final rankings were as follows:

Junior Boys:

1. Aaron Fennell
2. Umair Mauthoor
3. Keiran Lally
4. Neil Disley
5. Matthew Staines
6. Tony Halling
7. Daniel Spurling
8. Anthony Greenwood
9. Lee Daines
10. Robin Ashleigh
11. Jack Leather
12. Max Cornhill
13. Daniel Bronziet
14. Samuel Cannon
15. Michael Andrews
16. Will Thoresby
17. Matthew Webber
18. Mathew Stubbington
19. Alastair Hill
20. Michael Brownlie/Chris Willetts

Junior Girls:

1. Natalie Bawden
2. Nicole Todd
3. Amy Wright
4. Karla Bryant
5. Leanne Bentley
6. Kay Barham
7. Rebecca Jackson
8. Sarra Wang
9. Laura Lesser
10. Rebecca Metson

Cadet Boys:

1. Umair Mauthoor
2. Tony Halling
3. Max Cornhill
4. Paul Hizer
5. Andrew Deaves
6. Michael Dahler
7. Michael Andrews

8. Will Thoresby
9. Christopher Todd
10. Oliver Oxland
11. Ian Staff
12. Robert Lawrence
13. Daniel Cook

Cadet Girls:

1. Rebecca Jackson
2. Sarra Wang
3. Rush Ashleigh
4. Alice Barnett
5. Lorna Staff
6. Jade Cornhill

Under 12 Boys:

1. Samuel Cannon
2. Billy Childs
3. Alistair Bain
4. Daniel Nunn
5. Yasir Mauthoor
6. Edward Watts
7. Mark Mulley

Under 12 Girls:

1. Sarra Wang
2. Ruth Ashleigh
3. Lorna Staff
4. Jade Cornhill
5. Lori Lincoln

GLOUCESTERSHIRE by Alf Pepperd

With the autumn leaves now beginning to fall, yes I write these November notes in the last few days of September, there is not really a lot to mention – some Leagues in the county have as yet not even started, so in view of this I will retreat back to last June when we held the County AGM, and proudly mention that it was the best turnout that many of us have experienced for several years, here are the results of those of us destined to represent Gloucestershire for season 2000/1.

Chairman & National Councillor – Les Smith; Vice-Chairman – Vacant; General Secretary & Minutes Secretary - Margaret Dean; Hon. Treasurer – Ken Bridle; Coaching Officer – George Novorth; Tournament Referee – Gillian Smith; Umpires Secretary – David Dean; Selection – Robert Willsher; Press Officer – Alf Pepperd.

Mr M.J. Reeves was returned as County President and the following retained their positions as Vice-Presidents:

A.W.C. Simons, K. Jackson, R. Morley, Mrs M. Hawkins, R.E. Griffin, B.R. Merrett, A.H. Haines, Mrs J. Golding, J.M. Bunn, P.H. Jackson, L.J. Smith, A.F. Pepperd, P.F. Cruwys, R.J. Davies, S. Johnstone, K.Tarling.

Senior Men

1. D. Griffin
2. W. Dawe
3. D. Harvey
4. B. McRandal
5. A. Giles
6. R. Morley
7. G.

Greening

8. I. Heskins
9. R. Willsher
10. H. Williams
11. J. Fannin
12. D. Adamson

Senior Women

1. N. Lake
2. S. Robinson
3. J. Morley
4. J. Carver
5. E. Bassett
6. M. Entwhistle
7. L. Probert
8. M. Willsher
9. S. Matthews
10. M. Hawkins

Veteran Men

1. W. Dawe
2. D. Harvey
3. A. Giles
4. R. Morley
5. G. Greening
6. R. Willsher
7. J. Fannin
8. D. Adamson
9. K. Howse
10. K. Boalch
11. D. Lloyd
12. P. Wood

Veteran Women

1. J. Morley
2. L. Probert
3. S. Matthews
4. M. Hawkins
5. J. Kirby
6. C. Hipkiss
7. E. Marshall
8. R. Ross
9. J. Taylor
10. J. Muncer

Junior Boys

1. D. Wynn-Sands
2. S. Ewens
3. H. Shahlaei
4. L. Davis
5. J. De Jong
6. T. Berdott
7. M. Harvey
8. M. De Jong
9. M. Fitzsimmonds
10. S. Davies

Junior Girls

1. S. Davies
2. C. Bell
3. G. Pilsworth
4. N. Burton
5. H. Emberson
6. J. Piggott
7. K. Hill
8. A. Davenport
9. C. Griffin
10. J. Hurford.

HAMPSHIRE by Brian Lamerton

First the sad news; I have to report the death at the end of the summer of Harold Pearce at the age of 87. Harold, through his work with the London Business Houses League and as a Shell employee, where he was able to help the national scene through the famous Lensbury Club, was already a Vice-President of the ETTA when he moved to Bournemouth on retirement nearly 30 years ago, but he straightaway entered into the local scene and for many years edited, produced and distributed a very read-worthy Bournemouth newsletter.

Mindful as I am of editor's restriction on words, the following is an abbreviated version of this season's ranking list:

Junior Boys:

1. Nic Anderson
2. David Woodacre
3. Chris Marshall
4. Steve Tucker

Junior Girls:

1. Jenny Dobson
2. Emma Dobson
3. Sarah Grubb
4. Joanna Hurt

Senior Men:

1. Clive Payne
2. Mark Butler
3. Ramesh Bhalla
4. Graham Pointer

Senior Women:

1. Maria Taylor-Woodward
2. Barbara Savage
3. Gill Larking
4. Donna Granville

Veteran Men:

1. Clive Payne 2. Ramesh Bhalla 3. Chris Wilshere 4. Keith Childs 5. Graham Outrim 6. Peter Matthews

Veteran Women:

1. Gill Larking 2. Sandra Simpson 3. Ann Longland 4. Mary Barron

As a result of agreed 'block matches', the juniors and veterans first team will have no home matches this season and the seniors will be at home on one day only (February 24th 2001) when they will be playing three matches. This is hardly conclusive to umpire secretary Mick Strode's chase for potential umpires but he does ask me to say how desperately short we are and that three of our member leagues, Alton, Andover and Winchester, do not have a single qualified umpire between them.

Southampton are going great guns at their new centre, Chamberlayne Leisure Centre, where over 80 youngsters have been introduced to the sport since Easter, and where all four premier division matches will be played alongside each other every Tuesday evening. A visit by Carl Preat as the star of an open evening to kick off the new season attracted over 100 spectators. Wow!

Well, that's 300 words – plus! Not much is it? Must try to do this every month!

ISLE OF WIGHT by John Preat

We looked forward eagerly to our first county match of the season when a good 'crowd' (one hastens to add 'by table tennis standards') turned up. It proved an exciting match with the issue in doubt to the very end. A 5-5 result was a fair outcome. For Berkshire each player won a match, whilst for us Carl Preat and Lucy Pointer won two each. When Roger Hookey beat Adrian Dixon we thought the door had been opened to the ultimate hope of two points, but this was not to be. In Dave Barr Berkshire had another former England junior and he was certainly good to watch, playing many fine rallies and giving the crowd what they want.

Lucy was in excellent form, adding a degree of consistency to her usual aggression. We were sad to see that her injury from last March was still with her. One noted the emphasis on fitness in the recent Soren Ahlen interview. Young players carrying injuries for six months surely cannot be part of the overall plan. Carl was in excellent form and gave what one spectator called 'a master class'. I have seen a questionnaire from the Chairman of the County Championships, inviting counties' view on whether these matches too should be played over two weekends. Whilst it is correct to ask the question, I would be very sad to see the answer I

dread, which is that these lower division county matches are also transferred to a couple of weekends.

For us such a format would completely lose its point. We have an excellent venue where matches can be played under perfect conditions and where they can look good. We have a small following, which may grow. It is our only chance to show players like Carl and Lucy to our people.

When I was a player in county and inter-town matches I looked forward to the 'away' matches, at least as much as the ones at home. I enjoyed the social side, the time to talk and bond, to make friends and to see new faces and places. It was often "better to travel hopefully than to arrive" (to quote Dr Johnson). At the same time, I enjoyed playing the same players on my own home ground in venues I liked and knew well.

All this would, of course, disappear if, in the "let's get it over with" spirit which has gripped our sport, we compressed our county matches into a couple of hectic weekends. What I hear of the first lower British League weekend played in this way hardly encourages travelling down that road. I do not, of course, object to clubs or counties who want to play their matches in this way doing just that. What seems wrong is to force all into this method. Travel in the lower regional leagues is not excessive and bits of the Sunday or Saturday remain, particularly when playing at home. In our case we would lose what we have built up – county matches which are a real highlight, some three or four each season which we can play at home, where perhaps the young players of the future can see play of a higher standard and a better future for themselves.

I was horrified when the lower British League clubs voted for this format. Real fears must exist that the counties will follow suit. It may save a few hours of travel each year, but at what cost? Old bromides often have elements of truth and in this case "things will never be the same again". With so much that does need changing, if our sport is to have a future, it seems a pity that we are about to wreck something that was, for all its faults, generally working well.

MIDDLESEX by Iris Moss

In accordance with his wishes expressed last season, Mr. Russell Grant has been replaced as our President, and Mr. Derek Burridge has agreed to act in this capacity. Derek is a Middlesex man through and through. Apart from having been born, educated and lived in Middlesex all his life, he also established his very successful trophy business in the county. He played for Middlesex on some 72 occasions both as a junior and a senior player and for many years was one of our leading lights. We

welcome him as our President, and hope he will be with us for many years to come.

The rest of the Officers and Committee remain unchanged, with Michael Close as Chairman, Doreen Stannard as National Councillor, myself as Secretary/Treasurer and David Howes, Jack Melnick, Nick McKoy, Jack Randall and George Walsh as the Committee members. We have still got three vacancies on the Committee which we would dearly like to fill. Any volunteers?

The only matter I have to report at this stage is that at its first meeting our Representative Matches Sub-committee agreed the following ranking lists for the beginning of the 2000/1 season:

Senior Men:

1. J Sugrue 2. T Cutler 3. N Charles 4. N McKoy 5. C Hundhausen 6. J Walsh 7. D Fesehatsion 8. C Papantoniou 9. E Skeete 10. G Sandley 11. E Baraty 12. J Sprackling 13. L Dominguez

Senior Women:

1. K Owolabi 2. L Keast 3. A Smith 4. R Fisher 5. A Narendran 6. G Lesh 7. J Solley 8. S Horsnall 9. L Morrish 10. A Flowerday 11. S Raymond 12. I Gaberova

Junior Boys:

1. T Holtam 2. J Smith 3. H Ahmed 4. J Aldridge 5. G Gok 6. M Armstrong 7. R Pennock 8. M Thomas 9. D Bogan 10. N. Patel 11. S. Wharton

Junior Girls:

1. A Narendran 2. I Gaberova 3. E Magnusen 4. V Wood 5. A Siyani 6. L Preston 7. R Dark 8. S Smith 9. M Van de Waals

Veteran Men:

1. J Holland 2. N Swift 3. D Crowley 4. T Holmes 5. G Grange 6. P Cheng 7. I Martin 8. E Grant 9. L Persaud 10. A Tashjian 11. T Brown 12. M Isaacs 13. N Slifkin 14. G Hawkins 15. A Boyle 16. S Gennari 17. P J Leckie 18. S Preston 19. I Buchanan 20. J Perry 21. A Taylor

Veteran Women:

1. A. Flowerday 2. S Raymond 3. S Plastow 4. L Slifkin 5. H. Williamson 6. S Tyler 7. K Nunn 8. H Birmingham 9. L Lloyd 10. F Wade 11. D Stannard 12. B Blanch

NORTHANTS by Dennis Millman

This season's Queensberry Scimitar County Closed Tournament will now be staged at the newly completed Diamond Sports & Exhibition Centre at the home of current Nationwide Conference leaders Rushden & Diamonds. The scheduled date is Sunday 1st April.

Following the overall record entry last year, all events for Under 14 juniors and younger will take place on the previous day at the same venue, plus an additional classified competition solely for youngsters.

With the format of best of five games up to eleven points possibly becoming universal from the start of the 2001/2 campaign, all of Saturday's programme will be completed under this experimental system. Once again all trophies will be presented at a special Finals Night at Glamis Hall, Wellingborough, on Monday 2nd April.

The first league action in the county came in Kettering where Higham Band will be looking for an 11th Premier title in 13 years. The regular quartet of Richard Elliott, Ryan Keates, Mark Nannery and Steve Brown will be challenged by SAS Thrapston and Corby Town A, with both sides strengthened by newcomers.

Corby, in addition to Gordon Shaw, Terry Luxton and Simon Jarvis, have Simon Rockall in their line-up. Rockall, who less than a year ago was nationally ranked at no. 19, has made a major contribution locally with regular coaching sessions at Danesholme. He will play when coaching commitments permit, but in the opening fixture neither he nor Shaw were available and a hat-trick from Chris Gibbons, plus a doubles shared with singles winner Gerald Finney, earned Braybrooke a share of the spoils.

Thrapston's long term stalwarts Geoff Atkinson and Ian Sclater, together with last season's acquisition Greg Yarnall, can now also call on Tom Stapleton, who has forsaken his first and only club Rothborough, leaving the Rothwell Desborough amalgamation not represented in the Premier Division for the first time in more than a quarter of a century.

Players making Kettering League debuts include Aberdeen's Gordon Provan for Thrapston Osprey, Chesterfield's Barry Thompson for Harborough and Wellingborough's Robert Williams for Kettering Town, while players returning to the fold are Steve West, the Premier's most prolific winner, who will also figure in Osprey's plans, Mike Hawes, who after a 20 year absence again features in Town's ranks, and Terry Cardwell, following a long spell in London, who adds further quality to the Corby Town Club.

One pleasing aspect is the presence of an all-girls side with Kayleigh O'Boyle, Rebecca Hill, Melanie Stark and Samantha Johnston representing Corby Kingswood.

NORTHUMBERLAND by Pauline Long

I apologise to readers for missing the deadline of 1st August for the September TT News Extra, but at that stage of the season there would have been very little to report in any case. Now that I am aware of all copy dates as published in the September

issue, hopefully I will be able to meet all the specified deadlines.

The WENADE (UK) Summer League was successfully completed with the Sunderland side St. Gabriel's retaining the Division 1 title. Other Division winners were: Division 2, Washington 'B'; Division 3; Cramlington Codgers; Division 4, Maccabi.

The WENADE (UK) Winter League commenced on Monday 18th September with 59 teams – an increase of three from last season – contesting five divisions. North Shields YMCA again have the largest entry with nine teams, but the biggest increase is in Cramlington, who have entered another three teams to bring their total up to eight. Cramlington are the only club to adopt individual names for their teams instead of the more usual letters of the alphabet according to standard. The existing Codgers, Stingers, Rejects, Spartans and Colts are now joined by Tigers, Knights and the all-women's team Belles.

The WENADE (UK) county senior, junior and veteran's teams have again been entered in their appropriate divisions, together with entries in the Wilmott Cup, Carter Cup and Alec Brook Trophy team competitions. However, it was decided not to enter the Rose Bowl this season, as the availability of women of a high enough standard could not be guaranteed.

The County Board of Directors was re-elected unchanged, namely: President: Harry Dignan, Chairman & League Secretary: Dave Scholfield, Vice-Chairman: Dr. John Donnelly, County Secretary: Alan Morpeth, Treasurer: Brian Pierce, Press Secretary: Pauline Long, County Umpires Committee Secretary & National Councillor: Aubrey Drapkin, Coaching Officer: Peter Wilkinson. Other Directors were elected: Alan Hedley, Jimmy Scope, Ronnie Bell, Ray Lydall, Bob Atwell and Lesley Blakey. Peter, Jimmy and Karen Newby will be contacts for the county junior veteran and senior teams respectively. Development Officers are: Northumberland: Alan Hedley, North Tyneside: Alan Morpeth and Dave Scholfield, Newcastle: Dr. John Donnelly and Dave Scholfield, Gateshead: Jimmy Scope.

The provisional date for the JOYNSON OFFICE EQUIPMENT County Closed Tournament is to be Sunday 11th February 2001, possibly at either Coach Lane or Blyth Sports Centre.

Best wishes to all county and league players for a successful season.

SHROPSHIRE by Terry Ridgway

The Maxell Challenge Table Tennis Summer League

Woodfield: P-9, W-9, L-0, F-79, A-16, Pts-18; Super Vetts: P-9, W-8, L-1, F-71, A-27, Pts-16; Codsall: P-9, W-5, L-4, F-48, A-43,

Pts-10; St. Martins: P-9, W-5, L-4, F-51, A-51, Pts-10; Walsall: P-8, W-4, L-4, F-42, A-43, Pts-8; Bridgnorth: P-9, W-4, L-5, F-55, A-64, Pts-8; Shrewsbury: P-9, W-4, L-5, F-41, A-55, Pts-8; Nomads: P-9, W-3, L-6, F-43, A-58, Pts-6; Maxell: P-7, W-1, L-6, F-15, A-59, Pts-2; Idsall Allstars: P-8, W-0, L-8, F-29, A-65, pts-0

The end of September saw the final rounds of the Maxell Challenge at Idsall Sports Centre in Shifnal, Shropshire. The deciding match of the series pitched the two leading teams in a final play off with the Woodfield team of Andy Rich and Steve Cullis getting the better of the experienced Worcester duo, Steve Horten and Ken Walton pushing their Super Vetts team into second place. The high standard of the summer league attracted players from four counties to compete for the £150 prize money. County veteran Tony Isaacs took the averages with an unbeaten average of 18 out of 18.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE by Alan Dunn

Denise Ward from the Castle TT Club and Phil Wright, the new South Yorkshire Coaching Secretary, deserve a special mention in these notes. Both have worked tirelessly in the development of the new Junior TT League in Sheffield. 14 pairs aged up to 16 are competing in three divisions; Novice, Improvers and Top Abilities. The players come from Castle, Abbeydale, Fanshaw and De la Salle clubs, with a large input from local schools. The competition started at the Abbeydale Club on Saturday 30th September. The contact number for future events is Denise Ward on 0114 2342805. Hopefully this venture should lead to some urgently needed National Junior League teams from the Sheffield area, this is the initial standard ETTA run competitive team event. The Yorkshire region has been dominated by South Yorkshire over the last two seasons: '98 winners were Scorpions '99 winners Abbeydale. This season however the county has only three teams entered, all from the Scorpions club, who have also our only entry into the flagship Junior British League.

There is growing evidence of improved co-operation between the two Yorkshire counties with the development of the Yorkshire Teaching & Training Committee, which includes hands-on coaches from above and below the border. Major input is coming from RDO Mark Smith, County Coaching Chair Alan Lowe, and County Chair Admin Richard Hudson. Could this be the start of something special, the whole county working towards the Sports Institute in Sheffield, and maybe Olympic medals in eight years' time.

It's a little early for tournament results at the time of writing, but Rotherham Scorpions youngster Ben (Taz) Barlow is showing early promise, taking Selby 2* U12 title, he also reached semis in cadet and was runner-up in the grade one junior with a major victory over Matthew Stanton.

The junior county teams will be Ben Wall, John Cade, Stephen Roberts and Ben Barlow, with the girls' team Rachel Baldi, Helen Reynolds and Emily Robinson. Unfortunately, the first weekend was cancelled due to the petrol shortage.

