

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

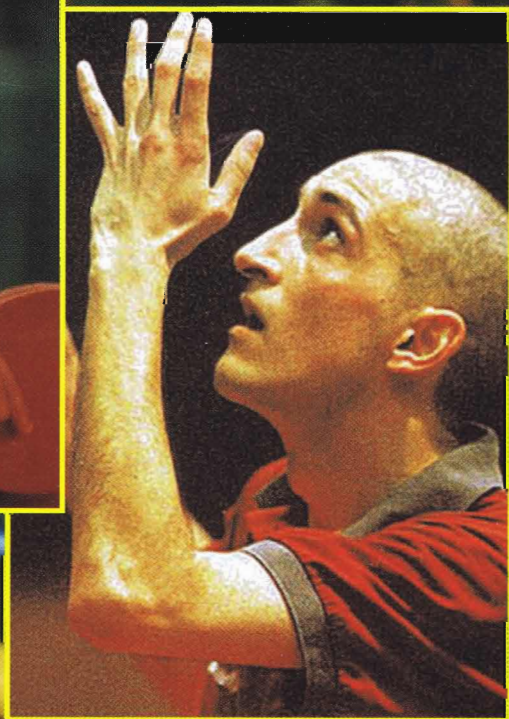
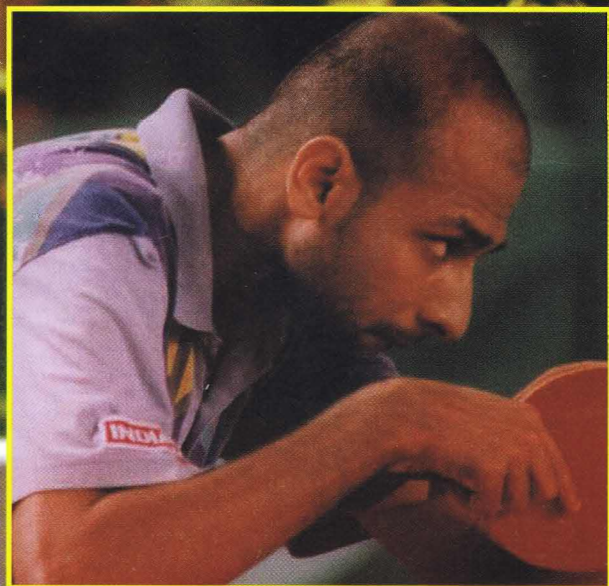
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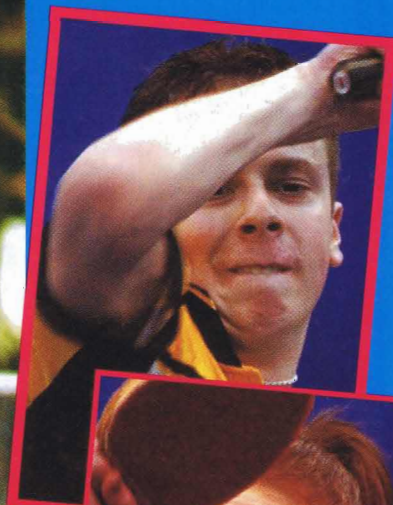
APRIL 2002



**BABOOR SEEKS
COMMONWEALTH
REVENGE AT WEMBLEY
ON BBC 1 TV**



**BAGGALEY &
DEATON WIN
SINGLES TITLES
AT SENIOR
NATIONALS IN
SHEFFIELD**
pages 12 to 15



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THE ACADEMY AT NOTTINGHAM

In the first of two articles Brian Halliday looks at the Nottingham Academy and how it came into being and what the future might hold.

THE CONCEPT of extending invitations to senior players, and players who have demonstrated potential, to live and train together is not new. My first experience of seeing similar benefits at first hand was in Heidelberg where the Germans had successfully implemented a system that incorporated schooling and table tennis training and coaching.

The Chinese, always the masters at this sort of thing, have for many years organised a structure that brings their top players together from a very early age. The French recognised the value some time ago and have a proven record of success and a way of bonding senior players together that I would like to see incorporated into our own system - but more of that next month. The Swedes, no slouches when it comes to innovation and progress, have picked up our own ideas and are to proceed with their own Academy.

Many years ago England had an opportunity of securing the services of the Japanese World Champion Ichiro Ogimura. The chance was spurned. Ogimura went to Sweden and started producing players such as Larsson and Alser, who in their turn became the role models for Bengtsson, Johannsson, Waldner, Persson, Lindh, Karlsson, and the rest of the Swedish superstars. A dynasty was established because at that time the Swedes recognised

that only the very best of coaches can produce the very best players.

Times change. Even the mighty Swedes have recognised that today's players need more motivation and discipline than they did twenty years ago. The idea of an Academy has been encompassed successfully in other sports. Soccer is a case in point. Many of today's Premiership stars owe their expertise to skills learned from the top coaches in a dedicated and special environment.

Sport in England has usually potted along on a financial shoestring. The reasons for any past successes usually resided with

individual self motivation under dedicated coaches who survived on a pittance. This was especially true in table tennis where incentives were few - and pride in international success was everything. The Lottery changed all that. Well not quite all. Sport is funded quite well from the Lottery Pie, but in comparison with the Arts is still the poor relation. Perhaps someone could explain the logic of that to me please?

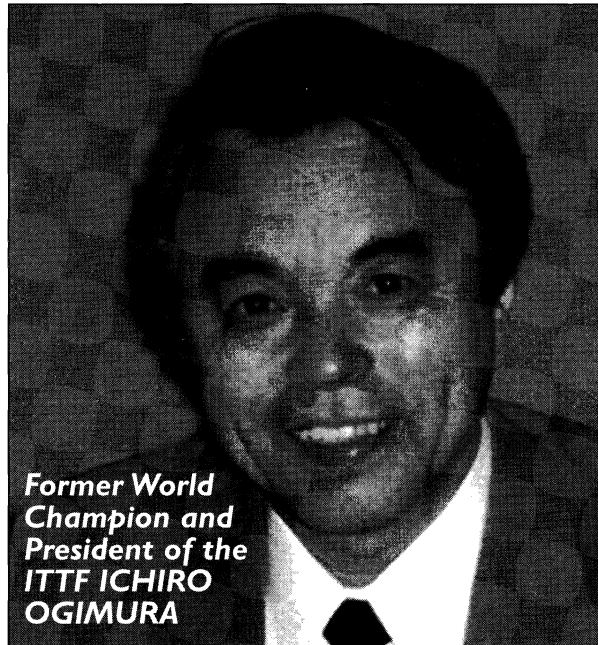
Today's top players expect to make a living from the game. If monetary rewards are not as great as expected then the E.T.T.A. gets the blame, whereas it is the

money distribution system at government level that is at fault. No simple answer. If England want the best sportspeople to cheer to glory at stadiums world-wide, and on TV, then they must be prepared to pay for it. Soccer is lucky in that the TV subsidy ensures a viable product. Table tennis needs superstars desperately if we are to compete at a highest overall sports level. How do we get superstars? Only by attracting the world's best coaches that are available, and giving our players the right system and environment. The answer may lie in Nottingham.

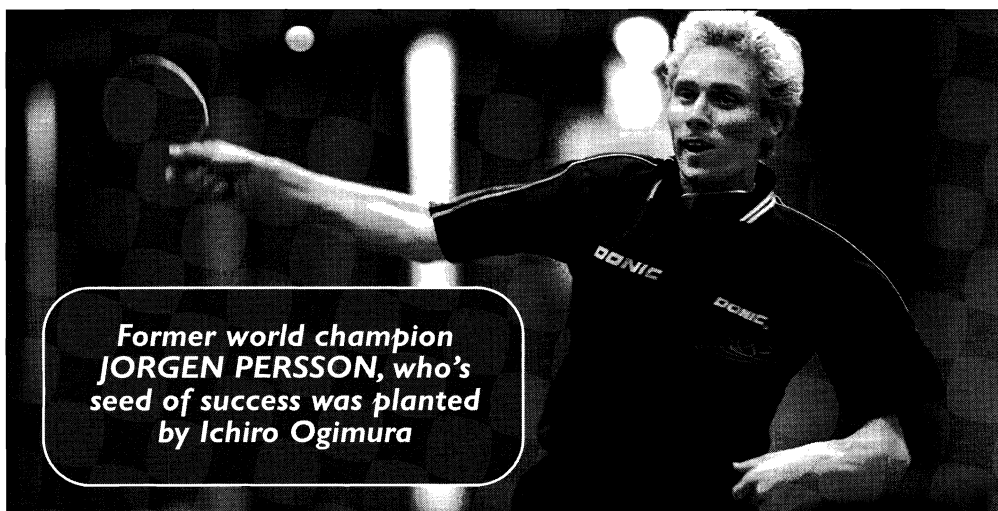
Under the World Class Performance Plan a group of players have access to a facility under the overall control of the Performance Director, Soren Ahlen. The end product is medals. We need medals at the forthcoming Commonwealth Championships in Manchester. Further down the road European Junior and, dare one say it, European Senior medals must be the aim. Long term plans incorporate an impact on the world stage - but to be realistic and, I have said this before, the Chinese are out of sight. Europe will have a massive task in trying to keep up with Oriental supremacy, but nevertheless England now has the right structure to attempt a challenge. Gone are the days where one coach, or parent, can produce a European or World Champion. The game is too technical, too complex, and too physically demanding for the enthusiastic amateur approach.

The Academy is not without its critics and with any undertaking of this size and complexity, there will be problems, however the signs are good. No Academy means stagnation. There has been a suggestion that it would all be better if there was a regionalised system with dissemination of the monies available. Unfortunately this would have the effect of diluting the on-site world class expertise. The bringing together of all major resources seems the only reasonable way forward.

Next month Brian writes about his visits to the Academy where he met the players and coaches.



**Former World
Champion and
President of the
ITTF ICHIRO
OGIMURA**



**Former world champion
JORGEN PERSSON, who's
seed of success was planted
by Ichiro Ogimura**



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turn supporting table tennis.

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SILVER SERVICE

AS PART of a £2 million refurbishment at his home, Bagshot Park, HRH Prince Edward and wife Sophie have commissioned Lord Linley to make a dining table that converts into a table tennis table. Our sources don't reveal who the players are expected to be. Is our young prince hoping to set up an alternative TT tournament, The Bagshot Open, maybe.

TABLE TENNIS IN HOLLYWOOD

THE latest craze in America for the keep-fit brigade in Hollywood is table tennis, which is undergoing a revival.

It is fast becoming the thing to do alongside after-works drinks.

Leonardo Di Caprio and Matthew McConaughey play when staying at the Chateau Marmont.

And The Standard, LA's premier cheap-but-chic hotel, has a blue table with orange balls on the pool deck.

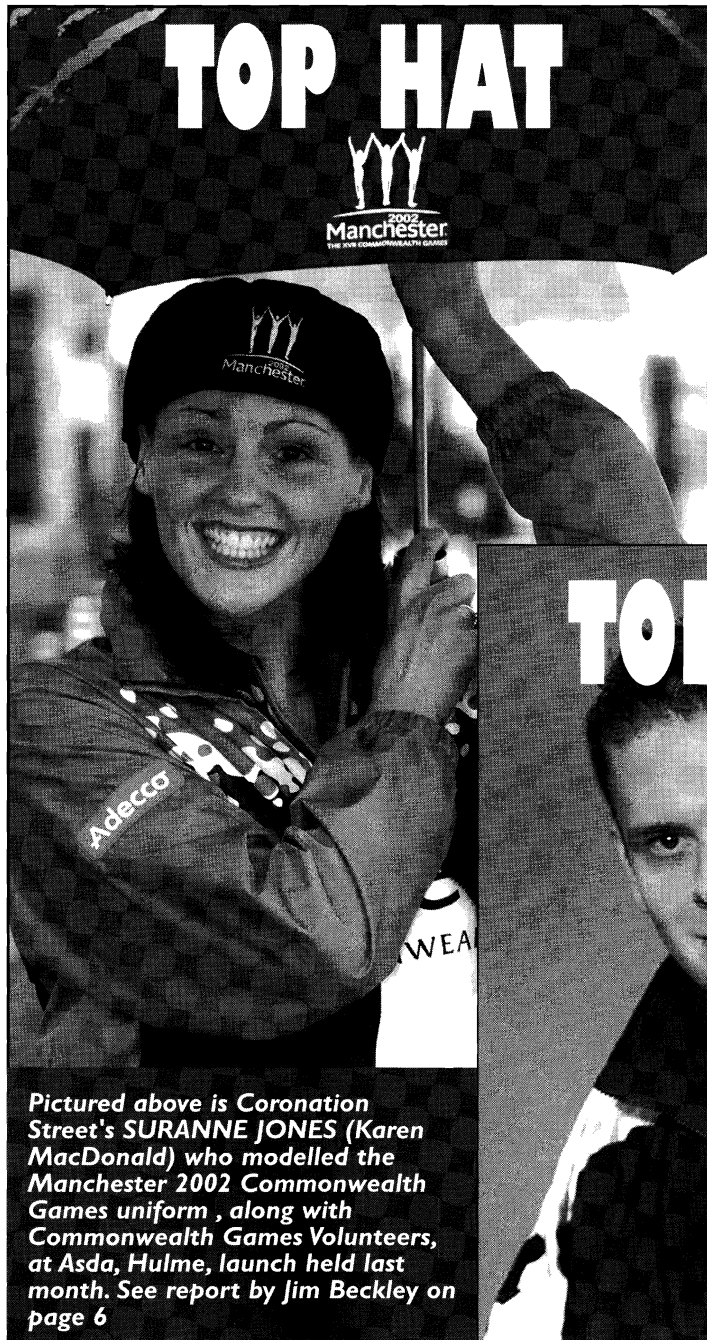
Table tennis appears to have the ability to relax you while simultaneously quickening responses.

This could be why Tiger Woods reportedly takes a table with him wherever he goes.

Table tennis is virtually obligatory at the English Football HQ during tournaments. Gary Neville and David Beckham are regular players.

Geoffrey Moore, the owner of the London club Hush, bought a table for his staff and plays regularly with his dad Roger, and Michael Caine.

Doctors at Stoke Manderville



Hospital use table tennis as part of rehabilitation, and Christine Lowe, a cognitive psychologist who specialises in ageing at the University of Manchester, thinks table tennis could improve mental function and delay cognitive decline.

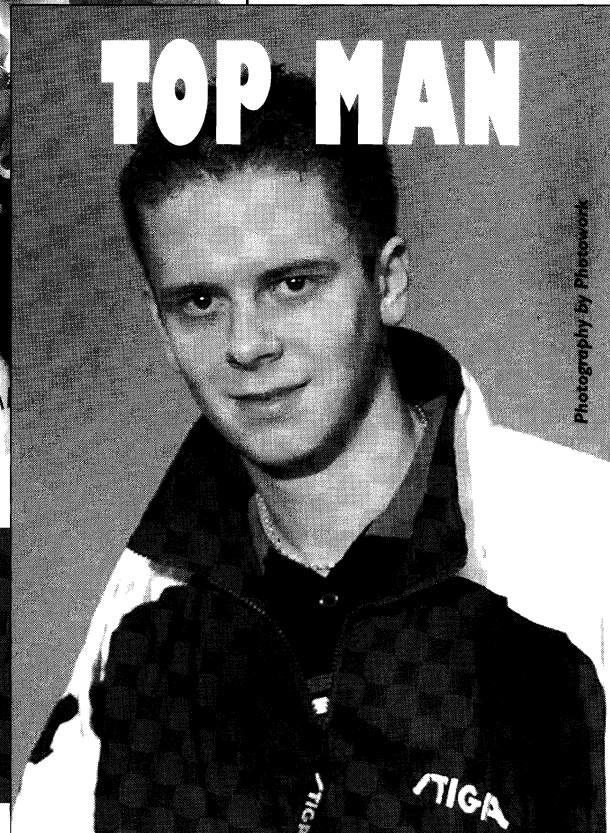
"People who use their cognitive functions tend to retain them better", she said.

Those masters of strategy, Bill Gates and Bill Clinton, are regular players of the game.

Anyone for table tennis?

TT in Hollywood' reproduced by kind permission of The Sunday Times.

Pictured below is ANDREW BAGGALEY the new National Mens Singles Champion



ETTA National Championships Raffle, Sheffield, 2nd/3rd March 2002 PRIZES & WINNERS

Prize	Donator of prize	Prize No.	Winner
Case of White Wine	Dawson & Sanderson	Pink 59	Steen Kyst Hansen
Butterfly Tracksuit	Tees Sport	Orange 152	Harvey Webb
Red Wine	Tony & Pat Chatwin	Orange 95	Robert Sinclair
Stiga Holdall	Bill Thornton	Orange 53	Derek Marples
Thorntons Chocolates	Nima Print	170	Doreen Stannard
Red Wine	Tony & Pat Chatwin	Pink 415	Doug Young
White Wine	Roy Hogg, Norfolk	Pink 415	Doug Young
Joola T-shirt	Bribar Table Tennis	Orange 423	Robert Owen
Andro Bat Wallet	Table Tennis Direct	Orange 443	Martin Ireland
2 Stiga Bat Cases	Lion Sport	280	Pat Chatwin
Stiga Ball Case & Practice balls	Nationwide Sports	Beige 192	Unclaimed

WOODY'S World

FANTASTIC table tennis is back on BBC 1 TV, with the announcement of the Commonwealth Masters Invitation tournament at the Wembley Conference Centre, on 17th May 2002. See articles by Alan Ransome on page 5, and Brian Halliday on pages 10 and 11.

Congratulations are in order for young Andrew Baggaley, who is our new National Mens Singles Champion, see pages 12 to 15.

John Wood

BBC BREAKTHROUGH



Alan Ransome OBE,
Chairman of the ETTA

TABLE TENNIS returns to BBC TV screens on 18th May when Grandstand show a new competition, the Commonwealth Masters Invitation event.

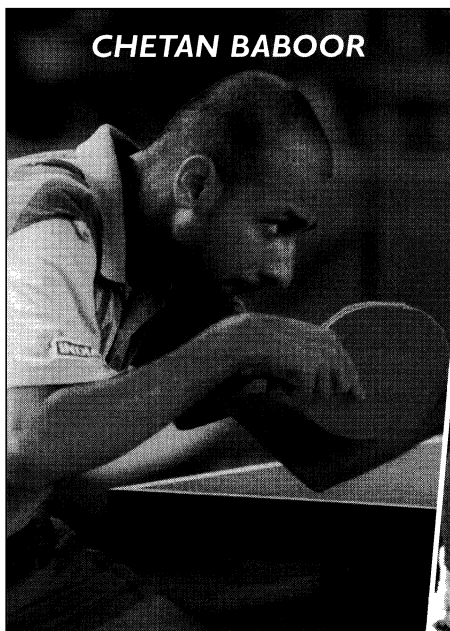
Table tennis also returns to the prestigious North London venue, the Wembley Conference Centre, where the competition will be played on 17th May and filmed by the BBC for transmission the following day.

This event heralds a breakthrough for table tennis back onto national terrestrial television. Table tennis has been widely covered on both Sky with the ITTF Pro Tour and Eurosport with the European Champions League and the European championships for the last three years. However, Sky is only available to viewers who have the equipment to receive it, whereas BBC can be watched by all television licence holders.

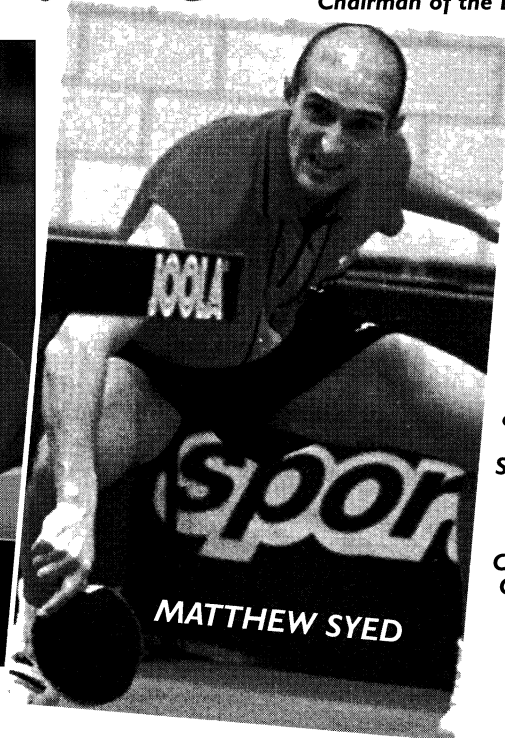
The Commonwealth Masters will bring together six of the leading Commonwealth players, including Matthew Syed, the three times Commonwealth Champion, and Chetan Baboor of India who Matthew beat in the epic final of the Commonwealth Championships played in New Delhi less than twelve months ago.

The competition will be played on the format of the annual Pondus Cup which has proved exceptionally popular in Denmark in recent years. The competition consists of just five matches with play commencing at 7.00 pm and being concluded by 10.30 pm. In the Pondus Cup the top two seeds receive a bye to the semi final, whilst the remaining four competitors play quarter finals. The competition consists of two quarter finals, two semi finals and a final. All matches will be the best of five 11 up.

In addition to Syed and Baboor, the other players invited are



CHETAN BABOOR



MATTHEW SYED

Segun Torila of Nigeria and Duan Yong Jun of Singapore, Adam Robertson of Wales with the sixth place being filled by the winner of a qualification event for the remaining members of the British Commonwealth Games squads.

In the break between the semi-final and the final, a special Under 12 Challenge will take place between our two leading prospects, Paul Drinkhall and Darius Knight which will also be filmed by the BBC.

The whole concept has been created by Matthew Syed who has been a member of the ETTA's PR Committee for the last 18 months. Matthew sold the idea to BBC who liked the new fresh format that would include at least three British players. Matthew also introduced to the ETTA London businessman and former player, Alan Sherwood, whose involvement in the event has removed any financial risk to the Association.

The event will be a forerunner to the Commonwealth Gamers themselves when BBC cameras are expected to be at the table tennis competition each day and from which the sport is likely to

enjoy further substantial coverage from the BBC.

Tickets for the Commonwealth Masters Invitation are available from the Direct Line at Wembley Box Office only, telephone 0870 733 1015. Tickets for the Grand Hall at the Wembley Conference Centre are priced at £15 for lower tier and £10 for the upper tier. There will be a 50% discount on both tickets for OAP's and under 17 year old's. In addition there is a booking fee, unless the tickets are purchased from the box office with cash.

11 UP

There was some speculation in the March issue of Table Tennis News that the ETTA's decision to give local leagues the option on 11up was based on an attempt to avoid veterans dropping out of local leagues. The exact position is that prior to the ITTF General Meeting in Osaka in April of last year deciding to change the counting system from 21up to 11 up, through this column and in other communications, I made it widely known that this possibility

was being considered by the ITTF.

I received more correspondence on this matter than any other subject from local leagues and players, the majority of whom put forward a case for the ETTA to allow local leagues to decide whether they wished to play up to 11 or up to 21 and, taking account of all of these views, the Management Committee put forward the proposal to National Council and to the AGM to allow local discretion

Overall the 11 up system has proven popular at international level and, therefore, the prospects of the ITTF changing back are very small indeed. However, participation at local level is entirely different and some are strongly in favour of retaining 21 up and some strongly in favour of the 11 up system.

The ETTA's position is that local leagues are permitted to choose for themselves and there are no plans from the Management Committee's perspective to make any change to this position.

Will Wembley see India's CHETAN BABOOR gain revenge over England's MATTHEW SYED, who won a very narrow victory in last year's Commonwealth Championships Mens Singles final in New Delhi



Pictured above is Byng Hall TTC's new premises under construction, at the St. John's Church of England Primary School in Tunbridge Wells

CHINA BOUND

FOUR of England's leading prospects are currently in China for five weeks of training camps under the guidance of England's Chinese coach, Jia Yi Liu. Dale Barham, Bradley Evans, Paul Drinkhall and Darius Knight will be attending national and regional training camps over the period gaining valuable practice, coaching and experience to assist them with their improvement.

Jia Yi Liu has reported that the arrangements so far have been very good and all the players are responding well to both the training and the opportunity.

NEW FACILITIES

KENT club, Byng Hall, are moving into their new club facilities with six tables for match play at the St. John's Church of England Primary School in Tunbridge Wells this month, and the new extensive facility for National Champions, Progress TTC at Ealing Tertiary College is near completion. Progress will have a dedicated table tennis hall big enough for 6 tables which will be used for play on a full time basis, from morning until evening seven days a week. In addition, Progress will have access to a second hall with 9 tables for non dedicated use. Construction of another new facility that will operate on a full

time basis is the 4 table hall for the Woodfield Table Tennis club in Wolverhampton where building work has already commenced.

GOOD RESPONSE TO NEW OPPORTUNITIES FUND P.E. AND SPORT

INITIATIVE

THE initiative of the Development Department in distributing more than 200 information packs to local education authorities who are sharing the £580million pounds of Lottery money for new school facilities has produced some very useful inquiries. ETTA Facilities Officer, Paul Baker, has received many approached from local education authorities who are interested in producing dual use facilities incorporating table tennis. Over 20 indications of interest have been received so far. Table tennis clubs that have not yet done so are encouraged to contact their local education authority or Regional Development Officer to investigate the possibility of facilities being made available for their use in their local area.

PREMIER CLUB

LOCATION PLAN

THE up dated Premier Club Location Plan is in the process of being circulated to clubs, local leagues and county associations throughout the country, as well as to key contacts in local authorities and Sport England offices throughout the country. This plan identifies the facilities needed for Premier Clubs in England and will be used by the various governing bodies as a guide for facilities planning and building. Further information is available from the ETTA Facilities Officer, Paul Baker on 0778 518799 or e mail: paul@glynswood.freeseve.co.uk

*Alan Ransome
ETTA Chairman*

COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2002

**Picture shows:
Coronation
Street star
Suranne Jones
showing off
the new
Games
uniform along
with trendy
hat.**



IF YOU want to get ahead, get a hat. That seems to have been the thinking after the uniforms which all volunteers will wear at the Commonwealth Games were revealed with more than a touch of 'Up North' about the style, writes Jim Beckley.

For the Manchester flat cap is set to become the crowning glory for the thousands of volunteers, including our own table tennis volunteers, once the Games get under way in July.

More than 125,000 items of clothing and accessories have been made for the 15,000 volunteers, the largest volunteer workforce since the second world war.

The uniforms were unveiled at a major press ceremony at a Manchester Asda store, one of the Games sponsors. The casual uniforms come in three distinctive colours for easy identification. Medical personnel will wear red jackets and polo shirts, technical officials will be dressed in jade and all general staff in purple.

For senior Management a business uniform has been created including a black tailored suit along with a pale jade shirt and tie for the gents and jade printed blouse and scarf for the ladies.

It was the flat cap that caught the eye of the Press. Apparently the ASDA designers abandoned the traditional baseball cap in favour of the distinctive Mancunian flat cap.

Besides all the clothing Crew 2002, (the volunteer and staff workforce) will get a branded bag, water bottle, a rain proof poncho and umbrella - goodness knows what for because it never rains in Manchester - does it?

Beth Watson told TTN: "This was a challenging project for our design team - to create an outfit which will be worn by 16-80 year olds with sizes ranging from XXS to XXXXL which also needed to be practical, stylish and adaptable for all weathers."

"We are particularly pleased with the Mancunian flat cap which could become a collectors item after the Games!"

With just a few, months away, the media circus is beginning to come to life. A dedicated radio station has just been launched by the BBC.

BBC 2002 is being broadcast on 97.7FM and will cover all the activity going on during the build up and during the Games period.

The station will be on air from 6.30am until 6pm and will be based at the BBC's main Oxford Road headquarters.

