

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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No.283

JAN./FEB. 2001



**WHO'S THE
PRETTIEST
TERRY OR
GARETH -
SEE TTN
EMAIL POLL
ON PAGE 17**



**RYAN JENKINS
WINS THE MENS
TITLE IN ULSTER**

**FRANCESCA
WISHES TERRY
WAS HOME A
BIT MORE**

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COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2002 MANCHESTER

**MANCHESTER 2002
COMMONWEALTH GAMES:
THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE
BATON RELAY – BIG
RESPONSE FOR JUBILEE
BATON RUNNERS**

THE Queen's Baton Relay (11 March to 25 July 2002) is the Commonwealth Games' equivalent of the Olympic Torch Relay. For the Baton Relay in Jubilee Year, the search was on for 2,500 Jubilee Runners to carry the Baton around the UK, and although over subscribed in the North West, there were still plenty of opportunities to participate in the rest of England (from 17 June to 25 July). Karen Tonge (etta.karen@virgin.net Tel. 01928 563640), the organiser of the Commonwealth Games Table Tennis Competition, was particularly keen that suitable table tennis people were involved.

Nominations have been judged on a regional basis by the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Office.

Names of those selected will be announced on 7th February. 5000 runners will be involved in the UK, a convoy of 30 vehicles and 150 support crew.

Why not arrange a table tennis event, if the relay is near to where you live.

The Baton's journey, the



**KAREN TONGE
with the
Commonwealth
Games Baton**

world's biggest relay, starts at Buckingham Palace on Monday 11 March 2002 – Commonwealth Day. It will then travel for the next 86 days to 21

Commonwealth countries before returning to the UK on 6th June when it will begin its 50 day journey through Northern Ireland, Scotland, Isle of Man, Guernsey, Jersey and England (starting in Gloucester on 17 June and finally being carried into the City of Manchester Stadium for Opening Ceremony of the XV11 Games on 25 July).

The Baton has a flashing light that pulsates in time to the runner's heart beat. It is linked up to a satellite orbiting the Earth that will allow the world to follow - in real time - the relay's journey on the Commonwealth Games website. A message is contained in the top of The Baton.

Cities and towns of special cultural and historic importance are featured. The BBC will be featuring 'The Baton' daily in the UK.

Tickets can still be bought for table tennis, visit the Commonwealth Games website for availability:

www.commonwealthgames.com

August the 3rd is at present sold out, but returns may come back from other countries.

MARVELLOUS OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW OURSELVES OFF TO THE WORLD

I HAVE said it before and I'll say it again. The Commonwealth Games will be a marvellous opportunity for table tennis to show itself off to the world, a real opportunity to transform the image of table tennis in this country. Our big competitions, the English Open, and National Championships tend to be only of interest to players. The Games appeal to a much bigger audience, a largely untapped audience that could provide table tennis with a membership bonanza, writes Jim Beckley.

It is a once in a lifetime chance we must grasp, collectively and individually. Already stories and pictures linking us with the Games are beginning to appear in various media but most of it on a national level.

Over 72 countries will be taking part and it is estimated that world-wide TV coverage will reach one billion people. Add to that all the column inches that newspapers both home and overseas will provide and you have a unique opportunity to give our sport vast amounts of publicity.

But there will be sixteen other sports at these Games all vying for media attention. So it important that table tennis is not left behind in the scramble for column inches and air space and that's where the ETTA press officers, league and county, can play an important role.

Collectively more people read the local and provincial media than national newspapers. And that's you come in.

Because most of the media you deal with will be local it is important that they receive local news. People love to read about people so personality stories must be high on your priority. If you know of any local table tennis people who maybe taking part in the Games give them a call. They could be umpires, volunteers or, if you are lucky enough to have a top player nearby, give them a call. Talk to them about their hopes and ambitions.

We are already running a series of features about the Games in Table Tennis News, the content of which you are welcome to use for your own columns if you are ever short of material.

Finally, don't hesitate to give me a call if you want to discuss anything at all about your media plans or the Commonwealth Games. I may not have all the answers but I'm sure that between us we can give our sport a real boost.

Many thanks for your co-operation,

Jim Beckley
ETTA Technical Committee for the
XVII Commonwealth Games
Telephone: 0161 439 6001

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- **TSP**
Ball supplier to County Championships 2000-2002

We ask all members of the association to support the above companies who are in turn supporting table tennis.

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TABLE TENNIS NEWS & TTN EXTRA

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CAROLE MOORE NORTH EAST COACH OF THE YEAR

CAROLE MOORE, the head coach of Ormesby Table Tennis Club, was named 'Coach of the Year', at the prestigious Northern Rock North East Sports Award evening.

Carole, who received her award from Steve Cram, said: "I'm over the moon. It's an indication that we are achieving some of our ambitions at the table tennis club and that all the hard work is worthwhile."

Coaching the youngsters at Ormesby has become virtually a full-time labour of love for the former England star.

She works every night of the week, including coaching the Ormesby players for four nights at Teesside Tertiary College.

Carole said at the Seaburn Centre presentations: "We have had a good 12 months at Ormesby."

"The teams continue to make progress in the national leagues and we now have a lot of players in the English rankings."

"But the pleasure of coaching comes from seeing players of all abilities make progress."

"When you see the smile on the faces of kids who win their first match, it's incredible."

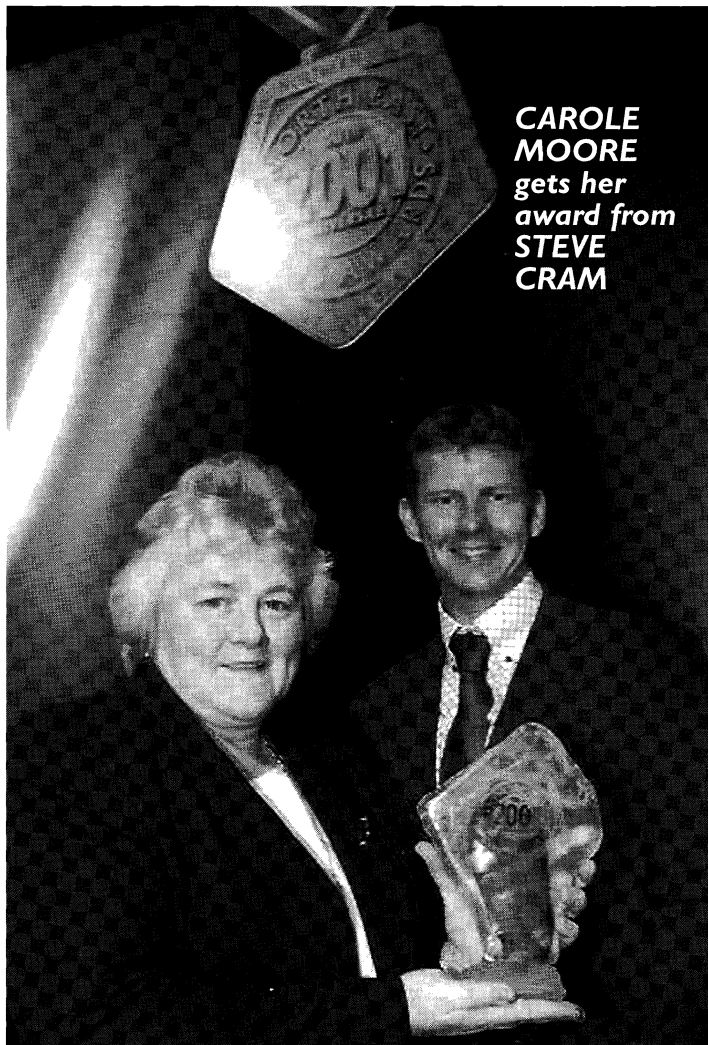
"And when you see some of them go on to become internationals, it's fantastic."

Carole, who was the former Commonwealth, English Open and three times National Table Tennis Champion, is an excellent example of a former world class player who has turned into a top class coach.

SHEFFIELD

GRAND RAFFLE

THE ETTA are planning to hold a



CAROLE MOORE gets her award from STEVE CRAM

'Grand Raffle' at the National Championships in Sheffield, 2nd/3rd March, and the organisers are asking if anyone would like to donate prizes. If anyone can donate a prize, they should advise Rob Sinclair in the Hastings office, telephone 01424

722525, and either send their prize there or bring it to Sheffield with them if they are attending. Prizes would be much appreciated.

FEBRUARY SELECTIONS

ENGLAND Performance Director Soren Ahlen has announced the following selections for national and international training and competition:

Training at French National Training Institute 'INSEP', Paris, 3-8 February 2002: Alex Perry (Devon), Terry Young (Berkshire), Gareth Herbert (Berkshire). Coach, Soren Ahlen.

Training at Spanish National Centre, Barcelona, 10-15 February: Junior Boys: Matthew Kenny (Yorkshire), Bryn Drinkhall (Cleveland), Greg Baker (Staffordshire), Chris Gregory (Shropshire). Coaches: Alan Cooke,

WOODY'S World

WELCOME to 2002, I hope all your dreams and ambitions come true. Though, I should think by now most of your New Year resolutions have been broken.

This issue being the first of 2002 blows in like a breath of fresh air, with new innovative ideas and features.

Firstly, there will be regular cover story, which this month is a human interest story by Roger Woolven-Allen, who finds out that playing professional table tennis can play havoc with your love life, see page 12 and 13, where Francesca finds out that dating Terry Young is even more difficult than returning his service.

Then there is the new TTN Email Poll on page 17, who's the prettiest Terry or Gareth?

Alex Perry writes the first of a monthly column that gives it straight to you, 'Eye of the Tiger', on why he is driven to push himself to the limit, see page 16.

I hope you like these new ideas, please let me know your comments.

I close on a sad note, that one of TTN's long serving contributors, Alf Pepperd, passed away in January.

Regrets - things we wished we had done.

I had intended writing to Alf, on hearing of his illness and his retirement from writing the copy for Gloucestershire's 'County Notes', and his position as of South West Region Press Officer, personally thanking him for his many years of dedicated service and support for Table Tennis News. But, because of Christmas and the New Year, I just didn't get around to it.

Well, I would like to send you a belated thankyou. Table tennis will miss Alf Pepperd.

John Wood

Soren Ahlen.

Training in Falkenberg, Sweden, 17-22 February: Andrew Rushton (Lancashire), Dale Barham (Cambridgeshire). Coach, Denis Neale.

Egyptian Open, Cairo, 19-22 February: Alex Perry (Devon), Terry Young (Berkshire), Gareth Herbert (Berkshire), Andrew Baggaley (Buckinghamshire). Coach, Alan Cooke. Masseur, Jez Carnell.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2002 MANCHESTER

AWARDS FOR ALL TOP £1 MILLION



Alan Ransome OBE,
Chairman of the ETTA

TABLE TENNIS continues to be one of the leading sports to take advantage of the Sport England Lottery Fund, Awards for All programme. With the latest announcement from Sport England showing that 330 applications have been successful throughout England and the total sum awarded of £1,120,515. The two regions to take the most advantage of the programme are London and the West Midlands with 50 awards each. The South East is third with a total of 43 awards.

Although the original Millennium Awards were due to finish in June 2001, the Awards for All programme remains in place and has linked with the Queen's Golden Jubilee year 2002 with Awards for All helping voluntary clubs to mark the milestone. Local clubs and groups are still able to apply for Awards for All grants of up to £5,000 to help communities join in the festivities. This element of Awards for All is designed for projects which meet one or more of the following themes:

- Involve all sections of the community
- Embrace the multicultural nature of society
- Encourage a sense of community spirit and community involvement
- Promote or provide service to others
- Engage young people

In addition to the above, the original Awards for All programme also remains in place.

Information on how to apply can be received from the Sport England website at www.sportengland.org/lottery or details can be obtained from the ETTA's Regional Development Officers or by contacting the ETTA Development Department in Hastings.



See **NICOLA DEATON** (above) and **MATTHEW SYED** defend their National titles at Sheffield

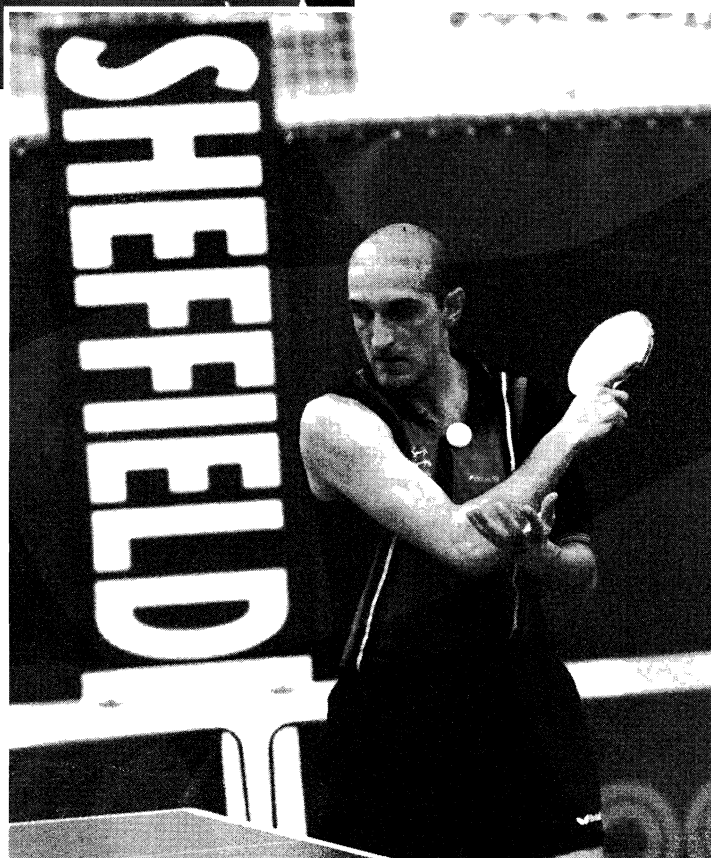
VISIT SHEFFIELD FOR THE ENGLISH NATIONALS

A strong entry is anticipated for the English National Table Tennis Championships which are to be staged at the attractive Ponds Forge International Sports Centre in Sheffield on 2 & 3 March. The Championships are being supported by Sheffield City Council Major Events Unit and information regarding the Championships and ticket details are being circulated to table tennis leagues and clubs within the catchment area.

An attractive schedule of play has been provisionally agreed with the finals of the Under 21 and Mixed Doubles events taking place on Saturday afternoon. Saturday evening is devoted to rounds one and two of the Men's and Women's singles events. On

Women's singles, with the last match, the Men's singles final, due to commence at 5.30 pm.

Most of England's top players are expected to participate including Matthew Syed, the current champion, and Gareth Herbert the player who took over the No. 1 spot in December. Women's champion, Nicola Deaton, plus the No. 2 Helen Lower and rising star, Katy Parker, are all expected to participate. Entries close on 11 February 2002. Ticket prices have been arranged as: Saturday all day, Adults £3, concessions £1.50. Sunday all day, Adults £6, concessions £3. Special terms for



Sunday morning the later rounds of the Men's and Women's singles will be played with the quarter finals to be staged around noon. The finals session is scheduled to commence at 2.30 pm with the semi-finals of the Men's and

school parties.

Tickets are available in advance from the Sheffield Arena Box Office Tel: 0114 2565657. On the weekend tickets can be purchased on the door at Ponds Forge International Sports Centre.

BUILDING COMMENCES IN SHEFFIELD

Building work on the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield which will house the Table Tennis Academy is due to commence in February. Sports Minister, Richard Caborn, will be conducting a sod cutting ceremony on Friday, 15 February to mark the commencement of the building. The work is due to be completed in the early Summer of 2003 and the Table Tennis Academy scheduled to move from Nottingham to the new centre in Sheffield in August of next year.

The new centre will house 15 tables in Grade 2 (40ft x 20ft) for use by the players at the Academy, as well as being able to house up to 21 tables for general coaching sessions. The table tennis hall will be state of the art with a wooden sprung Taraflex type floor and lighting to 1000 lux. It is intended to make use of the facility for ETTA coach education and events as well as providing the possibility of extensive use by the table tennis community in South Yorkshire when it is not required for the National Squad.

The total cost of the project is £28M and in addition to the table tennis world class programme being established, athletics, netball, judo and badminton will all have extensive facilities. The venue, taking into account the facilities built for the other sports could well be used in future years for events such as the English Open, National Championships or even competitions such as the Commonwealth Championships or European Youth Championships.

MORE ENGLAND SUCCESSES

Following their victory by 3 sets to 2 over Poland at Scarborough in November, the England Women's team have scored a second successive victory when they defeated the Netherlands at



Cippenham in Slough in December. All three English girls again contributed to the England victory with wins from Nicola Deaton, Helen Lower and Katy Parker. Both of these matches were played at table tennis clubs which have been assisted by the ETTA to develop their own centres. The England Men's team also enjoyed a good victory over Slovakia at Newton Aycliffe in December. Matthew Syed returned to the side with two wins.

NATIONAL COUNCIL DISCUSSES MEMBERSHIP TRENDS

At the January meeting of the National Council in Milton Keynes, the representative for Somerset, Andy Seward, presented some statistics that showed that the membership of local leagues is continuing to decline by an average of 3% per annum, a trend which has been in place since 1978. The ETTA Development Department has been working tirelessly to encourage greater participation in the sport and there is no doubt that the clubs registered in the Premier Club programme have encouraged thousands of people throughout the country to take up the sport, although many of these new recruits do not participate in the local league

competitions, and even where large new club facilities have been developed and hundreds of additional people are taking up the sport, the membership of the local league has not necessarily benefited.

In a recent survey 167 Premier Clubs declared their membership which totalled in excess of 11,000 players, of which just over 3,000 were ETTA members participating in local leagues, which shows that more than two thirds of the surveyed club membership are playing regular table tennis but not in the leagues.

The system of local league matches which finish late on different nights of the week at a variety of venues, do not have the appeal that they did fifty years ago.

11 OR 21 UP

Another fact to be highlighted from Andy Seward's report was that the decline in membership has been greater in the last year where leagues have adopted the new 11 up system due to a small minority deciding not to continue with the change. Some ETTA members are under the misapprehension that next year the 11 up system will be compulsory for all leagues. This is NOT the case. A decision taken at the ETTA Annual General Meeting in Loughborough in June of last year gave local leagues the authority to make their own decision as to whether they wish to move over to the 11 up system or stay with the traditional 21 up. There is no intention so far as the

ETTA Management Committee is concerned to make any change to this position, and leagues will be able to decide again at their meeting prior to next season as to which system they wish to adopt for their own competitions.

Following the National Council meeting, Management Committee discussed the report and have decided to re-introduce the offer made to local leagues some ten years ago of an opportunity of an ETTA visit to discuss recruitment. The ETTA would be represented by a member of the Management Committee or the Regional chairman or a senior staff member, in addition to the Regional Development Officer. Leagues will be circulated by the General Secretary shortly with the offer.

TABLE TENNIS WEEK

With the object of recruiting more people to the sport and letting local people know where they can join a club, another initiative is in the process of being developed, a Table Tennis Week following the Commonwealth Games in Manchester, where all local leagues and Premier Clubs will be invited to undertake a co-ordinated programme of activities between 3-12 August to take advantage of the publicity generated by the introduction of table tennis into the Commonwealth Games.

Further information regarding this initiative will be available from the RDO's and will be published in Table Tennis News and circulated to the member organisations listed above.

TT on TV

Discussions are at an advanced stage with Eurosport for the coverage of the European Championships, which are to be played in Zagreb from the 30 March until 7 April. Further details of the coverage will appear in next month's issue of Table Tennis News.

*Alan Ransome
ETTA Chairman*

POSTBAG

COUNTY TEAMS

THE County Championships Committee is still very much concerned at the structure of the teams in the County Championships particularly because of the frequency of teams fielding only two men or only one lady in juniors and seniors, and in some instances being unable to provide a lady player in veterans. A comment frequently heard is 'great competition, very friendly... but not enough play' particularly for veteran ladies. Sadly, five County teams have withdrawn since the beginning of the season, nearly always citing either the lack of players or the playing format.

There are (at least) two major changes that come to mind, each on their own would reduce some of the concerns mentioned but together would probably eradicate those concerns altogether. I fully understand that some players / Counties would be strongly opposed, but the County Championships Committee feel that these problems should be aired. There may be a number of consequences that need to be considered if changes were to be introduced. For example, some Counties may withdraw one or more teams from the Championships, but on the other hand the number of 'offences' would be greatly reduced and travelling may require just one car not two.

Two changes to be considered are

- Split the competition into Mens/ Womens events, and have teams of three with 'all play all' Should there also be a 'doubles'?

- Play all matches in groups over, say, 3 Saturdays. However, it must be borne in mind that the County Championships Committee cannot arrange the venues nor make all the other arrangements - there are currently 32 Divisions !! These tasks would have to be undertaken by volunteers within the participating Counties.

I would ask all current players, and in particular those players who decline to play in the County Championships because of the playing arrangements or the team structure, to let me know, preferably in writing or by e-mail, which (if any) of the changes they would like to see introduced into the County Championships.

At the end of the day, it is your competition and although it is currently by far the largest in the ETTA calendar, the County Championships Committee want to run it based on the wishes of you, the players. So, please let me have your views or even any other suggestions you care to make for the improvement of the competition.

Andy Seward, Chairman County Championships Committee

UNJUSTIFIED

THE attack on Judy Rogers by John

Freeman in the December issue was unwarranted and unjustified as she was not as JF implied taking the law into her own hands. Since being appointed to the post of ETTA Disability Officer Judy has done an excellent job in promoting table tennis amongst those with disabilities and is highly respected by disabled players at all levels and has done much to advance disabled TT through the Premier Club Ability Scheme.

As Disability Officer she must receive many queries from clubs and local leagues as to how best they can ensure full integration for wheelchair players and encourage them to make further progress. All Judy has done is to try to assist everyone by making the rules relating to wheelchair players more widely known and leaving it to the relevant league to make their own decision on how they wish to proceed.

Anyone not familiar with TT rules reading JF's letter would get the impression that JR had introduced new laws for TT and had ordered everyone to implement them when nothing could be further from the truth. The rules for TT for the Physically Disabled as agreed by an International Body recognised by both the ITTF and the ETTA state that TT shall be played according to the rules and regulations of the ITTF with the exception of the amendments listed in the Rulebook of that Body. One could argue as to the literal interpretation as to when these should be applied but what we are talking about is not any form of interpretation but the simple application of commonsense and that is all JR's letter was about.

If we were to take JF's letter literally no one should play any form of handicap event as to do so would be a breach of the Laws of TT. Instead we apply commonsense and use handicap events as a means of levelling out matches involving varying levels of ability. Wheelchair players do not ask for or want assistance and many probably could not care less about how anyone serves to them, if an opponent wants to win at all costs instead of win if they can then I doubt any wheelchair user would lose any sleep about it as such people deserve only pity.

We should put JF's comments into the right perspective and look at it logically and note that even if he were right in his assertions what we are referring to is a very minute part of a game, the time it takes to put the ball into play. All that is required is a service within the sidelines as much spin or speed as you wish with the exception of a strong back spin, something most players do 99% of the time.

So far as doubles are concerned according to JF all wheelchair users should be grateful for his having turned a blind eye to the sensible operation of the

continued on page 8

COURTSIDE

by John Woodford

- **THE** good news first ... To our figure of 40,000 registered players in England - remember Germany has 700,000 - can be added around 30,000 young players in schools.

- **AS** the average age of the senior players in leagues continues to increase, these are the young players who will, we hope, become senior players; but that is the snag - if we managed to get 25 per cent of these school-players into the senior and junior local leagues, the problem could be solved.

- **DISGRACEFUL** is the only word to describe the reaction of Welsh national squad player Ryan Owen when he arrived too late to play at the Western Open at Bath on December 2.

- **THERE** were not many eye-witnesses at Bath. I was one, ETTA Events Manager Harvey Webb was another - we agreed that this was the worst happening of this nature we had ever seen after many, many years at tournaments.

- **WHAT** concerns me is the affect this sort of shocking behaviour can have on young people. To see an international player release a torrent of four-letter words then overturn a referee's table, prior to being removed from the centre by security staff.

- **WITH** the huge entries now common-place on the Grand Prix circuit, we can for sure, do without this sort of experience. Owen it appears, missed a train from London to Bath. There are trains almost every half-hour from Paddington to Bath. Players with any sense at all, would be sure to catch an earlier train to allow for any delays and so ensure getting to the tournament in good time.

- **THE** lack of qualified umpires on the GP circuit for the later stages on the second day is a problem that will not go away. The rules state that umpires should be available but if the local organisers cannot provide them, mainly because of lack of expenses, then the rule is bound to be broken.

- **WILL** players be prepared to pay more for their entry in order to help cover umpires expenses? I fear not. Players have to accept that most of the umpiring on this circuit will be done by themselves. The statement from Louis Rosenthal that "organisers failed to stamp any authority on the tournament", (Postbag December issue of TTN), is totally unjustified.

- **SWEDISH OPEN:** I was impressed by the large number of young umpires, average ages 20-30. I am told that the SWEDISH TTA PAY THEIR UMPIRES for appearances right down to county championships, not large sums of course, but a bit above their expenses.

- **FOOTNOTE** on Ryan Owen: This produced 300-word stories for myself in the Daily Telegraph and for Richard Eaton in The Times. It is a sad reflection on the times we live in, but people enjoy hearing about conflict. "Ping-pong Ding-Dongs" will sell newspapers like hot cakes.

- **NEITHER** will news of Premier clubs or trying to sell tickets six months in advance for the Commonwealth Games sell extra copies of this magazine. Players overturning referee's tables and throwing trays of food over their coaches just might do that!

STOP PRESS

- **THE** Disciplinary Committee of the Welsh TTA held a special meeting in Cardiff on January the 12th. They came down heavily on Ryan Owen who did not attend the hearing - six months suspension from all activities in Wales and a fine of £100; the suspension will be continued if the fine is not paid. The ETTA Disciplinary Committee will meet shortly to make their response to Wales's decision.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR continued

continued from page 7

wheelchair rule that enables either player to strike the ball. Such condescension almost beggars belief and were I a wheelchair player in his league I would not wish to play against him as his condescension and pity is the last thing I would want let alone need.

You do not need to be an Einstein to realise that for a wheelchair pairing to do other than strike the ball whenever it is possible is the only method of play open to them. It can be an advantage particularly at the commencement of a game but the standing pair can quickly nullify such advantage but still lose, not because of any advantage, real or imaginary, but because their opponents were better players than themselves. The error in his thinking and the possible unintentional interpretation of JR's notes is that wheelchair amendments in doubles play apply if one of a pairing is a wheelchair player. This is incorrect as the amendment for wheelchair players only applies if both players of a pairing are in a wheelchair. That this is frequently overlooked due to lack of knowledge or a reluctance to voice an opinion is unfortunate in that it gives such as JF an opportunity to air their views in a manner that will offend wheelchair players who themselves do not wish to seek an advantage or to offend but to enjoy TT as a sport and be accepted for what they are, people

enjoying competing, win or lose, at a sport they enjoy. To be fair to Judy she does clearly state, "this again only applies to wheelchair users" and made no reference to dual pairings.

TT has no finer ambassadors than those whose disability confines them to a wheelchair and who by application and dedication will have overcome many obstacles to enable them to compete equally against standing and wheelchair players alike and so demonstrate that our sport is truly a sport for all.

Ken Armson, MBE

Chairman Elect BITAD

SINGLED OUT?

I WOULD refer to the article "Sportsbreak - ETTA replies" in Table Tennis News in which you mention my name with regard to the Management Committee changes although I do not know why I should be singled out!

In comparing the number of people who have served on the Management Committee under the chairmanship of John Prean and Alan Ransome, you have not compared like with like.

Mr Prean took over the chairmanship mid-term and inherited a Management Committee and wished to replace them with his own team - a similar sentiment which Alan wished to do four years later.

However the team which Mr Prean inherited was responsible for placing the ETTA into a bankruptcy situation; which Mr Prean's "own team" had to overcome

in providing the most successful financial period in the Association's history and he retired leaving over £400,000 in the ETTA funds for his successor.

Mr Ransome decided to dismantle that successful team yet did not receive the same opposition, which Mr Prean received four years earlier.

The fact that the ETTA finances have been gradually eroded away despite the huge amount of sponsorship, government and lottery funding that has been received does not give confidence in the policy decisions of Mr Ransome.

I have never claimed that every decision was correct during my time on the Management Committee, nor has John Prean, but we listened to constructive criticism whenever possible and did not attempt to censor.

Malcolm Allsop
National Councillor

FAIR PLAY TO ALL

IN the few months since I stated my intention to stand for Chairman of the ETTA in 2003 I have had the opportunity to discuss my ideas and receive inputs from many players, coaches, officials and parents. I would like to thank them all for their frank and informative opinions.

The majority of people I have spoken to have a deep and keen interest in our sport and consider "all is not right" in the running of our sport and believe major changes are necessary to rekindle table tennis in England via a new Chairman

and Management Team.

Prior to the nomination time in 2002, I will ensure that details of my ideas and grass roots members inputs are included in my campaign strategy which will be circulated to as many members as possible so they are aware of the choices available to them when election time comes.

I will fight my "spin free" campaign on the real issues which impact our sport with integrity and the firm belief that under my Chairmanship I can lead table tennis into a new era of growth and make our sport strong again.

I am always happy to discuss any ideas regarding table tennis and look forward to the Table Tennis News giving me equal and fair coverage during the lead up to the Election.

Val and I wish all readers best wishes for the New Year.

Alex Murdoch
Leitchworth, Herts.

ALF PEPPERD

I WAS sorry to learn from Table Tennis News that Alf Pepperd has been forced by ill-health to give up writing the Gloucestershire Notes.

Though no longer able to play table tennis myself, I have kept in touch with the game through Table Tennis News and eagerly await its arrival.

Being from the same part of the world as Alf, his article was always one of the first I read. His enthusiasm for the game was obvious and his knowledge of Gloucestershire TT players and events profound. I have been reading his contributions to TTN for years, and though I never knew Alf personally, feel like I have lost an old friend.

I wish him well for the future.

Reg Murphy
Bristol

Editor's Note: Sadly, Alf is no longer with us, as he passed away in January. An appreciation will appear in March issue.

