

TABLE TENNIS



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No.272 OCTOBER 2000

NEWS



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Pages 14 & 15

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Page 13



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TABLE TENNIS NEWS & TTN EXTRA

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- Finding the Funds - provides tips and techniques for effective fund-raising and successful sponsorship proposals.
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- A Club for All - making your club open and accessible to the whole community and the benefits there are for everyone by doing that.

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For more details please call the Running Sport Hotline on 08457 585136.

ITTF MERIT AWARD

ENGLAND'S COLIN CLEMENT received the ITTF Merit Award on the 1st July 2000 during a special dinner to celebrate 50 years since the formation of the English National Umpires Referees Committee.

NEW DELHI

THE Table Tennis Federation of India will be hosting the Commonwealth Championships to be held in New Delhi from 14th to 20th April 2001.

Players will probably travel from Delhi to the World Championships being held in Osaka, Japan from 23rd April to 6th May 2001.

2001 OSAKA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE successful bid for equipment to be used at the 2001 Osaka World Table Tennis Championships is a "joint bid" by San-Ei, Nittaku and TSP

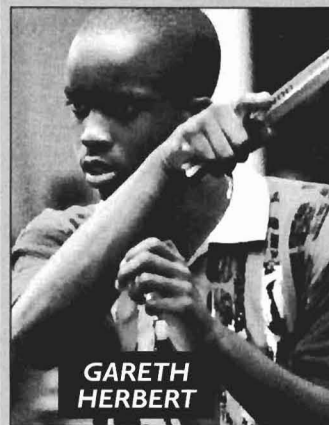
- The Championships will be played on San-Ei tables (blue) with shared signage from the three companies
- The Team Events will use the TSP 40mm ball (white)
- The Individual Events will use the Nittaku 40mm ball (white)
- ITTF approved nets and posts will be provided by the three companies on a shared basis with common manufacturing (blue or black)

Two dozen TSP balls and two dozen Nittaku balls will be sent to each Association entered in the 2001 WTTC in advance for training and testing purposes.

WOODY'S World

THE new season is only a few weeks old and we already have had a marvellous victory, in the form of England's triumph over Wales in the Senior Home Countries Championships, at Cardiff, in the team event.

This was followed up by the coming of age of Gareth Herbert, who fulfilled his destiny by beating Adam Robertson in the Mens Singles final.



A full report by our man in Cardiff, John Woodford, will appear in the November edition of Table Tennis News.

The first Butterfly Grand Prix of the season, the Cheltenham Open, was won by Alan Cooke and the National Womens Champion Nicola Deaton. See John Woodford's report on pages 14 and 15.

The 'Olympic Update' feature on page 16, reports on the recent death of one of the world's best known table tennis supporters, Rene Gatien. On behalf of Table Tennis News I wish to convey our condolences to the Gatien family.

Sadly, this issue also reports on the passing away of Nora Vint. An Obituary by Tony Brooks appears on page 23.

Closing on a happy note, it was very pleasing to publish Keith Wilson's report on page 13, on Darlington's visit to the World Youth Festival in Hungary.

What a fantastic story of community co-operation in raising funds towards this trip, a marvellous example of what can be achieved in the future. Well done Darlington.

John Wood

TABLE TENNIS NEWS COPY DATES

ISSUE

SEPTEMBER 2000
 OCTOBER 2000
 NOVEMBER 2000
 DECEMBER 2000
 JAN./FEB. 2001
 MARCH 2001
 APRIL 2001
 MAY/JUNE 2001

COPY DATES

1st AUGUST 2000
 1st SEPTEMBER 2000
 1st OCTOBER 2000
 1st NOVEMBER 2000
 1st JANUARY 2001
 1st FEBRUARY 2001
 1st MARCH 2001
 1st MAY 2001

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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.

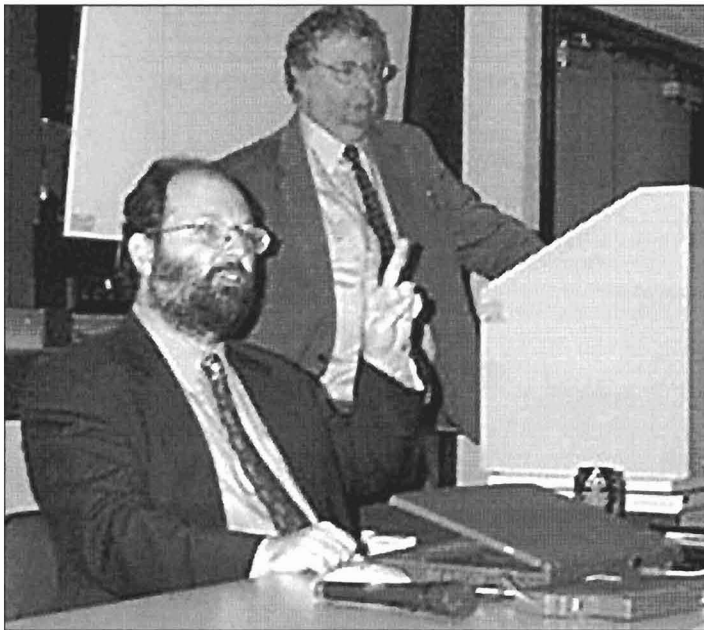
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£500,000 INTO LOCAL TABLE TENNIS

THE Millennium Awards, the first National Lottery small grants programme, is now coming to a conclusion. I am pleased to see that approximately 150 local clubs and other table tennis organisations have been able to benefit from this programme. In all a figure between £400,000 - £500,000 has been injected into local table tennis over the last twelve months and many of our local progressive organisations have received a boost from this programme.

The successor to the Millennium Awards, the Small Grants Programme commences this month (October). As with the Millennium Awards, sport is one of the good causes which is eligible for support and decisions will be made at a regional level within 12 weeks of the application being submitted. One small difference is that the recipient organisation will have a full year to use the grant as opposed to six months under the previous scheme. Both organisations who have not applied so far and those who have already received a grant are eligible to apply for funding up to a maximum of £5000. Those organisations who have already received a grant are not eligible to apply until twelve months after receiving the first grant, although of course the organisation can be working on its new application and therefore have it ready to submit immediately that the 12 months have expired.

The new application must be for a new activity and not just simply further funding for a previous programme. The priorities include activities that involve young people, women and girls, people with disabilities, black and ethnic and other minority groups. There are some further priorities on a region by region basis. The ETTA is able to help applicants, and affiliated table tennis organisations should contact your RDO and find out information about these priorities. One of the main points is that the application must promote a programme or activity that is of benefit to the local community. The ETTA Premier Club



Pictured above are ITTF President ADHAM SHARARA and ETTA Chairman ALAN RANSOME, at the ETTA Teaching and Training conference, at Lilleshall.

programme is completely in tune with the government regarding after school clubs and developing sport in the community and, therefore, clubs that are registered under the Premier Club programme do have an advantage. Applications to attend training courses for coaching, umpiring, development, tournament organisation and other courses promoted by the ETTA Teaching & Training Department, are eligible for support. The ETTA Development Department now have a great deal of experience in dealing with applications, and your RDO can help to formulate the programme and give support and assistance. The ETTA also has a model club Constitution available for those clubs who have not as yet established their own Constitution. A formal Constitution is one of the specific requirements of the application.

The ETTA have received a grant of £24,000 from the Department of Education and Employment for a pilot programme for after school table tennis clubs. The pilot is based in schools in the location of the Stowmarket table tennis club in

Suffolk. The application has been submitted with assistance from the Youth Sport Trust. Following this pilot project, further applications are being prepared and in view of the government's agenda for an increase in sports in schools, opportunities for links and support throughout the country are likely to become available within the next few months. The ETTA RDO's will be kept up to date with developments and clubs interested in pursuing these opportunities should contact their RDO.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

The European Champions League commences on 6th October with three new clubs, Grenzau of Germany, Frydek-Mistek of Czechoslovakia and Granada of Spain joining the seven that survived last year, so increasing the total number from 8 to 10. Although no formal announcement has yet been made, it is likely that the Champions



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

League will again be covered by Eurosport for the coming season, with a different format. Instead of live matches that were televised last year, Eurosport are going to cover one of the key matches over the weekend's play and then show it as recorded highlights on Monday between 3 - 4.00 pm UK time. The highlight show will be repeated the following day. The first match is between one of the newcomers, Grenzau, who will play another German team, Ochsenhausen.

Favourites for the title are the Belgium Charleroi club who have just signed Vladimir Samsonov from Dusseldorf to join Zoran Primorac and Jean-Michel Saive. The French have two strong contenders. Caen who have recruited Matthew Syed during the summer to join Jorgen Persson and Damien Eloi, and Levallois whose squad includes Jean-Phillippe Gatien, Christophe Legout and Patrick Chila. Newcomers Grenzau must be in the reckoning with China's Ma Wenge, Czech No. 1 Petr Korbel and Poland's leading player, Lucjan Blaszczyk. Of the other two German contenders champions Borussia Dusseldorf have replaced Samsonov with the impressive World No. 10 Chiang Peng-Lung who joins Trinko Keen from Holland and Martin Monrad from Denmark. The third German contender is Ochsenhausen whose team includes the talented Greek, Kalinikos Kreanga, the German Peter Franz and another improving Taiwanese, Chuan Chi-Yuan. Sweden's contender, Kalmar has two home grown players Jan-Ove Waldner and Magnus Wahlgren who are joined by the experienced North Korean player, Kim Song Hui.

Austria's beaten finalists last year, Niedrosterreich, will be fielding a an all Austrian in team Werner Schlager, Qian Qianli and Kostadin Lengerov. Rank outsiders are the new Czech team Frydek-Mistek and the Spanish La General Granada whose team includes two of the leading Spanish players Roberto Casares and Victor Sanchez plus a little known Chinese Chen Jiang.

Full details of the television

coverage and the sponsorship of the Champions League are expected shortly.

ETTA TEACHING & TRAINING CONFERENCE

The ETTA Teaching & Training Conference was held at Lilleshall from 1-3 September. The keynote presentation was made by the ITTF President, Adham Sharara, who introduced his Four P Plan – Popularity, Participation, Profit Financing and Planning.

Popularity – the ITTF through all its programmes and activities are determined to increase the popularity of table tennis. In particular to increase the recognition factor of the top players in the sport and increase the television and media coverage.

Participation – In conjunction with the Continental Federations the ITTF wish to increase player participation, encouraging the design of long term development plans, assistance in the development of permanent club structures and increase participation in competitions, training camps and technical courses.

Profit financing – The ITTF organisation is to be based on a series of profit centres. The ITTF wish to decrease dependence on external agency funding such as the IOC and increase income generating

activities, particularly from corporate sponsorship.

Planning – The ITTF have embarked on an extensive planning exercise to develop strategic plans for marketing, business planning and operations. All the ITTF activities will be part of these long term plans. The full text of Adham's 4P Plan can be obtained on the ITTF website which is www.ittf.com

Adham Sharara's presentation and the question and answer session which followed was well received by the 80 or so delegates who attended the Conference. Much of the ITTF planning co-incides with the ETTA Development plans that have been submitted to Sport England over the last ten years and clearly the ITTF and ETTA are very much in tune in terms of our objectives and ambitions for the sport.

Another highlight of the weekend in Lilleshall was the Awards dinner at which a number of presentations were made, as follows:

For the first time the Publicity Awards were presented at the Conference. The ETTA Press Officer of the Year award which was supported by Random (Publishing) House, the publishers of Howard Jacobson's book, the Mighty Walzer, was presented to Ron Fosker the Press Officer and Chairman of the Braintree & District TTL who has produced quality articles on table tennis for the Braintree and Witham times for approximately 30 years.



KEN PHILLIPS (left) is presented with the 'Male Coach of the Year' award by ETTA Chairman, Alan Ransome.

Ron particularly impressed Jacobson who was a member of the selection panel. The prize for this Award was \$500 worth of books from Random House

The Woolwich Press Officer of the Year Award was presented for the third successive season to Garth Winder of the Hyndeburn Woolwich Junior League for his excellent coverage in the Lancashire Evening Telegraph. He received £100 towards equipment for the Hyndeburn League.

The table tennis Local Development Officer of the Year was won by Raymond Parr of the Lytham St. Anne's & District TTL for the extensive work that he has undertaken in several areas for both the league and his club Andsdell Arena.

The first of the Coaching Awards,

Female Coach of the Year, was presented to Karen Tonge who has developed a very strong coaching programme at the new Halton Regional TT Centre in Widnes where she has recruited a team of supporting coaches. The Male Coach of the Year Award was presented for the second successive time to Ken Phillips, the Head Coach and Chairman of the Cippenham Club in Slough who also leads a team of coaches and is running an expanded coaching programme in his club as well as working within the Southern Region.

Young coach of the Year was presented to 24 year old Paul Davison from Sudbury whose local squad boasts several players in each age category in the Suffolk Junior County rankings. The Contribution to Coaching Award for long service to the coaching scheme was presented to John O' Sullivan of Liverpool who qualified as a table tennis coach in 1962 and is well known for his sessions in the North West. Tutor Coach of the Year was awarded to another man with great experience, Dennis Worrell of Lincolnshire who has enthusiastically tutored many coaches particularly in the East Midlands for three decades

The Special Coaching Award was made to Preston's Dave Hewitt in recognition of his enormous contribution to work with disabled players and more recently with the Great Britain national squad leading up to the 2000 Paralympics in Sydney. Coach of Disabled Athletes of the Year went to England International, Mark Mitchell of Middlesex for his twenty years coaching the disabled players at all levels from beginners to elite.

The award winners for coaching and development all received Edinburgh Crystal glass decanters sponsored by Turners of Soham whose Managing Director is former England international, Paul Day.

Alan Ransome, Chairman

TABLE TENNIS on TV

Event	Date of Transmission	Time of Transmission	Channel
European Champions League Grenzau v Ochsenhausen	30.10.00	15.00	Eurosport
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

POSTBAG

A BRITISH LEAGUE FARCE

13th MAY 2000. At the British League Annual Conference held at Sheffield, amongst other proposals was one to bring in a rule that the League (other than the Premier Division) "shall be completed over 4 weekends as allocated by the calendar working party in conjunction with the Management Committee". After a great deal of debate, a vote was held and the proposal did not receive sufficient support for the change to be implemented. However a farcical situation ensued in which the legality of the vote was questioned. A break was then allowed during which time players/individuals participating in an adjoining hall appeared. Although they had not been aware of all that had been said for and against the proposal, they were permitted to vote on behalf of their Clubs when a replacement second vote on the proposal was, to the surprise of some of us, allowed. The original voting was thus overturned to the delight of those who had obviously invited the new visitors to the meeting!

DURING THE MEETING it had been made clear that the success of the new Divisional format would be dependent upon sufficient Organisers being found for the various Divisions. When volunteers were sought, there was an immediate response on behalf of the Northern Divisions, but initially no response for the South. This being the case, and in view of the fact that our Club's point regarding the danger of our excellent Lottery/Foundation for Sport & the Arts funded Cornwall County Table Tennis Centre being lost to British League had been answered by one of the prime movers of proposals for change with the suggestion that there was no reason why our Centre should not be used, I offered, on behalf of Tregorrick Palace Club, to act as Organiser for which ever Division our team was placed in the following season. This offer was accepted, there being no volunteers for any other Southern Divisions.

AFTER THE MEETING I discussed my plan to consider using our Centre for 2 of the weekends and to seek another/other venue(s) for the remaining 2 weekends with some of

the Clubs represented at the Conference and the British League Committee Chairman, and I was clearly given to understand that my suggestions were not unreasonable and that the Organiser's decision would be final, although it would obviously be unreasonable to stage all weekends at one venue.

31 JULY Having previously been advised that Batts Team Peniel (Essex) were willing to stage the other 2 weekends in Div.2 South to which our team had been promoted, a letter of this date was received from the British League Committee Chairman advising all Clubs of the formation of Divisions with details of venues. This letter confirmed our team's entry into Division 2 South and also confirmed the 2 weekends at Cornwall and 2 weekends at Harlow, Essex. At this stage various preliminary arrangements were made for the first and last weekends which had been allocated to our venue. ie. booking of the Centre, referee(s) and umpires advised etc.

MID AUGUST. I received a phone call from the British League Chairman to say that objections had been made by the other teams in Div.2 South with regard of the plan to stage 2 weekends in Cornwall and that they were threatening to withdraw from the League. After discussion with our Club's officials and players, I wrote to the Chairman advising him of our Club's disappointment at the attitude of the other Clubs in our Division. I particularly pointed out that the arrangements had been made in an effort to be fair to all teams in the Division to the extent that each team would face 2 long journeys (the other teams to Cornwall twice and our team to Essex twice). Also, having calculated the approximate mileages that each team would have to travel over the 4 weekends there would be very little difference in the total mileage travelled by each team, indeed, Tregorrick Palace would still cover one of the greater total mileages. As one of the teams indicated in their letter (copied to me) received 14th September (See below), "seven of the eight teams are located within the Home Counties" which would give them very little travel for their 2 relatively local weekends.

7th SEPTEMBER. Letter received from British League Chairman

continued on page 8

COURTSIDE

by John Woodford

- **AFTER** making a point of being courtside at three curtain-raising events in this new season - the tournaments at Solihull, Cheltenham and a Premier Division Butterfly British League match - I can report that the new ball is being received favourably. After speaking to a number of players, summarising (something some of my fellow-writers seem unable to accomplish) their comments "Play is a little slower"; "There is a little less spin"; "It is much more difficult for people who specialise in service with heavy spin"; "The ball seems every now and again to be returned higher than expected"; and "If you hit it hard your opponent will have trouble getting it back."
- **REGARDING** the experimental 11-points scoring - almost all of the players questioned were happy with 11 points best of five and with the serving, one serve to start and then two serves alternately.
- **SOME** players are unhappy that in some tournaments there will be five serves in a row - that is unacceptable they say, two serves is the answer.
- **VIRTUALLY** all national associations do not pay their senior players wages or salaries. England has fallen in line with the rest of the world. It is old-fashioned to think otherwise. Sport England will not pay money to the ETTA to finance seniors, unless they are in the top rankings - Matthew Syed just about qualifies, no-one else is anywhere near.
- **THE WORLD-CLASS** Performance and World Class Potential programmes have got to be aimed at the young players - those at the Academy and many, many more juniors, cadets and under-12s.
- **IT IS** pointless blaming Michel Gadat or the ETTA for the fact that Nicola Deaton refuses to play for England but is quite happy to appear in France and in some tournaments. I am not sure that the Sport England-ETTA policy with senior players has been diplomatically explained to those concerned.
- **NATIONAL COUNCIL** might have been told of the policy, but how many members of the council faithfully go back to their counties with the information. Why does this magazine not carry more information on decisions and policies that emerge from council meetings?
- **WE** should not have to rely on the Chairman's Report in this magazine, which in general, only presents the rosy side of all happenings - the Chair admits that if he went "political" in his article it would stir up even larger amounts of criticism from certain quarters.
- **JOHN PREAN** has with regrets, turned down my "invitation" to join me on the media benches in New Delhi and Osaka next spring at the Commonwealth and World Championships. I would have been delighted to have been present when he could easily have written say 3,000 words for this magazine first-hand instead of relying on information from third parties.
- **FEW** people really want to go to India of course because of the well-documented health hazards. But we shall only be there for seven or maybe eight days and then onto Japan. Meanwhile, it will be fascinating to see if the Indian government sports department keep up their promise made in Singapore that they would finance nations who could not afford to come to Delhi. Scotland might be amongst those applying for help - they do not miss many Commonwealth Championships.
- **NEW DELHI** is an "extra" Commonwealth Championships. We were in Singapore last year, we shall be in Manchester with the other major sports in the complete Games in 2002. How this one got on the calendar is not clear, except that India will bend over backwards to get any sport event on the sub-continent.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR continued

expressing thanks and appreciation for agreeing to act as Organiser of the weekends 23/24 September 2000, 5/6 May 2001 at the Cornwall County Table Tennis Centre.

10th SEPTEMBER. On the strength of the above, letter sent to all other Clubs in Div.2 South enclosing accommodation details, train timings, match timings etc. In this connection, a lunchtime start on the Saturday was suggested to give visiting teams the opportunity to have time to travel that morning. All final arrangements for the first weekend were then put in hand including publicity, commencement of programmes preparation, refreshments etc. etc.

14th SEPTEMBER. (9 Days before 1st matches). Copies of letters from other Clubs in Div.2 South received in which they state that they wish to play the first weekend at Fellows Cranleigh premises (Ilford, Essex). This was the first written advice that I had received from any of the objecting Clubs, despite the imminence of the first weekend. The suggestion of a possible £30 per Club towards our expenses was treated with a certain amount of disbelief bearing in mind that we have lost one of our sponsors due to the latest

developments and are being asked to face 3 long-distance journeys with the addition of either 3 or 6 overnight accommodation costs for our players and officials. We would then be travelling several hundreds of miles extra whilst the other Clubs would have 3 local/fairly local weekends with no apparent overnight accommodation costs!

15th SEPTEMBER. Phone call from me to the British League Chairman expressing my disgust with the latest attitude of the Clubs, despite at least two having given me to understand during telephone conversations that they would, indeed, travel twice to Cornwall although they would rather not! One of the Clubs also advised me that they had settled on their team for the second visit! I confirmed the decision of our Club's committee that if the League were willing to bow to a form of blackmail from Clubs/players I would forthwith have nothing further to do with British League or Table Tennis in general. If we were not to stage two weekends, we would not stage any and our players would be consulted for a decision whether or not to participate in the League bearing in mind the last-minute developments.

GENERAL COMMENTS

I feel that the selfish attitude being shown by these Clubs does a disservice to our sport. Our players, whether involved in British League, County matches or Tournaments etc. have practically always had to travel very long distances, with overnight accommodation not always avoidable and yet here are Club players not prepared to similarly travel to us just twice in a period of 7 months between this September and May. Cornwall have made great strides to increase participation at all levels in a County that has always struggled with a lack of premises, meagre financial resources etc., we now boast our Table Tennis Centre which has been described by some of the top players and officials from home and abroad as being the best in the country, we have significantly increased junior participation in the sport, improved the general standard of play in the County and have increased our number of referees, umpires, coaches etc. during the last few years. We had hoped that this would attract players from other parts of the country to a most attractive region that is now far more readily accessible with the improved road network. What chance have we got with the type of attitude now

being shown by the Clubs that we had been looking forward to hosting here in Cornwall. After all, although regionalised in the lower Divisions to a certain extent, this is a British League and surely Clubs should not be expected to select venues solely for their convenience and benefit to themselves, at the expense of others who enter the League expecting to play matches wherever designated by those running the League.

Furthermore, it is our Club's opinion that the British League Committee should not have given in to threats but advised Clubs Involved that Division 2 (South) should proceed as organised and advised by the league's Chairman and that failure of any Club to fulfil their fixtures at any of the scheduled weekends, including the two in Cornwall, would incur the penalties set out in the League's rules. Any teams withdrawing prior to the commencement of the first weekend's matches should also be penalised appropriately.

CONCLUSION

I have been actively involved in Table Tennis for over 50 years, beginning as a player and Junior representative in the Byfleet & District League In Surrey. Subsequently I have held the posts of match Secretary, Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman of a number of Leagues. In more recent years I have qualified as a County/National/International umpire, Tournament referee and Coach and have been a member of the Cornwall County Committee for most of time since I moved to Cornwall. I was the County's project manager in connection with the County's successful construction of a purpose-built County Centre. I am at present the County's Competitions Officer, and was Organiser for last season's South West Grand Prix event, held in St. Austell. I have always had great pleasure, wherever I have lived in the South of England, in endeavouring to do whatever I could, to the best of my ability, to further the development of our sport, particularly during latter years when my playing prowess has shown a definite decline. I had always said that so long as my involvement was appreciated, I would continue until

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR continued

continued from page 8

age decided otherwise or I was no longer enjoying what I was doing. I had expected the former would make that decision for me, despite times of disillusionment over the years, but this latest 'sequence of events' has been the last straw.

David Lancaster
Mevagissey, Cornwall

Editor's Note: In typical Cornish style the players of Tregorrick Palace have shrugged their shoulders, and at great personal financial expense to themselves, have agreed to travel to Essex to fulfil their fixtures.

WAR OF WORDS

WILL it be attack or defence? How will he respond this time? What tactics will he use? Who will win this epic contest? Who will the crowd support?

Unfortunately, I refer not to a forthcoming match between two fiercely competitive rivals, but, sadly instead to two senior non playing members/supporters of our sport - each apparently intent on discrediting and scoring points off of the other with a 'War Of Words' in

each and every issue of TTN.

Is there bad blood between the current ETTA and John Prean?

Who knows, moreover, who really cares? What is certainly cared about is the negative and unhealthy effect on our sport that these comments undoubtedly put over, especially to new readers and players new to the sport. Surely a more productive outlet for our experienced campaigners is to work together and pool their ideas (and frustrations) on effort worthy subjects such as funding for our sport, player training and development, enhancing the sport's positive profile and encouraging more youngsters to join the sport.

I will fully understand if these comments fail to make print or make print in a severely edited version. I appreciate that the truth may read hurtful.

With our current low standings both nationally and individually in the world rankings, our sport is crying out for constructive press comment, not least from recognised voices within our own camp.

So, come on gentleman, bury the hatchet and focus your efforts on Table Tennis, not one another.

Michael Blake

Preston, Lancashire

CHANGE?

THE game of table tennis appears to be in terminal decline and although no one knows what to do about it, doing nothing does not appear to be an option.

The problem is said to be due to funny rubber, speed and spin services as a consequence of which the game does not televise well. So that any changes made/proposed are for the benefit of non-existent spectators rather than players of the game. The problem here being should any changes made alienate the veteran majority i.e. those most likely to resist change, that the games decline will not be halted but accelerated.

Funny Rubbers - As funny rubbers were only introduced as an antidote to reverse sandwich I cannot understand why the regulations for long pimped rubber have been changed to make them less effective while those for reverse sandwich have been left alone. The facts being that long pimped rubber is not effective against anti-spin or short

continued to page 12

IMPORTANT
FOLLOWING A MEETING OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD, WE HAVE DECIDED THAT COPY DATES MUST BE ADHERED TO. LATE COPY WILL PROBABLY BE PUT INTO THE FOLLOWING ISSUE, BUT IF SPACE ALLOWS, WE WILL INCLUDE IT.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE: DUE TO AN ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR THE WRONG INFORMATION WAS PUBLISHED ON THIS PAGE IN LAST MONTH'S TABLE TENNIS NEWS. THE INFORMATION BELOW IS NOW CORRECT.

NATIONAL TRIALS

NATIONAL TRIALS & JUNIOR/CADET MASTERS SEASON 1999-2000

POLICY FOR SEASON 2000-2001

Keith Ponting, Vice-Chairman (Competitions) gives the following details of the policy agreed by the National Council at their meeting on 29th July, 2000.

Junior Select 4 Star Tournaments

These are confirmed as follows:-

Essex, 7th/8th October, 2000 – Entries to Mr. Phil Gower, 63 Heybridge Road, Ingatestone, Essex CM4 9QA. Telephone: 01277 353174 by Saturday, 2nd September, 2000.

East Midlands, 28th/29th October, 2000 – Entries to Mrs. M. Welch, 48 Church Lane, Laceby, Grimsby DN37 7BW. Telephone: 01472 870368 by Wednesday, 27th September, 2000.

Stockton-on-Tees, 18th/19th November, 2000 – Entries to Mrs. B. Stevenson, 10 Weaverthorpe, Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough TS7 0PU. Telephone: 01642 310163 by Thursday, 12th October, 2000.

Cotswold, 27th/28th January, 2001 – Entries to Mr. Ken Bridle, 187 Alexander Drive, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1UH. Telephone: 01285 657989 by Saturday, 3rd February, 2001.

Derby, 3rd/4th March, 2001 – Entries to Mr. Tim. Harris, 8 Harford Close, Bristol BS9 2QD. Telephone: 0117 914 5148 by Saturday, 27th January, 2001.