The Rotherham Scorpions Summer Top Ten Tournament was won by West Yorkshire's Richard Lightowler, Lincolnshire's Andy Wignall was 2nd, with South Yorkshire's Bouncing Bill Grant (though not at the end) coming in 3rd place. Band Two was won by Taz (see above), Band Three found Ryan Diver in top form, and 10-year-old Stephen Arliss took the prize money in Band Four.

The Rotherham Scorpions Club are now on the net, with regularly updated club ranking ladder, competition results and these County Notes. Please visit on www.scorpionsttc.co.uk. Yes there is a lot about my club again, so let's change it, my number is (01709) 324548.

SUSSEX by John Woodford

With the former Lithuanian champion Lorestas Trumpauskas at no.1, Horsham are on top of the premier division of the British League after two matches, but their bid for the title will be hotly contested by Darlington and London Progress.

The two other Horsham teams returned from their new weekend sessions each with a couple of wins that should see them in the top half of the table. Following the dispute that has lasted three months, the Cornish club Tregorrick Park eventually relented on their demands for two weekends in Cornwall. They sent a team to the new venue, Fellows Cranleigh on September 23rd-24th and no doubt the other seven teams will travel to Cornwall for the final weekend next May. I am told that 'player power' won the day. This suggests that another stormy annual meeting will take place next May.

Good news for the Sussex selectors is that Arundel's Sarah Stedman is home after backpacking around the world. After winning the 'woman of the weekend' award playing for Ipswich in the British Women's League, she should win her place back in the Sussex senior second team after more coaching from Pat Ginnaw, a newly elected Vice-President of the Sussex TTA.

Brighton are leading the way with their Community League, a move frowned upon in some quarters. But in Brighton 100 players have been signed on, playing weekly with two man teams.

From that number, mainly young people, must be future main league players, so surely some means must be found to affiliate as numbers of players are still falling in most leagues.

Matthew Syed visited Brighton recently, straight from the Olympic Games in Sydney. As prospective Labour candidate for Wokingham he managed to address a fringe meeting at the Labour Conference but he had to introduce himself to the audience.

The junior and veterans ranking lists have now been issued. Due to their length I have cut them considerably.

Junior Boys:

1. Luke Bridge 2. Michael Simpson 3. Neil Brown 4. Nathan Darby 5. Gary Wilson 6. Daniel Bulmer 7. John Kirkwood 8. Luke Tearall 9. Raj Waterman 10. Gareth McGovern 11. Elliott Crathern 12. Ben Brown 13. Tim Pack 14. Matthew Bridge 15. Gary Bristowe 16. David Kirkwood 17. Stuart Ayling 18. Mark Newnham 19. Alex Harris 20. Lloyd Smith

Junior Girls:

1. Claire Hodger 2. Sammy Simpson 3. Gina Rogers 4. Samantha Monk 5. Sam Stepney 6. Linda King 7. Sarah Clarke 8. Tracy Zimmatore 9. Stacey Furnival 10. Julia McFarlane

Veteran Men:

1. Terry Haley 2. Andy Meads 3. Barrie Gilbert 4. John Millward 5. Glyn Hydes 6. Andy Chapman 7. Fawzi Yousif 8. Bob Begg 9. Alex Morrison 10. Chris Baker 11. John Hook 12. Keith Jackson

Veteran Women:

1. Sheila King 2. Carol Eckersley 3. Pauline Steel 4. Paulette Clarke 5. Barbara Bayford 6. Valerie Jackson 7. Ginette Thurston 8. Pat Wales 9. Dolly Gilbert 10. Ann Watson

WARWICKSHIRE by Caroline Williams

The table tennis season kicked off in Warwickshire with the first Free Church Tournament at Leamington, with, as on previous occasions, a large contingent of players from South Wales and this time the new 40mm ball. Neil Wright (Cardiff) took the seniors title with leading Welsh Junior Owen Clutterbuck runner-up. Clutterbuck went one better in Grade A where he lifted the trophy after defeating Steve Hall from Penarth (a leading Welsh senior player with many Free Church successes). The consolation competitions for both Seniors and Grade A featured the same pair reaching the final with Paul Rowan (Banbury) twice seeing off Derek Thompson (Nuneaton), though Paul had to work harder in the second match, a tense 3-setter.

Peter Lowry (Chester) seized the Under 17 crown conquering young Laura Hall (Penarth) in the final. Her younger sister Sarah Hall won the consolation over Sinead McMillan from Bridgwater. The Under 14 event went nearer to home with Free Church's Jaz Allen-Sutton seeing off Sam Harrison (Kidlington, Oxford). Simon Nolan (Banbury) gained the consolation at the expense of another Free Church player Stephanie Hawkins. Alex Jones (Newport) swept over his club mate Neil Saxena for the Under 12 trophy whilst Matthew Beahan (Kidlington) gained the consolation honours over R. Mealing (Blaenavon).

More Welsh success in Grade B with Lyndon Jones (Merthyr Tydfil) overcoming local player Andrew Meredith. Laura Hall (Penarth) gained another trophy, taking the Consolation at the expense of Greg Boone (Oxford). Clare Ford (Cwmbran) gained victory in Grade C over her final opponent Leamington's Tony Williams. Mark Perkins (Nuneaton) seized the Consolation overcoming Ian Shuck (Tredagar).

Alex Jones from Newport added the Improvers title with Simon Nolan (Banbury) runner-up. Neil Saxena (Blaenavon) gained the Consolation from James Cockerill from Solihull. Ros Freeman took the Consolation honours back to Earthorpe by overcoming her younger sister Charlotte.

Further tournaments will take place on Saturday 18th November, 3rd February and 30th March 2001.

New Season

Leamington League kicked off at the end of September for the first season featuring the larger 40mm balls. The main 3-a-side league has three 12 team divisions as last year but the popularity of the separate 2-a-side league (with its shorter evenings) increases and it has grown to two divisions – A & B. Both these divisions are for eight teams and so teams will play three times over the season instead of the normal twice. Players can play in the 3-a-side league and the separate 2-a-side league without hindrance. The Junior League, which plays at the earlier time of 4.30pm, has also increased to a full 10 teams.

Fuel crisis delays rankings!

The Warwickshire County Cadet and Junior Trials had to be postponed from mid-September because of the fuel crisis and so results will be too late for this article.

WORCESTERSHIRE by Martin Clark

The rankings committee have produced their lists for the coming season, with both seniors and veterans again having two teams entered in the County Championships.

The Senior 1sts will again play their Division 1A matches in two weekends, this

time at Wood Green, Wednesbury, on 28th/29th October and 3rd/4th March.

Senior 2nds matches in Division 2B will be played on separate Saturdays, however, the first fixture, a double header in the south-west against Cornwall 1sts and 2nds was postponed due to the fuel crisis. Even so, unavailability of players that plagued team selection last season seems again to be a problem even at this early stage.

A late reorganisation of the Veterans fixtures has drawn both our teams into what appears to be a very strong Division 2B. Much effort was made, with the assistance of Buckinghamshire to stage the matches over weekends, however, a minority of counties were unwilling to co-operate. Consequently, two Saturdays at Crippenham, 28th October and 3rd March, will see four matches being played, with the remainder in accordance with the original fixture list.

The juniors playing in Division 1B will also play a number of their matches at Crippenham. That which was due to be played on 16th September also fell foul of the fuel crisis and will need to be rearranged. The other Crippenham date is 13th January, with one remaining match away to Glamorgan on 4th November. The junior trials were taking place on 27th August at Wolverley.

County badges are to be awarded to Max Crimmins, Dot Macfarlane and Steve Dorrell.

Ranking List:

Senior Men:

1. Max Crimmins 2. Julian Wooton 3. Steve Horton 4. Lewis Siket 5. David Rogers 6. Zia Khan 7. Ray Dixon 8. Lee Horton 9. Ken Walton 10. Roy Norton 11. Mark Fiddian 12. Eric Hardman 13. Mervyn Wood 14. Chris Maiden 15. Martin Clark 16. Bryan Belcher 17. Ray Williams 18. Nick Mytton 19. John Stafford 20. Willie Aherne 21. Steve Dorrell 22. Lewis Cook 23. Ian Wood 24. Matthew Hartwell 25. Mike Meredith 26. Clive Cook 27. Tony Bartram

Senior Women:

1. Sandra Roden 2. Janet Dunning 3. Kate Hughes 4. Sarah Stone 5. Joanne Hill 6. Carrie Bewliss 7. Janet Hunt 8. Alison Westwood 9. Stephanie Price 10. Helen Pogmore 11. Lynda Reid 12. Jenny Burchill 13. Laura Vaughan 14. Alison Rathbone 15. Dot Macfarlane 16. Wendy Baggott

Veteran Women:

1. Janet Dunning 2. Janet Hunt 3. Helen Pogmore 4. Lynda Reid 5. Dot Macfarlane 6. Wendy Baggott

Veteran Men:

1. Max Crimmins 2. Ray Dixon 3. Ken Walton 4. Roy Norton 5. Eric Hardman 6. Mervyn Wood 7. Chris Maiden 8. Martin

Clark 9. Bryan Belcher 10. Ray Williams 11. Nick Mytton 12. John Stafford 13. Willie Aherne 14. Steve Dorrell 15. Mike Meredith 16. Clive Cook 17. Tony Bartram

Roger Stephens and Mike Prior again organised the County Junior and Cadet Inter-League team tournament at the end of last season. In the Junior section an impressive performance from Evesham saw them head the four team table ahead of Kidderminster A. However, in the Cadet section it was Kidderminster who again led the way with A & B teams respectively keeping the other four leagues at bay.

County players Ray Dixon, Steve Horton, Roy Norton and Ken Walton teamed up in the summer to play in the Maxell Challenge two-a-side league at Shifnal, finishing second to a strong Woodfield team from Wolverhampton. It's pretty clear that young Steve Horton can't wait to achieve veteran status, turning out with such elderly statesman calling themselves 'Supervets'.

MUHR'S MEMO

Information Officer messages from Ken Muhr

Apart from John Woodford's ongoing Daily Telegraph coverage and Press Association copy, and some Paralympics reportage, including photographs – the table tennis did better on television - it has been a relatively quiet month for our sport in the national press.

There was a quite a large, sympathetic piece by Sarah Potter on Nicola Deaton in The Times, in which the national women's champion indicated interest in representing England in the 2002 Commonwealth Championships in Manchester, and also in going to university when she passes her Psychology A level to add to those she already has.

Matthew Syed, in his first Times' article since the Olympics, focuses on the Japanese US \$1 million Kenshoen super table tennis circuit, sponsored by the millionaire owner of the Kenshoen company, Mr Yukawa San. Eight of the world's leading players, including Matthew because of his "unique and spectacular style" and the cream of the Japanese, will apparently be battling it out in 2 divisions. It was good and intriguing reading, but to date I have no idea how the circuit is going.

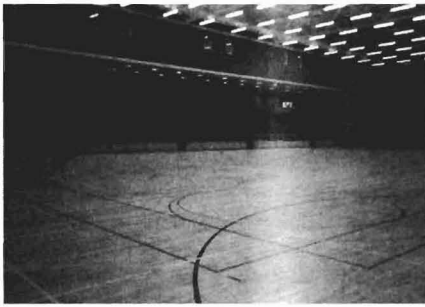
In the regional press, both the Clare Pengelly Memorial Butterfly Grand Prix in Paignton and the Sussex Open Butterfly Grand Prix in Hastings got plenty of column inches. I have earlier forgotten to mention that Chris Budden was interviewed on BBC Greater London Radio about Barnet TTC's participation in the British League Premier Division, and about the 40mm ball and possible changes in the service rule. Malcolm Francis also tells me

he was interviewed on BBC Northampton and on Look East over pupil Tim Yarnall. I am sure that there are many other instances of local/regional broadcast media coverage, but mostly I don't get to hear of them.

After the piece in the last issue on the Marion Coutts Exhibition at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Tony Oswick of the Clacton DTTL has sent me a cutting from the East Anglian Daily Times (2.10.00) which shows a large photograph of her Castle Park shaped table tennis table being displayed as part of the Laboratory Experiments in Visual Arts exhibition at the Minories, Colchester. The paper's reviewer was unimpressed! In his latest (October) 'Table Tennis Collector' journal edition, editor Gerald Gurney devotes 2 pages (1 for photographs) to Marion Coutts's 3 'Fresh Air' London Parks shaped tables and the Castle Park, Colchester table (see his article on the next page). He makes the valid point that it is a pity that these well made tables were not constructed in concrete or other weatherproof material so that they could be set up in the parks to which they are related (or other strategic outdoor locations?). Apparently after a hoped for staging of a fun tournament on the Colchester table, it will be available for sale for offers of around £4,000 which may be a fair price for a TT table as a work of art!

Also in his publication, Gerald Gurney reviews a thorough and well-produced new book, or handbook of table tennis, by Jurgen Schmicker, 'Das Grosse Buch vom Tischtennis'. "Jurgen Schmicker has managed to cover a wide range of topics – history (given an unusual 30 pages), a gallery of world champions, physics, training, tactics, fitness, diet, equipment, rules and records of major events." It has 274 illustrations and is a good buy for readers of German: available from the author, Schellerstr. 14, 41366 Schwalmtal, Germany (E-mail: juergen.schmicker@t-online.de), price DM 49.80 or 30 Euro, including postage.

Preparations are now quite advanced for the 64th English Open at Buckmore Park on 6-11 February 2001. It promises to be a great event and should generate plenty of publicity for table tennis. Our usual problem is media indifference, which perhaps protects us from the British press's obsession of knocking things in this country, for example the rubbishing of the Millennium Dome. Whilst I cannot argue whether the Dome at Greenwich was worth £billion, I was really impressed with it. There was plenty to do and most of the attractions challenged one to think without being over heavy. It is definitely worth a visit before it closes.



Buckmore Park, photo by Geoff Taylor

The English Open is of course an ITTF Pro Tour Event. The new website of the ITTF Pro Tour is <http://www.itfprotour.com>. It is designed and managed by Sportalasia Ltd., with whom the ITTF have signed a 5 year agreement, and during Pro-Tour events enthusiasts will be kept up to date with the competition's progress, with finals receiving point by point website coverage. Incidentally, I apologise for Sportalasia's Sydney Olympics website www.sportalasia.com/sydney2000/en/sports/tt being allocated an extra 's' (sport~~s~~alasia) in the last edition of TTN Extra.

Sportcom (www.sportcom.co.uk) aims to gather as much information as possible i.e. links, e-mail addresses and contact details as to sports teams, clubs, groups etc. and make them easily available to the UK sports community via their website. If you have a website or other details you would like added to this facility, e-mail info@sport.com or use the submission form at www.sportcom.co.uk/addurlframe.htm.

FRESH AIR TABLE TENNIS TABLES

by Gerald Gurney

There is no doubt at all that most sports take themselves far too seriously and are obsessive about success. What does it matter – once the match is finished – as to who won or lost? Table tennis, however, perhaps owing to its domestic origin in the dining room, is far more 'friendly' while still being properly professional at its top level.

Marion Coutts' 'Fresh Air' table tennis tables appear, at first glance, to be simply a novelty, a bit of fun; indeed, it is suggested that they make a 'knockabout' game with no strict rules so that, for instance, the ball may bounce twice or on the floor. It is in the spirit of "playing round the table" or French Cricket – which is a far better game than the Anglicised version.

However, the tables are also works of art. Marion Coutts, quoted in the Independent on Sunday, said, in reference to her three tables based on the shape of Regent's Park: 'London has a very specific urban density and the parks make clear the distinct shapes in it; they are formalised nature gaps. People in parks behave differently – they are there to relax, to take

a short cut, to do nothing. I like the idea of looking over the city as you play.....The really interesting part for me occurs when people play on the tables because you get different games on different tables. Hyde Park is roughly the shape of a normal table, but Regent's gives this really weird round game".

The table shown in the photographs is based on the Castle Park, Colchester, and was specially commissioned for an exhibition Experiment in Visual Art at a gallery near the park.

It is a pity that the tables were not constructed in concrete or some other weatherproof material so that they could be set up in the parks to which they are related; I have played on a concrete table in a park in Geneva, and they are certainly known elsewhere.

It is hoped to stage a 'fun' tournament on the Colchester table, after which offers of around £4,000 will be considered. Marion Coutts tells me that no more will be made.

TV STAR WARS: LET THE UMPIRE STRIKE BACK

by Matthew Syed (English & Commonwealth Champion)

It is time to put officials on a par with viewers and arm them with all the technological help available

Beauty may be subjective, but subjectivity can be far from beautiful. The allure of table tennis for me as a youngster was its repudiation of the subjective – hit the ball across the net and on to the other side of the table enough times and you win; if you don't, you lose. Simple, transparent, objective. No room for bluffing, no third party interference, just one-on-one. Or so I thought.

Just minutes into my first official competition I realised that not even table tennis could live up to my ideal objective purity. I performed what I thought was a textbook service. The umpire called fault. Too shy and taken aback to inquire for a reason, I served again. Same result. This time indignation provoked courage and I demanded an explanation.

The throw-up, according to the rulebook, should be 'near vertically upwards' and my service action transgressed this requirement, according to the umpire. Spectators gaped at his officiousness. Who did he think he was – Euclid? I became frantic, wondering whether I would manage to perform even a single service that satisfied his strict interpretation of the rules.

It was an early lesson in the painful reality that the sway of subjectivity is unavoidable in sport, and not just in the obvious activities such as synchronised swimming, gymnastics and ice dance. All sports need

rules and rules require interpretation and enforcement. Just play a game of footy in the park and you will never again question the indispensability of a referee – unless you happen to be an anarchist.

Yet when human beings are required to judge or interpret, the inevitable outcome is caprice and error. This is not a criticism of referees, but rather an observation of human nature.

Examples abound of where arbiter error or misguided interpretation has played a defining role in sporting outcome. In the African Nations Cup Final in February, a strike in the penalty shoot-out by Ikpeba of Nigeria hit the bar and crossed the line by two feet, only to spin out and be disallowed by the referee, leaving Cameroon to win the championship. And need I remind anyone of a similar controversy in the 1966 World Cup Final?

Indeed, it is impossible to watch March of the Day these days without a manager tearing his hair out over some erroneous offside decision. And in table tennis, a full 20 years on since my first brush with umpires, inconsistent interpretation of the service rule is still wreaking havoc in international competitions.

But the pivotal role exercised by the arbiter is increasingly anachronistic, not to say absurd, given the social, financial and political significance that sport now commands. What other multimillion-pound activity allows subjectivity such influence? The nostalgic notion that refereeing blunder is all part of the game and should somehow be factored into our collective expectation is long past its sell-by date. Today, the spectator is not merely a casual viewer. He may have the value of his equity portfolio riding on the outcome.

In the past, the absurdity was partially shielded by the fact that the blur of the live spectacle left just about everybody at a loss to make definitive pronouncements. No longer. Nowadays, while the referee struggles to process an almost infinite quantity of information in real time with the help of two eyes and ears, his split-second decisions are scrutinised in totalitarian detail by the police state that goes by the name of the Sky live broadcast unit. Dozens of camera angles, slow-motion replays, endless studio analysis, plus a million other devices. What a farcical situation when the television spectator can gaze down from a position of technological omniscience upon a contest riddled with demonstrable errors.