DISILLUSIONED

A FEW weeks ago the sports editorial of my local paper printed the provocative suggestion that Table Tennis and Darts had both seen better days and has succumbed to the increasing presence of television and computer games. In reply a local league President stated, "ETTA, the governing body, does not actively support local leagues and puts all its effort into promoting tournaments and financing elite squads".

I may not agree that this is factually correct, but I am concerned that this is perceived to be the case. The future of the game at grass roots level is at high risk despite some of the optimistic comments in recent issues of your magazine. I spend many hours every week in the company of other local and national volunteers and a phrase I am hearing a lot of recently is "this is my last year". The top table have spoken for many years about valuing volunteers but do they actually appreciate how much work is being done locally by an ever diminishing group.

New ventures such as Premier Club are put forward as development projects for

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RULE CHANGE ?

WITH the destination of the Premier division Championship looking to be the exclusive property of the London Progress Club this is the perfect opportunity to take a look at the other eight divisions. With Progress also looking to be the overwhelming favourites to take the Division (One) South and Division Two (South) titles the question of whether Clubs should be allowed to have more than one team in each division will need to be discussed again, writes Steve Kerns.

There may be a lot of opposition to this proposal (and it has been soundly defeated at past British League Conferences) but is it fair to penalise Clubs like Progress who can obviously attract the best players? Those who like to compare Table Tennis to Football will argue that you can't possibly have a Premier division with two teams from the same Club. This may be true in a professional sport although you might also argue that Manchester United Reserves would attract significantly larger crowds than the likes of Ipswich or Charlton.

DIVISION 1 SOUTH

London Progress II have moved into a commanding five point lead after dominating the second round of matches, powering their way to wins against Barnet II (7-1), DML Plymouth (6-2), PSP Westinsure (6-2) and Horsham I 5-3. With the acquisition of a new no. 1 in Tomasz Gretschnell who stayed unbeaten in all four matches they look to be overwhelming favourites to take the title. Their toughest hurdle turned out to be third-placed Horsham II who held them at 3-3 before Eli Baraty eased home in the fourth end against Ramesh Bhalla and Vidal Graham secured their victory overcoming Gary Wilson 3-0. With Horsham in turn slipping back by losing 5-3 against Cippenham and Cippenham themselves being beaten 5-3 by an inspired EBS-Orange Northampton this was clearly a very good weekend for the Progress team. Cippenham were always in control against Horsham racing into a 4-2 lead and although Jeremy Wilson hit back with a win against Martin Adams, Brian Burn made sure that the Slough based Club took the match by beating Gary Wilson. Cippenham's 5-3 defeat against Northampton must go down as one of the shocks of the weekend and came about largely from the efforts of Northants no. 1 Keiron Dabbs (making a welcome return to play at this level) who took both of his singles whilst hard-hitting Dave Gatiss also played really well to beat Clive Payne. Northampton managed to share the points with Ellenborough with Dabbs again taking the honours, his victims on this occasion being Mike Levene (at 11-9 in the fifth) and Jimmy Walsh (3-1). Ellenborough's Chris Marlow impressed with his 11-9 in the fifth end win against Gatiss whilst the left-handed Matthew Spero used his powerful serve and loop game to excellent effect as he got the better of Ryan Keates and Gatiss, not bad for a player ranked no. 397 nationally!. Northampton did even better against PSP Westinsure winning 6-2; Dabbs seemingly unable to put a foot wrong seeing off Eddie Roofe and Phil Payne both at 11-9 in the fifth. Dave Gatiss added vital

victories against Dave Richards and Ray Hughes. It was a mixed weekend for Ellenborough who will have been disappointed to have missed out 5-3 against a three-person Barnet side but some excellent play from Brooke Shi and Morris Greenberg left Barnet well on top. Barnet "guru" Chris Budden made his mark with a fine 11-9 in the fifth end win over Spero. Ellenborough fared much better against PSP Westinsure I this time being on the right end of a 5-3 result. Essex county star Spero completing his double by getting the better of Ray Hughes to earn his side their victory. Jimmy Walsh played his part by beating Eddie Roofe although he missed out 3-1 against ace defender Phil Payne.

DIVISION 1 NORTH

The big match in this division saw Seasiders beat Derwent 5-3, a match which for a top-of-the-table clash appeared rather tame. Only won match went to a fourth end let alone a fifth!. Seasiders trailed 3-2 but took the last three matches with John Rankin beating Richard Smith 6,4,10, Kevin Dolder defeating Andrew Horsfield 7,9,10 and Steve Dixon getting the better of Stephen Horsfield 6,6,9. Seasiders will probably see this as a well executed victory although it doesn't appear as if the 11-Up scoring system added to the excitement on this occasion. Kevin Dolder and John Rankin were both unbeaten to ensure that Seasiders beat Ormesby 5-3 and they made no mistake in beating a three-man side Norwich 7-1. Norwich's Martin Gray excelled by beating Darren Howarth 3-0 and he pushed Kevin Dolder all the way to 11-9 in the fifth end. Seasiders completed their programme with a 6-2 victory against the potentially tricky hurdle of Darlington II; Paul Hutchings taking his two singles which included a decisive win against Andrew Wilkinson. Kingshurst had a mixed weekend scoring a vital 5-3 win against Darlington but leaving themselves with a lot to do to avoid relegation after crashing 7-1 against a Coventry Phoenix side for whom Jas Dhillon, Sharyar Massodi and Ryan Stockham were all unbeaten. A reinforced Coventry team were a different proposition this weekend and with Steve Hall added to their side as well as James Whiteman they were also successful 6-2 against Darlington II. Grantham in second to bottom place after the first round of matches came close to beating Coventry leading 4-2 before losing the last two singles. Devon's star defender Whiteman completed his double by beating Thomas Hughes and Ryan Stockham scraped home 11-7 in the decider against Steve Davies to earn his side their draw. Luck doesn't seem to have been in abundant supply for Grantham against Derwent or Ormesby as they missed out in both matches 5-3. The loss against Derwent was the harder to take as they actually led 3-1 before Mark Smith started the Derwent recovery by getting the better of Mark Green. Simon Nouch completed

the job with an 11-8 in the fifth end win as Steve Davies again had the misfortune to lose the crucial last game.

DIVISION 2 NORTH

There were plenty of shocks in this division which seems to have more twists than a Wilbur Smith novel! With first-round leaders Halton Croda being held to a draw by Potteries and suffering defeats against Dewsbury and Derwent II there has been substantial movement and Dewsbury take over at the top of the table with 13 points. Croda's defeat against Derwent saw Andrew Nicholls produce some inspired play to beat both Mike Johns and Chris Ford whilst Richard Moss played his part by getting the better of Malcolm McEvoy. Derwent's Simon Nouch sealed the victory for his team with a win by the strangest of scorelines against McEvoy - 3, 5, 3, 14, 1. Croda may feel hard done by when losing 5-3 against Dewsbury losing four of the five matches that went to a fifth end. Dewsbury's Darren Page beat both Malcolm McEvoy and Dominic Johns in a deciding leg whilst Mark Stephenson played his part seeing off Mike Johns again in the fifth set. Dewsbury had looked to be in deep water against bottom team Manchester when they trailed 3-0 but with a real team-effort they hauled themselves back into the match taking the next five games. Mark Stephenson who had initiated the comeback by defeating Jason Riding added a second win by beating Mark Ramsbottom and Stuart Sykes won decisively against Jason Riding with the score at 4-3. Dewsbury looked in control against Uxbridge Burton as they led 4-1 but there must have been a few anxious moments as they saw their lead slip away. Darren Page sealed their victory with a three straight win against Keith Bird in the last match of the day. Potteries who slipped back to third place missed out 5-3 against Wellow House II. The decisive match here was Trevor Williams's five set win against Paul Malkin which hides the fact that he trailed by 2-1 and 4-10 in the fourth end before coming back to win. Williams was awarded the Man-of-the-Match Award for his efforts as he completed his double with a four-set win over Russell Boone. You might have expected Wellow House II to feature more after their success against Potteries but they were in turn on the wrong end of a very heavy 7-1 defeat against Derwent II, reinforced by the inclusion of Stephen Horsfield at no. 1. Although Garry Knights beat him 3-1 this effectively pushed everyone else down a position and Mick Wilcockson proved a very able no. 4 beating both Jason Ramage and Edward Croydon-Fowler.

DIVISION 2 SOUTH

Progress III stormed to the top of this division winning all four of their matches comfortably. Margins of 6-2 over Byng Hall II, 7-1 versus KCD Stiga, 7-1 against NETTS and 7-1 versus Ashford tell their own story. Even more impressively three of their four players stayed undefeated the whole weekend - Darek Zukowski, Taju Agunbiade and Jaroslav Juza. For

many players this was their first glimpse of an outstanding talent in Nigerian Paralympic "Standing" Champion Taju Agunbiade and he seemed to enjoy himself disposing of the likes of NETTS's Steve Dettmar (3-2), KCD's Danny Burns (3-0) and Byng Hall's Chris Knight (3-0). The weekend had started promisingly for Fellows Cranleigh who had disposed of early leaders NETTS 6-2 despite the fact that they were a player short. Roland Zaunmayr excelled by beating Steve Dettmar and Clive Carpenter marked his return to British League action after a six year absence (in which he appears to have aged by all of six months!) by also remaining undefeated. However in their last match of the weekend Cranleigh were well beaten 6-2 by an inspired Byng Hall II who took all four second half games. Martin Hewitt who played well all weekend beat both John Tendler and Gavin West whilst Simon Phillipz (promoted to the no. 1 position for this match) got the better of Gary Tendler 3-2 in a first-class game. Cranleigh's battle with Progress in the next round of matches will effectively decide this division. The battle between the bottom four teams looks too close to call and Horsham II did well to rescue a 0-3 deficit to earn a draw against Hastings. Horsham's Richard Tanner impressed with a decisive win over Paul Barry after he had himself been a victim of some inspired play from Stuart Hobden. KCD Stiga have had trouble fielding their best team so far; a pity as a team including Lee Dredge, Danny Burns, Victor Imiseev, Roger Hokey and Charlie Childs would surely do well. Turning up a player short against Ashford proved disastrous and they lost 5-3. KCD No. 4 Matthew Hobbly did well to beat Leyon Joseph and also managed to take an end off the ageless Henry Buist. Hastings also got off to a flying start against Ashford leading 3-1 and this time they held on to win 5-3. Two wins for Rosemary Rainton and single victories for Paul Barry, Nick Standen and Stuart Hobden gave them the edge. Ashford's no. 1 Kimber Chodha was on fine form winning both of his games 3-0. NETTS recovered from their 7-1 mauling against Progress to inflict their second 5-3 defeat on Horsham II in a match where their players twice recovered from 2-0 deficits. First Steve Dettmar won an excellent encounter against the tactically astute Richard Tanner and then Paul Davison repeated the feat in an even closer contest against Graham Carter. A determined Keiran Lally (alarmingly the only Junior player taking part in this division this weekend) played superbly to defeat Sally Weston 3-1 and Matt Gander 3-2 which enabled NETTS to edge home 5-3.

DIVISION 3 (NORTH)

Oakbank's lead was reduced to a single point as they crashed to a 5-3 defeat against Clarks Wakefield who move into second place in what looks to be another very well contested division. Clark's no. 1 Darren Lindley beat both Shaun Marples and Stephen Denny (the no. 10 and 16 ranked England juniors) whilst Mark Land added telling wins against Denny and Andrew Woodhead. Oakbank were also held to a draw by third-placed Kendal for whom Zeke Dixon set the ball rolling for his side with a thrilling win against Shaun Marples by a -9, 14, 15, 13

margin in the opening game. Dixon added a second singles overcoming Denny in a match where seven of the eight games went to a fourth end although somewhat unusually none were decided in the fifth. Kendal in turn lost their chance of topping the division when they were beaten 5-3 by an inspired Barrow whose no. 3 and 4 players Chris Lidstone and Jonathan Crawford dominated winning all four of their games. Zeke Dixon's double against Lee Stagg and Tristan Swann wasn't enough on this occasion. Oakbank on the other hand had found rather less resistance from Barrow romping home 7-1; Denny's opening 11-9 in the fifth win against Lee Stagg setting the wheels in motion for a convincing victory. The clash between Clarks and Kendall further illustrated what an evenly matched division this one is turning out to be with Kendall emerging as 5-3 winners. The singles clash between Darren Lindley and Zeke Dixon fittingly took centre-stage and it was Dixon who just prevailed at 11-9 in the fifth end, a vital result which gave his side a 3-2 lead. Kendall no. 3 James McGrath played his part in their success with victories against Jason Dickinson and Zoe Cheesman. Barrow also missed out against Darlington IVs going down 5-3 with Darlington no. 1 Kevin Wilson leading from the front by beating both Stagg and Swann. However it was Simon Donnelly who took the Man-of-the-Match Award coming through the closest of battles against Johnathan Crawford 10,9,-9,-10, 9 to seal victory for his side in the last game of the match. Dewsbury II's match with Barrow was also littered with close games and a 4-4 result looks to have been a fair result. Barrow trailed 1-4 but fought back in determined fashion with Johnathan Crawford securing the draw by downing Ian Fothergill -8,9,8,9 in the last game.

DIVISION 3 MIDLANDS

Grove retained their lead in this division as Bedford Modern's challenge (without Simon Rockall) faltered but they didn't have it all their own way and were in fact beaten 5-3 by ELGRE who move into second place. Grove no. 1 Nupur Santra

(currently ranked no. 32 nationally) rather unsurprisingly took his two singles but ELGRE dominated in the middle-order matches with their No.4 Wayne Glossop showing up really well with wins against Harry Shahlei and Ashley Nicholls. ELGRE could have moved into top position but were in turn well beaten 6-2 by an inform Birmingham University who raced into a 5-0 lead. A battling Alex Green took the Man-of-the-Match Award for his excellent 11-7 in the fifth win over Paul Lucas but the Birmingham team with strength in depth on this occasion (Stuart Seaholme, Lucas, Tim Seaholme and Louis Dominguez) looked really good value for their win. Without Tim Seaholme and Louis Dominguez in their line-up Birmingham weren't quite the same force and slumped to a 5-3 defeat against Halton NT Cars. The score was poised at 3-3 but the inform Alice Howard (now ranked 20 nationally) edged out Lucas 11-6 in the fifth which enabled James Eaton to secure the victory for his side by defeating Zak Dixon over four ends. Paul Lucas had worked really hard to beat Ken Connor 11-9 in the fifth end whilst Connor in turn also made his mark with a particularly fine win against the stylish back-hand hitting of Stuart Seaholme. Bedford Modern put up a brave fight against Grove (before losing 2-6) but without No.1 player Simon Rockall their efforts were always going to be in vain. Santra and Bradley Evans were both undefeated with Bedford's wins coming from John Alsop who got the better of Dominic Win-Sands and Hamish Yeung who did well to beat Harry Shahlei. Kingshurst's no. 2 Gareth Hayward might not be the best player in this division but his play certainly seems to have caught the eye. He took the Man-of-the-Match Award on no less than three occasions, including his side's 3-5 defeat against Halton II where he beat both Ken Connor and Alice Howard. Against Rotherham Scorpions he in fact lost to Shaun Bibby who completed his double with a 3-0 win against Paul Taylor but still

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PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
London Progress	8	8	-	-	90	22	16
BATTS Peniel	8	5	-	3	59	53	10
Darlington	8	4	-	4	60	52	8
Wellow House School	8	4	-	4	52	60	8
Barnet	8	2	3	3	49	63	7
OLOP Kingfisher	8	2	2	4	49	63	6
JAGS	8	2	1	5	44	68	5
Byng Hall Farningham Print	8	1	2	5	45	67	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 Pheonix	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
BATTS 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

BRITISH LEAGUE TABLES

LOVE ON THE RUN



Picture by Andrew Couper

MOST OF US, featuring as we do in Division 3 of the Warming-ton-on-Sea League, only dream about how wonderful it would be to play table tennis for a living. We marvel when we see Alex Perry or Gareth Herbert driving the ball seemingly faster than the eye can see, and it is with sheer disbelief that we watch Matthew Syed retrieving balls from behind the spectator barriers. But what is it REALLY like to be either a table tennis star or – and this is possibly more important – a table tennis star's "other half"? Behind the glamour of the national or

Dating Terry Young is even more difficult than returning his service

international arenas, there is a social life – or is there? If there is one, it is certainly very different from our own, writes Roger Woolven-Allen.

Francesca De Rosa is a dynamic 23-year-old Italian girl, extremely pretty, vivacious, intelligent and with a

personality so highly outgoing that it borders on the extrovert. She works for what used to be called Yellow Pages, now interestingly abbreviated to Yell! She is also the fiancée of England's Number 5 Senior Men's table tennis player – Terry Young.

Terry introduced me to Francesca at his parent's house in Maidenhead, Berkshire, and my first impression told me that here were two people very much devoted to each other "But I do the organising," declared the young lady from Sorrento, "Terry's not very good at it."

"That's an understatement," agreed our table tennis star, "I am hopeless with bills and things. I would realise that the electricity bill should have been paid when the lights went out."

Francesca first saw Terry when she was working as a part-time waitress at a Maidenhead restaurant called, rather aptly, Francesco's. One of Francesca's colleagues knew someone in Terry's party and it is true, perhaps, that love moves in a mysterious way.

"Hook me up with that hunk!" commanded our pretty Italian. Terry was made aware that one of the girls in the restaurant fancied him but (not being very organised) imagined that he was being admired by a different young lady, one that he did not find very attractive.

Now table tennis at top level, being what it is, resulted in Terry's moving away to the National Training Centre at Copenhagen and the incident at Francesco's restaurant was quickly pushed to the back of his mind. When Terry returned to the UK, he again visited the same restaurant and his friend pointed out Francesca. "There's the girl who likes you," said his companion.

"Wow!" declared our Tel, "If that's the girl I saw last time, she has changed! Has she changed! I'll definitely have a date with THAT!" Terry's national commitments took him all over the country and it was with some trepidation that he plucked up enough courage to ask Nino De Rosa if his daughter could accompany him to the British tournaments. Nino, described by Francesca as "an old-fashioned Italian", looked Terry up and down and said, somewhat paradoxically, "It's not that I don't trust you; it's just that I don't TRUST you!" But Mr De Rosa eventually agreed and the seeds of a romance were sown.

"Within two weeks we were mentally joined at the hip," said Francesca, "We became engaged a short while later and we will be married, in Sorrento, in the summer of 2003." Terry and Francesca may be psychologically joined but, from a practical point of view, they are

anything but that.

"We may have a good month," said Francesca, "where we see each other every weekend but, sometimes, we are apart for as much as six or seven weeks. This is not ideal at all for an engaged couple! The England squad's Training Centre is located in Nottingham and I managed to get a transfer to Yellow Pages at Birmingham. Terry and I rented an apartment at Lichfield, halfway between Nottingham and Birmingham, so that we could be together. But no sooner had we moved in than Terry had to travel to Brazil and the United States on table tennis duties. I didn't get on with my new Birmingham colleagues; I was miles away from my family and friends and there was no Terry either! It didn't last, within a short space of time I was back in Colnbrook with my parents and Terry was back in Nottingham with Darren Blake and Gareth Herbert. But we did at least learn that we could live together without killing each other!"

Terry finds that he is released from table tennis duties for a total of about eight weeks every year and, of these, he spends just three or four with his fiancée.

"Most weekends find me either in Germany with my current club, Weitmarmuncheid, or playing tournaments in Britain or abroad," he said. "Francesca comes with me to most of the domestic events, but she never accompanies me overseas. There are two reasons for this; she has her own job to do and it is also unprofessional for me to take my wife with me. You know, I almost said the word 'wife' there!"

"You did!" Francesca laughed, charmingly and infectiously. As our conversation progressed, I could see why young Terry was so smitten with his lovely companion.

"You see," said Francesca, "apart from the professional side of things, I would have to take time off work; I would have to pay my own fares, and I wouldn't see much of him anyway. It just wouldn't be worth it. We save everything up for when he has a complete break from table tennis and we can spend some quality time together."

"And how do you spend what little quality time you have?" I asked.

"Apart from the occasional visit to my parents' Spanish house in Alicante, we go to the cinema," said Terry, "and, although I hardly ever drink alcohol, we like going to restaurants. Mostly, though, we just get a video out, maybe buy a takeaway and spend the evening having cuddles." "You certainly can't beat cuddles for a good evening," added Francesca.

As old Eric Morecambe used to say, there was no answer to that! Before I left the Young household, Terry, Francesca and I talked at length about table tennis and Terry's ambitions for the future. If selected, his main goal is to win a medal at the forthcoming Commonwealth Championships to be held in Manchester. We chatted about Terry's rise to the top level in our sport and how much he feels he owes to the Kingfisher Reading Club in general and to Big Jim Stokes (father of ex-England international Jimmy) in particular. Big Jim, arguably the finest unqualified coach that England has ever seen, was instrumental in Terry's meteoric rise to fame. We chatted about Terry's thoughts on wonderful table tennis players and it was no surprise that Jan-Ove Waldner and Vladimir Samsonov featured prominently in this area.

We then talked about how Francesca got bored at the domestic tournaments.

"What!" I interjected with disbelief, "Bored with table tennis?"

"No, bored with the waiting," she quickly countered, "Terry might have a match at 9 o'clock and then he may have to wait three or four hours before meeting his next opponent. When it's finally all over, we often get back home at 2 o'clock in the morning!"

Finally, I asked Francesca what she disliked about Terry.

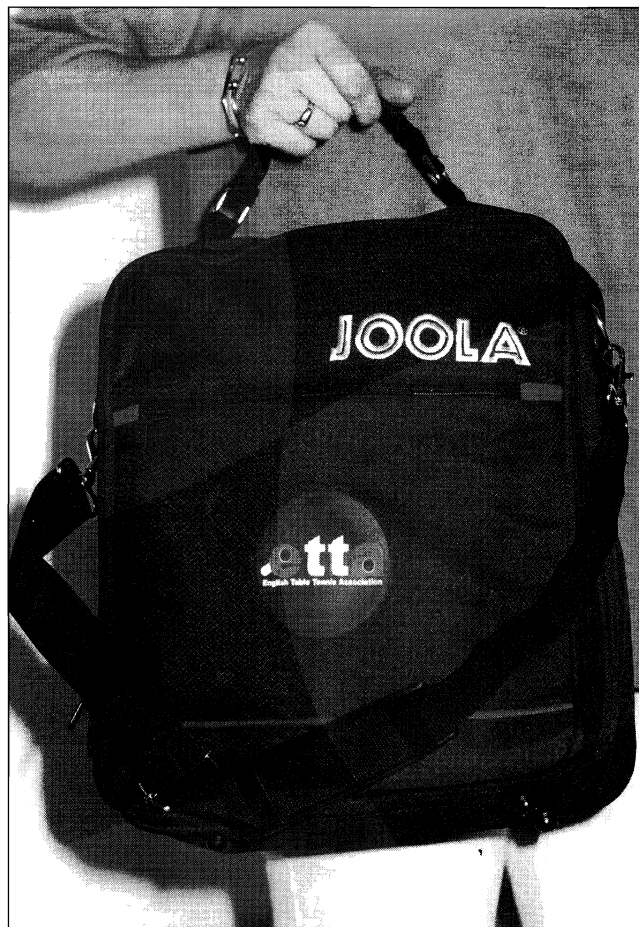
"Nothing, really," she replied, "There's nothing not to like."

"Go on," said Terry, "There must be something you dislike about me. The readers of Table Tennis News don't want to hear all this good stuff; they want the gory bits, like Terry's a ratbag on court; he's got a vile temper, and so on."

"None of that really," said Francesca, "You certainly don't treat me like Little Mo in Eastenders! But, in answer to your question, I've looked at your forthcoming table tennis schedule and it would seem that you are going to have just thirteen days off in the next seven months. I just wish you were home a bit more."

And so, dear reader, I leave you as I arrived. Would you trade your life with that of a professional table tennis player? Despite travelling to so many exotic places, and being able to play our beloved sport at a fantastically high level, I strongly suspect that your answer would be "no". Maybe I am right and maybe I am wrong. I shall just leave you to ponder things...

NEW ETTA LOGO BAGS



1. 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.

If you would like one, 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.

2. The ETTA office in Hastings also has a limited quantity of Blue 1.8m surrounds for sale at an absolute bargain price of £5.00 each. Some of the surrounds have an ETTA logo whilst others have the Woolwich name on them.

Due to the bargain price, we cannot mail them and so they are available on a "buyer collects" basis, but if you are attending any ETTA Grand Prix or National event, it may be possible to have them delivered there. Also phone Jackie Sands, 01424 722525 to order.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR continued

continued from page 8

the future but I question the tangible benefit at local level from this venture. I am fortunate to belong to a thriving club which has gained momentum since receiving a substantial grant from the National Lottery, but how many smaller clubs are in this healthy position.

I hate to be negative but I fear for the future of our sport and would beg the powers that be to undertake a massive public relations task on board to improve the lot of our local valued volunteers. Very few younger people are coming forward to help with the administration of the game so we desperately need to retain those that we have.

STOP PRESS

I am the organiser/referee of a junior ranking tournament due to be held at Cippenham on the 13th January 2002 with the draw to be held on 4th Jan. On the third of January I find out that an under 12 training camp is now to be held on 13th Jan. After numerous phone calls on the evening of 3rd January I find that I have lost 9 of the 16 seeds from the boys events. For the umpteenth time a tournament at Cippenham has been decimated.

Before Christmas I found it necessary to telephone "The Office" as a college was failing to obtain coaching packs for a course to be run in mid January. I was advised that no one could help me before 11th January as they were all on holiday. Does this mean that we must lose two dozen new recruits to the Sport?

I put 60 plus unpaid hours into table tennis every week and pay out of my own pocket travel and overnight stay to take children to tournaments so I can consider myself to be a volunteer, but am I valued - I think not. Perhaps the time has come for me to join the ranks of many others and say this will be my last season.

*Ken Phillips
Chairman, Cippenham TTC*

HAPPY UMPIRING

IT IS exactly fifty years ago that I first pinned my umpire's badge to my jacket.

Would you kindly allow me through your pages to say 'thank you' to all the officials, players, and of course umpires whom have filled those fifty years with such happy memories.

During that time I have travelled from Hong Kong to San Francisco, from Iceland to Cape Town, and always there has been someone to share the fun, the anxieties, and the laughter.

For this I am deeply grateful and would like to thank everyone whom has made it possible to look back and think "Yes - it was worthwhile".

*Pat Archdale
Keynsham, Bristol*

DAMAGE LIMITATION

SUCH was the blatant attempt at damage limitation by Brian Halliday in his official ETTA statement regarding the 2nd issue of Sportbreak magazine, I feel strongly that the membership know the full truth and not just the typical PR response which tries to mask the huge problems

our sport faces.

In his statement Mr Halliday informs the membership that comments made in my letter to Sportbreak are false. Let's examine the true facts. I had written about a senior British League, "left to rot in the glory of yesteryear's". Mr Halliday has decided to lump every national league together to give the impression there is huge expansion. Womens, Junior and Veteran leagues have always been held over two weekends and are hugely popular, however they too now suffer from the absence of many top players. The senior British League has only expanded since the clubs themselves revolted against the ETTA at the 2000 British League Conference in Sheffield where the ETTA brought in every top official to speak against a new weekend format. The clubs won the day, hence the increase in teams following years of decline. What Mr Halliday fails to point out is the true facts of those "glory of yesteryear's", when such names as Saive, Cabrera, Pinteá, Chen Xinhua, Creanga, Brainin etc were added to such as Douglas, Syed, Cooke, Mason etc, all playing in what the ETTA call their "flagship" of the club structure. Mr Halliday conveniently fails to add that now not one of the top ten men, and even worse, none of the top five junior boys play in this great "flagship" league. Add to that top Scottish, Welsh, and Irish players preferring to compete in other European leagues.

Mr Halliday fails to point out that over the past ten years the national profile of our sport has declined so badly that clubs now have little chance of securing the type of financial backing that brought such star names from Europe to complement our own national stars. The national profile of table tennis is the direct responsibility of the ETTA.

Mr Halliday also fails to point to the fact that in 1979 the winners of that first national club title received a prize of £2500, when the league had no sponsor. Today's winners receive \$500 less. At that 2000 British League Conference in Sheffield, once again the ETTA bleated on about how hard they are searching for sponsorship of the British League and how high it was in terms of importance. The copy of their sponsorship portfolio, given to all clubs present at the meeting, was a hurriedly made up collection of tired and aged table tennis cliches which could easily have been bettered by any eleven year old. Providing the clubs with proof of what they already knew, the ETTA cared little for investment in their flagship. No doubt Mr Halliday will continue bleating on about how hard they are trying.

I would think that all enthusiasts of our sport will realise just who is right and who is wrong about the state of national club table tennis.

Mr Halliday continues by pointing out how much exchequer funding has increased since 1992. Perhaps, in the light of my conversation with the then Sports Minister Kate Hoey, in which I was given warnings over future funding, Mr Halliday might like to enlighten us all as to how much funding has increased since the highly damaging Times articles about ETTA Chairman Alan Ransome's dual role

in our sport. What I was told by the Sports Minister was also conveyed in conversation to a current ETTA employee. Had the allegations made in the Times articles been false, I would have expected strong legal action rather than a lame complaint to the Press authorities. No action was brought against the Times, leaving a position whereby our governing body and our sport is viewed with mistrust by potential funding partners. We can only reach our own conclusions, as can the membership.

Like Mr Halliday I applaud funding potential young players. As for the Academy, I believe in the concept, but without a funded structure from grass roots through the regions, it is doomed to fail. You cannot provide a system whereby the top two young players receive maximum support and funding with the next two in the ranking lists receiving absolutely nothing, and then be surprised when it causes animosity. Without significant funding to the means that produce young players, the Academy cannot survive.

My decision to reply to Mr Halliday's statement is because it actually contains more of the "ill informed, inaccurate, and harmful comments that do our sport no service", quoted at the end of what is quite clearly typical PR drivel, aimed directly at those who will vote next year, and who will have little knowledge of the huge national problems and the potential grave consequences for grass root table tennis.