There will be NO automatic entry into the Junior and Cadet Masters. Qualification will be through the above tournaments, together with the six leading players from the Final National Ranking Trials.

These tournaments will again be subject to a points system as follows:-

Winners 300 points
Runners-up 150 points
Losing Semi-Finalists 50 points
Losing Quarter-Finalists 25 points
Losing last Sixteen 15 points.

In the event of a tie on points gained from the five 4 Star Select Tournaments, the positions for entry into the Masters will be decided by the placings on the latest ETTA Ranking List. This will be the one that comes out in March.

A running total record will be kept by Doreen Nightingale at Head Office and will also be available on the ETTA website.

Regional and National Trials

Exempt players

The following players, as ranked on the August, 2000 National Ranking List will be exempt from the Regional Trials and will receive an automatic invitation to the National Trials:

The top 10 Junior Boys
The top 8 Junior Girls
The top 8 Cadet Boys
The top 5 Cadet Girls

The position on the August National Ranking List will apply.

At the conclusion of the Final Regional Trials the following players will receive an invitation to the National Trials:-

Junior Boys – Top 5 players from each region plus the 4 highest nationally ranked reserves from any of the regional lists

Junior Girls – Top 4

Cadet Boys – Top 4

Cadet Girls – Top 2 players from each region plus the 7 highest nationally ranked reserves from any of the regional lists.

The ranking list to determine the reserves will be the one published in December, which should include all the results from the Regional Trials.

Confirmed dates:-

Junior/Cadet Preliminary Trials 23rd/24th September, 2000

Junior/Cadet Regional Trials 25th/26th November, 2000

Junior/Cadet National Trials 6th/7th January, 2001.

Junior and Cadet Masters

It has been decided to retain invitations to 16 players and to continue with a two day event being played in two stages. The first stage will consist of two groups of 8 players (7 matches each) all on the first day. The two players who finish 7th and 8th will be eliminated. The top six players in each group will qualify for the second stage on day two. All results recorded by the players who qualify for the second stage will be carried forward from the first stage and will count in the final 12 player league table. All of the players in the final 12, who did not play each other in the first stage, will play in stage 2, so producing an all play all final league table. All the players who qualify for the second stage of the competition will, therefore, play six matches each on the second day.

In the event of any player gaining dual qualification, either through the Select Tournaments or the National Trials, therefore creating vacancies, the spare places will be taken up by the highest ranking reserves from the National Trials.

Confirmed dates:-

Cadet Masters 31st March/1st April, 2001

Junior Masters 21st/22nd April, 2001.

All this information will be published on the ETTA website.

KEITH PONTING

Vice-Chairman (Competitions).

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LETTERS continued

continued from page 10

pimples, nor even particularly effective against reverse sandwich 'if you know what you are doing'.

Speed & Spin - If speed and spin are the problem then why not ban 'speed glue'. Or would a ban on glue be difficult to enforce, or reduce the maximum thickness of rubber/sponge allowed?

Service - I am in favour of the service regulations being changed as too many points are being won off service. Taking the view that the regulations should be revised more with a view to putting the ball into play than allowing points to be won off service.

The Larger Ball - I am not in favour of the larger ball because at the level I play the rallies are long enough already and I don't want to be finishing after Mid-Night.

Playing up to 11 - I am not in favour of a shorter game as this would favour the unorthodox player, who the better player might get the better of over 21 points, but not necessarily over 11.

I don't imagine for one moment that everyone will agree with me, but can't help wondering if I'm alone in having such thoughts.

*Michael Bunting
Croydon, Surrey*

LATE NIGHTS

WITH the bigger 40mm ball it looks like rallies will be much longer and therefore games will be longer. At local league level the biggest problem has always been late finishes, especially for young players. One suggestion for local leagues is to play two games instead of best of three, making each game worth one point.

With three players that would mean nine games less per match, ten including the doubles. The odd score card could still be used, if a set finished one game each the result could be put in the place for the third game, if two nil the same procedure. A player could win their three sets 6-0, 5-1 or 4-2, or lose by the same margin.

None of the team affected would be lost as each player's score would still be added at the end, teams would win or lose matches, 18-0, 17-1, 16-2, 15-3, 14-4 etc. The two game system will throw up highly competitive matches as players will have to go all out to win 2-0, rather than sharing a single point each. At first like all changes it will seem a little odd, but next time you're playing at your club get a 40mm ball and try it, play best of three first and then best of two, and check the time differences and

you will see what I mean.

*Pat Gimnaw
Arundal TTC*

SPOT ON

I HAVE just had sight of the report on the European Championships for the Deaf, by Judy Rogers, in the June/July issue of Table Tennis News.

Your report was informative and spot on. Deafness is an unseen disability and often dismissed as something trivial, but its affects are beyond me to describe in a few words.

I awoke one morning during a serious illness, but thought I was dead - for you see I awoke into an unknown world, it was a world of silence. Deafness threw me into a world that I could not understand the confusion was terrifying.

It's a long story and there's more to tell - in short the quietness made me withdraw from all social activities and I somehow built a wall of detachment which caused me a terrible isolation.

It was by chance that I was walking in the town centre of Corby when Table Tennis Coach Tom Cordwell saw me. Tom approached me to speak and I was terrified for I am very diffident on lip reading.

Tom, a patient and gentle giant of a man, understood my predicament. The meeting was short and comfortable, but on leaving Tom suggested that I should visit the town's table tennis club.

The ease and comfort I felt with Tom was encouraging - I went with trepidation. Sure some looked at me and considered I was somewhat of an oddity, for after all, here was player who is sixty something and playing with a hard hat and - he's deaf.

Tom, a level 3 coach, recognised my ability and skills and suggested I should take on a course to attain a coaching standard.

In liaison with Dave Marsh I was sensibly tutored and assessed with fairness - through the courses until I attained level 2 status.

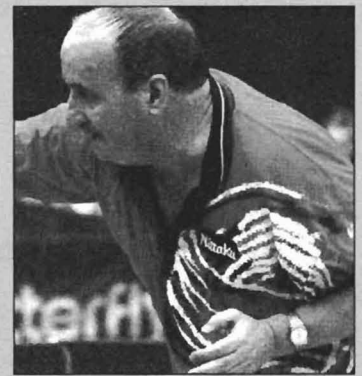
I don't suppose anyone has ever said that table tennis is a miraculous game, but playing table tennis did restore some esteem and normality to my life, and I am proud of what I have achieved.

Finally, I have learnt that deafness is not life threatening, but a life sentence.

*Roy Bentley,
Corby, Northants*



A TRIBUTE TO MIKE JOHNS



MIKE JOHNS seen here in action on the Veterans circuit, whilst pictured below as a regular member of the England National Senior Team

...from the Scottish Legend

YES, it's true! The flags are flying at half-mast over the Headquarters of the ETTA in Hastings, following the resignation of Mike Johns from his position as National Events Manager.

The mood is sombre in the office, as the women members of staff in particular contemplate life without the opportunity to rub shoulders daily with a true wild child of the swinging sixties. The men are equally down-in-the-mouth, knowing that we will no longer have the inspiration of that magnificent physique to inspire us to work harder and longer in the gym, in an effort to match up to what can only be described as a monument to athleticism and virtues of pumping iron.

But seriously ... it has been a real pleasure working with Mike, and on behalf of all colleagues at the ETTA, I would like to take this opportunity to wish Mike every success in his new business venture.

The first and most successful of four brothers, who are still playing regularly in the Vets circuit. Mike's halcyon days were in the 60's when he represented England at both Junior and Senior level. England's original spin doctor, Mike was renowned for his strong forehand loop and beautifully disguised drop shot.

In 1980, Mike emigrated to Australia to take up an appointment with the Australian Table Tennis Association, and I next saw him in Stuttgart in 1992 at the European Championships, where he and his Australian Colleagues presented a successful bid to stage the World Veterans Championships. Three years later, Mike returned home, and joined the ETTA in 1995 as National Events Manager.

Over the past five years, Mike has played a key role in some major events staged by the Association, including two



World Championships and three English Opens. In my opinion, however, his major achievement and lasting legacy will be the resurrection of a flourishing nationals tournament scene in the form of the successful ETTA Grand Prix series.

Good luck Mike, and we look forward to seeing you around the tournament scene for many years to come.

*Richard Yule
ETTA Chief Executive*

WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL



DARLINGTON represented the ETTA at the 3rd Hungarian World Youth Festival in Tiszaujvaros, but their story is not just one of competing in a world class competition. It also proves that people in our sport (players, coaches, administrators, and parents) can come together and make such a dream trip come true, writes Keith Wilson.

The story begins not in Hungary, but some twelve weeks earlier when Darlington received an invitation to compete. Initial costings soon rose and the club faced a minimum target of £5400 to fund the trip. Parents joined players and club officials in a new committee with the aims of raising the cash required. One parent took on the role of approaching smaller local businesses, and whilst we attended the National Under 12's in Widnes the first market stall project raised £300. More trickled in from local firms. Top sports clubs such as Newcastle, Middlesbrough, and Sunderland Football Clubs sent major prizes for a raffle, as did Durham County Cricket Club and the Newcastle Falcons Rugby club. The

local Radio station continuously played an advert for the youngsters cause, the local press supported every project too, and that media exposure helped to land three major sponsorships from Newcastle Building Society, construction company Severfield-Reeve, and one of Darlington's largest firms, Cleveland Bridge Engineering. The youngsters themselves appeared in two major shopping malls, in one they also staged a sponsored bag pack, they did the usual sponsored marathon, and finally the club's main sponsors CSI backed the project. With days to go the funds were there. Not only had the young players raised a significant amount in such a short time, but they also raised the public profile of the sport with their demonstrations in the shopping malls. RDO Mark Smith joined in the events and learned that here was a new tool for his own role in the sport.

With the funds in place, the squad of twelve then had the luxury of a day's training before the trip, with great help from leading England players Alan Cooke, Alex Perry, and Michael Isherwood.

On Wednesday 16th August the coach departed from Darlington, an overnight stop at Heathrow, and at 10.20 the next day the flight to Budapest was followed by a bus to the railway station, a train to Miskolc, another train to Tiszaujvaros, and arrival in scorching mid 90's heat.

Thanks to Tony Chatwin and Michel Gadal, the Darlington squad were officially nominated and were in the team event. Friday's opening matches brought the youngsters down to earth, In the Cadet Boys, Hungary and Croatia soon proved too strong but the 3rd team played well to lose 2-3 to Tatarstan. The Girls also faced a huge task against Greece.

The individual events were played in three stages which gave everyone a large number of matches. With three halls being used to house 70 tables, the squads and their coaches were split, but gradually individual victories began to happen. The players had raised their standard of play, increased their motivation, and realised they could compete and do well. The Under 12 Boys gave us food for thought in terms of the future. David Meads(10) won 4 from

11, and Mark Simpson (also 10) did not realise the enormity of his 18 in the third defeat by Hungary's Attila Vadja until he watched the same player lose to Gao Fang in the final. By the end of the 3rd day, where 7 of the 12 had reached the knock out stage, it was all over and time to make use of the superb leisure facilities, and then to watch some of the worlds top young stars. China's Gao Fan is surely a name to watch for in the years ahead, not only did the 10 year old demolish everyone in the Under 12 Boys Singles, but he gave Hungary a lot to think about in the Junior Boys team final.

The World Festival is obviously an event of high standard, and an official ITTF recognised tournament, but the accent on international friendship means an equal amount in terms of importance. Regardless of reputation, the many cultural and entertainment events saw everyone involved.

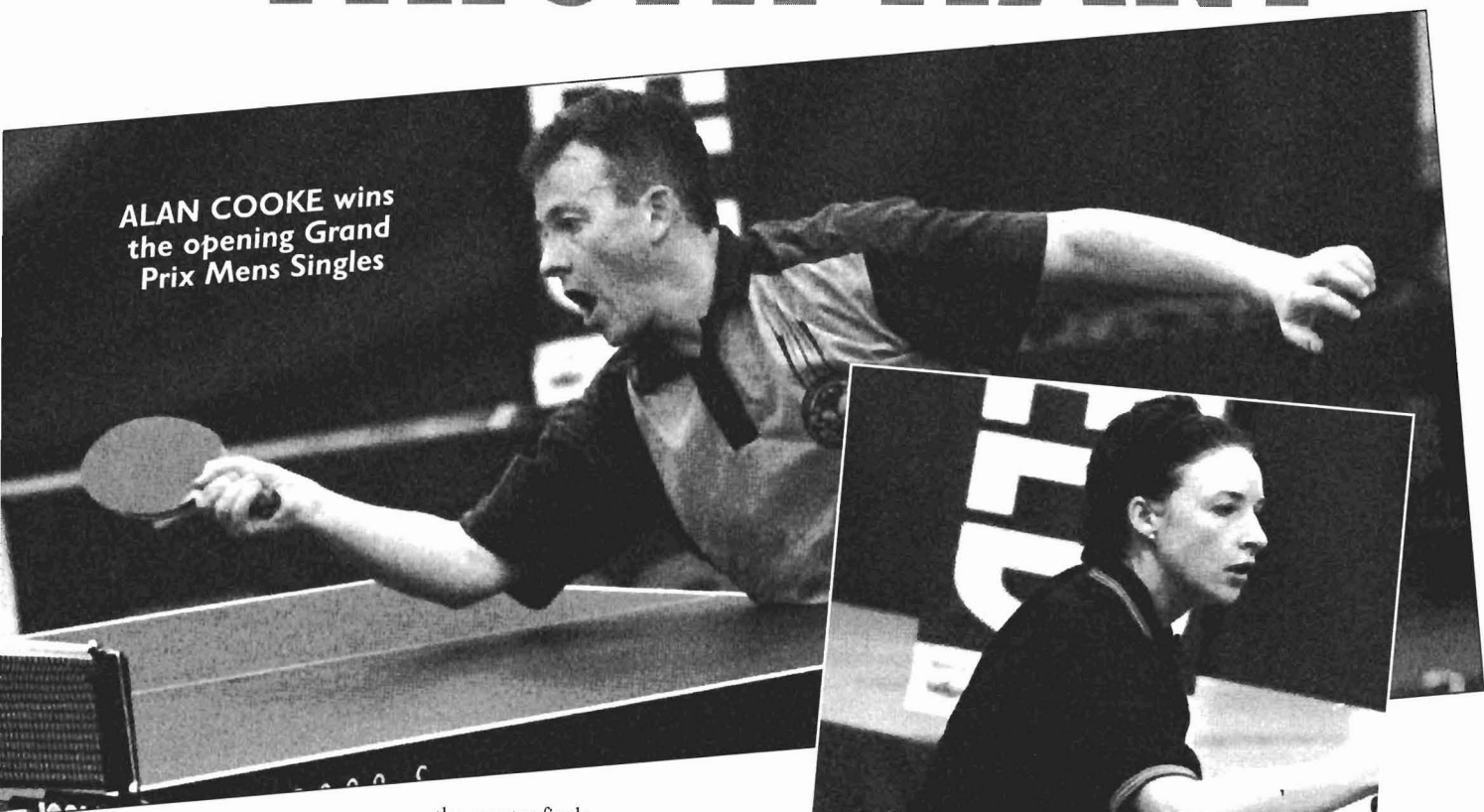
Perhaps the disappointing aspect was the organisation. Originally intended for Budapest, the event had to be moved to Tiszaujvaros after a major fire at the intended venue. After such a huge journey which took three hours to get through the accreditation process, on two of the four days, matches were held up through computer problems, and it was a case of adapting to different attitudes of administration. Those who criticise English standards should think themselves lucky.

As with most adventures of this nature, there are always the many amusing tales. Mark Smith can recount many attempts to keep him under water in the swimming pool, with three parents as "carers", the coaches had a much better opportunity to relax after each days play. With beer at under 40p a pint, I can vouch for the fact that it was easy to "relax". The return journey was the same as the outward trip. However, along with Brazil and Greece, we were the first to leave at 6.00 a.m. Ten minutes later, and with only 8 minutes to catch the first train, the bus would not start. Once again the hands of international friendship were in evidence - all locked together pushing the bus.

Our concluding thoughts have given us much hope for the future. If we can raise so much in terms of funding and local awareness in only 12 weeks, just what can we achieve if we plan something over 12 months? It is surely food for thought for everyone. What started as group of people dedicated to attending the World Festival has now evolved into a group dedicating efforts towards the future.

COOKE & DEATON TRIUMPHANT

ALAN COOKE wins the opening Grand Prix Mens Singles



THE Cheltenham Recreation Centre was the venue for the start of the 2000-2001 British Grand Prix tour. We watched over 200 players coping without any real problems with the new 40mm ball and the experimental 11-points scoring system: we saw the Derbyshire couple Alan Cooke and Nicola Deaton triumph in the two singles finals and a second-day finish at 8.45pm, writes John Woodford.

Cooke's production of top-spin is robotic but so effective. His progress to the quarter-finals was easy where he defeated the veteran singles winner Ian Girdler (Surrey), 3, 0, 8.

The Derbyshire coach had few problems with the former Italian professional Fabio Mantegazza, coming through 4, 11, 3. In the quarters the Italian had some troubles before eliminating Nigel Eckersley 8, -10, 5, 4.

In the bottom half the major shock came from Abdul Wuraola, who crushed last year's overall Grand Prix winner Michael Isherwood 7, 8, 9 in

the quarter-finals.

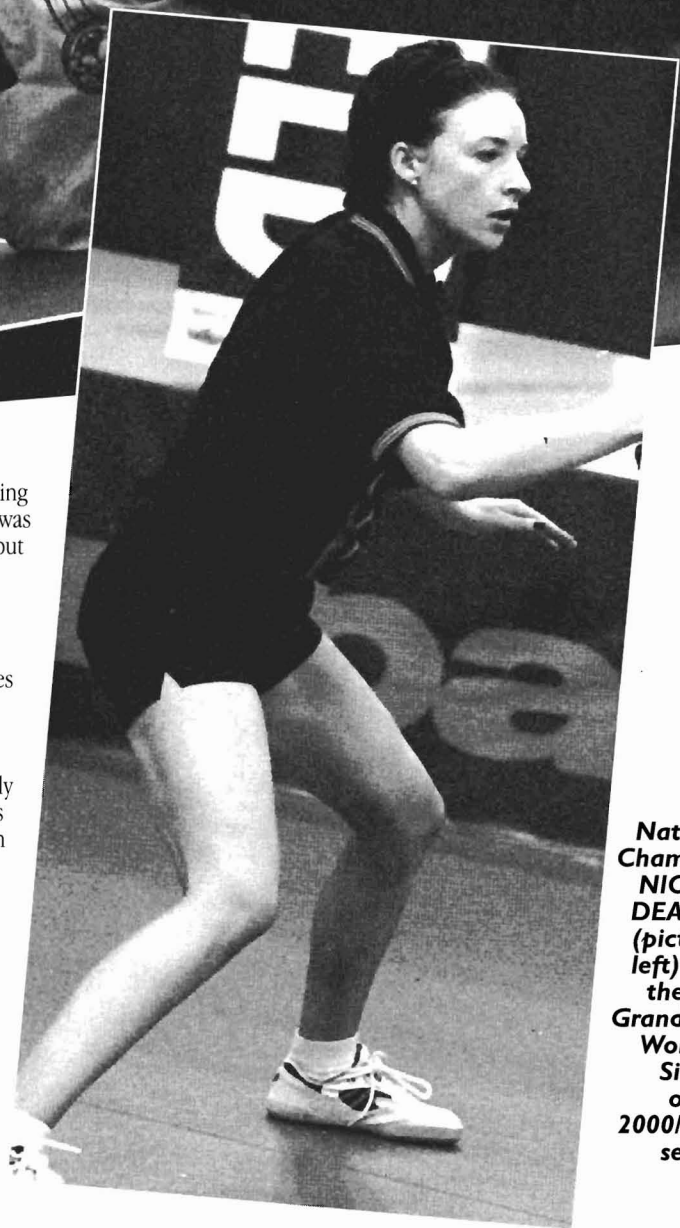
In the semi-finals, Alex Perry having taken out Michael James 10, 7, 3, was not comfortable against Wuraola but emerged safely 9, 6, -9, 4.

The lack of qualified umpires reared its ugly head during this match - Perry complained on the quality of the Surrey player's serves to the referee Les Smith, but nothing could be done without a proper umpire.

The fans were anticipating a really close mens singles final, but it was not to be, simply because the man from Devon who now resides in Nottingham, was unable to counter-hit against the Cooke top-spin and was defeated 3, 6, 7.

DEATON No.1

Nicola Deaton, unbeaten in Britain for three years made a welcome return to the circuit. Although she steadfastly still refuses to play for England, she is still our best player. She faltered in the semi-finals against the former Hungarian squad player Barbara Kiss. Deaton



National Champion NICOLA DEATON (pictured left) wins the first Grand Prix Womens Singles of the 2000/2001 season

won the first two, but the blonde from Budapest struck back with venom to take the next two 11, 6. In the fifth however, our national champion returned to all-out attacking to win 11-8.

In the other half, Helen Lower and Kubrat Owolabi were in charge, giving mostly younger opponents little chance. The semi-final clash between the two professionals saw Lower storm in 4, 11, 12 against the former African champion.

The final was a cracking match, as both girls raced into the attack with Nicola easing home 9, 9, 12, leaving no doubt that the England womens list is correct - Deaton 1, Lower 2.

NEW VETERAN

IAN GIRDLER and Penny Perry won the two veterans events. Girdler, a "new" veteran defeated Mike Johns at 9 in the fifth game, after Johns had taken out Nigel Eckersley also at 9 in the fifth in the semi-finals. Nigel however, reached the quarter-finals of the mens singles, a fine effort by the Sussex-based fighter.

There was some consolation for Perry as he combined strongly with Mantegazza to win the mens doubles final against Alan Cooke and Michael Isherwood. The womens doubles final result raised a few eyebrows as Nicola Deaton and Natasha Lake (Wales) scored a stunning victory 9, 9, 8 over Owolabi and Kiss.

Gloucester's own Judy Morley ended up in hospital after losing in the Veterans final. She fell heavily on the floor of the second hall, the cricket pavilion, where there were question marks on the floor said by some to be not too slippery but too holding.

Overall, the Cheltenham team did an excellent job with the

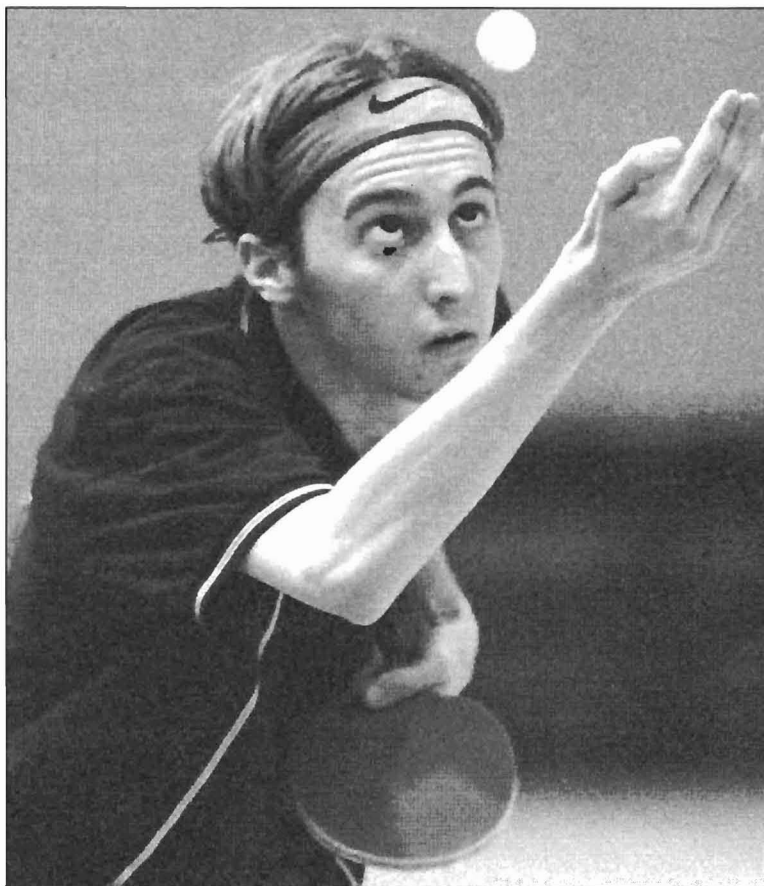
organisation. Brian Gibbs as the only qualified umpire present deserves a medal for his efforts.

With eleven events to go on the main circuit, I sincerely hope that local organisers will be able to do better than one umpire for the last day and that someone can be found to keep up wall-charts of the tournaments progress. At Cheltenham, the only way players and the media could find out what was happening before semi-finals was to ask the busy control workers. Confirming Ken Muhr's remarks in this issue - this is a vital task, what is the point of having the draw laid out in the programme if it is virtually impossible to trace the progress of the players?

The local media coverage was dominated by the sterling work of Alf Pepperd with his radio spots and interviews with leading players and organisers.

11-UP OKAY!

AFTER winning the final, Alan Cooke commented on the new scoring, "All the players were happy with the eleven points. They are also adamant that serving should be changed after every two points. There is no future in the five serves in a row."



Losing Mens Singles finalist ALEX PERRY (above), who bounced back to take the Mens Doubles title in partnership with Italy's Fabio Mantegazza, beating Alan Cooke and Michael Isherwood in the final 5, -4, -8, 9, 7.



ALF PEPPERD'S COMMENTS:

"How does one follow such an accurate report as tendered above by John Woodford, at least and without being too repetitious I of course will have a try - it was indeed an honour to work with John over the two days of "The Grand Prix Tournament".

On the first day from 10am - 1pm I spent that time with Pete Wilson of BBC Radio Gloucestershire, between the two of us broadcasting LIVE we managed to get interviews with, Mike Johns, Alan Cooke, Nicola Deaton, Dominic Wynn-Sands (the Gloucestershire No.1 Junior) who has just come back from 3 weeks intensive table tennis coaching in Beijing China, Local Gloucester lass Judy Morley, who was runner-up to winner Penny Perry (Devon), in the Veterans Womens Singles, Pete spoke to 11 year old Stella Davis of Gloucester, Stella is the No.1 Under 17 girl player in Gloucestershire, catch em young I say?, After Pete Wilson had packed up his bibs & bobs of broadcasting material at 1pm, he departed to do football or was it rugby? commentating during the afternoon, I then returned to the Press Table to spend the rest of the day (and the next one) with John Woodford worrying Les Smith & Gill Smith on control and others for the results as they came in."

RESULTS

MENS SINGLES

FINAL: ALAN COOKE (Dy) b. Alex Perry (Dv) 3, 6, 7. S/F: Cooke b. Fabio Mantegazza (ITALY) 4, 11, 3; Perry b. Abdul Wuraola (Sy) 9, 6, -9, 4.

WOMENS SINGLES

FINAL: NICOLA DEATON (Dy) b. Helen Lower (St) 9, 9, 12. S/f: Deaton b. Barbara Kiss (HUNGARY) 12, 8, -11, -6, 8; Lower b. Kubrat

Owolabi (Mi) 4, 11, 12.

MENS BAND 1

GAVIN RUMGAY (WALES) b. Simon James (Y) -8, 3, 8, 10.

MENS BAND 2

IAN GIRDLER (K) b. Neil Page (WALES) 5, 7, 9.

MENS BAND 3

NEIL THOMAS (WALES) b. Bryn Drinkwell (Cv) -7, -13, 8, 19, 6.

MENS BAND 4

STUART MATTHEWS (SCOTLAND)) b. Lee Davies (WALES) 9, 7, 3.

MENS BAND 5

KEITH LESSER (E) b. William Power (K) 10, 9, -5, 9.

MENS BAND 6

PAUL STANSFIELD (Y) b. Ian Packford (Ox) 12, -10, 8, -6, 10.

WOMENS BAND 1

ALICE HOWARD (Ch) b. Ann Humble (Gs) 4, 2, 8.

WOMENS BAND 2

GILLIAN EDWARDS (SCOTLAND) b. Lisa Calcutt (Bk) 6, 10, -8, -5, 3.