The main Press Centre will be housed within GMex. (where the World Table Tennis Championships and Veterans championships were held) But there will be Press Centres at all the sports venues, and where most of the table tennis volunteers will be based.

POSTBAG

BOMBSHELL

I AM Vice Chairman of my local Table Tennis League. Last year at our A.G.M. we voted to adopt the 11up best of five format endorsed by the rule change from the I.T.T.F.

At our committee meeting on the 28th February our Chairman, without a mandate from the executive committee, dropped the bombshell that he had been lobbying league players over the previous month and had 60% in favour of changing back to 21up. When I questioned his motive, he accused me of not having the best interests of the league at heart.

As someone who has played Table Tennis since the age of 10, and who is now 46, I have observed the decline in numbers and the standard of Table Tennis. I believe the only future is the 11up scoring system.

Apathy in our sport is rife. We have gone from a thriving sport 40 years ago to the decline of today. Why? Because nothing was done for far too long. The easy answer to the decline has been, 'Kids have to many other things to do now; they all play computer games; they all go to University,' and many more that you have all heard. The real reason is we haven't encouraged enough kids to play and then kept them interested in the sport.

For many years at coaching sessions I have heard parents who have had children of league standard argue that there is no way their child will join the local league because of the late finishes. In a parents eyes, to leave their child at 7.15 then pick them up at anywhere between 10.30-11.30 is not acceptable. At present, my 14 year old daughter plays in a league that is playing 11up. I drop her off at 7.15 and she is usually finished by 9.30. Playing any longer than that would simply be too late on a school day. I believe 11up makes for shorter games, and therefore shorter evenings.

11up also has other benefits. Every point is more exciting (no more boring parts of games when the winner has already won and is just going through the motions), each point becomes more important, therefore creating excitement and tension. It has made watching as enjoyable as playing.

Anyone who believes going back to, or staying with the 21up scoring system, is sticking their heads in the sand and hoping the problem of declining numbers will go away. I for one applaud the I.T.T.F. for having the guts to try something different. It's better to do something than nothing at all.

I still believe it could be too late. The

average age of League players in this country is well over 50. Their argument that they have always played to 21, therefore it must be right, is flawed - this is borne out by the declining numbers playing. I truly believe that the pro 21up brigade are being very selfish in their attitude to change. The question they should be asking themselves is: Not is 11up better for ME, but is it better for the future of our sport? To keep the status quo and back a failing system is not the answer.

I would like the pro 21up-ers to put their hand on their heart and say they are not being selfish. The only future for our sport is change.

In 15-20 years time when these current 50-60 year olds are either dead or not playing, my children and their children want to have a game to play. I beg all you who haven't adopted the 11up system yet to go with change.

Name & Address supplied)

P.S. By the time you read this I could be the ex-vice chairman. I will print my name in a future copy, to do so now would not be ethical.

GREAT NEWS

I HAVE had the great news that Chloe Dunmall who was recently nominated for the under 12's age group, of the junior sports achievement awards for the year 2001, against all odds and many other high profile sports nominees, Chloe won the category and was presented with a huge shield and a training grant of £150.

The awards ceremony took place at the Tunbridge Wells Assembly Hall on Wednesday evening.

This to my knowledge, having nominated many players over the past 12 years of my involvement, is the first time a table tennis player has ever won a category, although quite a few have received training grants of an equal or lesser degree.

Great news indeed for the club as both Nicki and myself have also been honoured for our long service to the sport this year.

This looks to be a great year for Byng Hall Table Tennis Club, with our move into our new centre at the end of March.

Gary Howes

Byng Hall Table Tennis Club

BORING & MOANING

BORING, boring, boring, that's all I can say, as a supporter of table tennis rather

continued on page 8

COURTSIDE

by John Woodford

• **ANDREW BAGGALEY:** What a superb early evening treat to see Andrew sweep past Carl Prean, Matthew Syed and Alex Perry to lift the English crown at Sheffield. Of the three stars who were brought down, it was "Preano" who seemed to have the best chance of stopping the young singer (with guitar) from Milton Keynes.

• **NICOLA DEATON:** With five titles now to her name she is still nervous of talking to the media; however, she played splendid attacking table tennis, almost like Baggaley, non-stop attack and counter-hitting. She knew at Sheffield that she could lose to the welcome return of Andrea Holt or to Helen Lower, but she showed absolute determination to win the day.

• **MATTHEW SYED:** The man on whom most of England's hopes will be pinned at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester has (even he must be sorry to say) fallen into the un-professional trap common to all racquet sports of not having more than one identical bat available, should one break or become unuseable.

• **WE HAVE** all seen players arriving on court at Wimbledon, with a bagful of racquets, all strings finely tuned, so when a string breaks an immediate change can be made.

• **ONE WEEK** before Sheffield, Matthew's seven-year-old bat was broken; the blade must have carried many rubbers during that time. The fact that it lasted that long is amazing considering how many times it hits the floor as he retreats to the rear of the court.

• **MATTHEW** spent many hours trying out new blades and rubbers. Andrew Baggaley played so well against all his opponents at Sheffield that no-one would suggest that he might have fallen to Matthew, whatever the state of the reigning champions equipment.

• **ALEX MURDOCH** is now getting his act together in plenty of time to challenge Alan Ransome for the ETTA chair. He has been sending out letters outlining his plans. It seems that his stated objects could be the subject of debates into the small hours at tournaments and other gatherings of table tennis folk.

• **THERE** is a comparison that can be made with government. After a party or a leader has been in power for a long period, lots of people will vote for a change, a new broom. Alex Murdoch will I believe, get a number of votes from veterans and if he visits the county and league meetings (as John Prean did) then he could pick up more votes than many people think.

• **BUT**, Alan Ransome's knowledge of the sport at all levels is far superior to anyone else in this country. He has a very calm temperament under fire and he has a lot of supporters despite his trade connections.

• **THERE** is a range of people who would like a change, but the voting is with the leagues and the counties. The more leagues that Alex Murdoch can visit the better his chances of a really substantial vote. He has a difficult and massive task to swing the vote his way, but the bid is not impossible.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2002 MANCHESTER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR continued

continued from page 7

than a participant, all I can say is if your magazine is this bad what can I say for the sport?

Where is the help, encouragement and support, health, lifestyle and fitness issues, how to improve your game and standards you can aim for? Nowhere!

This is the problem with table tennis, no-one wants to play it, watch it, support it, sponsor it, invest in it, because its boring, like your magazine stuck in the dark ages with the tired acceptance that this is how it is and always will be. Prize funds? A joke, this is proof that the sport puts people off, it doesn't encourage at all.

Families? Don't exist in table tennis, just old men having meetings. Plenty, plenty, is that what your magazine is supposed to be. A whole list of minutia with a glossy cover. As for who's the prettiest? What! As a magazine for boring middle aged men, who thought that one up? There wasn't even an article to back this patronising stunt up, just two pictures and an email address, is this your best attempt to encourage youth into the sport. You failed.

The article by Alex Perry could have been a fascinating article on the trials and tribulations, the ups and downs of

a table tennis star, but no just moan, moan, moan. Life is so hard, no money, no adequate facilities, I've heard it all before, every tournament, every match in dingy halls with no heating and bad lighting. With over £1 million in grants there shouldn't be a problem. Where is it all going? Oh I remember back to the middle aged men in bad suits at long boring meetings, wasting money on changing rules, ball sizes, 21 or 11, 11 or 21.

Come on you can do better, liven up the magazine, liven up the game or at least cheer up. With Danny Baxter as a husband and two children already showing talent for the sport. I wish I could encourage them to play, but I want them to enjoy their sports, not moan and groan like everyone does about table tennis, I will certainly want them to do anything but this boring out-dated sport you call table tennis.

Eve Baxter

High Wycombe, Bucks

Editor's reply: Well, Mrs. Baxter, you certainly are not a happy woman, you moan just like you accuse others of doing, but you are definitely not boring. You start your letter by claiming to be a supporter of table tennis, but end by contradicting yourself.

With regard to 'Who's the Prettiest'? it was just meant to be a bit of light

hearted fun, which had a big response from youngsters. You ask who's idea was it? Well, it certainly wasn't a boring old man in a bad suit, it was in fact the idea of a shaven headed young man, one Matthew Syed.

You also criticise the article by Alex Perry, who is incidentally a young man of 26, which I personally thought was very good. And you go on to suggest how it could have been improved, well if you care to read Alex's follow-up in this issue, 'Juggling Act' on page 16, which is about his lifestyle trying to juggle his time between university and playing table tennis for England and a club in Sweden. An article which hopefully you will enjoy, because it is very interesting, and will be very helpful to youngsters following in his footsteps.

Your claim that there are no families in table tennis is inaccurate, in fact there are many, and there is a very successful Evans family within your own county in Slough, coached by a very caring coach, Ken Phillips, at the Cippenham TTC.

Your comment that table tennis players moan and groan, is really a criticism of mankind, in all walks of life not only sport.

I shall close now, otherwise my reply will be longer than your letter, with the thought that I don't need to 'cheer-up',

because I am a happy man.
P.S.: Who is Danny Baxter?

SURPRISED

READING various table tennis magazines I gather that after 12 years there will be a challenge for Chairman of the ETTA in 2003.

As an affiliated league player, I was surprised to find out that I do not have an individual vote. I am sure that I am not alone in being surprised in this matter.

After doing some research, I thought that players might be interested to know the voting procedure and how to support the candidate they choose.

All the members of the ETTA Management team have one vote each, your County Representative on National Council has one vote and your League has votes dependant on how many teams they have.

Your League has to appoint a League Representative Member who will vote on your behalf and I hope that you, like me, will lobby this individual to ensure that the affiliated league players have their say in the next election for ETTA Chairman.

Your League Fees to the ETTA represent a major portion of the E.T.T.A.'s income and your Leagues vote is critical to the outcome of the election in 2003.

*Neil Charles
Braintree, Essex*

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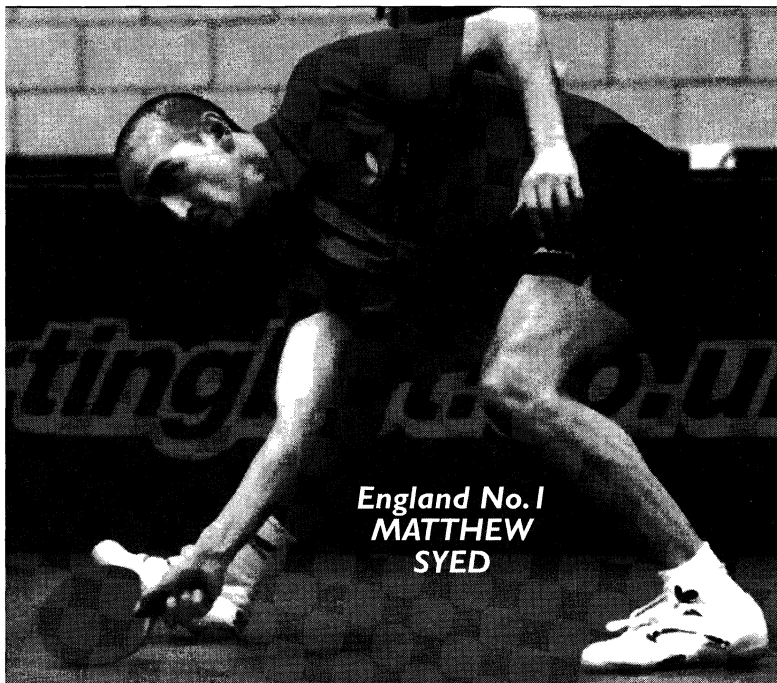
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"The reply from Brian Halliday, Vice Chairman, Public Relations, to Keith Wilson's letter in the February edition of Table Tennis News, contained misleading information regarding Mr Wilson's involvement with government agencies. Mr Halliday wishes to make it clear that Mr Wilson addressed only one complaint to Kate Hoey. The reply implied that Mr Wilson had contributed to specific, and ongoing, correspondence from the Isle of Wight. This was untrue. Mr Halliday is pleased to put the matter straight."



COMMONWEALTH MASTERS INVITATION



England No.1
MATTHEW
SYED

THE BUILD UP to the Commonwealth Games in Manchester is gathering pace. Athletes from many differing sports from many countries are in the process of completing their preparations. To reach the peak in your chosen sport, at the right time, is paramount. Table Tennis is no exception, and this years programme for all the English players has been geared to ensure success at this prestigious event, writes Brian Halliday.

The Games themselves will attract TV and media coverage world-wide and will provide a special opportunity to display our sport in a thrilling and dynamic way. The E.T.T.A. have been giving careful consideration how best to take advantage of the high profile the sport will achieve come next July.

In association with the BBC and the Grandstand sports programme we are now able to announce a very special championship to be scheduled for Friday 17th May at 7.00

o'clock at the Wembley Conference Centre. Invitations have gone out to selected Commonwealth star players to come and play in this "Commonwealth Masters". Months of negotiations have gone into the preparation of this event, to ensure that it is presented to the table tennis fraternity, their families, and friends in exactly the right way.

The BBC have given their full backing and co-operation, to ensure that over one hour of coverage of the tournament will appear on the Grandstand sports programme on Saturday 18th May.

Terrestrial TV viewers have not had the opportunity of seeing what a thrilling sport new type table tennis, with its innovative scoring system, can be. The experiments that took place prior to the introduction of the big ball were conducted with special regards to the needs of the TV audience, but these pale into insignificance when compared with the new revolutionary scoring system. Make no mistake, and no matter what the controversies surrounding it are, the new method

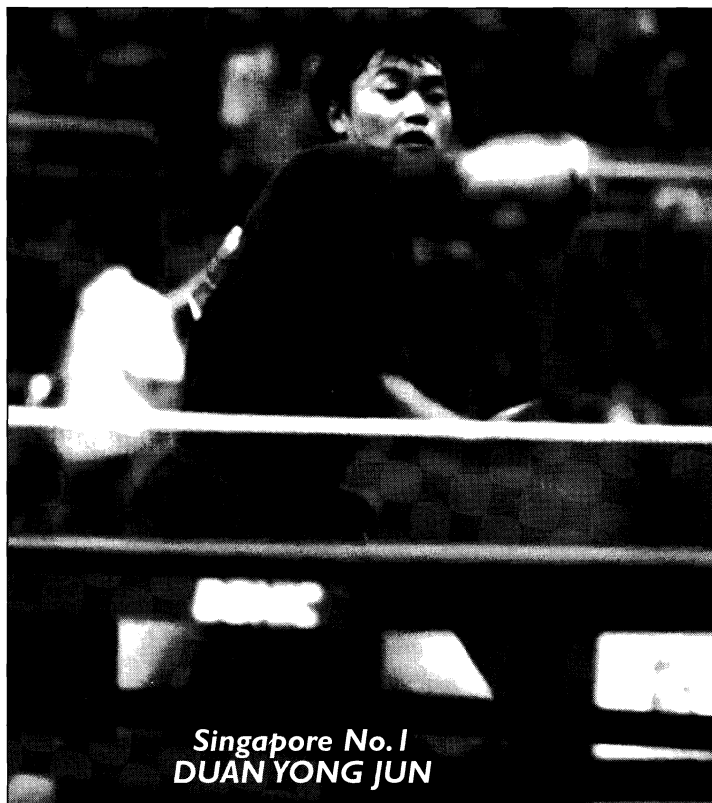
creates massive pressure on the players, which in turn communicates drama and excitement to the spectators. Now everyone has the opportunity of seeing at first hand what it is all about.

Matthew Syed, the England No.1 will lead the home challenge. Three times Commonwealth Champion and four times National Champion, Matt has that special charisma and flair that has delighted and thrilled audiences world-wide. He is the person who, in his role as a member of the Public Relations Committee, conceived the idea of the event, and has been the driving force behind its realisation.

Those who were fortunate enough to be in India to watch his truly epic match with the Indian No.1 Chetan Baboor in the mens singles final of last year's Commonwealth Championships tell of a match that was quite electrifying, and certainly

the best ever played in the history of these championships. In an epic five game battle, Matt rescued himself time and again to win 27-25 in the fifth. Many times Baboor came within a point of victory only for Syed to deny him on each occasion. The stadium was really in a fever pitch of excitement so much so that even local taxi drivers rushed in to view the match. When the end came, Matt collapsed with exhaustion such was the supreme effort he had made. He commented at the time " I don't know exactly how I won, I was in a complete daze. He just played so well. All I knew was that I just had to keep returning the ball come what may. It was just like going 12 rounds with Mohammed Ali !"

They have not met since. Now at Wembley Baboor has the chance of sweet revenge. Make no mistake that defeat hurt Baboor like no other. He is a proud man and has



Singapore No.1
DUAN YONG JUN



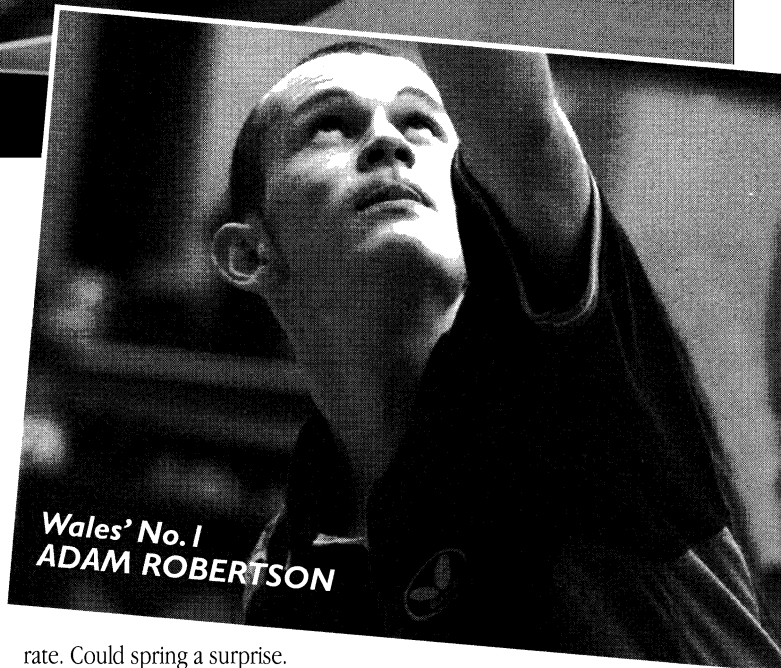
already stated his intention of setting the record straight on behalf of himself and his country.

Syed and Baboor will not have it all their own way. Previous Commonwealth singles finalist in 2000 and World Ranked player, Duan Yong Jun of Singapore is extremely hard to beat. He won the mixed doubles title at the Commonwealth Championships in 2001. He won the South East Asian Games title in 1999, and has a good record in the ITTF Pro Tour over the last few years.

The fourth player to be invited is the Nigerian No.1 Segun Toriola. Toriola was a member of the Gold medal winning team that won in the last Commonwealth Games held in

New Delhi. A real crowd pleasing performer he is twice singles winner at the African Games, and in addition in 1999 won the mens and mixed doubles titles. He has competed for his country in the Olympic Games in Barcelona, Atlanta, and Sydney.

To add British flavour to the event, the Welsh star No.1 Adam Robertson has received an invitation. Adam, well known around the English tournament circuit is one of those players who attract attention. Very skillful with an all round game, but mainly based on an attacking backhand. Not frightened to play away from the table, he is a regular player for his country and his standard is improving at a rapid



rate. Could spring a surprise.

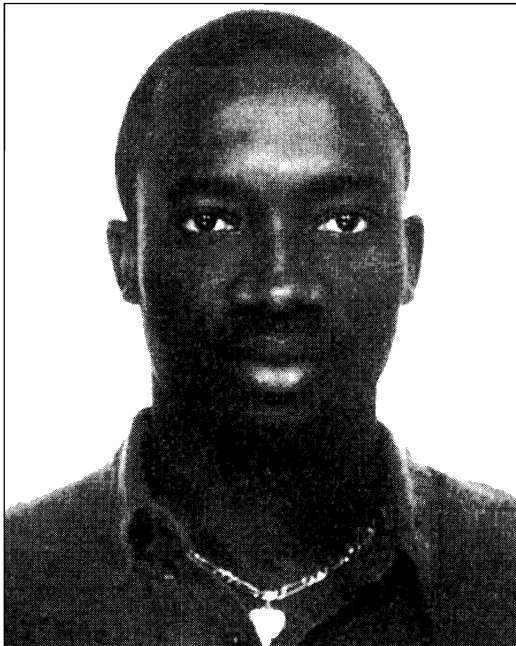
To complete the sextet of star performers, a winner will come from a highly charged qualifying event. The invitations will include Gareth Herbert, currently considered one of the best servers in the world, and England's new National Champion Andrew Baggaley. Those who saw this 19 year old smash through the cream of England's best players at Sheffield will know that we could have a player to challenge Europe's best. Can he keep going and win at Wembley? We will know the answer in May.

The stage is set for a quite brilliant evening. This will be the first time that there has been exposure on this scale to new table tennis and the

whole package could provide a springboard to attract more seniors and juniors to our game.

All we need is massive support to ensure we can present this event to TV viewers in a dynamic way. All involved in playing and administering know that our sport is special. This is a major opportunity of demonstrating to the public how committed and enthusiastic we all are. This will be an evening to remember with guest celebrities in the audience and special events connected with the game. Everyone is invited, and tickets are available from the Conference Centre at Wembley.

**Nigeria's
No. 1
SEGAN
TORIOLA**
who was a
member
of the
Nigerian
Gold Medal
winning
team, that
won in
the last
Commonwealth
Games held in
New Delhi



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WEBSITE: www.wembleyticket.com

ANDREW STEALS THE SHEFFIELD SHOW



NICOLA WINS HER 5th TITLE

Now that the the young players are beating Kubrat Owolabi, the likely outcome at Sheffield was that the winner of the womens singles would be either Nicola Deaton for the fifth time, the returning Andrea Holt, or the Wolverhampton battler Helen Lower.

The semi-final line-up was promising - Deaton v Holt, Katy Parker v Lower. The No.5 seed Kate Steward suffered a surprise upset when she lost to Joanna Roberts.

In the first semi-final Deaton surged ahead of Holt 7,9,9, conjuring up stunning drives until the Manchester player managed to hit back -9, -6, but Deaton once again changed into top gear to win the sixth game 11-5, resulting in a 4-2 victory.

ANDREW BAGGALEY, from the fifth seeded position stormed past Cris Sladden, Carl Prean, Matthew Syed and in the final Alex Perry to lift the English mens singles crown at the Ponds Forge International Sports Centre on March 3 - it was a dream come true for the 19-years-old Milton Keynes professional, writes John Woodford.

ANDREW BAGGALEY with (l.to.r) Gill MacKay of Sport England, Cllr. Mrs. M.Baker the Deputy Lord Mayor of Sheffield and Tony Chatwin the ETTA Deputy Chairman

quarters. But the Isle of Wight pro, looking as professional as ever could not combat the storming series of counter-hits as he was beaten 8, 10, 9, 7.

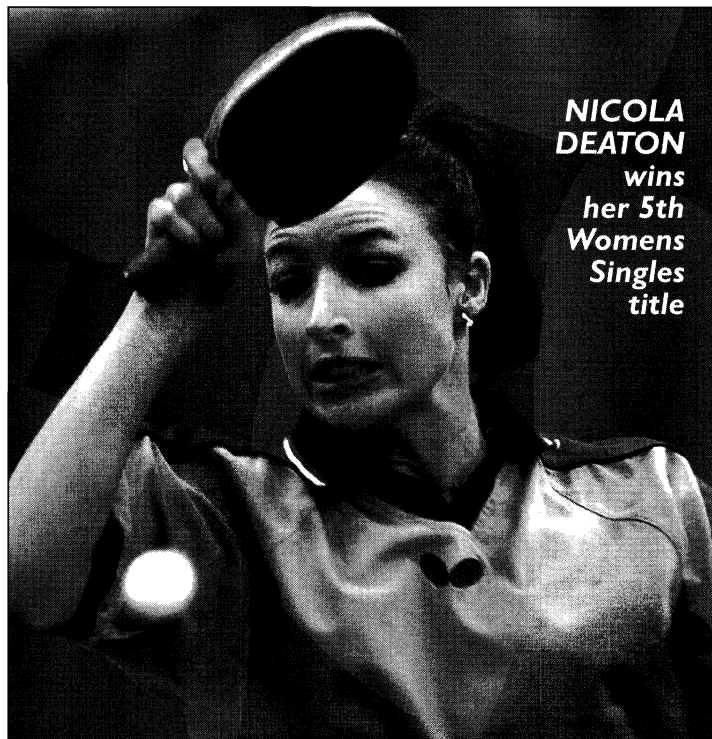
When Baggaley faced the mighty champion Matthew Syed, I guarantee that from the 500 fans present few, except the Baggaley family, would have expected Andrew to win.

BIG SHOCK

It was the biggest shock I can recall for several years at the nationals when the legendary Syed defences were pierced 9, 7, 9, 9 by the ferocious and continuous barrage of top-spin drives.

After that match Syed said generously "It could be the start of a new era for English table tennis". He could be right.

Alex Perry's path to the final saw him defeat Matthew Kenny, then Dale Barham 4-1 and finally upending Gareth Herbert in seven thrilling games at 9 in the seventh when it looked as though Perry's ferocious backhand attack could beat not only Herbert but also Baggaley.



NICOLA DEATON wins her 5th Womens Singles title

The mens singles final scores are worth re-scanning - Baggaley grabbed the first 5 and then lost the key second game 17, before taking control to win the last three 9, 5, 9 - scores that emphasised Baggaley's determination to throw caution aside.

The other womens semi-final saw Helen Lower move straight into her top gear to defeat Katy Parker 5, 5, 0,12.

This left Deaton to finish the job winning 8,5, 9,9 against Lower who stamped her authority as the England No.2.

Words by JOHN WOODFORD and Ken MUHR Pictures by U AT THE GAME

A young man of few words he told me that after stopping Carl Prean, he thought he had a good chance of winning the title.

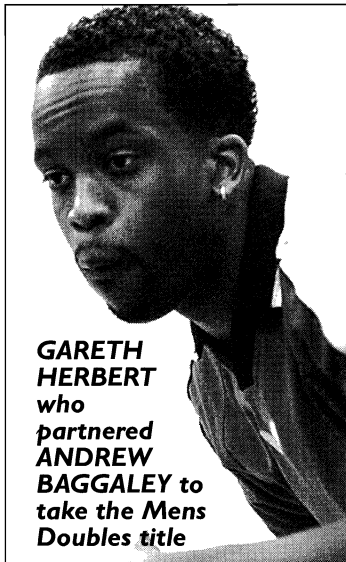
Some ten days before Sheffield, Andrew played in the Egyptian Open Grand Prix where he snatched two games from the world No.48 Alexei Smirnov who is No.1 in Russia.

How strange that it was another Alex (Perry) that the Stantonbury ace defeated 5, -17, 9, 5, 9 in the final at Sheffield, a performance chock full of steel in the City of Steel.

It was the returning Carl Prean who came nearest to flooring Baggaley by taking the first two games 9, 7 in the

BAGGALEY & HERBERT WIN MENS DOUBLES

England's coaches Alan Cooke and Brad Billington did not have the usual success's that they have



GARETH HERBERT
who
partnered
ANDREW BAGGALEY to
take the Mens
Doubles title

enjoyed on the British GP circuit - Cooke did not enter the singles whilst Billington was a Syed victim 9, 8, 5, 7 in the quarters.