My letter to Sportbreak was written to offer support to Alex Murdoch in his quest to become the next ETTA Chairman, and his wish to bring in a new, conflict of interest free administration. My reply to Mr Halliday gives the membership the true facts relating to our sports problems as I commented in Sportbreak. At the very least it is refreshing to be able to make such comment in the knowledge that the truth will not be suppressed, as it so clearly is in Mr Halliday's official ETTA reply. Such pathetic propaganda only provides further proof that we have an administration that is incapable of deviating from their chosen pathways, even when it is so clear they are taking the sport towards oblivion.

Finally, perhaps Mr Halliday may wish to remind the membership of the "Policies For Progress" as detailed by Alan Ransome on January 14th 1991 prior to his election to the post of ETTA Chairman. Of his 16 listed policies were those concerned with the growth of the club structure. Policy 8 "To encourage the formation and development of more continental style clubs", and Policy 9 "To give new impetus to the Premier Division of the British League and encourage more of the leading English players to participate in their own national league."

Bearing in mind the facts stated in my letter, and the promises made prior to the election of the current administration, maybe Mr Halliday would like to tell me, and the membership, all about the star players who not only grace our top league but give clubs the chance to obtain vital sponsorship, tell us of the huge crowds at British League matches,

provide us with copy of the national press coverage of the British League, show us how our young talented players (outside of the Academy) are given the same support as the top two or three in their age categories, and show us the increase in exchequer funding since the highly damaging Times articles. In short, let us see Mr Halliday provide the whole truth, and let the membership see just who is "wrong".

*Keith Wilson, Darlington
Brian Halliday, Vice Chairman,
Public Relations replies.*

A time for plain speaking.

The comments made in my reply to the contents of Sportbreak are factual. I stand by them completely.

I am sure Mr Wilson's views are sincerely held, however readers of Table Tennis News, and our members, may care to consider an explanation as to how these problems have arisen and how the ETTA is addressing them.

1. The role of the ETTA is to administrate and promote the British League. Publicity aspects are covered by regular bulletins, Press Releases allowing national coverage of results, Teletext, and reports in Table Tennis News. It is the role of the clubs to build their teams, generate finance, and encourage local support. This is the case in all the European National Leagues that run successfully including the National League clubs that attract some of our own players.

It is recognised, that by and large, European countries operate different systems. They are not so "small club" and local league orientated. France, Germany, and Sweden have strong clubs who have home fixtures to generate local support. This is partly one of the reasons there has been a significant number of players moving to these clubs, to seek the best deal available to reward their expertise. The ETTA remain supportive of the British League and the whole development programme is based around the Premier Club concept with the objective of increasing the popularity of the sport. The provision of new club based table tennis centres over the last few years is concrete evidence of the ETTA's commitment to a massive facilities expansion.

Mr Wilson is correct in stating that the British League is the flagship of the ETTA. The main reason why the ETTA encouraged clubs to continue with the home and away system was to encourage local interest and local sponsorship. Also it was considered that the local community would provide an infrastructure that would stimulate pride and identity. The democratic process ensured that, apart from the Premier Division, the "weekend" arrangements were accepted by the clubs and the players.

Players such as Saive, Creanga etc that graced the league in the early years were only attracted by the massive efforts and commitment of the clubs at that time. I know from hands on personal experience, that the only way we could attract crowds at that time was to seek sponsorship deals and to produce a package that would attract paying spectators. Hence dancing groups, steel bands, singers, conjurers, at half time.

Coaches to away matches. Discos etc. It was not easy. It was hard work. The point was that we did not hold the ETTA accountable. It was the clubs themselves who showed initiative to ensure a successful format.

The initiatives, instigated by the Chairman, whereby the women, juniors, and veterans have been incorporated, all on a weekend basis, have, by Mr Wilson's admittance, been hugely successful.

I have not had the pleasure of a visit to Mr Wilson's club, however I would hope he or anyone else, could produce evidence of excellent conditions, conducive to top standard play, and an overall package that excites players, spectators, and sponsors. It should be remembered that there is no "them and us" situation. I am sure Mr Wilson will admit that, from his own experience, running a British League club can lead to problems which are not easy to resolve. We are all members of the ETTA and we all have a joint responsibility to the game to ensure it thrives.

2. Of course the ETTA has a direct responsibility in respect of national profile. This is the first time in the history of the Association that a full time professional Commercial Manager has been appointed to actively seek sponsorship opportunities. The Information Officer, also full time, has the responsibility of promoting our image, and more publicity is being generated than ever before. The recent invitation to Matt Syed to join the Public Relations Committee is already producing positive and exciting results, especially in the area of TV coverage. Image of the game is paramount and the staff, elected representatives, administrators, and players ALL have a part to play. It is the responsibility of us all.

We have been successful both financially and in kind, however very large sponsorship deals are not easy to secure, nevertheless efforts will continue - especially in respect of the British League.

3. Mr Wilson mentions funding. Let us face facts. As members and players of the ETTA our contribution is modest. In comparison with other sports we get very good value. (How much does it cost at the Golf Club?). Sport England massively supports the game in this country. When the present Chairman was elected in 1991 funding to the sport was £200,000. This has now risen to well over £1,000,000, mainly as an effect of the Focus Sport programme and the Lottery Sports Fund. The E.T.T.A. have done very well to retain funding over the last four years when grants overall have been reduced and fewer lottery tickets sold. This year the World Class Performance Plan Fund is £750,000. £11,000,000 is allocated to 120 sports and table tennis is in third place by its allocation of Exchequer Funding of £435,000. The ETTA recognises the obligations we have, which is why there has been complete co-operation regarding the various audits. At the risk of boring readers yet again - the ETTA is designated by Sport England as fit for purpose to receive significant public funding and no malpractice in any shape or form has been found to exist.

4. The comments regarding Press coverage are noted - however we have only two major journalists who write on a reasonably regular basis at national level. More Press Releases are produced now than at any time in the Association's history but with soccer having such a high profile, it is not easy to persuade the nationals to take copy. Local coverage remains excellent and we have been more successful with major feature writing, especially in "The Times" where Matt Syed's sports articles have been very well received.

Mr Wilson has jumped on the small but volatile bandwagon that continues to unjustly attack Alan Ransome. In order to clarify the position to the readers of

Table Tennis News, I reproduce a letter received from Mr Richard Caborn, Sports Minister, which was previously circulated to all members of National Council.

It is worth recording that the review came about because of an ongoing correspondence from the Isle of Wight contributed to by Mr Wilson. The substance of their endless complaints to the government and Sport England have proved to be groundless, and have resulted in a time wasting exercise, both for the government agencies and the ETTA. I believe that it is time for the malcontents to shut up and allow the ETTA to get on with the job.

I am always prepared to listen and respond to correspondents, whether or

not I agree with comments expressed, however Mr Wilson may take the view that his reservations in respect of my previous reply may have been channelled more appropriately via his National Councillor.

A LETTER FROM THE MINISTER OF SPORT TO RICHARD YULE, THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION, 7th NOVEMBER 2001.

I AM writing to you about the review carried out by Sport England of the potential for conflict of interest between Alan Ransome's position as chairman of the ETTA and as Managing Director of a company which supplies equipment to

continued on page 27

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Professional TT Coach
Former: England No.1, World No.27, European No.14, National Coach. ETTA Coach.



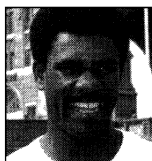
COURSE COACH:

MARCO ESSOMBA
Currently ranked England No.10, beaten top players such as Alan Cooke. One of England's leading servers. Currently leading player on the ETTA Grand Prix list and winner of the Clare Pengelly.



COURSE COACH:

DESMOND DOUGLAS
Professional TT Coach
Former: England No.1, World No.7, European No.2, European Top 12 Champion & Commonwealth Champion



ENGLAND TABLE TENNIS PSYCHOLOGIST:

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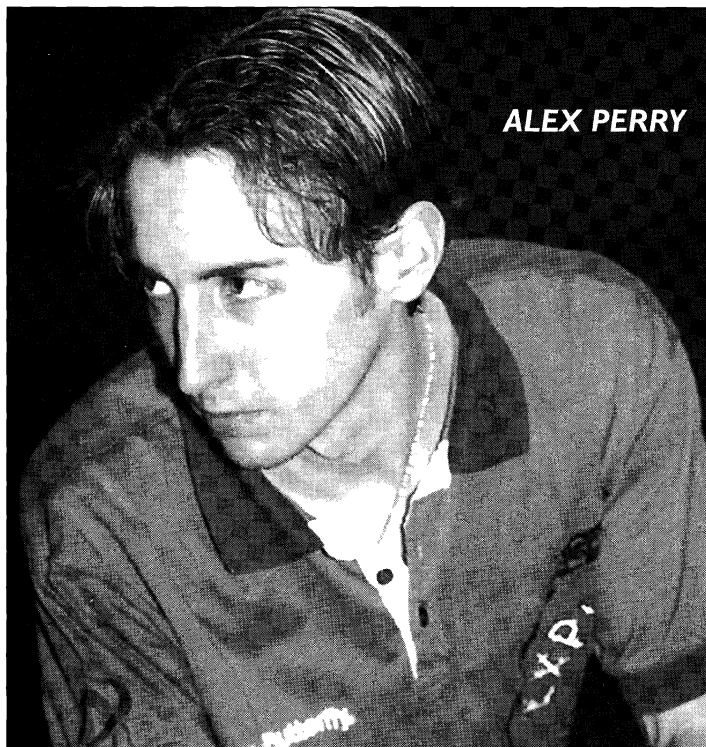


EYE OF THE TIGER

IT'S SEVEN O'CLOCK on a chill winter's evening after a hard practice session. Your tired, heavy legs are valiantly attempting to drag you around a 5000 metre running track. Your lungs are desperately gasping for more oxygen than they can possibly intake. You feel a cold burning pain in the back of your throat. As your calf muscles begin to tighten and the early signs of cramp set in you realise that you've only just passed the halfway mark. Would you slow down and coast the last half or would you push on into further levels of pain? Now ask yourself another question: would you always make the painful choice week in, week out, when numerous other demands on your time exist?

It's at times like these, truly alone and with no one else compelling you to continue, that the drive to achieve must come from within. To rely on being pushed by outside forces can lead to a crucially important loss of inner desire. Something that can unfortunately remain hidden until a pressure situation arises, such as nine all in the fifth game. At this stage no one else can want it for you. You have to want it yourself.

I am often asked why I put so much emphasis on the non-playing aspects of table tennis and why I constantly push myself to the limit. The answers to these questions can be summarised in two words: "Desire" and "Knowledge". Desire to achieve the goals that have been set, even though sacrifices have to be made



Why I push myself to the limit. **By Alex Perry**

along the way. Knowledge of just how much the non-playing aspects of table tennis impact upon performance and how many national teams are training to the maximum in all these areas.

There are many qualities behind a top table tennis player, but desire is fundamentally linked to many of these, especially the talent to train

hard consistently. I'm sure we can all think of players overflowing with talent who stopped or faded away because they weren't prepared to go that extra mile or give up that little bit more. Desire only becomes apparent when difficulties have to be overcome in order to succeed. The intensity of my desire only became clear to me during my experience of continual travelling as a teenager with the goal of securing quality training. A lack of comprehensive structure in comparison to the leading European countries, coupled with being situated in the South West, resulted in long hours spent on trains accomplishing this goal. Spending most of my time living out of bags made me realise what I was sacrificing to try and improve. Consequently I didn't want to waste the training time I had worked so hard to obtain; I wanted to squeeze every last drop out of it.

Not surprisingly, many other players in the senior national team talk of similar experiences. Each of their stories shows the desire within them to succeed. This is not to say that a well-structured training programme fosters a team lacking in desire. A national centre is crucial in providing our young players with the necessary training and support services to compete with the best in Europe. The key point is that the desire to

succeed must come from within the players themselves for the centre to have maximum benefit. It can't come from pushy parents or fanatical coaches.

However, desire alone is not enough. It's a very unnerving contrast being among the best players in England, only to arrive at an international tournament and become just another name in a sea of players, all of whom have the same desire to succeed. This is where knowledge comes into the equation. On moving to a top Swedish club at the age of nineteen, I first discovered how much focus is placed upon physiological, psychological and even nutritional aspects of Table Tennis, aspects of which I knew little before then. After playing in the same team as Jan-Ove Waldner, it amuses me to hear statements about how he was a pure talent who didn't need intensive training to succeed. Those who knew him at his peak realise how professional he really was leading up to major tournaments.

Since then, after attending training camps all around the world, I have seen just how many countries are dissecting every facet of the game, hoping to gain a minute edge over the competition. With so many players pushing themselves to the limit, I see only one choice for those wishing to compete and win at the highest level - to push just as hard themselves. If you don't know how intensely other countries are training, or how to go about improving the non-playing sides of your game, then you truly have a mountain to climb.

At times in my career when I have attained goals that I have set myself, the hard work and sacrifices involved have made the victory even more rewarding. Successes such as winning the English Closed in 1999 and the Commonwealth Doubles Gold with Terry Young bring meaning to those hours on the table, hours in the gym and hours in the train as a youngster.

Similarly it is easy to appreciate the dejection in defeat, when it feels as though those sacrifices have resulted in nothing. But far worse, in my opinion, would be the painful feeling of regret. Knowing that you could have pushed a lot harder, but regretting that you did not, never knowing what you might have achieved.

*How will I know what I might have achieved
If I don't give it all that I've got?
Surely I'll wish that I'd really believed
And not merely accepted my lot?*

*I don't want to say when I'm old and grey
Than I might have done so much more,
But consumed by doubt, I just opted out,
As I wasn't sufficiently sure.*

*So I'll give my all, and if I should fall,
Still I'll know that I've tried my best,
Not be counting the cost of a chance long lost,
And strength never put to the test.*

Alex Perry

TABLE TENNIS NEWS EXTRA

Issue no. 283 February 2002

Editorial

Another new year and I hope a good one for all readers.

Certain to retain their British League title and with **Bosse Kaffo, Aparna Narendran and Glenda Ashison winners for the first time of the Women's British League, the London Progress** club looks unstoppable in England. Founder star player **Jason Sugrue** is also hitting top form, lifting the Greater London men's singles title and beating Home Countries International/Scottish champion Euan Walker in Northern Ireland.

Winning is of course important but there is much more to a successful club than that. Others might point to the people (players, coaches, volunteers, leaders and officials), the activities/opportunities and facilities, and links and outreach, but when Jon Kaufman asked me to say a few words at the end of his club's presentational dinner in December, I could highlight only a few things. And in the end time ran out for me to address the gathering at all! However, I am not one to waste my thoughts, so what was I going to say?

Well, whereas in an individual sport like table tennis the appropriate theme song might too often be something like the egotistic 'My Way', what makes a great club is the **team spirit** universally exemplified by '**You'll Never Walk Alone**', with its suggestion of support, friendship and solidarity in adversity. Related to this is the welcoming atmosphere (and buzz and excitement), which is so important in helping a fearful stranger feel comfortable, stimulated and 'at home'. About Progress, some may react to the apparent brash exuberance, but I love the melting pot inclusivity of all kinds of people from all over the world inter-reacting.

Secondly, a successful club (albeit often unconsciously) is a **training/breeding ground not only for future players but also for future coaches, officials and club leaders.** So not only will the club attract people in (and retain some of them), it will also send all over the town/county/country/world what I sometimes call 'missionaries' for table tennis (though not in the old colonial sense of 'telling the natives what to do!') but what might be better described as participants, emissaries and workers for the sport.

Finally – and this only applies to clubs who are aiming to 'go places' playing standard-wise, as London Progress are with their advance into Europe – is a **hard training culture, in coaching and in practice.** I do not mean that it is mindless or soulless – hard training should be 'informed' and done with passion - but it is essential if we are to compete with the world and it is too rare in England.

Andy Seward has performed a valuable service in his statistical analysis of local league team affiliations presented to the ETTA National Council. The continued overall annual decline of around 3-4% since 1978 is of course worrying, but in the face of dire warnings of a much bigger team loss this season owing to 11-up scoring, the adherence to the rate/trend of previous years could be interpreted as encouraging! And Andy's figures indicate net increases in some counties: Bedfordshire, Cheshire, Cleveland, Derbyshire, Hampshire, Northumberland, Shropshire, Somerset. It should also be noted that whilst nothing nationally has so far been able to reverse the trend of declining local league membership, the British League, Women's British League, Junior British League, County Championships and National Cadet League (and the ETTA Player License Scheme) have all recorded growth, and probably more people are playing semi-seriously without participating in local leagues.

My feeling is that, yes, **it is now a tougher environment in which to recruit** (particularly younger players) for local leagues and those that do little or nothing and have a substantially older membership will decline and sooner or later die, which I was sad to see has happened to the Durham League, which I played recently in. However, **those leagues and clubs that really work at it**, and not only provide new or more attractive opportunities (which in themselves are not enough) but proactively promote and publicise them, **will eventually get the recruits and the growth.** Tough, but possible, as some leagues have proved.

Having myself received letters mostly against **11-up**, I was surprised to read **the 3 positive letters in favour, in Henry Buist's excellent Bromley & DTTA Newsletter** (see 'Not Disgusted from Tunbridge Wells' inside). I have also heard some positive feedback from the Didcot League. Against this, there

are the mumblings in some leagues employing up-to-11 suggesting reverting back to 21-up (or even threatening disaffiliating if the ETTA AGM votes to make 11-up mandatory). Still, as the international law of table tennis is 11-up, and virtually all 'higher level' competitions have to follow this, it does not require much foresight to see that **this scoring system will eventually prevail.** The only question is when.

Terribly sadly, Gerald Hammond (see tribute in the main magazine) and now **Alf Pepperd have fallen to cancer.** So poignantly for this magazine, Alf was the regular **Gloucestershire county notes columnist for 20 years**, but he had been the Gloucestershire county press officer (with some breaks) since 1955. And although he wrote copiously for local newspapers and newsletters and had a long stint as the SW Regional Press Officer, he may be remembered most for being the instantly recognisable voice of table tennis on BBC Radio Gloucestershire. Last season he was a strong contender for an ETTA Press Officer of The Year Award, and had he stayed with us a little longer I am sure would have gained this just recognition. Farmer Alf had infectious enthusiasm and gentlemanly courtesy, and fought his cancer, which he said was nothing to serving in a submarine during the War, with great courage. A fuller and fitting appreciation will be published in the next edition.

I am fairly tolerant, but could **all county notes correspondents** please try to keep their copy to something approaching **300 words** and delivered by the 1st of the month copy date?! On content, concentrate on local views, issues, personalities, activities, events and developments etc. that might be of interest both to readers inside and outside of the county.

Farewell to Mark Smith, going around the world, who as ETTA RDO for the North, plus latterly Yorkshire, seems to have done a good job. Well done (but hard luck!) the **Halton Club** in coming runner-up in the **national VIP** (Volunteer Investment Programmes) **Recognition Awards**, presented by Trevor Brooking. Finally, in my last editorial I was acknowledging **Arthur C Clark**, the Essex based photographer and engineer, and not Arthur C Clarke, the table tennis playing physicist and sci-fi writer!

Ken Muhr

BERKSHIRE by John Cunningham

Bracknell & Wokingham District League winners

Our Lady of Peace Allied Worldwide Computer Services A team won the Bracknell Wokingham & District Table Tennis Premier League by just one point.

Locked at the top with Broadmoor A, Sharon Mithcell and her team had to beat Wokingham A 10-0 to have any chance of taking the 2001 title. This they did after a hard fought battle with Graham Outrim, Ian Schwartz and Barry Morten, all securing maximums. Phil Prady tried his best to ruin the party, but lost out by a 11-4, 7-11, 11-4, 11-2 scoreline to senior veteran and county player Ian Schwartz.

Broadmoor were left with the task of beating Kingfisher B by the same scoreline, but a single win for Peter Bennett over Clive Banham not only kept the Woodley team in the Premier, but gave OLOP AWCS the title by a single point.

Wokingham District Sports Personality Awards December 2001

The Angela Cornish Memorial Award for Disabled Women was presented to Kim Spicer by Alan Cornish of sponsors Woodley Sports and Tackle.

Kim's major successes have been at table tennis, qualifying for a number of finals and semi-finals in numerous competitions. Probably one of her proudest moments was winning a silver medal at the Cardiff Special Olympics.

This award commemorates a brave lady and celebrates the determination of sportsmen and women who face challenges with equal bravery.



Alan Cornish presents the Angela Cornish Memorial Trophy to Kim Spicer

The Wokingham Times Award for Service to Sport and the Community for a club went to Our Lady of Peace Table Tennis Club. The club develops and nurtures players at all levels whilst achieving a great deal of success from local to Olympic level.

COUNTY NOTES

A Look Around The Country

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Declan Duffy of Duffy Home Fires presents the Wokingham Times Award for Service to Sport and the Community to Alan Dines (coach) and rising star Alex Curran of OLOP IMPACT

AT NEIL RAINE

Apprentice Tradesman Neil Raine from Scarborough received his award, The Norman Fursden Trophy, for activities which have enhanced the prestige and reputation of the college from the Reviewing Officer, Brigadier AE Whiting, at the December 2001 Passing Out Parade at the Army Technical Foundation College, Arborfield, Berkshire.

Apprentice Tradesman Raine has been playing table tennis in the local Reading, Maidenhead, and Bracknell and Wokingham Leagues since September.

He has performed well and extended most of the top players in the two Premier Divisions, i.e. Maidenhead and Bracknell and Wokingham. In the Reading Youth League which he has helped to organise this term he has yet to be beaten, as is the case in the second division of each League.

Along with AT Cunliffe he raised close to £100 for cystic fibrosis at a Maidenhead Charity Tournament, won his group and received a commendation for his play and sporting behaviour.

At short notice he organised a team of 4 ATs from B Coy to represent the ATF Coll in the Berkshire under 19 Schools Table Tennis Championships on Sunday 2nd December. All his team performed with credit, while AT Raine was undefeated, winning three against Eton College in the 9-3 defeat and the only victory against a top county youth in a 9-1 defeat at the hands of Berkshire Champions, St. Bartholemew's College, Newbury.

CHESHIRE by Alan Blears

NETS Eastern Masters

This was another good tournament for Doreen Schofield who was in three finals. Two of these she won, the 0-60 singles and 0-50 doubles with Di Pearce, and in the 0-50 singles she was runner-up to Margaret Maltby.

Junior County Championships

In the Premier Division Cheshire juniors were without their no. 1 boy Danny Horner, who was unavailable, but finished in third place after the first round of matches.

Despite having played very little since July Karen Shepherd, still not fully recovered from health problems, won all her matches – a superb effort. Claire Langford also played very well, while the boys Neil Powell, Tom Page and Gavin Lloyd should be congratulated on their performance in Danny's absence.

Stockton Junior Four Star Select

This will no doubt be reported elsewhere but a local performance worth noting is that of 10-year-old Caroline Hallows, who reached the U12 semi-final. Caroline is one of several 10-11 year-olds seeking to continue Stockport's tradition of producing good girls players. She and her Raven Club colleague Stevie Barrett have been playing about two years, and two from the Hillcourt Club, Amy Walker and Emma Kelly, though less experienced, play with Caroline for Stockport 'B' in the National Junior League.

Now, a question: Which 10-year-old girl recently beat a World Champion? Answer – Caroline Hallows, when she beat 80-year-old Margaret Jones, 0-70 world doubles champion in Manchester, in a Wilmslow League match. Can anyone beat a 70-year age gap between opponents?

Stiga Hyndburn Junior Grand Prix

There was a double for Cheshire boys in the December event. After many

attempts the experienced Aaron Beech won category 1 whereas the brilliant clarinetist from Chetham's School of Music, 13-year-old Adam Slater, was singing a happy tune when he played out of his skin to win a thrilling 5 game category 2 final.

Finally, we can only write about what we know about, so if you have any news please ring either myself on 0161 494 1623 or Jim Beckley (for veterans) on 0161 439 6001. I can't promise it will be published, as that depends on Ken!



John Hilton with members of the Hillcourt Club at Bramhall Recreation Centre, Nov 2001. Armit Kaur, Agai Singh, back – George Yardley, me, Adam Slater, Sam Kilby, front - Amy Walker, Emma Kelly.

CORNWALL by John Wood

Cornwall Table Tennis Association, in combination with BBC Radio Cornwall, ran a 24 hour table tennis marathon supporting the Sunrise Appeal, at Tregorrick Table Tennis Centre in St.Austell, from 6pm on Friday 28th December to 6pm on Saturday 29th December 2001.

A relay of over 50 players from Cornish clubs maintained continuous play throughout the 24 hours, with their sponsorship raising in excess of £1000.

The proceeds will be divided equally between the Sunrise Appeal and the Cornwall Table Tennis Association.

The Sunrise Appeal has been created to enable Treliske Hospital in Truro to purchase much needed equipment for the treatment of cancer.

CUMBRIA by Gordon Brown

Roy Warrener won two finals in the Barrow Town Championships. Roy, of Dowdales, partnered Neil Honeyman, of Furness Cricket Club, to take the open doubles against Alan Turner and Steve Bushell (Vickers) 11-9, 12-10, 11-8.

Honeyman and Warrener were on opposite sides in the veterans' singles final with Warrener winning 11-4, 11-7,

11-5. Turner, on the other hand, was a double runner-up, also losing the men's singles final to Parkview's Lee Stagg 5-11, 5-11, 11-4, 11-8, 6-11.

Parkview had another winner in Mike Gasson, who collected the Division Two-Three singles title, beating Millom's Ray Round in the final 13-15, 11-9, 11-2, 11-7.

Emulating Warrener in the junior section was up and coming Jonathan Crawford. The Dowdales star beat clubmate Peter Denness in the junior and cadet finals. The score in the junior final was 11-8, 11-13, 11-5, 11-3, and in the cadet final was 11-9, 11-8, 4-11, 14-16, 11-8.

The Crawford family completed a notable treble. Scott beat Jonathan 18-21, 21-10, 21-9 in the handicap singles final. In the girls' final, Helen beat Charlotte Hudson (Askam) 11-6, 3-11, 11-5, 11-7. Scott and Helen also play for Dowdales.

At the time of writing, Cumbria officials were battling to organise their annual Closed tournament at Kendal Leisure Centre on Sunday 27th January in the absence of a tournament secretary.

After many years at the helm, Richard Johnstone resigned and his assistant, Ken Douglas followed. Both were proving a hard act to follow to the "emergency" committee that quickly took over.

Richard and Ken, both from Workington, have already been thanked by the County Association, Richard having been presented with an inscribed silver salver.

DERBYSHIRE by Colin Deaton

After applauding the performance of our juniors, it was a different story for the County seniors. In the first weekend play-offs they were struggling and whilst they can still avoid relegation some immediate strengthening to the side is required.

Plans to strengthen the side with Nicola Deaton, Alan Cooke and Bradley Billington for the next play-offs is the Derbyshire committee's intention. However, our three internationals are already heavily committed, with playing or coaching dates particularly at weekend including playing overseas for clubs.

How good it is to see Bradley Billington back in the national ranking list! He is showing some sparkling form and in my opinion will be a hard nut to crack in the forthcoming English National Closed Championships. Brad is one of our few male top players in Britain who can play the modern game and also perform well against defenders. He is still in search of his first closed singles title and loathe as

I am to make any predictions I would not mind having a few bob on the Chesterfield star emerging as the new National Closed champion.

Michael Isherwood made a brief visit to Chesterfield over the Christmas period. He is still living, playing and working in Spain and later on in the year is to marry his fiancée who is one of Spain's leading players. Michael was saying to me that he would like to settle in the Chesterfield area eventually. I am sure Chesterfield and Derbyshire would welcome both their services to our game.

There can be no denying that the growth of our game in the Derby area is on the up and up. Following two welcomed grants it has now been possible to see our sport featured at lunch times in schools. It has also meant that the excellent facilities at the Mackworth Centre can be maintained and even increased. Open days are planned for the future with regular taster sessions and this venture under the watchful eye of the dedicated Marilyn O'Sullivan looks very exciting indeed.

The area already has a squad of very promising young player and with the organised development that is taking place, the Derby and District area predicts that it could have some more top players of the future.

Derby and District livewire Mike Payne told me that some very significant steps forward are being made and the various grants received commencing with the Awards for All have made it all possible.

In the Burton League, various Awards for All grants to several schools in the area have now provided the opportunity to form a schools league. Already there are two high schools followed by four primary schools.

Coach Neil Houghton travels weekly from Chesterfield to conduct weekly coaching classes at the Uxbridge club and he also runs the club's British League side. English international Helen Lower also coaches in schools in the area.

Burton's Uxbridge club has always been prominent in Derbyshire with regard to development with young players and it was interesting to note that over 100 entries have been received for the local club's championships.

The confirmation that the Chesterfield area is to commence building a full-time table tennis centre at Staveley is quite the talking point throughout Derbyshire table tennis circles. There are plans for 20 tables and this area is already a growth area in table tennis and features 16 teams in the local Chesterfield league. They also have one team in the National Cadet league and one in the National Junior League. An advanced training session introduced on a Friday evening has been most popular and Alan

Cooke on numerous occasions has been coach in charge.

This club boasts of 16-year-old William Cooney who recently finished third in his group in the Junior National Ranking Trials. William, who is coached by Alan Cooke, has only been playing table tennis for just over two years. His mother and father are ETTA coaches and his brother Ashley was the County Under 11 schools champion last season.

Finally, how refreshing it was to see our game featured on television. Nicola Deaton was seen on BBC television's Blue Peter programme. She was seen in action with the promising Darius Knight from the Academy and was interviewed by the presenter. Our sport, on this occasion, was top of the pops.

DEVONSHIRE by John Vincent

Congratulations to Craig Bryant on his selection for England Schools to play in the "World Schools Championships" in Senec, Slovakia, from 5th to 12th April 2002. We wish him well.

Juniors

The local matches were played in St. Austell on Saturday 8th December 2001 in Division 3C of the County Championships. Devon II defeated Cornwall 17-3, Cornwall II 9-1 and Devon III 8-2. Daniel Mayhew and Lisa Radford were both undefeated with six wins each. Devon III drew with Cornwall II 5-5, lost to Cornwall I 3-7 and lost to Devon II 2-8. Sally Smith won 5 out of 6.

DML/Plymouth in Division 1 South of the British League

The second session matches were staged at Saltash's China Fleet Club when DML/Plymouth were in fine form winning three of their four matches. They used a squad of Paul Whiting, Gregory Brigett, Marketa Myskova, Mike Short and Kevin Buddell.