WOMENS BAND 3

HANNAH ROBERTS (La) b. Naomi Wilson (So) 6, 6, 7.

WOMENS BAND 4

LAUREN SPRINGTHORPE (Li) b. Carol Clarke (Sk) 9, -8, 6, 6.

MENS UNDER 21

OWEN GRIFFITHS (WALES) b. Stephen Jenkins (WALES) 9, -11, 9, 17.

WOMENS UNDER 21

GEMMA LLOYD (Ch) b. Nicola Bentley (SCOTLAND) 3, 6, -6, -10, 6.

VETERAN MEN

IAN GIRDLER (K) b. Mike Johns (Ch) -8, 4, -9, 9, 9.

VETERAN WOMEN

PENNY PERRY (Dv) b. Judy Morley (Gs) 9, 2, 5.

MENS DOUBLES

PERRY & MANTEGAZZA b. Cooke & Isherwood 5, -4, -8, 9, 7.

WOMENS DOUBLES

DEATON & NATASHA LAKE (WALES) b. Owolabi & Kiss 9, 9, 8.

GRIEVING GATIEN BOWS OUT

JEAN PHILIPPE GATIEN was the first seed to bow out of the Mens Singles in Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, writes John Wood.

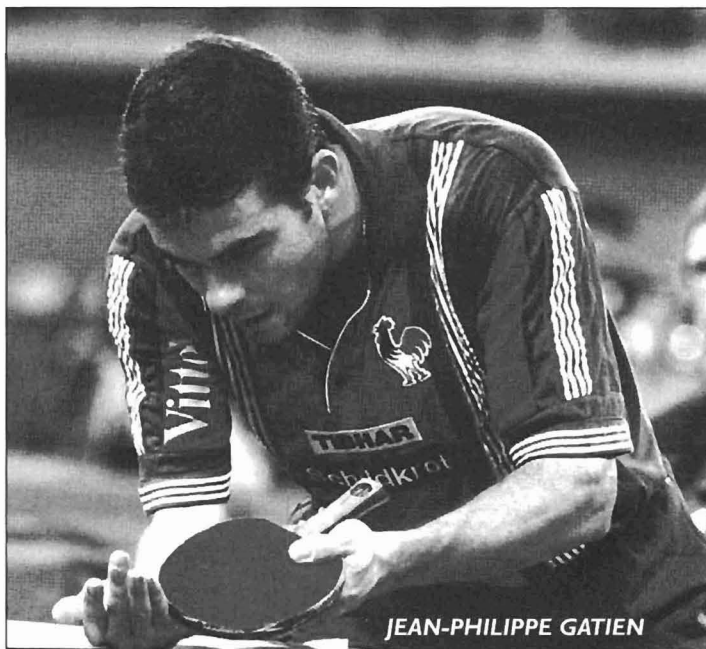
Gatien lost to Poland's Lucjan Blaszczyk in the second round in three straight games.

Against the heavy backhand and forehand topspin from in-form Blaszczyk, Gatien had absolutely no defence. He fell surprisingly fast in the first game, losing 5-21 in less than five minutes.

France's best medal hope in the Mens Singles, Gatien, put up more of a fight in the second, just a point behind Blaszczyk when he held service at 17-18. However, he could not win the points from the Pole and eventually lost 17-21.

It did not take Blaszczyk too long to wrap up the third game as Gatien continued to struggle.

After the match, Gatien confessed that he expected it to be tough to be at the Games, especially since the death of his father recently, his greatest supporter and motivator. Gatien's father Rene, never failed to follow his son to major tournaments, and his absence was sorely felt by the



grieving French star.

"I have lost to Blaszczyk before, but Blaszczyk was not the problem. It was only a shadow of Gatien you saw in there. I guess I was not ready in the mind."

RENE GATIEN

I FIRST met Jean-Philippe's father Rene, in Gothenburg during the 1993 World Championships, where father and son celebrated Jean Philippe's

great victory over Jean Michel Saive, in the final of the Mens Singles.

During that tournament I was amazed how when his son or indeed a french player was on the table, Rene would play his bugle, between points of course.

After that I was always bumping into Rene and his bugle, at World or European events, and we became good friends.

However, my fondest memory of Rene was at the 1994 European Championships in Birmingham, where following France's Mens Team amazing victory over Sweden in the final, the French held a celebration party in their hotel, and I was invited. What an evening it was really fantastic, and most of the night Rene played tunes on the rim of the winners trophy.

Rene, was a true international supporter of table tennis, a real character. It was a privilege and a honour to have known him.

SYED SHIFTS TO POLITICS

HAVING returned from the Sydney Olympics where with one win and one loss he went out in the mens singles groups, England and Commonwealth Table Tennis Champion Matthew Syed, 29, travelled to Brighton for the Labour Party Conference. Syed, who is the prospective Labour candidate for the parliamentary constituency of Wokingham (John Redwood's seat), is far from despondent with table tennis. Said the player-politician: "So many people have approached me about table tennis in the last few days, and they are just amazed when I tell them that there are 300 million players in the world and the sport gets Lottery funding in England. Table tennis has gone down fantastically well at the Olympics, but for now I want to give my attention to politics and give my best shot at Wokingham."

Matthew Syed won his first of three English National Championships Men's Singles titles in 1997 at the Brighton Centre, where the Labour Party Conference took place!

FAREWELL RENE



CHEERS: RENE GATIEN (far left) is pictured with some new found friends at the 'End of Tournament' party at the 1997 World Championships in Manchester

TABLE TENNIS NEWS EXTRA

Issue no. 272 October 2000

Editorial

It seems that the table tennis competition at the **Sydney Olympics** was very impressive, and it was incredible that at 34 years of age **Swedes Jorgen Persson and Jan-Ove Waldner** (35 on 3rd October) could reach the semi-finals. Egged on by King Gustav, Queen Silvia and a delirious Swedish section of the capacity crowd, J-O looked like doing the ultimate when he tore the 3rd and 4th games from the Chinese who idolises him, **Kong Linghui**, but it was young Kong (25 on 8th October) who, racing to an eight point lead, went on to take the **2000 Olympics men's singles gold medal**.

Matthew Syed was disappointed at going out in the groups following a three straight set loss to a German, Peter Franz, who he has never beaten – “it is very much the best I have ever seen him play, he hit the ball so hard and just didn't miss”. If he had taken the third game the result might have been very different, but Matthew of course was never a realistic medal hope, and our **Performance Plan is about getting players to world level in the next eight years**, not instantly. **Let us hope that the Lottery still sees it like that** – according to Duncan Mackay in the Observer (10th September) “UK Sport disclosed recently that the amount of money they have to dispense to the country's governing federations could fall by as much as a third before the 2004 Games in Athens, and that **only the most successful sports will continue to receive funding after Sydney**. **The biggest losers are set to be those small sports that do not win medals here, who will all have their budgets reviewed post-Sydney**”. At the Labour Party Conference in Brighton, Prime Minister Tony Blair pledged to “invest £750m of Lottery money in schools and community sport as part of a £1bn investment over three years”, much of it in schools' sports facilities, but how much will be left over for performance?

One racket sport that did come out well in the Olympics from a British point of view is badminton (like TT hugh globally) – well done Simon Archer and Joanne Goode for their mixed doubles bronze medal! That a British team overall have scored their best medal haul since the 1920 Olympics will be a good argument for continued Lottery sports funding, table tennis hopefully included.

Indication that progress continues to be made by our coming start was 19-year-old **Gareth Herbert's men's singles victory** over 16-year-old Welsh European Youth Championships' silver medallist Adam Robertson (who is now resident

training with the English at Holme Pierrepont) at the **Home Countries International event at Cardiff**. Dale Barham, only 15, had an excellent singles victory over Irish no. 1 Jonathan Cowan, while England junior champion Katy Parker, 16, came third in the women's singles in which Helen Lower was the losing finalist to Wales' Bethan Daunton. England took the team event title with a convincing 9-1 win over the holders Wales.

The Olympics was the last time that the old 38mm ball will be used in an international event, the **larger 40mm ball** to be used in all international competitions from 1st October, including the World Cup in China on 12th-15th October. It may be significant to note that the International Tennis Federation appears to be following the table tennis lead in conducting an 18 month trial using 6% larger balls to slow the game down to make it more attractive. Table tennis was also first not to distinguish between 'amateur' and 'professional', the ITTF in 1935 substituting 'player' for all references to these terms.

In England, where the 40mm ball has been in force since 1st July, it has been mostly very favourably received. However, the **reaction to games up to 11 and the lawn tennis tie-break system** (where after the first serve, service goes in twos until the end of the game – one area where tennis is ahead of table tennis!), which are being adopted experimentally for some Butterfly Grand Prix tournaments – others are using the least popular change after 5 serves format for games up to 11 – and for the 64th English Open at Buckmore Park, Chatham, Kent on 6th-11th February 2001, is much more mixed. Top players may be playing more positively, whilst weaker players may be becoming more cautious. It is too early to make a definitive judgement.

However the **current petrol/diesel fuel crisis** is resolved, in the long term the diminishing resources of oil and the growing concern about the damaging environmental impact and the awareness of accelerated global warming caused by the use of it, will inevitably have **dire implications for table tennis competition requiring travel**. Availability of petrol/diesel will decline and prices will go up, and there is a limit to how fuel-efficient cars can get powered by this fossil fuel. Initially, this may mean more sharing of cars, vans and coaches and (improved?) public transport to go to open tournaments, British League and county matches, knockout competitions, etc. Later on, it will mean using alternative (cleaner?) sources of power. It will also affect the nature of the competition: more

matches and competition held over weekends at central venues (rather than 'home' and 'away'), and probably more localised competition and competitive structures to minimise the necessity for so much travel. An even stronger argument for developing large, community based 'Premier' type clubs now, in preparation for a power rationed future. Table tennis is relatively power efficient (many players can fit into a facility) compared with most other indoor sports, once you have got to the venue.

We have learned with sadness of the **death of Syd Fryer** from Altrincham, Cheshire, a **dedicated collector of table tennis videos**, who filmed and collated his own for some 20 years. Syd, a member of the Trafford League (originally the Sales Warden League) for over 30 years, in which he played for the Civil Service club, also acted as their Coaching and Development Secretary. He did a lot of schools work and helped with the table tennis competition in the Greater Manchester Youth Games. But I remember Syd at many major events, most notably in Dortmund 1989, the 'Waldner/Magic Ball' World Championships. It will be important to find a suitable home for his unique collection, perhaps a museum. One person who runs a **table tennis museum is Italian Francesco Lucesoli**, who has the official t-shirts and tracksuits of many national teams, but not the English. However, he is very keen to add these. So, **England players**, if you have any old **kit** that you don't have to return, please send it to Francesco Lucesoli, Via Dei Faggio 16, 60016 Marina Di Montemarcano (Ancona), ITALY (e-mail: f.lucesoli@fastnet.it, tel: 071 9198329) or to myself at ETTA HQ to forward. He is also interested in table tennis lapel pins, stamps, postcards, postmarks, pennants, banners etc, and is prepared to pay a little.

As always, I am on the look out for **TTN Extra contributions** on organisations, people, issues and events that may be of interest to a national audience. **I am concerned that my e-mail (kenmuhr.etta@talk21.com) does not appear to have been operating properly over the last few weeks, so I apologise if I have not published something you posted to me on it. For the time being, I suggest you e-mail your copy to admin.etta@ettahq.freeseerve.co.uk** and continue to send a back-up copy to this address, even when my own is fully functional again. TTN Extra contributions and reports can also still be faxed or land-mailed to me at ETTA Headquarters.

Ken Muhr

CORNWALL by John Wood

Cornwall County Table Tennis Association's Summer Handicapped League is drawing to its conclusion, with just a few matches still to be played at Tregorrick Park Table Tennis Centre. They are scheduled to be completed by the end of September.

Division One is now a two horse race, with Neville and young Darren Reed with their noses just in front on 87 points, whilst Neville's younger brother Graham and daughter Lisa are in second place, but with a game in hand. The crunch game will be when the two of them meet in a match that will probably decide who takes the honours.

Division Two is still wide open with three teams in the running for the title. Leaders at the moment are Bill Stewart and Jim Reeder, but they will be most certainly overtaken by Alastair and Jonathan Randall, who are just two points behind with a game in hand. Also in with an outside chance are Mike Credland and Mona Dawe, who are ten points behind but have two games in hand. Those two games still to play are against the other title hopefuls Dennis Williams and Amy Lynn, plus a big crunch match against the Randall team.

Division Three has already been decided with the triumphant duo being Jill Lancaster and Jenny Jones, who have won the division by a massive 15 points in front of second placed pair, Les Haysom and Trevor Gooch.

CUMBRIA by Gordon Brown

The newly formed Kendal Open Club, the brainchild of the Dixon family and based at the Shakespeare Centre in the heart of Kendal, ran a summer League during May and June. A wide range of players from the top of the Kendal League First Division to the bottom of the local Woolwich Junior League competed in the three-division league. Over six weeks six teams of two people in each division played each other, including doubles, playing the new system of best 5 ends to 11 with the new 40mm ball. The competitive spirit soon took a hold and the divisional winners' positions were hotly contested. In the top flight Dave Archer and Mick Taylor won the crown fairly and squarely by only one point from the Dixon's son Zeke and his partner Andrew Hudson. Division Two was won by the lethal father and daughter combination of Robin Langstaff and Sarah Tyson, and the third division winner's slot went to the young pretenders, Adam Russell and Tom Voke.

The Open Club, started last October, was open each Wednesday from 10am to 10pm through the season, with various

COUNTY NOTES

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sessions throughout the day catering for all levels of table tennis – all abilities, all disabilities, mental and physical, and all sizes of players from the ultra fit petite to the spherical cardiac risk! The Club starts up again at the end of August and with the help of a Millennium Festival Awards For All grant for extra equipment, will extend the sessions to two days.

Ladies' Nights

The Summer League was so enjoyed by the Kendal ladies and after two training days with Barrow's Mike Yardley they were inspired to organise a summer series of their own, played at the newly developed Natland Village Club Hall. A squad of 13 ladies and 3 sons (hastily co-opted to cover for holidays) played a Top Ten round robin competition, 10 players playing each other each Thursday night for six weeks. With only two hours to play 45 matches on four tables, the flexibility of table tennis came into its own and the matches were played best of three ends with sudden death first to 11. One son, Harry Carter, was handicapped with a small bat and lost to both Margaret Dixon and Joyce Tallon, once talented youngsters who have returned to the game after considerable (20+ year!) breaks. Margaret went on to win the series narrowly from Joyce and was awarded a 'liquid trophy'!

ESTTA National Finals

For the first time in 20 years a Kendal school team (Queen Katherine School) reached the National Finals of the ESTTA U19 team competition. Zeke Dixon, David Wood, Harry Carter and David McGovern eventually finished runners-up.

In the individual ESTTA event Zeke won through to the quarter-finals and was beaten by the eventual winner. In recognition of these successes, Zeke was invited to represent England Schools in the Isle of Man in the Home Countries International.

Zeke Dixon made his ESTTA Home Countries International Championships debut from 30th June to 2nd July at the National Sports Centre, Douglas, Isle of Man. He was in the Under 16 boys' team representing England. Teams from England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and the Isle of Man competed in both singles and team events; Iceland were also playing, though under what flag I'm not sure.

The English and Welsh teams flew from Liverpool on the Friday afternoon and play began on that evening.

The first competition was the team event. The two England teams (A & B) were Tom Hughes (Nottingham) and Dominic Hall (Kent) and Steven Davies (Lincolnshire) and Zeke respectively.

Zeke's team (England B) were placed with Ireland A, Wales B, Iceland A and Scotland A, with the strong Scottish team being the eventual winners and England B the runners-up!

On Sunday the singles event took place. Zeke came second in his group, winning three out of four games including a 'maximum' against Nathan Thomas (Wales) and so went through to the final stages. He lost in the quarter-finals to the no. 1 seed, Gavin Rungay from Scotland, who became the overall winner.

It is interesting to note that the main weapon in Gavin's arsenal is his serve, which is entirely hidden from his opponent. There is no way of telling what the serve is until the ball makes contact! Add to this a practically illegal throwing back of the ball and the serves are unbeatable. If this form of service is outlawed as indicated by the ITTF, then the outcome of the games may be very different.

The benefits of this experience for Zeke are many and will continue to increase. Being with top players for an event like this has helped his self-image as a quality player and when he meets up with them at future tournaments they can now be counted as 'knocking up' partners...a great asset.

He feels that he benefited from a little extra coaching there, and of course, it will always look good on his CV.

Finally, thanks to all those who supported Zeke in any way, particularly Queen Katherine School, Cumbria Schools Table Tennis and the Roy McMechan Memorial Trust.

DERBYSHIRE by Colin Deaton

The 1999/2000 Derbyshire Closed Championships, which were unable to be staged last season, were featured at the beginning of September at the Stavely Middlecroft Leisure Centre. Play was on 10 tables and it was encouraging to note that entry was 35% up on last season.

As expected, Michael Isherwood (Chesterfield) dominated the men's events,

winning a hat-trick of titles: the men's singles, men's doubles and the U21 event. En route to the final he beat Shaun Bibby and Geoff Gill, defeating the promising Simon Rudland from Burton in the final in straight games.

He then partnered his father Jim to win the men's doubles and in doing so they grabbed a place in the record books in becoming the first Derbyshire father and son combination to win the men's doubles title. Michael's dad also showed good form to reach the veterans singles final, where he lost to Neil Marples over three exciting games.

One of the most improved players on view was 15 year-old Jenna Davey from Chesterfield, who won her first county junior title, defeating Rebecca Gill, also from Chesterfield, 21-19, 21-11. Jenna has worked hard at her game throughout the summer months, and she looked a real player of the future.

Chloe McPhearson (Chesterfield) was the winner of the under 12 girls' singles, overcoming Lauren Turner in three very competitive games. Chloe's performance was a very creditable one as she had only got out of her sick bed to play and she was made to fight all the way by 11-year-old Lauren Turner, who, towards the end of last season won a U11 tournament at the Grove and was also runner-up in the U12 category at this event.

Lauren is coached by Neil Houghton, who has had much success in the past with several young prospects, including Louise Durrant. Shaun Marples illustrated why he is one of the best young cadet players in England defeating William Cooney in a comfortable manner in straight sets.

Jane Vickers from Derby was outstanding in the women's singles event, defeating Sue Cooke from Chesterfield, and then collected a second title in the mixed doubles partnered by John Whittaker from Derby. Jane was outstanding for Derbyshire last season in the NCC and on this form is sure to command a regular team place this season. She also collected a third title when she partnered Chesterfield's Rebecca Gill to win the ladies doubles.

The entire event was organised by Les Allwood and trophies were presented by Tony Chatwin, President of the Derbyshire Association. Early indications are that the member leagues throughout the county look all set to hold the membership of last season.

However, a big setback to Derbyshire and our game of table tennis was received with the news of Steven Shaw's temporary departure from our game. Steve, from Burton, had worked his way towards the top of the English ranking list by virtue of the some hard work and hours and hours of dedication. He is to oversee his father's painting and decorating business. We all

hope to be seeing him around again shortly in table tennis circles. He was a very good player and a character and our game is so very short of the likes of Steven Shaw.

Terry Carlisle

Table tennis enthusiasts in Derby were saddened by the death of Terry Carlisle. Terry had a long career in Derby table tennis, from a junior through to veteran level and was also a President and benefactor of the Association. In 1950 he was Derbyshire junior champion and he supported the Derby Association, financially underwriting the annual dinner/dance for several seasons. Several former Derby players attended his funeral and the Association sent a message of sympathy to his family. Terry Carlisle will be remembered and never forgotten.

Finally, teams from Derby will enter the National Junior League this season and there can be no denying that junior table tennis in Derby is growing thanks to a group of dedicated officials, led by livewire Ada Murphy. We will monitor the youngsters' progress with much interest.

DEVONSHIRE

South Devon & Torbay Table Tennis League Pre-Season Tournament Torquay Boys Grammar School 10th September 2000

Men's Singles semi-finals: Craig Bryant beat Tom Williams 11-6, 11-8, 11-8; Dennis Gibbs beat John Smithers 7-11, 11-3, 11-5, 11-8

Mens' Singles Final: Craig Bryant beat Dennis Gibbs 11-6, 11-7, 10-12, 11-9

Doubles' Final: Dennis Gibbs/Barry Denner beat Dave Waddington/Debbie Parker 11-9, 11-5, 7-11, 8-11, 11-2

Intermediate Final: Paul Davey beat Dave Goldman 11-7, 4-11, 11-9, 11-9

Consolation Final: George Breyley beat Nick Williamson 11-7, 14-12, 8-11, 2-11, 12-10

78 entrants played in 13 groups of six. A very long day for co-organiser Dennis Gibbs after setting up, reaching two finals, packing away, and then joining the queue for petrol on the way home!

ESSEX by Steve Kerns

BATTS

The BATTS Senior 2-a-side League promises to be of as high a standard as last year and new team Progress II look to be a very capable replacement for last year's fourth placers Southend. They have captured Cris Sladden from the Southend side and he will team up with Christian

Hundhausen, Errol Skeete and Luis Dominguez. Peniel A will be even more competitive with the addition of Sean Gibson who hopes to be a regular feature this year.

BATTS will also have two teams taking part in the British League and their first side, who were runaway winners of Division Two (East), will be hoping for further success in Division I (South). With a squad of John Holland Jnr., Gibson, Joe Kennedy, Vince Avery and Chris Jamieson to choose from they have the strength and depth to be successful. The second team in Division 3 (South) should also do well and if Dave Tan, Tim Yardy, Hannah Yardy and Neil Brierley play regularly they must have a fair chance of taking the title. The likes of Paul Cooper, Aaron Fennell, Grace Brown, Amy Wright, Nicole Todd and Dan Rees will undoubtedly benefit from the experience. BATTS will also be represented in the Junior British League and their girls' side of Amy Wright, Nicole Todd and Suffolk star, Aimee Sparkes, will be hopeful of a place in the Premier Division after placing second in Division One last season. Aaron Fennell should prove to be a very strong number one for the boys' team whilst less experienced players Christopher Todd, Matthew Taylor, Sam Kennedy and Ross Brierley should also have the ability to do well.

Chelmsford League

Arguably the county's premier league, the Chelmsford League first division looks stronger than ever this year. The overwhelming trend seems to be for teams to accumulate ever - larger squads as people's busy lifestyles make it harder to guarantee that they can play every single week. Favourites are last year's third placed Rawreth A, and Rawreth guru Ken Field has amassed a very strong team of Cris Sladden, John Taylor, Stuart Gibbs, Ryan Savill, Duncan Taylor, Simon Woods, George Reeves and Robert Harris. Last year's champions and runners-up ECC A and B have combined and slimmed down and Dave Cole will lead their challenge with backing from Dave Window, Ian Brown, Paul Cicchelli, Steve Kerns, Paul Davison and Martin Hogg. Elmtree Graphics A have all the right credentials but with a squad of Lorestan Trumppauskas, Rik James, Paul Lucas, John Holland Snr., Terry Dowsett, Ev Lucas, Steve Edmonds and Andy Wadling they will need to be more consistent in their ability to get a full team out if they are to stay in contention. Former champions Danbury A are not quite as strong as in previous years but team captain Colin Marco still has a fair old team of Terry Guymer, Neil Brierley, Tom Carr, Dave Wright and new signing Derek Rogers at his disposal. No one will take them lightly.

Chelmsford Summer League

This year's two-a-side competition was won by the peculiarly named ECC Dodos, who hail from Suffolk. Team Captain Ian Brown had a very strong squad at his disposal and he led from the front by taking all of his 10 singles. Other squad members included Gary Bloomfield, Andy Doshier and Andy Holmes. The expected challenge from Elmtree Graphics (Paul and Ev Lucas) never materialised and GEC (father and son combo Andrew and Tony Halling) did superbly to take second place. The Chelmsford League also held a Team Handicap Competition and it was pleasing that two teams from the lower echelons of the League fought out the final. Danbury B (John and Martin Knights) just prevailed 2-1 in an excellent final against Old Chelmsfordians (represented by Gerard Esser and John McFarlane). It went all the way to the deciding doubles and the Knights (another father and son pairing) just scraped home 23-21, 23-21.

Quality or Quantity

At the last National Council Meeting the question of the number of words a county correspondent should be allowed to write was raised. It doesn't seem right that a county with one league should be given equal coverage (and in some cases more) than the largest counties. The coverage given to the Isle of Wight often exceeds that given to many other Counties and although many people will argue that John Preat's views are the most proactive and by far the most interesting, surely this cannot be considered fair. Ken Muhr tells correspondents to limit their reports to 500 words but perhaps it would be more effective to tell each individual correspondent that they can only be guaranteed 5 or 6 reports a season and to tell them which months they should submit articles. By giving different correspondents different months there should not be too great a surplus of articles in any one month. Any thoughts?

GLOUCESTERSHIRE by Alf Pepperd

National table tennis came to Cheltenham over the August Bank Holiday weekend and I enjoyed the pleasure of working with John Woodford (on publicity), who has covered so many top events all over the world, not only for this magazine but 'The Daily Telegraph' as well.

John, Ken Muhr and John Wood will no doubt be reporting this first Grand Prix of the season in full detail, so may I stress a few opinions from a local point of view.

On the Friday evening Andy Ewens gathered some 16 juniors together for intensive coaching by Alan Cooke and

Nicola Deaton, this lasted for two hours, and I'm sure that all the youngsters who were present greatly benefited from this tuition.

Les Smith and Gill Smith (no relation), were present to discuss their respective roles as National Referee and Assistant Referee, and on the following two days of play June Hall and Mike Brown were highly instrumental in helping control, plus Mike Johns, the National Events Manager, was not only present as Administrator – but as a player he beat top seed Nigel Eckersley in the veterans' singles.

Came the first days play which started at 9am, and from 10am-1pm my BBC Radio colleague, Pete Wilson interviewed LIVE Nicola Deaton, Alan Cooke, Mike Johns and several others – including Glo'shire's no. 1 junior, Dominic Wynn-Sands, who only recently had just returned from a three week course of intensive table tennis coaching in Beijing, China. I wrapped up the three days' broadcasting by doing a live report on the first day's play at 5.15pm.

Play on the second day took place on a hot late summer's day, local players who achieved success were Natasha Lake (nee Williams), the former Welsh no. 1. Natasha teamed up with top seed Nicola Deaton and between them they won the open ladies doubles, former Gloucester player Ann Humble (now listed under Middlesex) got to the final of the Band 1 women's singles, but was beaten by Alice Howard of Cheshire –4, -2, -8, Gloucester's Judy Morley made the final of the women's veterans' singles but eventually lost to Devon's Penny Perry –9, -6, -6.

Overall, there are 12 listed Grands Prix to take place this season, with five of them classified as Majors, and as at Cheltenham all embrace the new scoring system of up to 11 points, and the best of five games, perhaps this new scoring may become the accepted method all over the country in the very future?

My very good friend Brian Gibbs of Somerset, the very well known international umpire, did most of the major umpiring for the final events and admitted to me that as this was the first event entailing the new up-to-11 scoring system, even he had to check upon how the system operated, nevertheless he managed well.

Oh, one other very well known Grand Prix entrant from Cheltenham was not present; Dave Harvey (the 1991 veterans' singles title-holder) and his family were on holiday.

ISLE OF WIGHT by John Preat

Our League season had not begun when these notes were written, but really bad news emerged in membership terms, as no fewer than six teams disappeared from one

season to the next. Last season's increase of three was wiped out and worse was to follow.

I retired from local administration three years ago, although still involved in the management of our centre. A quick look at the figures indicates that the Ryde Club lost five of their 16 teams and three of these teams consisted of youngsters new to the game and now lost. It is the Ryde Club, which uses our centre two nights per week and it was the one which had shown real expansion – till now. Reasons are not hard to find. Our Monday coaching night collapsed with the departure of Alex Rorke, and earlier his brother Philip, to the mainland, for reasons of work. Our access road is in a deplorable state, turning into a quagmire and collection of potholes during the winter rains. Cars have to be cleaned after single visits and tyres take a beating too. The introduction of speedway has brought us further problems, as the heavy equipment used on the track passes over our road and causes untold damage.