Cricket viewers, for instance, must be utterly bewildered that they can be shown via the trivial device of superimposed lines drawn wicket to wicket, that the ball has pitched and hit pad outside leg stump, hence ruling out the possibility of a leg-before decision, only to see the umpire raise his index finger. Or to see an umpire

oblivious to an appeal for caught behind when the snickometer clearly shows the soundwaves emanating from a thin outside edge.

One cannot help thinking of all the hours of practice, the raw ambition, the pre-match nerves – not to mention the millions riding at the bookies – and yet the cricketing authorities don't allow the one man who matters most to access a hand held device so that he can make an informed decision.

Surely no one could deny that this technological gap between viewer and arbiter is seriously undermining the credibility of sporting interaction, and at a time when sport needs all the credibility it can get, given the open wounds generated by match-fixing and corruption.

Conservatives worry that reliance on technology will disrupt the flow of the game, but they worried when shirtless sleeves were introduced in tennis. The rhythms of sporting interaction are not written in stone. Fans and players are capable of making adjustment, particularly when rationale for change is so enticing.

Subjectivity rebels against the notion of essence – the Platonic form of sport. Gadgetry will never banish it completely. The subtle nuances of fine interpretation will always remain, but allowing arbiters to wield the available technology opens up the real prospect that sporting outcome can be determined by the heroics of skill and courage rather than the avoidable error.

(This article was reprinted by kind permission of 'The Times', first published on 28th July 2000).

Differences With The Larger 40mm Ball by Trevor Parry, Dorset County Junior Coach

Phase 1 – Speed and Spin Affects First Impact

The larger ball travels slower through the air due to air resistance, caused by larger surface area and slows down quicker. The mass or weight of 38mm and 40mm balls was originally supposed to be identical so this was not a relevant factor. One would have thought it would have been obvious that if you produce a larger ball of the same weight the skin will be marginally thinner and extended over a greater area, a point which initially seems to have eluded boffins of the ITTF and the ETTA. The early prodigious breakage rate of the new larger balls alerted the powers that be to this problem and the necessity of using thicker, stronger material to compensate, so the mass or weight is marginally greater, which could conceivably offset the effects of the greater surface area. Most players agree the ball is more visible and slows down quicker and tends to dip at the end of the trajectory and skid a bit off the table. Any imperfections in the quality of manufacture

will inevitably be magnified by the larger ball, viz, wobble, soft spots, greater discrepancy between the hardness on the seam and points furthest from it. The ball leaves the bat slower because any given force is transmitted to a larger area of ball, which deforms more.

In terms of spin, a given force transmitted to a point on the circumference of a sphere, will cause that sphere to rotate or spin.

No real scientific research has as yet been done, or better, published for general consumption. Matthew Syed is convinced there is less spin in most situations with the larger ball, a view I share, but not a few experienced and thinking players are not entirely unconvinced.

Phase 2

When the larger ball hits the table the larger softer ball, with greater surface area contact, which will spread and dissipate the contact force and spin, will cause the ball to skid through lower. Any imperfections in the larger circumference ball, in terms of roundness and uniform hardness, will cause greater oscillation and inconsistency of bounce. If a ball is made larger and weight remains substantially the same, the skin must be made thinner, softer and more susceptible to fracture

Phase 3 – Flight of the Ball in the Air

This, in effect, involves the science of ballistics or the performance characteristics of projectiles. The critical factor is air resistance, which will slow the larger ball quicker, and also accelerate the dissipation of spin. The long ball will dip in a more profound way at the end of its trajectory and swerve more with the hooked forehand sidespin shot. In practical terms, the long topspin seems to drop short of where experience with the old ball tells you you should be playing the ball.

A 1" diameter ball will have a circumference of approximately 3". To that point at which any force is applied will cover a direct linear distance of 3" in rotation. With a 2" diameter ball (3" circumference) the ball will only complete a half revolution with the same applied force. The speed of revolution (spin) will be in inverse proportion to the size of the ball. The larger ball will clearly spin slower and less and since any point on the circumference will have to travel further to complete a revolution, the spin will reduce quicker due to air resistance. In the practical context the issue is not quite so simple and straightforward. I had some interesting dialogue with Henry Buist, a very articulate and acute observer in most matters pertaining to table tennis with a playing skill to substantiate his ideas, which stimulated my own. He suggested that more friction might be transmitted to the larger surface area of the larger ball and that certainly, in the case of service or quick

over-the-table shots more spin might be transmitted to the larger ball at the moment of impact. This set me thinking and Henry might well be right, certainly in the case of 'soft contact' loop type shots. Yet there is an equally valid argument with relatively hard-hit shots, where the same force is transmitted over a smaller area to a smaller harder ball that the ball will dig into the softer sponge, grip more, increase the 'dwell' time and produce more spin.

Phase 4

Effects when you are playing the ball or returning a shot, the larger ball is easier to see. In most phases of the game the ball is slower and has less spin. For reasons previously mentioned, the bounce is less consistent and predictable. Assuming the speed is inversely proportional to the size of the ball, an 80 mph smash will be reduced to 76 mph, which in practical terms is not going to make a great deal of difference. A 20 mph push will be reduced to 19 mph. In any case, in most phases of the game, even a fast push is travelling at least twice as fast as a player can move. I don't seriously think the larger ball is going to be the answer to the defender's prayer unless legislation is amended in other directions, to limit the potential of attackers to balance the limitations imposed with long pimples as was originally projected. There has been no legislation whatsoever limiting the technology available to the attacking game. Having video taped and watched the last six Pro-Tour events, there is little evidence that the larger ball has made any significant difference to the game beyond marginally favouring the short pimples bat over the table Asian hitters. At the top level, even in the women's game, good women defenders are not seriously competitive. How many defenders did anybody spot in the last 16 of the last six Pro-Tour events? What was more conspicuous than the impact of the larger ball was, with the exception of Samsanov, the almost total domination of the Asian players; both men and women again, at world level.

Postscript

It is interesting to speculate how much of the intended objective of the larger ball will be achieved since, less than six months after its introduction, technological front manufacturers are already producing a wide range of faster blades, faster glues to offset what temporary minor inconvenience the larger ball may cause. Possibly the next legislative intervention will follow up the sanctions on long pimples with sanctions on the short pimples, which a lot of the top Asian attackers have used with some effect for some time. Not a few world class defenders are using short pimples in preference to long pimples now and think

they might see the demise of the once feared long pimples, in that short pimples offer more consistent control, more potential for variation between chop and float and better attack facility, especially away from the table. So that might be another good reason for banning short pimples. Sadly, there would be no lack of support, for the current technology does everything to lead players towards a common uniformity; a superfast bat with ultra fast glue and super rubber, which certainly, at the level that most people play, creates an illusion that their level of skill is far higher than it actually is. It is a measure of the topsy-turvy world of table tennis that legislation no longer permits the use of a plain wooden bat, the Ken Beamish Special, that won two English Veteran Championships and is an invaluable coaching aid in teaching sound technique in the basic strokes, much favoured by the Chinese in the coaching of young players.

ESSEX 4 STAR YOUTH OPEN TOURNAMENT

7th/8th October, Harlow Leisure Centre
by Steve Kerns

The upgrading of the Essex Open to 4 Star status attracted a top-class entry and Tournament Referee Alan Shepherd will be delighted that the tournament has been restored to its former glories after campaigning vociferously that it should have a Select status.

Top local performance came in the U17 Girls' event where 16-year-old local girl Natalie Bawden (Maldon) took the title, getting the better of old rival Georgina Walker (Notts) after a furious three-end-final. The girls were at it again in the U21 final and this time Georgina came out on top at 18-in-the-third but only after Natalie had levelled at 16-16 after trailing 2-10 at the turn-round. Many local players will not have seen much of Natalie since she has become a resident of the ETTA Academy at Nottingham. The improvement in her game has been quite startling and is a credit to the England set-up and of course to her.

The event which produced the most shocks was the U17 Boys' event, where the Drinkhall family ran riot. Fast rising Bryn Drinkhall (Cleveland) showed real composure as he ousted Tom Hughes, Matt Kenny and Lee Barham to reach the final although he made little impact against a rampant Dale Barham. However, his fine performance pales into significance compared with the superb win his younger brother Paul achieved in the group stages where he got the better of Peniel's no. 3 seed Chris Jamieson. Things did not improve that much for Jamieson as he eventually went out in the third round proper to Greg Baker. Peter Cleminson (Peniel) also upset the rankings with a tense 23-21 in the third win over no. 4 seed Dominic Hall at the quarter-final stage.

Lightning quick Dale Barham made it to a double, taking the U21 event, and although he was composed throughout he did not have it all his own way. Eli Baraty (Middlesex) took the first end and stayed with him all the way to deuce in the second and Jamieson made amends for his earlier showing by qualifying for the semi-final quite comfortably. He wasn't about to surrender without giving it a good shot and only lost 22-20, 25-23 to Barham after holding game points in both ends. A decider would have been fascinating. Matt Spero (Ilford) was another to excel with an excellent win over Lee Barham.

A battling Tim Yarnall (Northants) took the U14 Boys' Singles title after an open hard-hitting final where he got the better of Greg Baker (Staffs) over three ends. Richard Moss (Yorkshire) also upset the formbook when he ousted the higher-ranked Neil Cartwright (Dorset).

In the Cadet Girls' event England no. 1 Joanne Parker (Surrey) took the title using her experience and mature and measured all-round game to great effect but the best performance of all came from no. 4 seed Nicola White (Yorkshire). She came through a cliffhanger -26,20,20, against Kelly Craven-Griffiths and clearly fired up by the experience she scored a great win over second seed Karen Shepherd (Cheshire). Joanne just took the final 19,19 but it is fair to say that Nicola should finish the season much higher-ranked than the 31st position she currently occupies on the Junior girls ranking list.

England no. 1 Bradley Evans came out on top in the U12 Boys' event and it was U17's giant-killer Paul Drinkhall who had to take second place on this occasion. Likewise, the U12 Girls' event also went to form with Lauren Spink (Norfolk) coming out on top with a win in the final against Anusha Seneveratne (Kent). 10-year-old Sarra Wang (Braintree) caused the biggest upset getting to the semi-final with a fine win over England no. 5 Gemma Yarnley (Kent).

Results of main events were as follows:

U12 Girls' Singles: Georgina Walker (Ng) bt Natalie Bawden (E) -20,20,18; U21 Boys' Singles: Dale Barham (Ca) bt Matthew Kenny 7,16; U17 Boys' Singles: Dale Barham bt Bryn Drinkhall 15,10; U17 Girls' Singles: Natalie Bawden (E) bt Georgina Walker (Ng) 12,-19,15; U14 Girls' Singles: Joanne Parker (Surrey) bt Nicola White (Yo) 19,19; U14 Boys' Singles: Tim Yarnall (No) bt Greg Baker (St) 14,-20,14; U12 Boys' Singles: Bradley Evans (Bu) bt Paul Drinkhall 18,20; U12 Girls' Singles: Lauren Spink (Nk) bt Anusha Seneveratne (K) 16,11

Southampton Table Tennis League announce smashing sponsorship from local Volvo dealer - September Press Release
Kings Volvo is pleased to confirm the sponsorship of the Southampton Table Tennis League for the 2000/1 season. The

sponsorship will come in the form of a new table tennis table, shirts for the cadets/juniors and trophies for all five leagues.

Kings were approached by the Southampton Table Tennis Association in a bid to gain much needed funds that will help improve facilities for their players, and also at the same time increase the games profile in the area. It is hoped that by raising the profile of the game, it will generate interest and get youngsters playing the game for the first time.

Kings Volvo Dealer Principal Stephen Snow, said, "We are proud to be involved with the Southampton Table Tennis Association. If our sponsorship can help maintain the development of table tennis in the local area, then this will be a worthwhile activity, and one of which we can hopefully look to develop in the future."

To kick off the sponsorship and the new season, the Southampton Table Tennis Association held a very successful exhibition match on 12th September 2000 at the Chamberlayne Leisure Centre in Weston, Southampton, featuring Carl Prean (former European Junior Champion, English Senior no. 1 and Senior Champion) and a host of top local players. Over 100 local youngsters attended and Carl stayed behind after the exhibition to give out photographs, sign autographs and chat with players.

Contact the Southampton Table Tennis Association on 023 8066 3595 for more information.

South West Regional Report By Alf Peppard

The SWR Committee met at the Weston-super-Mare Cricket Club Headquarters on 13th August 2000.

The Chairman, John Burtenshaw, opened the meeting by recording a vote of thanks to Ann Sandford (the retiring Mins/Sec) for her sterling work on the committee over the years. He then introduced the new Minutes Secretary, Jennifer Meikle, and the newly appointed Area Development Officer, Philip Irwin-Brown, to the members present.

Coaching

Valerie Clack reported that the coaching course in Bath had been exceptionally well attended - any coaches who wanted to update their qualifications were welcomed.

All coaches now require access to the publication "The Coaches Guide to Child Protection Procedures": Valerie emphasised that it is most important in present day society to be fully aware of all the implications.

Development Procedures

Ken Satchell felt that there were difficulties in finding entry for some children into table tennis in certain schools. In discussion, everyone

agreed that gaps between county clubs and schools do exist and it was suggested that a report should be put to National Council. Ken would produce the bones of a recommendation that could possibly be enlarged.

Date of next meeting: 4th March 2001 at 2pm at Weston-super-Mare Cricket Club.

TT 'Awards For All' September 2000

Region	Awards	Total Awarded
East Midlands	16	£49,651
Eastern	10	£27,572
London	25	£108,934
North East	7	£25,579
North West	16	£53,564
South East	22	£67,174
South West	16	£37,564
West Midlands	29	£85,094
Yorkshire	11	£34,995
Overall	152	£490,127

Information provided by Sport England 29.09.00.

A PORTRAIT OF J.M. BURTENSHAW, CHAIRMAN OF THE SWR COMMITTEE

By Alf Pepperd

When John Burtenshaw appointed me as Press Officer for the SWR several years ago, he laid the seeds for a very interesting BBC Radio Gloucestershire interview which I did with him at one of "The Cotswolds" at Cheltenham some four or five years ago. During that interview some of the following matters of interest came to light.

John openly admitted that in his 50 years of service to our sport he has grappled with the following jobs – player, organiser, administrator and tea maker! (I think the latter has been well performed by many of us?) He joined Kennington Y.C. in Ashford, Kent, in 1950 and played in the 2nd division, the same year (at a tender age) he became an elected member of the Ashford TTA.

1951 – 1954. John reigned supreme as Ashford's Tournament Organiser and in 1955 the dreaded National Service reared its ugly head and off he went to serve in the Royal Army Dental Corps. While in the Army he continued to play table tennis and played for the Dental Corps a total of 51 times, prior to the end of his service days John won the Aldershot Minor Singles, and returning to civvie street in 1957 he continued playing and doing admin work at various aspects of committee work.

In 1963, he was elected Chairman of Ashford TTA where he won the Men's Singles and Doubles as well, and that year became a Kent League player.

In 1968, John was promoted in his business activities and moved to Bristol, as West of England Branch Manager (for L. Porro Ltd. Dental Practices). He married Jill Hyder on 23rd March 1968 at Aldington in Kent. From 1969-1977 John played in

the Bristol League and also coached in the west of the country.

In 1978, he started playing in the Weston-super-Mare League, becoming a rep on the Avon County Committee, three years later he was elected Chairman of the Weston-Super-Mare League and also became the ETTA's no.1 Regional Coaching and Development Officer.

In 1986 he was made a Life Member of Ashford TTA and President of the Weston-super-Mare TTA. In 1991 he was elected Vice-Chairman of Avon County (Management) and later the following year was promoted to National Councillor for Avon County. 1998 became John's great year as he became Chairman of the South West Regional Committee and a member of the National Coaching Foundation. 2000 saw John progress even further, gaining a Life Membership for the Weston-Super-Mare TTA and Bleadon YC, a member of the Veteran Club, coach also to the latter, and member of the ETTA Association of Sports Coaches no. 756 Level 4.

John is also a member of the ETTA National Development Committee, the Veterans English Society and finally, as Regional Chairman, John Burtenshaw is usually invited to attend National Council meetings.

Quite a record eh - I've already burned out one ribbon in my word processor writing this!

NATIONAL JUNIOR LEAGUE 2000/1 EASTERN REGION

The top performance in the first round of matches undoubtedly came from St. Ives, who now effectively top both divisions. The boys' team in particular deserve a lot of credit, having steadily worked their way up from the bottom of the league a couple of seasons ago, to now be joint title favourites with Lowestoft. Robert Green finished the day unbeaten, while both Michael Gutteridge and David Blake lost only once each, Michael losing to Sudbury I's Richard Feder, and David losing to Sudbury I's Alistair Hill.

Three other boy's teams finished the day unbeaten, Lowestoft, Stowmarket Strays and Shaw, but all dropped vital points. Lowestoft drew with Stowmarket, while newcomers to the League Shaw drew with both Sudbury I and Britannia Ipswich.

St. Ives Girls were in great form, winning all their matches with both Sarah Berry and Jo Stonehouse unbeaten, and good support from Emily Smart. However, they won't have things all their own way, as both Britannia Ipswich and Braintree ran them very close. Braintree in particular could easily have had a draw against St. Ives, but Becki Metson was just edged out by Sarah Berry 19-21 third end.

Shaw Girls will also be a force to be reckoned with, despite only being able to field two players, they gave everyone a run

for their money, and with a full team could well upset a lot of applearcarts. In addition to the players already mentioned, there were good performances in the Boys League from Norwich's Andy Gale, Sudbury's Ashley Skeggs, Lowestoft's Lee Desborough, Shaw's James Goodhead, Andrew Uttley and Rory Bone, Stowmarket's Sam Walker and Ipswich's Craig Harper. While in the Girls League, Shaw's Kate Eyre, Braintree's Lorna Staff and all the Ipswich girls Jackie Wallace, Emily Barham, and Rachel Stevens were in good form.

This year's league looks like being very competitive, with the teams at the bottom of the tables, while losing games 6-0, involved in a lot of highly competitive three-enders.

Harry Yeates and British Gas Website

By Ken Muhr

I have had recent communication with a former Milton Keynes table tennis pupil of mine from the early 90's, Harry Yeates. Harry, one of three table tennis playing brothers – twin Tom, younger brother Jake – was a fit, forehand looper who played for Bucks juniors and also briefly wrote the Bucks notes for Table Tennis News, a role Jake was also to take on. However, Harry stopped playing before going to Oxford University (studying Physics and Mathematics, I think).

For the past year he has been working as Technical Editor for the materials science journal, *Materials World*, but he has packed this up to spend six months with his girlfriend in India and SE Asia. He had not picked up a bat for a long time – 'exercise for me involved football in the Southern Amateur League' – but in August wrote an article on table tennis for the free British Gas website (www.yoursource.co.uk) which claims to be 'the revolutionary interactive magazine and community website'.

To find Harry's article, reproduced below, click on 'your game, then 'archives' and then 'Sing the Ping Pong'.