The Plymouth side claimed a 7-1 victory over Barnet II, with their other successes coming against Cippenham 5-3 and Ellenborough 5-3. However, League leaders London Progress II proved too strong for DML, winning 6-2. Whiting took 7 out of 8 and Myskova 5 out of 6.

After these matches, DML sit in fourth spot in the table with two sessions still to play.

Beacon Electrical Plymouth & District Schools League

This League is very popular with local schools and whilst 11 out of the 12

teams are from junior schools and colleges, Yealmpstone Farm's team consists of four primary school children. The current league table is as follows:

Team	Points
Tamarside A	62
Ivybridge A	60
Ivybridge B	59
Stoke Damerel	56
Yealmpstone Farm	54
Coombe Dean	48
Ivybridge C	44
Eggbuckland A	31
Ivybridge D	28
Eggbuckland B	14
Tamarside B	13
Plymouth High for Girls	8

National Junior League – Plymouth

This league was organised at short notice by John Vincent (ETTA Level 4 Coach) with two teams from West Cornwall, one from North Devon and five from Plymouth. After the first session eleven competitors appeared on the National Ranking List for the first time. This is just the incentive needed to get players to switch from soccer to table tennis on match days.

League positions after second session on 15th December 2001.

	Points
1. Ilfracombe	38
2. Woolwell A	38
3. Harris Mill A – Redruth	23
4. Woolwell 'B'	19
5. Ivybridge 'A'	17
6. Ivybridge 'B'	15
7. Yealmpstone	11
8. Harris Mill 'B' – Redruth	7

ESSEX by Steve Kerns

"THE BOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN!"

Essex senior first team, who are back in the Senior Premier division after a four year absence, look capable of retaining their status in what looks a refreshingly evenly matched division. Team Captain Clive Carthy chose the same team who had worked so hard to achieve promotion last season and all players acquitted themselves well in the first round of matches played at BATTs in Harlow; scoring 3 out of a possible 6 points.

First set of opponents were Surrey and Fellows Cranleigh's Gary Tendler was on superb form beating Jerome Jonah 3-0 and Abdul Wuraola -10,-4,7,12,14. The latter was as exciting a match as anyone could wish to see and a

magnificent performance from Gary to beat a player ranked 45 places above him. With Lorestas Trumpauskas (Chelmsford) beating both Wuraola and Michael Chan and Clive Carthy getting the better of Jerome Jonah Essex did well to secure a 5-5 draw. Surrey's girls did themselves proud with Joanne Parker perhaps not unsurprisingly staying undefeated and Debbie Flint repeating these successes. Debbie's 13-11 in the fifth win over Lucy Wang (Braintree) represented a particularly good effort.

Reigning Champions Yorkshire with the youngest team in the division proved a tougher proposition and were worthy 7-3 winners. Colchester's Kate Wadling excelled with a superb 3-2 win over the ETTA Academy's very promising Nicola White and the inform Gary Tendler added another good win, this time against Simon James. Clive Carthy scored Essex's third success with an expected 3-0 win over Simon James. Yorkshire no. 1 Michael James led from the front with a 3-1 win over Carthy and a 3-2 victory against Trumpauskas.

The team were able to breathe a sigh of relief after defeating Devon 7-3 with Gary Tendler completing a great weekend's work with two more singles wins (against Kevin Buddell and James Whiteman). Kate Wadling and Lucy Wang both got the better of Penny Perry and Lorestas Trumpauskas also took a double which included a hard-fought 3-1 win over the still dangerous Paul Whiting. Clive Carthy beat Kevin Buddell to complete a 'fine all-round team performance.

"AND SO ARE THE JUNIORS!"

County Junior Match Secretary Alan Shepherd reports from the Junior Premier Division after a six-year absence:

"Any chance that Essex had of winning this division disappeared when Natalie Bawden was selected to play for the England Ladies squad in Sweden and Umair Mauthoor decided to visit China to further his playing career. Without these players I was delighted with the efforts of our other players. The team's opening match against Bucks was won 6-4, but this hides the fact that Essex had surged into a 6-2 lead. Team Captain Keiran Lally (Clacton) was on top form hammering Thomas Mitchell and Warren Brooks whilst our no. 5 ranked junior boy Lee Daines (Braintree) played his part beating both James Milton and Thomas Mitchell. 11 year-old Sarra Wang (already ranked no. 2 nationally at Under 12 level and the daughter of Senior first team player Lucy) was on superb form beating Emily Tucker. Amy Wright also

impressed with her win against Emily Tucker.

On Sunday we met a strong Cheshire side and were disappointed to lose 6-4, the Essex highlights coming from Keiran Lally who was again undefeated. Amy Wright was successful against Clare Langford and Matthew Staines got the better of Gavin Wright. However as hard as Leanne Bentley (Braintree) and Tony Halling (Southend) tried on their debuts they could not add to the Essex total.

Our final set of opponents was Glamorgan whose three boys would all be ranked in the top 15 in England based on their dummy rankings. We were competitive throughout but sadly of the five games that went to a fifth set we were only successful in one of them. Keiran Lally lost his only match of the weekend against the Glamorgan no. 2 after having beaten their no. 1 Stephen Gertsen fairly comprehensively. Tony Halling played really well to beat Aled Rhys Howell in the fifth end. Matt Staines had the soul-destroying experience of losing 1,-12,10,-10,-12 to Aled Rhys Howell, a match he could quite easily have won 3-0.

I am hopeful that if Natalie Bawden can play in our remaining four matches we will be able to stave off relegation. I would also like to commend the team-spirit of our players which was very strong throughout the whole weekend".

HEREFORD by

NATIONAL VETS TABLE TENNIS

LOCAL PLAYER PLAYS IN 2 FINALS AT THE NATIONAL VETTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ten Herefordshire players took part in the Vets Western Masters Table Tennis competition held at the Hereford Leisure Centre over the weekend of 12/13th Jan. This competition for men and women table tennis players over the age of 40, attracted 120 players from all over England. This included Joe Kennedy [England rank 5] and 5 other players ranked above 13 for the men and Helen Shields [England rank 4] and 6 other ladies above England rank 14.

All put on an outstanding display of table tennis skills during the 2 days of competitions in the Over 40, 50, 60 and 70 singles, doubles and mixed doubles events.

The eventual winner of the Over 40 mens event was Joe Kennedy [5] beating Brian Johns [6] whilst in the Ladies Elaine Short [6] beat Penny Perry.

The biggest upset of the event occurred in the over 60's when Michael Meredith [22 over 60] beat David

Crowley [2]. Michael then went on to beat Geoff Brook [14] before losing to the number 3 seed Tom Adams, the eventual losing Finalist who lost to Henry Buist -2,6,5, -7, -5.

Of the local players Norman Merchant had the most success as he got to both the over 50's and over 60's consolation finals. In the over 50's he lost to Ian Schwartz [ranked 35 places higher than him] after having beaten Ray Rider who was ranked 24 places higher on the way. While in the over 60's consolation final he lost to Mike Withyman 7,-9, -4, -2. Norman also had a notable win during the over 40's consolation event when he beat David Bowles [192], 152 places higher ranked in the over 40's.

Other local players were Margret Shock who lost to Sue Body the eventual winner in the Over 50's Consolation, and our other lady, Corol Milnes ,who lost to Jan Hodgetts the eventual finalist of the over 40's consolation -4,3,5,6.

3 local men Harry Jutle [over 40], Richard Owens [over 50] and Neville Meredith [over 60], made it through to their main singles competition only to go out to much higher ranked players in the first round, while John Hunt [over 50] lost in the first round of his consolation event as did Steve Farr in the over 40's. The final Hereford player Michael Wheatly did better than most when he made it to the quarter-finals of the over 50's consolation when he lost to the eventual winner Ian Schwartz 8,8,7.

A most enjoyable 2 days was had by all and we are all looking forward to the event coming back to Hereford next January.

Information is available from Steve Watkins on 07970 952364 for those of any age who want to know where to go to learn to play this interesting sport.

HERTFORDSHIRE by Mike Murrell

Vets County results up to Christmas:

1st Team - Played 3 – won 3; Stuart Seaholme – P6, W5, L1; Tom Carr – P6, W5, L1; Derek Balding – P6, W5, L1; Sally Bax – P3, W2, L1

2nd Team - Played 3, won 1; Sue Felstead – P2, W2

3rd Team - Played 2, won 2; Geoff Linskey – P4, W4; Chris Budden – P4, W4; Geoff Bax – P4, W2

4th Team – played 1, lost 1

5th Team - played 4, won 3; Brian Gale – P6, W5; Denis Robinson – P8, W7; Alan Lamprell – P8, W5; Jeanette Maybanks – P4, W4

6th Team - Played 2, won 1; Barry Philips – P2, W2; Jim Felstead – P2, W2

7th Team - Played 5 won 3; John Barnes – P8, W4; Alan Shelford – P8, W4; Vince Corbin - P8, W3

ISLE OF WIGHT by John Preat

Our remaining hopes of promotion from our section of the County Championships were probably buried when we drew 5-5 with Sussex II. We levelled from 2-0 down then went ahead from 2-4 down to be 5-4 up and the final match produced a just draw. Our men, Carl excepted, were always going to face a tough task against three men in England's top 100. The form book prevailed and we were 4-2 down in that area. Lucy Pointer's two and Jill Fothergill's one gave us a 3-1 lead in the ladies.

Some thought Lucy's form has dropped, but she now plays less than once a week as she builds a life away from table tennis. Under the circumstances she played very well. We again missed the injured Danny Burns, who might have given us the vital extra point, if he had played above himself. He faces an operation on his knee, not a major one, if he is to regain full fitness.

Our first division, now called 'Premier' in accordance with modern custom, is still headed by Newport Vics despite missing Danny most of the time and Lucy all of the time. With Matt Hopley on the comeback trail, still good for three and Chris Angus at least two, they are unlikely to lose a match. A challenge from Ryde is unlikely, as Alex Rorke now lives on the mainland and plays in Portsmouth, Dean Whittington about to join the army and Dean Hume seeking fame in the Southampton League. These are hard players to replace, although Steve Barrsdell has joined Ryde and will not lose more than two or three this season. He does put in the practice that translates into results.

With the size of the divisions reduced due to the overall fall in numbers in recent years, we are playing the early rounds of our Handicap Competition, the Knowles Cup, in groups. I await with interest whether this will go down well, but is obviously worth a try.

I read with interest the theory that we really have more members, or at any rate, people playing, than is reflected by our membership figures, which are based on local leagues. We have two clubs which are registered as 'Premier Clubs' and casual visitors do drop in from time to time, a few of whom graduate to league play. Most drop out and some are children for whom we provide in effect a cheap babysitting service. There it is clear that they will never be table tennis devotees on the basis of inclination and enthusiasm rather than talent. My personal view is that some involvement in league play is a minimal commitment, the standards in our lowest divisions all over the country being such that most can achieve them with modest application after a few months. I do not

really think that those who are so casual as not to reach such moderate standards and commitment can be classed as 'members'. Perhaps the statistics impress funding bodies, but we should not 'kid' ourselves.

Even now we count four members per three-man-team which here we certainly do not have, as rules on reserves are fairly relaxed and players can step up from a lower team. In lots of leagues players play in two or three other leagues and so are counted by all.

We all know Mark Twain's views on 'statistics' and, whilst the importance of favourable presentations on behalf of our sport cannot be ignored, we should be honest with ourselves to the exclusion of accepting what a massive task has to be performed, if long-term trends are to be reversed.

KENT by Adrian Hall

KENT CLOSED RE-ARRANGED

The Kent committee have re-arranged the Kent Senior and Junior Closed Championships for the weekend of 3rd/4th May at a venue in Canterbury. The Championships originally booked for the Easter weekend at Buckmore Park (venue for the 2001 English Open) had to be cancelled to allow the ETTA to stage the South of England Grand Prix event at the Black Lion Sports Centre at Gillingham. It looks as though the best laid plans have once again been handicapped with the ETTA this time moving the Junior Masters to the weekend of the 4th/5th May.

KENT 1sts FIGHTING FOR PREMIER SURVIVAL

Sussex 6 – Kent 4

Kent got off to a 3-1 lead against Sussex before being pulled back to a 4-6 defeat. Sussex had their girls Sally Weston and Rose Rainton to thank, with both being unbeaten. For Kent Mark Brown won both his matches.

Kent: Justin Goodall (Thanet) 1, Mark Brown (T.Wells) 2, Joe Kennedy (Bromley) 1, Angie Bristow (T.Wells) 0, Helen Garlick (Canterbury) 0.

Kent 5 – Surrey 5

Kent built up a 5-3 lead against Surrey but in the end were pulled back for a 5-5 draw. For Kent Justin Goodall won both his matches including an 11-7, 7-11, 11-6, 10-12, 11-7 win over Michael Chan who had surprisingly beaten Kent's Mark Brown earlier. For Surrey Joanna Parker won both her singles.

Kent: Justin Goodall (Thanet) 2, Mark Brown (T.Wells) 1, Joe Kennedy

(Bromley) 1, Angie Bristow (T.Wells) 0, Helen Garlick (Canterbury) 1.

Yorkshire 7 – Kent 3

Wins for Joe Kennedy against Simon James and Mark Smith were not enough to give Kent a chance of points against Yorkshire. Michael James, Joanna Roberts and Nichola White were all unbeaten for Yorkshire.

Kent: Justin Goodall (Thanet) 0, Mark Brown (T.Wells) 1, Joe Kennedy (Bromley) 2, Angie Bristow (T.Wells) 0, Helen Garlick (Canterbury) 0.

KENT JUNIORS UNBEATEN

Kent Junior 1sts look on course for promotion back to the premier division of the Junior County Championships with wins over Glamorgan, Berkshire and Middlesex.

Kent 9 – Berkshire 1

A convincing start for Kent. Berkshire's Ben Gates beat Sean Owen in five for their only success.

Kent: John Harley (Medway) 2, Sean Owen (Folk) 1, William Harrington (Ashford) 2, Anusha Seneviratne (Ashford) 2, Hazel Clucas (T.Wells) 2.

Glamorgan 4 - Kent 6

Kent raced into a 3-0 lead only for Glamorgan to pull back to 4-4 before Seneviratne and Owen took the last two singles to win the match. Sarah Hall and Aled-Rhys Howells were unbeaten for Glamorgan.

Kent: John Harley (Medway) 1, Sean Owen (Folk) 1, William Harrington (Ashford) 2, Anusha Seneviratne (Ashford) 1, Hazel Clucas (T.Wells) 1.

Kent 7 – Middlesex 3

A comfortable win for Kent with Harrington, Seneviratne and Clucas all unbeaten. For Middlesex Niv Bogen won both his matches.

Kent: John Harley (Medway) 1, Sean Owen (Folk) 0, William Harrington (Ashford) 2, Anusha Seneviratne (Ashford) 2, Hazel Clucas (T.Wells) 2.

LANCASHIRE by Tony Meredith

Liverpool continue to dominate the premier division of the Lancashire & Cheshire League with wins over Blackpool 9-1 and Manchester 7-3. A notable performance came from Blackpool's Steve Bevan who beat John Rankin in straight games. Stockport drew with Mid-Cheshire where Roger Hampson defeated both the brothers Johns. They also drew at Oldham who

had Daryl Meredith unbeaten. Oldham drew with neighbours Manchester with that boy Meredith again in fine form. Bolton were 7-3 victors over Blackpool where RDO Martin Ireland took the scalp of the classy Darren Howarth deuce in the third. Blackpool recorded an excellent 6-4 victory over Stockport thanks to Steve Bevan's three. Fabio Mantegazza appeared for Manchester against Mid-Cheshire and steered the team to an 8-2 success. Macclesfield impress in division one after two 6-4 wins over Lancaster and Preston. In division two Ellesmere Port are unbeaten with four from four, Blackburn 10-0, Halton "A" 9-1, Manchester "A" 7-3 and Trafford 6-4.

The ladies division has produced some very interesting results. Liverpool have beaten Manchester 9-1, Wirral 6-4 and Halton 7-3. Halton's Katy Ingham played the match of her life when conquering Brenda Buoeoy, Sue Burgess and Alice Howard in straight games. Wirral were surprisingly beaten by Manchester 9-1 and that result has possibly ended their chances. Oldham are still unbeaten with victories over Manchester 8-2, Southport 8-2 and Macclesfield 10-0. Their February encounter with Liverpool should be a cracker.

In the vets premier Liverpool accounted for Manchester 7-3 but dropped a point at Preston. This could let in former champions Stockport who have beaten Oldham 9-1, Macclesfield 6-4 and Preston 8-2.

Wirral "A" lead junior division one but second placed Liverpool are unbeaten, without dropping a single set, and played a match less. The team of Paul O'Donnell, Clara Howard and Lee Proffitt will take some stopping in this division. Lytham St.Annes won three out of four and the 2-4 loss to Wirral "A" was a very close encounter.

In division two Lytham St.Annes "A" lead the way with four wins out of four but Chester are also unbeaten with three wins. It could be a very interesting match when the two teams meet in the second half.

Star of the day was a twelve year old from Birkenhead named Sophie Byron. She took the eye whilst being unbeaten for Wirral "A" in division one. She is a credit to herself, her coach Les Jones and the game itself. She is totally focused, very cool and unusually talented.

Norman Cook Memorial Trophy

Blackpool pulled off a superb 5-3 victory over former winners Mid-Cheshire. Steve Bevan won both his singles with support from Martin Ireland and Stuart Walker. Interesting result was Marie Turner's two straight win against Kim Roberts (giving

her 3 points start). Liverpool were given a walkover by Halton - no explanation given.

Dennis Smith Memorial Trophy

Oldham trounced Mid-Cheshire 8-1 with Stuart Meredith and Larry Bainbridge both unbeaten.

National Junior League

Formby "A" still lead division one north with eleven wins from eleven, followed by their "B" team who are joint second with Fylde "A". Formby's Sally Duncliffe shares top spot in the averages with Gary Keenan of Fylde "A". Lancaster & Morecambe "B" are unbeaten in two north as are Keighley "A" in second place. Mike Walker from Formby "C" tops the averages with Richard Foster (Keighley "A") in second place. Manchester "B" are lying second in two south where the talented Siful Khan is third in the averages with 89%.

STIGA GP JUNIOR 3 STAR 13/1/02

All four home countries were represented at this tournament. Adam Bleakley (Manchester) won the boys category one with a 9, -3, 8, 10 victory over Bingley's Stephen Denny. Marc De Wind from Darlington got the better of Hull's Joshua Everett -8, 6, 8, 8 in the boys category two final. Kerry Radford of Nottingham confirmed her class when she won the girls category one, beating Scotland's Lindsay Forbes 3, 7, 4, and local girl Louise Proctor was a worthy category two winner against newcomer Amrit Kaur (Stockport) 5, 10, 12. Leading positions: Boys Adam Bleakley 72, Aaron Beech (WAL) 52, Jonathan Crawford (Cu) 52, Stephen Denny (Y) 48. Girls Kerry Radford (Ng) 96, Jane Easley (St) 56, Louise Proctor (La) 44, Stacey Beastall (Ng) 40.

BRITISH LEAGUE

Seasiders are well placed for promotion to the premier division. Seasiders II have fared reasonably well in three north, finishing in 4th place after round 8.

MIDDLESEX by Iris Moss

I must start off my notes with an amendment this time. After I had sent off the last contribution I realised that the date I had quoted for our Victor Barna and Norman Pegg Inter-League Competitions was one that we had particularly been asked to avoid. So it was back to the drawing board and events have now been arranged for Saturday 19th January 2002, still at

Ellenborough. With the crowded calendar it is very difficult to find dates for local events. We can only hope that we have not clashed with someone else.

Now that affiliated fees payable to the County are all in, it is pleasing to see that the number of clubs and teams is exactly the same as last year. Has the decline stopped at last? We can but hope!

Our County teams have had mixed fortunes up to now, with our Premier Division team losing all three of their matches (possibly due to the non-availability of some of our top players), the Senior second team winning two and losing one, as did our Junior first team. Our Junior 2nd team drew 2 and lost 1. Our Veterans team followed a similar mixed fortune, with the first team winning two matches, the second team losing three matches, the third team winning one and losing two and the fourth team losing two.

Our ranking lists at the beginning of the season are:

Senior Men:

1. J. Sugrue, 2. T. Cutler, 3. N. Charles, 4. N. McKoy, 5. C. Hundhausen, 6. C. Papantoniou, 7. J. Walsh, 8. E. Baraty, 9. J. Sprackling, 10. E. Skeete, 11. L. Dominguez, 12. N. Swift, 13. Y. Bogan, 14. P. Cheng.

Senior Women:

1. K. Owalabi, 2. L. Keast, 3. R. Fisher, 4. A. Narendran, 5. S. Horsnall, 6. J. Solley, 7. G. Lesh, 8. A. Flowerday, 9. L. Moorish, 10. S. Raymond, 11. I. Gaberova, 12. C. O'Leary, 13. N. Walsh.

Junior Boys:

1. T. Holtham, 2. N. Bogen, 3. J. Smith, 4. M. Armstrong, 5. M. Thomas, 6. N. Patel, 7. M. Persaud, 8. S. Wharton, 9. A. Kelly, 10. R. Lamb, 11. A. Pennock, 12. A. Johnson, 13. A. Dix, 14. A. Von Cuylenberg.

Junior Girls:

1. E. Magnusen, 2. A. Siyani, 3. V. Wood, 4. L. Preston, 5. M. Coll, 6. J. Sparry, 7. A. Smith, 8. M. Sparry, 9. N. Patel, 10. N. Sitch, 11. L. Armstrong, 12. M. Van der Waals, 13. L. Golding, 14. G. Fung, 15. O. Ivanova, 16. H. Coli, 17. E. Shaiso.

Veteran Men:

1. J. Holland, 2. D. Crowley, 3. N. Swift, 4. Y. Bogan, 5. P. Cheng, 6. G. Grange, 7. I. Mablin, 8. L. Persaud, 9. E. Grant, 10. S. Gennari, 11. M. Isaacs, 12. N. Slifkin, 13. G. Hawkins, 14. A. Taylor, 15. A. Boyle, 16. P. Morris, 17. A. Tashjian, 18. S. Preston, 19. P. Leckie, 20. G. Wines, 21. I. Buchanan; 22. J. Perry.

Veteran Women:

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

NORTHANTS by Dennis Millman

The last series of County Championship matches produced the rare statistic of five matches played – five matches won, with the Junior Seconds contributing an unprecedented trio of victories against Bedfordshire, Leicestershire and Hunts Firsts and then adding Norfolk Seconds for good measure.

Dannel Pang, Dickson Pang and Martyn Hancox represented the boys with considerable success though the improvement in match results could be best attributed to Sarah Hollis, Shonah Keeling and Rachel Love who shared duties for the girls.

The Veteran Seconds brought up the nap hand with an all-male success story against Lincolnshire. Peter Wingrove won twice after long, difficult encounters while Michael Edwards and Mike Hawes shared three wins between them, with Hawes the ultimate match-winner.

Meanwhile, Kettering's foray into the veteran section of the Midlands League continues to gain momentum, for after promotion last season, the side, with Alan Ashberry, Geoff Atkinson, Gerald Finney and Phil Slade sharing the honours, has won three successive matches in Division Four.

On the League front, the Wellingborough Premier Division is again dominated by Old Grammarians A and Westfield A respectively, first and second last time round. This season the Westfield side appear to have the upper hand, with Greg Yarnall and Adrian Roper in good form and England no. 1 Cadet Tim Yarnall waiting in the wings. Thrapston A and Higham Band A occupy the minor places.

In Kettering, four sides remain in contention with Higham Band's Richard Elliott, Ryan Keates, Mark Nannery and Steve Brown again favourites to retain the title. Braybrooke who led for the first 8 matches will find it difficult to stay on terms, following the loss of Prague based Andre Sagl, who has returned to the Czech Republic.

SAS Thrapston and Corby Town A could still make their presence felt, with Corby now further strengthened by the inclusion of Chris Ross.

Two of Kettering's handicap cup competitions are under way with the long-established Borough Trophy retaining the tried and trusted '21 up' formula.

Corby A's Gordon Shaw (-2) completed another superb maximum with a 20, -23, 26 win over the otherwise unbeaten Damian Carr (+10), but with Terry Cardwell injured it was not enough and Rifle Band Cheetahs won a repeat of last season's final, and stayed on course for a third successive triumph.

The jury remains out on the new scoring format, although a majority of players quickly adapted to the subtle nuances now required.

Statistically, as anticipated, the number of final game deciders has decreased, but the more marked increase in deuce games appears to support the theory that the new format creates closer encounters, and consequently greater interest and entertainment for players and spectators alike.

NORTHUMBERLAND by Pauline Long

There were mixed fortunes for the three County teams in their first series of matches during October and early November.

First the good news – the veterans' team of "Benny" Robertson, Geoff Salter, Malcolm Lusk and Pauline Long are currently top of the Division 1A table, returning from Halifax unbeaten with wins over Warwickshire (5-4), Durham (6-3) and Leicestershire (6-3). "Benny" and Malcolm won five singles each and also combined well to remain unbeaten in the men's doubles. Geoff won two singles, which included a first time defeat of Durham's Tony Gelder. Geoff and Pauline also narrowly took the mixed doubles against Durham, while Pauline's lone singles win was a sensational defeat of Leicestershire's Eileen Shaler, once ranked in England's top ten.

Unfortunately, the senior team – already without Caron Guthrie and Karen Henry, who had both announced their retirement from County play – also had to travel to Walsall for their Division 1A weekend without Andrew Wilkinson, who was unavailable for family reasons. Eddie Smith and Dave Godbold were therefore joined by the replacement trio of Gary Sangster, Christine Robinson (both making their debuts) and Pauline Long. The team did manage to beat Derbyshire 6-4, but lost to Nottinghamshire (4-6), Lancashire (2-8) and South Yorkshire (3-7).

Eddie and Dave took six singles apiece, while both debutants gave encouraging performances – Gary won one singles against both Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, while Christine had a good win over Derbyshire's Jane Vickers. Rumour has it that Caron may come out of retirement for the second weekend, and with Andrew also hopefully available, we may do enough to remain in the Division.

The juniors, now without Kevin Wilson, who has transferred to Durham, were able to rearrange their first series of Division 3B matches at Greencroft School, Stanley away from the half-term weekend. The squad of David Graham, Adam McCormack, Paul Smith, Daniel

Busby, Abbas Jamal, Louise Graham and Emily Richardson played two teams from Durham and two from Conwy. All the matches were lost with only David and Adam winning any sets, but the players enjoyed themselves and showed some promise.

Despite an alarming lack of advance publicity, and a very late distribution of entry forms, the Newcastle Open Grand Prix went ahead at Eldon Leisure Centre on 10th and 11th November, and by all accounts was very successful. Full results will by now have been published in the appropriate issue of TT News, but the crowd were entertained by an enthralling men's singles final, in which Alan Cooke eventually beat Bradley Billington 15-13 in the fifth. Our own Eddie Smith won the men's Band 1 singles, defeating Christian Hundhausen (Middlesex) at 9 in the fifth.

In the Wilmott Cup, the Northumbria and Sunderland Leagues were awarded a walkover to the next stage of the competition, following the withdrawal of the Hull and Leicester League teams.

The Northumbria League season was approaching the two week break for Christmas and New Year at the time of writing, and was due to resume on 7th January. Current leaders are as follows:
Premier Division: Birtley A
Division 1: Byker A
Division 2: North Fire B
Division 3: Ouston B
Division 4: Cramlington Trojans
All but North Fire are unbeaten to date. Both Eddie Smith (Birtley) and Andrew Wilkinson (North Shields YMCA) have yet to lose a set in the Premier Division, although some results still have to come in.

OXFORDSHIRE by Avril Haynes

Karl Wins 2 Titles

The city tournament was held at the Forum Club at the middle of November with players of Greek, German, French and Italian origin taking part.

Karl Bushell finished first in the round robin Veterans competition and also won the Men's Singles, beating Antonio Bellinvia in the final. Janet Brown won the Women's singles round robin competition and finished second in the Veterans competition.

The Mike Jobling Handicap competition was won by the promising 15-year-old Lewis Hooper, who beat Kostas Daoulas in the final. Another promising youngster, 13-year-old Jordan Weaver, played exceptionally well in the Mens Doubles with Karl Bushell, which was won by Gary Pickford and Antonio Bellinvia.

Results

Handicap Competition

Semi-finals: Lewis Hooper bt Emmanuelle Lobell 18-21, 21-16, 21-18; Kostas Daoulas bt Brian Sandison 23-21, 17-21, 21-15

Final: Lewis Hooper bt Kostas Daoulas 21-18, 21-14

Mens Singles

Semi-finals: Antonio Bellinvia bt Gary Pickford 11-8, 11-8, 2-11, 8-11, 11-9; Karl Bushell bt Fraser Harris 11-5, 11-7, 8-11, 11-6

Final: Karl Bushell bt Antonio Bellinvia 11-2, 11-8, 11-7

Doubles Final: Gary Pickford/Antonio Bellinvia bt Karl Bushell/Jordan Weaver 11-6, 11-5, 11-4

Midland League

Junior

Nuneaton 0 Oxford 10

The Oxford junior team of Greg Boone, Sam Harrison and Anthony Weaver travelled to Nuneaton and came away with an emphatic win in their first match of the season.

Oxford 6 Gloucester 4

Greg Boone was in outstanding form and won all three singles while Sam Harrison and Anthony Weaver both won a singles each and played together for the first time to secure victory by winning the doubles.

Senior

In their first match of the season, Oxford drew with a strong Loughborough (A) team, Andy Misseldine and Peter Dasher both won two singles each with Antonio Bellinvia winning a singles to ensure a draw.

SHROPSHIRE by Terry Ridgway

Telford League

At the halfway point in Division 1 last year's champions Albrighton B still had a slight lead on the closing pack, Industrial Bearings and Albrighton A lie in second and third place respectively with both sides holding an unbeaten record, Abbey A and Bridgnorth A fighting for fourth spot as the league takes the same positions as last season, newcomers Idsall A and Idsall B head up Divisions 2 and 3 with Chris Tarr's County Junior Squad surprising many of the established sides.