The sport itself, to address wider issues, lacks exposure, particularly on TV and so does not have the 'street cred' of soccer, cricket and other media darlings, nor that of the second string sports like snooker and bowls which still occupy our screens regularly, if not at peak hours.

The problem of the road may be heading for a solution, which avoids litigation, which we cannot afford and we have already spent in excess of £2,000 on a partial solution. The problem of finding a coach willing to work for nothing may be greater. If one embarks on the idea of a paid coach, one still has to find the pupils to pay at a higher rate for learning a sport not seen as glamorous anymore. It is in our interests, of course, to attract people to the sport to safeguard our future and to replace the ones who retire or leave the island. The wider issue of national publicity is out of our hands and this is where, rightly or wrongly, most blame is heaped when one discusses the sport and its future with the 'survivors', those who have remained loyal to the sport and play it once a week or more. They recall how 20 or 30 of us used to go to the English Open at Brighton and how this number is now down to 2 or 3 in some other place or location which seems to change annually, if indeed the event takes place at all. It is pointed out how spectator events have declined both in numbers and attraction, whilst other sports have made amazing headway in terms of presentation, spectator numbers and publicity. Even our own people see us as having lost our way, playing an old fashioned game, which is years behind many others.

One hopes, of course, that such necessary thoughts will not again lead to personal abuse or even criticism, since I report what I hear almost weekly on my

visits to our centre or whenever I meet members both at home and abroad. The sport now requires the most massive effort to survive, let alone prosper. Many feel it is already too late.

In more parochial terms, we look forward to our season in Division One of the County Championships, hoping it will not be too strong for us. The retirement of Jill Fothergill, due to a persistent arm injury, is an early blow. I understand that Lucy Pointer will be available and this should certainly produce some good tests for her. The availability of Carl Prean will depend upon the German season, since this is how he makes a living as a table tennis player, but he will be here for the first match. At the time of writing he had remained unbeaten, singles and doubles, in his first four matches, welcome news after the knee trouble which ruined both his Olympic qualification and summer generally with those interminable hospital visits, which nevertheless, touch wood, seem to have done the trick. Roger Hookey has taken over as Chairman of the Association, a daunting task at this time of undoubted crisis, especially for one who also has a business to run. I wish him luck and success. We all hope that "the only way now is up", that we have hit the bottom of the membership loss cycle.

NORFOLK by Graham Rogerson

The new season sees a change on the County Committee, with Mike Watts taking over from Debbie Willett as General Secretary. Debbie has done an excellent job as Secretary and we hope that she will be able to join the Committee again in the not-too-distant future.

While I realise that there are an awful lot of veterans currently playing table tennis, I wonder whether any can match a team in the Great Yarmouth League. Gorleston Conservatives have just completed 50 years together in the League, with the same three players (who are all now really ancient!) – Henry Wharton (80 something), Ralph Lamb (just about 80) and Dennis Burrell (70 something). The Yarmouth League certainly considered this an exceptional achievement, making an award to the team at their AGM.

On a sadder note, many of you will know one of our young players, David Dabney Curtis who died on 31st July 2000, aged 17 years. He lived in the village of Ormesby St. Margaret, near Great Yarmouth.

David was an enthusiastic tournament player, entering as many as he could. He played in Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Norwich Leagues. He played for Lowestoft last season in NJL and was currently playing in the Norwich Summer League. He attended regular coaching sessions in Norwich and Lowestoft and

was himself holder of ETTA Coaching Award Level 2. He was an enormous help to me with the juniors in Great Yarmouth.

David was tremendously brave throughout his illness and often played following treatment, when he was not feeling too well, never complaining or making excuses when his fitness level was below par.

His dedication to table tennis and sportsmanship and attitude on the table and off was second to none and set a wonderful example for other junior players to follow.

David was a remarkable young man who will be greatly missed by all who knew him and especially by his young team-mates next season.

NORTHANTS by Dennis Millman

A new season dawns with the advent of the 40mm ball making it an interesting, possibly even an entertaining one.

On the county scene there is again a full complement of officials, with Chairman Ken Marchant at the helm. John Russell has provided a bonus by agreeing to extend his excellent work as Junior Policy Officer for yet another year, while Denise Barnett as Secretary, and Bert Fawcett as Treasurer, continue their tasks with genuine enthusiasm.

Two additional County Championships sides have been entered. The hard work put in by County Coach Dave Rees, plus some fine coaching by Dave Welsman, has paid rich dividends and there are now more than enough girls to enable two junior sides to be entered, while Gerald Finney has resurrected a second veterans side.

A record County Closed entry last time round made it necessary to split the event into two sections, with most of the junior events, preceding the main tournament, now scheduled for Sunday 1st April, with finals night designated for the following evening.

All the major leagues swing into action at the end of September and hopefully there will again be an increase of 50% in just two years.

The new Harborough Club provides three of these, and with the enthusiastic Mark Pearson and Geoff Wilkins running the show, there could be more to follow.

County Men's Champion Andy Trott ended last season at no. 1 on the Queensberry Scimitar Computer Ranking List, but there has been some speculation that he may not participate in the year ahead.

The leading positions on a list containing well over six hundred players are as follows: 1. Andy Trott 2. Graeme McKim 3. David Gatiss 4. David Welsman 5. Kevin Copperwheat 6. David Gallo 7. Malcolm

Francis 8. Rafe Miller 9. Ryan Keates 10. Ian Bird 11. Alan Cherry 12. Adrian Roper 13. Steve Silk 14. Richard Elliott 15. Chris Gibbons 16. Mark Nannery 17. David Symcox 18. Steve West 19. Dave Smith 20. David Murphy 21. Richard Bashford 22. Ray Kingston 23. Brian Wooding 24. Julian Marshall 25. Gary Webb 26. Gordon Shaw 27. Michael Edwards 28. Greg Yarnall.

OXFORDSHIRE by Avril Haynes

Oxon Juniors Shine In Junior County Matches

Both Kevin Cruickshank and John Camilleri were outstanding in Junior Division 3D. Kevin Cruickshank played 12 matches and won 12. John Camilleri played eight matches and won eight. Both of them had a 100% record.

In the Veterans Division 1A Karl Bushell and Nat Richardson were the top doubles pair, winning six matches out of seven with 86% record.

The Veterans 1st team did well to finish 2nd in Division 1A.

County Rankings

Junior Boys

1. John Camilleri
2. Greg Boone
3. Sam Harrison
4. Stewart Hamilton
5. Simon Nolan
6. Yusef Salehi
7. James Stadfeldt-Cunnahe
8. Lewis Cox
9. Paul Guest
10. Ben Godfrey

Junior Girls

1. Joanne O'Donovan
2. Alex Childs

Senior Men

1. Karl Bushell
2. Andy Packford
3. Andrew Flint
4. David Harse
5. Jeremy Flint
6. Ian Packford
7. Peter Dasher
8. Neil Hurford
9. Eddie Herrity
10. Richard Taylor

Senior Women

1. Janet Brown
2. Tamar Connolly
3. Maggie Beahan
4. Mary Darling
5. Jackie Burgess
6. Sue Gokgor
7. Anne Borrowdale
8. Tanya Lillington

Veteran Men

1. Karl Bushell
2. David Harse

Veteran Women

1. Janet Brown
2. Maggie Beahan

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 3. Nat Richardson | 3. Mary Darling |
| 4. Eddie Herrity | 4. Sue Gokgor |
| 5. Neil Hurford | 5. Anne Borrowdale |
| 6. George Pullin | 6. Wendy Chapple |
| 7. Alf Davies | |
| 8. Nigel Taylor | |
| 9. Chris Lansley | |
| 10. Tony Wheeler | |

Oxford League 2000/1

There will be only four divisions consisting of 38 teams, which is eight teams less than last season with the loss of two clubs:

A new Oxford Development League Competition will start in October to encourage people to return to table tennis and promising juniors to enter before entering the main league in the future.

SOMERSET by Martin Rumary

The new season is upon us once more with one radical change already in place and others perhaps in the pipeline.

The larger ball doesn't appear to have caused too much concern to most players initially but the experimental 11 up system in the first Grand Prix seems to have been greeted with a more reserved enthusiasm.

At the county AGM only one change of officers came about; Andy Seward has taken on the post of Treasurer to go with his many other commitments. One can only hope that when his expected departure from Somerset eventually takes place there will be others willing to fill the considerable void he will leave.

The early season ranking trials have taken place and the under 17 lists are as follows:

Boys

1. Phil Tillotson 2. Gareth Dudderidge 3. Mark Jenkins 4. Purar Raja 5. Robbie Fortune 6. John Hughes 7. Lee Wallwork 8. Aaron Denman 9. James Gallagher 10. Olly Gibbs 11. Dorian Robinson 12. Lucien Robinson 13. James Parker 14. Alex Kearny

Girls

1. Kate Steward 2. Naomi Wilson 3. Louise Troke 4. Alison Holloway 5. Claire Howe 6. Carly Roper

Naomi Wilson began her season well by reaching the final of the Women's Band 3 singles at the Cheltenham Grand Prix where she lost to Lancashire's Hannah Roberts.

Daniel Strutt made a good showing as well and with these two youngsters around the county senior side can perhaps look forward to more successful times in the future.

SUSSEX by John Woodford

I do not accept any of Keith Wilson's absurdly long letter criticising my reference in these notes to the dispute in Division 2 between the Cornish club Tregorrick Park and the other seven clubs some 300 miles to the east.

Politics are not allowed in these columns. This is not political, it is facts concerning a leading Sussex British League club, Horsham. I am well aware that Darlington is out on a geographical limb – the trouble in the south did not concern Darlington, anyway. However, the problem has been sorted – the Cornwall club will host two weekends and the other clubs have now agreed to spend two weekends in Cornwall, one at the start of the season and the final one next May.

I must refer to the worst possible keyboard error that appeared in this column in the June/July issue referring to the actions of Tony Meredith at the Sheffield British League annual meeting. This appeared as: "He did not do a good job at Sheffield in presenting his case". I wrote "He did do a good job".

Perhaps that incurred Keith Wilson's wrath. There are still deep divisions of opinion in the British League. I do not wish to see any more scenes like Keith, eyes blazing, waving a rulebook at the top table at Sheffield!

Meanwhile, down in peaceful Sussex, the county will field a strong Premier Division team in the County Championships, bidding again for the premier title they lost by the narrowest possible margin last season. Captain Ritchie Venner is already having some trouble getting enough spin on serve with the new ball, so he dropped himself for the first match but the Horsham trump card is the 'signing' of Lithuanian champion, Lorestas Trumpauskas, a new no. 1 for Horsham.

Once again, Peter Baldwin is in charge of the junior Sussex scene. He has held a series of trials and special sessions during the summer. Some new talent has been found. West Sussex players from the Arundel club, Michael and Sammy Simpson, are expected to pull up some trees this campaign, working under their coach, Pat Ginnaw.

Sussex now have three new Vice-Presidents – Ritchie Venner, Jim West and Pat Ginnaw.

Sussex County Awards For All by Carol Beames

The county received a generous grant of £4,800 from the Awards For All and is now putting this to good use in encouraging more junior players at county level to practice and receive coaching on a regular basis. The county also instituted a new

tournament for the top eight boys and the top eight girls in the county to be called, for the boys – the Bradley Cup (in memory of Bill Bradley, an excellent coach and administrator for the Brighton League and the County over a period of 30 years). His widow, Hazel Bradley, attended the tournament and was pleased to present the cup to the winning boy, Neil Brown. For the girls, the cup is named the Lilian Rymill Cup in memory of a lady who has devoted most of her 78 years to table tennis coaching and administration, and still helps to run a local Worthing club. Lilian was unable to attend to present the cup to the winner, Sammy Simpson, due to ill-health.



The county was also pleased to present awards donated by Sussex Connection Ltd for the best performance during the County Championships season by a boy – Gareth Mann, and a girl – Claire Hodger. Not only did they win most of their matches, but they were well behaved, on time and a credit to the county.

During the season 2000/1 it is intended to organise satellite squads for U12 players in Premier Club registered clubs in each league. These squads will receive practice and coaching sessions and hopefully graduate to the county squad of juniors., all thanks to the funding provided by Awards For All.

WILTSHIRE by Noel Sewell

Table tennis in Wiltshire takes a mighty leap forward with the establishment of a West Wilts League HQ at the John O'Gaunt School, Trowbridge, a large comprehensive with 1,400 pupils. An underused gymnasium has been made available for table tennis as part of a substantial sports complex for community use. Reaching completion mid-September with the first event, a Junior Ranking, the new centre will also become the Wiltshire County team HQ in place of the Devizes FC venue.

It is the West Wilts League's turn to host the County Championships this season so feedback will be interesting. The

best efforts have been made to meet or exceed space and lighting standards for top events when showers and catering facilities would be available. Several teams will use the centre as a venue for league matches but a major objective is the attraction of local youngsters for an introduction and systematic coaching.

It is but 12 months since first thoughts on the project, since when a small but enthusiastic group have made pleasing progress in close co-operation with school head Stephen Gee. Trowbridge Town Council have made a generous donation towards set-up costs, which in any event have been kept to a minimum thanks to local players' expertise in several fields.

An official opening celebration will take place at the first opportunity when invitations will be extended to various county and national personalities.

MUHR'S MEMO
Information Officer messages
from Ken Muhr

Once more, one way or the other **Matthew Syed has been responsible for most of our national media coverage.** He penned several pre-Olympic articles, and has big features on both his Olympic and political prospects by two top sports journalists, **Alan Hubbard in The Independent on Sunday** and **Ian Wooldridge (the sports writers' sports writer) in the Daily Mail.** Matthew has been interviewed several times on national radio (he was entertaining on Radio 5 Live) and there will be plenty more publicity to come following his appearance at the Labour Party Conference at the Brighton Centre, the venue where he took his first national men's singles title in 1997. As is noted elsewhere, his actual Olympic performance was disappointing, but one long, spectacular rally against Mauritius opponent Patrick Sahajesein was shown in a BBC1 Olympics highlights programme. Despite my comments in the September issue, Matthew seems as committed as ever to the table tennis cause.

At this point, I should also comment that although there was not fantastic **Olympic table tennis coverage** on BBC, there was some, even if it often excluded many of the best rallies – whilst the first four Waldner v Kong games had some incredible points, the beeb screened only the 5th onesided (to Kong) one. Without any evidence to support this, I guess that some coverage was partly down to enthusiasts heeding my message on our website (www.etta.co.uk) and contacting the BBC (te.l: 08700 100222), e-mail: info@bbc.co.uk) and Eurosport (tel: 020

7468 7777, e-mail:

enquiries@eurosport.co.uk

to encourage them to show more. If you did, well done and keep it up! The e-mail that somebody sent to John Inverdale during the BBC Olympic coverage, regarding which long-running sports TV programme **Johnny Leach** fronted during the 50's and 60's (it was Monday evening's '**Seeing Sport**' on ITV, presented by Emlyn Hughes, in which Johnny appeared once or twice a month giving coach advice, demonstrated by himself and other top players), provoked a lot on-air discussion and audience interest. I didn't see it but I am told that the British Eurosport coverage was good, with the Waldner-Kong final twice broadcast in full, plus a lot of early matches and events.

The table tennis event may have been in the top three sports in the world in terms of viewership, largely because of China. And Adham Sharara, ITTF President, tells me that the excellent www.sportsalasia.com/sydney2000 website which covered seven sports (TT badminton, football, hockey and three others) got 96% of its hits for table tennis, a most impressive statistic! Not only were Bill Gates of Microsoft and King Gustav and Queen Silvia of Sweden in the table tennis audience at Sydney but also super sports promotion agent Mark McCormack, boss of IMG (Daily Express, 27.09.00). It seems he may have ideas for table tennis and badminton.

Of course there were also some nauseating media comments on table tennis, none worse than the breathtaking "there's a frenzied list of activity, ranging from the glamorous (glittery gymnastics) to the completely obscure (ping-pong, donkey dressage, tiddywinks)" from Lucy Sweet in the Sunday Express (24.09.00) regarding the BBC TV coverage! The BBC Guide to the Olympics 2000, compiled by Don Waddell and commendable in some ways, refers to the Americanism 'paddles' rather than 'bats' or 'rackets' in the table tennis section, and there is also reference to a rally that went on for over an hour in the 1932 World Championships: surely he means the 2 hours 12 minutes (or thereabouts) rally between Alex Ehrlich (Poland) and Farcas Paneth (Romania) at the 1936 World Championships in Prague, Czechoslovakia?

One other story, Nicola Deaton's signing for Uxbridge (Burton) in the British (Senior) League Division 1 North and linked with speculation over whether she will return to the England Squad, made the national press, with Richard Eaton in the Guardian and John Woodford (who supplies the only ongoing reportage for table tennis) in the Daily Telegraph supplying short reports.

I am ever mindful that there is much **media coverage** by dint of our

volunteers in the **regions.** For example, Karen Tonge being interviewed on BBC Radio Merseyside and the **amazing coverage over three hours that Alf Peppard was able to get live on BBC Radio Gloucestershire during the Cheltenham Open Butterfly Grand Prix** tournament on 26th/27th August! Interesting listening too, with interviews with the likes of Mike Johns, Alan Cooke and Nicola Deaton and so many others!

We were delighted with the quality of nominations for our **Press Officer of the Year Award, supported by Random House, and congratulate Ron Fosker** (see inside) and the man who ran him close, Dennis Millman. Well done all those other people who were presented with awards at the Teaching and Training Conference. The Public Relations Department is now planning to add this an **ETTA Photographer of the Year Award**, with us having a none-too-well-hidden agenda of getting hold of more photographs for Table Tennis News and other publications! More details in the next issue, but do not feel that you have to wait until then to send us samples of your talent!

PART TWO of 'Loop Attack and the Women's Game

by Rowden Fullen (continued from the last issue of TTN Extra)

The backhand side also of course has its rule in the loop scenario. It is particularly important for example that players are able to maintain offensive speed/spin when switched fast from the forehand into the backhand side. There is little point in having a great forehand loop if the rally breaks down when the ball comes to the backhand, or if a weak backhand stroke is played. At anything above basic level women must be able to do more than just control and contain with this wing, they must be able to put pressure on the opponent. This means the capability to accelerate action from mere return block, to forcing block, drive or topspin and to become comfortable with more than one method of making openings on the backhand. It is important in the women's game that you can vary spin, speed, placement, length and angles on the backhand rather than developing power – it is equally vital that even from a young age you can switch easily to the offensive from a neutral or defensive situation. Make variation your theme too in opening – slow roll, hard drive, spin, both slow and fast.

Players and coaches reading this article may by now have arrived at certain conclusions – for example that sustained fast loop in the women's game is a slow, laborious but reasonably certain way to

commit suicide. Not necessarily so. There are almost always exceptions in every area of sport and we do occasionally see strong, athletic girls coming through the system, who naturally play this type of game. Don't stop them, just encourage them to change their thinking a little. Sustained power and predictability are the problems. More power means less spin, predictability means the opponent knows where the ball is going and feeds off your speed and uses it against you.

The clue is in the loop the Chinese defenders use to change from defence to offense – slow, the main emphasis on spin, long and sometimes even a little high. However, many of the best attacking women in the world hit this loop off the table time and time again! As we have said earlier in this article, the first loop is the key, the first offensive topspin, where you initiate attack from a neutral or defensive position. Make this first loop a key to unlock the game, make it slow (no speed for the opponent to use), make it very long or very short, make it above all spinny, and place it to difficult areas of the table, short to middle, long to backhand or body, wide to the angles. Then capitalise, follow up on the next ball, the priority should be hard to drive or smash, in this way you get a big difference between the two successive balls, slow, spinny, with a topspin arc – then hard, fast and flat. Even the top women have problems coping with this type of variation.

The Shree Sorathia Prajapati Millennium Games

The SSPC have applied to be a member in good standing of the ETTA. It is a family based organisation with branches in major cities with large Asian communities. They took over the Kettering Leisure Village for 26th/27th August. Took over really means just that with the exception of the bar because it is a dry community. There were several thousand people there of all ages and it was shoulder to shoulder in all parts of the KLV. Table tennis was one of the 10 sports, which is a cross between several board games that we would recognise. Judy Rogers was there all weekend making contacts and I was referee of the table tennis with seven umpires on the Saturday.

The standard of play was mixed but was probably up to county level in the later stages of the men's under 21 event. The winner of the men's singles was Dhiru Chagan Ghadia from Bolton who has just returned to the game after about 10 years absence. He was a Lancashire junior and has the distinction of beating John Hilton albeit as a junior! His final was by tradition the best of five and Leicester's Ketan Narshi Gohel took him to the fifth.

The other winners were:

Junior girls - Beena Dinash Bhardwa, Southall; Junior boys - Hitesh Ravji Chaya, Southall; Under 21 men – Dushyant Jayantilal Pankhania, Birmingham; Women – Kajol Jivan Chitroda, Birmingham

The crowd for the finals at 1000 on the Sunday was more than we would normally see even for open finals.

ETTA Diary Amendments Derby 4* Junior – 3rd/4th March 2001

The organiser is Brian Webster not Tim Harris. Brian's telephone number is 01332 518007 and address is 141 Station Road, Mickleover, Derby.

Wellow House School 2*
Tournaments: The tournaments will be on 15th October, 27th January, 24th February and 12th May.

University Table Tennis

Students can play in the BUSA team championship and details of this can be obtained from their local athletics union or Jo Kirk at BUSA on 020 7357 8555. The closing date for entries for the BUSA Individual Championships is mid-January and entry forms will be available at their Union or from Jo Kirk, or in extremis Mike Payne on 01332 557162. The tournament will be held at Warwick University at Coventry on 17th/18th February. Students should always find a welcome at local clubs and secretaries' names and telephone numbers can be obtained from their home league secretaries. BUSA is in good standing.

Sussex Youth Games by Carol Beames

Olympic silver medallist, Roger Black, saluted the youngsters who took part in the Sussex Youth Games (so begins the column by Justin Allen in the Sports Argus, 1st-6th July 2000).

The event attracted 1,500 youngsters for an action packed day featuring nine sports: athletics, basketball, hockey, swimming, tennis, rugby, netball, football and table tennis. Wealden were the overall winners and they were even more delighted to win the 'Fair Play' award.

Mr Black said "Sports development has been slightly neglected because of the pressure on teachers to produce results in other areas of the curriculum. If you give children the opportunity they will come out and take part". The winners of the table tennis gold were Wealden, silver award to Horsham and Crawley received bronze. The teams representing each of the 10 districts were made up of two boys and two girls aged U13, on 1st August. We had six tables and played in a group format,

followed by a knockout to decide the winners. The final match was toe to toe between Wealden and Horsham, with Wealden taking the edge in a mixed doubles to take the title.

Hollingbury Club also boasts two disabled players who have been invited to train with the national disabled squad. Paul Salvage, aged 13, only took up table tennis following an after-school course run by Carol Beames at Patcham High School last September. Paul suffers from brittle bone disease and has recently recovered from a broken arm. For much of last season he was out of action with a broken leg. However, he manages to compete well against able-bodied players and is a delightful young man. Tracy Williams of the Worthing Wasps heard about the Hollingbury Club at a seminar held in Worthing for people interested in helping the disabled organisation by Phil Weatherley. Tracy decided that Hollingbury was the kind of club she would like to join and since practising with us has gained the extra confidence and expertise to win her a place on the training squad.

Note that Carol Beames, National Councillor for Sussex, was presented at the ETTA AGM with the Ivor Montagu Award for her work on the British League Committee and as South East Regional Chairman.

Virgin Net Sport Channel

Although the Virgin name is synonymous with music and cinema, its website has a sports channel that covers a range of sports (www.virgin.net/sport). Its sports listings service is comprehensive and highlights table tennis events both here and abroad.

EVENTS DIARY By Mike Johns

Cheltenham Open

A large entry was received for the first Grand Prix of the season, apart from problems with the playing conditions in the second hall the event went well. Top seeds Alan Cooke and Nicola Deaton won the two open singles events proving that the change to the 40mm ball and the 11 up scoring system should not adversely affect the leading players. This was also the first Grand Prix under the new three-year sponsorship by Butterfly.

Clare Pengelly Memorial Open

Again, a good entry has been received. Alan Cooke and Nicola Deaton are again top seeds with Alex Perry, Gareth Herbert and Ryan Jenkins also in contention for the men's singles and Kubrat Owolabi and Hungarian Barbara Kiss chasing the women's title.

Sussex Open

It seems that both Alan Cooke and Nicola Deaton are intent on taking the main Grand Prix titles this season. Once again they are top seeds. Michael Isherwood should prove to be the main opposition in the men's singles and Barbara Kiss in the women's. Once again the organisers have had to turn away a number of entries

Women's European League

England women open their campaign with a home match against a strong Ukraine side at the Halton Regional Table Tennis Centre, Widnes, Cheshire, on Tuesday 17th October. The England team has not yet been selected but many from the north west will be hoping that Preston's Katy Parker will be selected to play at the venue where she made such an auspicious European League debut last season. Tickets are available through the ETTA Events Unit, Hastings, Martin Ireland (0161 736 9448) and Karen Tonge (01928 563640).

Men's European League

England men's first match is away to the strong Italian side on 24th October. This is followed on 7th November with, what I believe, will be our first European League match against Israel at the Robins Park Sports Centre in Wigan. England are likely to select a full strength side including Olympian Matt Syed. I believe it was back in the 'swinging sixties' when we last played Israel in England, in a friendly match at a Jewish sports hall in Cheetham Hill, Manchester. It was like playing an away match with 90% of the crowd supporting the visitors.

West Midlands Open

Unfortunately, due to the withdrawal of support by the Stratford-upon-Avon District Council, this event will not take place this season. We have tried to find an alternative venue but have been unsuccessful, therefore there will be no Grand Prix tournament on the weekend of 2nd/3rd December.

CJ's 60th by Mike Johns

Friends came from as far afield as Wales, Ireland, Germany and all parts of England to celebrate the 60th birthday of one of table tennis's most popular characters, the boy from Mitcham, Cornelius Joseph Warren.

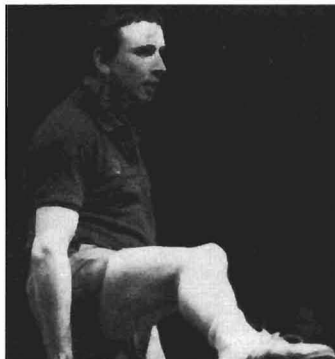
Connie, a former English international, and his partner Diane Pearce (nee Simpson), herself a former leading player, organised a truly fantastic night at the Purley Sports Club. With live Irish music, a 60's rock and roll band and top quality food, the evening was over all too quickly. Former English international Brian Wright

gave a speech outlining Connie's table tennis career and his life in general and after much persuasion Connie said a few words.

The turn out of over 100 players and close friends speaks volumes for the high esteem Connie is held in. I can think of nobody else who could have attracted such a gathering.

Amongst the table tennis players were: former English internationals, Brian and Mary Wright (nee Shannon), Ralph Gunnion, Susan Henderson (nee Howard), Brian Burn, Tony Clayton, Beverley Godfrey (nee Sayer), whose sister Gloria came over from Germany and Mike Johns, Welsh internationals George Evans and Bob Bishop., leading veteran players Matt Shearer, Brian Allison, Dave Harding, Ian Girdler and Marjorie Walker, plus many players from the Larkhall Club which Connie ran for many years in the 60's, 70's and 80's.

I enjoyed the evening so much I can't wait until he is 70!



'A foot wide!': Connie in his prime

'Blink and you'll miss it...'

The Observer Sports Magazine, September 2000, published Sport's fastest moments - and its slowest.