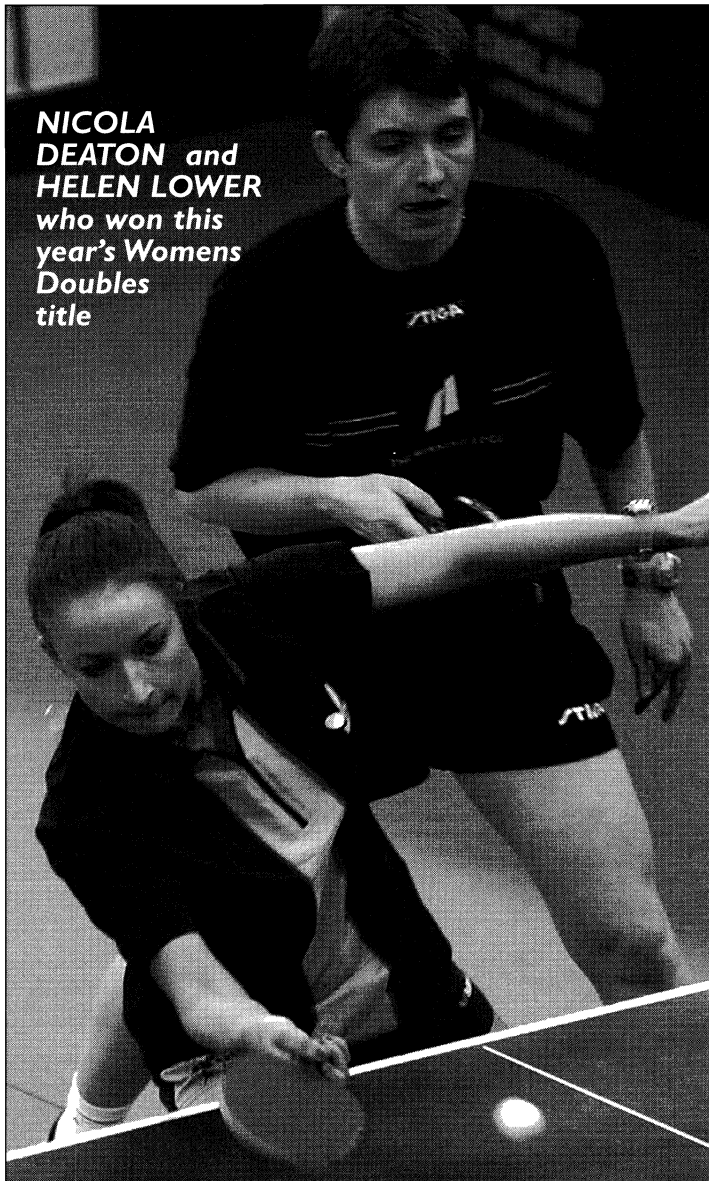
Cooke and Billington reached the mens doubles final 3-1 against Perry and Young but in the final the coaches went under 6 in the fifth to Herbert and Baggaley.

DEATON & LOWER TAKE WOMENS DOUBLES

The womens doubles final brought no major shocks apart from Georgina Walker and Kate Steward reaching the final where they went down 6 in the fourth to Deaton and Lower.

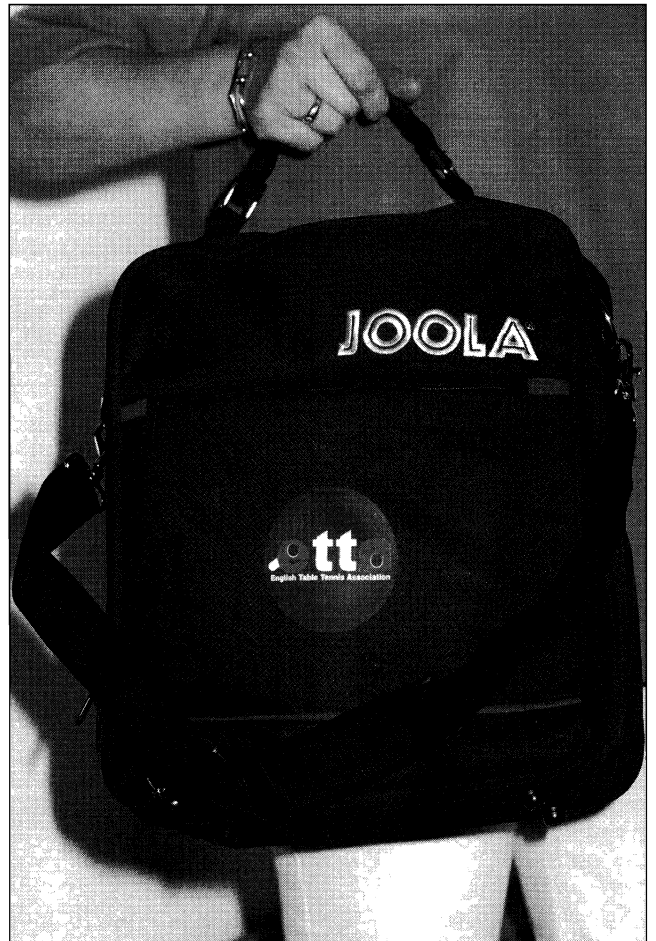
Footnote: Re-scheduling to finish around 6.30 pm as opposed to 9 pm last year proved a very popular move, both with the 500 fans and the media. Running the mens singles final after 9 pm is just not on after six people watched one GP mens singles final after 9 pm whilst Bournemouth had 200 watching the main event

continued on page 14



NICOLA DEATON and HELEN LOWER
who won this
year's Womens
Doubles
title

NEW ETTA LOGO BAGS



Those of you that were in Manchester for the World Veterans Championships will remember the shoulder bags that were given to all participants. They are in the style of a coaches bag, but they equally usable as a match bag.

After the event, the Championships logo was overprinted with the new ETTA Logo and there is still a stock for sale at a bargain price of £4.50 + p & p.

To take advantage of the bargain price, telephone Jackie Sands at the ETTA on 01424 722525. You can either have one posted to you, or to save the cost of p & p, Jackie can arrange for one to be taken to any ETTA Grand Prix or National Event where you can collect it.

ENGLISH SENIOR NATIONALS

final at 4pm.

Ponds Forge is an excellent centre for this event. It will be there again next year and possibly after that. It seems that with the new National Centre under way, Sheffield is set to become the table tennis centre of England.

FURTHER THOUGHTS ON ENGLISH NATIONALS

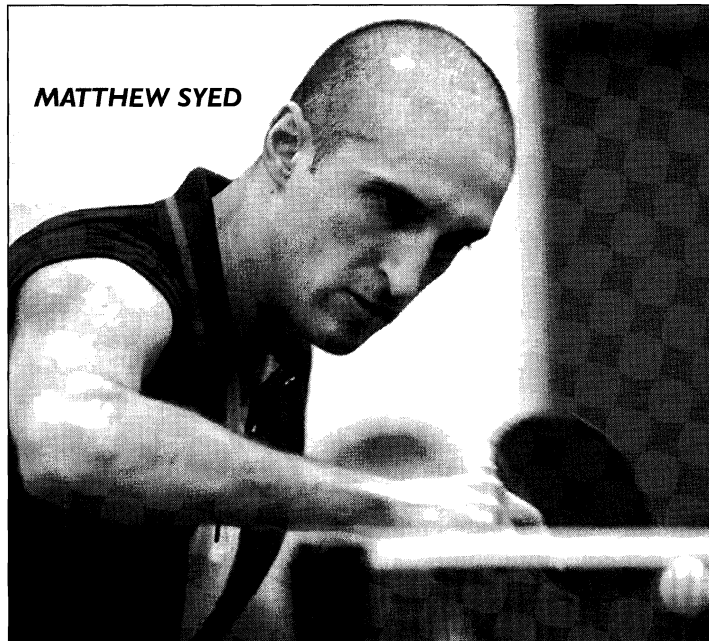
by Ken Muhr

THREE OUT OF FOUR is not too bad I had (none too confidently) predicted Alex Perry and Helen Lower as losing singles finalists and Nicola Deaton as the womens singles winner but my bet for the Mens Singles crown was former champion Carl Prean, who I thought would overcome tough challenges from Andrew Baggaley in the quarters, holder Matthew Syed in the semis and Alex Perry in the final.

And although I reckoned that Andrew Baggaley, who celebrated his 19th birthday a few days earlier, had a good chance against Prean, I had thought that if he did win he would then fall to Syed, who in a repeat of last years final would then defeat Perry to take his fifth singles title. So I, like most others, underestimated Baggaley.

Not that I have ever underestimated his outstanding talent: his temperament, ball control and reading of the game have always been excellent. Even when he was at middle school, I thought he showed the potential to be a European top 20 senior. However, my concern was whether he had the commitment to put in the necessary sustained hours hard practice and physical training to fulfil that potential. Maybe my more recent judgement was coloured by the Nationals 2 years ago when I had expected Andrew to give Matthew Syed a harder time, but the Milton Keynes youth looked jaded and out of condition then as he simply burnt himself out trying to hit through Syed's chop. He of course went on to gain a European Youth singles bronze medal but he should have won!

What a contrast this time! After using strong two wing topspins to successfully combat the combination bat style of a gentlemanly Prean (generous in defeat) 9-11, 7-11, 11-8,



MATTHEW SYED

12-10, 11-9, 11-7 from 2 games down, a fit and athletic Baggaley never gave Syed a chance in the semis, hitting the champ all over the court with powerful and varied forehand loops for the 11-9, 11-7, 11-9, 11-9 verdict. His short loop to Syed's forehand, and use of drop shots, were particularly effective. Matthew as usual returned some ridiculous stuff, but he totally failed to break his young adversary down, and only really risked attack when it was too late. Perhaps Syed was slightly complacent from an easier than expected victory over 8th seed Brad Billington and relief at not having to face Prean (who he has never beaten), but he made no excuses (not even that he was breaking in a new bat).

Avenging last years quarter-final defeat, Baggaley always looked in charge in the final (11-5, 17-19, 11-9, 11-5, 11-9) although Alex Perry, the 1999 champion, hung in doggedly to take the long second game and to save 2 match points in the last with brave attack. I really hope the championships win for the modest Baggaley portends even greater things for him. His Swedish national league experience certainly seems to be doing him a lot of good. Finally, I must mention this: when I asked one anonymous person the previous evening who was going to win the mens singles, he said, Andrew Baggaley is currently Englands best player!

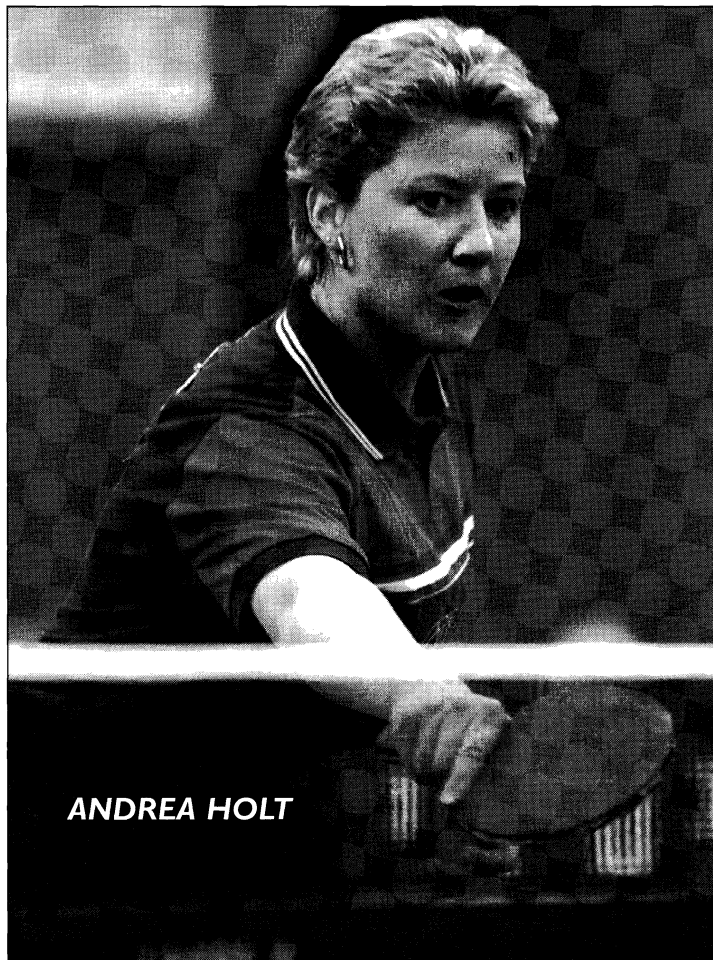
Although the mens clash everyone was eagerly anticipating, Prean v Syed, never happened, the counterpart match in the womens singles, Nicola Deaton v Andrea Holt, in the semi-finals did and it lived up to expectations. Nicola, who as a

and Deaton looked in real trouble. However, at 3-2 in games, Deaton started the 6th game with a killed winner and then more varied attack to comfortably claim victory, 11-7, 11-9, 11-9, 9-11, 6-11, 11-5. Andrea actually played very well but I thought Nicola was in the best form I have seen her, taking control of her final with Helen Lower to lift her 5th singles title.

What of other performances in the singles? Lacking in confidence since his wrist injury, Gareth Herbert did not appear to me in serious mens singles title contention, despite his second seeding. He was vulnerable in his 7 games, last 16 win over Andrew Eden, and failed to capitalise on five 5th game match points over Terry Young, finally winning 13-11, 11-8, 11-3, 8-11, 13-15, 7-11, 11-9 on his 7th match point in the 7th game. Then in the semis he was knocked out by Alex Perry, but although Gareth had led by 3 games to 1 and went down only 9-11 in the 7th game (11-7, 9-11, 10-12, 7-11, 11-9, 11-2, 11-9) one somehow sensed that he would blow it, flashes of brilliance but nothing safe or secure about his play. Perry's constant pressure looked sounder.

Returning to Terry Young, he was on impressive form against Michael Isherwood in the last 16, and still got

Nottingham University student had recently added the British Universities (BUSA) to her national titles, was fired up, looking invincible as she went to a 3 games lead with relentless attack. But then it was Holt, the 3 times former champion returning to the Nationals after 3 years, who steadied with immaculate chop defence, forehand drives back from the table and well chosen kills,



ANDREA HOLT

very close to Herbert in the quarters despite patchy form. One day he will play strongly throughout the championships, and then the opposition will be in big trouble! Left-handed junior Dale Barham, who had trounced Michael Chan to lift the mens under 21 singles, demonstrated his improvement with a 7 games last 16 victory over 7th seed Andrew Rushton, and gave a good account of himself against Perry in the quarters. An earlier shock in the under 21 singles was the tight quarter-final 4-11, 11-5, 11-6, 3-11, 17-15 loss of local boy second seed, Matt Kenny, to Rob Pountney, who then lost by a similarly close margin to his Surrey colleague Michael Chan.

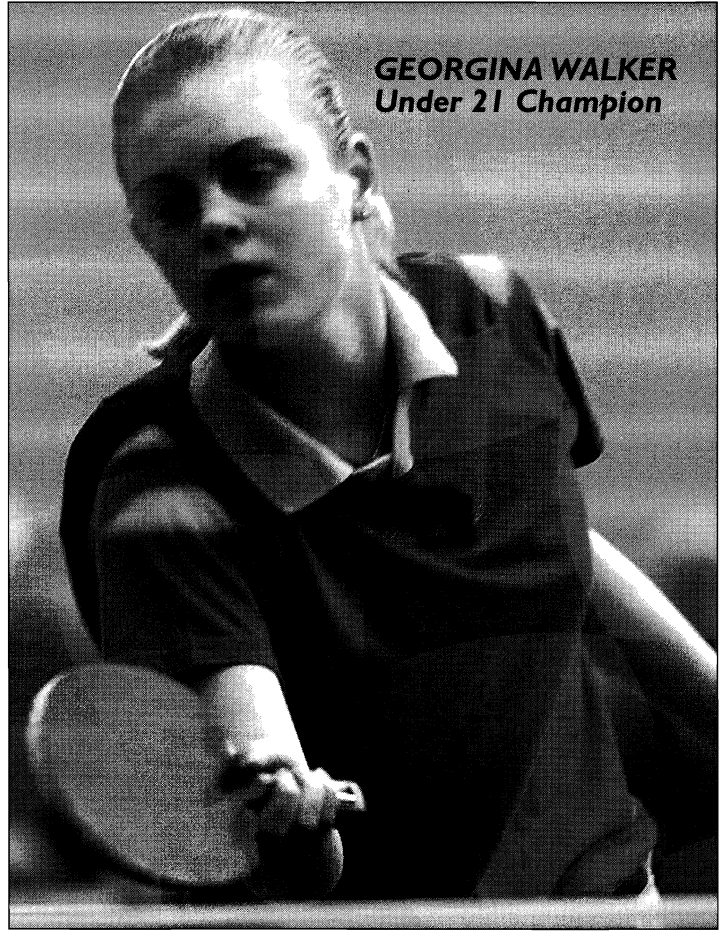
In the womens singles left-handed attacking Lancashire lass Lindsey Thornton had put out 5th seed Kubrat Owolabi, the former all African champion and last years finalist, but not before her opponent, recovering from chickenpox, had put up a fierce quarter-final fight, the score being 11-6, 5-11, 10-12, 11-9, 11-13, 11-9, 13-11. Lindsey also did credibly well in the quarter-finals in taking two games from the forehand-looping second seed Helen Lower. Local Yorkshire player Joanna Roberts squeezed through the combination bat pimples of England junior champion and womens 6th seed Kate Steward, 10-12, 6-11, 13-15, 12-10, 11-8, 11-9, 13-11, but found Andrea Holt in the quarter-finals in a different league. Steward had had a hard time, losing in the semi-finals of the under-21 singles from the top

seeded position to former champion Georgina Walker, but under the tuition of former Swedish international Tommy Danielsson she is currently working on improving her backhand attack in order to achieve longer term success. In the womens singles quarter-finals Louise Durrant, the defending under 21 champion, reversed her womens under 21 singles finals loss to Nottinghamshire colleague, Georgina Walker, who was previously the 2000 under 21 champion, in a challenge of slick topspin attack, but was no match for Nicola Deaton. The current England junior No.1 Katy Parker, who did not enter the under 21 singles, was disappointing in her semi-finals whitewash to Helen Lower.

There were some entertaining doubles matches. Andrew Baggaley, with Gareth Herbert, gained a second title, when they defeated last years mens doubles champions Alan Cooke and Bradley Billington from nearby Chesterfield, 12-10, 6-11, 8-9-11, 12-10, 11-6 in a dynamic hitting encounter. In the semi-finals Cooke and Billington had put out the Commonwealth gold medallists Alex Perry and Terry Young. Nicola Deaton and Helen Lower retained their womens doubles title through defeating juniors Kate Steward and Georgina Walker 11-7, 9-11, 13-11, 11-6 in a tougher than expected final. However, Deaton, partnered by Alan Cooke, was thwarted from successfully defending her third title, when Alex Perry and Helen Lower gained some singles finals loss compensation in beating them 11-5, 17-15, 11-4 in the mixed doubles final.

The veteran mens singles was won by Joe Kennedy of Kent who through hard attacking graft away from the table put out the sharp-hitting holder Clive Carthy 11-5, 5-11, 11-3, 12-14, 11-6 in the semi-finals, and a former 5 times title winner and former European mens champion John Hilton 11-8, 9-11, 11-5, 11-8 in the final. Jane Durham, repeating successes on the Butterfly Grand Prix circuit, beat Brenda Buoey 8-11, 11-5, 11-7, 11-4 to lift the veteran womens singles.

Ponds Forge International Sports Centre is a good venue and the earlier Sunday finals (watched by an enthusiastic audience of over 500) finish ensured good national press coverage. The 11-up scoring used for the first time in the Nationals did lead to greater excitement and closer matches. The Championships were supported by Sheffield City Council Major Events Unit.



GEORGINA WALKER
Under 21 Champion



DALE BARHAM
Under 21
Champion

Finals Results

Men's singles: Andrew Baggaley (Bucks) bt Alex Perry (Devon) 11-5, 17-19, 11-9, 11-5, 11-9.

Women's singles: Nicola Deaton (Derbys) bt Helen Lower (Staffs) 11-8, 11-5, 11-9, 11-9

Men's doubles: Gareth Herbert (Berks)/Andrew Baggaley (Bucks) bt Alan Cooke/Bradley Billington (Derbys) 12-10, 6-11, 9-11, 12-10, 11-6.

Women's doubles: Nicola Deaton (Derbys)/Helen Lower (Staffs) bt Kate Steward (Somerset)/Georgina Walker (Staffs) 11-7, 9-11, 13-11, 11-6.

Mixed doubles: Alex Perry (Devon)/Helen Lower (Staffs) bt Alan Cooke/Nicola Deaton (Derbys) 11-5, 17-15, 11-4.

Under 21 men's singles: Dale Barham (Cambs) bt Michael Chan (Surrey) 11-5, 11-5, 11-4

Under 21 women's singles: Georgina Walker (Notts) bt Louise Durrant (Notts) 11-9, 11-7, 15-13.

Veteran men's singles: Joe Kennedy (Kent) bt John Hilton (Lancs) 11-8, 9-11, 11-5, 11-8

Veteran women's singles: Jane Durham (Cleveland) bt Branda Buoey (Lancs) 8-11, 11-5, 11-7, 11-4

Veteran men's doubles: Joe Kennedy (Kent)/John Hilton (Lancs) bt Clive Carthy (Essex)/Dave Harding (Surrey) 11-9, 11-7, 11-5

JUGGLING ACT

IN September of the year 2000, I embarked on a challenge far different from striking a small white ball over a six-inch net. After playing professionally in the Swedish league and representing England for six years, I decided to study for a degree in management studies at the university of Nottingham. My aim was to continue playing international and club table tennis at the same time, although I was unsure if it was possible to juggle the two successfully. With the national training centre only a few miles away from the university, I still had the opportunity to train with the rest of the team and hoped that it would not inhibit my playing level. Now, a year and a half later, I can sit down and assess what it is like to play in the national team and study for a degree.

My experience of the last 18 months tells me that studying for a degree need not hinder a table tennis career, as long as it is done at the right time. The first point to make is with regard to training. Since starting my degree, I can normally only practice four or five times a week instead of the eight or nine sessions I attended as a full time player. Although I was initially concerned about this drop, the affect on my standard has been minimal. I believe that this is due to the stage in my career that I have reached. At 26, I have eight years of full time training as a foundation to work from. Although regular practice is still important for me, motivation and freshness become more crucial factors in determining performance than quantity of training. Consequently, as long as I keep the quality high in every session and manage to do regular physical training, playing four or five times a week does not seem to affect my game.

Between the ages of 18 and 23 however, this drop would have been disastrous to my playing career. There are very few players in the top 20 in the world who haven't been 100 percent committed to Table Tennis throughout this stage of their development. This is why, for those who have realistic aspirations to be the world's best, I would advise against going to university until after



Alex Perry describes what it is like to study for a degree whilst still competing on the international circuit.

the age of 23.

After leaving the junior ranks, the early senior years tend to produce the greatest improvement in a player and as a result it is crucial to make table tennis the top priority if being a world-beater is the aim. This means having the flexibility of lifestyle to be able to not only go wherever top quality training is located, but also to practice eight or nine times a week consistently. Studying for a degree unfortunately doesn't fit in with these requirements and hence should be postponed. If after these years the player doesn't make it to the very top, then it is not too late to study. The experience of travelling the world and competing at the highest level in any sport is well worth deferring studies for a few years. I feel that I have learnt something that going to University would never have taught me. As a result I certainly don't regret attending university later than most as a result of trying my hardest to improve.

The other important aspect that I have noticed is the effect on the psychological side of the game. I have found that going to university has given more balance to my life, something completely different to focus my energies on. As well as the obvious benefit of having a useful qualification when my playing career ends, it seems to be positive for my game.

As a full time player, it can be hard to switch off from table tennis. When everything is going well it is fine, but if things start to go wrong then two problems can occur: Firstly the motivation and enjoyment can disappear, resulting in purely going through the motions during practice to notch up another session on the list. Alternatively, having trained so hard, it is possible to start putting too much pressure on yourself to perform, which only makes it harder to succeed. Having an outlet in the form of studying for a degree enables me to step back from table tennis when necessary and stop things from

getting too intense. For without a shadow of a doubt, top level Table Tennis is extremely intense.

This is not to say that going to university is the right thing for all players, it depends on the individual character. Some players do not want or need other demands on their time, viewing them as distractions from trying to improve. Nevertheless, for many others like myself it can be beneficial for their game to have some variety mixed in with table tennis.

Of course, it is not all plain sailing. My time management has had to improve dramatically in order to fit everything in. Although I feel very motivated towards my studies, that motivation is constantly tested. One example is arriving home shattered after a hard days training and having to begin studying at 9 o'clock at night. To be mentally switched on enough to study in this situation can be tough.

On speaking with Nicola Deaton and Darren Blake (two other players in the same situation as myself) we agree that switching priorities between table tennis and university becomes a fine art. January and June (university exam periods) are especially hectic. It is difficult to turn down opportunities to represent my country because of university commitments, but sometimes that decision has to be made. I also constantly have to take books abroad to international tournaments. In fact, I write this article on a night-flight, returning from Cairo and the Egyptian Open pro-tour competition. On the university side, I have to accept that my university experience will not be the same as the other students. It's not easy to be disciplined enough to decline an invitation to most of the many parties that are continually coming up. It's always someone's birthday on your course at Uni!

Despite these difficulties, juggling Table Tennis and university over the last 18 months has brought me a combination of mental and physical challenges that, overall, I am revelling in. After looking back on the last 18 months, I can definitely say that I am looking forward to two more years of successful juggling.

TABLE TENNIS NEWS EXTRA

Issue no. 285 April 2002

Editorial

One of the questions I am constantly being asked is, 'When is table tennis going to get back on national terrestrial television?' And now I am delighted to be able to say that at least **an hour of the Commonwealth Masters Invitation Event taking place at the Grand Hall, Wembley Conference Centre, on Friday evening May 17th, will be broadcast on BBC1's Grandstand programme on Saturday May 18th.** If this 6 player event featuring the performers of that fantastic 2001 Commonwealth Championships final, our own **Matthew Syed (gold medallist) and India's Chetan Baboor (silver medallist)**, is a success in terms of a good audience on the night and great spectator appeal for a wider TV viewing public – and we must make sure that it is – then it could lead to greater future BBC coverage for table tennis. In other words, it could be the answer to our prayers.

With Singapore's dynamic looper Duan Yong Jun, the rising talent of Welshman Adam Robertson, hopefully Toriala Segun (Nigeria) and another British player also to take part alongside the classic defence of Matthew Syed and the wily attack of Chetan Baboor in this prestigious venue, the table tennis will be very entertaining and fiercely competitive. **Come along to support the event yourself and have a good time, but please also invite your colleagues, friends, relations.** The event features the best players in the Commonwealth who will (25th July – 4th August) be competing for Commonwealth Games medals at Manchester, and **your friends will be amazed at the table tennis, and particularly Matthew's amazing ability to return 'impossible' balls!**

Tickets (£15 and £10, and £5 for children and OAPs) can be bought direct from **Wembley box office on 0870 7331015 or online at www.wembleyticket.com**

Comments I have received on recent changes to the glossy part of **Table Tennis News** to make it more attractive have been **overwhelmingly positive.** Although some items were not to my taste, I overall agree, and I particularly liked Alex Perry's 'Eye of the Tiger'

feature in the Jan./Feb. issue, and Brian Halliday on Jan Ove Waldner in March.