An interesting point to make is that Shropshire's current county champion is 66-year-old John Holding, who took the title in a superb final against County no. 1 Tony Ackroyd last year (surely the most senior county champion anywhere?). This season's favourites for the title could be 14-year-old Ashley

Nicholls, 15-year-old Ed Moran or even top junior Chris Gregory, which would see a gap of over 50 years in age for consecutive title-holders.

Oswestry League

After seven weeks of the season, Oswestry division 1 is headed by last year's winners, Kinnerley 'A', with last year's runners-up following a close second again. This was after the early leaders in the League, Llanfair Caereinion 'A' fell away in their last few games. In the individual merit it is Cereinion's Wyn Williams who heads the rankings with 19 wins from 21, followed by Brian Beven and Vic Wedge, both of Kinnerley 'A', who have 16 wins from 18.

In Division 2 of the Oswestry League it is last year's relegated team of Porthywaen B who head the table with 7 wins and one draw from their first 8 games. The follow-up positions are all very close with a three-way fight between Llanfair Caereinion B and C sides and Ex-Servicemens Combined.

In the individual merit in Division 2 there is only one undefeated player, Harvey Kynaston, with 18 from 18 and ably supported for Porthywaen by Bill Coxhead 18 from 21, Peter Scott 15 from 21 and John Lewis 9 from 12. There is, however, a strong challenge from the Caereinion sides on the merit award from Gln Reeves 19 from 21 and Robert Silvester 16 from 18.

Shrewsbury League

Pontesbury A head the Premier Division as Darrell Corfield, Rob Mansfield and Paul Corfield lead by 3 points over the last season's champions Cricket Club A. Nigel Holding, Rod France and Matt Croft appear to be playing better than ever this season and are determined to hold the trophy, Cricket Club B and C take up third and fourth place but by signing highly rated Graham Phillips, Unison A are putting in a good challenge.

In Division 2 Jane Bevan, Gary Thompson and Motto Jones have a good lead and look set for promotion in April. Cricket Club D look like joining them but Hospitals C are pushing hard.

County Vets

The decision to field a Shropshire County Veteran side this year has generated a lot of enthusiasm and interest within the local leagues. Rob Mansfield, Malcolm Langford, Mike Dudley, Terry Ridgway and Jane Bevan have exceeded any expectations by winning 3 out of 4 so far in Division 4C.

SOMERSET by Martin Rumary

Following the bigger ball last year we have the impending introduction of the 11-up system in the pipeline. Some Leagues have taken the plunge this year while others opted for a compromise situation. There has been talk in some quarters of players giving up if or when it comes in – let's hope they don't.

The county now has five teams out on the county circuit, the seniors, juniors and three 'vets' sides, a sign of the times maybe.

Seniors

6-4 v Cornwall 'B' (R. Jones 1, M. Hurley 2, N. Wilson 2, C. Cowell 1).

4-6 v Worcs 'B' (D. Strutt 2, N. Wilson 2)

3-7 v Glamorgan 2 (D. Strutt 1, N. Wilson 2)

Juniors

5-5 v Cornwall 1 (P. Tillotson 1, J. Hughes 2, C. Howe 1, C. Roper 1)

10-0 v Cornwall 2 (P. Tillotson 2, G. Duddridge 2, J. Hughes 2, C. Howe 2, C. Roper 2)

6-4 v Hereford (P. Tillotson 2, J. Hughes 2, C. Howe 1, C. Roper 1)

Vets 1

3-6 v Herts 2 (J. Musselwhite 2, J. Crabtree 1)

1-8 v Surrey 2 (B. Reeves 1)

Vets 2

9-0 v Hereford 2 (B. Atkinson 2, M. Withyman 2, W. Pryce 1)

5-4 v Wilts 3 (B. Atkinson 1, A. Stone 1, M. Withyman 1, W. Pryce 1 + mixed doubles)

6-3 v Cornwall (M. Crook 1, B. Bruton 2, W. Pryce 1 + both doubles)

Vets 3

4-5 v Shropshire (A. Maidment 1, P. Hewitt 2 + men's doubles)

3-6 v Wilts 2 (A. Maidment 2, + mixed doubles)

7-2 v Hereford 3 (A. Maidment 2, P. Hewitt 1, A. Seward 2, A. Sandford 1 + mixed doubles)

The juniors have put themselves into a promotion position following their latest games, wins against Devon 2 & 3.

Our juniors are out there competing regularly in national events, one of them being the national ranking trials.

Phil Tillotson made it through to the national finals at Stratford-upon-Avon in the under 17 boys as did Dorian Robinson in the cadets.

For the girls, Naomi Wilson and Clare Howe were there, Naomi then got through her group as number 7 seed but lost out to the higher-ranked Lauren Spink.

Top seed Kate Steward was excused qualifying due to her high national ranking which she more than justified in taking her third title in three years and

now will be looking to follow it up with the masters title.

Kate had done very well in the Swedish Open earlier in the season, getting through her group and should now find herself World and European ranked.

Naomi Wilson had a particularly good Claire Pengelly tournament at Torbay being runner-up in the band 2 singles, reaching the semis of the ladies' singles and winning the under 21 title.

SUFFOLK by Andrew Doshier

The Suffolk county senior side finished second from just five teams in their recent county weekend in Nottinghamshire.

They were represented by Paul Cicchelli, Richard Hutchinson, Andrew Doshier, Ian Brown, Claire Emmerson & Vicky Gray. We ended up winning two, drawing one & losing one, Cicchelli was in outstanding form beating two players of note in Andy Wignall & Martin Gray, & in one of the games of the weekend he came back from the dead against Ryan Keates from Northants. Vicky Gray lost just one game & is sure to move up the ranking list while Doshier & Hutchinson struggled particularly against Northants, but showed better form later on, Hutchinson led Wignall 2-0 before going down, while Doshier overcame Norfolk's John Cockburn. Both Sparkes & Emmerson had their moments & will undoubtedly contribute even more in the future.

In the recent Ormesby & Wilmott Cup matches staged at the Dome in Ipswich, Britannia sides fared considerably less well than their opponents. In the Wilmot Cup they finished behind both Cambridge & Norwich as North Middlesex topped the group beating everybody, which left the Anglia teams to battle for the second qualifying round. It was not for the lack of effort as Ipswich went down in a thriller 5-4 to Cambridge & 5-3 to Norwich. In the final game against Cambridge Andrew Doshier & Martin Gray played in what was perhaps the match of the day as Gray emerged a five set winner, Norwich beat both Ipswich & Cambridge to come second as Alan Clitheroe beat a number of high profile players to be their star performer. In the Ormesby Cup just three teams played at the Dome in December, as London Jags & CEYMS from Norwich were our guests. With Selwyn Campbell and John Dennison playing for Jags it was always going to be a battle for second between the two Anglia rivals. It finished 5-3 to CEYMS (who included Russell King, Matts Olsen & Trevor Bunn) which was a fair result: Doshier beat King surprising easily, but

lost out to the unranked but talented Olsen, where as Brown did the opposite, losing in five to King but beating Olsen 3-0 while Andy Holmes beat Trevor Bunn.

We lost 5-0 to Jags but Holmes gave perhaps the performance of his lifetime going down in five sets to former Jamaican international John Dennison !!

A number of proposals will be put forward for consideration at the next county meeting for the AGM at the end of the season, these all have a bearing on criteria for ranking, eligibility & on decision making!!

The County Veteran & Junior Championships are being held together on Saturday 9th March at Stowuplands High School. Entry forms are being sent out to ranked players, but anyone wanting to make sure can contact Andrew Doshier on 07968 135602.

At the recent Britannia Club Closed Championships, there were a number of new champions taking titles, Claire Emmerson beat great friend & rival Aimee Sparkes in two sets to take the ladies title, while Richard Hutchinson took the title for the first time, ending Doshier's three year reign. Sparkes returned to beat Malcolm Collins in a close restricted final at 19 in the third, Collins had earlier knocked out number two seed Emmerson en route. Ian Brown enjoyed success in both the Handicap & Veterans singles over Doshier & Holmes respectively.

SUSSEX by John Woodford

Will Ritchie Venner, "King" of the Sussex scene, play at Hove on 3rd March in the all-Sussex senior championships or will he play Sheffield in the English?

Described recently as one of the best "control players" in England, Ritchie will, I feel, stay loyal to Sussex.

Meanwhile, Sussex is after their second county championships premier title. They won their first three matches whilst rival teams only drew and they beat powerful Kent 6-4.

Sussex first team have probably the two strongest women in the division – Sally Weston and Rose Rainton – both power-laden top-spinners – too much for most of their opponents in the Premier battles.

The first event of the New Year will be at the Six Villages Leisure Centre, Fontwell – the county inter-league championships for all classes.

Sussex Junior organiser Peter Baldwin continues in his role of producing lots of juniors of county standard, but not so far, causing much concern on the England ranking lists – our two leading juniors are Luke Bridge and Gina Rogers, both from Hastings.

Clashing events are still causing problems – the latest is that Sheila King, the Sussex star veteran, is faced with a dilemma next April, when the Rose Bowl second stage clashes with the Veterans Southern Masters.

Nigel Eckersley, the British Grand Prix veterans' champion, has proved a considerable asset to Sussex clubs and teams since he moved to Uckfield over a year ago.

Since the Horsham premier division British League team broke up he has been snapped up by OLOP (Reading) and played in every match for them. Ritchie Venner plays for Darlington and Adrian Moore for Tunbridge Wells.

All three might return home to Horsham in the season after next if a sponsor can be found from the whole range of Sussex companies.

Meanwhile, Eckersley has had to choose between playing for the senior premier team as they bid for the county championships premier title or save the veterans from relegation from the premier division – he has chosen to play for the seniors in March alongside Ritchie Venner and Adrian Moore.

The two leading Sussex women players at the moment – and for some time in the past – are Rose Rainton (Bexhill) and Sally Weston from the Horsham club.

Rose Rainton created something of a record when she won the Hastings women's singles title for the 12th time just recently. Sally Weston has a similar record in the Crawley and Horsham League.

But, still remaining as the male legend of Sussex table tennis is Roger Chandler from Brighton, who won the county men's singles crown nine times – Ritchie Venner is expected to equal that record - at Hove on 2nd March, an event I shall not witness in person, as I shall be at the English Nationals at Sheffield.

WARWICKSHIRE by Caroline Williams

Steph and Lee lead the Regionals

Stephanie Hawkins (Leamington) excelled herself to win the Cadet Girls at the West Midlands Regional trials held at Ledbury in October, qualifying for the National Trials at Stratford in January. Kelly Sibley (Leamington) also qualifies by virtue of her national no. 2 ranking. Spa's Charlotte Freeman and Sophie Cooper were unable to take the only other qualifying place available. With Kelly Sibley unavailable to play in the Junior Girls the on-form Stephanie Hawkins had the chance to grab the 4th qualifying slot for the Junior Trials to go with the Cadet place gained the day

before. Ros Freeman, the eldest of this Leamington family, finished 7th.

The Junior Boys was won by Birmingham's Lee Bradford with Gareth Hayward also qualifying for the National Trials in 4th place. Leamington's Jas Allen-Sutton had had a reaction to an immunisation earlier in the week preventing him competing. In the Cadet Boys Brett Medforth (Coventry) just missed qualification and is a reserve. Edward Freeman (Leamington) was unable to qualify.

Vets at Stoke on Trent

Three teams of Birmingham / Leamington players competed in the Veterans' British League. Lillington Free Church (Lyndon Douglas, Phil Paine and Graham Hoskin) and L B Vets (Cosmo Graham, Michael Wilkins and Pete Dunnett) are both playing in Division 4 and Colebridge (Barry Hunt, Roy Prosser and Neil Wheatley) in Division 5.

Division 4 honours went to LB Vets placed second with Free Church third as a result of a 4-2 win in which both Cosmo Graham and Pete Dunnett gained wins over Phil Paine. Phil gained consolation in his final match as Free Church held the leaders Batts Bulldogs to a 3-3 draw with wins from Phil over Neil Brierley, previously unbeaten, and George Reeves. Lyndon Douglas collected the third with a win also over Neil Brierley, adding to Neil's letdown after being named Man of the Weekend just before the match started! Both Lyndon Douglas and Phil Paine finished with 7 wins from 10 matches, Cosmo Graham and Pete Dunnett 6 wins from 10 matches.

In Division 5 Colebridge look set for a return back to Division 4. They completed the first weekend in second place, but only on sets average, behind a strong Jarvis Nomads side. Barry Hunt finished with 7 wins from 10 matches, Roy Prosser 4 wins from 10 matches and Neil Wheatley 6 wins from 10.

In Ladies Division 1 Dorothy Macfarlane was again competing as part of the Combined Counties team. This team is also in line for promotion, lying second. Dorothy only played two of the 5 matches but finished with 2 wins from 4.

**Greater London Championships,
Middlesex University, Trent Park,
Oakwood, Middlesex, 27th – 30th
December 2001
By Alan Shepherd**

This very popular event attracted an entry of 150 players including some unknown stars and a good selection of the best Home Counties' performers.

The first player to create a stir was the 11-year-old Surrey wizard, Darius Knight, who won the two age category events that were contested on the Thursday. He lost only one game in taking the Under 12 title and not one in reaching the under 14 final. Here, however, he was taken the full distance by the rapidly improving Samuel Cannon, of Essex, in a splendid match.

Darius was not finished however. On the second day of the tournament he reached the Final of the Under 17 event, again not losing a game. His surprise opponent in the final was a sensational newcomer, the virtually unknown Egle Adonelyte, a 16-year-old from Leyton in Essex. Her mother, it is believed, was formerly ranked no. 5 in Russia and clearly Egle has inherited many of her skills. Although she took the first game, she could not prevent Darius from recording victory no. 3. Nevertheless, an indication of her ability is that, to reach the final, Egle overcame the powerful Kent junior, John Harley.

Later on Friday the big guns arrived for the under 21 event. Guess who contested the final? Correct if you nominated Marco Essomba, dummy ranked as no. 8 man in England. Amazingly, Marco had to play that boy Darius Knight, who is ranked 308 among the men, and who succeeded in defeating the 105 ranked Eli Baraty (Middlesex) in a really tremendous semi-final. Predictably, Marco was too strong for Darius, but this was his first defeat in four competitions, during the course of which he had won 17 matches and lost just once – in the final!

On day 3, were contested the Men's Banded and the Veterans' Singles. The elder statesmen of the game on show included the legendary Henry Buist from Kent, and his younger County colleague, Joe Kennedy. From Essex came Clive Carthy and John Payne, while Middlesex contributed the ex-Israeli champion Yaacoo Bogen. The last "star" was the former Hants, Herts and Dorset no. 1 Chris Pickard. Of all these great players, Clive Carthy came out on top, winning a lovely final against Joe Kennedy.

The "Banded" singles was fought out between two tremendous players, both Polish, both from the Progress Club in Willesden, Middlesex, and both listed on the ETTA rankings as having 0 points, namely Darek Zurowski and Tomasz Gretschel. Many Premier Division County and British League teams would be happy, I am sure, to include these men in their line-ups! Perhaps they will now be seen higher up the order if the Hastings computer decrees it. On this occasion, it was Tomas who secured the spoils.

Now to the final day of the tournament, and the Men's Singles. The women's

event could have been a wonderful one but the depleted field of three was won by Barbara Kiss. All three girls then played in the Men's event.

There was some tremendous table tennis seen in the Men's event and some mini-surprises. Match of the day was undoubtedly Henry Buist against Matthew Spero (Essex). This was won by Henry 3-11, 13-11, 4-11, 13-11, 23-21!! What a match!! Henry then bowed out to Abdul Wuraola. Probably the biggest upsets were provided by one man, Vidal Graham, of Middlesex. He is ranked at no. 170 and he managed to put out Clive Carthy, of Essex, ranked no. 30, in the first round. Not content with having done this, he defeated James Sprackling (also Middlesex, and ranked no. 104) in Round 2!! Eventually he fell to Abdul Wuraola.

Smoothly moving through the top half of the draw to the semi-final was Marco Essomba, who was hoping to repeat this victory of last season. His opponent was now his club colleague from Progress, Jason Sugrue (who had actually beaten Marco in the Under 21 final last time). A terrific match on this occasion saw Jason do it again, and reach the final, winning 8-11, 16-4, 13-11, 2-11, 11-8. In the bottom half no. 2 seed Cris Sladden, yet another Progress entrant, although a resident and County player of Essex, got through to the semi-final by beating yet another player of brilliant skills, but so unknown that his name, Jajudeen Ogarbiade is not even recorded on the ETTA computer! However, I am told that "Joy" was a double gold medallist in the Sydney Paralympics, where he represented his country, Nigeria. Cris won by 11-9, 13-15, 11-7, 11-6, following which he ousted Abdul Wuraola.

So to the big final, and what a fantastic battle that was, between Cris and Jason! Jason took the first game 12-10, won the third game, but lost the second and fourth. He was breezing through the fifth game, leading by 7-3 when Cris called for a time-out. Whether you like them or not, they can change the course of a match. Cris levelled at 8-8. Jason took the next two points to lead 10-8 and hold two match points. These he lost, plus one more, for Cris to lead 11-10 and himself hold match point. Cris now serves under the table!! Two more very exciting rallies and Jason has won 13-11 and taken the title!

Detailed results

Under 12 Singles – Final: Darius Knight (Sy) bt Daniel Flash (Mi) 4, 4, 8

Under 14 Singles – Final: Darius Knight (Sy) beat Samuel Cannon (E) 9, -7, 4, -10

Under 17 Singles – Final: Darius Knight (Sy) bt Egle Adonelyte (E) -7, 1, 4, 8

Under 21 Singles – Final: Marco Essomba (Sy) bt Darius Knight (Sy) 7, 9, 4

Veterans' Singles – Final: Clive Carthy (E) bt Joe Kennedy (K) 7, 4 -7, 9

Men's Banded Singles – Final: Tomasz Gretschel (Mi) bt Darek Zurowski (Mi) 8, 7, 10

Junior Doubles – Final: Darius Knight/Daniel Flash bt Egle Adonelyte/Olga Ivanova (Mi) 7, 3, 9

Senior Doubles – Final: Marco Essomba/Jason Sugrue bt Clive Carthy/Joe Kennedy -5, 5, 11, 7

Women's Singles (Round Robin): Barbara Kiss (He) bt Egle Adonelyte -8, 9, -10, 5, 1 beat Aparna Narendran (Mi) 7, 7, 10

Men's Singles – Semi-finals: Jason Sugrue bt Marco Essomba -8, 14, 11, -2, 8; Cris Sladden bt Abdul Wuraola 8, 6-3, 6

Final: Sugrue bt Sladden 10, -7, 5, -6, 11

Under 12 Consolation Singles

Cain Fagan (Sy) bt Conor Levens (He) 6, 9, 8

Under 14 Consolation Singles: Mhuktar Dahr (Mi) bt Kelwyn Shaw (Mi) 7, 6, -6, 14

Under 14 Consolation Singles: Adam Kelly (Mi) bt Alec Bartlett (K) -8, 5, 8, 4

Senior Consolation Singles: Arturas Rybakas (E) bt Evan Sharp (Sy) 4, 6, 6

Rowing, Table Tennis and a Heart Attack - the brief inspirational life story of a Volunteer - by Chris Newton

One of the most important assets we have in table tennis are the people (and Awards for All grants of course). Someone who has been a friend and mentor of mine for many years has given more to our sport than anyone else I know, he is now 71 but still continues to be a major force not only in my life but within table tennis. I believe the time and energy this guy has for table tennis can be inspirational to us all.

This story started many years ago in the Trent Rowing Club where Terry Gadsby got involved with the coaching and running of things, while volunteering for the Rowing Club he saw an opportunity to start Uxbridge Table Tennis Club when an old school became redundant. After cleaning the building from top to bottom, chucking all the rubbish away, painting the walls, putting lights in, making a secure storage area and scrounging some old tables he kick started the club, all the time using the lessons he learnt from the rowing world.

The club grew and grew, more tables were obtained and players were coached, it sounds easy in words but you may well know it takes hundreds of hours hard work to get even this far. When the club reached the dizzy heights of the

British League ten years later and started to move up the divisions, countless hours by now had been spent opening doors, putting tables up, coaching, sitting in meetings, making meals and drinks etc.....

Disaster struck though in the form of a **major heart attack**. Terry now says, "It slows me down a little bit now and I have to take it easy". In reality it very nearly killed him! It took two years to recover and this was the time I got involved in coaching (well trying to coach) to help out.

This is now all history and the effort of the **thousands of hours** is clear to see when you walk through the club doors today, although, and believe me, it's a lot of history rolled up into a few words. You may ask what does he do now after all the years getting the club up to its present day standards? Well he's passed the running of the club over to my committee and now, although he remains President, if I had to tell you what he does and if I had to describe the present day Terry Gadsby, being absolutely honest with you, he is a **pain in the neck!!!** I mean this in the nicest possible sense.

I said he was a mentor, two years ago Uxbridge TTC decided to start a primary and high school coaching programme to get more youngsters involved, just like many other clubs and volunteers do, but Terry was not satisfied with that, he wanted every school in Burton upon Trent to have a table tennis club so off he set. A call came from the ETTA saying there is a chance of some NOF Lottery money for After Schools Clubs, but he needed to get some information from schools ASAP or yesterday as is often the case! Off he went again arranging two days of meetings with seven schools; it's hard enough arranging one meeting with a school but seven in two days with a couple of days' notice is a small miracle. This done the application was submitted but unfortunately failed. Can you imagine his dismay, but giving up didn't enter his mind, he simply decided to find the money another way, keeping the attitude 'if you don't try you won't get anywhere'.

Two years on, seven schools are now running table tennis clubs, real grass roots growth. So what do you need to be the next Terry Gadsby? It's simple really, energy, enthusiasm and most important of all hard work. If he sees you slacking he tells you sternly and he puts you to shame. Terry is 71, **if he can still do it, so can you!**

To finish with I will leave you with a thought from Terry about how the table tennis club culture ought to be a little more like the rowing world. This is not intended as a criticism but something that a lot of our present day clubs may

want to consider, like always Terry tries to turn it into a positive. The theory is simple; we don't raise enough money from within our clubs! We don't run race nights, hundreds clubs or hold annual club dinners. The theory is not a criticism like already mentioned but a example of good practice which has lots of benefits, with these events not only do you raise money but start to develop a social atmosphere in the club that is sadly lacking, you never know the next volunteer may step forward after enjoying a club social event. Think about the benefits for a while.



Terry Gadsby

Kosovo Table Tennis Federation

My name is Jeton Beqiri, table tennis player for Kosovo, medical student in the last two year and I have been working for Child Advocacy International (a British charity).

I am from Pristina, which is the capital of Kosovo, and I am playing for Pristina TTC and we are the best table tennis club in Kosovo. I was champion of Kosovo in the year 2000.

Let me tell you more about the Kosovo Association. From the year 1991 until 1999 the Kosovo Table Tennis Federation was functioning as a parallel association because as you may know we couldn't play in the institutional buildings, because they were occupied by the Serbian Government. After the NATO air strikes we started to play the same table tennis, as all the people from around the world do, in decent areas for training.

We have a Kosovo table tennis first and second division league. The first division league has 10 clubs from all the major towns of Kosovo and also the second division 10 league clubs. The quality of the players is not very professional, which is a result of the last 10 years when we didn't have conditions for developing table tennis.

We, as table tennis association from Kosovo, are very interested in making connections with other associations. Is there any possibility of making a

connection with you, as your country is one of the leading countries in providing the security for people from Kosovo?

After the NATO air strikes, Serbia took almost all the table tennis equipment from Kosovo and sent it to Serbia, so we are desperate for new tables, rubbers, blades, balls, nets, accessories, glue and especially a table tennis robot to train the young players, and also a lot of training material, like books, tapes, etc.

I would be grateful if you could publish all of this in your Table Tennis News newspaper. This year the board of my club has established the first table tennis school so we need a lot of training material for the purpose of promoting table tennis in my region. The Director of the club is Ms. Besire Domaniku, my full name is Jeton Beqiri.

Mobile: + 377 44 113979

Postal address:

Child Advocacy International, Attn: Jeton Beqiri, SLIME LINES TFA, BFPO 559, Kosovo.

E-mail: jetonbeqiri@hotmail.com

I hope we will establish good friendship with your Association.

South of England Three Star Junior Open by John Sabourin

The South of England Junior Open Table Tennis Championships were held at the Trinity Sports Club, Shirley Park, Croydon, over the weekend of 10th/11th November 2001. A total entry of 166 made up of 41 girls and 125 boys produced some exciting table tennis and a very lengthy couple of days for organisers and competitors. Special thanks go to Jarvis Sports and to Noel Carpenter of Carpenter and Co (Solicitors) for their generous support to the Championships and to the many organisers and helpers on the two days.

The tournament got underway with boys and girls under 12 groups, leading to wins in the finals for Sarah Wang of Essex over Chloe Dunmall of Kent and Darius Knight of Surrey beating Darren Reed of Devon (3, -7, 2, 2) to lift their respective titles. The girls' band 1 U14 singles produced a win for Sarah Hall of the Park Club, Cardiff, whose long-pimpled backhand defeated Rebecca Tweedy of Bucks 10, 4, -9, 5. The top seed on the boys' band 1 U14 event was James Milton of Bucks who was defeated in the semi-final by Marc Armstrong of Middlesex. Marc then lost in the final to Tony Halling of Essex in a match which finished 10, -6, -13, 8, 10.

The Under 14 boys' singles produced a further win for Darius Knight of Surrey over James Milton of Bucks 5, -7, 2, 2. The top seed in the event was David Hayes who had been unexpectedly

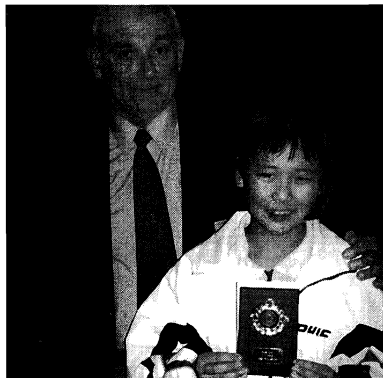
defeated by Sam Cannon of Essex in Round 2. The boys' consolation event was won by beating Dorian Robinson of Somerset -6, 10, 10 and 9. The Under 14 girls' event was won by the top seeded Gemma Yarnley of Kent who beat Sarra Wang of Essex 7, 5, -9, 7. The girls' Under 14 consolation title was taken by Olga Ivanova from London Progress, producing an unexpected win over Rebecca Tweedy of Bucks 9, -6, 11 and 7.

Sunday started with the Under 17 Boys and Girls band 1 singles with 20 boys groups and 8 girls groups. The boys event produced a thrilling final won by John Harley of Kent, the top seed over James Milton of Bucks. The match saw between the two players before John was victorious 9, -9, 6, -5, 8. The girls' event being won by Egle Adonelyte of Middlesex over Sarah Hall of Wales 3, 3, 6.

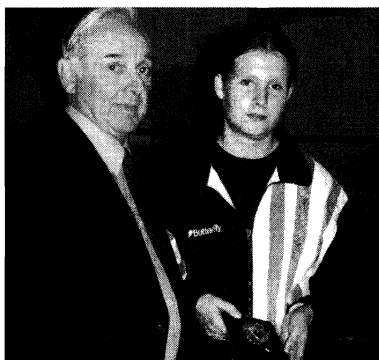
The boys and girls under 17 main events were played in a very lengthy group phase with 6 to each group, sharing 3 tables. It was 4 hours later by the time the competition moved into the knockout phase. The boys' event was dominated by Dominic Hall of Kent, who only lost two sets during the day and was a comfortable winner over the unseeded Steve Head of Kent 6, 2 and 8. Steve had defeated Darius Knight of Surrey in his semi-final in a gruelling 5 sets. The girls' event went to Egle Adonelyte of Middlesex, a scratch entry of the day who defeated Laura Hall of Wales, the top seed 5, 7, -6, -8, 3.

The Surrey Table Tennis Association would like to say a big thank you to Mick Strode for his control of the event and his inspired use of a very temperamental public address system. Thanks also to the many umpires who helped the smooth running of the events and to those who stayed late into the evening to support the finals and to help clear the venue.

Credit: Arthur C Clark for the photographs, Mick Kercher presenting



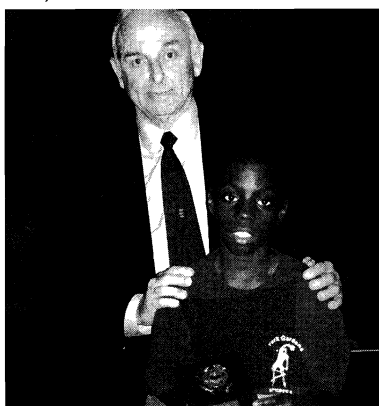
U12 girls' singles winner, U14 girls' singles runner-up, Sarra Wang (Essex)



U17 girls' singles winner, U17 girls' band 1 singles winner, Egle Adonelyte (Middlesex)



U14 girls' singles winner Gemma Yarnley (Kent)



U12 boys' singles winner, U14 boys' singles winner, Darius Knight (Surrey)

Tournament Results from Cippenham TTC by Graham Trimming

Cippenham Junior 3-Star Open Championships (16.12.01)

BS: Robert Lemon (Sy) bt John Camilleri (Ox) 9, 8, 6
 GS: Gemma Hollett (Sy) bt Emily Tucker (Bu) 8, 8, -10, 14
 BCons: Gavin Evans (Bu) bt Hwan Min Wong (Sy) 10, -5, -7, 7, 9
 GCons: Sylvana Bielec (Bu) bt Jodie Stringer (K) 5, 11, -6, 8

Four out of four was Cippenham Table Tennis Club's winning record in its own Junior Open Championships played on 16th December. The host club's players rose above all of their opponents from all over the southern part of England to dominate events at the sixth running of this annual competition. It was the Surrey contingent in Cippenham's membership that proved most successful, the two main events being won by Robert Lemon and Gemma Hollett over Oxfordshire's John Camilleri and Bucks' Emily Tucker respectively.