Top Speeds:

The fastest ball ever thrown in the sport Jai Alai 188mph

Tiger Woods' golf drive 180mph

Greg Rusedski's fastest tennis serve 149mph

Brett Hull slap shot in ice hockey 106mph

Jan-Ove Waldner kill shot in table tennis 105mph

Matt Anderson fastball in baseball 103mph

Cricket fast bowler
Shoaib Akhtar's delivery 95 mph
David Beckham free kick 80 mph

Downhill skier Herman Mayer at top speed 75 mph

Top frisbee star Larry Imperiale's scoober throw 74 mph

Japanese racehorse Agnes World sprinting flat out 43 mph

Prince Naseem punch 35 mph

Greyhound Derby winner Rapid Ranger flat out 41 mph

Speed skater Casey FitzRandolph at top speed 32 mph

Maurice Greene's top speed during a 100 metres race 28 mph

50m freestyle world record holding swimmer Alex Popov 5.2 mph

A rope in a tug of war 0.00084 mph

Premier Club Club of the Year Awards 2000/1

(Launched by Alan Ransome OBE at the Teaching & Training Conference, 1st-3rd September 2000).

Introduction:

The awards are designed to recognise and reward achievement and progress in club development for those clubs that are currently registered on the ETTA Premier Club Programme. Clubs will be judged at their registered level.

Categories:

There will be up to three awards at Introduction, Participation and Advanced levels, in each of the nine regions. Regional awards recipients will be considered for the national awards, where first, second and third prizes will be awarded at each level. There will be a national competition for clubs at Excellence level, with first, second and third prize awards.

The national prize winners at each level will be short-listed for nomination by the ETTA for the prestigious Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR)/Foundation for Sport and the Arts (FSA) annual Sports Club of the Year Awards.

Decision Process and Timetable:

Applications for all categories should be submitted using the application form to the ETTA at Hastings by 31st May 2001. Application forms and further information will be available in March 2001, all registered clubs will be sent a copy. Supporting information related to the award criteria will be accepted.

Date: 31st May

Action: Deadline for applications

Date: mid-July

Action: Regional Awards decision

Awards Panels: Regional Awards Panel (Regional Development Officer Management Support Group) (Sport England Regional Table Tennis Liaison Officer, ETTA Regional Chairman, Regional Coaching Chairman, Director of Development and Regional Development Officer)

Date: by 31st July

Action: National Awards decision

Awards Panels: National Awards Panel (Sport England representative, ETTA Vice-Chairman Development, Vice-Chairman Administration, Director of Development, Vice-Chairman or Director of Teaching and Training)

Date: early September

Action: ETTA Premier Club of the Year Awards presentations at ETTA Conference

Date: end October

Action: CCPR/FSA Awards nomination deadline

Awards Panel: National Awards Panel

Prizes and Publicity:

Framed certificates will be presented to all Merit Award and National Award winners. National Award winners will be invited to the ETTA Conference and awards dinner. All award winners will be listed in Table Tennis News and on the ETTA website. ETTA will provide all award winners with material for local publicity.

ETTA Teaching and Training Conference, Lilleshall National Sports Centre, 1st-3rd September 2000, compiled by Ken Muhr

Sue Hayes, below, has kindly provided an overview of her impressions of this conference, attended by around 80 people, and I think my job is to flesh out some detail, particularly on sessions she did not attend, drawing from other contributors and my own experience.

**Teaching and Training Department
National Conference 2000
by Sue Hayes**

When Gail McCulloch approached me to ask me to write an article for Table Tennis News on the National Conference I said 'yes' without really thinking. It was only when I got home that I realised that I had a hundred and one other things to do and a copy date of Wednesday was a non-starter! It also dawned on me that writing interesting and informative prose is not my forte! However, assuming this article reaches Ken early enough for inclusion,

with apologies for the lack of style, here is my own personal view on this year's Conference.

I attended the Conference wearing two 'hats': firstly as Regional Coaching Chairman for what was the Southern Region, and secondly as a busy coach working with the many promising juniors at Cippenham Table Tennis Club in Slough. For me the highlight of the weekend was the Awards Dinner on the Saturday evening. The meal was not too formal, the conversation was interesting and most importantly the awards were given to those who put in hours of their time voluntarily to promote table tennis in this country. I do hope that next year there will be more nominations. This is a real chance for clubs, leagues, counties and regions to nominate people who do so much but never gain more than local recognition.

During the day on Saturday and Sunday we divided into groups to attend workshops tailored to our own needs and interests. I, naturally enough, chose 'Coaching' on both days and enjoyed two contrasting sessions; the first with Soren Ahlen (Head Coach, ETTA World Class Performance Programme) and the second with Bradley Billington (National Coach, ETTA World Class Performance Programme).

Soren will never win awards for his presentation skills but I was impressed with his openness in sharing information and ideas, his willingness to answer questions. Despite his depth of knowledge, experience and position of responsibility, it was refreshing to be able to talk with him on a one-to-one basis without being made to feel inferior. He brought with him two of England's promising juniors, Matthew Kenny and Bryn Drinkhall, who enhanced the day by demonstrating various exercises. I came away from this day with some new ideas and exercises but also with the reassurance that his views and ideas are not a million miles from my own. Soren finished by extending an invitation to coaches to come and see the National Training Centre in Nottingham for themselves. I wait in eager anticipation for this to become a reality.

Bradley, in contrast with Soren, gave us a lively and extremely well delivered presentation entitled 'How to spot talented players and how to develop them'. Many of the things he said rang true and were consistent with the change of emphasis that Peter Hirst is trying to develop in the National Coaching Scheme. The only criticism I would level would be that Bradley was maybe preaching to the converted. What a pity that there were not more young or newly qualified coaches at the Conference to benefit from Bradley's enthusiasm and expertise.

I will briefly mention, in the space available, the others sessions I attended. On Friday night, Peter Hirst led a discussion on the courses offered and resources available within the Teaching and Training Department. This was a genuine attempt at consultation and I would encourage anyone who has ideas for courses and workshops or talents to offer to contact Peter. On Saturday morning, the

keynote address by Adham Sharara, ITTF President, was both interesting and informative. Marketing is clearly Adham's specialism and with him at the helm I feel optimistic that table tennis might find a new niche in the world market outside Asia. He urged us all to pester the BBC with phone calls if we want more table tennis on TV. Major events are televised for Satellite, so if we can convince the sports editors that there is an audience in England we may see table tennis on Terrestrial TV too. On Saturday evening, Alan Ransome replied to Adham's address and answered questions. I felt that such a formal setting inhibited many people from raising issues but I was pleased that he showed willingness to meet the membership.

So, in all, I had a good weekend and I would certainly recommend to anyone who is active in coaching at whatever level to attend next year. It is a good opportunity to learn, communicate and recharge the batteries as well as enjoy a social weekend with kindred spirits.

Owing to a sudden change in the programme, Peter Hirst, Director of Teaching and Training, had been forced at the last hour to fill the welcoming Friday evening spot with his interactive 'New Menu of Opportunities' presentation, and although he got everyone debating what the ETTA's greatest resource was and what the Teaching and Training Department was aiming to achieve – twice as many courses for one thing – just maybe the discussion could have adjourned to the bar a little sooner! Some sympathy should be expressed to poor Peter, who had been landed with the major responsibility of pulling the conference together, Teaching & Training Vice-Chairman Gail McCulloch having spent a month in New Zealand, and Coaching Administrator Jill Parker being with the England players in China. That the conference went well is a tribute to his efforts.

The President of the ITTF, Adham Sharara's Keynote Address was so wide ranging that I intend to devote plenty of space to it in the November edition. In his response, Alan Ransome (Chairman of the ETTA) indicated how far the ETTA had been working on similar lines to what Adham suggested, during which time the activity and turnover of the ETTA had greatly increased (third highest Sport England/exchequer funded sport) and the Association had been at the forefront of many innovations, such as the showcourt concept at major events and the development programme ('the best in Europe'). The scope of the Teaching & Training Department was expanding significantly. The Commonwealth Championships in Manchester 2002 gave us great presentational opportunities. Despite being upbeat about the work of

the ETTA, Alan admitted there was room for improvement.

The Development Day, organised by Diccon Gray, focused on club development, with case studies from successful clubs. I understand that there were passionate and inspired presentations from Ian Marshall of the Grove Club, which is rejuvenated now that he is back, and Jon Kaufman of 'triple' national champions Progress, who concentrated more on motivating the grass roots. Graham Trimming gave a detailed insight into what made the Cippenham Club function so efficiently and effectively. I came into an apparently shortened (because other presentations had overrun) equity presentation by Judy Rogers, in which, nevertheless, she had achieved interaction with the group. This was followed by John Holland and Dave Wright advising us why the BATTs League was running so well. I missed an animated session led by Keith Wilson of the Darlington Club, which his old rival Jon Kaufman enjoyed, particularly as his team won the practical skills part when Keith failed to score for the rival team on the crucial penalties! Whether that is symbolic depends on whom you are talking to! The Development Day appeared to have been a great success and it was just a pity that several of the speakers had not been able to sit in each other's sessions, because the discussion and insights given might have been even greater.

I took from Soren Ahlen's (England Head Coach) coaching session the need for youngsters to take in the right nutrition, particularly carbohydrates and protein, to be able to carry on training hard, which (sometimes combined with an unwillingness to train hard) had been a bit of a problem at the National Training Centre at Holme Pierrepont. As well as regular and irregular variations on the basic 'Falkenberg', he got Matthew Kenny and Bryn Drinkhall to demonstrate exercises where both players were active, rather than one player always controlling. He also advocated training using different timing points, and suggested that with the bigger ball maybe players will have to be physically fitter and play forehand topspin more in front of the body: there may be more touch players and a greater use of short return of serve, rallies may get longer and girls may need to develop more control. Because the ball dropped quicker on topspins, players would need to move to it more. I did not see his section on serves.

Judy Rogers (ETTA National Development Officer for People with Disabilities) led the Equity Day and I am grateful to Terry Gadsby for providing the following report.

Having attended the Teaching & Training Conference at Lilleshall, I can once again say that the weekend was money well spent.

It's always enjoyable to meet old friends with similar interests and this year I decided to attend the Disabled and Equity events, instead of the Coaching sessions.

We, the Uxbridge Club, had already started to push disabled table tennis so the work was already underway, but what was Equity? I didn't know, but soon found out by ringing the ETTA. It was simply fair shares for all, or equality of opportunity, regardless of colour, creed, sex, age or disability.

It was disappointing to find out that very few people were interested in the topic, in fact only two people thought it worth attending. In the event, I operate in an area of deprivation, so I am closer to the problem than most people and found the session most helpful.

It is of course one thing to listen to people talking and gaining knowledge, and another to do something about it. With this in mind, I fixed up training sessions at Uxbridge, with Judy Rogers, for both Equity and the Disabled topics and I am sure our club will be all the better for them.

I would urge all clubs and leagues to instigate some action on these topics, not to just think it's someone else's problem.

Terry Gadsby
President, Uxbridge TTC

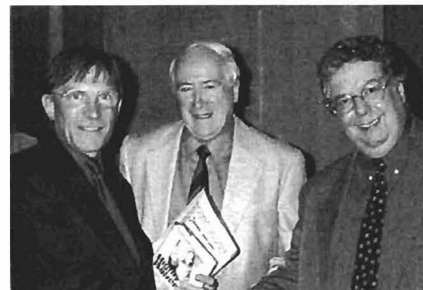
I really enjoyed the Awards Dinner and Presentations (made by Alan Ransome) on the Saturday evening, and I list below who the winners were:

Woolwich Press Officer of the Year

Award: For the third consecutive season to **Garth Winder**, Hyndburn Woolwich Junior League Press Officer, for his excellent coverage of the Hyndburn WJTTL and National Junior Woolwich League (at Hyndburn TT Centre and Hilton TTC, Bolton) in the Lancashire Evening Telegraph and Accrington Observer. He received £100 towards equipment for the Hyndburn League.

ETTA Press Officer of the Year Award, supported by Random

(Publishing) House: to **Ron Fosker**, Press Officer (since 1973) and Chairman of the Braintree & DTTL, who has produced quality articles on table tennis for The Braintree and Witham Times for nearly 30 years. He particularly impressed 'Mighty Walzer' novelist Howard Jacobson, who prepared a citation for Ron. The prize from Random House was £500 worth of books, plus signed first editions of 'The Mighty Walzer' and 'Love, etc' by Julian Barnes, an unsigned first edition of Brian Keenan's new book 'Turlough' and the promise of more goodies to come! A citation from Howard Jacobson was read out by Brian Halliday:



"He shows real personality. I like the way he makes encounters vivid – not just results – bringing games alive. His writing continues to be chatty and funny, which table tennis needs, and puts the game in a wider context; he speaks to a wider audience and makes a wider audience interested in the game. I think Ron is at his best when addressing the various problems of the sport, such as equipment and rules. There were lines in his articles that I would like to have written!"

The following award winners all received Edinburgh Crystal glass decanters through the kind sponsorship of Turners of Soham Ltd. (courtesy of Paul Day):

Table Tennis Development Officer of the Year:

This went to **Raymond Parr**, Vice-Chairman of the Lytham St. Anne's & DTTL for the huge amount of junior, senior, club school, league and tournament development work he has done in the Lytham St. Anne's area (and other areas), including gaining a Millennium Award for the Ansdell Arena TT Club of which he is Secretary and Treasurer.

Female Coach of the Year Award:

To **Karen Tonge**, Chairperson of the Halton & DTTL, who as a coach has developed and coached on the programme of opportunities for all ages and abilities at the Halton Regional TT Centre, and identified/recruited and supported coaches, but whose range of voluntary developmental activities go much wider.

Male Coach of the Year Award:

Ken Phillips, Head Coach and Chairman of the Cippenham TTC, who often puts 60-80 hours a week into table tennis and leads the coaching team running the expanded programme at the club, as well as coaching elsewhere in the Southern Region and attending (and running) open tournaments, etc, has won this award for the second season running. Junior players and teams he has been responsible for have been hugely successful, with the pinnacle possibly being Cippenham winning the Junior British League Girls' Premier Division 1999/2000. (Mention was also made of Dennis Millman, absent, of the Kettering League, who will receive a special award.)

Young Coach of the Year Award: This was awarded to 24-year-old **Paul Davison**, who started coaching in 1995 and whose Netts/Sudbury squad boasts many members of the top 10 in each age group category in the Suffolk county junior rankings. With the loss of the Sudbury club's venue, he found temporary accommodation whilst planning a new club (Netts). He is considering working some weekends in Holland with Dutch coaches.

Contribution to Coaching: To Liverpool's **John O'Sullivan** who, previously an archery coach, qualified as a table tennis coach in 1962 and is well known for his group and one-to-one sessions in the north west and on camps throughout England and beyond. Also renowned for his theories, sense of humour and story telling!



Tutor Coach of the Year: Like John O'Sullivan, a college lecturer, **Dennis Worrell** has over the years skilfully and enthusiastically tutored many Level 2/Teacher/Sport Leader courses, not only in the East Midlands but also in Yorkshire and beyond.

Special Award of the Year: Preston's **Dave Hewitt** was awarded this in recognition of his immense work over a number of years with disabled players, and more recently with the GB national squad in the four years leading up to the 2000 Paralympics. However, with Dave Russell he has also been responsible for writing the BTTAD World Class Performance Plan and organising the (funded) programme, which has enabled the biggest squad since qualification was introduced to attend the (Sydney) Paralympics. After the Paralympics, he intends to stand down as national team manager to concentrate on coaching. Top wheelchair athlete Mark Palmer collected Dave's award in his absence.

Coach of Disabled Athletes for the Year: This went to England international **Mark Mitchell** for his 'tireless work' for nearly 20 years coaching disabled players of all levels from beginners to elite. He attends sessions at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, where he assesses players, possibly to join the Paralympics squad. Travelling abroad with teams ranging from

club competition to Paralympic Games, he has helped disabled players achieve many medals.



Bradley Billington (England Coach) was quite impressive in the Sunday Talent Identification Coaching session, not only in his knowledge and insight, but in his ability to handle all the interactions and interjections from the group of coaches - not easy! The factor Brad brought out most for me in recognition of talent - and what makes the difference between 'the best and the rest' - were players who were good at problem solving, quick learners and 'opponent adaptive'. This can be drawn out by providing them with a (subtle) irregular 'feed' to see how they cope. Other important talent identification factors were ability to handle pressurised situations, motivation/desire/courage, good bat skills and technique (which is not the same as style). Some of Brad's suggestions to help talented players were: always test players; don't prescribe everything; look at the game as a whole; allow individual style to develop from basic technique; provide variation in feeders and feed; test ball skills; ask questions and introduce problems; create pressure situations, help players become opponent adaptive, turn negative experience and outlook (threat) into positive feedback and possibilities/opportunities; evaluate your sessions.

The bit of the Disability Day led by Judy Rogers and Mark Southam (EFDS Officer) I attended was a discussion on health and safety issues, followed by a practical session trying out Polybat, which is designed for people with severe movement disability and is played on a table with no net but two 10cm panels fitted on either side. A soft plastic golf airflow ball is hit (by a specifically designed bat) up and down the table or via the side panel. Polybat can be quite fun and skilful - I think Mark Southam would have thumped me in a game. My thanks go to Janette Dixon for providing a more detailed report of the Disability Day below:

Disability Day - Judy Rogers and Mark Southam

As the session began, I wondered whether or not it was the one for me; I was interested in finding out more about making table tennis available to all manner of people such as people with mental health problems, learning

disabilities, physical problems, illnesses, etc. The seminar seemed to be centered around people in wheelchairs (it was later pointed out that of the whole spectrum of disability, this category actually forms only a very small part and yet seems to have the greatest exposure.)

However, it was not long before Mark invited us all to identify ourselves and say what we hoped to gain from the day. This was a great initiative, we all could honestly state our expectations and Mark could then channel the content to meet our requirements....excellent.

So then it moved onto a broader base and we explored various issues around the spectrum of disability...or levels of 'ability' to accentuate the positive. We spoke about the negative language relating to 'disabled' people. A case in point was the terminology of 'disabled toilets'. Presumably, these are ones that don't work and therefore are no use to anyone!

We talked about the way society disables people by putting barriers and borders in place, the comment was made that we can make changes, disabled people do not have that choice, e.g. we can build a ramp not a step; they cannot negotiate steps.

Health and safety and 'duty of care' were briefly touched on and then we were introduced to the practical and exciting part of the day, which was the session on 'Polybat'.

I personally found this very interesting and enjoyable. Whilst I have yet to be convinced of the value of trying to include it as a paralympic sport, I was impressed with the development of something that could be easily accessed by people with considerable disability and which was fun and relatively skilled.

Finally, we heard about the BTTAD, the British Table Tennis Association for people with Disabilities. Mark Palmer, a British Paralympic player, explained about the various classes and levels of competition. This culminates in the Paralympics of course and it was extremely interesting to note that we probably have much more scope for winning medals at this event than at the Sydney Olympics....and yet the coverage of this will be roughly zilch! Maybe we ought to try to capitalise on the 'abilities' of our 'players with disabilities' rather more?

Watching Mark Palmer play and playing ourselves from a sitting position ended the day on a highly enjoyable and thought provoking note; it had after all been a great session for me and one which I am convinced will reap great rewards in the future!

Once again the conference, an excellent concept, was a success, belying the doubters, and I predict that it will be even bigger and better next year.

The Martin Bawden Memorial Trophy

We are indebted to Sue Bawden, Martin's widow, for the photographs of the finalists of the Under 11 girls' and boys' singles at

the National Under 10/11/12 Championships in Widnes on 27th/28th May 2000.

The winners, Anusha Seneviratne (Kent) and Bradley Evans (Bucks), were presented with the Martin Bawden Memorial Trophy, by his daughters Joanne and Donna, respectively.



MARION COUTTS EXHIBITION (Including table tennis), Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield

Table tennis is included in the work of young British artist Marion Coutts, who is holding a one person exhibition (her most important to date) at Yorkshire Sculpture Park from 9th September to 29th October, which coincides with her appointment as MOMART fellow at the Tate Gallery, Liverpool.

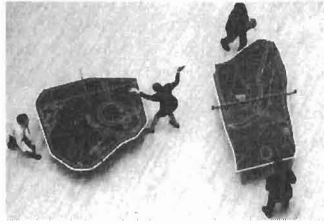
FRESH AIR, which consists of a trio of (playable) table tennis tables made in a strange shape of London parks – Hyde Park, Regent's Park and Battersea Park – is one of five distinct works. Table tennis bats and balls are provided to encourage public participation on knock-about versions of the green open spaces usually found in an urban environment. In an essay in the exhibition catalogue, art critic Tom Lubbock suggests that air, and the contrast between outdoors and indoors, is a common theme in Marion Coutt's work: "Take the flight of a ping-pong ball. Unlike a tennis ball, a cricket bat, and many other game balls, a ping-pong ball can stay in play when far outside the bounds of its play area. In all but the most cautious games of table tennis this happens. The ball is always entering air space beyond the table's edge. In pro games it can be knocked a very long way out. So the field of play in table tennis is a flexible, indeterminate space, unique to each playing, plotted by the reciprocal action of the players."

The Editor came across a review of this exhibition, plus a small photograph of table tennis action (as reproduced here), in The Guardian Guide (9-15 September), but

Regional Development Officer Mark Smith had heard about it first, actually having been photographed here for the Wakefield Express playing Marion Coutts, who he said was keener on promoting recreational table tennis rather than the competitive sport. Mark thought the tables had a lot of potential as a development aid for table tennis:

"It was a superb exhibition. Lots of people were there. They were enjoying playing 'ping-pong', with 2, 3 or 4 people on each table. One of the tables was really wide, one really small and one curvy. They were placed next to each other, which encouraged people to go on playing from one table to the next. The height, surface and bounce of each table was perfect – they were very well made. I think if they were reproduced elsewhere they could go down well in outside fairs and exhibitions."

For further information contact Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Bretton Hall, West Bretton, Wakefield, WF4 4LG (tel: 01924 830579, fax: 01924 830044, e-mail: exhibitions@ysp.co.uk).



Mark Smith plays Marion Coutts (above)

Typing Errors: Altered Meanings

Following on from the June/July edition of TTN Extra, about which John Woodford has complained that a 'not' slipped into his Sussex notes, totally altering the meaning of his statement, 'He (Tony Meredith) did do a good job at Sheffield in presenting his case', there were two more similar errors in the September magazine. Thus, when regarding the Six Nations Cadet Girls Tournament, Tony Pacitto asked Michel Gadal why the (English) girls did not play like the boys, his reply should have been, 'they do on the continent' rather than 'they don't!'. Also, Clive Carthy (Essex notes, Steve Kerns), 'is a regular fixture in the national top 50' rather than 'is not'!

Not quite in the same vein, but under 'Chicago Ping Pong Festival 2000', the effect of 'an estimated 25 million' was massively diminished by linking this with people worldwide have played ping pong at

least once.' The two separate, impressively powerful statements should have read:

**An estimated 25 million Americans play ping pong regularly
One billion people worldwide have played ping pong at least once**

Finally, Ann (Haydon) Jones (Famous People who played Table Tennis) lost in three World Championship finals in 1957, not 1975. I apologise for any misleading impressions these errors may have caused – Editor.

Famous People Who Played Table Tennis

Brian Halliday read that Tiger Woods bought a table tennis table to take with him wherever he played golf, to use as a form of relaxation he thinks.

Dave Hutchinson spotted in the Daily Telegraph an article about multi-millionaire owner of fitness clubs Mike Corby, in which the 100+ times capped England and Great Britain hockey player (including two Olympics), former no. 5 in the world squash player and junior Wimbledon tennis champion, recalled how he struck up a friendship with heavyweight boxer Joe Frazier: "There are people who think their own event is the beginning and the end of the world. Boxers are notoriously introverted but I used to play a lot of table tennis with Smokin' Joe in Tokyo in '64". Mike is currently campaigning for squash to be admitted into the Olympics.

Late report from the Daily Express (20.09.00): "Bill Gates, the world's richest man, has shunned more glamorous Olympic events in favour of watching the table tennis. The founder of Microsoft, here with his sister and brother-in-law, is a keen amateur player".

World Great Athletes by Ken Muhr

Matthew Syed's advocacy of Jan-Ove Waldner in The Times as a sporting great – he mentioned Waldner again, this time alongside golfer Tiger Woods, in an article on 26th August – seems to have some influence on that newspaper. In a photomontage of Olympic stars on 15th September, they include a picture of him with the caption, 'Swede Jan-Ove Waldner is an awesome talent'.

However, it will be a long time, if ever, before a British general sports writer includes a table tennis player in his list of all-time greats. In yet another of many similar features, a Kevin Mitchell of The Observer has listed his top 10: 1. Don Bradman 2. Muhammed Ali 3. Pele 4. Tiger Woods 5. Lester Piggott 6. Jack Nicklaus 7. Pete Sampras 8. not printed! 9. Maradona 10. George Best. In the text he mentions many other sporting stars: Bobby Jones (golf); WG Grace (cricket), Babe Ruth (baseball), Sugar Ray Robinson, Joe Louis

and Rocky Marciano (boxing), Michael Schumacher (Formula One), Heather Mackay and Jahangir Khan (squash), Carl Lewis (track – was Jesse Owens the missing no. 8 above?), Phil Taylor (at the oche). There are big names missing – where, for example, is Michael Jordan (basketball) or Gary Sobers (cricket)? But of course there are no table tennis players, such as Richard Bergmann or Waldner. (And of course, no women!)

The question is, could a table tennis player, however brilliant or successful, ever appear amongst the top sporting greats of a British journalist? (Deng Yaping was China's 'Sporting Star of the 20th Century'). Probably not. In British culture only certain sports count. For example, although in world terms cricket is tiny in comparison to table tennis (even in England fewer people play cricket than table tennis, whilst in China table tennis can talent identify the best from a massive population base), a few cricketers will always appear in listings of sporting legends. Although the greatness of these stars in their sport is not to be denied – and Bradman was a colossus in his field, scoring runs in all terrain prodigiously and dominating it for so long – surely genius is not bestowed among status, establishment or monied sports only? Of course not. But in this country, sporting genius is recognised only amongst those competing in the right sports around the world.

Training Question

We have received the following somewhat whimsical/rhetorical question via Jordi Serra, ITTF Technical Director.

Where in the world can someone English speaking move to where table tennis is very popular and there are lots of clubs? A place where one could eat, sleep and breathe table tennis. Where on this planet might a person re-locate to delve seriously into table tennis? (Must be English speaking.)

You can send your replies either to the person (jojn?) who posed the question on yanik_v@hotmail.com or via Jordi Serra on jserra@worldcom.ch. However, we would be pleased to publish suitable replies. Contact Ken Muhr at ETTA Headquarters fax: 01424 422103), E-mail: kenmuhr.etta@talk21.com.

National Cadet Club League

It is with regret that the scheduled first weekend (1st October) of the new National Cadet Club League, set up by the ETTA Development Department to provide a competitive structure in which young players with talent and potential can be identified, nurtured and fast-tracked, had to be cancelled. However, this excellent 3-a-

side competition, to be held simultaneously over weekends at central venues around the country and providing participants with plenty of match play, will definitely be starting on Saturday 16th December. Don't miss out! For further information contact Mike Lewis, 31 Comb Paddock, Bristol BS39 4UG (Tel: 0117 9620877).

Black Box for your Television By Ken Muhr

I am not at all technically minded, but sometimes I get a grasp of implications or possibilities for table tennis of new technology. Thus in the late 1980s/early 1990s I had intended writing an article for Table Tennis News on a concept which I think was then being called the World Wide Information Super Highway – in other words the Internet. Unfortunately, I never got round to it (despite collecting numerous background papers), so I have no proof to demonstrate my vision.

However, a 'Box of Tricks' article by Michael Lewis in The Guardian (28.08.00) outlined a technological development that will also have significant implications for our sport, is we can grasp the opportunity. A Jim Barton and Mike Ramsey from the American Silicon Valley have invented a black box for television, which not only can record programming, but can go out and find for the viewer the kind of programmes he likes, provided the programme had been broadcast by someone, sometime. Also, by pressing a button, the view can 'cut out' (note: subsequently, following negotiations with the TV industry, 'fast forward over') all the bits he doesn't want to see, the credits, the weather, advertisements, etc. As Barton and Ramsey say, the gadget 'lets you watch anything you want when you want to watch it'. Another facility the box has is to continuously monitor and store all of the viewer's choices and preferences. The importance of this is that the data from all boxes taken collectively could provide information on the subtle interests and preferences of specific groups in the population, which could be sold to networks, advertisers, etc. who would then fine tune accordingly, products and messages targeted at them.