I get very little feedback on TTN Extra, but I suppose I should be grateful that Peter Henderson's 'Appalled' letter (March), indicates that at least someone reads it! I just wish that more people would buy TTN – they might actually find they get something worthwhile from it, rather than complaining that they already spend out too much on table tennis as it is! Despite well aired and justified criticisms, TTN is now (I think!) quite a good product (it is not a commercial operation), but unless people support it there is always the risk that it will be cut on the grounds of saving cost and time. That would be a great shame.

By the time this goes to press, the **ITTF AGM in Zagreb, Croatia, on 5th April, will have decided on rules changes. Shielded serves**, whereby sight of the ball when struck is obscured by the server's non-playing arm, body or clothing, look finally **certain of being outlawed**, the only issue being which proposal/form of wording is agreed – probably **'That from the time the ball leaves the server's hand until it is struck it must be behind the server's end line and above the level of the playing surface, and it must not be hidden from the receiver by any part of the body or clothing of the server or his doubles partner'.** **STOP PRESS: THIS PROPOSAL WAS PASSED**

More contentious is the proposal that during service the ball is thrown up higher – at least 12 inches (30cm), as compared with the current 6 inches: **'That the ball must rise at least 30cm after leaving the palm of the server's hand'** to help the umpire see that the ball is projected near vertically and that it is falling before it is struck. As well as reinforcing the principle that the receiver must be able to see the service at point of contact between the bat and the ball, it would, if passed, help prevent players trying to obtain extra spin and deception by throwing the ball back on to the bat during service, or giving the illusion that they have thrown the ball up when in fact they have dropped the hand from the ball. However, with so many other recent

changes, grass roots players may think this a change to far or too soon.

STOP PRESS: THIS WAS EASILY DEFEATED

The ITTF Executive Committee also proposed that the **junior age limit is changed for next season from under 17 on 1st July 2002 to under 18 on 1st January 2003.** If as anticipated this is passed, the **ETTA is likely to change its eligibility criteria from under 17 on 1st July preceding the season to under 17 on 1st January preceding the season, giving youngsters born in the months from January to June an extra year as juniors!** **STOP PRESS: THIS (ITTF) PROPOSAL WAS PASSED**

On the topic of the ITTF, they have sent me a few copies of their publication **Review 2001, Preview 2002** which has, among other contents, a detailed round up of major events (particularly but not only Pro Tour events) in 2001, and a calendar, plans and changes (e.g. prize money going up) and contacts for 2002. If you could make good use of a copy, please let me know.

I noticed a few table tennis clubs amongst a list of 124 voluntary clubs that have folded since 1997, which the **Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR)** have identified from questionnaire returns from 308 sports clubs. **Pleading for tax exemptions for sports clubs to prevent them from going bankrupt, the CCPR claimed ('Boom or Bust?' 2002) that as many as 40,000 of the country's 110,000 voluntary sports clubs could go out of business in the next few years.** One in 3 clubs described their financial position as precarious and only 1 in 5 were currently operating at a surplus. Most felt increasingly burdened with red tape (e.g. to do with business rates, health and safety requirements, increased insurance, risk assessments, child protection policies, etc.).

Ken Muhr

CHESHIRE by Alan Blears

Wirral News

Firstly some news from the Wirral, which arrived too late for the last edition. The Gautby Ladies team of Karen Lockwood, Terri-Ann Nolan and Clare Langford, plus Liverpool's Cherith Graham, won Division 2 of the Women's British League. Tom Page, Hayley Parker and Elizabeth Dennett have qualified for the Junior Masters, and Danny Russell won the junior boys' plate in the North Wales Junior Open. Belated congratulations to all concerned.

Cheshire Schools Individuals

Apart from the U16 boys, entries were generally small, mainly because the Wirral and Stockport children attended schools in the Merseyside and Greater Manchester educational areas. The county will, however, be represented in all age categories at the National Finals. Results were:

Boys U11: Winner –Tom Clare, runner-up - Paul Kershaw
Girls U11: Fiona Dennett (unopposed)
Boys U13: Winner – Matthew Knott, runner-up – David Fisher
Girls U13: Winner – Lynsey Pich, runner-up – Amy Walker
Boys U16 – Winner – George Yardley, runner-up - James Hatton
Girls U16: Winner - Elizabeth Dennett, runner-up – Jaynie Turner
Boys U19: Winner – Neil Powell, runner-up – Nathan Steele
Girls U19: Katie Ingham (unopposed)

Greater Manchester Schools Individuals

Stockport youngsters dominated the younger events here. Stevie Barrett won the girls' U13 and Caroline Hallows beat her N.J.L. team-mate Emma Kelly in an excellent four-game U11 final. Ben Spencer and Jake Barratt from Nevill Road Junior School were winner and runner-up in the boys U11.

COUNTY NOTES

Issue no. 285

April 2002

- A Look Around the Country

Stiga Hyndburn Junior Grand Prix (February)

There were good performances from all the Cheshire entrants in this event. Jordyn Layfield and Caroline Hallows qualified via the groups for the girls' category one knockout while Ashley Layfield won the girls category two with Sophie Byron runner-up.

For the boys Danny Russell and Adam Slater qualified for the category one knockout in convincing style before falling to higher-ranked opponents. 13-year-old Adam's win in the groups to a boy 176 places above him in the junior list shows the Stockport based player's potential, especially as he did not start playing until he was 12.

VETTS Northern Masters

Though suffering the disappointment of a semi-final defeat in the O-60 section, Stockport veteran Doreen Schofield took two titles in the O50s! After overcoming the formidable obstacle of Linda Simpson, she defeated Margaret Maltby in the singles final, and resumed her successful partnership with Di Pearce to take the doubles.

DEVONSHIRE by John Vincent

Congratulations to Darren Reed on his selection for England Schools to play in the Home Internationals in Ireland on 6th/7th April 2002.

Well done Alex (Perry) on reaching the final of this year's

National Closed Championships. The county wishes you well and much success in the future. I was particularly impressed with your article in the Table Tennis News "Eye of the Tiger" which I am using at the Plymouth Centre of Excellence to spur on our most talented young players.

Devon Schools Individual Champions

Boys

Under 19 – Shaun Gibbs (Knowles Hill, Newton Abbott)

Under 16 – Chris Brown (Bideford College)

Under 13 – Simon Poyner (St. Michael's, North Devon)

Under 11 – Chris Smith (St. Peter's, Plymouth)

Girls

Under 19 – Michelle Barrett (Stoke Damerel, Plymouth)

Under 16 – Lisa Radford (Plymouth High)

Under 13 – Sally Smith (Devonport High)

Under 11 – Hannah Bradford (Exeter Road, Exmouth)

Plymouth Primary Schools Individual Championships

Boys' Champion: Chris Smith (St. Peters), runner-up – Richard Marshall (Bickleigh Down)

Girls' Champion: Vicky Smith (St. Peters), runner-up – Stacey Lawrence (Yealmpstone Farm)

Plate Event: Winner – Thomas Willis (Yealmpstone Farm), runner-up – Brantley Rogers (Yealmpstone Farm)

Consolation Event: Boys' winner – William Powell (St. Peter's), Girls winner – Erin Tregunna (St. Peter's)

Carter Cup

The Plymouth team of Jacob Kodicek, Sam Bruty and Darren Reed competed well at High Wycombe. They defeated Crawley/Horsham 5-0 and lost an exciting match with High Wycombe 4-5. Jacob Kodicek did best for Plymouth, winning all his five games on the day.

Devon Senior Seconds Div 2B (County Championships)

Devon drew 5-5 with Somerset in Plymouth. Gregory Bridgett 2, Helen Lambert 2 and Michael Hugh 1. The team was weakened by the late withdrawal of Richard Pillar due to illness.

They beat Cornwall II 8-2 in St. Austell, Gregory Bridgett 2, Helen Lambert 2, Jane Swabey 2, Richard Pillar 1 and Rory Harries 1.

Exeter Junior 1 Star

There was a very good entry for this popular tournament.

Results	Winner	Runner-up
Boys U17	Craig Bryant	Stephen Head
U14	Tom Andrews	Darren Reed
U11	Darren Reed	R Ware
Girls U17	Helen Parton	Sally Smith
U14	Claire Howe	Carlie Roper
U11	A Johnson	C Maltby

Devon Junior Closed at Okehampton

Boys	Champion	R/U
U17	Craig Bryant	Daniel Mayhew
U15	Jacob Kodicek	Paul Christie
U13	Darren Reed	Chris Smith
U11	Darren Reed	Chris Smith

Girls	Champion	R/U
U17	Lisa Radford	Michelle Barrett
U15	Lisa Radford	Lizzie Binks
U13	Sally Smith	Lizzie Binks
U11	Natalie Daly	Hannah Bradford

Boys' Doubles	Winners	R/U
	Craig Bryant/ Shaun Gibbs	Jacob Kodicek/ Darren Reed

Girls' Doubles	Winners	R/U
	Lisa Radford/ Michelle Barrett	Helen Parton/ Sally Smith

Mixed Doubles	Winners	R/U
	Craig Bryant/ Helen Parton	Jacob Kodicek/ Michelle Barrett

Level 2 Coaches Course

A Level 2 course is to be held at Tamarside Community College, Plymouth, tutor John Vincent. Dates: Sunday 26th May – 8 hours 9am – 5.30pm and Sunday 2nd

June – 4 hours 9am to 1pm. The course will also include Teachers and Sport Leaders.

DURHAM by Keith Wilson

Durham County Closed Championships

The Durham County Closed was once again held at Greencroft School Sports Hall in Annfield Plain. After a season whereby the county's juniors have improved yet again, the interest was centred on how they would fare against their senior colleagues.

Day one was again confined to Cadet, Under 12 and Under 10 events. David Meads repeated last year's title success by talking the Under 12 boys and added a first county Cadet Boys title, defeating Mark Simpson in both finals. The quality of play between the two youngsters was breathtaking and supports the theory that Durham as a county are taking great steps towards future strength. Rachel Greener also took both Under 12 and Cadet titles. The 11-year-old from Darlington clinching both only a year after starting playing through the club's successful Sportsmatch schools project. Clubmate Samantha McCormick was runner up in the Cadet final, and another new name from Darlington, 10-year-old Hannah Albarq clinching a first medal in the Under 12s.

It was the first time the county had held an Under 10 singles, and Sunderland's Graeme Barella came through to beat clubmate Daniel Heptinstall.

Day two saw senior and junior events. No-one could have forecast the major shock when county junior Andrew Leighton (14) amazingly ousted men's top seed Eddie Smith in three straight sets. Fellow junior Kevin Wilson followed that with a win over no. 3 seed Michael Marsden. Coming through unscathed, Andrew Wilkinson defeated Dave Robson to win the Men's title for the second year in a row. Hoping to follow the boys, juniors Joanna Meads, Claire Wilson and

Stephanie Donnelly found the experienced duo of Shirley Gelder and Lynne Herrington fully prepared for their challenge. Shirley nicked home 11-9 in the fifth to defeat Joanne, and Lynne kept Claire and Stephanie at bay and eventually saw off her Sunderland team-mate in a three straight final.

The emergence of Durham's juniors is proving to be a welcome boost for the regular senior players. However, Kevin Wilson and Andrew Leighton found themselves on the receiving end of shocks in the Junior Boys' Singles. Seeded 1 and 2, Kevin went down to Mark Simpson, and Andrew was completely taken apart by David Meads. With both boys having competed in the two finals on day one, David clinched a unique hat-trick of title wins with Mark again on the receiving end.

Final Results:

MS – Andrew Wilkinson bt Dave Robson 11-6, 11-7, 11-7

WS – Lynne Herrington bt Shirley Gelder 11-5, 11-6, 11-7

B1S – Neil Herrington bt Kevin Wilson 10-12, 11-6, 11-8, 11-4

OD – Robson/Eddie Smith bt Wilkinson/Tony Gelder 12-10, 11-3, 9-11, 10-12, 11-5

XD – Wilkinson/Claire Wilson bt Smith/Kate Vickers 11-9, 11-0, 6-11, 11-9

VS – Gelder bt John Williamson 11-5, 11-7, 11-3

VD – T Gelder/S Gelder bt Alan Thompson/Williamson 11-9, 11-6, 11-5

LD – Gelder/Harrison bt Wilson/Joanne Meads 11-9, 11-5, 11-4

JBS – David Meads bt Mark Simpson 11-3, 11-2, 11-7

JGS – Claire Wilson bt Joanne Meads 10-12, 11-7, 11-9, 7-11, 11-1

JD – Andrew Leighton/Simpson bt Philip Robinson/Jonathan de Wind 11-5, 8-11, 13-11, 14-12

CBS – Meads bt Simpson 11-3, 10-12, 12-10, 11-6

U12B – Meads bt Simpson 12-14, 11-4, 11-7, 11-9

CGS – Rachel Greener bt Samantha McCormick 11-6, 16-14, 11-5

U12G - Greener bt Hanna Albarq 11-8, 13-11, 11-6
 CD - Meads/Simpson bt Chris Close/Stuart Osbourne 11-9, 11-7, 11-8
 U10S - Graeme Barella bt Daniel Heptinstall 11-7, 11-4, 11-5

ESSEX by Steve Kerns

SOUTHEND CLOSED

The 75th Southend Closed Championships (dedicated to the memory of the late Mike Watts) were held at the Warehouse Centre in Rayleigh for the first time and included three new events - Under 21s, Over 60s and Over 70s. Cris Sladden predictably won the Men's Singles for a seventh time whilst juniors Keiran Lally and Tony Halling took most of the plaudits. Keiran reached the Men's Singles final with superb wins over Glenn Johnson, John Holland and Stuart Gibbs, whilst Tony took four titles - Premier Division Restricted Singles, Under 21 Singles, Junior Boys' Singles and the Team Handicap event. Selected results included:

Men's Singles - Cris Sladden beat Keiran Lally 17,-17, 13.
 Ladies' Singles - Cathy Eakin beat Linda Murray 22,10.
 Men's Doubles - Glenn Johnson/Hamish Innes beat George Reeves/Ray Murray 17,-17,21
 Ladies' Doubles - Linda Murray/Tina Penn-Gillam beat Cathy Eakin/Anne Lane -20,17,12.
 Mixed Doubles - George Reeves/Linda Murray beat Ray Sutton/Cathy Eakin 14,18.
 Under 21 Singles - Tony Halling beat Neil Disley 13,17.
 Junior Boys' Singles - Tony Halling beat David Gowers 16,14.
 Veteran Ladies' Singles - Cathy Eakin beat Linda Murray -24, 12,14.
 Veterans Doubles - Glenn Johnson/Hamish Innes beat Stuart Gibbs/Colin Marco -11,18,19.
 Premier Division Restricted Singles - Tony Halling beat Peter Ballard 16,-17,12.

Over 60s Singles - John Holland beat Peter Ballard 13,10.
 Over 70s singles - Dave Green beat Lou Hopkins 16,-9,18.

M&G CHELMSFORD CLOSED

The prospect of seeing three of the top players in the South of England battle it out for the Men's Singles title attracted a crowd in excess of 120 people to the staged Finals Night, the best for many years. Cris Sladden took his first Men's Singles title overcoming Neil Charles at the semi-final stage and three times Champion Lorestas Trumpauskas in a top-class final. "Old boy" George Reeves took the Veterans' title at his first attempt whilst Julie Vansertima took an incredible twelfth Ladies' Singles title. Former Essex first team star Martin Cole (he of the blistering forehand kill!) returned to competitive play and took the Men's Doubles title with brother David with an excellent final win over Trumpauskas and Reagan Nettleingham. Selected results included:



Martin and David Cole, with Mayor of Chelmsford, Councillor Rycroft



Cris Sladden, with Mayor of Chelmsford, Councillor Rycroft

Men's Singles - Cris Sladden beat Lorestas Trumpauskas 18,15.
 Ladies' Singles - Julie Vansertima beat Leanne Bentley 19,16.
 Veterans' Singles - George Reeves beat John Holland 14,18.
 Men's Doubles - David & Martin Cole beat Trumpauskas/Reagan Nettleingham 22,15.
 Ladies' Doubles - Julie Vansertima/Jean Chasmer beat Leanne Bentley/Becky Jackson 18,-16,13.
 Mixed Doubles - Paul Davison/Leanne Bentley beat Steve Kerns/Annette Mussett 18,-17,19.
 Under 21 Singles - Keiran Lally beat Matt Staines 14,14.
 Junior Boys Singles - Keiran Lally beat Matt Staines 17,-16,14,
 Junior Girls' Singles - (1) Leanne Bentley (2) Becky Jackson
 Under 15 Singles - Tony Halling beat Becky Jackson 9,9.
 Under 13 Singles - Tom Hill beat Lorna Staff 17,12.
 Over 50s Singles - John Holland beat Peter Ballard 13,18.
 2-Down Singles - Adrian Pitt beat Gary Ward 18,-15,16.
 4-Down Singles - Steve Mays beat Guy McKenzie 9,19.
 6-Down Singles - David Gatherall beat Hill Dowsett 11,17.

NORTHANTS BY Dennis Millman

A disappointing entry for the CT Autoparts sponsored Wellingborough Closed Tournament had two major compensations - an early finish and a class performance from the English no. 1 Cadet, Tim Yarnall.

The Rushden player, just three weeks short of his 14th birthday, was only once extended when in the semi-final of the premier event. He was hard pressed by Dave Murphy before easing through in a decider.

The second semi-final was even more entertaining with Greg Yarnall, Tim's elder brother, finally getting the better of an impressive Richard Elliott, when after dropping the penultimate end 12-10, he reversed that scoreline in the fifth and final end.

The family finale duly confirmed the national rankings with Tim triumphant, as he had been in the Under 17 Singles where Greg was again his opponent.

The brothers teamed up in the doubles and again ended on the winners' rostrum when they accounted for Murphy and Paul Gatiss, while the younger Yarnall was again in the ascendancy when in the Under 14 singles he made it four wins in a row with the anticipated win over Dominic Sponge.

Yet again Muriel Cox carried all before her in the ladies' event beating Mary Hearn in the singles final, before retaining the corresponding Over 40s event for a seventh successive time.

After a six-year gap Michael Edwards returned to winning ways in the male veteran singles, beating Steve Brown in the final, but then after taking the opening game was well beaten at over 50s level by Geoff Atkinson. Edwards and Atkinson then completed personal hat-tricks by combining together to take both veterans' doubles.

Ron Biggs retained his Over 60s title, while at the opposite end of the age range, Jack Chopping, who certainly doesn't live up to his name, took the Under 12 events after stern resistance from Nathan Love.

Geoff Atkinson also reached the final of the 'Hard Bat' competition, but though Richard Elliott is a modern style player, he has talent in abundance, and once again proved to be the best hard bat player in the county.

In four events based on the County Ranking List, the Class One competition went to Grant Timms, while Class Two, Three and Four were appropriated by Ron Biggs, Richard Adams and Martin Gordon respectively.

After an excellent series of opening matches in the County Championships, the Junior Firsts still needed to win all three of their remaining games if they were to take the Division 3B title.

Two matches presented no difficulty but Durham was made of sterner stuff. Greg and Tim Yarnall took all four rubbers available to

them, but further successes were not forthcoming and it was Durham who took the title. This was a major disappointment for the older Yarnall, who moves into the senior ranks after completing two full seasons of county matches without a single defeat.

NORTHUMBERLAND by Pauline Long

The veterans' county team of "Benny" Robertson, Malcolm Lusk, Geoff Salter, Rob Dodds and Pauline Long won the Division 1A title and promotion to the Premier Division for the first time in their history following their final series of matches at Halifax during the weekend of 2nd/3rd February.



Division 1A Champions (Veterans) Northumberland

Left-right: Geoff Salter, "Benny" Robertson, Pauline Long, Rob Dodds, Malcolm Lusk

The first match on the Saturday resulted in a fairly comfortable 7-2 win over Hertfordshire, with "Benny", Malcolm and Geoff remaining unbeaten in singles, and "Benny" and Malcolm combining to take the men's doubles.

On Sunday morning they faced Yorkshire II, who have proved difficult opponents in the past. Steve Kosmowsky was proving a real handful for Northumberland, defeating "Benny" in the very first game and later on also Geoff to make the score at that stage 4-3 to Yorkshire. A 5-4 win would give Northumberland the title, as

everyone else had lost at least two matches, "Benny" then beat Alan Dickinson in four games to square the match at 4-4 and finally Malcolm – who was unbeaten in the first two matches – demolished Keith Bell in three straight games to clinch a 5-4 victory and with it the championship.

The final match against Oxfordshire was then academic, and Rob replaced "Benny" to win the only singles against Eddie Herity in a most entertaining five-set attacker – defender exhibition. The final score in this match was 7-2 to Oxfordshire, with the other victory coming from the new combination of Malcolm and Geoff in the men's doubles – an event in which Northumberland were unbeaten over both weekends.

Although the veterans have won the Division 2A title twice before, this is by far their best performance in the higher division. For a team that relies almost exclusively on the performances of its male players, this is a truly fantastic achievement – well done to all!

The veterans have also reached the next stage of the Alec Brook Trophy team competition, which is due to take place in Norwich on 13th April. The last 16 of the Northumbria League Team Handicap Knockout Cup Competition has now been reached and matches were due to be played at the time of writing (mid-February) to decide the quarter-final teams.

With five weeks of the Northumbria League season left, North Shields YMCA 'A' look set to take the Premier Division title with last season's winners, Birtley 'A' as runners-up. Byker CC 'A' are already confirmed winners of Division 1, but the other three divisions are much closer-fought with two or three teams still in contention in each case.

SHROPSHIRE by Terry Ridgway

Telford League Division One

With only two weeks of the season remaining there are still three

serious contenders for the Division One title, currently Albrighton 'A' have the narrowest of leads over last season's champions Albrighton 'B'. The only unbeaten side in Telford are third-placed Industrial Bearing who are closing the gap with every match. Leading in the top division averages are County no. 1 Tony Ackroyd. Shropshire Vets no. 1 Malcolm Langford, with Nigel Langford with Nigel Holding, Dave Elkin, Mike Dudley and Terry Ridgway next in line.

Division 2

Leasers are Idsall's A side with the county coach Chris Tarr inspiring his junior squad of Joe Hurdley, Andrew Gradwell and Michelle Tarr for imminent promotion, Bridgnorth 'D' has matches in hand and needs big wins to catch the leaders with a late run. Lilleshall 'A' and Shifnal A are also in the hunt.

Division 3

Idsall's 'C' side lead Division 3 by 20 points and look unlikely to be caught. Abbey 'E' and Donnington are chasing the runner-up spot.

Handicap Cup

Down to the last eight with Lilleshall 'C' v Donnington, Bridgnorth 'D' v Albrighton 'C'.

Handicap Draw

Lilleshall 'A' v Mathesons 'B', Abbey 'C' v Mathesons 'D'.

Shrewsbury League

Premier

Cricket Club 'A' have finally pulled their outstanding matches and top the Premier Division by 13 points. Last season's champions aim to finish the season unbeaten, with a quality squad of Nigel Holding, Rod France and Matt Croft, no one would be surprised if they ended with a 100% record. Pontesbury 'A' has pushed the leaders all of the way but may have to settle for the runners-up trophy again.

Looking forward to April's County Closed Championships is former county no. 1 Darrel Corfield, who is

eager to reclaim the title but Rob Mansfield, John Lumley, Dean Pountney, Paul Corfield and Mike Dudley are all in with a chance as are Telford's top players, and the possible addition of the Shropshire junior squad.

Shropshire Vets

Malcolm Langford finally lost his unbeaten record in a super match with Gloucester 2nds John Fannin, with the county side 4-2 up and Malcolm leading 11-8, 11-6 the experienced home no. 1 pulled back to snatch the game 11-8, 11-7, 11-6. Wins for Dave Adamson and Rob Willsher took victory for Gloucester in their tightest match of the season.

In the previous match with Devon 4ths, Mike Dudley pulled off a dramatic win in the final match, with the score at 4-4 and 10-8 down, Dudley hit four points without reply to grab the game and two vital points for the county squad, who could finish a very creditable third place in Division 4C, having already won three matches and many more friends in their first season.

SUSSEX by John Woodford

I am sad to report this month that there is amongst Sussex table tennis folk not one single person who is prepared to step forward and save the 2002 Sussex Open Grand Prix.

That is all it needed – a small committee of three – two were in place – to act on the organising committee. Control, umpires and entries would all have been taken care of, but it needed just one person to join in to make the usual routine arrangements with the local leisure department at Hastings.

Happily, it will not die, just frozen for a year as enthusiasts at Crawley are prepared to take it on next year – Stan Wiley and Juliette Chase will be key helpers at the Crawley Leisure Centre on 16 tables.

For 20 years or so, the Hastings venue has been too small – 11 tables maximum, whereas most of

the Grand Prix tournaments are on 18 tables, some on more.

Sussex juniors have won promotion to the premier division after a stunning nail-biting 5-5 draw away to Kent, just beating Bucks by one game.

More good news – Sussex veterans' top team were expecting to go down from the premier in Cheshire, but they stayed up with some excellent performances from all the team and Lancashire being a man short and Essex without Clive Carthy who was on a British League fixture.

We have a new international player – Stacey Furnival (St. Leonards) has been chosen for the English Schools Championships in April in Dublin.

WARWICKSHIRE by Caroline Williams

England's gain is Spa's loss

The qualifying rounds of the **Leamington Closed Championships** were held in February and Kelly Sibley, 13 years old, who recently was awarded a full-time place at the ETTA Academy, returned home to compete in 9 events and made it to the finals of all 9. No-one had ever achieved as much and Kelly had actually beaten her 8 final record set last year. In 2000 Samantha Meredith (then 16) had equalled the existing record of 6 finals – a standard set by a certain Lynn Bolitho when she was 16. Lynn is, however, not upset to be overtaken so convincingly because Kelly just happens to be her daughter!

Last year Kelly became the youngest ever Ladies Singles champion and had hoped to retain the title when the finals are staged in March. But the schedule has had to be revised – and for the best of reasons. Kelly has been called up to represent England in an international tournament in Hungary that weekend and so will not be able to play.

Finalists for the Leamington Closed Championships:-

Men's Singles semi-finals:- Andy Cockerill v Martyn Todd; Jon Williams v Mark Woolerton;
Fragmere Properties Men's Doubles:- Andy Cockerill / Phil Paine v Mark Jackson / Mark Woolerton;
Ladies' Singles:- Kelly Sibley v Samantha Meredith;
Ladies' Doubles:- Julie Richardson / Kelly Sibley v Samantha Meredith / Liz Haynes;
Fragmere Properties Mixed Doubles:- Kelly Sibley / Mark Woolerton v Samantha Meredith / Mark Jackson;
Grade 1 Singles:- Kelly Sibley v Phil Paine;
Grade 2 Singles:- Kelly Sibley v Terry Smith;
Grade 3 Singles:- John Taylor v Barry Hobbins;
Grade 4 Singles:- Keith Knott v Chris Blowey;
Grade 5 Singles:- Ryan Fenwick v Sophie Cooper;
Youth Singles:- Kelly Sibley v Samantha Meredith;
Asda Stores Junior Boys' Singles:- Matthew Cooper v Barry Hobbins;
Junior Girls' Singles:- Stephanie Hawkins v Kelly Sibley;
Under 15 Boys' Singles:- Edward Freeman v Barry Hobbins;
Under 15 Girls' Singles:- Stephanie Hawkins v Kelly Sibley;
Under 13 Boys' Singles:- Edward Freeman v Luke Hobbins;
Under 13 Girls' Singles:- Charlotte Freeman v Sophie Cooper;
Under 11 Singles:- Charlotte Freeman v Philip Blowey;
Junior Doubles:- Kelly Sibley / Stephanie Hawkins v Matthew Cooper / Edward Freeman;
Handicap Singles:- Rob Warnes v Mark Woolerton;
Spirit Volkswagen Veteran Singles:- Phil Paine v Earl Sweeney;
Lime Garages' Over 50 Singles:- Graham Hoskin v Brian Aston.