Fourth seed Lemon did it the hard way, having to beat top seed Warren Brooks, also a Cippenham player, in his semi-final. This he did three-straight even though he had been taken to a fourth game in both of his preceding rounds against Marc Armstrong and Nick Smale. In the bottom half of the draw Camilleri, the third seed, defeated Kent's John Harley, the second seed, in a closely-fought five-game semi-final and had an even closer 11-9 in the fifth win against Cippenham's sixth seed Thomas Mitchell in the quarters. That section of the draw was dominated by home players as Mitchell had needed to overcome Dorian Robinson in the first round after the groups and then James Milton one round later.

The final of the Girls' Singles was a close affair, albeit settled in the fourth but after five deuces. Second seed Gemma Hollett added top seed Emily Tucker to her win over Jane Easley, accomplished in the fifth game. The other semi-finalist was Cippenham's Eleanor Tweedy.

Cippenham also proved successful in both consolation events won by national under-10 champion Gavin Evans and Sylvana Bielec.

Tournament Results from Cippenham TTC

Cippenham 2-Star Open Championships (27.10.01)

MS: Ritchie Venner (Sx) bt Chris Beckley (S) -7, 9, 7, 8; WS: Rose Rainton (Sx) bt Laura-Anna Hall (WAL) 8, 3, -8, 8; MCons: Robert Hansell (Bu) bt Nick Heaps (Bk) -8, 14, 9, -9, 9; WCons: Diane Melville (Mi) bt Joan West (Sy) 10, 7, -8, 6



Photo: (l-r) Emily Tucker; Gemma Hollett; Robert Lemon; John Camilleri



Rose Rainton & Ritchie Venner

South West Region by John M Burtenshaw

It is with deep sadness and condolences to Gladys Pepperd and the family on the passing of Alf Pepperd on 14th January 2002. The South West Regional press and publicity officer for many years, he worked tirelessly for well over 50 years at the typewriter and broadcasting on Radio Gloucester. Reporting on all aspects and head of our sport, from club, junior to national events, he wrote his last item for Table Tennis News in the December 2001 edition.

Over the years, he had acquired a first-class relationship with the media for our sport, and he will never be replaced, by virtue of the way he expressed his views of TT with enthusiasm and fairness.

The table tennis world and South West in particular has lost a most sincere and sporting gentleman and he will be sadly missed by all of us who had the pleasure of working with him throughout the years.

Liebherr European Championships 2002 Zagreb, Croatia

The next European Championships will be held in Zagreb, Croatia, from 30th March to 7th April 2002. The official material supplier is TIBHAR company.

Team events will take place from 30th March to 2nd April 2002 – women team finals will take place on 1st April, men's team finals on 2nd April. Individual events start on 3rd April, on 5th April are scheduled the mixed finals, on 6th April women's singles and men's doubles finals, on 7th April men's singles and women's doubles finals.

Prepaid tickets and hotel reservation: European Table Tennis Championships – EURO 2002, Trg Sportova 11, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
Fax: (00) 385 1 3099 200, e-mail: euro2002@email.hinet.hr

Prepaid tickets for all events for the whole championships can be purchased for 85 EUR. Prepaid tickets can be purchased up to 1st March 2002, after that a daily ticket costs 15-20 EUR (depends on event), tickets for the whole championship 150 EUR.

The price for one person in a double room with breakfast in the comfortable hotel (shuttle buses to the hall, about 15 min. trip) is 40 EUR/day and in a single room 50 EUR/day.

Additional tourist information can be obtained from: Tourist board Zagreb, 10000 Zagreb, Kaptol 5, Croatia, fax: (00) 385 1 4814 340, e-mail: zagreb.convention@ccb.hr

Information about European Championships can be found on the website of the Croatian Table Tennis Association www.hsts.hr (in English!)

Nigerian Youngster Wanting To Play Table Tennis In England

Lade Soum is a 16 year old Nigerian boy who plays in a club in Lagos, but who feels he is not being supported in his country to improve his game and therefore would like to come to live for a time in England to play in a club here. He has a brother in London with whom he could stay, so a London club would seem the best solution for him. He says that he can send a suitable club various documents, including a birth certificate, information on his club and a letter of recommendation from his coach. Any club wishing to help or find out more can contact Lade Soum on E-mail. lade2000ng@yahoo.com

International Schools-Sport Federation (I.S.F.) Event, Senec, Slovakia 5-12 April

The ISF table tennis event will be the biggest ever with teams from 21 countries from Europe, Asia and North & South America taking part, in both team and individual events. The English Schools' Table Tennis Association (ESTTA) has announced the following England teams:

National champions Peniel Academy, Brentwood, Essex will be representing England in both the schools boys' event and the schools girls' event.

Selections for the national team events are: Boys: Craig Bryant (Devon), Stephen Denny (Yorks), Bryn Drinkhall (Cleveland), Tim Yarnall (Northants). NPC: Paul Birch. Girls: Joanna Parker (Surrey), Kelly Sibley (Warwicks), Kate

Steward (Somerset), Georgina Walker (Notts). NPC: Gail McCulloch.

T.T. FILM

The following item was lifted from the Veterans English Table Tennis Society (VETTS) Newsletter, January 2002 edition, edited by Brian Halliday. Readers will be aware that Howard Jacobson's 1950's/Manchester/Jewish/Table Tennis novel, 'The Mighty Walzer', is also due to be filmed towards the end of the year.

'The film director, Steven Carr, who produced "Next Friday" and "Dr Doolittle22 is about to make a film about table tennis. Produced by Disney it is called "Balls of Fury" and is loosely based around the 1973 Bruce Lee martial arts action feature "Enter the Dragon". Remember you read it here first.'

Not Disgusted from Tunbridge Wells

From amongst surprisingly positive responses to 11 up games in the excellent Henry Buist edited Bromley & DTTA Newsletter, we reprint the following from Jeff Spencer, which originally appeared in the Tunbridge Wells Newsletter:

'I have been interested to read and listen to comments in respect of the new 11 up format.

Having played table tennis at all levels on and off for over 42 years and always up to 21, it could be viewed that I would naturally fall into the category of "the vast majority of older players who are against change" but amazingly this is not the case.

On the contrary, the ITTF have recognised my predicament and in recent seasons have taken drastic steps to stem my inevitable decline.

Firstly, to cater for my slowing reflexes and diminishing mobility and vision they increased the size of the ball and lo and behold they have moved to reduce the length of each game to enable me to take a rest much quicker than in the past.

Are there no lengths to which the ITTF will go to accommodate me and my colleagues in the "twilight zone?"

There is of course always a down side – experience already this season indicates that I now have to cope with the increased excitement and consequential adrenalin rushes associated with the intensity of shorter games and the closer finishes but on reflection I think I can live with these minor irritations.

Finally, it strikes me that the world of table tennis has all but adopted the 11 up format but the inevitable King Canutes

will remain until the tide eventually washes over them.

T.T. Badges/Keyrings wanted

Mr D George, No.1 Kingshill Cottages, Coatbridge Road, Gartcosh G69 8DS, Scotland (Tel. 01236 872350) collects T.T. badges and keyrings, and will pay for (or make a donation to the ETTA) for any surplus or unwanted items.

Table Tennis Collectors' Society

Readers might be aware of the Table Tennis Collectors' Society, a worldwide group of enthusiasts for the history of the game who benefit from a thrice-yearly magazine about the origins of our sport. For the last nine years the Society has been managed by Gerald Gurney, a Vice-President of the ETTA and whose brainchild it was. Gerald has now decided that it is time to hand over to someone else and the job has been taken over by Graham Trimming.

Graham will be more recognised as the founder of Cippenham Table Tennis Club and its Secretary for the past 29 years, but few will be aware of his passion for the history (especially early history) of the sport and the sizeable collection of artefacts that he has collected over the past several years.

Graham would like to hear from potential new members of the Society. The cost is modest, just £10 per annum, and further details can be obtained from Graham at 17, Gwendale, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6SH. Tel: 01628 636978. E-mail: graham.trimming@virgin.net

SPORTS CLUBS RATE RELIEF by Ken Muhr

In an era of large table tennis clubs, particularly PremierClubs, running their own facilities, it may not be only amateur cricket, football, rugby, golf, bowls, tennis, and hockey clubs etc. that could be hit by Treasury proposals in the consultation document 'Promoting Sport in the Community', which say that (only) voluntary clubs that provide 'healthy recreation' can apply for charitable status from the Charity Commission so that they can qualify for tax breaks and rate relief. Previously, the Treasury seemed to be coming round to the idea that community amateur sports clubs would receive the same tax exemption advantages as charities and many arts organisations, so they would not be hit, for example, by crippling business rates. Discretionary rate relief had proved to be very unsatisfactory – 'hit and miss' and very time consuming.

The problem with the charity route is that it is also complicated and time consuming and places additional restrictions on sporting competition and excellence. Whilst table tennis would probably have no problems qualifying as 'healthy', which could exclude several other sports, TT clubs which offer higher level competition and coaching rather than fun participation ('recreation') only – clubs where 'ability' is deemed to count for more than 'enthusiasm' – could also find themselves ineligible. Overall, therefore, if applying for charitable status supplants discretionary rate relief, many voluntary clubs could be worse off.

The Central Council of Physical Recreation believes that treasury tax exemptions for all voluntary sports clubs is the best option, including mandatory rate relief at 80%: the Government should introduce simple tax exemptions for voluntary clubs on a *parity with charity*. Let us hope that the Treasury has heeded views on these lines, received before the consultation period ran out on 1st February 2002.

Famous People Who Played Table Tennis

An actress in the limelight at the moment is Dame Judi Dench, through her wonderful film portrayal of 'Iris' Murdoch. I (KM) heard her on BBC Radio 4 mentioning how she liked to play table tennis. Sheila King showed me a Daily Express article, which also suggests that her co-star in her latest film (The Shipping News), Kevin Spacey, plays table tennis. Explaining how she had got a treadmill in her hotel room, he explained that he had said to her, 'Judi, if I can have a ping-pong table in my room, you can certainly have a treadmill in yours!'

Also on Radio 4, I heard that England cricketer Ashley Giles had been playing table tennis while recovering from an ankle injury.

I don't know that lower league footballers really qualify as famous people but I enjoyed the article headed 'Too much ping-pong' in The Daily Telegraph. The players of Rushden & Diamonds apparently spend a large part of their day at their £2 million training centre next to their Nene Park ground. Said manager Brian Talbot, "They play table tennis and pool before training. In fact they play so much table tennis that some of them are better table tennis players than footballers!"

Tony Shapps alerted me to a 'Ping-Pong merrily on high' political feature in The Times Supplement (18th December). In "the game of ping-pong" of the Government's Anti-Terrorism Bill going to and from the House of Commons and

The Lords, how did the Lords' chief whips pass the time as they waited for a Commons' amendment? You guessed it! In the Opposition Chief Whip's office there is a table, and Government Chief Whip Lord Carter and the Liberal Democrat Chief Whip Lord Roper fought a hotly contested game while the Tory Chief Whip Lord Cope 'beamed benevolently on!'

MUHR'S MEMO: Information Officer Messages from Ken Muhr

No surprise that it was **John Woodford** in **The Daily Telegraph**, with occasional pieces by **Richard Eaton** in **The Guardian** and **The Times**, who provided the most of the national press copy, and it was two of John's stories that were picked up most by other parts of the media. Firstly John wrote several times about **Ryan Owen's bad behaviour at the Western Open Butterfly Grand Prix** in Bath in December, and how the Welsh Association subsequently dealt with it (Ryan banned for it for 6 months). Richard Eaton picked it up in The Times, and Pete Nichols (but mostly using Richard's words) in The Guardian. Most unusually, the **Daily Star** (18th January) also had quite a large feature on the incident – but a 'Ping Pong Ding Dong' is about the only way table tennis can hit the national tabloids!

ETTA Chief Executive **Richard Yule** was interviewed about the Ryan Owen affair on **BBC Radio 'Five Live'**, though Richard cannily managed to get in plugs for the **English National Championships at Ponds Forge International Sports Centre, Sheffield 9Tel. 0114 279 9766** on 2nd/3rd March and for the **Commonwealth Games Table Tennis Event, Manchester (www.commonwealthgames.com Information line: 0870 609 2002)**. (Incidentally, press officers please publicise these events with your members/readers, informing them that for the National Championships, the holders **Matthew Syed** and **Nicola Deaton** – she was interviewed on the subject for **Calendar Yorkshire TV** - will be trying to win their singles titles for a fifth time, while at Manchester the Commonwealth champion Matthew will try to gain the Commonwealth title for a record 4th time. Although tickets for the last 2 table tennis days of the Games appear to be sold out, a few may be released later if they check on the website).

The ETTA office dealt with a number of queries from regional and local papers and radio about Ryan Owen. The other

story to excite media interest seemed to emanate from a small **Telegraph (22nd January) piece by John Woodford on young Darius Knight (11) and Paul Drinkhall (12)** playing for England in the Safirs International senior (and junior) tournament, Sweden on 8th-10th February. Darius had already appeared on **BBC TV Blue Peter with Nicola Deaton** (and old footage of a very young Nicola playing with a proficient looking black female Blue Peter presenter), and then **BBC Radio 5 Live** interviewed Darius and Paul, and **Daily Telegraph school sport feature writer Gareth Davies (29th January) wrote a very positive article (with photo) on them and the National Training Centre at Nottingham.** I had a number of media enquiries about them, including from **BBC Southern Counties Radio** to interview Darius, which I know that coach Gideon Ashison consequently organised.

European League successes for both the England men and women were other small stories that made the national media in December. **Matthew Syed got two features in The Times**, the first (24th December) focussing on the **problems top athletes have in maintaining relationships** when they are 'on tour' across continents (Matthew believes that we should try to promote similar such human interest stories around table tennis personalities), and the second (near full page on 17th January), and in my opinion one of Matthew's best, highlighted the **career of Matthew's sporting hero, Muhammad Ali**, in the light of the latter's 60th birthday. Although the table tennis references in these articles were fairly scant, such high profile articles penned by our top player can only help the TT cause.

I left out some items from the December issue. One was **Jannai Cox's (Times health correspondent) Casebook of 3rd November**, headed 'Need to be nimble in short sharp sets of table tennis', in which a 60 year old player requesting fitness training advice is recommended interval training, light weights, the use of a grip-strengtheners and stretching exercises. Then there was the article in the **Daily Express (27th November)** around **Tesco** defying the European Court and **selling cut-price 'designer' sportswear and equipment, including table tennis tables, and which included an action photo of Nicola Deaton.** Peter Forrest told me that he had heard on **BBC Radio 1, table tennis** (and football, basketball and music) used as an example where dedication, training and talent can **bring success and increased self-esteem in order to re-establish pride** in difficult

and troubled circumstances (areas of high unemployment, drugs etc.). Peter also spotted the **Observer Sport Monthly magazine (December) mind quiz question**, 'Which international sport has a playing surface of 45 square feet?' apparently devised by Jeremy Beadle! (In the same magazine, was quoted the wonderful cricket putdown by Fred Trueman of Geoff Boycott's decision to leave Yorkshire for Poole Harbour: "I know why he's bought a house by the sea. So he'll be able to go for a morning walk on water!")

In **Simon Hoggart's (Guardian, December 14th) political sketch**, headed 'Stuck in a slow motion game of ping-pong', in which he refers to 'legislative ping-pong' (the battling of bills between the 2 Houses of Parliament), he says, "**Real ping-pong is exciting, especially when demonstrated by the top Chinese players**, who stand about a 100 yards away from each end of the table and actually cannot see when they whop the ball back to them. It is a bit like that in Westminster, in that the peers and the Commons have little idea of what the other side is thinking." The analogy is not a very good one, but I will let that pass! Also in the **Guardian (22nd December)**, a David Horspool feature on Sports Writing included **Howard Jacobson's The Mighty Walzer, 'Coming-of-age novel set around the ping-pong table'**, amongst its 'smart set' of books on sport. The **Winter Virgin in-travel magazine 'Hotline'**, had a small piece headed 'Ping Pong For One', with large coloured photograph of a bat, on **Connectv's Innectv's Interactive Table Tennis** which can plug into your TV or video (For information, Tel. 01992 503 133).

There was a nice article in the **Jewish Telegraph (4th January)** on the table tennis **Family Goldstein – father, the late Maurice Goldstein and sons, teacher David and Rabbi Andrew**, though it was none too positive about the current prospects for our sport.

Teaching and Training Dept

From the Director's Desk by Peter Hirst

Jill Parker has moved over to the World Class dept and Vicki Hyder-Smith has moved on to pastures new. We are very sorry to see them both go but equally delighted that we have been joined by Irene Mitchell on the 18th Jan. Irene, like all who come into the ETTA family, is faced with a steep learning curve so if

you do ring in to our dedicated line 01424 431222 please spend a few extra seconds to introduce yourself and explain how you fit into the bigger picture of TT, and I am sure you will feel the smile over the phone!

Dates for your diary:

Level 3 coaches course Lilleshall National Sports Centre 28-29-30 June and July 6th. Watch the web-site (www.etta.co.uk) or give Irene a ring.

The Conference will be on again after last years 'Best Ever'. Dates are September 6-7-8th in the idyllic setting of the Lilleshall National Sports Centre.

Applications are invited for L3 coaches to express interest for L4. Discussions are taking place with 'Sports Coach U.K.' (SCUK), formerly the National Coaching Foundation, and with our own World Class Performance Programme for the final details of this brand new course. At this stage we are looking for coaches with a proven track record who would like to attempt the jump into the 'Heavy Stuff': that is, looking at how some of the science principles link with the art of coaching. Just give Irene a ring or throw on an e-mail on to teachandtrain.etta@talk21.com to express interest.

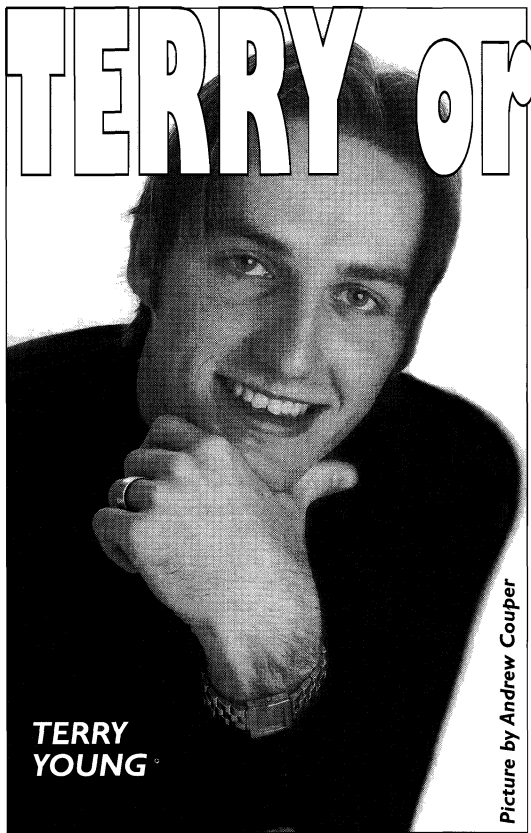
Thought for the day – 'How do coaches know what it is that they don't know?' or put a different way 'Ever thought of utilising ETTA Skills Awards into your everyday sessions?????????' They are designed to enhance playing ability and provide a very useful tool for the coach, as well as an incentive to the learner players. All Premier Clubs should be using the Skills Awards only £2 for a certificate and badge.

Do you think you know the rules of Table Tennis? Do you umpire in club and league matches? Why not have a go at taking the new Local Umpire Award (a Level 1 award)? Each League has been sent details and a test paper. ETTA (through National Umpires and Referees Committee) can arrange a local course if there is enough interest.

Regional Conferences

Over a period of several months, the ETTA is planning a series of conferences throughout the country. The aim is to promote volunteering in Table Tennis with an emphasis on club development via the PremierClub programme.

Dates and venues are currently being compiled, and the RDOs will be able to provide further information.



TERRY YOUNG

Picture by Andrew Couper

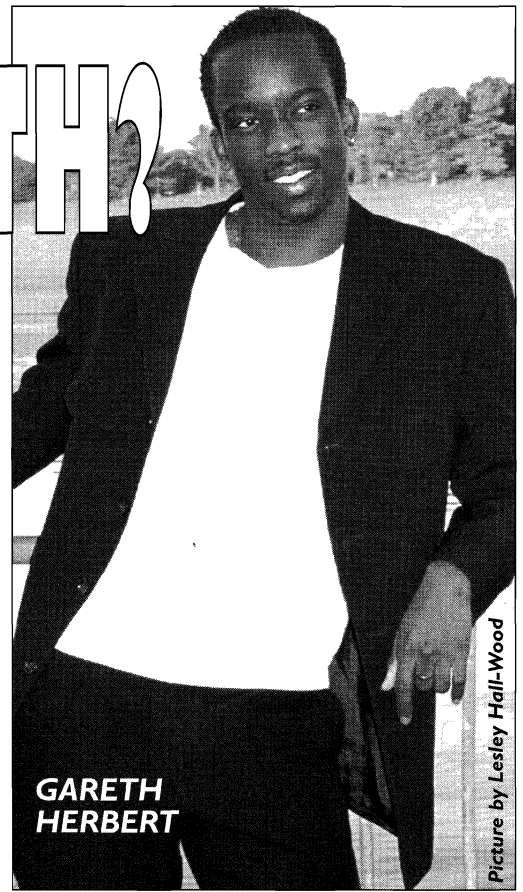
TERRY OR GARETH?

WHO'S THE PRETTIEST ?

Table Tennis is getting a reputation for having the best looking male team in British sport - largely because of Gareth Herbert and this month's cover boy Terry Young. But who do you think is the sexiest of ping's two heart-throbs?

Type either TERRY or GARETH in the subject window and email to: johnwood@macace.co.uk

one vote per person



GARETH HERBERT

Picture by Lesley Hall-Wood

continued from page 17

BRITISH LEAGUE continued

secured the Man-of-the-Match Award. With Ben Wall beating Scott Prime and Jane Strawson Rotherham ran out winners by a 6-2 margin.

DIVISION 3 SOUTH & WEST

Guildford marched on to what must surely result in the title after winning all four second round matches to retain their 100 % record. Convincing wins against JAGS II (7-1), Ashford (8-0) and OLOP II (8-0) contrast with their 5-3 success against EBS Orange Northampton II. However in this match Guildford had already surged into a 5-1 lead before Greg Yarnall beat Graham Watts and Mark Purcell overcame Michael Hill 11-9 in the fifth to bring some degree of respectability to proceedings. Guildford's challenge was led by Terry Haley and he was "backed up" in the no. 2 slot by John Robinson on the Saturday and Jason Tendler on the Sunday. All three players were unbeaten and the most notable scalps they took were by Robinson and Haley who both beat occasional Premier division player Farhat Rasul (JAGS). Northampton won their other three matches to move into a clear second place on 12 points. They were held at 2-2 by JAGS before wins for Simon Pryke, Phil Clarkson and Greg Yarnall enabled them to pull clear by a 5-2 margin. It was JAGS's no. 4 Adrian Davis who took the Man-of-the-Match Award coming back from 10-6 down in the fifth against Mark Purcell to take his second singles encounter which made the match score 5-3. (With JAGS having fielded an ineligible player this result was later amended to 6-2). Northampton Progress V's follow next in third place with a relatively modest total of 8 points. Daniel

FREEMAN WINS EPIC BATTLE AGAINST VEINSREIDER IN DIVISION 3 SOUTH

Cannon was their Match-winner against KCD Stiga II taking his two singles from the no. 4 spot as they edged home 5-3. Their 7-1 win over Ashford looks a much "livelier" match with all bar one game going to at least a fourth end and Progress will be justifiably pleased with this "flattering" result. Indeed Progress won all three games that went to a deciding leg. Cannon came through again, this time at 14-12 in the fifth against Roland McLennan and Ernest Charlemagne led from the front in the no. 1 position beating Keith James (3-2) and Keith Foot (3-0). McLennan's win against Reggie Grove helped him take the Man-of-the-Match Award. Only two matches ended in draws in this division and KCD Stiga II's were involved in both of them. PSP Westinsure rescued a 4-2 deficit as Terry Perkins got the better of Alex Rorke and Andrew Hodges saw off Lucy Pointer to earn a share of the points. The Ashford versus KCD clash was even throughout and a draw looks a fair result. Ashford no. 2 Winston Wong excelled with wins against Rod McMullan and Keir Donaldson after McMullan had seen off Ashford no. 1 Richie Bolton 3-0.

DIVISION 3 SOUTH

Oxford Fire Place Centre retained their 100 % record; their top performance coming in their 5-3 win against a strong Progress IV side and they now top the table by four points. Karl Bushell won both his matches from the No.1 position

and Ian Packford also won twice. Bottom-placed York Gardens did well to extend the divisional leaders before succumbing 6-2. Rhyan Nelson took his two singles beating both Andy and Ian Packford whilst Vaidas Karalius pushed Ray Powell to 11-9 in the fifth end and Leo Veinsreider lost an epic battle against Glenn Freeman 5,11,-10,-11,-9. Their main threat looks to be Cippenham II who were also undefeated in this round of matches. They needed to be at full strength to get the better of third-placed Horsham III and fourth-placed Progress IV both by 5-3 margins. Their no. 2 player Mark Jackson excelled against Progress beating both Jogenes Senorin and Taiwo Adedayo and Robert Lemon made his mark with a particularly fine win over Adedayo. Against Horsham III they found themselves 2-0 behind after Horsham's newest recruit Simon Pink had marked his British League debut with a superb 14-12 in the fifth end success against Mike Rhodes. With Jackson losing to Fawzi Yousif and Terry Dean on this occasion it was their no. 4 player Robert Lemon who held his team together beating Terry Dean at 11-9 in the fifth end and with the score at 4-3 he completed the job with a 3-0 victory against Chris Vincent. Horsham also played well to beat BATT'S Team Peniel II 6-2 with Pink beating BATT'S's No. 1 Aaron Fennell decisively 3-0. Fennell redeemed himself by defeating Fawzi

Yousif in his second singles. York Gardens made a real effort to move off the bottom and actually won twice, their 5-3 success against Byng Hall III being particularly hard-fought. Five matches went to a third end, and they won four of them. Rhyan Nelson beat both Mark Buckley and Will Power in the deciding leg. However this success was confined to the table as they had in fact played an ineligible player and this in fact leaves them pointless. The question most of their opponents will be asking next time round is whether York Garden's outstanding 11 year-old prospect Darius Knight will be playing ?. It can be said fairly safely that this is one division that the London Progress Club won't be winning but it did allow their "impresario" Jon Kaufman to make his British League debut. His unbeaten performance earned him the Man-of-the-Match Award in his side's 7-1 victory over Byng Hall III. Second-to-bottom Britannia Hanbury Ipswich added to their points tally with a 6-2 success over Byng Hall Team, their Team-Captain Ian Brown orchestrating their victory by taking his two singles whilst Aimee Sparkes followed suit; just prevailing 11-9 in the fifth against fellow Junior Jo Hubbard.

With the season having passed its half-way point new Clubs who are interested in taking part next year should contact the British League Chairman Keith Ponting at 21 Southport Avenue, Redhills, Exeter, Devon, EX4 1RA; Telephone - 01392-278642. Enquiries have already been received from as far afield as Guernsey and the Isle of Man.

AN EXTRAORDINARY GUY

LIANG GELIANG (formerly Liang Ko Liang) was born in China in the province of Guanxi Zhuang on 5th May 1950. He won the World Mixed Doubles title with Li Li in 1973, and repeated the feat with Ge Xinai six years later in Pyongyang. At Birmingham in 1977 he won the World Mens Doubles with Li Zhenshi. His World Championships debut saw him win all three matches in the final against Japan - a match China won 5-2. He won the Asian Games tournament twice, the Afro Asian tournament, Asian Championships, Romanian Open, Iranian Open, and top international tournaments in Vienna, Trier, and Hamburg. He has won many World and European titles at veteran level. He now lives in Germany, is married and has one daughter.

The scene was the Stadthalle in Vienna for the first ever European Veterans Championships. I had arrived at the stadium early in order to get some much needed practice. Only two players on court, Li Yuxiang and Liang Geliang. I sat down and watched seeking much needed inspiration. After about five minutes Li walked to the side while Liang stayed at the table. He pointed in my direction. I turned round thinking he was motioning to a person behind me - but there was no-one there! Realisation dawned that he was asking me if I wanted to knock up with him. Elation. When a truly great player shows such an affinity with even the humblest, how it sticks in the memory. The knock up took on an even greater significance when a group of rather incredulous VETTS players arrived and one remarked "How did you get a knock with Liang?" "Well" I replied "he asked me".

It was not the first time I had played Liang. We actually met twice, both in Mixed Doubles matches at the US Open. Since then our paths seem to have crossed at tournaments world-wide. He is an extraordinary guy who seems to revel in being a true ambassador for his sport. Since leaving the senior ranks he has embraced the veterans game with unequalled enthusiasm.. He is now revered by veteran players everywhere. I hadn't seen him for over two years, but caught up with him at a tournament in Gothenburg recently.

BRIAN HALLIDAY: Hello, its good to meet up with you again.

LIANG GELIANG: Hi, its been a long time.

BH: I see you are playing as well as ever. Have you recovered from your car accident?

LG: I am 80% OK, but still have some problems with headaches, and knee, and elbow. I have had to change my

technique with my arm movements.

BH: Which club do you play for now?

LG: Petershagen which is about 20 kilometres from Berlin. I play in the Oberliga and many veterans tournaments.

BH: It is accepted that you are classed as one of the top ten best players of all time.

After all you have achieved how do you retain such enthusiasm and interest?

LG: Table Tennis is not only a sport it is an art. When I play my heart and soul are happy. You can play aggressive, you can play passive, everything about the game is good for my body. Also through table tennis I have met so many people, I have seen the world - Ah so many friendships.

BH: Why do you think it is that so many of the top players of the 1970's have given up the sport?

LG: All people have different goals. My goal was always to see the world and meet people.

BH: How did it all start for you and at what age did you begin to play? Also how demanding was it?

LG: I started when I was 10 years old. Yes it was very demanding. It was extremely hard - sometimes there was very little for me to eat. In 1966 I was very lucky to be able to see many World Champions on TV. I tried to take the best bits from each individual to try to make my own game better. I managed to get into the China Youth Team. Everyday I analysed the best players and studied how they played very carefully.