Apparently, those people in America who have already bought the box stop paying attention to when programmes are scheduled for broadcast, which destroys both the concept of prime time and also the pitting of one show against another by virtue of its time slot. Therefore, 'every show ever broadcast competes against every other show for the viewer's attention'. And people also do not watch commercials – a worry for both TV networks and advertisers: one solution might be for more discreet advertising at precise moments within programmes.

The implications of the black box go much deeper than I can grasp or touch on now, but what is the relevance for table tennis? Barton says that "This new technology will encourage all sorts of niche brands as well as

other markets" and gives as an example a hockey channel. "Everyone interested in it can punch 'hockey' into their box and it will find and record any hockey programme. At the moment there isn't much hockey on the tube; that will change. The makers of the new hockey shows will rent cheap time – at, say, 4am – to broadcast. Hockey enthusiasts will simply record the shows. And, voila, a new business is born. "The business is two guys," Barton says, "One acquires hockey content. The other calls people who make hockey equipment." For hockey, read table tennis! Perhaps the third business will be the maker/producer of the table tennis content for the first businessman to acquire, and there may be a role for a fourth business in putting the content and equipment advertising together in one programme. However, the key point is that this could be a massive opportunity to put table tennis on air, though we will still have to find ways of reaching a non-table tennis audience.

Rampton and Barton are already selling their box in America through their company, TiVo, and they have a rival, Anthony Wood's company Reply TV. Eventually the box will be encased within the TV. One final quote from Michael Lewis's Guardian article: "The new black box is really just a fantastically powerful accelerator of the fragmentation of markets caused by non-terrestrial TV and the internet".

DfEE Grant for Table Tennis

The ETTA has been awarded a grant from the Department for Education and Employment as part of their Partners for Study support small grants scheme, writes Diccon Gray, ETTA's Director of Development.

Study Support is activity that young people take part in voluntarily outside the normal mainstream classroom, but has clear links with raising achievement, improving learning skills and enhancing motivation to learn. The number of activities that can be promoted through study support range from study and homework clubs to outdoor pursuits, creative art ventures, sporting activities and clubs catering for specific interests, such as photography, archaeology and web page design. The aim of this small grants scheme is to encourage creative partnerships between schools and a wide range of organisations to promote exciting, innovative and inspirational out-of-hours learning programmes for young people.

The ETTA was one of only approximately 150 successful applications nationally, of which only approximately a dozen were sport and leisure related. The ETTA proposal, entitled 'Learning Through Table Tennis', aims to develop a well rounded, innovative and sustainable school-club link between Stowmarket Table Tennis Club, Stowupland High and Bacton

Middle Schools. Table tennis will be used as a learning medium to engage young people in physical and social (cross-curricular) activities that include leadership as well as acquiring new 'on the table' skills. Part of the scheme will involve older children researching into the feasibility of outdoor table tennis in England.

A successful project will equip the young people who attend with enhanced citizenship skills, higher levels of self-esteem and motivation that will lead to more positive attitudes to school. More young (skilled) people will be introduced to the sport of table tennis and will be given the opportunity to join Stowmarket Table Tennis Club, enabling them to develop a lifelong involvement in a healthy activity.

The ETTA is pleased to be working in partnership with Stowmarket Table Tennis Club, where meetings have already taken place with Secretary Geoff Brook, Development Officer Tony Mooney and Director of Coaching Peter Avenell. The club is school-based, has an excellent track record of development and a very good understanding of the education issues that relate to this project. Funding has been allocated primarily for equipment, i.e. new tables (indoor and outdoor), coaching fees (to deliver a series of skills sessions), tutor fees (leadership and umpire awards), and other miscellaneous items such as transport costs for the children, volunteer support, refreshments, etc.

In addition to the above, funding has been allocated for the development and production of session plans aimed at supporting Introduction level Premier Clubs where sessions are likely to be delivered by teachers or interested parents/helpers, rather than qualified coaches.

Also as part of the grant, the ETTA will continue to develop the production of a competition ladder that will be able to be used by many other schools and clubs.

The development of national resources will, of course, have a lasting legacy for the small grants scheme and be of benefit to many schools and table tennis clubs up and down the country.

The ETTA will monitor and evaluate this project with a view to making an application for a wider school-club link programme to the out-of-school hours learning project that is funded through the New Opportunities Fund.

Durham Millennium Youth Games by Keith Wilson

After staging a highly successful Youth Games in 1999, the Millennium event provided organisers Keith Wilson and Mark Smith with the additional headache of running an Under 11 event.

13 teams from the county's eight local authority districts were entered, all from

individual primary schools, the major problem being that only one had children who could actually play. However, by using a series of skills tests in team format, not only did the event take place, but it received rave reviews from teachers, parents, local authorities and the Games' main organisers.

The end result was that 78 children, of whom only four could play, learnt a little about the game in an environment that was pure fun, with the vital addition of competition. Such was the success that the format will be used in further development projects in the coming season. It can easily be used by anyone and possibly developed further.

The format in Durham was as follows: Four tables, with barriers at the ends only, placed on a badminton court size area. The first table had a Donic Newgy Robot, the second and third were used for the target skill games, with the fourth taking in the 'Table Tennis Cricket' and 'Round the Table' games.

Each team consisted of three boys and three girls. The team rules were simple: at the end of each skills test team points were awarded on the basis of 1st: 13 pts, 2nd: 12pts, etc, down to 1pt for 13th place, the team with the most points being the outright winners. However, the final 'Round the Table' test provided big team bonus points where the individual placings from 1-13 gained points for their team – i.e. one team of three boys could collect 36 points. This system kept the destiny of the outright winners until the very last event.

Game One – The Team Relay: *Each team member had to bounce the ball on their bat as they moved from one end of the hall and back again. Each was against the clock with three second penalties added to their overall time for every time the ball dropped to the floor.*

Game Two – Target Game One: *A curved row of five bats was placed on one side of this table and each member had to drop the ball on the other side and then guide it to hit any of the targets. Each player had five shots with a scoring machine used to add up the number of successful 'hits'.*

Game Three – Target Game Three: *In place of the row of bats came five upturned small buckets, again, each player having five shots to attempt to hit the ball into the bucket.*

Game Four – Table Tennis Cricket: *Each team in turn having five shots against two teams of 'fielders'. A simple game often used in beginner coaching. All were shown how to stand next to the net at the side of the table, and how to hit the ball downwards in a 'kill' type shot, each player trying to blast the ball past a row of fielders. However, any ball caught by a fielder meant the player was out regardless of how many shots they had left. Again, a scoring machine was used to show the number of 'runs' scored by each team, one scored if a ball hit the floor without passing the*

row of barriers behind the fielders, and four was scored if the ball did pass.

Game Five – Return the Rocket: *The robot came into play and was set at topspin and ball speed maximum – the effect of a rocket style loop shot! Each team was shown how to turn the bat over as with a blocking stroke and then give two trial shots and then five attempts to return the ball onto the other side of the table. Again, a scoring machine was used to keep the team score.*

Game Six – Round the Table: *This was split into two games, one for boys and one for girls. Most people know the game where players run around after making a successful return and join the queue of waiting players. Only one life was permitted with the numbers gradually dropping by two and then finding the winner.*

The format of the event was relatively simple but the effect incredible, both with players and onlookers.

Sportal.com

Although the Worldsport.com website (www.tabletennis.worldsport.com) will continue, the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) is discontinuing its arrangement with it, forming a new relationship with Sportal.com through a host website. Already the benefits of this relationship are evident, with giving www.sportsalasia.com/sydney2000/en/sports/tt giving very much the best, most thorough coverage of the table tennis events at the Sydney Olympics – results online within five minutes at the end of each round!

Matthew Syed has had a disappointing Olympics, but one of the first features on the Sportal.com website, before he had been beaten by Germany's Peter Franz in the qualifying groups, was an interview with him which is reproduced below.

An Interview with Matthew Syed

Matthew Syed, the reigning English and Commonwealth men's champion, will be representing the Labour Party in the Parliamentary Constituency of Wokingham in the next General Election. Matthew has always combined playing table tennis with an avid interest in politics and economics, gaining a prize-winning First Class Honours Degree in Philosophy and Politics at Balliol College, Oxford. The college formed in 1263, is renowned for academic excellence, boasting among its former students the 18th century economist Adam Smith and British Prime Ministers Herbert Asquith, Harold Macmillan and Edward Heath. It will be one of Matthew's toughest challenges so far; in Wokingham, at the last General Election, the Labour

Party finished in third place behind the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats.

When did your interest in politics first start?

I think I must have been eight or nine years old. I clearly remember my father sitting, distraught, watching the television in 1979 when Margaret Thatcher had defeated James Callaghan in the General Election. The result meant that Labour was out of office and a long period of Conservative Government was due to start.

Do you feel that you have always needed an academic challenge?

Yes, without doubt, table tennis has never been enough. Don't misunderstand me, playing table tennis for a living is a great privilege but I have always needed a systematic intellectual outlet, something that's mentally demanding. Education has always been important in my family, my father is a Pakistani and he's always impressed on the family the value of learning and I've always enjoyed reading, particularly philosophy.

What are your ambitions in politics?

I must stress that I have no great ambitions in politics at the moment. I decided I would have time to fight the Wokingham seat; it's in my home area and I think I can raise Labour's profile. Wokingham is a safe Conservative seat and the Member of Parliament, John Redwood, has recently been given responsibility for Parliamentary Campaigns in the Shadow Cabinet. It will be an interesting taster for the world of politics. It's worth doing, it's a challenge, current issues and politics interest me. It may be not be something that I ever will want to do again but if I don't try I'll never know! I need to find out if I enjoy canvassing and seeking election for public office.

How did you gain the nomination as the Labour Party candidate for Wokingham?

Quite simple really, I applied in May, made a speech to the party members, a secret ballot followed, I won, and then made an acceptance speech thanking the party members for having confidence in me.

What are your priorities at the moment with regards to sports and politics?

Let me make it clear. I love playing table tennis. I enjoy the game. It's definitely number one in my life at the moment. Yes, politics interests me greatly and I enjoy writing and broadcasting, but I must stress

clearly that my priorities are with playing table tennis.

You enjoy writing, have you written any articles recently?

Yes, more general articles, not table tennis specific. I covered the FA Charity Shield football match between Chelsea and Manchester United for The Times and I've also written articles on athletics and on Tiger Woods for the same paper.

What are your ambitions in table tennis?

First of all to do well in the Olympic Games. Internationally, I hope I can provide stability for the England team, I think we need an experienced senior player in the squad for the next few years, and I hope I can fulfil that role. I intend to compete in the World Championships in Osaka in 2001, the Commonwealth Games in Manchester in 2002 when table tennis will make its debut, and I hope to qualify for the Olympics in Athens in 2004, while playing in ITTF Pro-Tour events. I'm physically fit so I should be able to keep going for the next few years, after Athens that might be the time to finish. Also, I hope to do well for my new club Caen in both the French League and in the prestigious Liebherr European Champions League where there will certainly be some very tough matches.

National Association for Sports Development (NASD)

NASD has been set up in partnership with the Institute of Sport and Recreation Management (ISRM), to provide support, advocacy and professional development for those involved, professionally or as volunteers, in the development of sport. Benefits of joining are: voting rights, professional development programmes, membership mailings, technical notes, etc. E-mail support and advice service, discounted rates for seminars/training, representation of interests etc. Membership fees are £45 per annum. For further information, contact NASD, c/o ISRM, Giffard House, 36/38 Sherrard Street, Melton Mowbray, Leics LE13 1XJ (tel: 01664 565531).

Asksport.com

The owners claim that www.asksport.com is the web's largest sports development information portal. Launched in May 2000, the website includes a comprehensive sports information library (9 pages on www.asksport.com/development.htm specifically about sports development as well as on many other related subjects such as club development), information contact databases, sports message board, sports chatroom and

sports pictures. To request more information or register your club or organisation details on the website, contact Asksport Ltd. PO Box 6182, Nottingham NG12 5RS. Tel/fax: 0115 937 3225, email: info@asksport.com.

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 Edgerton Road, Ashton, Preston, Lancs PR2 1AL (tel: 01772 461325, fax: 01772 461326, e-mail: jparkeretta@cableinet.co.uk).

National Training Centre, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham - Open Days

The National Training Centre will be holding open days on Friday 17th November 2000 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 01332 672534.

APOLOGIES TO KENT

This photo (below), of the Maidstone Millennium Reunion Dinner, was missed out of the June/July issue of TTN Extra. Apologies to Kent County TTA. From left to right they are: Mike Ling, Peter Hood, Margaret Dignum, Roy Coussens, Mrs K Le Milliere, Mark Brown, Madge Garlinge, Marilyn Dudgeon, Alison Pearson, Joan Gilbert, Gordon Harris, Roger Pingram, Carolyn Brown, Graham French, Barbara Russell, Martin Hewett, Carly Hart, Phil Saxby, Claire Moore, Alan Longhurst.



THERE are not too many English players who have heard of Mr Uzorinac, nevertheless this ex international from Zagreb will leave an indelible mark on our sport, writes Brian Halliday.

I have known Zdenko for many years having met him at veteran's tournaments world-wide. He is the author of two excellent books on the history of the senior world championships, and is one of the world's leading authorities on the sport.

He has recently published a book on the players who have become legends in the game. Zdenko had long cherished the idea of producing a book which would deal with our sporting history in as attractive a way as possible. The first edition had a multitude of photographs in black and white and colour. Unfortunately the text is in Serbo Croat, however plans are well advanced for an English edition to be published to coincide with the next Worlds in Osaka, Japan.

BRIAN HALLIDAY: Before we start talking about your book, can you tell me how you started in table tennis?

ZDENKO UZORINAC: I was born in Zagreb in 1929 and started playing table tennis from the age of 11. I joined a club run by Zarko Dolinar. It was a strong club so I was taught good techniques and habits. I became champion of Croatia as a junior. In 1948 I became a member of the Yugoslavian national team, and came to London along with Dolinar, Harangozo, and Vogrinc.

BH: Dolinar was a famous player. Did he influence you?

ZU: Yes, because he was an unorthodox penholder with a very strong attack, I had little chance but to become a defender as I played against him so often. My coach was Tibor Harangozo. He was the founder of TIBHAR and was an expert on bats and rubbers. He was a very fine coach and among his pupils were Trudi Pritzi, Linda Werlt, and Angelica Rozeanu, all who became world champions and superstars in their time.

BH: How do you compare the players of that era with the Chinese who burst onto the scene in the 60s?

ZU: In the 40s and 50s it was a classical time when they played with normal rubber - not sponge. The first player I saw with sponge was an Austrian called Fritsch. In the time of Leach, Bana, Vana, Andreadis, Bergmann, Sido, it was a very classical game with good technique - not so much strength. Bergmann was a very good athlete but Vana was not. When Ogimura of Japan came on the

INDELIBLE MARK ON TABLE TENNIS



ZDENKO UZORINAC

scene in the late fifties with his fantastic attack he brought a more physical athletic approach to the game. He went to Sweden and was a reason that the Swedes were able to produce so many world class players. *BH: In the 30s, 40s and 50s the Eastern European countries had many great champions.*

ZU: Yes they did. I remember particularly Andreadis, the Czech with flair, Vana, Slar, Toka, Marinko. They were followed by Orlowski, Stanek, Miko all from Czechoslovakia. Therefore I think tradition is very important in the table tennis world.

BH: Of all the players you have seen,

who would rank as your top three?

ZU: Not easy. Barna, Bergmann, Vana and then for the 1950s Ogimura and Sido were very good, also of course your own Johnny Leach had excellent technique. Then followed the Chinese with Chuang Tse Tung and Li Fu Jung and one must not forget Surbek. He was 20 years at the top and this was due to his professional and dedicated approach to the game. Then Waldner. What can you say about him? He was superb against China in the World Team event in Kuala Lumpur. I think this was certainly the greatest match of all time when Sweden beat China 3-2. With two World Champions on one side and two on the other - well it was a privilege to be there.

BH: I am looking forward to seeing the tape recording. Now I must ask you about Surbek. What sort of influence did he have on Yugoslavian table tennis?

ZU: When I was in the national team I preceded the time of Surbek and Stipanac They were also Croatians and with players like Vogrinc and Branca Batanic we became the strongest nation within Yugoslavia. Surbek was such a fighter and he won 37 world medals. He was a magnificent athlete and still runs 10 kilometres a day, rain or shine. He did not drink or smoke and was a superb role model with his powerful forehand and backhand topspin.

BH: He still plays?

ZU: Yes, and of course his son plays, but he is not quite so good.

BH: What sort of living does he have now?

ZU: Very good. He owns a Bistro and has someone to run it for him. We hope he will run the national team and I think he will take over this responsibility this autumn.

BH: Well Berzik took over the Hungarian team and was successful with Klampar, Jonyer and Gergeby.

ZU: Yes it is strange how you get a strong squad like that. They are usually hard acts to follow for example the French have had Chila, Legout, Eloi, and Gatien who have had much success. There does not seem to be quality French players following on - mind you the French have a very fine system for producing star players for the future.

BH: We are trying to follow the French example here in England. Michel Gadat has stated it will take 10 years of work to produce a European Champion.

ZU: Is Desmond Douglas involved? *BH: Yes he is. He works at our Centre with players who show potential. Now I read your World Championship book with the English translation, but failed miserably with the other. My Serbo Croat is pretty weak! I understand that you have written another huge work.*

How did you start with this?
ZU: I collected many texts. I corresponded with many people. I saw many matches and collected reports and photographs. It really was a lifetimes work. Table Tennis has no major recorded history, so I decided to write the work concentrating on the players who have contributed so much to this fantastic game. I took the 130 best players, male and female, of all time. So in Osaka next year it is the 75th anniversary of the I.T.T.F. and they would like to publish my book, fully updated, in English. Besides the history of the game and details of all these famous players, I will include some anecdotes, so I think it will be a nice book about the game.

BH: I will certainly buy a copy.

ZU: Thank you. I love to be in England as I played my first international match there. I watched the magic Vana-Bergmann final at that time. Oh what times. Bergmann and Andreadis. Now that was some match, with Bergmann, the world's greatest defender actually counter hitting from the barrier. Ah what memories.

BH: Thank you very much for talking to me.

**NEXT ISSUE
BRIAN HALLIDAY
IS
FACE TO FACE
WITH
GEORGE
BRAITHWAITE**

PHYSIOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

A FITNESS GROWTH MODEL FOR THE WORLD CLASS TABLE TENNIS PERFORMER

By MATTHEW WESTON
BSc (Hons) MSc
ETTA Exercise Physiologist

INTRODUCTION

A players attitudes and approaches to table tennis are, in general, formed during their childhood years.

Attitudes towards physical fitness and training for table tennis are no different. If a player is not physically prepared going into matches then there is every chance that they will not achieve their full potential. With this in mind a young table tennis player can not start earlier enough with regards to their approach and involvement in physical fitness training.

The aim of the following article is to identify the specific table tennis fitness procedures that will help under 12, cadets and juniors maximise their physiological potential which will, ultimately help achieve world class performers.

UNDER 12's

Research indicates that children are more limited in training adaptations than adults. However, the reduced training response in children when compared to that of adults is merely due to a result of less muscle mass and smaller hearts not a suppressed response associated with age.. In fact if young English table tennis players are to become world class players then an active involvement in fitness training as part of their overall training/practice regime can not commence early enough. Not only

do children of this age group demonstrate significant responses to physical training but, and almost as important, lasting attitudes towards training and fitness for table tennis can be established prior to adolescence.

Fitness training for this age group should place a large emphasis upon an involvement in such activities as team sprints, ball games and runs, all of which are short burst interval activities as children of this age group are best suited to these kind of activities. This training should be kept fun and non-specialist because if not it could prove to be detrimental to table tennis performance in the long term (i.e. fitness specialists).

However, it is extremely important that children of this age group begin to develop a good aerobic capacity as early as possible as good levels of stamina are extremely important for table tennis in order to delay both physical and mental fatigue during practice and tournaments.

In terms of table tennis gameplay explosive power is more important than absolute strength and this applies for both upper and lower body. However, good levels of explosive power can not be generated without first building a solid strength background as power is strength expressed as speed. For the under 12's strength training should be performed via good quality circuit training, i.e., press ups, sit ups, squat thrusts where the resistance load is the players own body weight.

Flexibility is a very important component of table tennis fitness from both an injury prevention and performance standpoint. It is vital that this particular component of

physical fitness is worked upon at an early age therefore strict attention should be placed upon correct stretching techniques during warm downs after practice.

CADETS

With this age group fitness training should become more specialised and importance should be placed upon a more serious and professional approach to training. Fitness training for this age group should move towards being more specialised as the children become more biologically mature. Therefore fitness regimes can be split up into work that will overload the following three energy systems:

- 1) Immediate system (maximal exercise of 5 – 10 seconds in duration)
- 2) Short – term system (high intensity exercise of approx. 5 minutes)
- 3) Long – term system (low – medium intensity exercise of longer periods)

Aerobic (endurance) training should form a large part of the cadets physical training programme as it is a vital component of table tennis fitness for the world class performer. Also, in order for aerobic capacity growth to reach full potential aerobic conditioning should be emphasised in training programmes well before and up to the occurrence of the peak adolescent growth spurt otherwise potential may never be reached. Aerobic capacity improves through adolescents and research has indicated that these improvements are similar to those reported for adults when the training volumes and intensities are high.

Training to improve aerobic capacity should occur 2 – 3 times weekly for duration of 20 – 30 minutes at an intensity corresponding to approximately 65 – 85% of maximum heart rate. The mode of training should take on different forms, i.e. running, rowing, cycling etc. but running on hard surfaces should be discouraged. Cross training is extremely beneficial for children of this age group as it will serve to improve both upper and lower body strength as well as

improving stamina.

Training to overload and improve the immediate and short – term energy systems should become an integral part of the cadets physical training programme as this will improve the players ability to perform maximal bouts of work and then recover sufficiently in between the periods of work. This is highly relevant to table tennis as the sport itself is interval in nature with players working maximally during rallies and then recovering in between the rallies. Examples of how to train this energy system are interval speed sessions, which can be performed either on or off the table. During these sessions there should be a work : rest time ratio of around 1 : 2.

In terms of training for strength and also local muscular endurance quality circuit training sessions should be maintained. The main focus of these sessions should be lower back, trunk and leg conditioning with a secondary emphasis being placed upon general upper body strength.

It is at this stage when a greater emphasis should be placed upon training the players ability to move quickly and this includes agility, rapid changes in direction and economy of movement as this is more relevant to table tennis than the ability to run fast in a straight line. Training for improvements in speed and agility (the immediate energy system) should always take place when a player is fresh and not fatigued, i.e., before a practice session. The emphasis during these training sessions should be upon improving speed of foot movement in both a linear and lateral direction during which there should be a work : rest time ratio of at least 1 : 10. These sessions should also gradually introduce low impact plyometrics (skipping, hopping, bounding) aimed at improving one step explosion, again both in a linear and lateral direction. Read and react drills such as tennis ball drops will improve anticipation, reactions and body movements.

Flexibility should continue to be worked upon during extended warm downs following every practice session.

KEY POINTS FOR UNDER 12 TABLE TENNIS FITNESS TRAINING

- Speed and aerobic activities combined for 15 - 30 minutes
2 - 3 x weekly
- This work is best performed on grass or on indoor surfaces
- Circuit training for strength
2 x weekly
- Strict extended warm downs after every session
- Focus on general fitness

The table below illustrates the type, frequency, intensity, duration and mode of the training that table tennis cadets should be performing on a weekly basis:

TRAINING	FREQUENCY (weekly)	INTENSITY	DURATION (mins.)	MODE
Aerobic	2 - 3 x	65 - 85% of max HR	20 - 30	Running Cycling X Training Fartleks Multiball
Strength & Muscular En	2 x	Maximal bursts	15 -20	Circuit training with emphasis on sports specific movements
Speed & Agility	1 - 2 x	Maximal bursts	15 - 20	Quality not Quantity, Fast feet, plyometrics, read and read drills
Power	1 - 2 x	Maximal bursts		Specific exercises using medicine balls etc. plyometric drills inc. Intergrate into circuit and speed & agility training sessions
Flexibility	5 x		10 mins	After every practice session

OTHER KEY POINTS FOR CADET TABLE TENNIS FITNESS TRAINING

- Awareness of sports nutrition and the need for increased fluid intake
- General knowledge of periodisation of training but only applied for major competitions, i.e., English Closed and European Youth Championships

JUNIORS

In general, junior table tennis players physical training programmes should follow similar guidelines as used for the cadets and vice versa. This system is employed at the National Training Centre at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham.

- The main goals of junior table tennis player's fitness training should be:
1. Developing a good aerobic base
 2. Developing high levels of flexibility and core stability (back, abdominals, pelvic region)
 3. Progressing a strength base into sports specific explosive power – both upper and lower body
 4. Improving anticipation, reactions, speed & agility
 5. Developing good levels of local muscular endurance, i.e., trunk, playing arm

OTHER KEY POINTS

- It is at this stage where the players training should become more periodised (tapered towards competition) along with the players awareness, i.e., "what training is best for me prior to a big tournament".

- As the adolescent growth spurt levels off, player's strengths and weaknesses should be identified through physiological monitoring and worked upon correspondingly.
- Any muscle / strength imbalances addressed.

SENIORS

A world class senior table tennis players fitness profile should resemble the following as a result of the continued progression from under 12's:

1. High levels of Aerobic Endurance
2. High levels of explosive power in the legs, the trunk and in the shot playing arm.
3. High levels of flexibility : with specific emphasis on lower back and shoulders
4. High levels of core stability (back, abdominals, pelvic region)
5. Fast reactions, good anticipation, agile foot movements,
6. Low levels of bodyfat (<12% for men and <25% for women)

OTHER KEY POINTS

- Training periodised on an annual basis
- Programmes are directed at improvement – maintenance – improvement – maintenance etc. etc.
- Heavy training such as improving aerobic endurance and strength should be performed well in advance of competition. The build up to competitions should compromise of maintenance of endurance and power with more emphasis being placed upon 'sharpness' (both upper and lower body)

SUMMARY

UNDER 12's

- Emphasis on active involvement in training sessions
- Quality circuit training to develop general upper and lower body strength
- Flexibility worked upon at an early age

CADETS

- Emphasis on a more serious / professional approach to fitness training
- Development of good Aerobic base
- Continued development of general upper and lower body strength
- Continued development of high levels of flexibility
- Work begins on speed & agility

JUNIORS

- Continued development of a good Aerobic base
- Progressive development of upper and lower body strength into explosive power
- More emphasis placed upon speed & agility
- Maintenance and improvement of flexibility
- Progressive implementation of periodised training

SENIORS

- Maintenance of a good aerobic base
- Training for explosive power above strength
- Maintenance of high levels of flexibility
- High quantities of speed & agility training
- Training programmes entirely periodised

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE FEEL FREE TO GIVE ME A CALL AT THE NATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE ON 0115 981 0495 OR E-MAIL ME AT matt@hpsssm.demon.co.uk

MANCHESTER 2002 UPDATE

TWO YEARS TO GO MARKED WITH A BIG SPLASH

A SPECTACULAR and fun event held on July 24th marked two years to the Opening Ceremony of the Games and the completion of the first new sporting venue - The Manchester Aquatics Centre.

The world-class Olympic sized new pool complex was completed two months ahead of schedule and its excellent quality was celebrated by athletes, community and officials alike.