YORKSHIRE by Rea Balmford and Barry Snowden

Yorkshire County Championship Secretary Barry Snowden attended the Yorkshire Sporting Achievements Awards for 2001

Dinner. The event was recently held at the Cutlers Hall in Sheffield with guest of honour being the Sports Minister Richard Cabome.

Yorkshire senior first team were nominated as the Yorkshire team of the year for winning last season's County Championships.

Although the top award went to Yorkshire County Cricket team for winning the County Championships in cricket for the first time since 1968, Snowden collected the runners up award on behalf of the county first team from Premiership football referee Uriah Rennie.

Yorkshire beat off a strong challenge from many other Yorkshire county teams including tennis, badminton, athletics and golf teams, all of whom had won their sport's county championships.

City of Derby Junior 4* Select Moorways Sports Centre, Derby 2nd/3rd March by Mike Payne

There was an increase in the entry up to 243 players. After considering the idea last year the Derby organisers decided to drop the doubles and introduce 4 plate events and an Under 10 event. A straw poll of players, coaches and parents showed that these changes were well received. All open events started in groups of 4 with 2 to the main event and 2 to the Plate. All other groups were of 3 with 2 going through. This pushed the number of games up to over 600/day and required an 0830 start. It also brought into question the need to stage the finals for all events. Staging only open events would seem to be a more realistic requirement.

The Under 10 events attracted 5 groups of boys and 3 of girls with Gavin Evans beating brother Myles in 5 in the Boys and Mary Fuller beating Charlotte Calcutt in straight sets in the Girls final. As an aside the youngest Evans' boy has a bat in his hand and already asking to be fed shots to his forehand and backhand!

At Under 12 there were 22 groups and the seeds went straight into the first round. 3 of the seeds reached the semi-final stage with Wing Yung Chan who had beaten Dorian Robinson in the second round. Harry Shahlaei beat David Meads in the final in 5. In the Girls Lauren Springthorpe beat Sarra Wang. Lauren repeated this win at cadet level. Adam Bleakley beat the top seed Tim Yarnall in 5 in the Cadet Boys.

In the Junior Girls, top seed Abigail Embling beat the number 4 Gemma Chapman in the final. In the Boys' event Paul Drinkhall had a very good run in the top half of the draw taking out Dominic Hall and Peter Cleminson on the way to a final against older brother Bryn. Bryn won the first 2 games, lost the third at 14 and went on to win the title in the fourth at 10.

The Derby Association is appreciative of the financial help given by the City of Derby and by Jarvis Sports and to Paul Smith, Rob Collins, who is responsible for the computer control aspects of the event, and other Association members who worked hard to support the tournament organiser Brian Webster.

RESULTS

SATURDAY

Under 10 Boys

Gavin Evans bt Myles Evans -6, -8,5,4,8

Under 10 Girls

Mary Fuller bt Charlotte Calcutt 6,8,1

Under 12 Boys

Harry Shahlaei bt Wing Yung Chan 11,-9,-9,9,6

Under 12 Girls

Lauren Springthorpe bt Sarra Wang 7,13,-6,10

Cadet Boys Grade 1

Darren Reed bt Tom Bray 3,-12, -9,1,7

Cadet Girls Grade 1

Nikki Pilgrim bt Sarah Perks 3, -7,9,2

Cadet Boys Open

Adam Bleakley bt Tim Yarnall 10,6, -5,-7,6

Cadet Girls Open

Lauren Springthorpe bt Sarra Wang

SUNDAY

Junior Boys Grade 1
Richard Wesley bt Tom Page –
7,7,9,-10,6
Junior Girls Grade 1
Emma Weil bt Jane Easley –
10,3,7,8
Junior Boys Open
Bryn Drinkhall bt Paul Drinkhall 6,7,
-14,10
Junior Girls Open
Abigail Embling bt Gemma
Chapman 8,3,-10,3

The ESTTA Team Championship Finals, sponsored by Jarvis Sports, were held on Saturday 16th March at Hinckley Leisure Centre, Leicester.

For the first time four teams played in each age category representing their various counties, thus ensuring a day's continuous play for all competitors. To get to this stage they had all been successful in County, Zone and Regional Finals. The results were as follows

Boys U19:

1. Peniel Academy ExCo, 2. Kings School Lincs, 3. Duston Upper School Northants, 4. Queen Katherine School Cu.

Girls U19:

1. Peniel Academy ExCo, 2. Weald of Kent School, 3. Ashfield School Notts, 4. Kesteven & Grantham Lincs

Boys U16

1. Bedford Modern School Beds, 2. William Lovell School Lincs, 3. Valley School Notts, 4. John Hampden School Bucks.

Girls U16

1. Peniel Academy ExCo, 2. Duston Upper School Northants, 3. Parkview School Cu, 4. Kesteven & Grantham Lincs.

Boys U13

1. Peniel Academy ExCo 2. Bradford GS W Yorks, 3. Bedford Modern School, 4. King's School Notts.

Girls U13

1. Kesteven & Grantham Lincs, 2. Peniel Academy ExCo, 3. Valley School Notts 4. Chilton Trinity Somerset.

Boys U11

1. Peniel Academy Ex Co 2. Nevill Road JS Gtr Man, 3. Brimington JS Derbys, 4. Holymead JS Avon.

Girls U11

1. Peniel Academy ExCo, 2. Brimington JS Derbys, 3. Askam School Cu, 4. St. Just JS Cornwall

Best performance

Boys

Lloyd Gregory – Holymead JS (Boys U11)

Girls

Abigail Embling – Peniel Academy (Girls U16)

Top Player Conduct - A Correction by Ken Muhr

I do not know how a 'not' got into the first line of the text after I sent it for publication in the March TTN Extra, completely changing my meaning: 'Most top table tennis players do not take their overall responsibility for promoting the best interests of the game very seriously..' should have read, 'Most top players do take their overall responsibility for promoting the best interests of the game very seriously..' I apologise to top players for any offence caused.

Gladys Pepperd

It is with much sadness and sincere condolences to the family Pepperd of Gloucestershire, that we record the passing of Gladys Pepperd on 25th March 2002. Wife of Alf, who passed away only 10 weeks ago, our South West Region Press Officer, Gladys supported Alf in all his undertakings and table tennis in so many aspects of the sport, being a full time back room worker, and giving a helping hand at many events on the day, one being the Cotswold Junior and Cheltenham.

The South West Region has lost two of its most enthusiastic supporters who gave much of their lives to our beloved sport.

They will be sadly missed by all of us who had the pleasure of knowing and working with them over the past 50 years.

John M. Burtenshaw
South West Regional Chairman

British Universities Individual Championships, Warwick University by Mike Payne (edited by Ken Muhr)

In an all Middlesex University men's singles final, Andreas Johansson, the Swede who missed last year's event, came through after a long hard-hitting struggle over top seed Marco Essomba, the former Cameroon international, at this years BUSA Individual Championships held at Warwick University on 16th/17th February. England national champion, Nicola Deaton, a psychology student at Nottingham University who was seeded 1, lost her way in the second game when former 11 times all African champion Bosede Kaffo (Southbank University) used her forehand drive to great effect. However, Deaton changed tactics by moving Kaffo about and regained the initiative to win the women's singles title at her first attempt.

Finals Results:

Men's Singles (from semi-finals)
Marco Essomba (Middlesex) bt Abdul Wuarola (South Bank) 9,9,8
Anders Johansson (Middlesex) bt Fabio Mantegazza (UMIST) 9,14,7
Final: Johanson bt Essomba – 9,6,9,8

Women's Singles (from semi-finals)
Nicola Deaton (Nottingham) bt Barbara Kiss (South Bank) – 10,4,6,5

Bosede Kaffo (South Bank) bt Siwan Davies (UWIC) 4,3,2
Final: Deaton bt Kaffo 2,-10,8,8

Men's Doubles (from semi-finals)
Marco Essomba/Andreas Johansson (Middlesex) bt Fabio Mantegazza/Eric Schoon (UMIST) 8,9,5

Justin Dodd/David Wakefield (Kent) bt Abdul Wuarola/Eric Leung (South Bank) 8,11,-9,6
 Final: Essomba/Johansson bt Dodd/Wakefield 8,7,-10,7
 Women's Doubles (from semi-finals)
 Kiss/Kaffo (South Bank) bt Deaton/Michelle Berg (Nottingham) -5, 10,10,5
 Hannah Yardy/Glenda Ashison (UCL) bt Jayne Dickens/Laura Smith (Birmingham) 4,3,6
 Final: Yardy/Ashison bt Kiss/Kaffo 9,5,4
 Mixed Doubles (from semi-finals)
 Abdul Wuarola/Boseda Kaffo (South Bank) bt Anand Kasbekar/Nicola Deaton (Nottingham) 8,6,7
 Marc Burman/Ann Humble (St Marys) bt Barbara Kiss/Eric Leung (South Bank) -9,-6,7,3,8
 Final: Wuraola/Kaffo bt Burman/Humble 16,10,6
 30% of the players were foreign students. One advantage of this event is that there is always a good crowd at the end watching the finals, caused by universities in effect playing as teams with good vocal support.

BUSA Table Tennis Team Championships
 (sponsored by Halifax PLC, The Daily Telegraph and PricewaterhouseCoopers)

University College London (UCL) and Middlesex University won the women's and men's events respectively at the British Universities Sports Association (BUSA) Team Championships held at Birmingham University over the weekend of 23rd/24th March. Middlesex continued their domination of the men's event, having now won the trophy 6 times out of the last 8 seasons.

Results: Women (teams of 3)
 Semi finals: UCL beat Birmingham 5-3 (Hannah Yardy winning 3 and Glenda Ashison 2 for UCL)
 Bath beat Nottingham 5-3 (Suzy Robinson winning 3 and Jade Kendall 2 for Bath).

Final: UCL beat Bath 5-2 (Hannah Yardy and Glenda Ashison winning 2 each and Nicole Lew winning 1 for UCL)

Men (teams of 4)
 Semi finals: Middlesex beat Oxford 9-3 (Despite BUSA singles champion Andreas Johansson playing in Sweden, Marco Essomba, Rene Schaible and Adam Brewer with 3 each were too strong for Oxford).

Birmingham beat UMIST 9-4 (Simon Rudland won 3 with 2 each for Luis Dominquez, Brice Lavigne and Chris Mangels for Middlesex. Former singles champion Fabio Mantegazza replied with 3 for UMIST).

Final: Middlesex beat Birmingham 9-2 (3 each for Marco Essomba, Rene Schaible and Adam Brewer gave Middlesex the trophy for the second year running.)

Also played on the same day was the final of the Division 1 team event. This was only resolved with a doubles match and saw Lancaster beat Bath 9-8.

TT at University by Mike Payne

Below is a list of universities that entered the BUSA team competition this season. The list represents the minimum number of universities that have tt clubs. Now is the time of the season for leagues to meet with Universities and arrange entries for next season. The problems of differing availability of match nights and unreliability are resolved in some leagues and thus should not be a problem to others given a fair chance. Please encourage the leagues in your area to take some initiative in this matter.

On a different tack, given the changing face of students at university, will you encourage any university club you meet to ensure that their club enters the BUSA team competition for next season. The entry forms are now with student unions or athletic departments.

For further information contact Mike Payne on 01332 557162 or mjpayne@onetel.net.uk

The universities that entered the team champs are:

Men: Leicester, Loughborough, Birmingham, Warwick, Worcester, Nottingham, Cambridge, East Anglia, Oxford, Anglia, Lancaster, Liverpool, Manchester, Salford, UMIST, Sheffield, Northumbria, Huddersfield, Newcastle, Hull, Central Lancs, Durham, Teesside, York, Leeds, Essex, Middlesex, South and Brighton, Kent, CCCC, Sussex, UCL, LSE, Imperial, Southampton, Bath, Chelt & Glos, Exeter, Portsmouth
 Women: Loughborough, Birmingham, Warwick, Nottingham, Cambridge, East Anglia, Lancaster, Liverpool, Northumbria, Newcastle, Hull, Teesside, Leeds, Middlesex, CCCC, Sussex, UCL, Southampton, Bath.

Melbourne 2002 World Masters Games



Melbourne is hosting this event between 5th and 13th October this year. The event is targeted at mature age athletes (25 years to 100 plus!) and is an international celebration of the "Sport for Life" concept. 29 sports are on offer, including table tennis. All competitions will be staged in Melbourne and regional Victoria's world-class venues, home to many international events. Participation would be a truly unforgettable experience for anyone planning to mix his or her favourite sporting activity with pleasure.

Upon request, any sporting organisation/club/group or individual which/who may wish to

become involved in the event will be sent a parcel of information (Entry Guide, Entry Form, Fact sheet, etc).

Melbourne, Victoria is a terrific destination. Australia remains a safe haven from troubles that beset some other parts of the world and Melbourne is Australia's safest capital city.

Anyone choosing to travel to Melbourne to participate in the World Masters Games can be assured of a warm welcome, serious sport and serious fun!

Table Tennis Programme

Dates: 7 – 12 October

Venue: Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre, Albert Park. Located 4km from city centre, accessible by public transport (tram)

Age groups: 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74, 75 +

Events: Singles – men & women, Doubles – men, women & mixed, teams – men & women

For further information contact:
Melbourne 2002
World Masters Games Ltd
Locked Bag 2002
South Melbourne
VIC 3205 Australia
T +61 3 8620 2002
F +61 3 8620 2000
W www.2002worldmasters.org
E info@2002worldmasters.org

**Mark Hill, Development Officer
– Weston & District Table
Tennis League
by Philip Irwin-Brown**

Q. How did you get involved in table tennis?

A. The biology teacher at my local comprehensive school persuaded myself and three other friends to start a school table tennis team. This teacher's family were very involved in table tennis in Lincoln, and encouraged us to attend training camps and enter the team in the local

league. It was just great fun from then on.

Q. What made you decide on your present post?

A. After joining the Royal Air Force and moving away, most of my contacts in the sport were lost. I decided to join the league in the local area and get involved in the League Committee as Coaching Officer, to make more contacts. Coaching courses were on offer through the League, and gave me an opportunity to gain a qualification in the sport. I then moved to North Somerset, where they already had a wonderful Coaching Officer, Bill Lavis. The Development Officer programme was then the ideal vehicle to help the League and the sport in the area. It felt like a natural progression for me.

Q. What has been your greatest success?

A. My school playing career, if you could call it that. The four years since starting were a wonderful success, our team winning each division, and helping to start a second team in the school.

Q. What has been your greatest moment in table tennis?

A. Probably being awarded the North Somerset's Sport's Administrator of the Year most recently, for the work of co-ordinating the Development Plan for the League, though as much effort was given by the rest of my colleagues on the Committee.

Q. What do you like best about your job in table tennis?

A. Watching players improve as you educate and instruct them in the art and skill of the game. Also being able to provide the opportunities and facilities for everyone to try the sport.

Q. How many hours per week do you give to table tennis?

A. 15-20 hours.

Q. What changes would you like to see?

A. Government initiatives to allow more sport, and in particular table tennis, in the school curriculum. Also, more recognition for the English Schools Table Tennis Association, as a great opportunity for youngsters to get involved in table tennis.

Q. Who is your favourite table tennis player and why?

A. Desmond Douglas always springs to mind for his success and great attitude, but also Jacques Secretin for his brilliance and humour at the table. He played at the highest level but still treated table tennis as a fun game.

Q. If you had to choose a tip to pass on about table tennis what would it be?

A. Enjoy the benefits of playing such a wonderful game. Get fit, and make the most of your own potential.

Another article from the Yorkshire Coach living in Sweden

“Girls - Training Needs, A Method” by Rowden Fullen

Let us take a close look into the training of the female player and which areas of technique, tactics and development are of vital importance in producing players who can make a real impact. Particularly, let us always bear in mind the value of early programming which is so significant in a fast reaction sport such as ours.

Movement – the establishing of sound movement patterns is one of the single most important factors in determining just how far a young girl can go in her career. Generally the top women move in seven different ways (depending on how you categorise these), the men have two additional patterns. What you must also appreciate, however, is that in a match situation there is

often a combination of one or more patterns at the same time. That is why it is so important to train movement in a multi-choice method or at advanced level in random manner.

For instance diagonal play wide to the backhand followed by switches to middle or forehand will result in one-step short or one-step long (perhaps cross step in the case of a small player). Variation between the short and long Falkenberg will involve the pivot step followed by one-step long or the cross step (preceded perhaps by jump-step small, the most common of all movements). Strong attacking play is usually characterised by the cross-step, jump-step and the pivot step, while control players more commonly use the one-step long, short or back.

One other aspect well worth looking at for young girls is the knee angle of top women in play – ready position 110 degrees, one-step long to forehand 140 degrees, left leg breaking after long cross step 91 degrees. Playing with straight legs and being a top player are just not compatible.

Control of Speed

Many women play fast and flat – it is not essential that girls play fast, what is essential is that they are able to control speed, without this it's hard to progress in a women's table tennis world. Each girl must find her own method and work in areas most suited to her own individual style – drive play, blocking of one type or another, topspin, defence, rolling nothing balls, using different rubbers, variation in placement, speed or angles.

But above all it's important to look at the psychology of speed and power. Women who play ultra fast like to have speed back right from their own long serve. Often their effectiveness is greatly reduced if they are faced with a return of little pace. Also they often are less comfortable against short play or slow spin.

Opening

It is of particular importance that girls learn to open from a pushing situation as early as possible in their development. It is all too easy to win at a young age by being negative but the long-term development is slowed down. Focusing on winning in the 9-11 age group should not really be an overriding priority. The earlier the young player becomes confident in opening the quicker the next stages in development can proceed.

Coaches will be aware that there are a varying number of ways to open – drive, punch, sidespin, fast topspin or slow loop or even the roll. However, they and their players should be alert to the fact that with women power is rarely the answer. Female opponents usually respond more easily to the fast ball, it is the slower one that more often than not causes problems. It is vital that girls learn to open with a slower ball, slow loop or roll. The main thing is that this first opening ball is a good length, either very short or very long (and of course girls should be able to open on both wings).

Short Play

At a higher level, girls must be able to cope with short play, both the serve and the next ball. It is therefore important that they become comfortable in this area at an early age, and explore methods of being positive and creating advantage from this situation. We are not only talking about flicking or top-spinning over the table, but pushing also in a positive manner so as to make openings to create attacking opportunities, using very early timing and playing back a short dead ball, or even long and fast to the corners or body with heavy backspin or no spin. This early-timed deep ball especially with spin gives the opponent very little time to act positively (to open with spin or power the centre of gravity starts from a lower position).

However, it is not enough just to be able to deal with short play; the next stage is to cope with the opponent's first opening ball. Again, at high level it is not sufficient only to control the first drive or topspin – against the top players just being safe and inadequate. Girls should train to force the return with either power or spin or even to kill through topspin from a close position, a technique not worked on enough in Europe. Other alternatives would be to return a different ball, stop block or slow roll.

Converting

Just as important as opening is the ability to do something with the next ball. After the first opening spin ball it is vital that girls can put the next ball away and win the point. Not spin and spin again until the rally degenerates into a control situation, but spin and kill or drive. Regard spin as a means to create openings, not as an end in itself. In this way, the opponent receives two very different balls in quick succession and is unable to find a rhythm.

Service

Girls with good serves invariably go far and the time to work on the different grips and actions is at a young age. Usually they have a little more difficulty than boys in achieving spin, especially good back and topspin so it is important that they persevere. Equally they should fully understand the techniques involved, the stance, body action, grips, where they hit the ball on the racquet, where the racquet starts and stops, the contact angle, which part of the ball they hit and at which height they make contact. It is important that girls can achieve a variety of different spins and speeds with the same or very similar action. Also the young player should understand the differing ways in which her service may be returned and should always look to be positive on the third ball.

Receive

Return of the short serve has been largely covered under 'short play' but of course variation in all aspects is vital, in spin, speed, placement and angles. The long serve often causes problems in the girls' games usually because they return with too much power. It is well worthwhile to look at a variety of receives – drives, blocks (soft, forcing, sidespin, chop), spin, punch, slow roll and even chop and float. A different method of return may well prove effective against differing players.

Variation

Too many girls are predictable in the way they play. To be effective at top level requires much more thought to variation – change of spin and speed, length and placement, not just to hit harder and harder, girls should be encouraged to be unpredictable in the way they play, often straight or to the body instead of diagonal, with regular change of pace and use of the slower ball.

Use of the Table

There are a number of things that we can combine under this heading – better length, too many girls play mid-table balls instead of up to the white line, more short and long play, more angled balls off the side of the table, more straight shots and balls directed between 15-20cm either side of the racquet. Force the opponent to move to play the return.

Use of Equipment

Girls should seek advice on, and explore the possibilities in the many differing rubbers on the market. It is not a coincidence that around 60% or more of top women players use something different on one side or other of the racquet. They are successful because they are different and unusual – nothing wrong in that.

Stronger/Different Backhand

With many girls the backhand is used in a supporting role to the forehand and as a control stroke rather than a point-winner. At top level it must be remembered that any weakness here will be quickly exploited. It is important that even from an early age girls work at strengthening this wing, so they have the capability to accelerate from mere blocking into drive play or spin. The other path is to use a different rubber to achieve a different effect, making it difficult for the opponent to win points here.

Positive Attitude

Girls are almost always much more negative in attitude than their male counterparts. Throughout early development strong support should be given by parents and coaches and every effort made to strengthen positive aspects. Indeed, girl players should be urged to attack at the earliest opportunity, to be alert for that first opening, to try to develop a sense of aggression, to cultivate the attitude that to let an attacking chance go by is failure.

A Winning Weapon

Every player must have a strength, a way to win points. It is up to the coach and player to find this strength and to build on it. Sometimes it may be a combination, loop and kills, serve and third ball. Whatever it may be, the player must be aware of her strength and how to use it to best effect.

Be Different

Above all girls should look to be different in style. Throughout Europe there are thousands who play the fast, flat 'typical women's' game – only the very best one or two will get anywhere. Even these will not succeed against the Asians who play this type of game even better.

Not only should girls be encouraged to develop their own

individual strengths and characteristics so that a unique personal style emerges, but also they should be prepared to be flexible in thinking. The effects of mass media and the many cultural and sporting interactions in Europe tend if anything to standardise training methods and style and to inhibit forward thinking.

Change

Progress and development entails change. If your game remains the same or your mind refuses to accept change then you don't go forward. This is the one great lesson that every player must absorb at an early age as is possible. Be receptive to new ideas, be prepared to test new theories and methods, alert to new techniques and tactics, keep your game fresh and alive and moving forward.

ITTF Development Program and ITTF website by Glenn Tepper, ITTF Programme Manager

The ITTF website, www.ittf.com now has a new section "Development Program" - just click on this tab when you go to the website. Included in the "Development Program" is:

1. ITTF Development Plan 2002-2003.

2. Olympic Solidarity World Programs, 2001-2004 in English, French and Spanish.

3. "BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS [of Poverty, Injustice, AIDS, Drugs, Alcohol] WITH TABLE TENNIS BALLS"

This is a new 22 page introductory level program aimed at schoolteachers, youth workers, community groups and beginner coaches, with the following guiding principles:

1. Simple, effective means to increase mass participation at the introductory level with minimal equipment.

2. Uses table tennis as a vehicle to assist social change by providing a humanitarian message.

Over time there will be several versions that allow for continental differences and cultural sensitivities.

4. "TOPS-Table Tennis in Schools Program"

- The TOPS Program is aimed at schoolteachers and beginner coaches and provides a comprehensive guide [180 pages] to beginner coaching and is divided into easy to follow sections including:

- *5 Lesson Plan for 5-8 year olds
- *15 Lesson Plans for 9-16 year olds
- *Activity Cards
- *Skills Circuits
- *Competition Formats
- *Assessment and Skills Awards
- *Rules

5. **Links** to websites related to coaching and development including another on-line coaching manual "The Fundamentals of Table Tennis", and links to websites of benefit to multiple countries such as continental websites, or of use to multiple countries of the same language. This section of the website will continually evolve as more resources are developed.

TABLE TENNIS & HEALTH, FITNESS & SAFETY by Ken Muhr

Table tennis and health is an important issue, which I have tried to address in this magazine, most notably in the main part of the magazine Jan/Feb 2000, and in TTN Extra, December 2001.

Now I see that in the latest edition of the excellent Henry Buist edited Bromley & District TTA Newsletter, there is a page given over to the subject, in which is mentioned a Washington Times article praising table tennis as a low impact activity having unexpected health benefits. An example is given of a 51 year old

company director who plays table tennis and who also spends a considerable amount of time in the gym (and attention to his diet), saying that as the sport puts high demands on his body he needs extra workouts in order to be able to compete with his son, who is the USA under 12 no.1. On the direct benefits of table tennis, the article says that players get plenty of work running in place and executing split-second moves with their feet and playing hand. In tests at the US Olympic training centre, table tennis players had the lowest percentage body fat, excepting long distance runners. Henry comments that at times when he feels his fitness (for table tennis) is letting him down he does some extra training, usually using a mixture of light weights and aerobic exercises. Table tennis is a good motivator for getting fit and changing eating habits.

As I have previously said, exercise generally is undoubtedly good for you. Thirty minutes of moderate exercise at least 5 days a week improves cardio-respiratory fitness and decreases the risk of coronary heart disease (National Service Framework for Coronary Heart Disease 2001), as well as helping to reduce obesity. Yet a large percentage of the population (the majority) do not exercise even this much and many are overweight (which in itself increases the risk of heart disease, cancer, and type 2 diabetes).

However, exercise does not come without some risk. (In the 'Sizzling Chops & Devilish Spins' book by Jerome Charyn, reviewed by Tim Boggan in the March magazine, we learn that Dr Kahn 'the official doctor of the French team' felt that older people shouldn't play competitively because of the risk of 'heart strain', but also mentioned are two older US doctors, Dr Michael Scott and Dr Steve Horowitz, who do play competitively.) The Surgeon General report on physical activity in the United States looked at risk of adverse effects among other things, and points out that there is

an increased risk of an 'adverse cardiac event' while exercising, but that the risk for someone who is inactive is greater than for someone who is active.

I mention this because just occasionally, I get to hear of people who suffered heart attacks while playing or competing at table tennis, with recent examples being given to me by Laurie Harrison from Plymouth. Although this is quite rare, and individuals concerned were probably at risk (of suffering an attack) anyway – the benefits of exercise generally far outweigh the risks – I thought it might be helpful to give some broad safety advice and precautions (gleaned and adapted from writing the Milton Keynes Exercise Policy some years ago), particularly to middle aged or older table tennis players who might be uncertain about their current health and fitness:

- Take your doctor's advice before playing if you have any doubts or suffer from heart disease, chest pain, angina, (high or low) blood pressure, bronchitis, arthritis, rheumatism, back trouble, joint pain, or diabetes etc., or are recovering from an illness or operation. Advise your colleagues if you suffer from any medical condition that they should be aware of, and what they should do in the event of an occurrence/problems arising from it.
- Do not play when you are very tired or ill (e.g. have the flu). Let any injury recover and retrain gently. Seek treatment and advice for severe, persistent or long term injury. Do not practise hard or play a hard match if you play infrequently and have little or no other regular physical exercise.
- Recognise when to stop playing (e.g. if you feel dizzy, sick, in pain, very breathless, unusually fatigued, etc.). If in doubt, for hard matches or

vigorous training, learn what is your safe pulse rate is and how to take and monitor your pulse ratings. Always do warm ups before playing and warm/cool downs after playing. Begin gently and slowly build up the severity of play – e.g. make sure that you practise methodically and properly before playing a match rather than going straight into it! – and the length you play. Do not play too hard or for too long, and set yourself realistic goals.