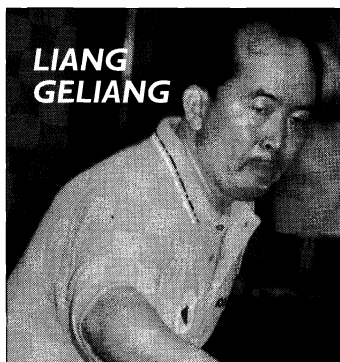
BH: Who have been your most difficult opponents over the years?

LG: Tibor Klampar and Anton Stipanac. They were very unpredictable and also very intelligent players. They were able to work me out.

BH: Any match that really stands out in your memory?

LG: At the World Championships in Birmingham in 1977 I had to play Dragutin Surbek in the quarter final. My coaches said the way to win was to attack, attack, attack. Very soon I was 2 games to love down. I decided for the first time to ignore the advice I had been given and play a defensive game. It was very hard but I won through in the end by 3-2. There is a funny sequel to this in that I played Surbek again recently in the European Veterans Championships in Arhus. I was winning when Surbek stopped the game came round and said "I thought you were going to attack." I said "Ah, it is a tactic to defend against you". Then I attacked the next ball.

BH: In Birmingham of course you could play with both sides of the racket being the same colour. I remember China had an excellent defender who was a real defensive expert. Huang Liang.



LG: It is very sad. He died two years ago from lung cancer.

BH: Can we touch on a difficult subject now? During the time when you were a member of the Chinese team it has been suggested that there were instances of so called "friendship" matches, when particular games were "thrown" to the opposition. Can you tell our readers the truth about this?

LG: At this time China was very closed. The leader Mao Tse Tung made mistakes, like everyone does. The Premier Chou En Lai tried to sort it out. They came up with the idea that it would be politically correct to ensure friendship between nations by give and take. So yes it is true we were asked to lose on occasions.

BH: Did you have to forfeit any matches when you were in competition with your own countrymen?

LG: Now I can do exactly what I want, but in the past it was decided who won what. There was usually an analysis of the draw to see which European would play which Chinese player to ensure the most favourable result for China. We would try to work out which player would have particular difficulties against certain of the Chinese players.

BH: You have seen all the best players over many years. Who do you consider to be the best of all time?

LG: There is no doubt in my mind that Chuang Tse Tung was the best. He was also the fastest player I have ever seen. I was very fortunate to have played alongside him for China.

BH: England's Matt Syed keeps telling me Waldner is the best!

LG: Waldner has won so much and I can understand Matt's view - but Chuang was by far the fastest ever. (general laughter all round at Matt's expense!).

BH: Many people class yourself as one of the half dozen "greatest of all time"

LG: (He smiles) It is not for me to say but well - maybe. Chou En Lai asked Chuang Tse Tung whether there were any players coming along that would take his place at the top of Chinese table tennis. I am honoured in that Chuang replied "Yes sir, we have one. His name is Liang Ko

Liang."

BH: The other supreme Chinese player at that time was Li Fu Jung. I noticed that in Japan recently he still wields power.

LG: He was a wonderful player and is now President of the Chinese Association. He has a lot of influence. When Li Fu Jung talks - everyone must listen. When he talks about tactics or technique, he believes he is the best. I think his ideas may be a little old fashioned now. He believes that power is the main weapon but I think there are many attributes you need to be a complete player. You need to be mentally very strong. A player will make a move against you and you have to adjust and think quickly and decisively as to how to counter it. I make many points with placement, at different speeds and with different spins.

BH: What advice would you give to the young player starting in the game today? Is it about training, technique, tactics? What do you recommend?

LG: Technique must be perfect then you have no limitations to progress. Not only must you play fast but it is very important to know how to play the slow passive game. They must always fight - inside the head must be 100%.

BH: What do you think about recent changes to the whole structure of the game?

LG: I do not consider these changes to have made a significant difference. Frankly I am happy with the new scoring system - games are shorter and I don't get so tired! I don't think too much of the advantages and disadvantages of long and short pimples.

BH: I remember a game you played against Des Douglas, which was televised. Although you were well down in the third, I remember your continued smiling and playing with almost complete freedom.

LG: Always I try to play with a smile. Always I try to play from the heart.

BH: Are you still well known in China?

LG: People in the 40s, 50s, and 60s seem to know me very well. Certainly when I take a taxi the driver will say "Ah. Liang hello"

BH: Thank you very much for taking the time to chat today.

• Liang speaks little English and I am indebted to the Swedish International Tommy Danielsson for helping with the translation from German. Tommy plays in the same team as Liang and commented how modest Liang is about his achievements. There is no trace of arrogance and he is always the first to say to an opponent "Well done".

PLAYING UP

RON FOSKER continues his series on league rules with a look at the question of playing up for a higher team.

IN my early career I played for a youth club that had a number of teams of fast improving juniors. One season one of our teams was running away with the third division while another was having a tight battle with two or three

other teams at the top of the second division.

Towards the end of the season it became obvious that the players in the third division team were now much better than those in the second division and they were brought in to play most of the remaining matches in the second division while still playing in division three.

There was nothing to stop them.

By the next season there was.

A number of rules – some would say the majority – come about because someone exploits an anomaly. The other teams are unhappy and the next AGM votes through a rule to stop it happening again. With every justification, our club were deemed to have acted unsportingly even though within the rules as they stood. [In our

defence it meant some very good juniors – one of whom had even reached the men's singles semi final, a first for a bottom division player - were able to play in the first division the following season].

The rule the league subsequently introduced is one that now almost certainly exists in all leagues, restricting the number of times a player can turn out for a higher registered team without forfeiting his or her place in the lower team.

Most leagues allow either three or four matches up (Eastbourne two and Maidstone five were the exceptions in the leagues I looked at) but there was almost a 50-50 split on whether it should be allowed within the same division.

There are arguments for both sides:

- Playing up within the same division can cause confusion. You don't quite know who's playing for which team, can end up playing the same player twice in a week playing for different teams, and it's even possible for a player to play against his own team. There is a danger of pulling a fast one if a player in a lower registered team is better than one of the higher team and is brought in for an important match.

- Allowing players from the same division to play up means a better chance of a good game, rather than the prospect of playing a lower division player well short of the required standard and a waste of time, possibly embarrassment, for both sides. It can also allow clubs to put an extra team in the division. In my own league last year, a club pulled a team out of the first division after the rule was changed to disallow playing up within the same division. The rule was changed back after one year and the club then put three teams in the first division as they could use the third team players to back up the first two teams.

There are a few variations on a theme: Eastbourne allows only one player to play up per match; Sunderland does not allow anyone to play for two teams in the same week.

And a number of leagues allow players to drop down a team, but always only with the management committee's consent.



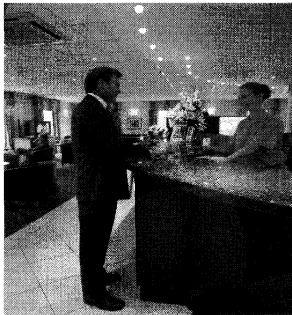
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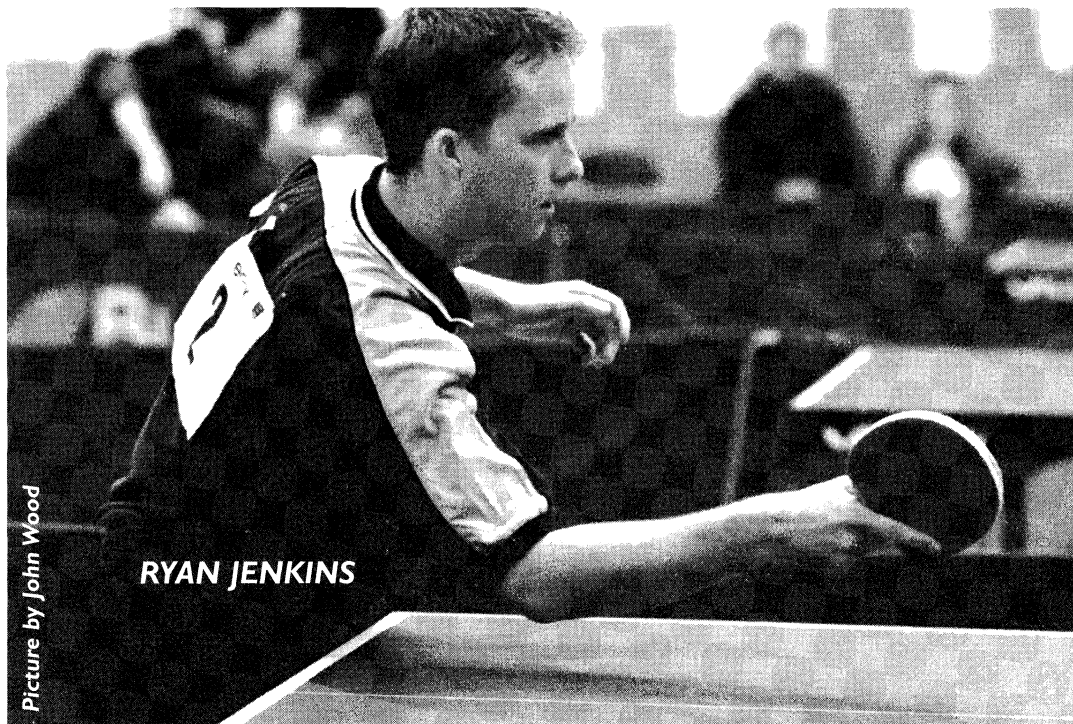
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JENKINS PEDIGREE



Picture by John Wood

RYAN JENKINS

WHEN Ryan Jenkins showed his pedigree at Hastings by coming back from two games down to beat Marco Essomba, it was clear that more thrilling rearguard actions were coming, writes John Woodford.

We did not have to wait for long, Ryan the undisputed champion of Wales, triumphed for the second time this campaign in Ulster when he powered past Alan Cooke in the mens singles final -6, 8, 5, 4.

The England and Derbyshire's top coach only loses these days to superb performances usually by the young players. Jenkins is 23, Cooke is 35. The ten-year plus age-gap is beginning to show, but Cooke's rivals have to bring out their best shots and keep them on target.

On this occasion, Jenkins after losing the first game, took a pace back to win the battle of the top-spin

counter-attacks. Spectacular stuff as Cooke's ability to secure points gradually faded.

Referring to his advancing years Alan told me at the hotel breakfast next morning, "These days, I am pleased to reach the final rounds. In this case I beat improving younger men Gavin Rungay (5,6,9) and Marco Essomba in the semi-final (9, -5, 11, 4), so that is a good days work for me as I get very little chance of serious practice."

But, the Welsh ace had to fight very hard for his place in the final. He was all but up-ended by the surprise packet of the tournament, England No.14 Jason Sugrue from the London Progress club.

In a superb semi-final Sugrue 22, (of Southern Irish parentage) snatched the first two games from Jenkins 7, 8 before Jenkins again came from behind to win 5,10, 7! In the fourth game Jenkins survived two match points.

Earlier, in the quarters, it was again Sugrue deserving his accolade as 'man-of-the-tournament' - he knocked out Scottish champion Euan Walker -5, -9, 9, 9, 9,

Euan, still a great player, is like Cooke feeling the strain of advancing years. His move to Edinburgh has no doubt cut back his chances of top-class practice that he had in the South.

**Words by
JOHN WOODFORD
& ALAN STRONG
Photographs by
MALCOLM GUY
in Ulster**

STRONGEST WOMEN

The four strongest women players in the U.K. at this time are Lui Na (Ulster and China), Nicola Deaton, Helen Lower and arguably, Andrea Holt.

Louise Durrant seems to have made some progress - she moved into the semi-finals against Ulster's Andrea Glover at 9 in the fifth, but could not make much progress against the Chinese girl who won 5,10, 9 in the top semi-final.

In the second semi-final Nicola found herself in a titanic struggle with Barbara Kiss ; after ten gruelling games the England champion eased through on her third match point to win -10, 6, 7, -7, 10.

It was in the final that Liu Na, the Chinese student who may or may not stay in Ulster, showed her dominance over Nicola with a 8, 6, 9, win.

The only time during the Ulster

tournament when Sugrue and Essomba did not shine was in the mens doubles final when Alan Cooke and Ryan Jenkins combined to crush the Londoner's 3, 3, 5.

In the womens doubles Nicola Deaton and Louise Durrant came through an epic encounter to beat the all China combination of Liu Na and the Ulster coach Jing Yi Gao, also at 10 in the fifth game.

The under-21 winners were Liu Na - she defeated Louise Durrant at 4 in the fourth and Gavin Rungay on his way to becoming the Scottish No.1 - he took out Anthony Glain (France) 7, 8, 4, in the final.

Too few veterans ventured across the Irish Sea - Chris Beckley would have been top seed but he missed his plane at Luton, so it was won by Jimmy Robinson (Antrim) against Trevor Campbell from Essex.

Footnote: The tournament was superbly run by the Ulster officials, spearheaded by Alan Strong. The Ulster TTA have been chosen to run the Six Nations tournament in September at the, same venue, the Valley Leisure Centre. Newtownabbey.



LIU NA



FOUNDATIONS

FIRM and resilient foundations were laid in the spacious Valley Leisure Centre, jewel in the crown of Newtownabbey Borough Council, for the 'first Grand Prix event outside England' to be regular on future Grand Prix calendars. This 'end of festive season' tournament had its unique character, With the Irish organisers, players and highly animated spectators gaining immensely from the event, writes Alan Strong.

Highlight of the local performances came from 18 year old Belfast-based Liu Na, a native of Shen Yang City in China, and clearly the Ulster audience have taken this efficient young hand-shake player to their hearts as they whooped and clapped her to both the Womens Open and Under 21 Singles titles, with open dismay when scratch pairing, Nicola Deaton and Louise Durrant, denied a Chinese-Irish treble by defeating Na and Ulster's Junior Coach Jing Yi Gao in a nail-biting Womens Doubles final 12-10 in the fifth.

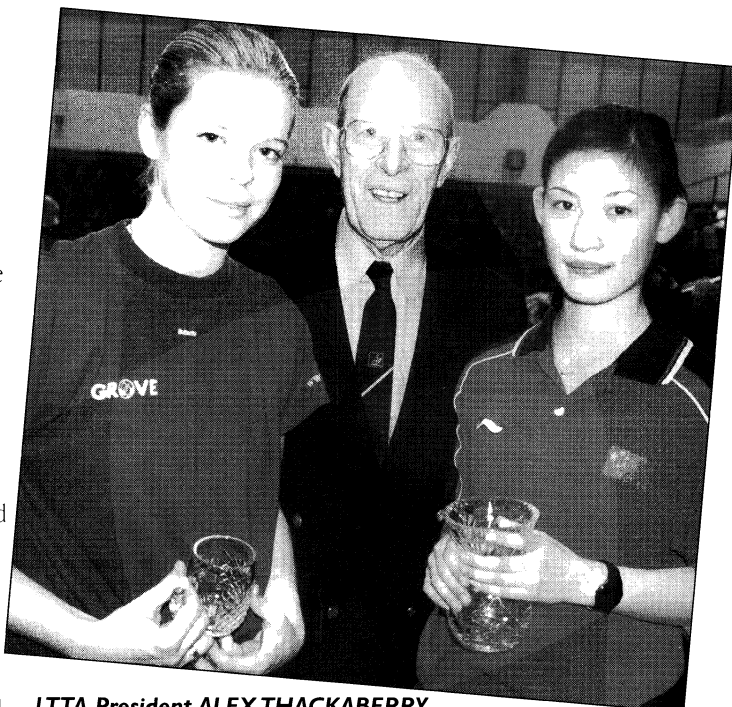
Irish success in the 21 table facility was wide-spread - top 3 National player, Brian Fitzgerald (Cork) took Band 1 honours; Brian McRandall (Larne) returned to home soil from Bath to claim Band 3, another Munster traveller from Cork In Linda O'Sullivan took Womens Band 3; and both Veteran titles remained in Ulster - former international Jimmy Robinson upset Trevor Campbell (Essex) in the Mens, with one local wag being heard to quip "Hasn't Desmond Douglas put on weight since we saw him on TV", whilst Teresa Devaney (Dublin) battled home 11-8 ahead of Jane Durham (Cleveland) in the 5 set Womens final.

Ulster organisers, Vincent O'Regan (Tournament Director) and Gilbert Graham (Ulster Chairman), were philosophical and self-critical about this new venture, but the facts spoke loud and clear - record Prize Fund, quality entry and competition, substantial spectators levels, adequate venue, continuous praise from visiting players, high media attention from TV, Radio and Press, unstinting transport support, visible and informed interest from the Mayor, Alderman Vera McWilliam and Councillors. AND these were set against issues which have dogged other Grand Prix events - insufficient umpires, need to attract more top players and larger audiences.

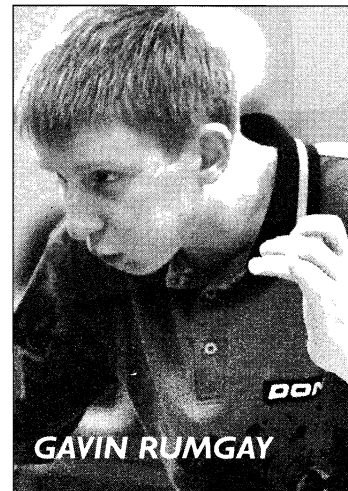
In the words of former teacher O'Regan, "Superb event, following in the Bangor Open tradition, but could do better."



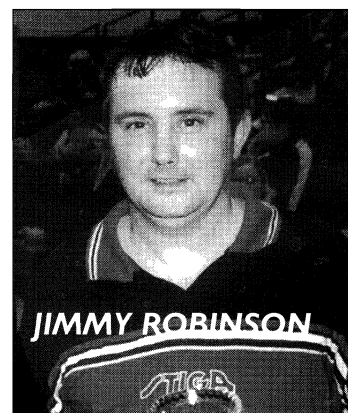
The Mayor of Newtownabbey, Alderman VERA McWILLIAM, presents the Womens Doubles title (top) to NICOLA DEATON and LOUISE DURRANT, and (above) the Mens Doubles trophy to RYAN JENKINS and ALAN COOKE.



ITTA President ALEX THACKABERRY presents the Womens Under 21 Trophies to winner NA LIU (right) and runner-up to LOUISE DURRANT



GAVIN RUMGAY



JIMMY ROBINSON

FINALS RESULTS

Men's singles: s/f: Alan Cooke bt Marco Essomba 11-3, 11-5, 11-7 Ryan Jenkins (Wales) bt Jason Sugrue Final: Jenkins bt Cooke (Derbys) 6-11, 11-8, 11-5, 11-4.

Women's singles: S/Liu Na (China) bt Louise Durrant 11-5, 12-10, 11-9. Nicola Deaton) bt Barbara Kiss 10-12, 11-6, 11-7, 7-11, 12-10. Final: Liu Na bt Nicola Deaton 11-8, 11-6, 11-9.

Men's doubles: Cooke / Jenkins (Wales) bt Marco Essomba / Jason Sugrue 11-3, 11-3, 11-5.

Women's doubles: Deaton / Durrant bt Liu Na (China) / Jing Yi Gao (Ulster) 14-12, 8-11, 11-8, 9-11, 12-10.

Under 21 men's singles: Gavin Rungay (Scotland) bt Anthony Glain (France) 11-7, 11-8, 11-4.

Under 21 women's singles: Liu Na (China) bt Durrant 11-7, 9-11, 11-5, 11-4.

Veteran men's singles: Jimmy Robinson (Antrim) bt Trevor Campbell 11-8, 11-4, 9-11, 11-5.

Veteran women's singles: Teresa Devaney (Ireland) bt Jane Durham 7-11, 11-9, 11-5, 2-11, 11-8.

Junior singles: Gavin Rungay (Scotland) bt Nicol Craig (Scotland) 11-2, 11-6, 11-3.

Brian Fitzgerald (Ireland) bt Niall Cameron (Scotland) 7-11, 13-11, 13-11, 6-11, 11-8.

Men's band 3 singles: Brian McRandall bt Roy Norton 13-11, 11-5, 12-10.

Men's band 5 singles: Anthony Glain (France) bt John Murphy (Ireland) 11-4, 11-9, 11-9.

Women's band 1 singles: Jane Durham bt Linda Mountjoy (Ireland) 11-8, 9-11, 11-9, 11-6.

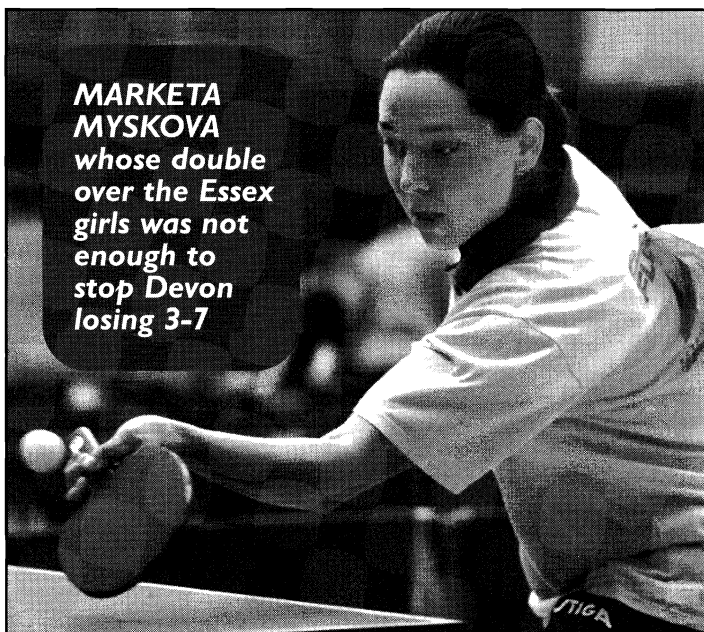
SUSSEX LEAD WITH 100% RECORD IN PREMIER

SENIOR PREMIER DIVISION

THE first round of three matches was held at "BATTS" Harlow in mid November with Phil Gower as Referee and umpires provided by the N.U.R.C. matches started at 3.00pm on the Saturday, presumably to allow Yorkshire and Devon time to complete their long journeys, writes Stan Clarke.

Sussex, who have finished as runners-up for the last two seasons, made their intentions clear from the outset, they are the only team with a 100% record after the first round of matches. They started with a close match against Kent, at one stage they were trailing 3 sets to 1, Justin Goodall beating Adrian Moore, Joe Kennedy beating Graham Carter and Ritchie Venner loosing to Mark Brown, with only a win by Sally Weston over Helen Garlick for the home side, but from 3/1 down Sussex finally got their act together winning the next five sets to take a winning lead at 6/3 just leaving Mark Brown to complete a good afternoons work for Kent by beating the luckless Graham Carter, match score 6/4 to Sussex. The team talk that evening must have been fairly lively as they emerged next morning, with Peter Bartram replacing Graham Carter, to demolish Middlesex 9/1, only Aparna Narendran offering any real resistance loosing in five to Sally Weston before beating Rose Rainton for the one set for Middlesex. The improvement continued into the next match against Leicestershire, Sussex charged into a 4/0 lead before Karen Smith opened the score for the midlanders by beating Rose, but the match was won before Chris Rogers beat Ritchie Venner to make the final score 8/2 in favour of Sussex.

Yorkshire, last year's champions are currently in second place with five points from two wins and a draw. Their first match against Devon proved to be their toughest test of the weekend when they found themselves at 3/4 down before Michael James beat Paul Whiting and Joanna Roberts beat Penny Perry to ensure a draw, no such problems in their remaining matches, they first



MARKETA MYSKOVA whose double over the Essex girls was not enough to stop Devon losing 3-7

beat Essex 7/3 then followed up by beating Kent by the same score, Joe Kennedy proving a stumbling block with wins over Simon James and Mark Smith.

In third spot are Surrey, the draw specialists, their first two matches resulted in draws against Essex and Kent before a narrowly beating Middlesex 6/4 in the last match of the weekend, a bad weekend for Abdul Wuraola, his only win from six matches coming against Eli Baraty of Middlesex, but before that he lost badly to Neil Charles of Middlesex, Justin Goodall and Joe Kennedy of Kent and Lorestas Trumpunkas and Gary Tendler of Essex, altogether a weekend to forget for the normally dependable Surrey man.

Essex and Devon are locked in fourth and fifth places respectively each with three points and separated only by the narrowest of sets difference, although when the two sides met Essex proved much the stronger winning 7/3 only Paul Whiting with a win over Clive Carthy and Marketa Myskova with a double over Lucy Wang and Kate Wadling troubling Essex on the day. Leicestershire newly promoted from division 1 A are in sixth place, they appear to have found the going tough but did manage to pick up a win against Middlesex, Karen Smith and Chris Rogers winning four of the sets and with Dave Gannon and

Bettina Lehmann picking up one each they just limped home. Their luck ran out when they lost to Devon 6/4, the first five sets needing all five games to produce a winner, the fifth of these sets resulted in a defeat for Karen Smith by Marketa Myskova, "Good old west country name that", which seemed to demoralise the midlanders as they promptly lost the next three sets to go 6/2 down before rallying to take the last two sets, however their last match resulted in a spanking at the hands of Sussex, going down 8/2.

The relegation places are currently occupied by Kent and Middlesex. Kent can consider themselves somewhat unlucky, having held Surrey to a draw they lost narrowly, 6/4, to leaders Sussex, only Yorkshire inflicting a heavy defeat. Middlesex are in a very dicey position with no points and only nine sets won from a possible thirty they will need a minor miracle from the next round of matches if they are to continue their long and distinguished membership of this division.

JUNIOR DIVISION 1A

Fancy playing four matches in one day after travelling to Grantham? Well that is what the kids in this division do, then at the end of the day's play they travel home, with the first

matches starting at 10.00am some of the teams must have left home in the middle of the night, but it is one way of reducing costs and it does mean that the players get plenty of matches during the day.

Yorkshire 2nd and Lincolnshire are in the top two places with 7 points each having won three and drawn one, that when the two sides met. Yorkshire started in fine form beating South Yorkshire 8/2, then hammering Worcestershire 10/0, then things got a little tougher, Lancashire pressed them hard but they held on for a 6/4 victory before then played out the draw against Lincolnshire.

Lincolnshire also started off like a train beating Cumbria 9/1, then they met a Lancashire side with two girls in top form, Cherith Graham and Hannah Roberts winning all of their sets but unfortunately not backed up by the boys, 6/4 Lincolnshire who then thrashed Nottinghamshire 8/2. At the end of the day's play 1st and 2nd places are determined by a sets difference of 19/11 to 28/12, the final round of matches will be nail biting.

Cleveland are in third place with 5 points from one win and three draws and must be far from happy, with a line up headed by Bryn Drinkhall and Martyn Clarke, they really should be looking for promotion, but conceding two sets every match through playing with only one girl can only be considered self inflicted wounds, mind you they still have the two top teams to play and could possibly turn things around but they cannot afford any slip up's. For the record they drew with Nottinghamshire, Worcestershire and Lancashire and beat South Yorkshire.

The next three places are occupied by Nottinghamshire, Lancashire and Cumbria, Lancashire must feel slightly badly done by, as they have the best sets ratio after the top two, but only managed to accumulate 3 points.