I think the article is quite good, with plenty of interesting facts to show that he has been keeping in touch with the sport, although there are a few minor inaccuracies, e.g. Adam Robertson was 16, not 15, and Andrew Baggaley was 17, not 18, and is threatening to become the youngest no. 1 since Carl Preat, not Chester Barnes. On the website itself you can vote to 'rate' or 'slate' the article.

Sing the Ping Pong by Harry Yeates Why everyone thinks they can play table tennis...

Table tennis is a sport you can relate to – the people's game. You either played it on holiday as a kid, or down the youth club, or, if you were a very lucky person, had a table at home. More than likely you class yourself as quite good. Norman Lamont

once famously boasted how he played every day and thought he could probably beat 'most people'. That comment was met with ire by anyone who thought they themselves could play a bit, which, as it turns out, is most people.

As usual, the truth gets in the way at this point and 'most people' turn out to be 'crap'.

This summer the sport has undergone something of a popular renaissance. Tim Lott's bestselling west London parable 'White City Blue' used it as a metaphor for young life, catalysed by the iconic Halex three-star ball. At the same time Howard Jacobson's knockabout tale of a Jewish sphere-smacker from Manchester – 'The Mighty Walzer' – kicks off with the main character discovering a Halex three-star bobbing around in the pond in Heaton Park. These are only the latest literary treatments of table tennis. In Joseph Heller's masterwork, *Catch 22*, all-American boy Appleby provokes handyman survivalist Orr into leaping onto the table in the mess and bashing him in the face when he refuses to stop winning.

Life mirrors art, as they say, and Britain's boys have just come back with medals from the European Youth Championships for the first time in 11 years. 15-year-old Adam Robertson took silver and 18-year-old Andrew Baggaley, from Milton Keynes, the bronze. Baggaley is spearheading a revival in the fortunes of our young players, recently rising to number three in the senior rankings and threatening to become the youngest number one since Chester Barnes – incidentally now a top racehorse trainer – in 1963.

Exciting stuff, but not well-known and unlikely to register in most newspapers. In this country the sport has always had to live with a corduroy and comb-over image – granddads stumbling about with bats be-rubbered with brown pimples, old-school tracksuits from the days when they were new-school, making them look like geriatric wannabe hip-hoppers. Fortunately, as for many lower-profile sports these days, the Olympics come along every four years to offer the chance of a quick fix for the public profile, and it's you, the punting viewer, who should take advantage. Without Eurosport it's next to impossible to catch top-flight table tennis on TV. This is nothing short of a tragedy because it's only when you've really seen how good someone can be at this most misunderstood of games that you begin to appreciate the interstellar gulf between you, the campsite crack-shot and a world champion. These are people who can return a ball smashed at 100mph from nine feet away. That's crazy, and it's true. At this level anticipation is the key, and it belongs not to a 'Scanners' style science fiction world, where psychics read your mind, but to clean-living Swedes, Chinese

and Frenchmen who arrive at the destination of your shot before you've hit the ball.

Oddly, however, watching and enjoying table tennis takes some effort. The subtleties of the game are, unfortunately, difficult for the lay observer to pick up on TV. Tony Gubba does his best to explain why the best player in the world has just dropped a straightforward push shot into the foot of the net ('ah, that was backspin'), or scooped seemingly identical serve three feet long ('that one had no spin'), but he always seems to think he's fighting a losing battle. Usually the BBC man resorts to analysing the spectators, helpfully pointing out how "the table tennis crowd at the big finals are always very knowledgeable, they're really appreciating this match". What's more, there's no Coleman-style 'One-nil!' as the first point is won.

But somehow it's addictive, thrilling stuff. Players like England's number one Matthew Syed, the shaven-headed defender, Oxford graduate and would-be MP, hit shots from apparently impossible positions and angles, covering the whole court and sometimes crashing like a bolting horse through the barriers in his attempts to retrieve the celluloid spheroid. The bald fact is that table tennis is pure, eyeballs out, cut-it-with-a-knife tension. It's gladiatorial. Watch Sweden's Jan-Ove Waldner, 1992 Olympic champion and the greatest player the world has ever seen, and learn how millimetric precision, explosive power and military strategy are balletically combined in successive instants of genius. At the same time remember how you're not bad yourself, but certainly not nearly as good as Norman Lamont, who can beat most people.

The JAGS European Show
by John Dennison

JAGS 3 DT ETTTELBRUCK 2

Jags Sport Club hosted their first European match of the season, on Saturday 7th October 2000, against DT ETTTELBRUCK of Luxembourg. After a disappointing display by the England football team, Jags S.C. restored some pride to the small English town of East Dulwich. Abdul Wuraola, Tom Cutler and Clive Carthy performed with true grit and determination, stunning the opposition into submission.

Abdul started the ball rolling, streaking away to an 11-4 lead in the first game of the night, but Jean-Marc Dijou fought back bravely. With dynamic forehand loops and deceptive services Abdul finally won a close encounter 20, 17. Jags S.C. was off to a flying start and Tom Cutler was ready to raise the temperature in an already highly charged match. Suffering from a head cold, Tom got off to a good start, but the ex-Luxembourg champion (Stephanie Dijou)

proved too hot to handle and went on to win a close fought set –16, 17, -18.

The match was finely poised at 1-1 and Clive Carthy the 'laid-back King' was on next. Shaking from nervous tension it was now up to Clive to show what he could do under pressure. Mihi Grigoreanu was bamboozled by the clever serving and unorthodox backhands fashioned by Clive. After a close first game Clive turned on the style to win in straight sets 16, 13.

Jags S.C. was now 2-1 up. Abdul now had the opportunity to seal the victory, but went down –18,-11 to Stephan Dijou. With the match now finely poised at 2-2, cometh the hour cometh the man, Tom Cutler would strive to seal the fate of the Luxembourg visitors. Tom produced a fine recovery performance, after losing the first game, to secure Jags S.C.'s first European triumph with excellent backhand control and forehand counter topspin, winning –16, 14, 12.

Jags S.C.'s next European opponent will be CTM Portunse, Cadiz (Spain). This match will be held at Jags S.C., East Dulwich Grove, Dulwich, London SE22 8TE, and will take place between 10th and 12th November 2000. Contact John Dennison or Jags S.C. on 020 8299 4286 for further information.

MALCOLM FRANCIS: COACH
ADVOCATE FOR PIMPLES Interviewed by
Ken Muhr

Malcolm Francis is coach to several young players in England who are part of the England squad and has been coaching for the last 15 years.

You have long been an advocate of players playing with pimples. Can you explain why?

"I believe that the pimples suit their styles – not all the players I coach play with pimples, but a vast majority seem to have done recently. I believe that pimples add a wider variety of strokes to a game and in China and the rest of Asia many of their players do specialise in the use of pimples and experimenting, in order to be able to widen their game position."

Now one of the charges about playing with pimples is that if you put young players on pimples they do get early results but it can affect their long-term future adversely. How would you answer that?

"I agree with the comment and I think that many people have done that. I hope that people would not accuse me of being one of them to gain short term success, because all of the players I have put on to pimples have continued to have good successful careers right the way through their junior careers, but also through their senior careers if they have continued as seniors,

which a lot of players don't do anyway. I think the thing is to learn to play with smooth rubbers both sides as well as to play with the pimples, and at the end of the day you have got to make shots appear similar to the opponent (whatever rubber the ball is struck with). I think it is when people just put the rubber there and let the rubber do the work that those people get short term gains – not just at under 12 and under 14 but even at veteran level table tennis."

We are talking about pimples, but are you talking about long pimples or short pimples?

"Right across the field of pimples. Many of my players have been accused of using long pimples when in fact they don't even use long pimples - they use short pimples but through the style and different techniques they use, they can have the effect of using long pimples because you obviously can get more control and change the speed, direction and spin of the ball much easier."

You said that you might teach people to play with reverse rubber as well as pimples. So what sort of criteria do you follow to decide whether you are going to suggest that they might try pimples?

"It will only come to the fore that they should use pimples if their action suggests that they would be able to play with them without inhibiting their normal development in table tennis. Then I would try it out and then we will see. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't."

To take you a bit further, what about their action might suggest to you that pimples would be suitable?

"Maybe people who have a more punchy action on the backhand side and also people who have a very good wrist and are able to adapt their wrist movement to whatever strokes they have to play."

You have said to me before that a lot of Chinese play with pimples and that you follow their lead because the Chinese are technically the best country in the world. Do you want to say a little more about that?

"I have spent a lot of time in the last decade in China and watching and talking to their coaches, and previous to that right back to 1980 when I went to China, I followed their direction in coaching. Therefore, going to the Chinese training schools with very young players I would say that without exception there is a higher percentage using pimples than not using pimples, and the percentage would probably be similar to the percentage within my own coaching structure. It is not designed that way but

about a 60-40 split. 60% using pimples of some description, but not necessarily long pimples."

Is there a difference between boys and girls?

"I would say more of the girls use pimples than boys, but it is quite common for short pimples to be on one side of the bat, especially in the southern part of China."

If you had a message that you wanted to give out to the world about pimples, what would it be?

"Accept it as part of table tennis and not knock it, because it takes more skill to play with it than play against it. I feel that the game of table tennis benefits by having a wide variety of styles, makes it more attractive, and if we want to get on TV and get more spectators it's variety, difference of table tennis, personalities that makes it a spectator sport."

ADHAM SHARARA, President of the
International Table Tennis Federation
Keynote Presentation at ETTA Teaching &
Training Conference,
2nd September 2000
Transcribed and edited by Ken Muhr

Although England was one of the 8 founder members of the ITTF in 1926, the ETTA is but one of 187 national associations currently affiliated to the ITTF. Adham Sharara is almost certainly the most powerful man in table tennis, having the responsibility for world view and prosperity of the sport:

"What I want to do to start off is to present to you the ideas or philosophy of the ITTF and how we would like to plan. I think it is very appropriate for your group since you are a coaching and education group. Obviously planning is very important for you. Unfortunately in the past the ITTF has always functioned with a lot of ideas, but the implementation of the ideas never came in a very solid planning process."

When I came to the ITTF I thought the best thing to do was to bring all these ideas together but put them in the format of a plan that would stay for a very long time and would be the legacy of the ITTF. So I would like to present to you something I call the P4 Plan. The plan is basically built round 4 Ps. This kind of presentation can be applicable to an international federation, but also to a national association, or even to a club or a region. The only difference would be to apply priorities in a different

way and to provide weight to each of the goals in a different way.

Priorities and Goals 1999-2001. The 4 Ps or priorities, or reference points or philosophy of the ITTF – Popularity, Participation, Profit (which has been a dirty word in the ITTF for a very long time – every activity or every initiative within the ITTF has to be introducing some income and hopefully some profit, and that we don't run bleeding programmes that suck up the funds and don't bring back any benefit. This is very difficult to implement because the table tennis culture has been such that programmes have had to be provided free of charge or as cheaply as possible. I think this is the one mentality that we have to change slowly to be equal to other sports), and Planning (my benchmark for adopting any kind of new idea or programme is that it must fit with at least 2 of the above 3 priorities and planning always has to be in existence) - have been adopted by the General Meeting as the backbone for planning of the ITTF.

POPULARITY: This is what Alan (Ransome) talks about a lot – player identification, that spectators recognise the players in our sport. For example, if Matthew Syed would walk in the street in Beijing he would have difficulty, he would be stopped and asked for autographs. I am sure that is not the case for him here in England. So we have to work on making our players, our stars, as popular as possible.

The ITTF is through its programmes trying to increase the popularity of the sport, trying to put table tennis on television as much as possible and also in the written and electronic media as much as possible. The goal is to try to make our sport visible and our athletes recognisable.

First, we need to increase public awareness in our sport. Second, increase the recognition factor of the participants of our sport. (For example, Soren Ahlen is well known in Japan and Adham Sharara is well known in China.) Third, increase print media and television coverage. It is difficult to be on TV and in newspapers with photographic reports and results if we don't do anything about it. How do we get more table tennis on television? The answer is not easy. The main responsibility does not lie with the ITTF. Nor does it lie with national associations. The main responsibility lies within the members of the ETTA and within the participants themselves. What do I mean by that? If Alan Ransome contacts the BBC for example, they know that he is the Chairman of the ETTA, they know that he has a

vested interest for putting table tennis on TV because he represents table tennis. So this call does not carry as much weight than as if a normal person watching TV at home picks up the 'phone and phones the TV company and says, "I have been watching TV for 6 months and I don't see any table tennis – I would like to see table tennis." This carries more weight, especially if 1,000 or 2,000 of your members do this. They expect the chairman of the association to call and to try to push his own sport on the TV screens but they don't expect this coming from the general public. So if you can organise within your national association, within your clubs, within your regions a campaign to contact directly – and I know that is not in our culture because table tennis people are usually shy, usually more reserved – the local TV stations, the national TV stations, and ask them to put table tennis on the screens, you cannot imagine how much weight that has.

So the ITTF is working very hard in trying to get most of our international events covered on television. We have as a matter of fact a very good relationship with the ETTA as far as the Pro-Tour events are concerned, and they are being shown on a regular basis on Sky TV.

Finally, as a recent development of the last two years, we would like to pay special attention to the presentation of our sport. Although some of our Pro-Tour events have been shown on TV, in some cases they were negative publicity for our sport because of the poor presentation of the event itself or of the match. So we are trying very hard to improve in this area.

Also I have to tell you that since June we have hired a full-time media and communications manager who will work very hard trying to provide national associations with results on a regular basis and also go directly to the print media and to television news edit business and so on providing table tennis information.

PARTICIPATION: This means increase in numbers, more people actually taking up table tennis. This is a very difficult task for the ITTF because obviously we do not have the territory. This is a task that has to be adopted by the national associations, but even further down by regional associations and clubs – this is really where grass roots and participation levels are.

We work through continental associations on a smaller scale and through them we try to develop development programmes and provide up to 50% funding. We have just signed a contract with the European Table Tennis Union (ETTU) with a full-time development officer, funded on a 50-50 basis. But there are many other

programmes we get involved with as far as participation is concerned, all of them geared to try to increase the player participation base. A very important factor is how each national association counts its numbers. I know that in England you count what you call the registered members but in other countries they count anybody that plays table tennis so you may have much larger numbers. I would advise all national associations including ETTA – when you count your participation base, count everybody who at least holds the racket once a year, which means make those numbers as large as possible provided they are true because that is what governments are looking for and that is what sponsors and television are looking for.

We also try to put into place development plans which are long term based, integral within the planning process of each continental federation, and geared to increasing the number of players, coaches and officials. We are starting our focus mainly on Africa and Latin America where the potential is tremendous. We have many member associations but very few participants so we think we can make quite a difference there. But we are not neglecting Asia and Europe. We have signed contracts with the ETTU and also the Asian Table Tennis Union.

One important factor – and I am pleased to see your Premier Club brochure – is the development of a permanent club structure. As Josie Ransome knows very well, in North America we have a serious problem where our club structure is not permanent. This means that table tennis is an activity which is played at such a time to such a time, on such a day of the week. Tables are set up and then they are removed. There is no permanency, no club culture, no social environment around the club. I think in Europe and especially in England the tradition of clubs is a very long tradition and very stable, but as society progresses and as the North American influence infiltrates society you will notice that activities in sport will become more and more as they are in North America: facilities have to be used to their maximum and you may have at such a time basketball, and then the table tennis players come in for a while and then karate may come in. This of course is not conducive for a permanent club structure so we are trying to help continental federations but also some national associations in establishing a more permanent club structure.

For those activities which the ITTF controls directly, such as competitions, Pro-Tour events, training camps and courses that we deliver to officials and coaches, we try as much as possible to increase the number of

participants, and not make events exclusive but inclusive. There is a very large debate within the ITTF regarding our Pro-Tour: there are some thinking that the Pro-Tour should be very limited, a very small number, but we decided that the Pro-Tour to the contrary would be an open type of programme including all events in the world and would be open to participants without any limitations as far as level or geography. So we tried to be as inclusive as possible in order to increase participation.

Finally, we all know that we have ping pong players all over the place and in my country the word was also a dirty word as profit was! But ping pong to me is part of table tennis. In Canada some of the elite players are very insulted when the newspapers say 'the ping pong champion' or 'ping pong tournament took place yesterday'. They are offended and I am sure that you are offended here also. I am sure in France they are offended. The only place where they are not offended is in China because that is what they call table tennis. It is the Chinese Ping Pong Federation, not a table tennis federation. I say to the Canadian champion, "Would you prefer to be the champion of 10,000 registered table tennis members or would you prefer to be the champion of 2 or 3 million ping pong players?" And they start to think, "Of course I would rather be champion of a much larger group." So I think we have to adopt ping pong. Ping pong is part of us, that's how our sport started, it is part of our culture and we have many, many ping pong players playing around the country – especially in England. Therefore that group or clientele should become part of the table tennis culture. How to do it and how to involve them in our activities is a very difficult question but when you think about it, who really would come to watch international or national events and sit in the stands? It is the ping pong enthusiast – it is not necessarily the table tennis expert. Who will watch table tennis on television? Again it is the ping pong enthusiast, the one who plays in his garage, in Canada in the basement, or at holiday camps. So we have to find ways to bring back this very strong recreational base and new ways of participation such as outdoors programmes or larger ball programmes.

Now the dirty word, PROFIT. We are by definition a non-profit making organisation. Does this mean we make no effort to try to bring in funds or does it mean the income we generate into other activities? Of course in my mind it is the second example. It means profit in the sense that each programme that the ITTF runs must generate income to cover the expenses plus – plus so that the next programme next

year has a larger budget and also so that profit can be used in development areas.

You (the ETTA) receive at national level exchequer money from the government and also high performance money from another area of government, and most national table tennis associations depend a lot on these external government or para-government type of agencies. In the ITTF we don't benefit from any such funding, but we do benefit from Olympic funding, which is a portion of the money the Olympic Games makes: the International Olympic Committee (IOC) distributes some of that profit back to the international federations. 10 years ago, this was about 90% of the income of the ITTF: today it is more in the region of 30% and we are trying to bring it down to 25%. We are not trying to bring it down by sending IOC money back, but by increasing our own funding.

In Canada the example was very drastic – the Canadian TTA used to receive 85-90% of its funding from the government and this was reduced after a lot of effort down to 60-65%. But really the proportion, the ratio, changed drastically when the government decided to cut funding to sport, and each sport had to find its own ways to generate income. This was for me a very good learning experience because as long as you had this lifeline of government money, as long as you provided the report, had good arguments and good negotiating abilities, you were always able to get extra money from the government but from the date that the grant was cut we were forced to find completely new ways of how to generate income. For example, our coaching manuals used to be distributed free of charge on coaching courses – well, we had to charge for them at least the cost of printing and a few dollars. Everything we did changed: our national team members used to receive pocket money when they travelled to international tournaments and that had to change so that they had actually to contribute towards each trip. So the whole mindset or mentality changed. If we had found new avenues of funding earlier, we would have had government funding plus our own funding which would have meant much better programmes.

We try to operate all our programmes as profit centres. Of course this doesn't happen overnight. The ITTF Pro-Tour programme is now in its 5th year. The first two years we lost money, the first year quite a lot – £300,000 – and the second year we came close to breakeven. Since the third year we have been making quite a good profit on the Pro-Tour, so over a 5 year period we are generating a profit. It is a long term process, not an immediate return on our investment, which is why

planning is so important. Anything we run now be it a coaching programme, an officiating programme, a championships or international event, we always think about profit at the end of it.