- Try to maintain reasonable general (cardio-vascular) fitness through physical activities like walking, running, cycling and swimming, through keeping to a good diet, and through cutting back on smoking, alcohol, stress, etc.

Of course it is down to the individual whether to follow this advice, or whether they think it is reasonable or realistic. And I do not claim to be an expert – if anyone better qualified than myself would like to revise or update my advice, I would be pleased to hear from you.

Famous People Who Played Table Tennis

I have had only one contribution this month: James Drew has pointed out that Lancashire table tennis junior international Geoffrey Pullar was also the opening bat (for Lancashire?) at cricket. I think I have mentioned this before, but no harm repeating it. For other famous people who play, and news on what will probably be the most valuable table tennis table, see John Wood's Chatterbox page in the glossy. Incidentally, on BBC 1's 'Parkinson' show on 9th March, actors Dame Judi Dench and Kevin Spacey again talked about their interest in playing 'ping pong'.

From the Cambridge News, February 1902

We understand a Ping Pong Club, open to residents in the New Town

district of Cambridge, has been started. The large room of the New Town Conservative Club, Russell Street, has been secured, and two Whitmore patent tables are provided. The hon. secretary is Mr E.W. Illesley of 23 Bateman Street.

New Websites

The BTTAD - British Table Tennis Association (Disability) - now has a website www.bttad.co.uk advising on what it can offer table tennis players with disabilities (standing and wheelchair). It also gives latest news, current rankings, future tournaments, contacts, etc. The South West is the latest region to have its own website on www.ttsouthwest.co.uk giving news on events, results, ETTA initiatives, courses, how to get funding, etc.

The main ETTA website www.etta.co.uk is now getting around 800 hits a day, and in some weeks over 1,000 hits a day. Note that the European Table Tennis Union website www.ettu.org has been upgraded and that the International Table Tennis Federation website www.ittf.com is also to be upgraded.

Sportsladders.com

The ITTF website www.ittf.com publicised this item: "Founded in 1997, Sportsladders.com is designed to help players arrange sports matches against an opponent of a similar standard. The website is based on the concept that if you are visiting a particular area, go to www.sportsladders.com, find an opponent and arrange a match. Currently the Sports Directory on the website involves tennis, badminton, racquetball, squash, handball, wheelchair tennis and now table tennis.

ILAM Information Centre & Bookshop

The Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management (ILAM) Information Centre holds a unique collection of material on all aspects

of leisure and is acknowledged to have the most comprehensive leisure information service in the country.

The ILAM bookshop can supply titles on all aspects of sport and leisure both from ILAM's own publications and from specialist publishers (discounts to members). For further information contact: ILAM Information Centre and Bookshop, ILAM House, Lower Basildon, Reading RG8 9NE, tel: 01494 874841, fax: 01491 874801, e-mail: inforcentre@ilam.co.uk, website www.ilam.co.uk

Call for Sports Army of Volunteers

by Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR)

Research by Sport England* and UK Sport shows that almost one million less people will be taking part in sport by 2026. This serves as a wake up call for the Government to do more to deliver on its manifesto promises for sport.

The falling trend in the number of people taking regular exercise represents a potential "time bomb" for the National Health Service. The British Heart Foundation has already identified that there is a growing epidemic of "couch kids" and the Government needs to deliver greater support to reverse these trends. The National Audit Office has called for the Department of Health to target more resources at tackling obesity, which currently costs the economy £2.5 billion each year. The need for "joined up Government" for sport is more important than ever.

"Too many voluntary sports clubs are limping along on the edge of financial viability. These clubs are the bedrock of grass roots sports and unless the tax burden on all community amateur sports clubs is reduced there will be even less people playing sport".

Howard Wells, Chairman of CCPR

At the heart of community sports provision are 110,000 voluntary

sports clubs that deliver sport and recreation to 5.6 million members on a shoestring budget. The national governing bodies of sport are united in their call for special tax exemptions to help voluntary sports clubs, as indicated by the Chancellor in last year's budget.

Notes:

- a. Sport England* and UK Sport released new research showing that sports participation is due to fall by 900,000 people by 2026, a decrease in the overall participation rate from 52.5% to 46.3%, unless positive action is taken.
- b. There are 110,000 voluntary sports clubs, supported by 1.5 million volunteers, delivering sport to 5.6 million people. The Treasury consultation on how the tax system can best support voluntary sports clubs finished on 1st February 2002.
- c. An Early Day motion supporting the need for special Inland Revenue tax exemptions for voluntary sports clubs now has the support of 122 MPs.
- d. Deloitte and Touche have calculated that sport pays four times more money in taxes than it receives from central and local Government.

For more information contact Nigel Hook on 020 7854 8530.

*Participation in Sport, Past Trends and Future Prospects, £5.00, Sport England.

MONEY & SPORTING SUCCESS: a personal view by Ken Muhr

We in the ETTA are fortunate to have our World Class Performance Programme funded by the National Sports Lottery – and incidentally, this is precisely targeted money which cannot, despite what some critics misleadingly say, be diverted. I believe that our Lottery Funded Centre at Nottingham is

vital to English table tennis as it gives us the opportunity to catch up and compete internationally with top table tennis nations. But it is, as I have repeatedly said, a long term process, and the coaches can only work with and do their best for the players they have, providing the best possible conditions and opportunities. Ultimately, it is down to the players – to quote the hackneyed old adage, “You can take a cow to pasture but you can't make it feed”. We will struggle in the short term – though our prospects at the Manchester Commonwealth Games are good – but in the longer term the future is rosy, particularly for our younger boys.

However, as the Lawn Tennis Association (the second richest tennis association in the world) has demonstrated, money alone is not the answer to achieving sporting success. Indeed the LTA has been recently castigated by the national media for its lack of success, despite having available £30 million plus annually from Wimbledon profits (last year £32.5 million – John Parsons, The Telegraph). The most damning indictment I have seen was from Stephen Bierley in The Guardian (10.1.02) who pointed out that apart from Henman and Rusedski, Britain has no men in the world top 100, or women in the world 150. In terms of popularity of the game and senior players having international success, he says, “the situation is desperate, parlous and getting worse year by frustrating year”, even though Britain does regularly produce talented 14, 15 and 16 year olds only for them to “disappear without trace”.

Bierley broadly blames “poor competition, low standards, same old coaches”, and whilst he commends the LTA's performance director, Frenchman Patrice Hagelauer, for placing great emphasis on increasing the base of the junior pyramid, he implies criticism of Hagelauer in not having got rid of one coach in two years. Likewise former Sports Minister Kate Hoey (Guardian, 28.1.02)

notes that whereas: “attempts have been made to widen the base of recruitment” which are fun for children, this is “effectively useless in producing future champions because there are few tennis clubs to move on to and still fewer junior sections. It is no use getting youngsters excited about the game and then telling the parents that they must buy rackets and shoes and hire coaches.” She goes on to criticise the lack of inexpensive clubs and facilities, and support for youngsters (which is given, for example by rowing). “The whole culture in tennis needs to change. Money alone does not make champions.”

It may be that tennis has been judged unfairly, and it has been trying hard to address the situation. But we in table tennis cannot gloat. Although we are trying hard to bring new blood into the sport, ground them in clubs and to develop them, particularly through schemes like the PremierClub Programme, we have much to do, and to use Kate Hoey's words, the whole culture in table tennis needs to change: coaches need updating in modern methods and philosophy, more younger and higher level players need to be brought into coaching, and coaches and clubs need to work together in the best interests of their pupils – not in isolation or destructive, self interested rivalry. Clubs need to create junior section/sessions in such an atmosphere that is conducive to encouraging, supporting and developing youngsters – not the sterile, downbeat environment that too often exists in our sport. More broadminded volunteers!

But finally, I must recognise that there is a problem with modern British society in bringing on top sportsmen: too easy, too physically lazy, too materialistic, too concerned with financial status and getting a well-paid job. Not only sporting excellence (unless it is well paid), but cultural pursuits and positions of public service and social responsibility are

undervalued, and changing society is perhaps beyond our remit!

MUHR'S MEMO
Information Officer Messages by
Ken Muhr

February was a pressured month and I was concerned that I would miss something important from the last magazine – and of course, I did! The worst thing I excluded was the **large feature (with photograph) by Jonathan Thompson of Nicola Deaton in the Independent** on Sunday, 10th February. I had also intended mentioning the Guardian (30th January) article on the unsuccessful attempt by table tennis stalwarts Janette and Philip Dixon, on behalf of Kendal Open Club (a Christian-based community group), to take over Barrows Green House, a former Barnardo's holiday centre near Kendal, to be used, among other things, for table tennis (not specifically mentioned in the article). Instead, Barnardo's sold the house for redevelopment as housing by Horner Lakeland Development.

Also in the **Guardian** (of 7th February) was the list of 5,000 **runners chosen to participate in the Queen's Jubilee Baton Relay** through 22 Commonwealth countries, starting on 11th March and finishing at the City of Manchester Stadium for the Opening Ceremony of Commonwealth Games on 25th July. There will be plenty of **table tennis participants** I am not aware of, but those that I do know are running are: **Pat Chatwin, Desmond Douglas, Dominic Hall, Helen Lower, and Adam, Don, Jill and Katy Parker**. Please let me know of anyone I have left out. Finally, whilst on items omitted, apologies to **Keith Wilson** for not mentioning the 3 minutes **Tyne Tees TV** exposure that the **Darlington Club** had regarding their fund-raising efforts to go to Hungary again this summer. I had previously failed to mention the 3 minutes also given by Tyne Tees to the preview of the England v

Slovakia men's European League international match last December. Keith tells me that Darlington table tennis is going to be given another 15 minutes TV platform on the Tyne Tees **North East Tonight** programme on Sunday 7th April, owing to getting teams/players to all the junior and cadet national team finals and Masters events.

Many people have told me they saw the **BBC TV Grandstand 'Olympic Dreams' interview with Matthew Syed and Terry Young**. And **BBC West TV** has interviewed **Kate Steward**.

I mentioned the improved **National Championships, Sheffield**, build up publicity in the last issue, but the **earlier finals finish on Sunday 3rd March also ensured more coverage in the national press** (and on Ceefax and Teletext). The quality papers all carried results, but as well as a few small pieces by **John Woodford in The Daily Telegraph**, **Richard Eaton had a well crafted column in The Times** and there were 3 paragraphs of text in the Daily Express (and plenty of local/regional press coverage). John Woodford kept filing Telegraph snippets throughout the month, including on the BUSA team event finals at Birmingham University, and I was gratified that **most national papers printed the main finals results of the South Eastern Butterfly Grand Prix at Gillingham**. In my absence, **ETTA Events Manager Harvey Webb** apparently did an excellent **BBC Radio Kent event preview interview**.

There were some unexpected table tennis mentions. South West ETTA Regional Development Officer **Philip Irwin-Brown** was featured in the **Sunday Express** (24th March) discussing pensions! I heard Poet/Sociologist Carole Satyamurti (has anyone heard of her?) on BBC Radio 4's 'Off The Peg' programme, saying how she enjoyed playing table tennis. I also heard a Radio 4 preview announcing that **Howard Jacobson** was again going to talk

about table tennis and The Mighty Walzer – but I did not hear the programme itself.

I shall finish with the most significant item (already mentioned in my editorial): that **highlights of the Commonwealth Masters Invitation Event, with six of the top Commonwealth players including the 2001 Commonwealth Championships finalists Matthew Syed (winner) and India's Chetan Baboor (runner-up), being played at Wembley Conference Centre on Friday evening 17th May, will be broadcast on BBC1's Grandstand programme on Saturday 18th May. That is, over an hour of table tennis on national terrestrial television!** Something we have not had for a long time and the beginning of hopefully even more TV time. **Please do you bit to attend and fully publicise the event: tickets from Wembley box office no. 0870 7331015, www.wembleyticket.com or at least watch BBC TV Grandstand on 18th May.** And if you like what you see, please contact the BBC to congratulate them!

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11 UP or 21 UP

THE BIG 11up v 21up DEBATE

What do you the reader think? Is the 11up scoring system or 21 up the best for English table tennis? Table Tennis News invites you to email us. All you need to do is to type your choice of 11up or 21up in the "Subject" box, and we will count up the results. Email us at: johnwood@macace.co.uk

one vote per person



WHO'S THE GREATEST ?
Well Brian Halliday got it wrong in last month's TTN, when he suggested that Chuang Tse Tung might be the greatest player ever! In fact we had such a fantastic response by our readers that gave an overwhelming landslide victory to Sweden's Jan Ove Waldner, by an amazing 98%. The votes poured in from both young and old, male and female.

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Top Half							
Ormesby	6	5	1	0	30	6	11
Isdall	6	3	2	1	19	17	8
Irish Boys	6	0	3	3	9	27	3
Colley Hyundai	6	0	2	4	12	24	2
BOYS PREMIER Bottom Half							
Oakbank A	6	2	2	1	20	16	8
London Progress A	6	2	2	2	17	19	6
Cippenham A	6	2	1	3	19	17	5
Scotland A	6	2	1	3	16	20	5
BOYS DIVISION 1							
Grove A	10	9	0	1	43	17	18
Team Peniel A	10	6	1	3	35	25	13
Gauntby Boys	10	5	2	3	33	27	12
York Gardens	10	2	4	4	28	32	8
Cippenham B	10	2	3	5	28	32	7
Streetly TTC	10	0	2	8	13	47	2
BOYS DIVISION 2A							
North Mundham	10	8	2	0	49	11	18
Grove B	10	6	3	1	36	24	15
Scotland B	10	6	1	3	35	25	13
Seasiders	10	3	2	5	26	34	8
Spicer Boys	10	2	2	6	19	41	6
East Point	10	0	0	10	15	45	0
BOYS DIVISION 2B							
Darlington A	10	6	2	2	37	23	14
Uxbridge Briar	10	6	1	3	34	26	13
Retford	10	4	3	3	32	28	11
De Vere NETTS	10	3	4	3	31	29	10
Challoner TTC	10	1	3	5	26	34	7
High Wycombe	10	1	3	6	20	40	5
BOYS DIVISION 3A							
Bedford Modern	10	7	3	0	43	17	17
Peterborough	10	5	4	1	37	23	14
Truro Tigers	10	4	3	3	34	26	11
Ellenborough	10	3	3	4	29	31	9
London Progress B	10	1	4	5	23	37	6
Oakbank B	10	0	3	7	14	46	3
BOYS DIVISION 3B							
Corby Power	10	8	2	0	42	18	18
Byng Hall	10	4	5	1	32	28	13
Grove C	10	5	1	4	32	28	11
Colley Hyundai B	10	3	3	4	28	32	9
Rotherham Scorpions	10	0	5	5	22	38	5
Hilton	10	0	4	6	24	36	4
BOYS DIVISION 4A							
Lucan Boys	10	7	1	2	39	21	15
Darlington B	10	6	2	2	39	21	14
Team Peniel B	10	7	0	3	36	24	14
Reigate/Redhill	10	5	1	4	32	28	11
Crusaders	10	2	1	7	23	37	5
SuperBlades	10	0	1	9	11	49	1
BOYS DIVISION 4B							
Torrige Aces	10	7	3	0	44	16	17
St Andrews	10	5	5	0	39	21	15
JAGS	10	4	4	2	33	27	12
Cheltenham	10	3	4	3	35	25	10
BATTS	10	2	2	6	21	39	6
St Marys	10	0	0	10	8	52	0
GIRLS PREMIER							
Grove A	10	9	1	0	46	14	19
Cippenham A	10	8	1	1	42	18	17
Scotland A	10	4	0	6	23	37	8
Club Mid-Cheshire	10	3	2	5	27	33	8
Team Peniel A	10	2	2	6	28	32	6
Gautby Girls	10	1	0	9	14	46	2
GIRLS DIVISION 1							
Seasiders	10	6	3	1	41	19	15
Byng Hall	10	5	3	2	33	27	13
Cippenham B	10	5	3	2	35	25	13
Irish Girls	10	5	2	3	35	25	12
Team Peniel B	10	2	3	5	26	34	7
Spicer Girls	10	0	0	10	10	50	0
GIRLS DIVISION 2							
Darlington A	10	7	2	1	41	19	16
Grove B	10	7	2	1	45	15	16
Rushmead	10	7	1	2	39	21	15
Chelmsford	10	3	1	6	26	34	7
Grove C	10	2	2	6	21	39	6
Nuneaton	10	0	0	10	8	52	0
GIRLS DIVISION 3							
Draycott/Longeaton	10	10	0	0	52	8	20
Woodfield	10	8	0	2	38	22	16
Rotherham Scorpions	10	5	0	5	30	30	10
De Vere NETTS	10	3	2	5	28	32	8
Arundel	10	2	1	7	23	37	5
Darlington B	10	0	1	9	9	51	1

JUNIOR BRITISH LEAGUE

OUTSTANDING ORMESBY



ETTA Chairman ALAN RANSOME presents the Boys Premier Division trophy to ORMESBY (l. to r.) BRYN DRINKHALL, MARTIN CLARKE, PAUL DRINKHALL and CRAIG BRYANT

ORMESBY, the outstanding boys team in this seasons Junior British League were rightly crowned Premier division champions when the competition was concluded at Stoke-on-Trent's Fenton Manor Arena, writes Brian Lamerton.

The ever present, and unbeaten, Craig Bryant led the way with excellent support from Bryn & Paul Brinkhall and Martin Clarke. Ormesby, assured of the title before their final match were surprisingly held to a draw in that match by runners-up Idsall (a team they had previously defeated - the same week end- 6-0) - credit here to Idsall's Robin Peebles who did his ranking no harm at all by defeating the higher ranked Clarke and Paul Drinkhall. Adam Bleakley and Chris Gregory completed the Idsall team. The Ormesby success was the icing on the cake for coach Carol Moore, recently voted coach of the year in the North East and it was appropriate that the club founder and chairman, Alan Ransome OBE, was on hand to present the trophy.

GROVE GIRLS' SUCCESS

The girls premier division was a much closer affair with Grove "A" needing to avoid defeat in their final match with Cippenham to wrest the

title away from their opponents who were the 2001 champions. Grove fell 2-1 behind but recovered to obtain the required draw with much owed to young Kelly Sibley's 11-9 fifth game win over Karen Shepherd. Georgina Walker, losing only to Mid-Cheshire's Nicola White (12-10 in the fifth) and Naomi Owen (only losses against the Cippenham pair of Shepherd and Gemma Chapman) completed Grove's team at Fenton Manor but credit must also be paid to the absent Natalie Bawden who had scored a perfect ten at the first week end in Wolverhampton. Joanna Parker, the Cippenham No.1 had a 100% success rate before going down to Walker in her final match.

Grove, the most successful club overall in the leagues nine year history, have well and truly bounced back after a period in the doldrums with their boys "A" team clearly winning Division 1, and likely to match their girls squad in next seasons quest for premier honours. Harry Shahlaei, Dominic Wynn-Sands and Ashley Nicholls played unchanged through both week ends for the winners with their only setback a 4-2 reverse against Team Peniel, the eventual runners-up, Daniel Rees winning twice for Peniel.

Shahlaei, playing at No. 3 went through the week end unbeaten as did York Gardens No.1 Darius Knight.



Councillor TONY PATTIE and Principle Sports Development Officer JACKIE NOBLE of the City of Stoke-on-Trent present the trophy to Grove "A", winners of Girls Premier Division

Seasiders (Blackpool) twice came from behind to snatch draws on their way to the girls Division 1 title, yet crushed runners-up Byng Hall 6-0. Kerry Radford, Clara Howard and Amanda Bell took the trophy for Seasiders whilst newcomer Amanda Mogeey made a perfect start for Irish girls, winning ten from ten.

North Mundham stormed away with Boys Division 2A winning all five matches with the loss of only 3 sets and in so doing improving on first half draws with Scotland and Grove "B" by winning each of the returns 5-1; Luke Bridge (10), James Whitehorn (8 +1) and Michael Simpson (7+1) took the trophy back to West Sussex.

In division 2B Uxbridge Bribar needing to win their final match against De Vere NETTS by 4 sets to 2 to take the title went 3-1 up but nerves set in and the final 3-3 draw let in Darlington "A", 6-0 conquerors of Retford. Uxbridge with 4 wins and a draw against 4 wins and a defeat for Darlington returned the better points score at Fenton but three reverses first time out left them too much ground to make up. Andrew Leighton and Kevyn Wilson both won 8 out of 10 for the winners whilst David Meads who shared the third berth with Mark Simpson weighed in with 4 wins. Uxbridge's newcomer Alex Green topped the divisions individual averages with 100% after being ever present.

Darlington pulled off a second division double when their "A" side pipped Grove "B" for the girls title as the result of their better return from the two matches between them - a 4-2 win at Wolverhampton and always in the lead before finally settling for a 3-3 draw in the return, Claire Wilson winning her brace for Darlington and Katie Lightowler for Grove. Joanne Meads and Stephanie Donnelly were Wilson's teammates whilst Rushymead's Kelly Craven-Griff led the individual averages losing only to Grove's Heather Shutt from 10 starts.

Boys Division 3A halfway leaders, Truro Tigers could muster only three points from their five matches allowing Bedford Modern to romp away with the title, Hamish Yeung

winning 9, Andrew O'Mahoney 8, Oliver Young 4 (from 6) and David Brightman 2 (from 4). Peterborough's Adam Frost won all ten of his sets including providing Yeung his only set back in straight games.

The all round strength of Dannell and Dickson Pang, Robert Williams and Michael Clarke representing Corby Power was too much for all five of their opponents in boys division 3B as they improved on first round draws with Rotherham Scorpions and Byng Hall with 6-0 and 5-1 wins respectively.

Natasha Edwards, Sarah Bayliss and Stacey Beastall shared the honour of representing Draycott/Long Eaton, girl division 3 winners and the only team of the 74 total winning all 10 matches throughout both week ends. Kelly Skeggs of De Vere N.E.T.T.S. took the individual honours however, winning all ten of her sets.

Both boys division 4 winners had long but happy journeys home, 4A winners Lucan Boys to Ireland and

4B winners Torrridge Aces to Cornwall. Lucan Boys were represented by Andrew Blanch, Lee Barry and Billy Cooke and Torrridge Aces by Christopher Brown (100% both week ends), Nicholas Smale and James Charlton

Lucan Boys were also nominated boys team of the week end, Seasiders girls team of the week end and Bryn Drinkhall (Ormesby) and Nikki Pilgrim (Nuneaton) players of the week end. Long serving, and local, umpire Brian Watkins was added to that loyal band of volunteers who have received a piece of crystal engraved C 'For Being Special'

The Association's chairman was joined on the rostrum by Councillor Tony Pattie and Principle Sports Development Officer Jackie Noble of the City of Stoke-on-Trent.



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4th for LONDON PROGRESS

WITH a single day of matches left to play, four of the Senior British League divisions have been decided and the Champions are already known in the Premier division, division one (South), division two (South) and division three (South & West). Our Northern friends may well maintain that their brand of Table Tennis is more exciting as divisions one (North), two (North), three (North) and three (Midlands) all remain undecided.

And with the debate continuing as to what is the best format for playing British League matches another suggestion has been made - seven single days as opposed to three and a half weekends. It is clear that many players can only make matches on one day of a weekend which can distort the Leagues greatly when the players involved are the division's best performers. Would it therefore be easier if matches were spread out over more weekends? Any views would be welcome although it is too late to propose any further Rule Changes for next season.

London Progress I steam-rolled their way past Barnet and Byng Hall Farningham Print I, to take the Senior British League Premier division title for the fourth successive time. Barnet felt the full impact of Progress's power succumbing 12-2 and this resulted in Gergely Urban losing all three singles for the first time as Marco Essomba, Jason Sugrue and Cris Sladden were all undefeated. Byng Hall made a bright start as Adrian Moore beat Jason Sugrue (3-1) and Mark Romano saw off James Sprackling (again 3-1) but 2-2 was as close as they came. From that moment Progress moved into overdrive and rattled off the next ten matches for their sixth 12-2 win of the season.

JAGS have shown a marked improvement in the second half of the season; helped considerably by regular appearances from Lorestas Trumpauskas. They overcame bottom-placed Byng Hall 10-4 with an undefeated Clive Carthy leading the way. Trumpauskas won twice; losing out against an inspired Phil Cox, which must rate as one of the biggest upsets of the season.

BATTS Team Peniel I trail London Progress by six points but a run of five successive wins means they are now placed a clear second. They were convincing 11-3 winners over OLOP Kingfisher as Neil Charles and John Holland both remained undefeated. Neil's three wins encompassed an 11-8 in-the-fifth success over Nigel Eckersley, a 3-1 win over Robert Pountney and a 3-1 victory against Abraham Conteh. Ben Johnson was the most successful of the OLOP players with an 11-9 in the fifth victory over Joe Kennedy and a win at 11-5 in the decider against Chris Jamieson. BATTS's narrow 8-6 success against Barnet avenged their 9-5 defeat in the first half the season. John Holland was

again the chief architect of their victory taking his three singles which included his success against Gergely Urban who had beaten him in the first half.

Darlington stay third although it has to be said that they do look a much stronger side with Fabio Mantegazza in their line-up. With Mantegazza carrying all before them from the No.1 position they were 9-5 winners against Wellow House School. Jonathan Taylor pushed Fabio all the way to 12-10 in the decider but with John Hilton winning twice and Darlington taking both doubles the Darlington victory was never really in doubt.

Division One (North): Seaside's are almost home and dry after picking up seven points out of a possible eight. Third-placed Derwent I gave them their sternest test and held them to a 4-4 draw. Seaside's no. 1 player Kevin Dolder held them together beating both Richard Smith and Mark Short whilst Derwent no. 3 Andrew Horsfield was involved in two titanic struggles beating John Rankin 14-12 in the decider and missing out 12-10 in the fifth against Greg Baker. Their 6-2 victory over Coventry Phoenix wasn't all plain sailing and it was Coventry's England no. 1 Cadet Tim Yarnall who took the Man-of-the-Match award. He just missed out 6,5,-7,-14,-7 against Steve Dixon but came back in style to beat Paul Hutchings 3-1. John Rankin won twice with hard-fought wins against Adrian Pilgrim (3-1) and Ryan Stockham (3-2). Ormesby also enjoyed a successful weekend; their only dropped point coming against Grantham. Keith Roger took his two singles in some style but Grantham no. 4 Brian Hill scored with wins over Steve Bailey and Martyn Clarke to keep his side in the match. Ormesby's 7-1 victory over Darlington was arguably their most impressive of the weekend with Roger, Bryn Drinkhall and Steve Bailey all winning twice. Both Drinkhall and Roger impressed with wins against Andrew Wilkinson. Grantham's point against Norwich will hold them in good stead as they battle to avoid relegation and Brian Hill certainly played his part beating both Paul Cicchelli and Martin Gray. Gray had already made his mark with a decisive win over Chris Brewer. Norwich in turn just had enough in hand to beat Coventry Phoenix 5-3 with Jon Cockburn's 12-10 victory in the decider over Ryan Stockham proving to be the difference between the two sides. Phil Logsdon took the Man-of-the-Match Award by beating James Whiteman and Tim Yarnall.