The Rt Hon Ian McCartney MP, Minister of State at the Cabinet Office who heads the Task Force which co-ordinates Government departmental response to Games' issues was joined by Tessa Sanderson, Vice Chair of Sport England and M2002 Regional Chairman, Rodger Pannone who addressed guests and representatives from the media. Olympic and Commonwealth champion Sharron Davies made a guest appearance and dipped in the pool for an exclusive M2002 photo.

Sharron said: "The whole country should congratulate Manchester for having the courage to do something like this, take the risk, spend the money and support British sport. I have travelled around the world and I have seen few facilities better than this one. I envy those swimmers taking part in the Commonwealth Games because they will be able to compete in front of their home crowd."

The very first group to use the pool were 16 youngsters from Manchester Aquatics Swimming Club who swam a two length relay.

They were followed by Olympic and Commonwealth medallists Adrian Moorhouse, Nick Gillingham and Sarah Bailey who swam a charity race for a £1000 prize donated by Games' sponsor, Atlantic Telecom plc.

Great British Divers, Peter



SPORTCITY, TWENTY MINUTES FROM THE ATHLETICS VILLAGE, WILL BE THE CENTREPIECE OF THE GAMES AND WILL HOST FIVE SPORTS: ATHLETICS, RUGBY 7's, SQUASH, TABLE TENNIS AND TRACK CYCLING.

Waterfield, James Teal and Stephen Hill put on a spectacular synchronised diving display wearing full body suits of green, blue and red - the colours of the Games. Their display incorporated a recreation of the Games Spirit of Friendship logo, three people, arms upraised in celebration and jubilation.

The Manchester Aquatics Centre is the only swimming facility in the UK with two 50 metre pools, one eight-lane for community and competition and the other, four-lane for elite training. This means that the facility is ideal not just for community use, but for competitions and as an elite training centre.

Sport England provided the bulk of the funding, contributing £22.5 million towards the total amount.

The balance of £9.7 million came from a unique partnership between Manchester City Council, Manchester University, Manchester Metropolitan University and the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology.

£10.5 MILLION FOR GAMES CEREMONIES

The Opening and Closing Ceremonies received a major boost

from Government when Cabinet Minister The Rt Hon Ian McCartney MP announced a £10.5 million package of support towards them. The announcement was made exactly two years to the day before the start of the Games.

The Opening Ceremony on 25th July 2002 provides the nation with a unique and unprecedented opportunity to showcase Manchester and Britain on an international stage. The drama and pageantry of the Ceremony will herald the start of the biggest multi-sport event ever to be staged in the UK.

Ian McCartney said "The funding package will help Manchester put on a show which demonstrates the very best of British creativity and style making the Games a key element of the celebrations for Her Majesty the Queen's Golden Jubilee Year."

SEARCH FOR A STAR

Manchester 2002 started the search in March this year for a producer to orchestrate the Games' Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

A prestigious selection panel for the two events that will showcase Manchester and the UK to the world included Luis Bassat, the man behind the 1992 Ceremonies at the

Barcelona Olympics.

The panel whittled down potential producers to a shortlist and is now currently considering proposals from a preferred producer for the Ceremonies. An announcement will be made shortly

CEREMONIES MANAGER APPOINTED

A new Ceremonies Manager has been appointed to the Special Projects team to ensure the smooth operation of the hundreds of ceremonies that have to be managed during the Games.

Dorothy Flynn who joins the team from Granada TV will have the responsibility of managing the relationship between Manchester 2002 and the Producer of the prestigious Opening and Closing Ceremonies. She will also organise Welcome Ceremonies for each of the 72 nations at the Athletes Village and ensure that during the Games the 300 medal ceremonies run smoothly.

SPORTS

The sports programme is confirmed with 14 individual and 3 team sports. Full details of the sporting programme can be obtained from Jane Price

(jane.price~manchester2002.co.uk) or Jacqueline Meenan (jacqueline.meenan~manchester2002.co.uk)

VENUE'S NEWS

Sportcity

The Sportcity complex located on a 146 acre site in East Manchester will be the focal point for the Games and will form part of the new English Institute of Sport (EIS) network of regional sporting academies after the Games. The site is situated within 3 km of the Athletes Village, the VIP hotels and the media hotels.

The total investment in Sportcity is £90 million for the new City of Manchester Stadium (£77 m of which came from Sport England) and a further £16.7 million for the Indoor

Athletics Track; a 200 metre Outdoor Athletics Track; the National Squash Centre; a Sports Science and Sports Medicine centre; a Health and Fitness Centre and the national headquarters for Squash Rackets Association. EIS also includes the existing National Cycling Centre which will become part of Sportcity.

The City of Manchester Stadium

The City of Manchester Stadium is under construction and on target for building completion by end 2001 and fit-out completion by March 2002 in time for test Games before the Opening Ceremony of the 2002 Commonwealth Games. Seating capacity during the 2002 Games will be 38,000 and in 2003, when the Stadium becomes home to Manchester City Football Club, the Games athletics track will have been removed to make way for a further 10,000 seats bringing the capacity of the football stadium to 48,000.

Athletes Village

Comfortable, relaxed and secure accommodation for athletes and team officials will be in the Athletes Village at Manchester University's Fallowfield Campus. The buildings are set amongst relaxing green parks, only 4 km from the city centre and within 20 minutes drive of Sportcity.

The Athletes Village will be open for a total of 25 days from July 15 until August 8 inclusive. Currently it is expected that the village will accommodate 4,800 competitors and team officials at any one time. With Commonwealth Games Associations (CGAs) managing their allocated bed spaces on a day by day basis within an agreed maximum limit for each CGA, this number can be exceeded. The purchase of additional bed spaces by CGA's if required is possible by using overflow accommodation nearby.

SPORTS MINISTER VISITS STADIUM SITE

The Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport, the Rt Hon Chris Smith, visited East Manchester to witness for himself the speed at which the new City of Manchester Stadium is rising from the ground.

The Minister complemented Manchester on its drive to become a sporting capital and heard how Sportcity will be the biggest single site investment in sporting facilities in the UK.

Both the East and West stands are clearly visible as is the tunnel out of which the athletes will emerge in 2002.

The project is a key part of the regeneration of East Manchester and will create 4,500 jobs in an area which has suffered from high

unemployment.

PRE VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME UNDERWAY

The first phase of the Pre Volunteer Programme (PVP) is underway after 15 months of detailed research and pilot testing. The PVP aims to maximise the potential which the Games' volunteer programme offers, to achieve economic and social benefit by reaching excluded groups.

Some 3,000 young people from the more disadvantaged areas across the north west will take part in a specially created training programme designed to engage young people aged 16-24, unemployed youngsters and people from ethnic minority communities.

At a special day-long training session held in M2002 offices, PVP Co-ordinator Mumtaz Bashir, presented 25 people from eight North West regeneration areas with their training manuals and video. These materials are now being used in the identified areas and are specially targeted at young people who could become pre volunteer programme candidates. Once the PVP training is completed, the young people are then in a strong position to become volunteers during the Games as well as having learned new skills which could place them in the job market.

With Adecco as the Official Staffing Supplier working with the M2002 PVP and overall volunteer team, regular information on the programme's progress will be carried in future Update bulletins.

SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP AWARD

The M2002 Spirit of Friendship Award recognises young people's outstanding contribution to sport in the areas of commitment, fair play and community spirit.

Throughout the summer, the initiative involved every secondary school in the ten districts of Greater Manchester. All schools were invited to nominate both individuals and teams who met the criteria which emphasised qualities such as commitment, dedication, fair play, respect for other players.

Hundreds of nominations were put forward and every team or individual nominated received a SOFA certificate signed by Sir Bobby Charlton. One young person was then selected from each of the ten districts and invited to an Awards Ceremony. The ceremony was held in Manchester Town Hall where The

Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Hugh Barrett, together with M2002 Chief Executive Frances Done and Sale Sharks and England Rugby player Steve Hanley presented the medals.

One overall winner was chosen and given the prize of two tickets to the Games' Opening Ceremony. Sammy Dawson-Smith (12 yrs) from Altrincham Boys Grammar School in Trafford was the lucky winner. His teacher offered Sammy high praise and said that in his thirty years of teaching he had never come across a boy so generous in spirit and so fair and encouraging on the sports field.

GOODWILL

More than 3500 letters penned by Manchester primary schoolchildren are winging their way across the world as young people link up across the Commonwealth.

The Hands of Friendship initiative aims to create awareness of the Commonwealth, an understanding of differing cultures and increased knowledge about the 2002 Games.

The success of both the Hands of Friendship and Spirit of Friendship Award schemes piloted in Manchester and the Greater Manchester areas has meant that the initiatives are now being considered for a national roll out programme.

THE FUTURE'S YELLOW FOR GAMES CITY

A colourful countdown to the Games began in July with the unveiling of the largest permanent advertising billboard in the UK.

Bemused Mancunians had been puzzled by Manchester's yellow building syndrome until the secret was revealed. The 260 foot yellow sign on the side of property company Bruntwood's headquarters in Portland Tower located in the heart of the city centre revealed Manchester's Commonwealth Games logo and a countdown clock.

The Tower is the largest of 27 sites selected for the campaign which is changing the face of the city in the run up to the Games. The Portland sign, which can be seen as far away as Manchester Airport and Altrincham, spans an area of 14,300 sq ft took 3 weeks and 500 litres of paint to complete.

• TABLE TENNIS TEAM EVENT FRIDAY 26/7/02 TO TUESDAY 30/7/02

• TABLE TENNIS INDIVIDUAL EVENT WEDNESDAY 31/7/02 TO SATURDAY 3/8/02

25 YEARS AGO

• SWEDEN'S STELLAN BENGTTSSON and South Korea's **KIM SOON OK**, won the Mens and Womens Singles titles, respectively, at the Canadian Open, played in Quebec.

• ENGLAND'S IAN GIRDLER won the Stiga Schools International Championships Boys Singles title, whilst **Karen Rogers** took the Girls title.

• PETER TAYLOR of Bedfordshire won the Sedefield 2 Star Open, beating **Jimmy Walker** in the final 15,-17, 14. In the semis Taylor beat **John Hilton** 20, 17.

The Womens Singles title went to **Carole Knight**, when she beat **Julie McLean** in the final 19, 10.

• MELODY LUDI, 16 years old, the No.1 ranked Junior Girl, and 15 years old **SUZANNE HUNT**, the National Junior Champion, were two lucky young ladies who received

sponsorship from national Retail Fashion Chain, **Van Allan**, and were pictured in the October 1975 edition of **Table Tennis News** modelling the company's dresses which was part of the deal so that they would look smart when travelling home and abroad.

• RUSSIANS dominant in the European Youth Championships in Zagreb. **Paul Day** did the best for England reaching the Boys Singles quarter-finals, whilst **Cleveland's Angela Tierney** also reached the quarter-final stage in the Cadet Girls Singles.

• LUCKY IAN PERRETT won an Hillman Avenger 1600DL in the World Championships 1977 Lottery, for the season 1974/75.

MENTAL TOUGHNESS

HOW many people reading this article have spent years and years working on their game? Practising to improve their shots, working on their footwork and training to become fitter only to lose in the next tournament or important match because they were nervous on a vital point. How many have decided to become fitter or to work on their backhand, only to let their good intentions slip after three weeks for no apparent reason?

My point is that the difference between a good player, a excellent player and an outstanding player is often the "mental toughness" of that person, yet we all spend very little time working on this side of our game.

Let me start by saying that there is no such thing as positive thinking. This is when you believe something will happen without taking action. I believe in intelligence, in seeing things as they are, not as worse than they are, like many people do. They describe themselves as sceptical or pessimistic about success. This can be interpreted to mean that they are fearful.

HOW TO CHANGE FEAR INTO ACTION

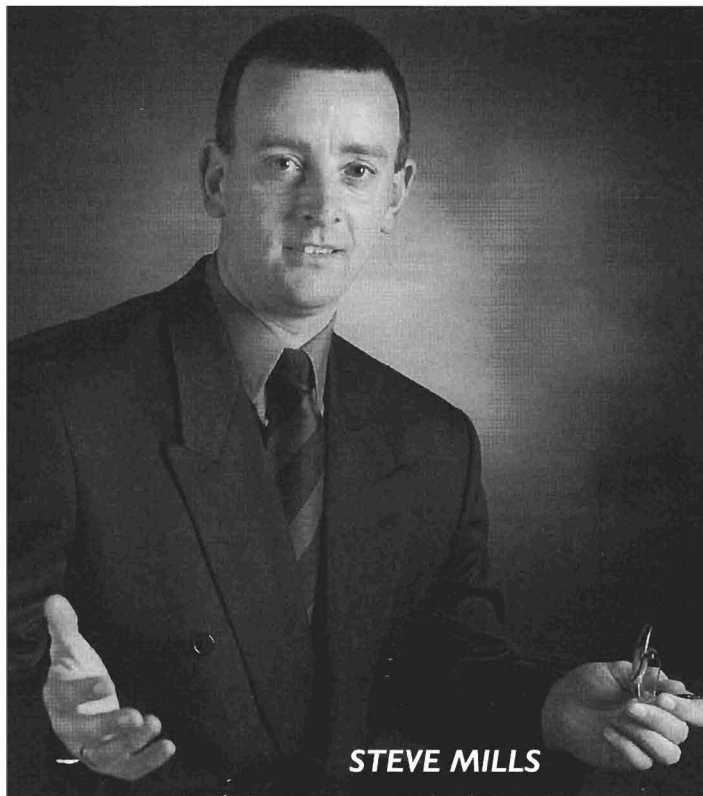
The three essentials to change and improve

1. If you want to improve your game it is simple - you MUST raise your standards.

You have to take the should's and make them into musts. Ivan Lendl was one of the most successful tennis players ever. He won more tournaments than any other male player in history and yet he was not the most talented player. I met Ivan several years ago and asked how he became the world number one and stayed there longer than anyone else had. His answer was "No-one has a higher demand on themselves than me. I don't compete with other players, I compete with the best I could become. Since I was eight years old I have demanded more from myself than anyone else could possibly imagine".

2. If you want to change your game you must change your limiting beliefs.

The only thing stopping you from



STEVE MILLS

Peak Performance

By former International table tennis player and now business and personal development expert - Steve Mills

Steve is a former International player, coach and sportsman. He played in the German Bundesliga, was the Yorkshire number one and top ten England ranked player for over ten years. During this time he won over seventy open tournaments and defeated several of the world's leading players.

Steve is now leading the way in providing practical advice and coaching for people in sport and business in order that they may reach their peak performance. His seminars are held at prestigious venues all over the UK, including Manchester United Football Club, London Commonwealth Conference & Events Centre, Gleneagles, Brands Hatch, Bisham Abbey.

Here Steve tells how he uses his success in the field of sport and business, to teach people to achieve their optimum performance.

achieving what you want is your limiting beliefs. Your belief deep down inside. Not your 'I can do it' belief on the outside but the 'Who are you kidding?' belief deep down inside.

Have you ever been in the situation where you are playing out of this world? Every shot seems to hit the table. What are you thinking about at this time? Is it 'Am I hitting my backhand correctly?' 'What happens if I lose?' You know the answer - you are usually not thinking about anything. You are so focused and conditioned to playing the game that you are just letting it happen.

3. You must change your thinking through having the

right strategy.

If you have not improved your game over the past year there is only one reason. YOU DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT STRATEGY TO IMPROVE. It's as simple as that!

Do you have the right mental strategy to enable you to train every day and enjoy it? Do you have the right mental strategy to get the best possible effect out of your training? Do you have the right strategy to win when the chips are down, or to win 80% of your deuce games. You can easily train your nervous system to achieve the above, but without training it will not happen automatically.

Do you know people who are

better than others when it "gets tight"? Do you know people who are fitter than others?

It all comes down to having the right mental strategy and training your nervous system to work for you, not against you. How much time, money and effort do you put into training yourself to be mentally tough?

ADVICE FOR CREATING PEAK PERFORMANCE

STEP 1

Put yourself in a peak state. Focus your mind and body in a pro-active way on what you are going to do.

STEP 2

Find Your passion. What do you love? Why do you want to improve? How important is it to you? What do you hate? What drives you in life?

STEP 3

Decide commit and resolve. Decide upon the action you are going to take, commit to it and resolve to keep to your commitment.

STEP 4

Take immediate, intelligent, consistent and MASSIVE ACTION. Get a proven model, or create one. Get a plan and do something immediately before reading any more of this magazine.

STEP 5

Be S.M.A.R.T

Strategy - Check it. Change it. Re-engineer it. Reinforce it. Strengthen it.

Measure - Measure it to see if it is working on a regular basis.

Assess - Is it working as effectively as possible?

Reinforce it - Reinforce what works in your mind.

Take - Take new action to continue beneficial change.

The reason I wrote this article is simple. I know there are people in the game who are trying to become the best. I know this because I was one of them. I know that in order to achieve your own personal best you have to get the best possible result out of everything you do. Becoming mentally stronger for you is not a should - it is a MUST.

If you would like to discuss my article or to enrol on one of my seminars, please give me a ring on 01635 847747. Or e-mail me: challint@aol.com

NORA VINT

1915-2000



Bill Vint's widow Nora died on 5th July. Table tennis was not among Nora's greatest interests—beekeeping and gardening rated higher for her—but she loved, and was loved by, those who were involved in it. Our sport, in England and world-wide, owes much to her, for throughout Bill's fifty years national and international work in table tennis her unflinching encouragement helped him to achieve eminence as its greatest international administrator. From the beginning she had devoted herself to supporting his enthusiasm for table tennis and never begrudged the time he had to spend away from her indulging it. Very often she was at his side when he travelled to remote spots; among her cherished memories were their happy times in China, and the photograph above shows the pair of them, looking exactly as they might have done at

some local function, enjoying a toast with President Zhou En-Lai in the Great Hall of the People in Peking.

Many players and officials who are now veterans will remember Nora's hospitality when she and Bill welcomed them to international events in Hastings; it was at the Vints' house that the young Ichiro Ogimura learnt to sing *It's A Long Way to Tipperary*.

Many years on, after Bill retired from the world table tennis scene and became increasingly frail, he greatly depended on Nora, and it was with her constant help that he was able to travel occasionally to tournaments abroad. It is good to think of the pleasure they must have had, and given, when they encountered again some of the many friends that they had made all over the world.

*Tony Brooks
(Former ITTF Secretary General)*

CSSC TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2001

TABLE TENNIS NEWS is pleased to confirm that CSSC Sports & Leisure will be staging National Table Tennis Championships next year.

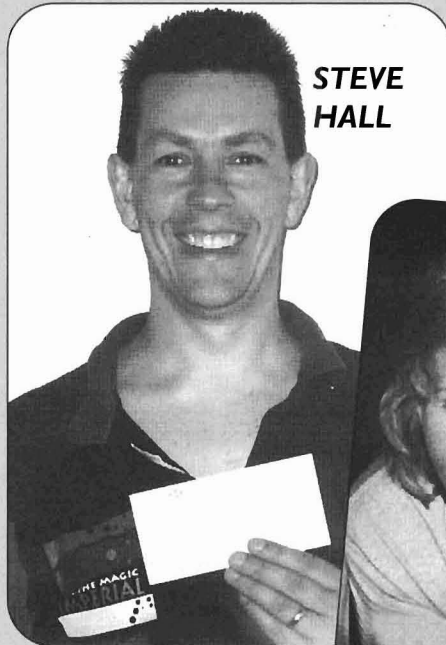
The CSSC Table Tennis Open Championships will be held on 27th April 2001 at the Railway Institute, York. Veterans' events (over 40s and over 50s) are offered alongside Men's Women's and Mixed Open events. Entry is FREE and open to all CSSC members. Employees in Government Departments and agencies, the Post Office, Royal Mail, BT and many other public bodies and companies carrying out ex-Civil Service work are eligible for CSSC membership. The closing date for entries is 16th March 2001.

Accommodation for the event is available at the Jarvis International, York at only £34.00 Dinner Bed & Breakfast per person sharing a twin bedded room.

For more information and entry forms, please contact the CSSC Sports Development Team on 01494 888439 or fax 01494 888452.

For more information on CSSC Sports & Leisure, visit our Website at www.cssc.co.uk

STEVE HALL & SANDRA RODEN WIN AT SOLIHULL



STEVE HALL



SANDRA RODEN

STEVE HALL and SANDRA RODEN won the Mens and Womens Singles, respectively, at the Team TT Pre-Season Tournament, at the North Solihull Leisure Centre, in August, writes John Wood.

The 2000/2001 season will be a season of change. Not only will we be playing with the larger 40mm but also the ETTA Butterfly Grand Prix series will be using a new scoring system, best of five games 11 up. Service is based on the tennis tie break system, where the first servicer serves once and then the service changes every two points. This tournament in Solihull was run to help prepare players for these changes.

Steve Hall from Wales, won the Mens league table, pushing Nick McKoy into second place and Chris Beckley into third spot.

Hall, who was undefeated at Solihull, had his biggest win of the tournament over Surrey's Abdul Wuraola, 16-14, 11-5, 11-3.

The Welsh wizard obviously mesmerised his opponents playing with a new long pimped rubber, 'Dr. Neubauer Super Special', that his company, Hallmark Table Tennis, manufactures.

One of the closest matches of the weekend was between Anthony Isaac of Staffordshire and Cheshire's Brian Johns, which went excitingly all the way to the wire, with Isaac in the end taking the honours 11-8, 7-11, 16-18, 11-7, 12-10.

Worcestershire's Sandra Roden was unbeaten in the Womens Singles beating her friend and closest rival for the Solihull honours, Jan Dunning, into second place, 11-9, 11-8, 12-10.

Longest match in the womens section was between Worcesterhire's Linda Read and Jenny Harrison from Essex, which saw the lady from Worcester narrowly defeat her opponent 8-11, 16-14, 3-11, 13-11, 13-11.

All the players fully enjoyed the weekend and appreciated the opportunity of gaining competition experience of the new 40mm ball and the new scoring system.

QUORN™ INGREDIENT - YOUR SECRET WEAPON?

WHAT you eat and drink is important for health and sports performance. Regardless of the level that you compete at, eating wisely but enjoyably can help you to train regularly and recover from training, to compete and to keep on competing. The right diet is one which supplies you with the correct amounts of energy and essential nutrients to keep you in good health and maximise your physical performance. It should provide the right proportions of carbohydrate, protein, minerals and vitamins (including those all important antioxidants) together with dietary fibre and enough fluid to keep you well-hydrated at all times.

But it is not just the nutritional value of what you eat that needs to be considered. You should also enjoy what you are eating. For many sportsmen and women, there are lifestyle issues to be considered as well, not least of which is time-management. Time spent shopping, preparing and cooking meals (and that is before you sit down to eat) is often at a premium. There needs to be plenty of variety in the diet but again no time to prepare complicated recipes, yet pasta seven times a week does get boring. So sportsmen and women need correctly balanced nutritious and varied meals, easily prepared and enjoyable to eat.

Energy is the most important nutritional consideration for any form of physical activity. To keep up the reserves of stored carbohydrate (the body's main fuel or energy source during exercise) it is important that the daily diet contains a high percentage of carbohydrate. If the energy balance is to be maintained, and therefore body weight maintained, the diet must not contain too much fat. Protein requirements are higher in individuals involved in physical training programmes than in inactive people. However that does not mean eating vast amounts of protein. For example, most sports people will not need protein supplements, but a regular supply of protein is essential. But care needs to be taken that protein-rich foods do not contain a lot of fat.

Quorn™ Ingredient- the secret

weapon!

So if you are looking for something that is high in protein, low in fat, tasty, versatile and easy to cook with, look no further than the range of Quorn ingredients. What are they? Well, firstly, Quorn ingredients are not soya based. In fact the ingredient on which they are all based is myco-protein, a member of the mushroom family which is grown using a natural fermentation process, rather like beer or yoghurt. Quorn ingredients are almost 100% myco-protein, with just a little egg white and vegetable flavours added to help give the products the characteristic of lean meat. (For those who like "not many people know that facts" the source of myco-protein, a tiny mushroom relative was first discovered in a field in Marlow, Buckinghamshire!). Mycoprotein is not a genetically modified food.

Nutritionally, Quorn™ ingredients fit into a sports person's diet very well. Their protein content matches that of eggs, gram for gram. At the same time they are low in fat, contain no animal fat and are free from cholesterol. On a weight basis they contain less fat than even cooked skinless chicken, and Quorn mince has only a fraction of the fat of beef mince. Quorn ingredients are similar in looks and texture to lean meat, and can be stir-fried, grilled, or even microwaved. Quorn mince can be used to make anything from spaghetti Bolognese to lasagne, the Quorn piece can form the basis of casseroles, curries and stir-fries. Quick and easy to cook, enjoyable to eat and nutritionally just right for sportsmen and women.

IMPROVE YOUR GAME WITH REEBOK HANDGRIPS

REEBOK, the world's number one fitness brand, has just launched an addition to its Portable Fitness Equipment range, Reebok Handgrips. Designed to improve power and performance in all sports through wrist, forearm and upper body muscle development, they are

particularly effective for players of all types of racquet sports.

Building the muscles of the wrist and forearm will increase your serve power, strengthen your backhand and improve your grip. The Reebok Handgrips will provide you with an extremely effective means of isolating these key muscles. With the resulting increase in flexibility and strength you will be able to hit harder and with greater control. They can also help prevent or rehabilitate painful Tennis Elbow injuries.

Combine using the Handgrips with the Reebok Fitness Rings, also from the Portable Fitness Equipment range, and you will be able to build all of the 17 key muscles used in your swing.

Light and portable, the Handgrips can be used in the comfort of your own home. So if you want to improve your game while you sit at home in the evenings, why don't you give them a try. The Reebok Handgrips cost just £4.95 per pair and are available from leading sports retailers or by mail order on 01865 886302.

GET SET AND GET FIT AT REHAB & CARE 2000

TWO interactive features - a working gymnasium and a fully functional kitchen - will be the centrepiece of the Rehab & Care show - part of the Independent Living Series of events-taking place on the 29th and 30th November at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham.

The kitchen will feature a series of cookery demonstrations illustrating the versatility of the kitchen as well as delicious ideas for healthy meals. The cookery feature will be run like the popular TV programme "Ready, Steady, Cook" and will involve four celebrity chefs. A nationwide competition is being launched by Disability Now magazine to source recipes from readers and winners will be invited along to the show to take part in the demonstrations.

The gymnasium, which has been adapted and designed for both able

bodied and people with disabilities, has been put together by equipment specialist PowerSport, one of the largest manufacturers of commercial fitness equipment in the UK.

Top athletes, some of whom who are taking part in the Paralympic Games in Sydney, will be at the show with their coaches to give demonstrations on how the fitness equipment can be used for a specific sport or general fitness.

The PowerSport Integra training machines at Rehab & Care have been designed to provide training benefits for both able-bodied and disabled users. Many existing fitness machines can be used by people with disabilities but only under supervision and with assistance. Integra machines, however, have been designed to allow users free access whether supervised or not.

Equipment that will be used at the show includes a chest press, a triceps pull down, a pec deck, a biceps curl and a lat pull down with split weight stacks, light start weights for deconditioned users, quick swing-away seats for wheelchair access, wide padded restraining belts to stabilise the body position, and a function to raise weight numbers in bright colours for visually impaired users.

Half an hour demonstrations focusing on various sports and general fitness will be given during the two day event during which top athletes will be interviewed about how they train. Visitors will also be able to look around the gym and get advice from experts and fitness instructors taking part in the demonstrations about their own requirements.

John Harris, a consultant at PowerSports said: "We have worked very hard to improve access for people with disabilities to top level fitness equipment. At PowerSports we recognise that making fitness provisions for people with disabilities is about more than just equipment, it requires planning experience and training."

Rehab & Care 2000, is organised by EMAP Healthcare. For more information or visitors tickets to the show please contact the ticket hotline on 0870 751 1437.