We try to decrease our financial dependence on external agencies like the IOC, which means that we have to increase our own marketing income. At the moment our marketing income to IOC income is a 2 to 1 ratio, and my target is to make it a 4 to 1 ratio, which is very difficult as the IOC income increases every year. We also try to increase income generating activities of every kind, and finally we try to design all our properties, like events or anything under the ITTF control, in such a way that they become attractive to sponsors, so that we can get sponsorship or corporate money injected into our programmes. This is where TV is very important: you cannot talk about profit without talking about television exposure and media exposure.

Finally, the last P of the 4 Ps, the most important one, the one which without it the whole philosophy would not work **PLANNING**: Peter Hirst would agree since he also helps the ITTF in teaching other national or continental associations in how to plan. At the moment we are embarking on a very extensive planning process. We have completed a development plan which all continental associations except North America are part of. (They will join next year.) We also have a very extensive marketing plan but we are in the process of developing an overall strategic plan, which will indicate which direction the ITTF will take in the next few years. Also, a business plan, or financial plan, with very specific financial targets. That plan was presented in Kuala Lumpur with a target of \$2.5m as an excess revenue over expense in the year 2004 and I can tell you that this plan will have to be rewritten because we will already meet this objective at the end of this year. The plan has to become more aggressive, with higher targets. And we are in the process of putting together operational plans especially for our staff so that they know what priorities they have and what they have to do from a day-to-day basis. To summarise, we would like the ITTF to be part of a very sound planning process, and therefore any initiative that comes within the ITTF has to be filtered through the 4 Ps, and if at least 3 of the 4 Ps are met, including planning, then we can include this initiative in our planning process. Otherwise that idea will be shelved.

Anyone can write a plan – it is very easy to set objectives and to write a plan on how to reach them – but the most difficult part is the implementation, and also to stay within

the parameters that you have established for yourself. In the ITTF's case, those parameters are the P4 cost: that is, we will not embark on an activity unless the P4 philosophy is met.

GENERAL GOALS: Our general goals over the 3 years are to:

- decrease dependence on Olympic funding so mainly increasing our marketing effort, and also increasing our media efforts especially to be more present on television screens and also in newspapers;
- increase the participation base, and I can tell you that we have embarked on a joint effort with the Japanese TTA which now is about one year old and they have increased their participation base or membership by about 12% (we provided technical expertise particularly in marketing areas but they did all the implementation work), and these kind of shared programmes will be offered to all other national associations. We are also trying to convince national associations to adopt and adapt what we would call the ping pong community to bring them into the fold;
- include as much as possible within our competition programme events that are highly visible that will attract television coverage, but always working in partnership with national associations who we try to help in putting these events together;
- improve the image and presentation of our sport. I hope you all see some part of the table tennis your television screens during the Olympic Games, and if you don't please call the BBC and tell them you want to see the table tennis, because we are introducing in Sydney from day 1, two tables out of 4 being televised, to the final. The reason for this is that the Asians, China, Korea and Japan have signed agreements to have table tennis on their TV screens from day 1. Initially the ITTF had asked the organising committee to start covering the table tennis from day 4 but a lot of pressure from Asian TV networks wanting coverage from day 1 forced the organising committee to accept televised table tennis on 2 tables from the very beginning. That means the signal is available from the beginning to the end and you can be sure that China will be taking between 40 and 60 hours table tennis during the Olympic Games. Maybe in Canada or elsewhere they will get 40 or 60 seconds, depending on how their players do, unless the table tennis population phones their TV station

and asks them all the time, "I haven't seen table tennis, I wish to see table tennis." Then they may show a bit more, because as the signal is available it is not a question of them increasing their production costs. It is just a political decision: "should we show more football or table tennis?" If you start yourselves, you family, your friends phoning asking the BBC to show you table tennis, show you Matthew Syed, you know that he could be covered from the very beginning provided he is on one of those 2 (out of 4) tables;

- help associations with the procurement of equipment. This 5th goal is a humanitarian goal more than anything else. In many African countries and in South East Asian countries, even some Latin American countries – and North Korea is a very good example, where table tennis is very popular – they have no money to buy or to manufacture equipment, so the ITTF uses 5% of its annual income to provide free of charge equipment to countries in need. We have very good examples how this serves a very positive purpose, not only for our sport but also for the people of these countries;
- provide technical development assistance, sending experts to different parts of the world to give coaching courses, or officials, umpires, referees courses or in the case of Peter Hirst to give administrators' courses;
- improve internal (within ITTF) and external communications. One criticism of the ITTF which exists today, is that the ITTF has been very poor as far as communications are concerned. Between now and January 2001 we will have what we call an internet on the Internet, which means the entire table tennis community will be able to communicate with each other through a special internet which will be available to the ETTA as well. You will be able to deposit documents, brochures, anything you want on this internet and the entire table tennis population will have access to these documents. Communications will improve very quickly. Also the ITTF has to send more communications outwards;
- review, reform and revise the constitution of the ITTF and change the way we operate so that we have a very flexible and forward moving structure. The structure was established a very long time ago, was traditional and did not allow us to do the kind of things we want to do. This means that the ITTF has to be more professional in its approach and we need more professional people

working for the ITTF, of course with the guidance of the volunteers, the policymakers, but the people who implement the policies have to be professionals.

Whenever we design an annual plan, all the goals and priorities will be derived from these 8 general goals, and all have to be within the framework of the P4 Plan."

National Training Centre Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham Open Days

Would you like to see our World Class Performance Programme in operation?

The National Training Centre will be holding Open Days on Friday 17th November and Friday 23rd February 2001.

The Open Days will run from 1300 hours and visitors will be able to view the facilities, watch training and meet the national coaches. For further information contact Tony Chatwin on 01332 672534.

Women's Personal Performance Course

Sometimes it is said that the ETTA does not provide enough opportunities for women to improve their game. In part to rectify this the Teaching and Training Department is to run a Women's Personal Performance Course at the National Training Centre, Holme Pierrepont National Water Sports Centre., Adbolton Lane, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham NG12 2LU, from 9am to 6pm on Saturday 9th December. The coaches will be Peter Hirst (ETTA Director of Teaching and Training) and Jill (Hammersley) Parker, a former European Champion. The cost per place (only 16 places in total so hurry!) is a very reasonable £25, lunch inclusive.

For further information, contact Jill Parker, The Spinney, 50 Egerton Road, Ashton, Preston, Lancs PR2 1AL (tel: 01772 461325, fax: 01772 461326, email: jparkeretta@cableinet.co.uk).

European Event Programmes 1999/00

ETTA Vice President Derek Tyler, who lives in Belgium, has given me some programmes and brochures for major international table tennis events held in Europe over the last two seasons and is happy for them to go to a 'good home'. If there are any collectors who would like them please contact Ken Muhr, Information Officer at the ETTA or on E-mail kenmuhr.etta@talk21.com

*Christmas 2000 Training Camp, 27th-29th December 2000
Derrick Marples and John O'Sullivan are leading a Christmas Training Camp at Cleve Fields Sports Hall, Ladysmith Road, Grimsby. Cost £110 Residential (4* hotel*

and all meals). £45 non-residential. Details available from Steve Welch on 01472 870368, email steve.welch@talk21.com

Deng Yaping carried torch for Olympic Games

Jan-Ove Waldner might have led in the Swedish Olympics squad at Sydney, but former Olympic gold medallist and world champion, Deng Yaping, almost certainly the greatest ever woman player, went a good deal further. A University of Nottingham press release, plus an article in their in-house magazine, highlights the fact that their 'most celebrated sporting star helped to carry the Olympic flame on one of the final legs of its 100-day journey to Sydney'. However, although the 27 years old English Language student was re-elected by her fellow athletes to the Athletics Commission, she failed to be chosen for a second term as one of the 8 out of 12 Athletics Commission members to sit on the International Olympic Committee.

Forthcoming Coaching Courses

North West: 25th Nov/2nd Dec – Sport Leader/Teacher/Level 2, Manchester. Contact Jennie Sutton, 0161 2323113. 17th/24th Feb 2001 – Sport Leader/Teacher/Level 2, Manchester. Contact Jennie Sutton as above

Yorks/Northern: All Top-up courses, contact Mark Smith, 07977 230167. 9th Nov – Boston Spar; 22nd Nov – Bridlington; 23rd Nov – Ampleforth 24th Nov - Introduction to Coaching, Bradford, contact as before

London: 11th/12th Nov – Sport Leader/Teacher/Level 2, Battersea, contact John Standing., 01689 829882 15th Nov – Top-up, Hackney, contact John Standing as before 20th/21st Nov – Sport Leader/Teacher/Level 2, Southward, contact as before 3rd/4th Feb 2001 – Sport Leader/Teacher/Level 2, Barking, contact as before

South East: Jan 2001 – Level 2, Sussex, contact Brian Spicer, 01883 715566 Feb/March 2001 – Level 2, Kent, contact as before

East/West Midlands: 11th Nov – Top-up, Bromsgrove, contact Chris Newton, 0410 155971 20th/21st Jan 2001 – Level 2, Burton-on-Trent, contact as before

English Table Tennis Association, Queensbury House (Third Floor), Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF Tel: 01424 722525, fax: 01424 422103, email: admin@ettahq.freeserve.co.uk

IN the early 1970s China shocked the world by extending invitations to the national teams of England and the U.S.A. to tour their country. The event was of massive significance as this was the first time that China had opened her doors both culturally and politically. The English Press had a field day but even this publicity was dwarfed by the coverage of the event in the States, writes Brian Halliday.

George Braithwaite was a member of the U. S.A. team on that momentous "Ping Pong Diplomacy" tour. I caught up with George in Vancouver.

BRIAN HALLIDAY: How did it all start for you? When did you start playing?

GEORGE BRAITHWAITE: Ah that is quite an interesting story. I was about 23 or 24 at the time and I was working for the United Nations in New York. One day I was going through some files in a cabinet and I found a Barna bat with the old type pimped rubber on. I made some enquiries and found out that there was a table located in the building. There was this guy who was quite a good player, and the first time I played him I got six points. That evening I thought long and hard and decided that my six points was not enough and that I should get more. I practised every lunch hour and about a year later I played in the United Nations tournament. I ended up playing Monstrial in the final, and although I beat him I knew I was not the better player. At that time I was into track and field athletics so I was very fit and I think that influenced the result.

BH: Did you join a table tennis club after that? I know you became a member of the US team. How did you get to that level?

GB: Well about 1963 one of the members of the UN club took me to a tournament in Philadelphia and I did pretty well winning the Class "C". I looked at that trophy and from that moment I wanted to win more championships. I went to practice at Marty Reisman's table tennis club. I now played every day against better players. No-one knew me so I had to sit about and take my turn. I was selected as a reserve to go to South Africa in about 1970 and fortunately for me a guy dropped out and I took his place. Later that year I won the Long Island tournament. I then found out that the winner was to get automatic selection for the Worlds to be held in Nagoya, Japan. It was so difficult for me to concentrate at these championships as I was fascinated by the skills of the Swedes,

Stellan Bengtsson, Kjell Johansson, and Hans Alser. This was the first time in six years that China had taken part, due to their cultural revolution at that time. The influence that all these truly great players had on me was enormous.

BH: I know you were on that historic tour to China in 1973. Can you tell me a bit about that?

GB: I can tell you quite seriously that there are two periods in history that the peoples of the US remember. The first is Pearl Harbour and the second is the so called "Ping Pong Diplomacy" tour to China.

BH: When you set out for that tour, did you realise how important it was?

GB: No. We as players were so naive about the thing. We really went out with the attitude that we would try and listen and learn some of their techniques in order to make us better players. It soon dawned on us that this trip had a very special significance. When we got to Hong Kong airport we were hustled through a side door to escape the huge media interest. I think then we realised that this was to be no ordinary ping pong tour. I suddenly realised that the diplomatic relations

between the US and China were non-existent and that perhaps, we as table tennis players, might be able to play a major role in bringing these two great powers together. Since I was employed at the United Nations I did realise how important it all was. Incidentally we had a reunion a few years ago at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York. All those participants in that historic tour were there together with major stars like Chuang Tse Tung, Lee Fu Jung, and Deng Ya Ping. We had a table tennis exhibition, and Henry Kissinger was there along with Patricia Nixon, the President's daughter. Mr Kissinger made a speech in which he recalled that when it was announced that the US were to send a team to China, they were very nervous at the White House. They were not sure what type of individuals we were, however after having met the team they decided that we were OK, and we were given the title Ping Pong Diplomats.

BH: They could not have chosen a better sport. I remember that suddenly you were front page headlines all over the world.

GB: Exactly. Many other teams went also including Australia, England, and

Nigeria, however the political significance of the US going caught everyone's imagination. We got just about all of the publicity and to be frank we enjoyed it. We became overnight celebrities. We were interviewed everywhere and I was recognised on trains, in the Subway, in fact every where. I really enjoyed it all immensely.

BH: How did you get the nickname 'The Chief'?

GB: The US team were playing England in the finals of a tournament in Kingston, Jamaica. Dan Seemiller and myself were playing along with Angie Rosal (who is now married to Stellan Bengtsson). I ended up playing Ian Horsham in the final and deciding match of the tie. It was all desperately close and we were tied at 20-20 in the deciding game of the final set. It was a very exciting moment for the big and appreciative crowd - anyway I was fortunate in capturing the final two points. At the decisive moment someone from the audience called out "Here comes The Chief". Tim Boggan, who was editor of our magazine at the time, picked up on it and I have been known as "The Chief" ever since.

You know table tennis has brought me so many very special moments that are just unforgettable. Take yesterday for example, I was playing in a group which included two Germans and a Czech. The Czech, Oldrich Malinek came into the arena, placed his sports bag carefully on the table, produced two glasses and a bottle of Vodka and insisted that we had a drink before playing. I didn't want to be impolite so we downed the spirit. Malinek then proceeded to totally destroy the two Germans, and although I managed to beat him, the other two guys were not best pleased, accusing Malinek of trying to get them drunk. It was all taken with good humour and friendship I am sure that this is what these veteran championships are all about. These incidents are the ones you look back on with nostalgia.

BH: What of the future?

GB: I very much admire Liang Ge Liang. Here is a guy that puts so much back into the game. I would like to do that. Last year I ran for election to the Board of US Table Tennis. I was successful, and am now trying to introduce a major league in the US as when I look around the world scene, all the major table tennis nations have powerful leagues. I hope that during my term of office I am able to introduce this.

BH: Thank you for your time, and good luck for the future.

"THE SPORT THAT CHANGED THE WORLD"

LOSS OF BODY FLUIDS

DRINKING STRATEGIES BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER PLAYING TABLE TENNIS
Matthew Weston BSc (hons) MSc
Exercise Physiologist

INTRODUCTION

When playing table tennis the increase in muscular work that supports the activity eventually causes a rise in body temperature as all physical work will sooner or later appear as heat. In an attempt to prevent temperature from rising uncontrollably and beyond tolerable limits (core temperatures exceeding 40 degrees C can lead to heat stroke and ultimately death) the human body has two main avenues of heat loss. This applies to exercise performed in all environments – not just hot and humid ones!

An increase in the amount of blood directed to the skin helps to reduce temperature via convective heat loss to the external environment. An increase in sweat production also serves to reduce temperature via

evaporative heat loss to the external environment. However, body water losses during exercise as a result of an increase in sweat production can eventually limit the body's ability to lose heat. Any reductions in body water content can soon lead to dehydration, which is defined as a 'loss of body fluids', and dehydration can play a large role in impairing exercise performance.

DEHYDRATION

Even the most minimal alterations in body water content following sweating can have a detrimental effect upon table tennis performance. Research has indicated that a small amount of dehydration (1% of body weight) can limit exercise performance. Reductions in performance are a direct result of an impairment in the body's ability to lose heat.

A decline in endurance performance with dehydration has been reported for shorter, more high intensity sports such as table tennis.

WHAT ARE THE WARNING SIGNS OF DEHYDRATION?

During matches and training sessions it can be difficult to gauge whether or not you are becoming dehydrated, regardless of the volume of fluids that is ingested. One of the main problems in detecting the onset of dehydration is that thirst itself is not an accurate predictor of hydration status and many people feel that if they are not thirsty then they do not need fluids – this can be a dangerous mistake to make.

The most common warning signs of dehydration are as follows:

BEFORE PLAYING TABLE TENNIS

When the human body is at rest water intake tends to match water output. However, it is vitally important to ensure that prior to playing table tennis the body is adequately hydrated, following the warning signs and acting accordingly should help maintain an ideally hydrated state. This becomes even more important when exercising or resting in hot humid environments, for example, a warm, sticky 30 minute bus journey to a competition is likely to induce some form of dehydration if drinks are not taken in regularly.

Research has indicated that under most circumstances it is wise to drink at least 500ml of fluid on the night prior to exercise and at least another 500ml first thing in the morning in order to maintain a truly hydrated state. It is also recommended that another 500-1000ml of fluid is drunk about 1 hour prior to exercise (Lamb and Shehata 1999).

WHAT TYPE OF FLUID SHOULD I BE DRINKING?

The main purpose of any drinking routines during exercise is obviously

to restore the fluids that are lost from the body via sweating and also water vapour loss from exhaling as well as some replacement of energy stores. However, the type of fluid consumed can radically effect a person's hydration status.

The ingestion of water will help to reduce the amount of dehydration incurred during exercise and will also serve to reduce rises in body temperature. Therefore water has long been regarded as an adequate sports drink. However, water tends to cause a 'bloated' feeling which will hardly serve to encourage further drinking and more importantly it contains no energy and sodium. If you have ever tasted your sweat you will have no doubt noticed a 'salty' taste or felt a sting when sweat has dripped into the eyes. This is because sweat is not just compromised of water but also of minerals such as sodium.

Therefore, isotonic sports drinks such as Lucozade Sport, Isostar and Gatorade can be more beneficial as opposed to just water as they replace much needed energy back into the body (carbohydrate) and they also contain minerals such as sodium to replace losses during sweating. Isotonic means that the specially selected carbohydrate and minerals that are in these sports drinks are in balance with the body's own fluids. The ingestion of sodium also serves to speed up the rate at which the fluid can be absorbed in the stomach and used by the body. Research has demonstrated that during endurance performance trials or bouts of high intensity exercise the ingestion of isotonic sports drinks is not only more beneficial than the consumption of water but may also serve to enhance performance by ensuring adequate energy levels within the body and thus delaying fatigue.

Most sports drinks vary in their energy content and as a result of this the taste of the drinks varies significantly as well. Therefore it is very much up to the individual to experiment with different drinks in order to find a drink that is palatable and does not leave them feeling bloated. It is widely recommended that the carbohydrate content of the



drinks should be between 4 – 8 grams per 100ml of fluid. Therefore try to avoid drinks with too strong a carbohydrate concentration as these drinks may lead to stomach discomfort which in turn will inhibit further drinking.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I DRINK WHEN PLAYING TABLE TENNIS ?

This very much depends upon the intensity and duration of the table tennis being played. Ideally drinking should start early in the session and should be taken in at regular intervals – it is better to drink less more often than large volumes of fluid in one go as this may cause bloating which will not encourage further drinking and will not help your performance! Every attempt should be made to replace all the fluid lost through sweating and if this can not be achieved then try to consume the maximal amount of fluid that can be tolerated.