Division One (South): London Progress II are Champions but they didn't have it all their own way as Ellenborough held them to a draw and Cippenham only succumbed 5-3. They found themselves 2-1 down against Ellenborough after a battling Chris Marlow had beaten Henry Medellin 12-10 in the fifth end but two wins for Vidal Graham (against Matthew

Spero and Chris Pickard) and an expected Eli Baraty victory over Chris Marlow meant they couldn't be beaten. Spero finally earned Ellenborough their point with a 3-1 victory over Henry Medellin. Progress had their top-player Tomek Gretscheil in action in their 5-3 victory over Cippenham I and he was undefeated as he took both singles whilst Eli Baraty followed suit just getting the better of Martin Adams at 11-9 in the decider. Cippenham's Clive Payne took the Man-of-the-match award after beating James Sprackling in another desperately hard-fought match. DML Plymouth scored best of all with four victories which saw them jump to second place in the table. Their 8-0 whitewash of Cippenham might have been a flattering result (no less than six matches went to a decider!) but each time the very strong Plymouth side of Paul Whiting, Mike Short, Craig Bryant and Marketa Myskova came out on top. Plymouth's 5-3 opening victory over Horsham no doubt put them in a positive mood for the weekend and was achieved despite the fact they went 1-0 behind after Peter Bartram had opened proceedings with an excellent win over Paul Whiting. Up-and-coming junior Craig Bryant won twice although ageless Super-Veteran Rhamesh Bhalla's win over Greg Bridgett also takes some beating!

Division Two (North): Dewsbury I are almost home and dry although they do still have to play third-placed Halton Croda. With Potteries having fallen back Dewsbury now have a 3 point advantage over Derwent who are in turn level on points with Halton in what has been a very competitive division. The all important match between Dewsbury and Derwent fittingly finished 4-4 after Dewsbury had stormed into a 3-0 and 4-2 lead. There were plenty of close matches with Simon Pugh beating Stephen Horsfield 3-2 but missing out over five ends against Mick Wilcockson. Dewsbury's Darren Page won twice defeating Richard Moss and Andrew Nicholls but it was England no. 30 junior Richard Moss who took the Man-of-the-Match award by beating James Brown with his side 3-4 behind. Dewsbury's clash with Potteries also finished all-square although this time it was Dewsbury who had to come from behind to secure their point. Potterie's relatively unknown David Savage proved to be an excellent no.2 beating both Richard Lightowler and Darren Page whilst former Welsh junior international Tony Jaynes made his mark with a fine five-set win over Lightowler. Dewsbury's James Brown had the dubious pleasure of needing to win the last set of the match to earn his side the draw which he did with a 3-1 win over Paul Myatt. In yet another evenly matched game Derwent just prevailed 5-3 against Potteries with Richard Moss yet again displaying that vital ability to compete under pressure as

he beat Paul Myatt 3-1 in the last game of the match.

The biggest shock in this division was the heavy 7-1 loss Halton Croda suffered against Derwent II. Halton's Chris Ford took the first set as he beat Chris Nicholls 3-1 but from then on Halton were never really in it again. Andrew Nicholls, Richard Moss and Mick Wilcockson were all undefeated. Richard Moss has set a record which can never be bettered under this weekend format; he took the Man-of-the-Match award on all four occasions.

Division Two (South): London Progress III are the Champions after winning all four of their round three matches. Their closest battle was against Fellows Cranleigh who put up a great fight before succumbing 5-3. Arch-showman Gary Tendler became the first player to beat Darek Zukowski; which he did 3-1 after calling a "time-out" for dramatic effect when leading 10-7 in the fourth end. Tendler's battle with England no. 41 Tajudeen Agunbiade was another stirring encounter with Tajū emerging the winner over four sets. Tajū's only loss in this division was against Ryan Owen in the first round of matches. Cranleigh's Gavin West showed up well with a superb win over Niv Bogen who also lost to Clive Carpenter (3-1). Cranleigh slipped back to third place after making the mistake of leaving Gary Tendler out of their side when they faced De Vere NETTS. Dave Cole was on top form for NETTS beating both John Tendler and Roland Zaunmayr fairly decisively and with Steve Kerns, Paul Davison and Keiran Lally all winning twice NETTS scraped home 5-3 to move up to second position. Without Cole in their line-up NETTS had sunk without trace (6-2) against a three-man Byng Hall Farningham Print II side of Simon Phillipz, John Huckle and Chris Ross.

Division Three (South & West): There was never much doubt which team would take this division and Guildford now lead the table by a full eight points with a full-house of 24 points out of a possible 24. Their closest test was against JAGS II (where they won 5-3) for whom Adrian Davis excelled to win twice. Adrian's two wins included a superb victory over Jason Tendler. Jason had already shown his mettle with a fine 3-0 win over Farhat Rasul whilst Guildford's no. 1 Terry Haley was unbeaten. On the Saturday Guildford were even stronger with Mayur Majithia at no. 1 and it is no surprise that they beat both KCD Stiga II and London Progress V 8-0. EBS-Orange Northampton stay in second place but they failed to make any impression against KCD Stiga II. Both teams were short and only five games were played with Stiga coming out well on top at 6-1. Rod McMullan was the best player on view overcoming Mark Purcell 13-11 in the decider and Phil Clarkson 3-0 (11,11,10). EBS were at full strength on

the Saturday although they were held to a 4-4 draw by third-placed OLOP II. Hari Gehlot took the Man-of-the-Match Award winning both his singles but he had his work cut out before getting the better of Andy Doshier at 13-11 in the decider.

Division Three (Midlands): Elgre are the inform team in this very strong division and take over from Grove at the head of the table. They didn't face the leading teams and made no mistake in defeating Kingshurst II (7-1), Woodfield (6-2), Halton Croda II (8-0) and Rotherham Scorpions (6-2). Their no.1 John Taylor (not the Barnet defender or the Wellow House top-spinner of a similar name!) only lost once and that was by an 11, 11, 11 margin to a leading player from a different era - Andy Rich. Elgre showed their strength in depth as their no. 2 Trevor Kerry managed to beat Rich 11-9 in the final end. Kerry's performance appears to have taken the Elgre team by surprise; so much so that he appears as Trevor Cherry in the Man-of-the-Match box. Elgre's ever-present Alex Green (the fast-improving England no. 19 junior) also only lost once when he went down to Rotherham Scorpion's Ben Wall 3-1. Bedford Modern had former England no. 19 Simon Rockall in action but he certainly didn't have it all his own way. Andy Rich defeated him 3-1 and he found himself embroiled in real struggles with Birmingham University's Paul Lucas (where he won 12-10 in the decider), against Ray Jackson (who he beat 11-9 in the fifth) and against Ken Connor (who he overcame 11-4 in the final game). A strong Birmingham University side destroyed Grove's hopes by beating them 5-3 and this was despite the fact that Grove included no less a player than Dave Harvey in their line-up.

Division Three (South): Oxford Fire Place Centre finally dropped their first point of the season when they met their match in an inspired Horsham III. Oxford's Karl Bushell dominated the top end of the card but Horsham's no. 4 Chris Vincent hit back with fine wins over Andrew Packford and Glenn Freeman. It was Vincent's 3-1 victory over Freeman that earned his side a share of the spoils. Oxford were also hard pushed to see off a refreshingly young BATT'S Team Peniel

second team 5-3. England no. 1 Cadet Girl Abigail Embling scored an outstanding win over Karl Bushell although she in turn missed out against Ian Packford; both games being decided at deuce in the fifth end. Second-placed Cippenham continued to score well and took seven points out of eight this weekend. They had to fight back from 2-4 down to earn a draw with a three-man Byng Hall Farningham Print II in a match where Byng Hall No.1 Mark Buckley played well to get the better of both Mike Rhodes and Mark Jackson. Steve New played his part by beating David Hayes and Mark Jackson (both 3-1). Cippenham were able "to put one over" Oxford by managing to beat Horsham III 6-2. Newcomer Simon Pink was again Horsham's best player as he beat both Paul Baker and Robert Hansell. Bottom-placed York Gardens have had a wretched season with near misses and non-registration of players restricting them to a single point. They finally "got their names on the scoreboard" by drawing with Britannia Hanbury Ipswich for whom Ian Brown and Clair Emmerson were both unbeaten.

Division Three (North): A mere point separates Oakbank from Clarks Wakefield after the two teams couldn't be separated when they clashed. Wakefield's Darren Lindley beat both Shaun Marples and Stephen Denny but Neil Marples balanced the scales by winning twice from the no. 4 position. Oakbank's Andrew Woodhead just got the better of Andrew Thornhill 11-9 in the decider in the third game - a result that was to eventually prove vital in determining the final score. Dewsbury gave Clarks a scare before succumbing 5-3 and again it was Darren Lindley's two wins which held the Clarks side together. Grove II showed a marked improvement which culminated in fine 5-3 victories over Seasiders II and Kendall. Grove's success against Seasiders was very much down to team-effort with all four of their players - Robert Morris, Duncan Pattison, Lawrence Shahlei and Myles Evans contributing wins although the Man of the Match award went to Seasiders' Gareth Wiles.

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PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
London Progress	12	12	-	-	135	33	24
BATT'S Peniel	12	9	-	3	101	67	18
Darlington	12	6	-	6	92	76	12
Barnet	12	4	3	5	76	92	11
JAGS	12	5	1	6	77	91	11
Wellow House School	12	5	-	7	75	93	10
OLOP Kingfisher	12	3	2	7	68	100	8
Byng Hall Farningham Print	12	1	2	9	58	110	4
DIVISION ONE NORTH							
Seasiders	8	7	1	-	49	15	15
Derwent	8	6	1	1	43	21	13
Ormesby	8	5	2	1	41	23	12
Norwich Todd Foxwood	8	3	-	5	25	39	6
Darlington II	8	1	3	4	29	35	5
Coventry Phonix	8	2	1	5	25	39	5
Grantham	8	1	2	5	27	37	4
Kinghurst Bribar	8	2	-	6	17	47	4
DIVISION ONE SOUTH							
London Progress II	8	7	1	-	46	18	15
Cippenham	8	4	2	2	39	25	10
Horsham	8	3	3	2	36	28	9
DML Plymouth	8	3	3	2	34	30	9
EBS-Orange Northampton	8	2	4	2	30	34	8
Barnett II	8	2	3	3	28	36	7
Ellenborough	8	2	1	5	26	38	5
PSP Westinsure	8	-	1	7	17	47	1
DIVISION TWO NORTH							
Dewsbury	8	6	1	1	42	22	13
Potteries	8	5	1	2	41	23	11
Halton Croda	8	5	1	2	38	26	11
Derwent II	8	4	1	3	35	29	9
Wellow House School II	8	4	1	3	33	31	9
Darlington III	8	3	0	5	21	43	6
Uxbridge Burton	8	2	1	5	32	32	5
City of Manchester	8	-	-	8	14	50	-
DIVISION TWO SOUTH							
London Progress III	8	7	1	-	47	17	15
Fellows Cranleigh	8	6	1	1	43	21	13
Fellows C.	8	6	-	2	38	26	12
Byng Hall Farningham II	8	5	-	3	37	27	10
Horsham II	8	1	2	5	28	36	4
Hastings	8	1	2	5	20	44	4
Ashford	8	1	1	6	23	41	3
KCD Stiga	8	1	1	6	20	44	3
DIVISION THREE NORTH							
Oakbank	8	6	1	1	49	15	13
Clarks Wakefield	8	6	-	2	44	20	12
Kendal Open Club	8	5	1	2	41	23	11
Seasiders II	8	4	1	3	36	28	9
Darlington IV	8	2	2	4	20	44	6
Barrow	8	2	1	5	24	40	5
Dewsbury II	8	1	3	4	22	42	5
Grove II	8	1	1	6	20	44	3
DIVISION THREE MIDLANDS							
Grove	8	6	1	1	45	19	13
Elgre	8	5	2	1	39	25	12
Birmingham University	8	5	-	3	39	25	10
Bedford Modern	8	4	2	2	36	28	10
Rotherham Scorpions	8	2	3	3	28	36	7
Halton NT Cars	8	3	1	4	25	39	7
Woodfield	8	1	1	6	24	40	3
Kinghurst Bribar II	8	1	0	7	20	44	2
DIVISION THREE SOUTH							
Oxford Fireplace Centre	8	8	0	0	49	15	16
Cippenham II	8	6	0	2	43	21	12
Horsham III	8	6	0	2	41	23	12
London Progress IV	8	4	0	4	32	31	8
Byng Hall Farningham III	8	3	0	5	26	38	6
BATT'S Team Peniel II	8	3	0	5	23	41	6
Britannia Hanbury Ipswich	8	2	0	6	25	39	4
York Gardens	8	0	0	8	16	48	0
DIVISION THREE SOUTH & WEST							
Guildford	8	8	0	0	53	11	16
EBS-Orange North'pton II	8	6	0	2	44	20	12
London Progress V	8	3	2	3	33	31	8
OLOP Kingfisher II	8	3	1	4	27	37	7
PSB Westinsure II	8	2	3	3	26	38	7
KCD Stiga II	8	2	2	4	26	38	6
JAGS II	8	2	1	5	28	36	5
Ashford II	8	1	1	6	19	45	3

HERTFORDSHIRE THRASH WILTSHIRE in DIV. 1B

THE FAST approaching County Championships Conference will soon be demanding our collective attention, County representatives should note that the date published in the ETTA DIARY IS INCORRECT, the conference will now be held on Saturday 8th June not 1st June as shown in the diary.

No amendments to regulation have been submitted by County associations, but there will be a number of amendments proposed by the Championships committee. Most of the proposals are aimed at improving the administration of the championships and tidying up obvious mistakes in the existing regulations but there are some proposals which may well be seen as controversial. The details will soon be circulated to County Associations as per rule and you must decide your approach to them as you see fit, but if you don't send a representative to the conference you cannot expect to influence opinion, so I hope there will be a better than normal attendance so that your views can be properly represented.

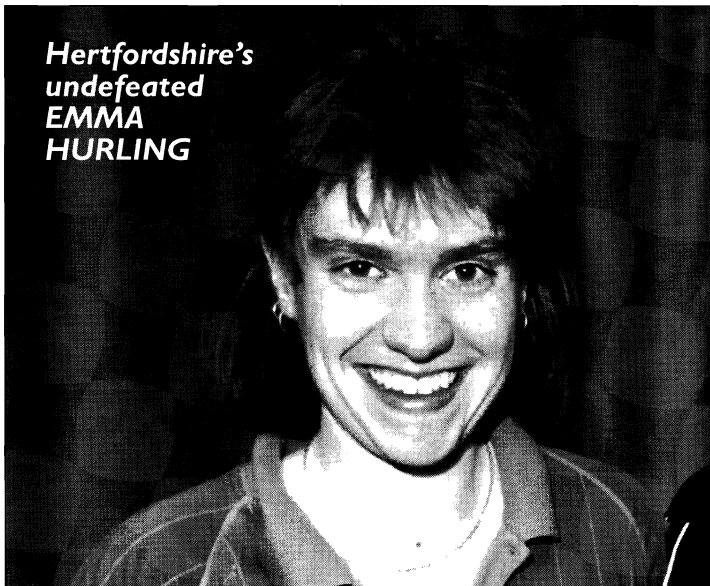
By and large the competition has drawn to a close. March saw the three Premier divisions complete their fixtures, as have Senior Division 1A, most of the other divisions are well on the way. Although some do seem to be a little behind at the moment.

Not too many score sheets to comment on at the moment, I am expecting a huge influx in the next couple of weeks.

HERTFORDSHIRE MOVE UP

In Senior Division 1B Hertfordshire thrashed Wiltshire 9/1 only Michelle Cohen offering any real resistance by beating Sarah Seaholme, later the same day they played host to Berkshire and proved rather inhospitable, despite losing the first two sets they then ran up a winning 6/3 lead before Ben Johnson pulled one back to make the match score 6/4. Good performance for the visitors from Ben Johnson, beating Anthony Corbin and Morris Greenberg, Hertfordshire were indebted to Emma Hurling and Sarah Seaholme who were both unbeaten,

Hertfordshire's
undefeated
**EMMA
HURLING**



the win took Hertfordshire above Berkshire in the table by virtue of a superior sets difference.

Isle of Wight, in division 2D were at home to Buckinghamshire, Carl Prean again showed his class by beating Mark Jackson 2-2-3, then Danny Baxter 1-4-4, but "Bucks" held on to force a draw.

SURREY 2nd's ON TOP

In Junior division 2B Surrey 2nd really put their 3rd team to the sword winning 8/2, no surprise really as the 2nd are currently top of the division and the 3rd are firmly anchored to the bottom.

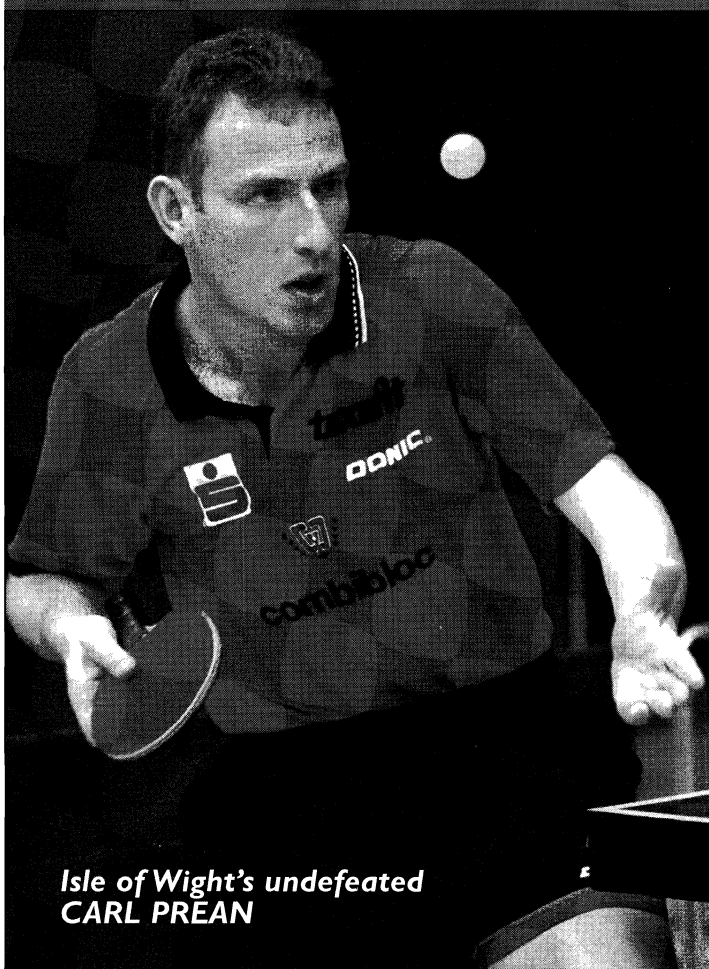
In Junior division 3C Cornwall took their 1st and 2nd teams to face Shropshire at Shifnall, the 1st team held on for a creditable draw but the 2nd were well beaten 8/2, a long trip for so little result.

TIGHT VETERAN FINISH

It is difficult to imagine a tighter division than Veterans 1B, four teams are level on points all having won four games and lost one, Middlesex are currently in top spot having a one set advantage over Kent 2nd and Hampshire, who are themselves level on points and on sets and are separated by game points only then in fourth place are Surrey 2nd also

with eight points. When the division came together at the Graham Spicer institute to play two matches each Kent 2nd beat Middlesex 6/3, Hampshire beat Avon 5/4 and Surrey 2nd beat Hertfordshire 2nd 5/4. Buckingham beat Somerset 5/4 in the second round of matches, Middlesex fought back to defeat Avon 6/3, Kent matched them by beating Somerset 6/3, Hampshire gained some ground by beating Hertfordshire 7/2 whilst Surrey 2nd edged home 5/4 against Buckinghamshire 5/4. Avon and Somerset are in dire trouble neither team having gained a point to date, it will require a supreme effort for either of these teams to avoid relegation.

UNDEFEATED



Isle of Wight's undefeated
CARL PREAN

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS LEAGUE TABLES

Tables up to 16th March 2002 - Compiled by Leslie Smith

SENIORS

PREMIER	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sussex	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Yorkshire	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Surrey	3	1	2	0	16	14	4
Essex	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Devonshire	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Leicestershire	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Kent	3	0	1	2	12	18	1
Middlesex	3	0	0	3	9	21	0

Division IA

South Yorkshire	7	7	0	0	50	20	14
Lancashire	7	6	0	1	50	20	12
Nottinghamshire	7	5	0	2	45	25	10
Yorkshire 2nd	7	4	0	3	36	34	8
Essex 2nd	7	3	0	4	29	41	6
Worcestershire	7	2	0	5	31	39	4
Northumberland	7	1	0	6	21	49	2
Derbyshire	7	0	0	7	18	52	0

Division IB

Glamorgan	6	6	0	0	44	16	12
Gloucestershire	7	5	1	1	47	23	11
Middlesex 2nd	7	4	0	3	42	28	8
Hertfordshire	6	3	1	2	32	28	7
Wiltshire	7	3	1	3	35	35	7
Berkshire	7	3	0	4	35	35	6
Hampshire	7	0	2	5	17	53	2
Cornwall	7	0	1	6	18	52	1

Division 2A

Durham	6	6	0	0	46	14	12
Cleveland	6	5	0	1	40	20	10
Warwickshire 1st	6	4	0	2	37	23	8
Cheshire	6	3	0	3	37	23	6
Leicestershire 2nd	6	2	0	4	21	39	4
Cumbria	6	1	0	5	19	41	2
Warwickshire 2nd	6	0	0	6	10	50	0

Division 2B

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Glamorgan 2nd	6	5	1	0	44	16	11
Devonshire 2nd	6	4	2	0	46	14	10
Worcestershire 2nd	6	4	0	2	31	29	8
Somerset	6	2	2	2	29	31	6
Avon	6	2	1	3	23	37	5
Cornwall 2nd	6	1	0	5	21	39	2
Herefordshire	6	0	0	6	16	44	0

Division 2C

Cambridgeshire	4	3	1	0	30	10	7
Suffolk	4	2	1	1	24	16	5
Lincolnshire	4	2	0	2	19	21	4(74-77)
Northamptonshire	4	2	0	2	19	21	4(72-80)
Norfolk	4	0	0	4	8	32	0

Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire 2nd have withdrawn

Division 2D

Kent 2nd	6	6	0	0	44	16	12
Sussex 2nd	6	3	1	2	35	25	7
Buckinghamshire	6	3	1	2	34	26	7
Oxfordshire	6	3	0	3	27	33	6
Isle of Wight	6	1	3	2	30	30	5
Surrey 2nd	6	2	1	3	29	31	5
Berkshire 2nd	6	0	0	6	11	49	0

JUNIORS

Premier Division

Glamorgan	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Yorkshire	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
Cheshire	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Devonshire	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Essex	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Surrey	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Buckinghamshire	3	0	1	2	12	18	1
Warwickshire	3	0	0	3	5	25	0

Division IA

Yorkshire 2nd	7	5	2	0	51	19	12(171-89)
Lincolnshire	7	5	2	0	51	19	12(164-88)
Lancashire	7	4	1	2	48	22	9
Cleveland	7	1	5	1	35	35	7
Nottinghamshire	7	2	2	3	28	42	6
Cumbria	7	2	1	4	22	48	5
South Yorkshire	7	2	0	5	28	42	4
Worcestershire	7	0	1	6	17	53	1

Division IB

Sussex	7	5	2	0	47	23	12
Buckingham 2nd	7	5	2	0	46	24	12
Kent	7	5	2	0	44	26	12
Middlesex	7	3	1	3	32	38	7
Gwent	7	3	0	4	35	35	6
Glamorgan 2nd	7	2	1	4	32	38	5
Dorset	7	1	0	6	28	42	2
Berkshire	7	0	0	7	16	54	0

Division 2A

Derbyshire	7	7	0	0	53	17	14
Lincolnshire 2nd	7	4	1	2	44	26	9
Shropshire	7	4	1	2	43	27	9

Cheshire 2nd	7	4	0	3	37	33	8
Norfolk	7	2	2	3	31	39	6
Lancashire 2nd	7	2	2	3	33	37	6
Suffolk	7	0	2	5	20	50	2
Hertfordshire	7	0	2	5	19	51	2

Division 2B

Essex 2nd	7	5	2	0	55	15	12
Hampshire	7	5	2	0	51	19	12
Surrey 2nd	7	5	1	1	47	23	11
Kent 2nd	7	4	0	3	34	36	8
Oxfordshire	7	2	2	3	32	38	6
Surrey 3rd	7	2	0	5	33	37	4
Middlesex 2nd	7	0	2	5	17	53	2
Avon	7	0	1	6	11	59	1

Division 3A

Northampton 2nd	7	7	0	0	59	11	14
Huntingdon 1st	7	5	1	1	41	29	11
Bedfordshire 1st	7	4	2	1	45	25	10
Leicestershire	7	3	2	2	38	32	8
Bedfordshire 2nd	7	3	0	4	31	39	6
Norfolk 2nd	7	2	1	4	36	34	5
Huntingdon 2nd	7	1	0	6	19	51	2
Cambridgeshire	7	0	0	7	11	59	0

Division 3B

Durham 1st	7	7	0	0	65	5	14
Northamptonshire	7	6	0	1	54	16	12
Nottingham 2nd	7	5	0	2	47	23	10
Durham 2nd	7	4	0	3	33	37	8
Nottingham 3rd	7	3	0	4	36	34	6
Conwy 1st	7	2	0	5	25	45	4
Conwy 2nd	7	1	0	6	13	57	2
Northumberland	7	0	0	7	7	63	0

Division 3C

Somerset	7	6	1	0	49	21	13
Herefordshire	7	5	1	1	46	24	11
Devonshire 2nd	7	5	0	2	42	28	10
Cornwall	7	3	3	1	39	31	9
Warwickshire 2nd	7	3	0	4	35	35	6
Shropshire 2nd	7	2	1	4	34	36	5
Devonshire 3rd	7	0	1	6	19	51	1
Cornwall 2nd	7	0	1	6	16	54	1

Division 3D

Buckingham 3rd	7	7	0	0	59	11	14
Buckingham 4th	7	4	2	1	41	29	10
Gloucestershire	7	4	1	2	35	35	9
Essex 3rd	7	3	2	2	38	32	8
Wiltshire	7	3	2	2	35	35	8
Gwent 2nd	7	2	0	5	27	43	4
Sussex 2nd	7	1	1	5	27	43	3
Sussex 3rd	7	0	0	7	18	52	0

CADETS

Northern Division

Cheshire	4	4	0	0	26	14	8
Cleveland	4	1	2	1	21	19	4
Yorkshire	4	1	2	1	19	21	4
Lancashire	4	0	2	2	18	22	2
Durham	4	0	2	2	16	24	2

Southern Division

Surrey	4	3	1	0	25	15	7
Sussex 1st	4	2	2	0	24	16	6
Somerset	4	1	2	1	19	21	4
Sussex 2nd	4	0	2	2	15	25	2
Berkshire	4	0	1	3	17	23	1

VETERANS

Premier	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Cheshire	7	7	0	47	16	14
Kent	7	5	2	40	23	10
Lancashire	7	4	3	41	22	8
Yorkshire	7	3	4	31	32	6
Surrey	7	3	4	27	36	6
Sussex	7	3	4	25	38	6
Essex	7	2	5	23	40	4
Dorset	7	1	6	18	45	2

Division IA

Northumberland	6	5	1	31	23	10
Leicestershire	6	4	2	32	22	8
Durham	6	4	2	30	24	8
Hertfordshire	6	3	3	26	28	6
Oxfordshire	6	3	3	24	30	6
Yorkshire 2nd	6	2	4	27	27	4
Warwickshire	6	0	6	19	35	0

Cambridgeshire have withdrawn

Division IB

Kent 2nd	7	6	1	43	20	12(153-94)
Middlesex	7	6	1	43	20	12

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A SERIES of three comprehensive training videos covering three crucial elements of sports performance - Power, Agility and Speed - has been introduced by Coachwise1st4sport. Each video contains a selection of