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ETTA NATIONAL RANKING LIST

TOP OF THE TABLE

October 2000 - List 8 I

Further details please ring Doreen Nightingale 01424 722525

Senior Men			Senior Women			Junior Boys			Cadet Boys			Cadet Girls			Veteran Men			Veteran Women					
Pos	Name	Rtg Flg	Pos	Name	Rtg Flg	Pos	Name	Rtg Flg	Pos	Name	Rtg Flg	Pos	Name	Rtg Flg	Pos	Name	Rtg Flg	Pos	Name	Rtg Flg			
(1)	1 SYED, Matthew (SY.)	4720	(1)	1 DEATON, Nicola (DY.)	3912	(1)	1 BARMAN, Dale (CA.)	3849	(1)	1 BAKER, Gregory (ST.)	2834	(1)	1 PARKER, Joanna (SY.)	2834	(1)	1 SPINK, Lauren (NK.)	1657	(1)	1 ECKERSLEY, Nigel (SK.)	3471	(1)	1 SMITH, Karen (LE.)	3232
(2)	2 BAGGALEY, Andrew (BU.)	4559**	(2)	2 LOWER, Helen (ST.)	3796	(2)	2 KENNY, Matthew (Y.)	3497*	(2)	2 YARNALL, Tim (NP.)	2361	(2)	2 YARNALL, Tim (NP.)	2361	(2)	2 DUNNING, Jan (WO.)	3099	(2)	2 DUNNING, Jan (WO.)	3099	(2)	2 SMITH, Angela (MI.)	2990***
(3)	3 COOKE, Alan (DY.)	4529	(3)	3 RADFORD, Linda (E.)	3650**	(3)	3 CHAN, Michael (SY.)	3319*	(3)	3 CARTWRIGHT, Neil (DO.)	1913	(3)	3 CARTWRIGHT, Neil (DO.)	1913	(3)	3 SMITH, Angela (MI.)	2990***	(3)	3 SMITH, Angela (MI.)	2990***	(3)	3 SMITH, Angela (MI.)	2990***
(4)	4 PLEAN, Carl (IW.)	4528	(4)	4 OWOLABI, Kubrat (MI.)	3582	(4)	4 JAMESON, Christopher (E.)	3207*	(4)	4 NOUTCH, Simon (Y.)	1806***	(4)	4 NOUTCH, Simon (Y.)	1806***	(4)	4 BUOYE, Brenda (LA.)	2868	(4)	4 BUOYE, Brenda (LA.)	2868	(4)	4 BUOYE, Brenda (LA.)	2868
(5)	5 PERRY, Alex (DY.)	4482	(5)	5 PARKER, Katy (LA.)	3526*	(5)	5 STEWARD, Kate (SO.)	3101	(5)	5 ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3136	(5)	5 BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA.)	1710	(5)	5 HAYES, David (BU.)	1358	(5)	5 HAYES, David (BU.)	1358	(5)	5 HAYES, David (BU.)	1358
(6)	6 YOUNG, Terry (BK.)	4467***	(6)	6 DURKANT, Louise (NG.)	3349*	(6)	6 BUNNING, Jan (WO.)	3099	(6)	6 HALL, Dominic (K.)	3107	(6)	6 MARPLES, Shaun (DY.)	1440	(6)	6 MARPLES, Shaun (DY.)	1440	(6)	6 MARPLES, Shaun (DY.)	1440			
(7)	7 HERBERT, Gareth (BK.)	4319***	(7)	7 WALKER, Georgina (NG.)	3322	(7)	7 YARDY, Hannah (E.)	3095**	(7)	7 HALL, Dominic (K.)	3107	(7)	7 DENNY, Stephen (Y.)	1439***	(7)	7 DENNY, Stephen (Y.)	1439***	(7)	7 DENNY, Stephen (Y.)	1439***			
(8)	8 RUSHTON, Andrew (LA.)	4041*	(8)	8 MARLING, Sally (Y.)	3293***	(8)	8 WESTON, Sally (X.)	3091	(8)	8 HEALTY, Ian (CH.)	1476*	(8)	8 DENNY, Stephen (Y.)	1439***	(8)	8 DENNY, Stephen (Y.)	1439***	(8)	8 DENNY, Stephen (Y.)	1439***			
(9)	9 EDEN, Andrew (LA.)	3992***	(9)	9 SMITH, Karen (LE.)	3232	(9)	9 ROBERTS, Joanna (Y.)	3048	(9)	9 BAKER, Gregory (ST.)	2834	(9)	9 DENNY, Stephen (Y.)	1439***	(9)	9 DENNY, Stephen (Y.)	1439***	(9)	9 DENNY, Stephen (Y.)	1439***			
(10)	10 ISHERWOOD, Michael (DY.)	3923***	(10)	10 THORNTON, Lindsey (LA.)	3210**	(10)	10 BONGERS, Jose (ST.)	3048	(10)	10 BRYANT, Craig (DY.)	2641	(10)	10 DENNY, Stephen (Y.)	1439***	(10)	10 DENNY, Stephen (Y.)	1439***	(10)	10 DENNY, Stephen (Y.)	1439***			
(11)	11 BLAKE, Darren (SY.)	3923***	(11)	11 BAWDEN, Natalie (E.)	3200	(11)	11 RODEN, Sandra (WO.)	3028	(11)	11 DRINKHALL, Bryn (CV.)	2612	(11)	11 HAYES, David (BU.)	1358	(11)	11 HAYES, David (BU.)	1358	(11)	11 HAYES, David (BU.)	1358			
(12)	12 HANTEGAZZA, Fabio (ITA)	3886	(12)	12 RUOCCO, Shelley (E.)	3163***	(12)	12 BLOOR, Trudie (SP.)	3020	(12)	12 DRINKHALL, Bryn (CV.)	2612	(12)	12 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(12)	12 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(12)	12 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(13)	13 BARMAN, Dale (CA.)	3849	(13)	13 HARRIS, Jill (ST.)	3158	(13)	13 COHEN, Michele (AV.)	3009	(13)	13 HORNER, Daniel (CH.)	2542	(13)	13 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(13)	13 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(13)	13 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(14)	14 TRUMPAUSKAS, Lawrence (E.)	3791	(14)	14 SPARKES, Rebecca (SK.)	3136	(14)	14 NEVINS, Clare (CH.)	3004	(14)	14 DAVIES, Stephen (LI.)	2365	(14)	14 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(14)	14 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(14)	14 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(15)	15 SHAW, Steven (ST.)	3733**	(15)	15 STEWARD, Kate (SO.)	3101	(15)	15 RAINTON, Rosemary (SK.)	3002	(15)	15 YARNALL, Tim (NP.)	2361	(15)	15 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(15)	15 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(15)	15 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(16)	16 ESSOMBA, Marco (CAM)	3703	(16)	16 DUNNING, Jan (WO.)	3099	(16)	16 SMITH, Angela (MI.)	2990***	(16)	16 HANSELL, Robert (BU.)	2133**	(16)	16 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(16)	16 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(16)	16 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(17)	17 VENNER, Ritchie (SK.)	3603***	(17)	17 YARDY, Hannah (E.)	3095**	(17)	17 HOWARD, Alice (CH.)	2983	(17)	17 BLOOMFIELD, Gary (SK.)	2047	(17)	17 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(17)	17 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(17)	17 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(18)	18 SUGRUE, Jason (MI.)	3556	(18)	18 WESTON, Sally (X.)	3091	(18)	18 PERRY, Penny (DY.)	2914	(18)	18 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(18)	18 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(18)	18 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(18)	18 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(19)	19 GOODALL, Justin (K.)	3552	(19)	19 ROBERTS, Joanna (Y.)	3048	(19)	19 BUOYE, Brenda (LA.)	2868	(19)	19 CARTWRIGHT, Neil (DO.)	1913	(19)	19 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(19)	19 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(19)	19 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(20)	20 SMITH, Eddie (ND.)	3545	(20)	20 BONGERS, Jose (ST.)	3048	(20)	20 SMITH, Angela (MI.)	2990***	(20)	20 CARTWRIGHT, Neil (DO.)	1913	(20)	20 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(20)	20 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(20)	20 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(21)	21 JAMES, Michael (Y.)	3521	(21)	21 RODEN, Sandra (WO.)	3028	(21)	21 HOWARD, Alice (CH.)	2983	(21)	21 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(21)	21 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(21)	21 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(21)	21 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(22)	22 MARSHALL, Peter (Y.)	3514***	(22)	22 BLOOR, Trudie (SP.)	3020	(22)	22 PERRY, Penny (DY.)	2914	(22)	22 CARTWRIGHT, Neil (DO.)	1913	(22)	22 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(22)	22 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(22)	22 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(23)	23 MOORE, Adrian (K.)	3508	(23)	23 COHEN, Michele (AV.)	3009	(23)	23 NEVINS, Clare (CH.)	3004	(23)	23 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(23)	23 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(23)	23 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(23)	23 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(24)	24 PYE, Leeroy (NK.)	3505 N	(24)	24 NEVINS, Clare (CH.)	3004	(24)	24 RAINTON, Rosemary (SK.)	3002	(24)	24 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(24)	24 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(24)	24 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(24)	24 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(25)	25 KENNY, Matthew (Y.)	3497*	(25)	25 RAINTON, Rosemary (SK.)	3002	(25)	25 SMITH, Angela (MI.)	2990***	(25)	25 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(25)	25 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(25)	25 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(25)	25 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(26)	26 BARR, David (BK.)	3476	(26)	26 SMITH, Angela (MI.)	2990***	(26)	26 HOWARD, Alice (CH.)	2983	(26)	26 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(26)	26 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(26)	26 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(26)	26 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(27)	27 ECKERSLEY, Nigel (SK.)	3471	(27)	27 HOWARD, Alice (CH.)	2983	(27)	28 PERRY, Penny (DY.)	2914	(27)	27 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(27)	27 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(27)	27 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(27)	27 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(28)	28 CHAN, Brian (CH.)	3464***	(28)	28 PERRY, Penny (DY.)	2914	(28)	29 BUOYE, Brenda (LA.)	2868	(28)	28 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(28)	28 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(28)	28 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(28)	28 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(29)	29 SLATER, Stephen (ST.)	3447***	(29)	29 BUOYE, Brenda (LA.)	2868	(29)	30 PARKER, Joanna (SY.)	2861	(29)	29 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(29)	29 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(29)	29 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(29)	29 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(30)	30 SMITH, Mark Richard (Y.)	3382***	(30)	30 PARKER, Joanna (SY.)	2861	(30)	31 FISHER, Rebecca (MI.)	2854	(30)	30 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(30)	30 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(30)	30 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(30)	30 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(31)	31 HILTON, John (CH.)	3379	(31)	31 FISHER, Rebecca (MI.)	2854	(31)	32 SMITH, Sarah (NG.)	2838	(31)	31 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(31)	31 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(31)	31 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(31)	31 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(32)	32 CUTLER, Tom (MI.)	3362	(32)	32 SMITH, Sarah (NG.)	2838	(32)	33 WANG, Lucy (E.)	2831 I****	(32)	32 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(32)	32 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(32)	32 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(32)	32 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(33)	33 CHARLES, Neil (MI.)	3359	(33)	33 WANG, Lucy (E.)	2831 I****	(33)	34 SILBURN, Nicola (Y.)	2829	(33)	33 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(33)	33 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(33)	33 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(33)	33 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(34)	34 WILKINSON, Andrew (ND.)	3357	(34)	34 SILBURN, Nicola (Y.)	2829	(34)	35 SIMPSON, Linda (Y.)	2823	(34)	34 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(34)	34 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(34)	34 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(34)	34 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(35)	35 CHAN, Michael (SY.)	3319*	(35)	35 SIMPSON, Linda (Y.)	2823	(35)	36 RIDER, Sandra (Y.)	2822***	(35)	35 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(35)	35 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(35)	35 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(35)	35 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(36)	36 ATKINSON, David (CA.)	3298	(36)	36 RIDER, Sandra (Y.)	2822***	(36)	37 HARRISON, Jennifer (E.)	2794	(36)	36 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(36)	36 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(36)	36 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(36)	36 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(37)	37 NEIL, Lee (NG.)	3289***	(37)	37 HARRISON, Jennifer (E.)	2794	(37)	38 SHIELDS, Helen (Y.)	2793***	(37)	37 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(37)	37 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(37)	37 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(37)	37 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(38)	38 WHITING, Paul (DV.)	3276	(38)	38 SHIELDS, Helen (Y.)	2793***	(38)	39 MARLING, Samantha (MI.)	2792	(38)	38 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(38)	38 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(38)	38 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(38)	38 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(39)	39 PAPANTONIOU, Costas (MI.)	3271	(39)	39 MARLING, Samantha (MI.)	2792	(39)	40 MALTYB, Margaret (NP.)	2787***	(39)	39 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(39)	39 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(39)	39 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(39)	39 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(40)	40 DOLDER, Kevin (LA.)	3263****	(40)	40 MALTYB, Margaret (NP.)	2787***	(40)	41 SCHOFFIELD, Doreen (CH.)	2779***	(40)	40 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(40)	40 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(40)	40 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(40)	40 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(41)	41 GANNON, David (LE.)	3263****	(41)	41 SCHOFFIELD, Doreen (CH.)	2779***	(41)	42 PEARCE, Diane (K.)	2770	(41)	41 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(41)	41 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(41)	41 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(41)	41 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(42)	42 CLAYTON, Tony (DO.)	3263****	(42)	42 PEARCE, Diane (K.)	2770	(42)	43 KING, Sheila (X.)	2769	(42)	42 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(42)	42 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(42)	42 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(42)	42 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(43)	43 AUCHTERLONIE, Michael (BK.)	3249	(43)	43 KING, Sheila (X.)	2769	(43)	44 SEAHOLME, Sarah (HE.)	2768	(43)	43 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(43)	43 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(43)	43 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(43)	43 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(44)	44 BROWN, Mark (K.)	3247	(44)	44 SEAHOLME, Sarah (HE.)	2768	(44)	45 JUDSON, Carol (Y.)	2765	(44)	44 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(44)	44 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(44)	44 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(44)	44 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(45)	45 SMITH, Richard A (Y.)	3244***	(45)	45 JUDSON, Carol (Y.)	2765	(45)	46 ROBERTSON, Suzanne (GS.)	2763	(45)	45 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(45)	45 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(45)	45 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(45)	45 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(46)	46 THOMAS, Peter (DY.)	3233***	(46)	46 ROBERTSON, Suzanne (GS.)	2763	(46)	47 SMITH, Nicola (Y.)	2762	(46)	46 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(46)	46 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(46)	46 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(46)	46 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(47)	47 CAMPBELL, Selwyn (SY.)	3218****	(47)	47 SMITH, Nicola (Y.)	2762	(47)	48 CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.)	2757	(47)	47 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(47)	47 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(47)	47 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(47)	47 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(48)	48 HORSFIELD, Andrew (Y.)	3208	(48)	48 CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.)	2757	(48)	49 HARPER, Sandra (BD.)	2756**	(48)	48 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(48)	48 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(48)	48 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(48)	48 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(49)	49 SMITH, Christopher (E.)	3207*	(49)	49 HARPER, Sandra (BD.)	2756**	(49)	50 LLOYD, Gemma (CH.)	2752	(49)	49 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(49)	49 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(49)	49 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(49)	49 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(50)	50 CARTHY, Clive (E.)	3193	(50)	50 LLOYD, Gemma (CH.)	2752	(50)	51 DEARING, Emily (Y.)	2740	(50)	50 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(50)	50 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(50)	50 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(50)	50 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(51)	51 GILES, Paul (CO.)	3185***	(51)	51 DEARING, Emily (Y.)	2740	(51)	52 BAWDEN, Marilyn (E.)	2724	(51)	51 POINTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948***	(51)	51 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(51)	51 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337	(51)	51 ROSSON, Shaun (LI.)	1337			
(52)	52 NEALE, Denis (Y.)	31																					

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BREATHE RIGHT

One of the only athletic performance enhancers to pass through drug tests undetected has users such as Portugal football striker Joao Pinto and London Marathon winner Antonio Pinto reaping the rewards unchallenged this season.

Endurance athletes across the board, from football players to Formula One drivers, have been spotted sporting Ceuta Healthcare Breathe Right nasal strips this season to enhance performance naturally. The drug-free strip gently lifts the nasal passages to let more air in, reducing the amount of energy needed to breathe during physical exercise.

Sports trials conducted by the German Sports University showed athletes wearing Breathe Right nasal strips had a faster recovery time, a lower heart rate and a favourable shift in their anaerobic threshold.

Marketing manager Zoe Letts said: "During intensive exercise, 10 per cent of energy is used to breathe. Therefore any difficulty in getting that air through the nose will increase the energy requirement for breathing and provide less energy for muscular activity for the sport."

"As less energy is spent on breathing during exercise while wearing a Breathe Right nasal strip, the aerobic metabolic pathways are used more effectively.

Athletes don't necessarily inhale more oxygen, they simply get the oxygen they need more easily. The strips have been clinically proven to reduce nasal airflow resistance by more than 30 per cent."

Sports physicians at Kantonsspital Schaffhausen (Switzerland) found that the energy saved while wearing a Breathe Right nasal strip leads to a lower heart rate at the same performance level which leads to an improved overall level of performance.

"Athletes can channel their energy into muscular performance rather than the seemingly simple matter of breathing. In fact, they can use less energy to achieve the same performance using a Breathe Right nasal strip," Ms Letts said.

"The strips open up the nose for better breathing. They allow everybody, not just athletes, to breathe more efficiently."

Breathe Right nasal strips are available in both Clear and Original colours and in two sizes, S/M and L. RRP £5.99 for 10. Available from Ceuta Healthcare on 01202 780 558.

TABLE TENNIS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
Compiled by Judy Rogers

OBITUARIES

Tommy Taylor MBE

WHEN I first started playing table tennis in 1983, Tommy Taylor was a vibrant member of the British Wheelchair team. Along with others, he was a key person in encouraging me to play.

He was always cheerful, the first one to ask you to join him at the bar and kind. He was always keen to let on to friends and quick to encourage newcomers.

In his time as a player, Tommy won more medals and trophies than anyone has ever won. He was treasurer of the BWTTA and vice Chairman for many years.

At his funeral, in April, it said everything that people from all wheelchair sports were there to say farewell to a remarkable man.

Our thoughts go out to 'Trish' his wife and I am sure that we will all miss Tommy!!

Denis Hughes

IT is with deep regret that we have to announce the sad death of Denis Hughes, who passed away in March after suffering a massive stroke.

Denis, aged 67, suffered from total paralysis of left arm and leg, was a member of the 'Friends of the young disabled' club in Swansea.. He also played table tennis in the Swansea and local Leagues.

Denis has been a member of the

BTTAD since it's formation and was the accountant for the association.

He has done a wonderful job for the BTTAD and it will be very difficult to replace him

Once again, he will be missed!

POST OF ACCOUNTANT

Time marches on and accounts will need to be certified by a chartered accountant in the near future. If any member knows an accountant who would willing to do this very simple and straightforward job, could they please contact Bob Churchill on 0208 3010595.

BRITISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Posts of

(1) Performance Director & (2) Performance Administrator

BTTAD are looking to appoint a new Performance Director and Administrator to lead the GB Disabled Team for the period up to and including the 2004 Athens Paralympics. Both are part time paid positions as a result of UK World Class Performance Lottery funding.

Further details, including job descriptions and person specifications can be obtained from David Russell, Secretary BTTAD, 'Clifden', Polurrian Cliff, Mullion, Cornwall TR12 7EW. Tel 01326 240380 E-mail BTTAD@aol.com

Closing date for applications is 20th November 2000 with interviews to be held at Stoke Mandeville on 10th December 2000.

HAROLD PEARCE

ETTA VICE-PRESIDENT

Compiled by Harold Feltham and Harvey Webb

HAROLD PEARCE who died recently aged 87 can best be described as being a "character". He was always jovial, had a wicked sense of humour, an eye for the ladies and he liked a drop of scotch. Life did not pass him by, he enjoyed it to the full.

For all of his working life he was an Accountant at the Shell offices in London and modestly described himself as being involved with their social club. In fact he was President of the prestigious Lensbury Club, a position he held with pride, as he regarded the Lensbury Club, with some justification, as having the best facilities in England. Harold would tell anyone who would listen how fine the club was and how privileged he was to have been a member.

Harold played most of his table tennis in the London Business Houses Amateur Sports Association Table Tennis Section and in the late 1940's was a member of an all conquering Lensbury team.

During the 1950's Harold became involved with the ETTA and helped to run the English Championships. Thanks to Harold's involvement with Table Tennis and the Lensbury Club,



the superb facilities underneath the Shell building on the embankment were made available for top England

players to use as a practice venue. On his retirement Harold moved to Bournemouth and joined Merton

TTC playing for a few years in the local league. However his largest contribution to the Bournemouth Association was undoubtedly producing a local magazine "21 up", issues of which have been seen as far away as Hong Kong. It was a lively magazine which reflected his character.

Harold's contribution to table tennis was recognised by several bodies who honoured him. He was a Life President of the Bournemouth & District TTA, a Honorary Life Member of the Hampshire County TTA and a Vice President of The English Table Tennis Association.

For a number of years he lived in a block of flats in Boscombe where he made many friends. He even started a social table tennis section there, which he described as "a bunch of old fogies who enjoy a game of Ping-Pong", adding that he "really enjoyed the evenings - it's the only place where I can win all my games!"

There was also a rumour that he wore a triangular path between his flat and the bars in the Burlington Club and Fircroft Hotel. That rumour could have been possible for in his own words he really was a "social animal".

For the last two years of his life his health deteriorated and he could not get out much, but when he could, there was still that mischievous sense of humour and he would always ask "where are women, and where is the bar", but not necessarily in that order.

Harold was also honoured by Merton TTC who had elected him as their President some years ago. At their recent AGM, despite being very ill, Harold insisted on attending and told the meeting he would like to resign. The Club refused his resignation, reminding him that he was their President for life. Just a few weeks later, on Sunday 23rd July 2000, his tenure of office ended.

Harold will be missed, but he would not have wanted sadness at his passing, and we are pleased to celebrate his life, rather than mourn it's end.

For those of you that knew Harold, simply raise your glass and have a drink to his memory - he would like that.



CHAMPIONS: Lensbury 1st Team winners of the London Business Houses League, 1949. Pictured left to right are: John Marsh, Dudley Crisp, Keith Burbridge and Harold Pearce.

Spin, Flight & Bounce - Part 2

By Henry Buist

Kicks and Skids

In the first part of this article we looked at bounces and saw that with topspin shots the ball shoots through fast and low, and with backspin shots it comes through slow and steep. Normally we cope with these effects quite naturally during play without thinking about it, but sometimes the ball seems to behave in the opposite way to what we expect: chops seem to skid through low and topspins jump up and hit the top of the bat.

A slow ball with a lot of topspin will dip sharply near the end of its flight and will hit the table at a steeper angle than normal with the result that its downward velocity at impact will be increased. The combination of these two effects (the steeper angle of descent and the higher impact speed) will make the ball rise steeply after impact thus creating a kick. So when tennis players want a serve to kick they put heavy topspin on the ball.

One of reasons why we are fooled by this is that, more often than not, we do not watch the ball during the last couple of feet of its travel, and that is the part of the flight where most of the dipping effect occurs. Even world class players do not watch the ball that closely. If you don't believe me look at pictures of them; Waldner, in particular, is a classic example. Even if we did watch the ball more closely it is unlikely that the brain could process the data and get it to the body muscles quickly enough for them to alter their intended path.

A skidding chop occurs because a large amount of backspin will tend to try and make the ball rise during the last part of its travel and hit the table at a more shallow angle than normal. Again this will tend to occur during the last part of the flight when the ball is slowing down and we are not watching it closely.

I have never been able to predict when either of these effects (the kick and the skid) are likely to occur. Consequently I have trouble dealing with them. Has anyone else had better luck?

Acquired Topspin

Try this experiment. Put a mark around the circumference of a ball so that you can see it spinning in the air, then throw it forward gently without spin. When it lands notice that it has acquired topspin.

The reason for this is that when the ball hits the ground the bottom of it stops but the top carries on towards the ground thus creating topspin.

During the normal course of play this is of no consequence, we take account of it naturally. However if a topspin ball hits the top of the net the bottom of the ball is really grabbed by it and held back for a much greater period of time than when it hits a hard surface, with the result that a great deal more topspin is created.

This fooled me for many years and I could never understand why I kept putting such balls high in the air. Previously I had assumed that the topspin would be reduced by its contact with the net.

That Goal

Whenever I ask people if they think that the third England goal in the 1966 World Cup Final was a goal, the answer is usually "Well not really". This was also my reply when asked. Now I am not so sure.

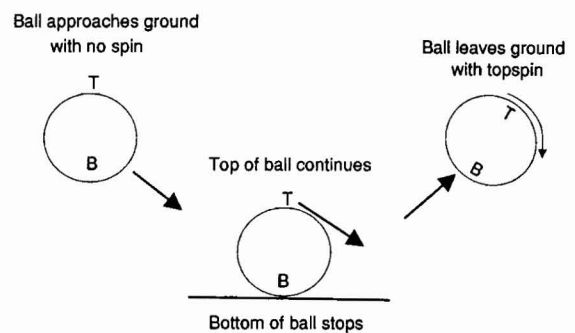
If a football hits the bottom of the crossbar the top of the ball stops and the bottom continues, thus creating backspin. That is the opposite effect to what happens when a TT ball hits the net. Add to this the fact that when a player kicks the ball his foot sides under it giving it backspin. When these two effects are added together there could be enough backspin created to make the ball bounce back out again after crossing the goal line. In fact I saw David Beckham score such a goal early in the 1999/2000 season. In this case there was no doubt about it, the ball could be clearly seen going over the line and coming back out again.

So maybe that Russian linesman was correct and we English had no need to feel guilty for the last 30-odd years. So we don't need to keep losing to Germany or keep buying their cars, tools and washing machines, by way of atonement, any more.

Theory or Practice

This article has been rather theoretical and may be of limited interest to most players. When I showed a copy of it to Paul Beck he expressed surprise that it had taken me so long to realise that a ball which hits the top of the net gains topspin - he had known it for years but did not know (or care?) why it happened. So this shows that there is a place for both theory and practice.

Most things in table tennis, we pick up naturally during the course of our experience. But sometimes our experience lets us down and we need to work things out more theoretically. It is so easy to reach the wrong conclusions without analysing the subject thoroughly. For example, at the time of writing, most people think that the bigger ball will travel slower through the air than the smaller one because it suffers more air resistance. What they have failed to take into account is that it is also heavier and a heavy object suffers less retardation from the air than a light one. If you drop them from the same height you will find that they both hit the ground at the same time. The mathematics tell us that the extra weight exactly counteracts the extra cross sectional area. Another area where I believe there is a lot of misunderstanding is on what constitutes a fast bat. But that is another story and will be the subject of a future article, which is under preparation.



CALENDAR

OCTOBER

1st	National Cadet League (1)	
7th-8th	Essex 4 Junior Star Select	Harlow
7th-8th	VETTS Midlands Masters	
8th	British League (3) Premier Division	
12th-15th	Mens World Cup	Yangzhou, China
14th	National Junior League (1)	
14th-15th	Sussex Open Butterfly Grand Prix	Hastings
14th-15th	Junior British League (1)	
14th-24th	Summer Paralympic Games	Sydney, Australia
21st	County Championships (2)	
21st	Junior Premier (1)	
21st	Derwent Cadet 2 Star	
22nd	Blackpool Junior 2 star	
22nd	British League (4) Premier Division	
22nd	Chesham High School Junior/Cadet 2 Star Tournament	
25th-29th	World University Championships	Shanghai, China
26th-29th	ITTF Pro Tour Italian	Courmayeur
28th-29th	East Midlands 4 Star Junior	
28th-29th	Veterans Premier (1)	
28th-29th	Junior Premier (1)	
29th	Cirencester Under 12/14 1 Star	
29th	Derwent Senior Banded 2 Star	

NOVEMBER

2nd-5th	ITTF Pro Tour French Open	Toulouse
4th	County Championships (3)	
5th	British League (5) Premier Division	
11th-12th	Western Open Major Butterfly Grand Prix	Bath
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

1-3	Finnish Open	Helsinki
2nd	National Junior League (2)	
3rd	Cirencester Under 10/12 One Star	
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)	