It has been well documented that athletes find it very difficult to replace all fluid lost during intense or long duration exercise. This is regarded as involuntary dehydration as the amount of fluid lost during sweating can not be matched by the intake of fluid due to either excessively high sweat rates, limits in the speed at which fluids can be absorbed and emptied out of the stomach and also the individuals ability to drink high volumes of fluids without becoming bloated and the problems associated with this. Research has indicated that athletes tend to replace only 50 – 75% of total fluid losses via voluntary drinking during exercise. This highlights the needs for a good fluid replacement strategy after exercise has terminated.

HOW MUCH AND WHAT SHOULD I DRINK AFTER I HAVE PLAYED ?

As with refuelling, rehydration is an integral part of the recovery in order for the body to be optimally prepared for further bouts of table tennis. In order to determine the amount of fluid loss during a table tennis practise session or match, before and after body weight measurements can provide a rough

indicator of the amount of fluid that needs to be replaced:

As with drinking whilst playing table tennis, it is better to rehydrate with sports drinks, or even home made drinks such as diluted fruit drinks, as these drinks contain valuable sources of carbohydrate, which is needed to refuel the muscles and also minerals

as sodium that are also lost during sweating. Ideally the volume of fluids drunk during the rehydration phase should be greater than the volume of fluids lost to sweating during exercise.

REFERENCES

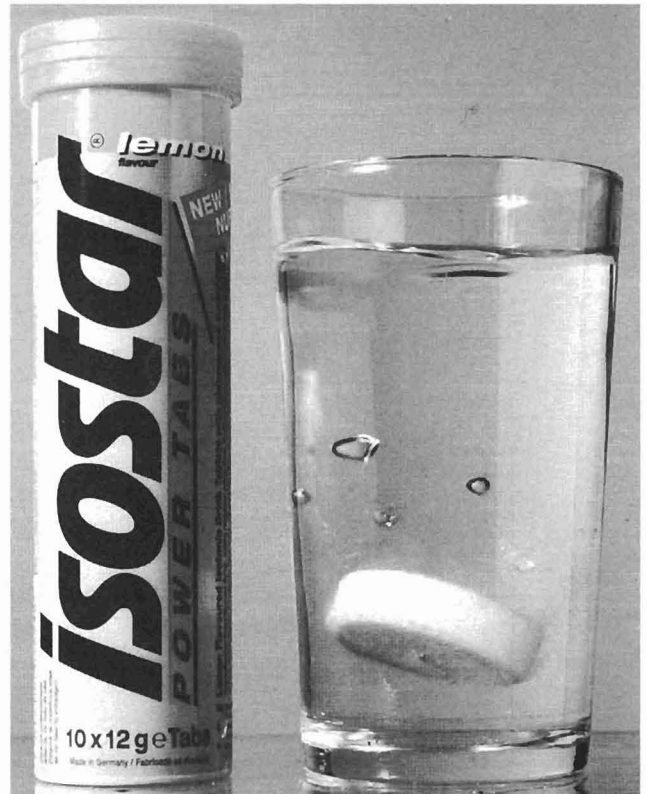
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TRADE NEWS

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Introducing Isostar Power Tabs

Isostar Power Tabs offer you the most convenient way of drinking a portion controlled powder based isotonic drink. One tablet is simply dissolved in 250 ml water to produce a caffeine free isotonic drink deliciously flavoured with lemon. Packed in a plastic tube, Isostar Power Tabs are easily slipped into a pocket, sports or kit bag or locker, ready for whenever you want without any spills. Isostar Power Tabs will retail at £3.29 for ten tabs.

Why Isostar Power Tabs for you?

Isostar is a well known isotonic sports drink that replaces fluids and nutrients lost by the body during prolonged or intensive exercise. Isostar Power Tabs offer people engaging in serious sport or exercise at both amateur and professional level the

benefits of rehydration and nutrient supplementation in a new and convenient format.

Now you can make up what you want whenever you want, and enjoy a sports drink which is both light and easy to carry whether you're travelling to events or training, and which is ideally suited for indoor and outdoor use.

Isostar Power Tabs are:

- isotonic - essential for satisfactory rehydration and the best option for gastric emptying
- caffeine free
- low calorie - great for those on a calorie controlled diet
- convenient - you can make up the amount you want wherever you want
- contain amino acids - so stimulating sodium and water absorption independently of glucose
- available in a unique new product format - which enhances absorption by containing the appropriate composition of glucose, sodium, amino acids, its osmolality and chloride anion - also good for ease and portability

GARETH'S GREAT WEEKEND

FOR Gareth Herbert it was probably the best week-end of his career. For several years, some observers have mentioned and hoped that Gareth could be the next Desmond Douglas! Remember, Desmond did not start to show world-class potential until he was about the same age, 19, writes John Woodford.

The young man from Slough started slowly - as England opened up with a 9-1 win against Scotland. He lost -19, -19 to Euan Walker. After that match he then rose to dominate the weekend.

Wales and England are the two main rivals at this tournament. The Welsh upset the English last year at Sheffield, but this time at the Welsh Institute of Sport in the shadow of the Millennium Stadium, England secured revenge 9-1 against Wales in the Saturday evening final round. To be fair to the Welsh hosts who did an excellent job, they were without their top two women players - Bethan Daunton and Siwan Davies. Bethan returned the next day to win the Womens Singles following a wrist injury, Siwan remained a spectator with a bad back.

In the team final, Wales had to rely on Catherine Davies and Jenny Weiss. Miss Davies narrowly defeated Katy Parker 18, 21, but Katy hit back to defeat Weiss -14, 15, 19.

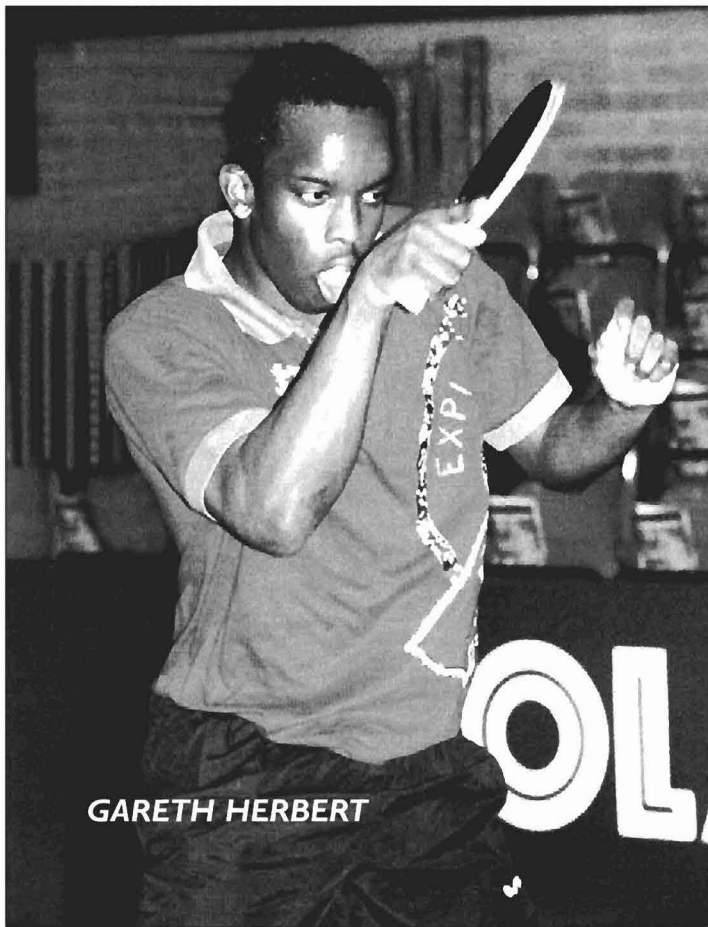
Meanwhile, the England men swept ahead with Alex Perry having one of the best days of his career in Britain. He stopped Ryan Jenkins 17, 11 and then Adam Robertson 14, 5.

The England dominance continued in the mens doubles as Perry and Herbert crushed Jenkins and Robertson 17, 11.

The final men's game went to England on a walk-over as Jenkins retired with a sore throat.

INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT

It was a useful weekend for Dale Barham. He defeated the Irish No.1 Jonathan Cowan 22, 21, in the groups; later Dale won the Mens



Consolation event with a win over Stuart Crawford the Scottish No.2.

Also, in the Womens Consolation final, Katy Parker turned the tables to beat Cathy Davies 18, 15.

Taking the Womens Singles first - in the semi-finals Bethan Daunton eased home comfortably 14, 13, against Katy, whilst the favourite and top seed Helen Lower came through 11, 16 against Catherine Davies.

Having got over her wrist problem, Daunton lifted her game - in a titanic battle she defeated the England No.2, 19, -16, 18, in the final.

The mens singles quarter-finalists were: Perry v Stephen Jenkins, Crawford v Robertson, Herbert v Ryan Jenkins and Barham v Euan Walker. That left the semis as Perry v Robertson and Herbert v Walker. Gareth remained calm, hardly ever looking back at his coach when

losing points to defeat Walker 18, 17.

Adam Robertson then produced the biggest shock of the tournament when he gained revenge 11, 12, against Perry, who remained shell-shocked for some time later when he said, "I have never seen him play like that". Neither had the fans. The Wrexham schoolboy still chasing A-levels hit almost every ball hard - the man from Devon found himself defending, hardly ever able to counter-attack, such was the force of the Welsh lad's assault.

In the final however, came Herbert's greatest moments so far this season. Robertson took the first 14 and seemed poised to close Herbert down at the end of the second game. But, the man from Slough kept cool enough to survive a match point to win 26-24 and 21-16. So, England had a good weekend.

They regained the huge team trophy donated by the late Roy Evans and they have a new singles champion Gareth Herbert, who it will be expected, will defend his title a year from now in Douglas, Isle of Man.

CARDIFF RESULTS

TEAMS:

England 9, Scotland 1 Wales 10, Isle of Man 0 Wales 6, Scotland 4 England 8, Ireland 2 Scotland 10, Isle of Man 0 Wales 8, Ireland 2 England 10, Isle of Man 0 Scotland 4, Irelands 6 Ireland 10, Isle of Man 0 Final: ENGLAND 9, WALES 1

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Mens semi-finals: A. Robertson (Wales) b A. Perry (England) 11, 12; G. Herbert (England) b E. Walker (Scotland) 18, 17. Final: HERBERT b Robertson -14, 24, 16. Womens semi-finals: B. Daunton (Wales) b K. Parker (England) 14, 13; H. Lower (England) b C. Davies (Wales) 11, 16. Final: DAUNTON b Lower 19, -16, 18. Mens consolation final: D. Barham (England) b S. Crawford (Scotland) 15, -19, 17.

Womens consolation final: K. Parker (England) b C. Davies (Wales) 21-18, 21-15.



64th Open

THE total prize fund for the 64th English Open Championships, an ITTF Pro-Tour Major Championships, being held at Buckmore Park, Chatham, Kent from 6th to 11th February 2001, is to be increased from a planned US \$65,000, already a record, to US \$81,000, by far the biggest ever for a table tennis event staged in Britain, writes Ken Muhr.

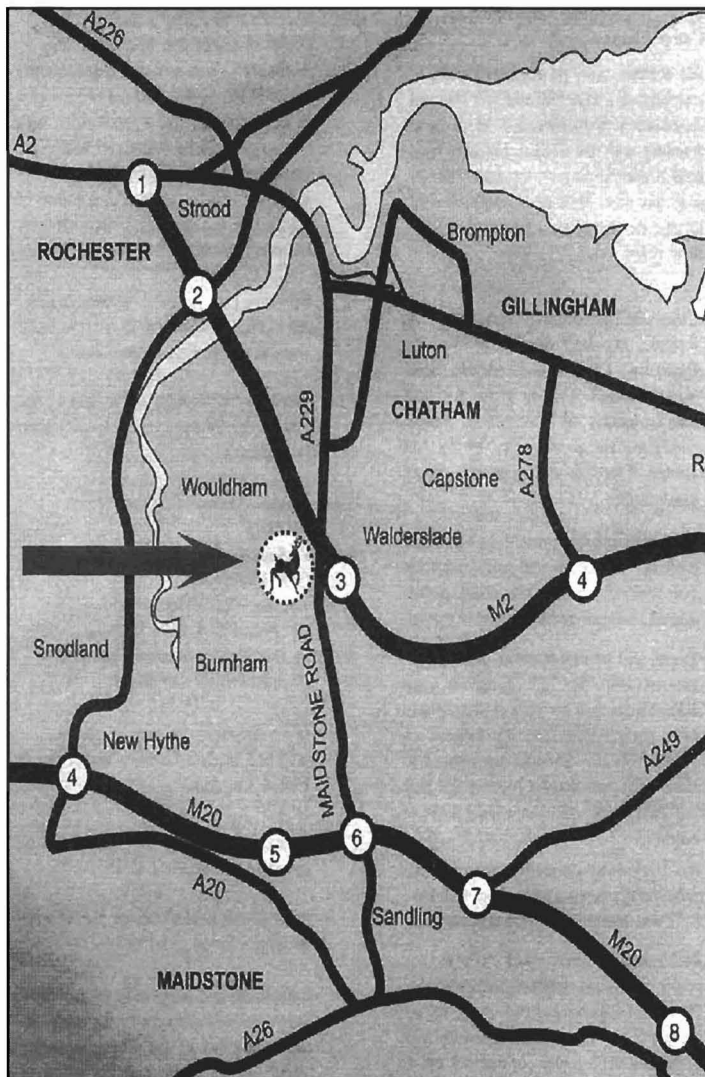
The English Open is the Wimbledon of table tennis and in its 78 year-old history it has attracted many of the world's greatest players, including several world champions. This year a huge entry is anticipated, very likely bigger than the record of 300 players from 46 countries which took part in the extremely successful 63rd English Open at Potters Leisure Resort, Norfolk in March 1999. There will be satellite television coverage and a team from China is a strong possibility.

Buckmore Park, an impressive brand new sporting facility, lies adjacent to the M2 and is located by other main arterial motorways surrounding London (M25 and M20), with Gatwick and Heathrow airports and the International Channel Tunnel rail terminal at Ashford nearby. The nearest railway stations are Chatham and Maidstone. See map on the right.

Tables are being provided by Joola and Schildkrot balls will be used.

England has led the world in making the English Open truly open to players, a lead the ITTF is following for other Pro-Tour Events. This means that every ETTA licensed player is entitled to enter the pre-qualifying competitions for all events. If you wish to take advantage of this opportunity to participate in a major international event but do not have a licence, you can buy a day licence. For further information or entry forms, now available, contact the ETTA Office, Queensbury House (Third Floor), Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF, tel: 01424 722525, fax: 01424 422103, e-mail: vanda.jones@talk21.com (events)/admin@ettahq.freereserve.co.uk (other).

There will be a limited number of hospitality packages available (transport not included). Contact the ETTA for details.



The proposed playing schedule is as follows:-

Tuesday 6th February 2001 (morning)

Pre-qualifying Competition – Men's Singles, Women's Singles
Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles

Wednesday 7th February 2001

Qualifying Rounds – Men's Singles, Women's Singles

Thursday 8th February 2001

Qualifying Rounds – Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles
Qualifying Rounds – Under 21 Men's and Women's Singles

Friday 9th February 2001

Rounds 1 & 2 – Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles

Saturday 10th February 2001

Rounds – Under 21 Men's and Women's Singles
Round 3, Quarter-finals – Men's Singles, Women's Singles
Quarter-finals and Semi-finals – Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles

Sunday 11th February 2001

Semi-finals – Men's Singles, Women's Singles
Finals – Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles
Under 21 Men's and Women's Singles

Ticket prices are as laid out below but the Sunday finals day will be reserved seats only:-

	ADULTS	CHILD (U-17) & CONCESSION	FAMILY (2 ADULTS, UP TO 3 CHILDREN)
TUESDAY	£4	£2	£8
WEDNESDAY	£6	£3	£13
THURSDAY	£6	£3	£13
FRIDAY	£12	£6	£26
SATURDAY	£12	£6	£26
SUNDAY	£12	£6	£26
SEASON TICKET (Fri, Sat, Sun)	£40	£20	£75
WEEKENDER (Fri, Sat, Sun)	£30	£15	£60

25 YEARS AGO

• **CLEVELAND'S NICKY JARVIS** followed up his North Middlesex Open success by winning the Mens Singles at Hastings in the 40th Sussex Open, however Jarvis surprisingly lost in the Mens Doubles when in partnership with Alan Ransome they were beaten by Peter Taylor and Mark Mitchell 18-21, 21-18, 24-22.

• **JILL HAMMERSLEY** from Buckinghamshire, won the Womens Singles title at the Sussex Open beating rising star from Cleveland Carole Knight in the final 10-21, 21-18, 21-12.

• **ENGLAND** beat Denmark 6-1 in the European League at Eastbourne, and enhanced their chances of a return to the Premier Division. The turning point in this match was when Des Douglas and Denis Neale won the Mens Doubles, making the match score 3-1, instead of 2-2.

The Danes looked like winning in the final game when leading 20-17, but Neale and Douglas won the next five points.

• **ENGLAND's** youthful trio of Paul Day, Andrew Barden and Melody Ludi collected three and a half titles under the captaincy of Brian Burn in the 6th Spanish Open, played in the Pabellon Stadium, Valladolid.

Barden and Ludi won their respective singles titles, then they joined forces with Day to win the team event after a close-fought battle with the "auld enemy", Scotland in the final.

• **ORMESBY TTC** won through to quarter-finals of the European Club Cup by beating the Polish champions, Wosnik Lodz 5-2.

THE MOUNTAIN IS VERY STEEP

JUST how steep the mountain that England women have to climb if they are regain even a modest position amongst their opponents in Europe became clear at the Halton Regional Table Tennis Centre, Widnes, on October 17, when The Ukraine comprehensively defeated England 3-0, writes John Woodford.

The new format is that all teams wishing to qualify to play in the next European Championships in Zagreb in April 2002, have to play in the league about ten matches over the two-year period. The results of those matches will determine the positions of the teams in Zagreb. As I understand it, no more promotion and relegation, except in Zagreb.