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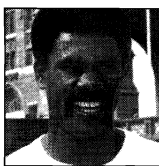
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 Former: England No.1, World No.7, European No.2, European Top 12 Champion & Commonwealth Champion

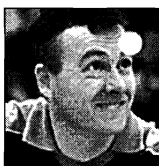


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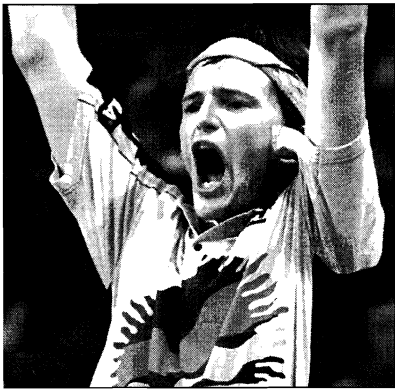
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Further details please ring Doreen Nightingale 01424 722525

Senior Men			Senior Women			Junior Boys			Junior Girls			Under 12 Boys			Under 12 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	Pos	Name	Rtg Flg	Pos	Name	Rtg Flg	Pos	Name	Rtg Flg						
(1)	1	SYED, Matthew (SY.)	4822	(1)	1	DEATON, Nicola (DY.)	4064	(1)	1	BARHAM, Dale (CA.)	4122	(1)	1	SMITH, Karen (LE.)	3339*	(1)	1	DRINKHALL, Paul (CY.)	2647	(1)	1	SMITH, Karen (LE.)	3339*	(1)	1	SMITH, Karen (LE.)	3339*	(1)	1	DRINKHALL, Paul (CY.)	2647	(1)	1	DRINKHALL, Paul (CY.)	2647
(2)	2	BAGGALEY, Andrew (BU.)	4784	(2)	2	LOWER, Helen (ST.)	3936	(2)	2	KENNY, Mathew (Y.)	3914	(2)	2	ROGERS, Chris (LE.)	3539*	(2)	2	BROWN, Sarah (E.)	2446	(2)	2	DUNNING, Jan (WO.)	3139	(2)	2	ROGERS, Chris (LE.)	3539*	(2)	2	DUNNING, Jan (WO.)	3139	(2)	2	DUNNING, Jan (WO.)	3139
(3)	3	PERRY, Alex (DY.)	4712	(3)	3	MARCH, Linda (E.)	3715	(3)	3	BRYANT, Craig (DV.)	3383	(3)	3	CARTHY, Clive (E.)	3474	(3)	3	BROWN, Grace (E.)	2307	(3)	3	CARTHY, Clive (E.)	3474	(3)	3	CARTHY, Clive (E.)	3474	(3)	3	CARTHY, Clive (E.)	3474	(3)	3	CARTHY, Clive (E.)	3474
(4)	4	HERBERT, Gareth (BK.)	4672	(4)	4	HOLT, Andrea (LA.)	3709	(4)	4	BAKER, Gregory (ST.)	3374	(4)	4	HILTON, John (CH.)	3442	(4)	4	TONG, Rebecca (LA.)	2250****	(4)	4	HILTON, John (CH.)	3442	(4)	4	HILTON, John (CH.)	3442	(4)	4	HILTON, John (CH.)	3442	(4)	4	HILTON, John (CH.)	3442
(5)	5	COOKE, Alan (DY.)	4628*	(5)	5	PARKER, Katy (LA.)	3693	(5)	5	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(5)	5	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(5)	5	WELLS, Richard (NG.)	1482	(5)	5	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(5)	5	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(5)	5	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(5)	5	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*
(6)	6	PREAN, Carl (IW.)	4546	(6)	6	OWOLABI, Kubrat (MI.)	3628	(6)	6	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(6)	6	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(6)	6	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(6)	6	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(6)	6	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(6)	6	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(7)	7	YOUNG, Terry (BK.)	4514	(7)	7	STEWART, Kate (SO.)	3594	(7)	7	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(7)	7	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(7)	7	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(7)	7	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(7)	7	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(7)	7	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(8)	8	BILLINGTON, Bradley (DY.)	4416	(8)	8	WALKER, Georgina (NG.)	3562	(8)	8	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(8)	8	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(8)	8	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(8)	8	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(8)	8	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(8)	8	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(9)	9	RUSHTON, Andrew (LA.)	4402	(9)	9	BARNES, Natalie (E.)	3536*	(9)	9	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(9)	9	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(9)	9	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(9)	9	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(9)	9	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(9)	9	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(10)	10	EDEN, Andrew (LA.)	4125	(10)	10	MARLING, Sally (Y.)	3438*	(10)	10	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(10)	10	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(10)	10	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(10)	10	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(10)	10	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(10)	10	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(11)	11	BARHAM, Dale (CA.)	4122	(11)	11	DURRANT, Louise (NG.)	3429	(11)	11	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(11)	11	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(11)	11	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(11)	11	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(11)	11	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(11)	11	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(12)	12	SUGRUE, Jason (MI.)	3960	(12)	12	PARKER, Joanna (SA.)	3414	(12)	12	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(12)	12	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(12)	12	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(12)	12	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(12)	12	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(12)	12	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(13)	13	ISHERWOOD, Michael (DY.)	3936	(13)	13	SMITH, Karen (LE.)	3339*	(13)	13	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(13)	13	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(13)	13	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(13)	13	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(13)	13	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(13)	13	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(14)	14	SLADDEN, Kris (E.)	3922	(14)	14	THORNTON, Lindsey (LA.)	3337	(14)	14	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(14)	14	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(14)	14	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(14)	14	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(14)	14	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(14)	14	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(15)	15	KENNY, Mathew (Y.)	3914	(15)	15	ROBERTS, Joanna (Y.)	3265	(15)	15	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(15)	15	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(15)	15	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(15)	15	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(15)	15	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(15)	15	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(16)	16	HOLLAND, John (DY.)	3912	(16)	16	HARRIS, Jill (ST.)	3220*	(16)	16	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(16)	16	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(16)	16	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(16)	16	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(16)	16	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(16)	16	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(17)	17	VENNER, Richie (SX.)	3664	(17)	17	NARENDHAR, Aparna (MI.)	3202*	(17)	17	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(17)	17	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(17)	17	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(17)	17	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(17)	17	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(17)	17	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(18)	18	JAMES, Michael (Y.)	3663	(18)	18	SPARKES, Rebecca (SK.)	3199****	(18)	18	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(18)	18	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(18)	18	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(18)	18	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(18)	18	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(18)	18	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(19)	19	GOODALL, Justin (LA.)	3657	(19)	19	RAINTON, Rosemary (SX.)	3188	(19)	19	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(19)	19	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(19)	19	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(19)	19	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(19)	19	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(19)	19	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(20)	20	TAYLOR, Jonathan (LA.)	3651	(20)	20	EMBLING, Abigail (E.)	3171	(20)	20	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(20)	20	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(20)	20	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(20)	20	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(20)	20	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(20)	20	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(21)	21	PYE, Leeroy (NK.)	3641	(21)	21	WESTON, Sally (SX.)	3160*	(21)	21	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(21)	21	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(21)	21	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(21)	21	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(21)	21	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(21)	21	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(22)	22	MOORE, Adrian (K.)	3612	(22)	22	HOWARD, Alice (CH.)	3156	(22)	22	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(22)	22	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(22)	22	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(22)	22	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(22)	22	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(22)	22	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(23)	23	CHAN, Michael (SY.)	3606	(23)	23	WHITE, Nicola (Y.)	3154	(23)	23	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(23)	23	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(23)	23	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(23)	23	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(23)	23	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(23)	23	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(24)	24	CHARLES, Neil (MI.)	3567	(24)	24	COHEN, Michele (AV.)	3145	(24)	24	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(24)	24	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(24)	24	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(24)	24	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(24)	24	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(24)	24	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(25)	25	WURAOA, Abdul (SY.)	3565	(25)	25	LOCKWOOD, Karen (CH.)	3143	(25)	25	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(25)	25	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(25)	25	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(25)	25	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(25)	25	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(25)	25	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(26)	26	BARR, David (BK.)	3558	(26)	26	DUNNING, Jan (WO.)	3139	(26)	26	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(26)	26	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(26)	26	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(26)	26	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(26)	26	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(26)	26	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(27)	27	ECKERLEY, Nigel (SX.)	3551	(27)	27	YARDY, Hannah (E.)	3131	(27)	27	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(27)	27	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(27)	27	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(27)	27	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(27)	27	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(27)	27	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(28)	28	ROGERS, Chris (LE.)	3539*	(28)	28	CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.)	3108	(28)	28	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(28)	28	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(28)	28	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(28)	28	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(28)	28	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(28)	28	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(29)	29	BROWN, Mark (K.)	3529	(29)	29	KEAST, Lesley (LI.)	3102**	(29)	29	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(29)	29	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(29)	29	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(29)	29	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(29)	29	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(29)	29	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(30)	30	SMITH, Eddie (ND.)	3513	(30)	30	SPINK, Lauren (NK.)	3096	(30)	30	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(30)	30	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(30)	30	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(30)	30	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(30)	30	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(30)	30	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(31)	31	CUTLER, Tom (MI.)	3495***	(31)	31	BLOOR, Trudie (SP.)	3095	(31)	31	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(31)	31	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(31)	31	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(31)	31	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(31)	31	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(31)	31	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(32)	32	KENNEDY, Joe (K) (E.)	3492	(32)	32	ASHISON, Glenda (SX.)	3087	(32)	32	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(32)	32	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(32)	32	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(32)	32	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(32)	32	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(32)	32	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(33)	33	CARTHY, Clive (E.)	3474	(33)	33	ADOMEYTE, Egile (MI.)	3070	(33)	33	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(33)	33	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(33)	33	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(33)	33	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(33)	33	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(33)	33	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(34)	34	NEIL, Lee (NG.)	3473	(34)	34	NEWS, Clare (CH.)	3066	(34)	34	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(34)	34	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(34)	34	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(34)	34	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(34)	34	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(34)	34	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(35)	35	SMITH, Mark Richard (Y.)	3455*	(35)	35	SHORT, Elaine (DV.)	3062*	(35)	35	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(35)	35	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(35)	35	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(35)	35	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(35)	35	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(35)	35	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(36)	36	HILTON, John (CH.)	3442	(36)	36	HARPER, Sandra (BD.)	3056*	(36)	36	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(36)	36	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(36)	36	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(36)	36	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(36)	36	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(36)	36	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(37)	37	WHITING, Paul (DV.)	3439*	(37)	37	HURLING, Emma (HE.)	3051	(37)	37	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(37)	37	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(37)	37	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(37)	37	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(37)	37	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(37)	37	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(38)	38	SLATER, Stephen (ST.)	3426***	(38)	38	DURHAM, Jane (CY.)	3047	(38)	38	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(38)	38	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(38)	38	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(38)	38	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(38)	38	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(38)	38	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*				
(39)	39	DOLDER, Kevin (LA.)	3420	(39)	39	SIBLEY, Kelly (WA.)	3044	(39)	39	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3339	(39)	39	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(39)	39	WANG, Sarra (E.)	1235	(39)	39	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3178*	(39)	39										

SAIVE BEAT THEM ALL



leaping up the lists are Europe's Timo Boll and Tamara Boros.

Following both their victories in the European Top 12, and other success in the ITTF Pro Tour tournaments, Germany's Boll has gone from 10th to 5th position, whilst Croatia's Boros has gone from No.3 up to No.2.

England's World Ranking positions for our leading players have all slipped downwards since the last edition of TTN, but some of our younger players have fared better.

Doha, Qatar, 4th-8th March 2002.
JEAN-MICHEL SAIVE of Belgium has played very well for the last year and he also has had some good results, but nobody had ever imagined that he could win the strongest and best paid Pro Tour event ever.

Nevertheless the Belgian took the title and 34,000 US Dollars winning the final in mens singles against the young Chuan Chu-Yuan of Taipei.

The Qatar Open offered 205,000 US Dollars in prize money and 17 out of the World's 20 best men and 6 out of the World's 10 best women came to pick up the money. Saive took a good part of it. He beat Chaun 4-0.

"The first two games were very important. I know that Chaun is very fast so I had to slow down the game and frustrate him. I succeeded. When I look at the entry to this tournament I just can't believe it. All the best were here, and I won", said Jean-Michel Saive who now is No.1 on the Pro Tour Standings. He ended as No.1 last year and he is well on his way again.

WANG NAN IS CLEAR No.1

THE women's World Champion Wang Nan is still clearly on top of the World Rankings after beating compatriot and competitor Zhang Yining (No.2 in the World), in the Qatar Open.

The final with the two best women in the World proved once more why China is so dominant. They both showed marvellous shots and aggressive game. Zhang Yining took the first game but that was all she got. Wang totally controlled the rest of the match to win 4-1.

UPS & DOWNS

WANG LIQIN and WANG NAN remain well on top of their respective World Ranking lists, but

WORLD TOP TEN

1st MARCH 2002

MEN				WOMEN					
1	(1)	2273	WANG Liqin	CHN	1	(1)	2354	WANG Nan	CHN
2	(2)	2159	MA Lin	CHN	2	(3)	2084	BOROS Tamara	CRO
3	(3)	2113	SAMSONOV Vladimir	BLR	3	(2)	2053	ZHANG Yining	CHN
4	(4)	2032	CHIANG Peng-Lung	TPE	4	(7)	1995	LI Nan	CHN
5	(10)	2017	BOLL Timo	GER	5	(5)	1988	LI Ju	CHN
6	(6)	2012	KONG Linghui	CHN	6	(4)	1981	RYU Ji Hye	KOR
7	(7)	2012	LIU Guozheng	CHN	7	(6)	1937	NIU Jianfeng	CHN
8	(5)	2006	WALDNER Jan Ove	SWE	8	(8)	1900	STEFF Mihaela	ROM
9	(8)	1973	SCHLAGER Werner	AUT	9	(9)	1884	GUO Yan	CHN
10	(11)	1968	LIU Guoliang	CHN	10	(10)	1883	CHEN Jing	TPE
66	(65)	1443	SYED Matthew	ENG	180(177)1064			DEATON Nicola	ENG
135(131)1147			HERBERT Gareth	ENG	187(180)1057			LOWER Helen	ENG

Alex Perry has leapt up to No.148 from 173rd position, whilst our new National Champion Andrew Baggaley

has gone from 205 up to 193. In the women's section Katy Parker has moved up one place to 347.

ALAN COOKE & NICOLA DEATON 2002 SUMMER SCHOOL



Due to popular demand Britain's best and most up to date summer school offers two weeks in 2002.

1st WEEK - Monday August 5th to Friday August 9th AND/OR 2nd WEEK - Monday August 12th to Friday August 16th



Play commences at 10.00am on each of the Mondays and concludes on the respective Fridays after evening meals at 6.30pm. The Cooke and Deaton Summer School looks forward to offering you the opportunity to experience some of the best and most up to date coaching techniques available. The course will cater for all standards and is unique in that it provides International standard practice partners as well as the chance to test and improve your skills at multi ball, a training technique used by all national squads.

There will be tournaments throughout the week with quality prizes to be presented at the end of the course, along with an international challenge exhibition featuring current England stars.

Evening seminars will include an opportunity to listen to and question all the International Coaches/Players as well as a talk from the England Team Sports Psychologist Mark Bawden who will also be conducting small group workshops. Other evening entertainment includes ten pin bowling, a visit to the cinema, swimming (additional cost), and also use of various residential recreational facilities.

The course will take place at Grantham College which is easily accessible from the A1. The college offers comfortable accommodation with parents/guardians also welcome to visit or stay at a reduced rate. Accommodation is available on each of the Sunday evenings prior to the courses at no extra cost.

The sports hall, which is within walking distance comprises 17 top class International table tennis tables.

All meals are inclusive and are served on the premises, special diets can be catered for on request.

COST AND DATE: 1st WEEK - August 5th to August 9th

2nd WEEK - August 12th to August 16th

Participants £329.00 per week • Non-Participants £199.00 per week
 Cost includes all accommodation and meals

As part of the course every player will receive their own player profile which is an analysis of their game put together by the team of professionals. This will also include all the relevant information gained throughout the course.

Our staff:
ALAN COOKE former Commonwealth Champion, current National Coach.
NICOLA DEATON England's No.1 & current National Champion.
BRADLEY BILLINGTON Current National Coach & former member of National Team.
ALEX PERRY Current England International & former English National Champion.
JOHN HILTON former European Champion and National Team Coach.
MARK BAWDEN Qualified Sports Psychologist to National Team

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For an application form please contact ALAN COOKE on 01246 855834 or 07887 586615 or NICOLA DEATON on 01246 570805 or 07881 624330

THE SAILOR AND THE DODO

IN 2000 I had a letter published regarding the demise of the defensive player, and the following has been written as an expansion on this theme, writes Jon Samuel.

When I first started playing Table Tennis, a friend of mine would take me to a few local tournaments to watch. I was enthralled, not just by the skill and fitness required, but by the diversity of the players present, and this set off a complex train of thought.

Should I become an attacker, and hit everything on both wings? Should I be a penholder and hit on one wing only? Should I be a defender who hits occasionally, or perhaps not all? Should I become a combination bat player, chopping on one wing and hitting on the other? Should I become an all rounder? The possibilities were endless. And the huge number of permutations drew me towards what was then an exciting sport.

Not long into my apprenticeship the Sunday Times ran a series written by Stellan Bengtson and Kjell Johansson which erased all doubt from my mind. The main thrust was that "Defence is out" and no mention of backspin was made, and as Bengtson was the then World Champion I knew he must be right. At that young age, the only bicycle glue I knew was used on the tyres of my Hercules Hustler 5 Geared Racing Cycle, but this did not prevent me from buying the fastest spiniest bat I could and playing appropriately.

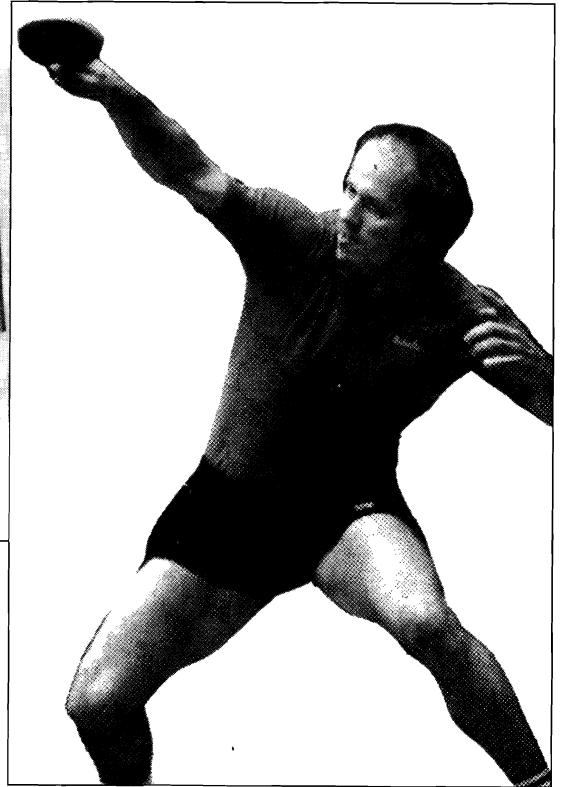
My heroes at that time were Jonyer, Klampar and Surbek, and I would follow their results with youthful enthusiasm. On the local scene I viewed defenders on very much the same level as the first sailors when they caught sight of the Dodo. "Attack is the best form of defence" was my guiding mantra.

So it was that I went to see my idols in action in the 1977 World Championships and I remember looking forward to see Surbek playing a Chinese defender in the men's singles. The image of the Sailor and Dodo once again came to mind, and I recall feeling sorry for the Chinese player, who was called Liang Ge Liang. He had obviously trained long and hard for this moment, but his coaches had made a mistake, he was playing the wrong type of game.

Even now I remember the sense of



DRAGUTIN SURBECK (above) and ISTVAN JONYER (right), pictured at the 1981 World Championships



disbelief and shock as Liang, playing the wrong game with the wrong bat with the wrong strokes chopped Surbek to pieces. What made it worse was that for skill and entertainment, the Dodo had become an Eagle, circling round at a distance and then descending with talons outstretched.

Liang hit on both wings, yet was able to retrieve the ball back onto that small table from seemingly impossible positions. Did the Chinese not read "The Sunday Times"? I indignantly thought.

From this moment on my allegiances switched, and Liang, Huang Liang and the great Japanese defender Norio Takashima became my Three Musketeers. They were magnificent, and the level of skill, fitness, ball placement and variety of stroke made this an easy decision. Win or lose, they were always wonderful to watch, and they brought variety to a game that was just starting to be overrun by the attacker.

My county debut was as a defender, and although I lost both games quite easily, I realised defence is not an overnight skill, so I persevered. At that time I was using a combination bat, same colour both sides, no names on either side, serving from under the table and turning the bat round during rallies. I knew those around me were invariably all attackers, both my side

and the opposition, yet Liang had shown me what was possible, albeit at a much higher level. What I did not realise then is that even at that early stage, the rule changes were being rushed through to prevent this style of play. The so-called Long Pimples available were not nearly as long as those originally used by Liang. In following years I was prevented from serving with my bat starting below table level, I had to change to different colours on my bat, and have the label on it. I had to show it to my opponent if he requested. On top of all these, the already watered down version of long pimples was reduced still further to severely cripple any defender still struggling in the modern game. Meanwhile, attackers have the benefit of faster and yet spinier rubbers, the ubiquitous use of bicycle glue and even blades containing various metals. These of course are all perfectly acceptable as they benefit the attacking player. The rule changes that have been introduced have been aimed specifically at ridding the game of the

defender, and this is something that I do not understand.

This is not to say that I am entirely biased in favour of defenders, Klampar & Jonyer remain in my personal top five of all time. I also recall one English Open Tournament where I spent the first three days following the matches of one particular Chinese player, and I can assure you he did not hit a backspin stroke of any description.

Nevertheless, in general I believe the best games to watch are those where a defender is involved. At the European Championships in Eindhoven I took the opportunity of counting the length of rallies between two of Europe's top men. Aside from one single incident when the ball crossed the net no less than seven times, in not another rally did I count the fourth return.

Now, at the risk of being "Politically Incorrect", I am no great fan of Women's Table Tennis, and certainly not doubles. So it is with some surprise that I can say, without hesitation, the greatest single game I have ever seen was the Women's



Russia's ELENA TIMINA

doubles in the team final between Russia and Germany in the European Championships in Birmingham.

The respective pairings were Palina/Timina v Nemes/Struse, two defenders against two attackers. It was a magnificent match and the quality of the rallies, the variation in stroke play and spin, the determination and tremendous fitness all put previous games to shame.

It was also difficult to count a point where there were not four returns, and there were many hard fought rallies. My thoughts were that only the pair left standing would win!

I have been to one World championship, two Europeans and various England matches, yet this game was, in my humble opinion, the ideal advertisement for our game.

This is the type of game that is becoming increasingly rare, and with all the rule changes aimed at

preventing such games, it may be I shall never see another.

Of course, this article has for the most part, merely been the ramblings of a disillusioned defender who is tired of being discriminated against and as such can be ignored by the majority.

What is not a matter of opinion is that the number of players at local league level has dropped dramatically over the last ten years or so, and that coverage of Table Tennis in the media and on television is scant to non-existent. With the average rally not lasting more than four strokes I would not recommend anyone to watch a game, much less take it up.

Aside from the obvious advantage of saving electricity on lighting, could someone somewhere, explain why the powers that be are so intent of ridding our game of the defensive player?

TABLE TENNIS AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



THE number of sportsmen and women wishing to pursue a sporting career whilst continuing their education is increasing year by year. 50% of the athletes involved at the Sydney Olympics were in full or part time education. Today, many Universities have established scholarship and bursary programmes aimed at supporting those competing at the highest level in their chosen sport whilst continuing their education.

Over the past 12 months, South Bank University has built on their extensive general programme of scholarships and bursaries to focus on Table Tennis. Crucial to this new focus has been the establishment of a partnership with JAGS Table Tennis Club in Dulwich.

JAGS now provide top level coaching to the University team and also the chance for more talented players to access top level competition through the club itself. By working together, the club and the University hope to recruit talented players to the mutually beneficial partnership.

The establishment of this partnership has already paid dividends with players of the calibre of Barbara Kiss, Abdul Wuraola and Bosede Kaffo, pictured above, all joining the University to study for the BSc Sports and Exercise. As Table Tennis players of the highest standard they have also joined the University's Elite Scholarship Group and are able to access a special range of support services. These include up to £3000 per annum, free physiotherapy, massage and access to fitness facilities, free sports science support from the University's Human Performance Centre, a guaranteed place in University Halls of residence and free access to sports related workshops and seminars.

Importantly, each sports scholar is given a personal liaison officer within the Sports Department. The scholar and liaison officer meet regularly to review a set of agreed sporting, academic and personal goals agreed at the start of each year. Each liaison officer acts as a link between the academic department and the scheme member and this in turn allows a degree of academic flexibility for the scholar which can range from flexible essay deadlines to taking the degree over a longer period of time. The overall result of this is that members of the programme are able to manage their sporting, academic and career aspirations more effectively.

Jon Kaufman, ETTA London Regional Development Officer, stated "It's great to see Higher Education Institutions working with clubs to support the development of Table Tennis with scholarship programmes like these".

The University hopes that the recruitment of Barbara, Bosede and Abdul is just the beginning and is embarking on longer term development programmes to establish a flow of talented players to the partnership including working with schools, colleges and clubs, in particular specialist sports colleges with a Table Tennis focus.

For more information on the programme, please contact Phil Muschamp, Sports Development Manager, South Bank University on 020 7815 7812 or visit www.sbu.ac.uk/sports/tabletennisexcellence

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CALENDAR

APRIL		
30th Mar -7th April	European Championships	Zagreb
6th	Chesham High School Under 13/14/16 years 2 Star	Chesham
6th	Wilmott Cup & Rose Bowl R3	
6th-7th	VETTS Southern Masters	Bracknell
7th	British League (13) Premier Division	
7th	Stiga (Hyndburn) Junior GP 3 Star	
13th	National Council	
13th	Alex Brook Trophy R2	
13th-14th	ETTA Butterfly Grand Prix	Blackpool
14th	Cippenham Cadet 3 Star	
20th	Chesham High School U13/14/16	
20th-21st	British League Weekend (4)	
20th-21st	Cadet Masters	Cippenham
21st	British League (14) Premier Division	
21st	Seasiders Junior Graded 3 Star	
27th	ESTTA Individual Championships	
27th-28th	ETTA Butterfly Grand Prix	Wolverhampton
28th	National Regional Squad Championships	Stoke
MAY		
4th-5th	Junior Masters	Cippenham
11th	British League Conference	
11th	Chandlers Junior/Cadet 1 Star	
11th	Alex Brook Trophy R3	
11th	Pat Archdale Cup R2	
11th-12th	ETTA Butterfly Grand Prix	Cheltenham
18th-19th	Cadet/Junior Nationals	
18th-19th	VETTS Nationals	Thornbury
25th-26th	National Team Finals	Knowsley
29th	ETTA AGM	
JUNE		
1st-2nd	Cippenham YP Festival 1 Star	
8th	County Championships Conference	
8th-9th	National U10/11/12 Championships	Widnes
8th-9th	North Manchester Veterans Games	
24th-29th	11th World Veterans Championships	Lucerne, Switzerland
29th-30th	British Schools International	Cardiff
JULY		
12th-23rd	European Youth Championships	Moscow
20th	National Council	
25th-Aug.4	Commonwealth Games	Manchester

TABLE TENNIS NEWS COPY DATES

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SEPTEMBER 2001	1st AUGUST 2001
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MARCH 2002	1st FEBRUARY 2002
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