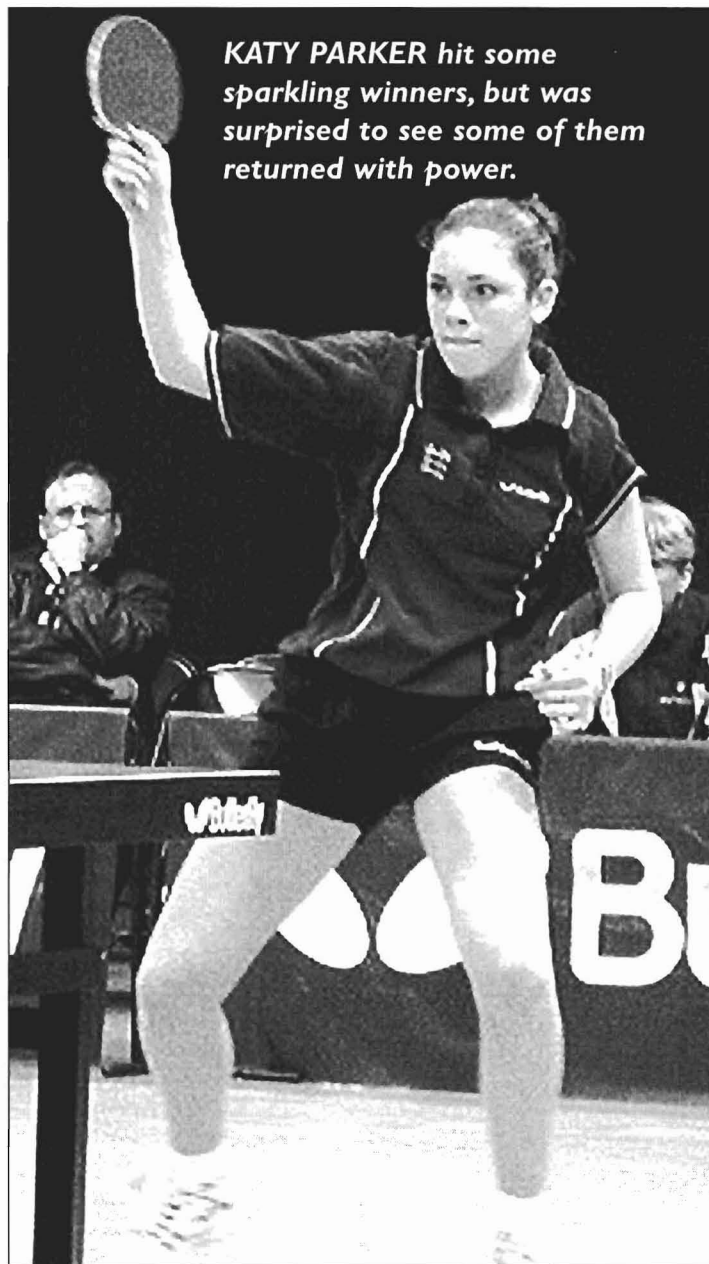
The ETTU seem to have bowed to pressure from the ITTF to change the match format to best of five games. This means obviously, that if there is a 3-0 finish for one team, the whole match could be over in a hour - at Widnes, I was filing copy and results about 90 minutes after the start. How the sport is expected to attract spectators to pay money to watch such short matches, I have no idea. About 80 fans turned up at Widnes, quite a few of those might have been friends and acquaintances of star organiser Karen Tonge, I would imagine.

There will not be too many words wasted on the play - one thought was that even if Nicola Deaton had played, she just might have scored once - the standard of the Ukraine girls was good although I had never heard of the trio before. That just shows how far ahead are the rest of Europe after we have "lost" Lisa Lomas who has started a family; Andrea Holt and Nicky Deaton, both of whom are at odds with the England administration and might never be seen again in an England shirt.

Miss Deaton however, has been quoted in a national newspaper feature as saying that she just MIGHT play for England at the next but one Commonwealth Championships in Manchester in 2002.

THE PLAY

Helen Lower lost the first game 12 to



KATY PARKER hit some sparkling winners, but was surprised to see some of them returned with power.

Picture: Martin Ireland

Tetyana Sorochynska but for a short time it looked as though she might win after taking the second 16.

Disaster in the third as Helen lost the first ten points, recovering some ground but the Ukraine No.2 had done the damage going on to win 10 in the third.

In a match in which no player seemed bothered by the new ball, Katy Parker was defeated 14, 17, by the visiting No.1. Yulia Sinitsina.

Having the rare dual quality of being able to attack and defend can produce problems for one so young as Katy. On several occasions coach Bradley Billington noticed, as did all 80 of us that on occasions, the girl from Preston would conjure up a great attacking shot, but then being caught by surprise when the return counter-hit was struck with power.

So, it was not the greatest night for Katy, nor for Georgina Walker, a

student at our Nottingham Academy who has been training in China.

Georgina, also aged only 15 is the national cadets champion and the national Under-21 champion, an amazing feat for one so young. In the first game she was only beaten 20 by a powerfully-built Olena Brus who was surprised as a cascade of Walker drives went whistling past her.

In the final game of the short evening, Miss Walker was unable to grasp the opportunity of prolonging the match, losing 12.

Summing-up: Miss Parker and Miss Walker are for sure two of our brightest prospects for the way ahead, but as our coaching team know, there is great deal of work to be done before we can field an England womens team strong enough to reach the the top ten in Europe.

SCORES:

ENGLAND 0, UKRAINE 3
T. Sorochinska b H. Lower 12, -16, 10
Y. Sinitsina b K. Parker 14, 17
O. Brus b G. Walker, 20, 12.

Footnote: Nicky Deaton has now been taken off the world list ; Helen Lower is on 188 and not 119 as our Halton MC announced; wishful thinking.

• The match marked the first birthday of the Halton Regional Table Tennis Centre. Built as part of the Widnes RFC stadium, it was possible to watch some of the football in progress through the creche. It is used by Everton Reserves and drew a crowd of 4,000, not surprising as Paul Gascoigne was playing for Everton whilst the table tennis was in progress!

As well as Gazza playing a few yards away, there were a batch of local VIPs present including the Lord Mayor of Liverpool who is a table tennis player and the Mayor of Halton Julie Devaney. She said after the sumptuous hot meal: "This part of the stadium was built with the aid of £2.3m Sport England Lottery Grant with further investment from Halton Borough Council. Since opening, participation in table tennis especially amongst the young people of the Borough has increased significantly."

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THORNTON'S THE WINNING FORMULA

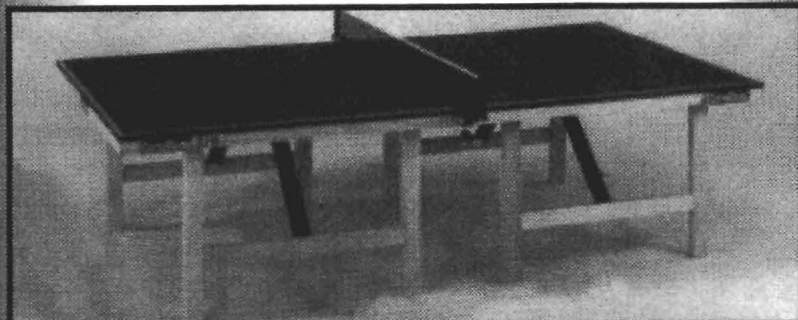
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64th
ENGLISH
OPEN
BUCKMORE
PARK
CHATHAM
KENT
6th - 11th
February
2001

1st NATIONAL EVENT AT LEDBURY CENTRE

TABLE TENNIS TOOK OVER THE NEW SPORTS CENTRE IN LEDBURY IN OCTOBER WITH THE HELP OF LOCAL SPONSOR DAVID WATKINS & CO. HEREFORD

THE ETTA held the first of four rounds in the Woolwich National Junior League. This new Division attracted 6 teams from Herefordshire, Evesham and Malvern and it is possible that 2 more teams might sign up before the next round on 2nd December.

After the first four rounds of matches Hereford 'A' are top with Ali Dawson, Joe Davies and Greg Price all undefeated, Evesham Lions are second thanks to a good team performance led by Luke Gresty and James Green.

Even though Evesham finished bottom of the table Stefan Losta only lost once, and that was to Nick Wilson of Hereford 'B' 15, 13. Both lie equal fourth in the individual rankings.

Three girls make up the Hereford 'C' Team and they lie fifth, only two points behind Malvern and Hereford 'B', who are equal third on 14 points. Unfortunately they will be unable to win any ETTA Ranking Points as they are only competing against boys.

It was in the Girls match with Malvern that the set of the day was played, when Matt Lang played a crucial part in his team 5-4 victory over the girls when he beat Nikki Segust -19, 18, 24.



Pictured above are competitors at Ledbury Sports Centre

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

We are constantly trying to improve **your** magazine by adding more general interest, coaching and feature items. Please note that subscription rates for the UK have gone up a little from £17 to £18 (for 8 issues September to May/June).

Please also note that the copy deadline has changed to the 1st of the month prior to publication.

Subscription forms are available from the ETTA HQ in Hastings
Telephone: 01424 722525

LEDBURY WOOLWICH NATIONAL JUNIOR LEAGUE

TEAM	PLAYED	POINTS
HEREFORD 'A'	4	36
EVESHAM LIONS	4	21
HEREFORD 'B'	4	14
ALVERN	4	14
HEREFORD 'C'	4	12
EVESHAM TIGERS	4	11



ETTA NATIONAL RANKING LIST

TOP OF THE TABLE

November 2000 - List 82

Further details please ring Doreen Nightingale 01424 722525

Senior Men

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 SYED, Matthew (SY.)	4720	
(2)	2 BAGGLEY, Andrew (BU.)	4559***	
(4)	3 PREAM, Carl (IW.)	4528*	
(3)	4 COOKE, Alan (DV.)	4515	
(5)	5 PERRY, Alex (DV.)	4512	
(6)	6 YOUNG, Terry (BK.)	4465	
(7)	7 HERBERT, Gareth (BK.)	4395	
(8)	8 RUSHTON, Andrew (LA.)	4041**	
(12)	9 MANTEGAZZA, Fabio (ITA)	4000	
(9)	10 EDEN, Andrew (LA.)	3992****	
(10)	11 ISHERWOOD, Michael (DV.)	3926	
(11)	12 BLAKE, Darren (SY.)	3923****	
(13)	13 BARHAM, Dale (CA.)	3869	
(14)	14 COUTOLLEAU, Samuel (NG.)	3856	
(16)	15 ESSOMBA, Marco (SY.)	3793	
(14)	16 TRUMPAUSKAS, Lawrence (E.)	3745	
(15)	17 SHAW, Steven (ST.)	3733***	
(17)	18 PIITAS, George (DU.)	3686	
(18)	19 SLADDEN, Cris (E.)	3652	
(19)	20 VENNOR, Ritchie (SX.)	3606	
(22)	21 SMITH, Eddie (ND.)	3556	
(21)	22 GOODALL, Justin (K.)	3546	
(37)	23 CUTLER, Tom (MI.)	3543	
(23)	24 JAMES, Michael (Y.)	3521*	
(32)	25 WURAOA, Abdul (SY.)	3515	
(24)	26 MARSHALL, Peter (Y.)	3514****	
(30)	27 JOHNS, Brian (CH.)	3494	
(20)	28 SUGRUE, Jason (MI.)	3478	
(28)	29 BARR, David (BK.)	3476*	
(25)	30 MOORE, Adrian (K.)	3475	
(26)	31 PYE, Leeroy (NK.)	3464	
(33)	32 ROGERS, Chris (LE.)	3463	
(27)	33 KENNY, Mathew (Y.)	3452	
(29)	34 ECKERSLEY, Nigel (SX.)	3426	
(31)	35 SLATER, Stephen (ST.)	3417	
(49)	36 BROWN, Mark (K.)	3412	
(38)	37 CHARLES, Neil (MI.)	3396	
(36)	38 HILTON, John (CH.)	3384	
(35)	39 SMITH, Mark Richard (Y.)	3382	
(39)	40 WILKINSON, Andrew (ND.)	3371	
(34)	41 TAYLOR, John (HE.)	3351	
(40)	42 CHAN, Michael (SY.)	3350	
(43)	43 WHITING, Paul (DV.)	3304	
(41)	44 ATKINSON, David (CA.)	3298**	
(44)	45 PAPANATOU, Costas (MI.)	3282	
(42)	46 NEIL, Lee (NG.)	3274	
(47)	47 CLAYTON, Tony (DO.)	3265	
(48)	48 AUCHTERLONIE, Michael (BK.)	3246	
(45)	49 GANNON, David (LE.)	3246	
(51)	50 THOMAS, Peter (DV.)	3233****	
(56)	51 GILES, Paul (CO.)	3186***	
(55)	52 CARTHY, Clive (E.)	3182	
(57)	53 NEALE, Denis (Y.)	3177****	
(59)	54 SHORT, Mark (YS.)	3175	
(58)	55 CRIMMINS, Max (WO.)	3173****	
(69)	56 GIRDLER, Ian (SY.)	3172	
(60)	57 GREEN, Mark (NG.)	3171	
(50)	58 SMITH, Richard A (Y.)	3166	
(53)	59 HORSFIELD, Andrew (YS.)	3164	
(52)	60 CAMPBELL, Selwyn (SY.)	3160	
(54)	61 JAMIESON, Christopher (E.)	3157	
(62)	62 ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3136*	
(61)	63 PAYNE, Phil (SO.)	3131	
(67)	64 WIGNALL, Andy (LL.)	3129	
(65)	65 HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3121	
(64)	66 YULE, Richard (SCO)	3117	
(89)	67 LOGSDON, Philip (NK.)	3086	
(63)	68 DENNISON, John (E.)	3086	
(68)	69 MCKOY, Nick (MI.)	3074	
(66)	70 GODBOLD, David (DU.)	3074	
(79)	71 BEERLING, Stephen (K.)	3060	
(72)	72 WELSMAN, Dave (NP.)	3058	
(70)	73 CHAUSSE, Christophe (YS.)	3042***	
(78)	74 ADAMS, Martin (BK.)	3030	
(77)	75 POUNTNEY, Robert (SY.)	3019	
(115)	76 BAKER, Gregory (ST.)	3019	
(73)	77 HALL, Dominic (K.)	3016	
(74)	78 ROGERS, Martin (E.)	3014****	
(87)	79 GRIFFIN, Darren (GS.)	3005	
(80)	80 GASCOYNE, Craig (NG.)	3000*	
(71)	81 HARDING, David (SY.)	2999	
(97)	82 JONAH, Jerome (K.)	2998	
(82)	83 MAJITHIA, Mayur (SX.)	2992****	
(83)	84 MCLEAN, Ian (NK.)	2990	
(96)	85 RANKIN, John (LA.)	2986	
(86)	86 TENDLER, Gary (E.)	2986	
(81)	87 WALKER, Andy (SX.)	2981	

(76)	88 ROOFE, Eddie (WI.)	2980
(85)	89 JAMES, Simon (Y.)	2980*
(91)	90 MUSK, Ian (BU.)	2977
(75)	91 KENNEDY, Joe (K) (E.)	2974
(105)	92 HILL, Brian (LL.)	2973
(104)	93 READ, Mark (WA.)	2970
(84)	94 BARTRAM, Peter (SX.)	2960
(90)	95 BRIDGETT, Gregory (DV.)	2952****
(96)	96 AVERY, Vincent (E.)	2949 N
(88)	97 WILLIAMS, Keith (LA.)	2944
(95)	98 JOHNS, Mike (Ch) (SX.)	2935
(94)	99 DODD, Justin (K.)	2932*
(92)	100 WALSH, Jimmy (HE.)	2930

Senior Women

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 DEATON, Nicola (DV.)	3933	
(2)	2 LOWER, Helen (ST.)	3791	
(3)	3 RADFORD, Linda (E.)	3650	
(4)	4 OWOLABI, Kubrat (MI.)	3571	
(5)	5 PARKER, Katy (LA.)	3497	
(6)	6 KISS, Barbara (HE.)	3476	
(7)	7 DURRANT, Louise (NG.)	3349**	
(8)	8 WALKER, Georgina (NG.)	3331	
(9)	9 MARLING, Sally (Y.)	3293****	
(12)	10 BAWDEN, Natalie (E.)	3273	
(10)	11 SMITH, Karen (LE.)	3232*	
(11)	12 THORNTON, Lindsey (LA.)	3210****	
(13)	13 RUOCCO, Shelley (E.)	3163****	
(14)	14 HARRIS, Jill (ST.)	3158*	
(15)	15 SPARKES, Rebecca (SK.)	3147	
(17)	16 DUNNING, Jan (WO.)	3132	
(18)	17 YARDY, Hannah (E.)	3098	
(16)	18 STEWARD, Kate (SO.)	3094	
(19)	19 WESTON, Sally (SX.)	3091*	
(26)	20 RAINTON, Rosemary (SX.)	3080	
(21)	21 ROBERTS, Joanna (Y.)	3048****	
(20)	22 BONGERS, Jose (ST.)	3048*	
(22)	23 RODEN, Sandra (WO.)	3028**	
(23)	24 BLOOR, Trudie (SP.)	3020**	
(24)	25 COHEN, Michele (AV.)	3004	
(25)	26 NEWNS, Clare (CH.)	3004*	
(27)	27 HURLING, Emma (HE.)	3003	
(27)	28 SMITH, Angela (MI.)	2990****	
(28)	29 HOWARD, Alice (CH.)	2983*	
(32)	30 PARKER, Joanna (SY.)	2919	
(30)	31 MILVEK, Kai (EST)	2913*	
(31)	32 BUOYE, Brenda (LA.)	2904	
(29)	33 PERRY, Penny (DV.)	2876	
(55)	34 MORLEY, Judy (GS.)	2850	
(34)	35 SMITH, Sarah (NG.)	2838	
(36)	36 SILBURN, Nicola (Y.)	2829*	
(37)	37 SIMPSON, Linda (Y.)	2825	
(38)	38 RIDER, Sandra (Y.)	2825	
(39)	39 BENNETT, Teresa (SX.)	2812	
(53)	40 FISHER, Rebecca (MI.)	2798	
(40)	41 SHIELDS, Helen (Y.)	2794	
(42)	42 MARLING, Samantha (MI.)	2792*	
(71)	43 POINTER, Lucy (IW.)	2791*	
(43)	44 SCHOFIELD, Doreen (CH.)	2786	
(45)	45 SHORT, Elaine (DV.)	2777 N	
(42)	46 MALTBY, Margaret (NP.)	2775	
(44)	47 PEARCE, Diane (K.)	2770*	
(47)	48 JUDSON, Carol (Y.)	2769	
(46)	49 SEAHOLME, Sarah (HE.)	2768*	
(45)	50 KING, Sheila (SV.)	2762	
(49)	51 SMITH, Nicola (Y.)	2762	
(50)	52 HARPER, Sandra (BD.)	2756***	
(52)	53 LLOYD, Gemma (CH.)	2752*	
(51)	54 CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.)	2747	
(48)	55 ROBINSON, Suzanne (GS.)	2746	
(53)	56 DEARING, Emily (Y.)	2740*	
(62)	57 DAVIDSON, Sarah (Sk) (E.)	2727	
(54)	58 BAWDEN, Marilyn (E.)	2726****	
(39)	59 HARRISON, Jennifer (E.)	2720	
(56)	60 STEEL, Pauline (SX.)	2714	
(58)	61 KNIGHTLEY, Gillian (BK.)	2699	
(60)	62 PERRY, Lucy (DV.)	2698	
(59)	63 HUMBLE, Ian (GS.)	2693*	
(57)	64 DIGNUM, Margaret (WO.)	2688	
(63)	65 HORSWELL, Sarah (MI.)	2685	
(64)	66 BRISTOW, Angie (K.)	2683*	
(65)	67 SOLLEY, Jo (MI.)	2680****	
(66)	68 BURGESS, Suzanne (CH.)	2678	
(69)	69 GELDER, Shirley (DU.)	2674	
(67)	70 BAX, Sally (HE.)	2673*	
(61)	71 VAJDI, Carmen (SY.)	2657***	
(83)	72 NARENDRAN, Aparna (MI.)	2654	
(75)	73 BROWN, Janet (OK.)	2650	

(61)	74 DAWSON, Marjorie (E.)	2646
(70)	75 H-MIDDLEMORE, Joan (WA.)	2643
(72)	76 FLOWERDAY, Anne (E.)	2643****
(73)	77 SHALER, Eileen (LE.)	2640
(81)	78 COGGON, Sara (SX.)	2618
(78)	79 JOHNSON, Susan (BK.)	2610*
(80)	80 NOLAN, Terri-Anne (CH.)	2608*
(79)	81 REID, Lynda (WO.)	2608
(82)	82 SEAHOLME, Caroline (HE.)	2600*
(85)	84 MAY, Elizabeth (DV.)	2596
(84)	85 WHITE, Jean (LL.)	2572*
(89)	86 HICKMAN, Susan (E.)	2544****
(115)	87 EMBLING, Abigail (E.)	2539
(90)	88 HUGHES, Kate (WO.)	2533*
(91)	89 SPENCER, Tracey (ST.)	2531*
(93)	90 GRAHAM, Sylvia (LA.)	2514*
(91)	91 BENTLEY, Ruth (NG.)	2508
(100)	92 DARK, Shirley (SO.)	2507
(88)	93 ECKERSLEY, Carol (SX.)	2507
(96)	94 MURDOCH, Valerie (HE.)	2502
(98)	95 BUTCHER, Pamela (K.)	2501
(105)	96 DURHAM, Jane (CV.)	2497
(97)	97 DONNELLY, Janine (Y.)	2497
(99)	98 HUNT, Janet (WO.)	2492
(101)	99 STAFFORD, Mary (BK.)	2483****
(102)	100 CRICK, Lisa (BK.)	2474*

Junior Boys

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 BARHAM, Dale (CA.)	3869	
(2)	2 KENNY, Mathew (Y.)	3452	
(3)	3 CHAN, Michael (SY.)	3350	
(4)	4 JAMIESON, Christopher (E.)	3157	
(5)	5 ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3136*	
(6)	6 BAKER, Gregory (ST.)	3019	
(7)	7 HALL, Dominic (K.)	3016	
(7)	8 BARHAM, Lee (CA.)	2851	
(9)	9 DRINKHALL, Bryn (CV.)	2849	
(10)	10 BRYANT, Craig (DV.)	2784	
(11)	11 CLEMENSON, Peter (E.)	2723	
(13)	12 HORNER, Daniel (CH.)	2665	
(12)	13 HUGHES, Tom (NG.)	2602	
(15)	14 YARNALL, Tim (NP.)	2586	
(16)	15 HANDY, Philip (DO.)	2450	
(14)	16 DAVIES, Stephen (LL.)	2365*	
(21)	17 HOLTAM, Tim (MI.)	2059	
(18)	18 BLOOFIELD, Gary (SK.)	2033	
(17)	19 HANSELL, Robert (BU.)	2032	
(19)	20 POUNTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948****	
(38)	21 GREGORY, Christopher (SP.)	1871	
(22)	22 DIXON, Zeke (CU.)	1827*	
(23)	23 NOUTH, Simon (Y.)	1821	
(24)	24 BROOKS, Warren (BU.)	1792	
(20)	25 CARTWRIGHT, Neil (DO.)	1787	
(25)	26 BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA.)	1779	
(30)	27 EVANS, Bradley (BU.)	1704	
(34)	28 SHUTES, William (NK.)	1662	
(27)	29 YARNALL, Greg (NP.)	1662	
(28)	30 WOODHOUSE, Grant (CU.)	1644	
(26)	31 COOPER, Mark (E.)	1641	
(35)	32 CAMILLERI, John (OX.)	1622	
(50)	33 GIBBS, Shaun (DV.)	1584	
(29)	34 FENNELLS, Aaron (E.)	1581	
(42)	35 SHIPWAY, Adam (DV.)	1571	
(36)	36 HEATLEY, Ian (CH.)	1532	
(45)	37 BRADFORD, Leigh (WA.)	1528	
(32)	38 BRZEZNIAK, Kacper (Y.)	1505****	
(58)	39 DRINKHALL, Paul (CV.)	1494	
(40)	40 DENNY, Stephen (Y.)	1483	
(37)	41 MITCHELL, Thomas (BU.)	1461	
(43)	42 CLARKE, Martyn (CV.)	1459	
(39)	43 MARPLES, Shaun (DV.)	1450	
(49)	44 MOSS, Richard (Y.)	1434	
(41)	45 MORAN, Edward (SP.)	1430****	
(46)	46 HAYWARD, Gareth (WA.)	1411	
(47)	47 MAUTHOOR, Umair (E.)	1400	
(44)	48 DORRINGTON, Philip (CA.)	1387	
(48)	49 ROGERSON, Shaun (LI.)	1368	
(43)	50 WYNN-SANDS, Dominic (GS.)	1362	

Junior Girls

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 PARKER, Katy (LA.)	3497	
(2)	2 DURRANT, Louise (NG.)	3349**	
(3)	3 WALKER, Georgina (NG.)	3331	
(4)	4 BAWDEN, Natalie (E.)	3273	
(5)	5 STEWARD, Kate (SO.)	3094	
(6)	6 PARKER, Joanna (SY.)	2919	

(8)	7 POINTER, Lucy (IW.)	2791	
(7)	8 CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.)	2747	
(9)	9 NARENDRAN, Aparna (MI.)	2654	
(10)	10 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)	2596	
(11)	11 EMBLING, Abigail (E.)	2539	
(14)	12 WRIGHT, Amy (E.)	2428	
(12)	13 BROWN, Grace (E.)	2347	
(17)	14 SORRENTINO, Annabelle (CH.)	2335	
(13)	15 FLINT, Deborah (SY.)	2324	
(24)	16 WILSON, Naomi (SO.)	2305	
(16)	17 CHEESMAN, Zoe (Y.)	2304*	
(19)	18 SPARKES, Aimee (SK.)	2288	
(15)	19 CALCUTT, Lisa (BK.)	2269	
(18)	20 TODD, Nicole (E.)	2253	
(20)	21 TONG, Rebecca (LA.)	2232	
(22)	22 MEREDITH, Samantha (WA.)	2178	
(23)	23 DONNELLY, Sarah (Y.)	2169****	
(21)	24 INGHAM, Katy (CH.)	2151	
(30)	25 CRAVEN-GRIFFITHS, Kelly (LE.)	2062	
(25)	26 ROBERTS, Hannah (LA.)	2047	
(31)	27 WHITE, Nicola (Y.)	1969	
(27)	28 GRAHAM, Cherith (LA.)	1962	
(26)	29 BARNARD, Kimberley (LA.)	1943	
(28)	30 HOWARD, Clara (CH.)	1918	
(29)	31 RADFORD, Kerry (NG.)	1914	
(33)	32 BROWN, Sarah (E.)	1859	
(32)	33 LANGFORD, Clare (CH.)	1803	
(34)	34 BARRETT, Michelle (DV.)	1789	
(35)	35 SPINK, Lauren (NK.)	1754	
(39)	36 HUMAN, Emma (BK.)	1658	
(42)	37 VAJDI, Christina (SY.)	1612	
(37)	38 STONE, Hannah (BK.)	1555****	
(44)	39 HUBBARD, Joanne (K.)	1489	
(43)	40 HEARD, Gemma (E.)	1481	
(41)	41 BELL, Amanda (Y.)	1476	
(46)	42 DEWHURST, Elizabeth (E.)	1454	
(45)	43 CLEMENSON, Jessica (E.)	1446	
(52)	44 WEIL, Emma (E.)	1302	
(53)	45 CHEESMAN, Leah (E.)	1268	
(47)	46 WALLER, Tanya (Y.)	1246*	
(48)	47 HOLLETT, Gemma (SY.)	1240	
(51)			

JARVIS SPORTS JUNIOR GRAND PRIX SERIES

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

THIS year sees the introduction of a series of tournaments which with the help of the individual event organisers will form the Junior Grand Prix.

Jarvis Sports is sponsoring four of the five Junior Select tournaments this season but all five will form the circuit.

It is hoped that the circuit will grow each year and that the Grand Prix will aspire to the heights of the highly successful Senior Grand Prix organised by the ETTA, and as a consequence of that growth Junior players will have similar opportunities for reward as that of their senior colleagues.

In this the first year it is not the intention to hold a final but Jarvis Sports will fund cash prizes for the winners and runners up of each of the qualifying events and look forward to fixture growth for next year.

Grand Prix Events Season 2000-2001

The Grand Prix events for this season are:

- **Essex Junior 4 Star Open 7th & 8th October 2000**
- **East Midlands Junior 4 Star Open 28th & 29th October 2000**
- Stockton Junior 4 Star Open 18th & 19th November 2000
- **Cotswold Junior 4 Star Open 27th & 28th January 2001**
- **Derby Junior 4 Star Open 3rd & 4th March 2001**

bold print denotes events sponsored by JARVIS SPORTS

Points Allocation

For this year points will be awarded at the same level for each qualifying events as set out below:

- Winner of group 5 points, runner-up 3 points, plus one point for each set won in group

Last 128 loser 5 points, last 64 loser 8 points, last 39 loser 12 points, last 16 loser 20 points, last 8 loser 30 points, last 4 loser 45 points, runner-up 65 points and winner 90 points.

Qualifying Events

For this season the qualifying events will be:

- Junior Boys Singles
- Junior Girls Singles
- Cadet Boys Singles
- Cadet Girls Singles

Prize Fund

Jarvis Sports is providing £100 of Donic Yasaka vouchers at each sponsored event and will in addition award the following cash prizes to the winner and runner up of each qualifying event:

- Junior Boys Singles Winner £150
- Junior Boys Singles Runner-up £75
- Junior Girls Singles Winner £100
- Junior Girls Singles Runner-up £50
- Cadet Boys Singles Winner £75
- Cadet Boys Singles R/up £37.50
- Cadet Girls Singles Runner-up £75
- Cadet Girls Singles R/up £37.50

Total Prize Fund £600

Grand Prix Points

Points that are awarded/collected at Grand Prix Events are not connected in anyway to National Ranking points.

Thanks

Jarvis Sports is pleased to be involved with this exciting new venture in Junior table tennis and wishes to express its sincere thanks to the Organisers of all of the participating tournaments, the English Table Tennis Association and Mick Strode who will arrange the Grand Prix points at all events this year.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

A MAJORITY SUPPORT FOR WEEKENDS

BY the time you read this article you should have received a report on the outcome of the first questionnaire on the future composition of the County championships competition. Of the 154 letters sent out 58% were returned, which in itself is quite an achievement given the usual apathy with which these enquiries are greeted. I was rather surprised to find that the overwhelming majority did not see any reason to alter the system of play or the composition of teams. The only proposal that attracted a majority of support was the suggestion that matches be played over two weekends or three/four Saturdays, a result which was to be expected as it is generally easier to find players and officials for two weekends rather than eight separate Saturdays, writes Stan Clarke.

In my experience most players prefer this format, there is little attraction in spending several hours travelling to and from an away venue just to play two sets of table tennis which on a good day win last no more than forty minutes, and that depends on the opposition having a full team. Of course there will be problems in implementing the much desired system, the logistical problems are enormous with twenty six non premier divisions to cater for, if each division played over two weekends a venue with four tables would be required along with an organiser for each division a task which is obviously beyond the capabilities of a small organising committee of only five people. Now we come to the difficult part, in an attempt to provide the system of play that you have asked for we need your help, a second questionnaire has been distributed asking if Counties can assist by providing suitable venues and a person prepared to take on the role of weekend organiser. Please don't sit on your hands on this one, we as a committee want to give you what you want but we can't do it without a great deal of help from you.

Not many results to hand at the moment, only two senior matches have been played so far. In Senior Division 1B the match between Isle of Wight and Berkshire finished all square. Isle of Wight shot into a 3/1 lead, only David Barr rocking the boat with a 13, 19, 14 win over Danny Burns in the first set, wins by Roger Hookey over Adrian Dixon, Lucy Pointer over Wendy Porter and Carl Preat over Martin Adams put I.O.W. 3-1 up only to see Lisa Crick beat Allison Botha, Adrian Dixon beat Danny Burns and Wendy Porter defeat Allison Botha, to put Berkshire 4-3 up. Carl Preat then hammered Dave Barr 7, 3 and Lucy Pointer beat Lisa Crick to restore the lead for I.O.W. 5-4, the final set between Roger Hookey and Martin Adams would decide the outcome of the match, Roger took the first game 21-17, almost there for I.O.W. but Martin had other ideas taking the next two games 16, 18, honours even and something to warm Berkshire on their long trip home.

Only one match result from Senior Division 2B, Glamorgan 2 and Avon also fought out a close match, on the scorecard the result was shown as a draw but nothing gets past Les Smith who noticed that Glamorgan had played Owen Clutterbuck out of ranked order. As a result Owen's win against Neil Wrigglesworth was declared invalid and awarded to Avon, changing the result to a 6-4 win by Avon, which just proves how important it is for the team captain to get the order right. Just space to wish you all a successful and enjoyable season and hope that all of your matches are played under the control of a qualified umpire.

ULSTER & SCOTTISH LADIES TOP OF THE TABLE

THE Women's British League returned to Kingsway Leisure Centre in Widnes for the beginning of their 13th season when Ulster ladies and Scottish ladies continued the outstanding form shown last season; winners of divisions One and Two respectively last time and thus gaining promotion they now, at the half way stage, lead Premier and First divisions, writes Brian Lamerton.

Ulster ladies further strengthened by the inclusion of Si Ying Mu dropped but one point and that to the reigning champions Suvi Sportswear. Natalie Bawden won twice in this match, as Suvi recovered from 3-1 down, including a 22-20, 16-21, 21-17 victory over Jing Yi Gao,



TEAM OF THE WEEKEND:
Halton Table Tennis Team



NATALIE BAWDEN who won her two games against Ulster Ladies, for Suvi Sportswear

the latters only defeat. Bawden's own 100% record was taken by Jose Bongers of Horsham Ladies.

Scottish Ladies not only lead their division with maximum points but also occupy the top three positions in the individual averages with Gillian Edwards, Claire Bentley and Erica Gyersi; Nicola Bentley completing the squad. Only Pinewood Fullerians managed to take two sets from the Scotts in probably the most exciting match of the week-end. From two sets-all Claire Bentley defeated Sarah Seaholme at 25-23 in the third game to make the score 3-2 and then Erica Gyersi got the better of Suzanne Robinson at 21-19 in the third, having lost the second leg 28-26, to finally clinch the two points.

Schildkröt WOMENS BRITISH LEAGUE FIRST WEEKEND

PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ulster Ladies	5	4	1	0	21	9	9
Suvi Sportswear I	5	2	2	1	16	14	6
Horsham Ladies	5	2	1	2	15	15	5
Hull Sandhill I	5	1	2	2	13	17	4
Leeds Ladies	5	1	2	2	13	17	4
Cippenham I	5	0	2	3	12	18	2
First Division							
Scottish Ladies	5	5	0	0	25	5	10
Shinewater British Queen	5	4	0	1	22	8	8
Pinewood Fullerians	5	3	0	2	17	13	6
Ellenborough	5	2	0	3	11	19	4
Global Sports	5	1	0	4	10	20	2
Ashford	5	0	0	5	5	25	0
Second Division							
Norton Ladies	5	4	1	0	23	7	9
SEH Windows and Doors	5	4	1	0	22	8	9
Cippenham II	5	2	0	3	14	16	4
Midland Ladies	5	2	0	3	13	17	4
Sutton at Hone TTC	5	1	1	3	9	21	3
Norwich Gels I	5	0	1	4	9	21	1
Third Division							
Halton Table Tennis	5	5	0	0	25	5	10
Hull Sandhill II	5	3	1	1	19	11	7
Darlington	5	3	0	2	18	12	6
Byng Hall	5	2	1	2	14	16	5
Suvi Sportswear II	5	1	0	4	10	20	2
Norwich Gels II	5	0	0	5	4	26	0

Division Two is led by long-time members of the league, Norton Ladies by one set from newcomers SHE Windows and Doors. These two teams drew their match with each other, Sarah Stedman winning twice for SEH. Stedman, who was elected "Woman of the Week-end" inflicted Norton's Julie Fawkes only defeat in this match and was herself only beaten by Claire Plumridge of Cippenham.



ROSE RAINTON gained a 90% average for Shinewater British Queen in the First Division

Another newcomer, the local Halton Table Tennis lead division 3 comfortably with their squad of Gemma Lloyd, Katy Ingham and Brenda Buoeu. Lloyd was unbeaten and Ingham lost only to Samantha Meredith of Suvi Sportswear. To complete a very successful week end Halton were elected "Team of the Week-end"

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

2nd-5th	ITTF Pro Tour French Open	Toulouse
4th	County Championships (3)	
5th	British League (5) Premier Division	
11th-12th	Western Open Major	Bath
	Butterfly Grand Prix	
11th-12th	South of England Junior 3 Star	
12th	North Yorkshire Junior 2 Star	
16th-19th	ITTF Pro Tour Polish Open	Warsaw
18th-19th	Senior Premier (1)	
18th-19th	Veterans British League (1)	
18th-19th	Stockton-on-Tees Junior 4 Star	
23rd-26th	ITTF Pro Tour Swedish Open	Umea
25th	Wilmott Cup & Rose Bowl (R1)	
25th-26th	Junior/Cadet Regional Trials	
25th-26th	VETTS Eastern Masters	
25th-26th	British League Weekend (2)	
26th	British League (6) Premier Division	

DECEMBER

1st-3rd	Finnish Open	Helsinki
2nd	National Junior League (2)	
3rd	Cirencester Under 10/12 One Star	
2nd-3rd	Southern Open	Bournemouth
	Butterfly Grand Prix	
7th-10th	ITTF Pro Tour Danish Open	
9th	County Championships (4)	
10th	British League (7) Premier Division	
10th	Leach & Hammersley Cups (R1)	
15th-17th	8th Portuguese Youth Open	
	Championships	Lisbon
16th-17th	Newcastle Open	
	Butterfly Grand Prix	
16th-17th	National Cadet League	
23rd	Chesham High School	
	Junior Graded 2 Star	
29th	Chesham High School	
	Under 12/13/16 Two Star	
30th	Carter, Ormesby & Gainsford Cups (R1), and Bromfield Trophy (R1)	

JANUARY 2001

2nd	Chesham High School Junior Graded	
4th	Chesham High School U12/13/15 2*	
6th-7th	Junior/Cadet National Trials	
6th-7th	Merseyside Open	Liverpool
	Butterfly Major Grand Prix	
6th-7th	Gloucester Banded Cadet 2 Star	
12th-15th	ITTF Grand Prix Finals	
13th	ETTA County Championships	
14th	British League (8) Premier Division	
14th	Gloucester Banded U12 1 Star	
20th-21st	ESTTA Team Finals Area Finals	
20th-21st	Veterans British League	
27th	Alec Brook Trophy R1	
27th-28th	Cotswold 4 Star Junior Select	
27th-28th	Womens British League (2)	
28th	British League (9) Premier Division	

FEBRUARY

3rd	Leach & Hammersley Cups R2	
3rd-4th	National Cadet League (3)	
3rd-4th	European Junior Top 12	
4th	Carter Cup & Bromfield Trophy R2	