The relegation places are occupied by South Yorkshire and Worcestershire, but the bottom of the division is wide open and none of the bottom five teams can feel safe as yet.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS LEAGUE TABLES

Tables up to 22nd December 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 1A

Lancashire	4	4	0	0	34	6	8
South Yorkshire	4	4	0	0	28	12	8
Nottinghamshire	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Yorkshire 2nd	4	3	0	1	22	18	6
Northumberland	4	1	0	3	15	25	2
Essex 2nd	4	1	0	3	14	26	2
Worcestershire	4	0	0	4	12	28	0
Derbyshire	4	0	0	4	10	30	0

DIVISION 1B

Middlesex 2nd	7	4	0	3	42	28	8
Gloucestershire	4	3	1	0	28	12	7
Wiltshire	5	3	1	1	30	20	7
Berkshire	5	3	0	2	28	22	6
Glamorgan	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Hertfordshire	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Cornwall	7	0	1	6	18	52	1
Hampshire	4	0	1	3	9	31	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

Glamorgan 2nd	5	4	1	0	36	14	9
Devonshire 2nd	4	3	1	0	33	7	7
Worcestershire 2nd	4	3	0	1	22	18	6
Somerset	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Cornwall 2nd	4	1	0	3	15	25	2
Herefordshire	4	0	0	4	8	32	0
Avon	2	0	0	2	3	17	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	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Sussex 2nd	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Buddinghamshire	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Isle of Wight	3	1	1	1	17	13	3
Surrey 2nd	2	0	0	2	5	15	0
Oxfordshire	2	0	0	2	5	15	0
Berkshire 2nd	3	0	0	3	4	26	0

JUNIORS

PREMIER DIVISION

Glamorgan	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Torkshire	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
Buddinghamshire	3	0	1	2	12	18	1
Warwickshire	3	0	0	3	5	25	0

DIVISION 1A

Yorkshire 2nd	4	3	1	0	29	11	7
Lincolnshire	4	3	1	0	28	12	7
Cleveland	4	1	3	0	21	19	5
NoKinghamshire	4	1	2	1	19	21	4
Lancashire	4	1	1	2	22	18	3
Cumbria	4	1	1	2	15	25	3
South Yorkshire	4	1	0	3	16	24	2
Worcestershire	4	0	1	3	10	30	1

DIVISION 1B

Sussex	6	5	1	0	42	18	11
Kent	6	5	1	0	39	21	11
Buckingham 2nd	6	4	2	0	38	22	10
Middlesex	6	3	1	2	30	30	7
Glamorgan 2nd	6	2	1	3	28	32	5
Gwent	6	2	0	4	29	31	4
Dorset	7	1	0	6	28	42	2
Berkshire	7	0	0	7	16	54	0

DIVISION 2A

Derbyshire	3	3	0	0	19	11	6
Lincolnshire 2nd	3	2	0	1	23	7	4
Shropshire	3	2	0	1	18	12	4

Cheshire 2nd	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Norfolk	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Lancashire 2nd	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Suffolk	3	0	0	3	8	22	0
Hertfordshire	3	0	0	3	5	25	0

DIVISION 2B

Essex 2nd	3	2	1	0	22	8	5
Hampshire	3	2	1	0	21	9	5
Surrey 2nd	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Kent 2nd	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Oxfordshire	3	0	2	1	13	17	2
Middlesex 2nd	3	0	2	1	10	20	2
Avon	3	0	1	2	8	22	1
Surrey 3rd	3	0	0	3	8	22	0

DIVISION 3A

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Northampton 2nd	4	4	0	0	30	10	8
Huntingdon 1st	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Bedfordshire 2nd	4	3	0	1	23	17	6
Bedfordshire 1st	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Norfolk 2nd	4	1	0	3	19	21	2
Leicestershire	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Huntingdon 2nd	3	0	0	3	8	22	0
Cambridgeshire	3	0	0	3	4	26	0

DIVISION 3B

Durham 1st	4	4	0	0	40	0	8
Northamptonshire	4	4	0	0	31	9	8
Durham 2nd	4	3	0	1	22	18	6
Nottingham 2nd	4	3	0	1	30	10	6
Nottingham 3rd	4	2	0	2	22	18	4
Conwy 1st	7	2	0	5	25	45	4
Conwy 2nd	7	1	0	6	13	57	2
Northumberland	4	0	0	4	7	33	0

DIVISION 3C

Devonshire 2nd	7	5	0	2	42	28	10
Somerset	5	4	1	0	36	14	9
Herefordshire	6	4	1	1	37	23	9
Cornwall 1st	7	3	3	1	39	31	9
Shropshire 2nd	5	2	1	2	28	22	5
Warwickshire 2nd	5	2	0	3	24	26	4
Devonshire 3rd	7	0	1	6	19	51	1
Cornwall 2nd	6	0	1	5	15	45	1

DIVISION 3D

Buckingham 3rd	7	7	0	0	59	11	14
Gloucestershire	6	4	1	1	33	27	9
Buckingham 4th	6	3	2	1	33	27	8
Essex 3rd	7	3	2	2	38	32	8
Wiltshire	6	2	2	2	27	33	6
Gwent 2nd	6	2	0	4	25	35	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
Torkshire	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
Somenet	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	3	3	0	19	8	6(64-40)
Surrey	3	3	0	19	8	6(68-45)
Kent	3	2	1	15	12	4
Yorkshire	3	1	2	14	13	2
Lancashire	3	1	2	13	14	2
Essex	3	1	2	12	15	2
Sussex	3	1	2	10	17	2
Dorset	3	0	3	6	21	0

DIVISION 1A

Hertfordshire	3	3	0	18	9	6
Northumberland	3	3	0	17	10	6
Durham	3	2	1	14	13	4
Oxfordshire	2	1	1	8	10	2
Leicestershire	3	1	2	12	15	2
Yorkshire 2nd	3	0	3	11	16	0
Warwickshire	3	0	3	10	17	0

Cambridgeshire have withdrawn

DIVISION 1B

Surrey 2nd	2	2	0	14	4	4
Middlesex	2	2	0	13	5	4
Hampshire	3	2	1	16	11	4 (60-47)
Kent 2nd	3	2	1	16	11	4 (60-47)
Buckinghamshire	3	1	2	11	16	2
Hertfordshire 2nd	3	1	2	10	17	2
Avon	2	0	2	6	12	0
Somerset	2	0	2	4	14	0

DIVISION 2A

Essex 2nd	4	4	0	27	9	8
theshin 2nd	3	3	0	18	9	6
Norfolk	4	3	1	21	15	6
Worcestershire	3	1	2	12	15	2
Yorkshire 3rd	3	1	2	13	14	2
Lancashire 2nd	3	1	2	10	17	2
Bedfordshire	4	1	3	12	24	2
Nottinghamshire	4	0	4	13	23	0

DIVISION 2B

Donet 2nd	3	3	0	19	8	6
Berkshire 1st	3	3	0	15	12	6
Wiltshire	4	3	1	20	16	6
Kent 3rd	3	2	1	17	10	4
Hampshire 2nd	3	2	1	14	13	4
Middlesex 2nd	4	0	4	15	21	0
Berkshire 2nd	3	0	3	10	17	0
Kent 4th	3	0	3	7	20	0

DIVISION 3A

Yorkshire 4th	4	4	0
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SUMMER COACHING SCHOOLS

DEEP in the grip of deepest winter this issue of Table Tennis News publishes the first two Summer School advertisements. Reminding us all of warmer things to come.

Firstly, Grant Solder announces this year's training camp (page 15, which is once again superbly organised by himself, with Nicky Jarvis returning as Course Director, in this highly successful event in Essex.

Grant Solder's course features two of the most experienced coaches in England, Nicky Jarvis and Desmond Douglas.

Nicky has vast international knowledge and is a former England No.1. He works full time as a coach at the Peniel Academy in Essex.

Desmond, who is a legend in his own lifetime, has done it all and is a much sought after coach.

The second advertisement on page 27, is from the newest of the Summer Schools, the Alan Cooke and Nicola Deaton partnership.

This is the second year of their training camp, and it has expanded into two consecutive weeks.

Alan Cooke and Nicola Deaton are popular faces on the table tennis scene, regularly playing and coaching throughout the UK.

Alan, who is also coaching at the Grant Solder Summer School, is currently captaining and coaching the National Senior Mens Team at the National Table Tennis Academy in Nottingham. He is former National Champion, Commonwealth Gold medallist and European Silver Team medallist. Alan's wealth of experience in both playing and coaching still sees him competing in the ETTA Grand Prix events throughout the country, and he is currently playing for the Swiss team Meryin TTC in the Premier Division.

Nicola who is currently England's No.1 lady also holds the English National Womens title.

Whilst preparing for the Commonwealth Games in July at

Manchester, Nicola is taking a Psychology degree at Nottingham University. Her understanding of the modern game makes her one of England's most sought after lady coaches.

NEW SPORT ENGLAND WORKSHOPS & STUDY PACKS

If YOUR CLUB is seeking more players, more funds or better facilities you are facing the challenge of club development.

Sport England has revised its Running Sport range of workshops and home study packs to help you successfully build up your sports club.

The new workshops can be tailored specifically to meet the individual needs of your club. Or if you prefer you could simply buy the home

study pack to work through on your own or in a group. The packs will help you to find out more about key issues such as how to fund raise, how to improve your junior section or how to make the most of your volunteers.

If you would like to book your own workshop or buy a home resource pack ring the Running Sport hotline on 0845 7585136.

Sport England's Running Sport Club Development Programme is also offering a range of lively, informative workshops which are open to all clubs throughout England between January and March 2002.

Workshops are held in the evening or at the weekend and are being offered at a special rate of £10.

For more information on individual or open workshops/home study packs telephone the Running Sport hotline on 0845 7585 136 or visit www.sportengland.org, click on "what we do" and select "Running Sport".



Grantham College

Table Tennis Academy

Are you aged 16 or above and playing table tennis to at least county standard? Do you want to improve your national ranking and study for a national qualification?



Alan Cook and Nicola Deaton use Grantham College as a venue for their popular summer school. Nicola says "The College is an excellent venue, its centrally located and very well equipped."

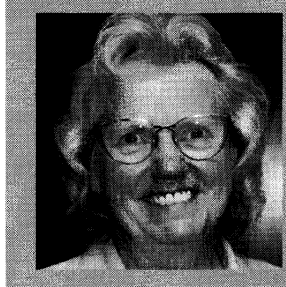
Then why not enrol at Grantham College's Table Tennis Academy in September 2002. Located in the heart of England, Grantham College is one of the U.K's top Further Education Colleges. At the new academy you will be able to take advantage of our excellent facilities, including self-catering accommodation, you'll benefit from 15 hours worth of professional coaching every week and be able to compete in local, regional and national tournaments.

For further information telephone 01476 400282.

www.grantham.ac.uk

Approved by





ETTA NATIONAL RANKING LIST

TOP OF THE TABLE

JANUARY 2002 - List 95
 Further details please ring Doreen Nightingale 01424 722525

Senior Men

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
1	SYED, Matthew (SY.)	4836	
(1)	2 HERBERT, Gareth (BK.)	4676	
(2)	3 PERRY, Alex (DV.)	4634	
(3)	4 COOKE, Alan (DY.)	4624*	
5	BAGGLEY, Andrew (BU.)	4571	
(4)	6 PREEN, Carl (IW.)	4546	
(5)	7 YOUNG, Terry (BK.)	4509	
(6)	8 BILLINGTON, Bradley (DY.)	4428	
(7)	9 RUSHTON, Andrew (LA.)	4356	
(10)	10 EDEN, Andrew (LA.)	4123***	
(11)	11 BARHAM, Dale (CA.)	4022	
(12)	12 ISHERWOOD, Michael (DY.)	3930***	
(18)	13 KENNY, Mathew (Y.)	3924	
(16)	14 SUGRUE, Jason (MI.)	3866	
(14)	15 HOLLAND, John(Dy) (E.)	3862	
(15)	16 SLADDEN, Cris (E.)	3826	
(19)	17 VENNER, Ritchie (SX.)	3680	
(21)	18 GOODALL, Justin (K.)	3660	
(20)	19 JAMES, Michael (Y.)	3659	
(22)	20 TAYLOR, Jonathan (LA.)	3615*	
(23)	21 CHAN, Michael (SY.)	3602	
(24)	22 MOORE, Adrian (K.)	3574	
(26)	23 BARR, David (BK.)	3560	
(28)	24 BROWN, Mark (CH.)	3557	
(25)	25 CHARLES, Neil (ML.)	3545	
(29)	26 ROGERS, Chris (LE.)	3538	
(27)	27 WURAOA, Abdul (SY.)	3503	
(30)	28 CUTLER, Tom (MI.)	3495*	
(31)	29 HILTON, John (CH.)	3494	
(33)	30 SMITH, Eddie (ND.)	3488	
(32)	31 CARTH, Clive (E.)	3478	
(44)	32 ECKERSLEY, Nigel (SX.)	3457	
(37)	33 DOLDER, Kevin (LA.)	3452	
(41)	34 SMITH, Mark Richard (Y.)	3450	
(43)	35 NEIL, Lee (NG.)	3433	
36	WHITING, Paul (DV.)	3428	
(36)	37 SLATER, Stephen (ST.)	3426*	
(39)	38 WILKINSON, Andrew (ND.)	3396	
(45)	39 KENNEDY, Joe (K) (E.)	3393	
(40)	40 HUTCHINGS, Paul (LA.)	3381*	
(46)	41 JOHNS, Brian (CH.)	3378	
(51)	42 PAPANTONIOU, Costas (MI.)	3371	
(38)	43 BAKER, Gregory (ST.)	3370	
(47)	44 CUNNINGHAM, Andy (K.)	3369	
(48)	45 BRYANT, Craig (DV.)	3348	
(49)	46 GRIFFIN, Darren (GS.)	3319	
(47)	47 ATKINSON, David (CA.)	3315	
(50)	48 POINTNEY, Robert (SY.)	3311	
(53)	49 HALL, Dominic (K.)	3303	
(52)	50 GIBSON, Sean (E.)	32991*	
(55)	51 DRINKHALL, Bryn (CV.)	3290	
(56)	52 HORNER, Daniel (CH.)	3278*	
(57)	53 JOHNSON, Ben (BK.)	3257	
(60)	54 CLAYTON, Tony (DO.)	3251	
(107)	55 BARATY, Eli (MI.)	3250	
(61)	56 RANKIN, John (LA.)	3245	
(69)	57 ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3238	
(58)	58 GANNON, David (CH.)	3232	
(64)	59 BRIDGETT, Gregory (DV.)	3230***	
(72)	60 TENDLER, Gary (E.)	3224	
(66)	61 GREEN, Mark (NG.)	3224	
(73)	62 JONAH, Jerome (K.)	3215	
(67)	63 MCLEAN, Ian (NK.)	3205*	
(70)	64 PAYNE, Phil (SO.)	3205	
(68)	65 SHORT, Mark (YS.)	3203*	
(65)	66 MCKOY, Nick (MI.)	3200	
(62)	67 WIGNALL, Andy (LI.)	3188	
(59)	68 WILLIAMS, Keith (LA.)	3182	
(71)	69 ADAMS, Martin (BK.)	3172*	
(78)	70 CAMPBELL, Selwyn (SY.)	3171	
(82)	71 HORSFIELD, Andrew (YS.)	3159	
(75)	72 COX, Philip (K.)	3156	
(76)	73 GIRDLER, Ian (E.)	3153	
(74)	74 WELSMAN, Dave (NP.)	3153	
(77)	75 HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3150***	
(83)	76 CICCHELLI, Paul (SK.)	3137	
(80)	77 GOODOLD, David (DU.)	3126*	
(79)	78 CORBIN, Anthony (HE.)	3125	
(81)	79 HARDSEN, Michael (DU.)	3122*	
(88)	80 GELDER, Tony (DU.)	3120*	
(84)	81 JAMESON, Christopher (E.)	3110	
(86)	82 SMITH, Richard A (Y.)	3106	
(96)	83 BARTRAM, Peter (SX.)	3103	
(87)	84 ROMANO, Mark (K.)	3091	
(93)	85 WALSH, Jimmy (HE.)	3084	
(117)	86 WHITEMAN, James (DV.)	3081	
(92)	87 WALKER, Andy (SX.)	3076	

(89)	88 ROOFE, Eddie (WI.)	3062
(85)	89 JAMES, Simon (Y.)	3061
(94)	90 HARDING, David (SY.)	3045
(99)	91 GASCOYNE, Craig (NG.)	3039
(90)	92 SHORT, Mike (DV.)	3038
(91)	93 YARNALL, Tim (NP.)	3036
(95)	94 BREWER, Adam (NK.)	3029
(98)	95 FORD, Christopher (LA.)	3028
(97)	96 BAILEY, Steven (CV.)	3027
(101)	97 ROCKALL, Simon (BU.)	3016
(102)	98 LIGHTOWLER, Richard (Y.)	3006
(108)	99 BUTLER, Mark (DO.)	3004
100	100 MAJITHA, Mayur (SX.)	3002

Senior Women

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 DEATON, Nicola (DY.)	4021	
(2)	2 LOWER, Helen (ST.)	3953	
(5)	3 PARKER, Katy (LA.)	3717	
(3)	4 MARLING, Linda (E.)	3615	
(6)	5 OWALABI, Kubrat (MI.)	3667***	
(10)	6 STEWARD, Kate (SO.)	3598	
(11)	7 WALKER, Georgina (NG.)	3568	
(8)	8 BAWDEN, Natalie (E.)	3568	
(12)	9 PARKER, Joanna (SY.)	3463	
(14)	10 MARLING, Sally (Y.)	3393**	
(13)	11 DURRANT, Louise (NG.)	3389	
(15)	12 SMITH, Karen (LE.)	3317	
(16)	13 HARRIS, Jill (ST.)	3239	
(17)	14 EMBLING, Abigail (E.)	3224*	
(19)	15 SPARKES, Rebecca (SK.)	3199**	
(23)	16 LOCKWOOD, Karen (CH.)	3144	
(22)	17 THORNTON, Lindsey (LA.)	3141	
(24)	18 ROBERTS, Joanna (Y.)	3139	
(21)	19 YARDY, Hannah (E.)	3138***	
(26)	20 DUNNING, Jan (WO.)	3135	
(20)	21 HOWARD, Alice (CH.)	3134	
(25)	22 SIBLEY, Kelly (WA.)	3127	
(30)	23 COHEN, Michele (AV.)	3111	
(32)	24 WESTON, Sally (SX.)	3110	
(27)	25 KEAST, Lesley (LI.)	31021**	
(31)	26 RAINTON, Rosemary (SX.)	3098	
(33)	27 SPINK, Lauren (NK.)	3093	
(28)	28 BLOOR, Trudie (SP.)	3053	
(37)	29 NARENDRA, Aparna (MI.)	3040	
(29)	30 NEWNS, Clare (CH.)	3039	
(34)	31 BONGERS, Jose (ST.)	3029	
(42)	32 CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.)	3008	
(35)	33 HARPER, Sandra (BD.)	3006	
(36)	34 SHIELDS, Helen (Y.)	3000	
(39)	35 SMITH, Angela (MI.)	2995	
(39)	36 WHITE, Nicola (Y.)	2964	
(40)	37 SMITH, Sarah (NG.)	2962*	
(38)	38 BUOY, Brenda (LA.)	2961	
(41)	39 ASHOSN, Glenda (SY.)	29531**	
(53)	40 LLOYD, Gemma (CH.)	2931	
(43)	41 SILBURN, Nicola (Y.)	2928*	
(51)	42 MORLEY, Judy (GS.)	2925	
(48)	43 DURHAM, Jane (CV.)	2923	
(45)	44 SHORT, Elaine (DV.)	2920**	
(44)	45 BALDI, Andrea(S) (Y.)	2920*	
(46)	46 SIMPSON, Linda (Y.)	2920*	
(49)	47 PEARCE, Diane (K.)	2903	
(47)	48 MARLING, Samantha (MI.)	2901**	
(61)	49 FISHER, Rebecca (MI.)	2892	
(58)	50 MALBY, Margaret (NP.)	2889	
(69)	51 INGHAM, Katy (CH.)	2887	
(50)	52 DAVISON, Sarah (SK) (E.)	2875**	
(55)	53 BAWDEN, Marilyn (E.)	2864	
(52)	54 KING, Sheila (SX.)	2858	
(54)	55 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)	2855*	
(56)	56 BENNETT, Teresa (SX.)	2840**	
(98)	57 PERRY, Lucy (DV.)	2838	
(58)	58 WANG, Lucy (E.)	2829	
(71)	59 WRIGHT, Amy (E.)	2819	
(60)	60 SCHOFIELD, Doreen (CH.)	2817*	
(59)	61 RIDER, Sandra (Y.)	2815**	
(57)	62 PERRY, Penny (DV.)	2808	
(64)	63 HARRISON, Jennifer (E.)	2804	
(73)	64 DIGNUM, Margaret (WO.)	2799	
(62)	65 PESTKA, Debbie (NG.)	2796*	
(63)	66 COGOGN, Sara (SX.)	2792**	
(65)	67 SORRENTINO, Annabelle (CH.)	2783**	
(78)	68 BURGESS, Suzanne (CH.)	2775	
(68)	69 WILSON, Naomi (SO.)	2771	
(77)	70 ROBINSON, Suzanne (GS.)	2767	
(70)	71 HUDGE, Kim (E.)	27601*	
(72)	72 HORSNELL, Sarah (MI.)	2752	
(74)	73 JUDSON, Carol (Y.)	2743	

(75)	74 KNIGHTLEY, Gillian (BK.)	2742
(66)	75 BRISTOW, Angie (K.)	2742
(76)	76 GARLICK, Helen (K.)	27391
(67)	77 MAY, Elizabeth (DV.)	2736
(80)	78 SEAHOLME, Sarah (HE.)	2732
79	LEHMANN, Bettina (LE.)	2723
(79)	80 DAWSON, Marjorie (E.)	2723**
(81)	81 SAYER, Elaine (E.)	27111*
(82)	82 SHALER, Eileen (LE.)	2705
(83)	83 REID, Lynda (WO.)	2695
(84)	84 BROWN, Janet (OX.)	2686
(95)	85 FLOWERDAY, Anne (E.)	2685
(86)	86 VICKERS, Jane (DV.)	2677
(94)	87 POINTNER, Lucy (IW.)	2677
(87)	88 GRAHAM, Sylvia (LA.)	2676
(88)	89 HALES, Linda (DO.)	2672
(89)	90 GELDER, Shirley (DU.)	2664
(92)	91 H-MIDDLEMORE, Joan (WA.)	2661
(91)	92 BAX, Sally (HE.)	2660
(85)	93 SEYMOUR, Tamar (OX.)	2658
(90)	94 DEARING, Emily (Y.)	2655
(93)	95 WHITE, Jean (LI.)	2646
(96)	96 SPARKES, Aimee (SK.)	2625
(97)	97 JOINTSON, Susan (BW.)	2624
(143)	98 TODD, Nicole (E.)	2604
(99)	99 KENNARD, Nikki (E.)	2602
(102)	100 STEEL, Pauline (SX.)	2600

Junior Boys

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 BARHAM, Dale (CA.)	4022	
(2)	2 KENNY, Mathew (Y.)	3924	
(3)	3 BAKER, Gregory (ST.)	3370	
(4)	4 BRYANT, Craig (DI.)	3348	
(5)	5 HALL, Dominic (K.)	3303	
(6)	6 DRINKHALL, Bryn (CV.)	3290	
(7)	7 HORNER, Daniel (CH.)	3278*	
(8)	8 ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3238	
(9)	9 YARNALL, Tim (NP.)	3036	
(11)	10 BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA.)	2858	
(10)	11 DENNY, Stephen (Y.)	2852	
(12)	12 CLEMINSON, Peter (E.)	2766	
(13)	13 NUTCH, Simon (Y.)	2718*	
(14)	14 DRINKHALL, Paul (CV.)	2578*	
(16)	15 MARPLES, Shaun (DP.)	2548	
(17)	16 GREGORY, Christopher (SP.)	2520	
(22)	17 CLARKE, Martyn (CV.)	2485	
(18)	18 KNIGHT, Darius (Y.)	2440	
(23)	19 GREEN, Alex (LI.)	2420	
(19)	20 EVANS, Bradley (BU) (NG.)	2400	
(21)	21 YARNALL, Greg (NP.)	2393	
(20)	22 MAUTHOOR, Umair (E.)	2364***	
(28)	23 CARTWRIGHT, Neil (DO.)	2285	
(24)	24 PEEBLES, Robin (LA.)	2224*	
(25)	25 BROSOKS, Warren (BU.)	2051	
(26)	26 WYNN-SANDS, Dominic (GS.)	2034	
(31)	27 LALLY, Keiran (E.)	2002	
(27)	28 WILSON, Kevin (ND.)	1970	
(32)	29 POWELL, Neil (CH.)	1955	
(33)	30 MOSS, Richard (Y.)	1899	
(34)	31 LEIGHTON, Andrew (DU.)	1872	
(37)	32 LEMON, Robert (SY.)	1795	
(41)	33 NICHOLLS, Ashley (SP.)	1776	
(40)	34 CAMILLERI, John (OX.)	1747	
(35)	35 REES, Daniel (E.)	1725	
(39)	36 SHUTES, William (NK.)	1721*	
(38)	37 HARLEY, John (DU.)	1720	
(75)	38 STAINES, Matthew (E.)	1714	
(42)	39 MOORE, Paul (SY.)	1672**	
(44)	40 HAYES, David (BU.)	1669	
(43)	41 BRADFORD, Leigh (WA.)	1668	
(57)	42 BROWN, Christopher (DV.)	1655	
(36)	43 HEAD, Stephen (K.)	1654	
(45)	44 SHAHLAEI, Harry (GS.)	1648	
(47)	45 MORAN, Edward (SP.)	1609**	
(46)	46 MILTON, James (BU.)	1606	
(48)	47 MEADS, David (DU.)	1589	
(50)	48 ROGERSON, Shaun (LI.)	1587*	
(51)	49 HAYWARD, Gareth (WA.)	1583*	
(49)	50 MITCHELL, Thomas (BU.)	1563	

Junior Girls

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 PARKER, Katy (LA.)	3717	
(3)	2 STEWARD, Kate (SO.)	3598	
(2)	3 BAWDEN, Natalie (E.)	3568	
(4)	4 WALKER, Georgina (NG.)	3568	
(5)	5 PARKER, Joanna (SY.)	3463	
(6)	6 EMBLING, Abigail (E.)	3224*	

(7)	7 SIBLEY, Kelly (WA.)	3127
(8)	8 SPINK, Lauren (NK.)	3083
(10)	9 CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.)	3008
(9)	10 WHITE, Nicola (Y.)	2964
(13)	11 INGHAM, Katy (CH.)	2887
(11)	12 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)	2855*
(14)	13 WRIGHT, Amy (E.)	2819
(12)	14 WILSON, Naomi (SO.)	2771
(15)	15 POINTER, Lucy (IW.)	2711
(16)	16 SPARKES, Aimee (SK.)	2625
(17)	17 ROBERTS, Hannah (LA.)	2577
(18)	18 GRAHAM, Cherith (LA.)	2541
(19)	19 BROWN, Sarah (E.)	2496
(20)	20 LANGFORD, Clare (CH.)	2475
(21)	21 CALCUTT, Lisa (BK.)	2450***
(26)	22 YARNLEY, Gemma (K.)	2356
(22)	23 BROWN, Grace (E.)	2331
(23)	24 SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LI.)	2288*
(24)	25 RADFORD, Kerry (NG.)	2269
(25)	26 TONG, Rebecca (LA.)	2250**
(27)	27 CRAVEN-GRIFFITHS, Kelly (LE.)	2028*
(34)	28 TUCKER, Emily (BU.)	2071
(29)	29 VAJDI, Christina (ST.)	2021*
(30)	30 DENNETT, Elizabeth (CH.)	2020
(31)	31 HOWARD, Clara (CH.)	1983
(28)	32 WEIL, Emma (E.)	1976
(32)	33 HUBBARD, Joanne (K.)	1851
(33)	34 BARRETT, Michelle (DV.)	1740
(35)	35 WALLER, Tanya (Y.)	1740
(37)	36 WEIL, Lucy (E.)	1712
(36)	37 WILSON, Claire (DU.)	1708
(38)	38 BELL, Amanda (Y.)	1707
(40)	39 SHUTT, Heather (Y.)	1693
(39)	40 HOLLETT, Gemma (SY.)	1690
(41)	41 SENEVIRATNE, Anusha (K.)	1628
(42)	42 BALDI, Rachel(YS) (Y.)	1612
(43)	43 HEARD, Gemma (E.)	1609*
(48)	44 EASLEY, Jane (ST.)	1590
(44)	45 CLUCAS, Hazel (K.)	1549
(45)	46 CLEMINSON, Jessica (E.)	1508*
(47)	47 CHEESMAN, Leah (E.)	1484*
(46)	48 PARTON, Helen (DV.)	1441
(49)	49 MEADS, Joanne (DU.)	1361
(57)	50 RADFORD, Lisa (DV.)	1264

Cadet Boys

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
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continued from page 15

the Association.

I have now had an opportunity of reading the report of Sport England's Management Audit Department's review.

The potential for conflict of interest exists in a wide range of organisations and I think that the important point is to ensure that where the potential for such conflict exists there are procedures in place which are sufficiently robust to ensure that potential conflicts do not become actual conflicts. This approach would be consistent with the advice given in the Cabinet Office's publication Guidance on Codes of Practice for Board Members of Public Bodies. This provides for declarations of conflicts of interest, rules to deal with conflicts of interest, registers of interests and that members should not take part in discussions or meetings in which they have a pecuniary interest.

In the case of the ETTA it has, as you know, a Trade Committee in respect of which Alan Ransome has no influence or involvement, which deals with the consideration and letting of all contracts. It seems to me that the ETTA's procedures for dealing with conflicts of interest, including the letting of contracts is in line with the Cabinet Office guidance.

Also following its consideration of the ETTA review, Sport England's Council has adopted a policy that individuals associated with governing bodies who declare a conflict of interest should either be prohibited from conducting business directly or indirectly with the governing body or alternatively permitted to conduct business, provided that appropriate procedures are in place in the governing body to manage the conflict of interests. In either case the governing body should inform Sport England of the position and conflicts of interest should be declared in the governing body's annual report. Sport England seeks evidence of the effective operation of this policy as part of its regular 'fit for purpose' reviews of governing bodies. In my view this an appropriate way in which to deal with conflicts of interest.

In the circumstances I do not consider that there is any justification for further action in respect of Alan Ransome and his position at the ETTA, subject to Sport England keeping the situation under review, which I have asked them to do.

*RT HON Richard Caborn MP
Minister for Sport*

UNFOUNDED

I have just read the second issue of the Sportbreak. Once again, unfounded comments about the Chairman of the ETTA, but the point that really annoyed me is the same one that I hear all the time from volunteers around the country. "No one tells us anything - we do not know what is going on" I am sorry, but there is no truth in this whatsoever!!

For as long as I have been involved in Table Tennis and a member of the ETTA I have found no difficulty in obtaining information on any subject I was interested in. I have found, however,

over a period of many years that the majority of people at the "grass roots" have no interest in the inner workings of the ETTA or its initiatives.

So often I am told that people do not know, or cannot find out, about certain matters, whether political or practical. These people have only themselves to blame, the number of meetings I have attended at County level where interesting facts have been expressed and then upon attending a local league meeting have heard the County representative report that nothing happened.

How many of our National Councillors actually report on national matters to their County? If they do, how many league representatives then carry the message to the leagues? Even then, the

number of people attending any of these meetings does not represent a fair proportion of the players.

I know that our RDO's and others working in the field do their utmost to ensure that all information is filtered down to grass roots level.

I also understand that many people who play once a week and hang up the bat at the end of the season have no real interest in the development or progress of the sport.

In fact too many people who claim to be members of the ETTA do not share this information with their friends and certainly do not share an interest in encouraging others to take up the game.

We have fewer coaches, fewer umpires and generally fewer volunteers than we have ever had. Why? Everyone is "too

busy" to give anything back to the sport they have enjoyed. Many volunteers take posts at local, county and even national level "because no one else will". This is hardly the right spirit to encourage progress or ensure the continuance of Table Tennis.

So, please do not tell us that there is a secret agenda or that no one knows what is going on without first checking the facts of your own post! I am sure that some leagues do work hard to ensure that members have all the latest information and to those we are grateful. Everyone else should be doing the same. So, Sportbreak do some more research before you publish and find out why the people you are speaking to are so reluctant to come forward.

Carol Beames, Hollingbury Club

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.

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

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

OUR TEAM OF HIGHLY QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS WILL IMPROVE YOUR GAME OVER THE DURATION OF YOUR STAY

VIDEO ANALYSIS, MULTIBALL, ONE-TO-ONE, PERSONAL TUITION, PLAYER PROFILES, PSYCHOLOGY WORKSHOPS, EXHIBITIONS

GERALD HAMMOND

GERALD GEORGE HAMMOND, known to us all as Gerald. In whatever circles he moved there was no need for his surname, mention the name Gerald and everyone knew who you meant.

He was my best male friend so if I should falter during this tribute I am sure you will understand.

During the many years I knew him Gerald had many people and hobbies he loved but those which will always remind me of him are:-

Firstly his abiding love for his wife, Chris, and anyone who saw them together will know that their love for each other shone out like a beacon in the darkness.

The second was his family, his daughter Sharon and her husband Ray, his extended family, Ian, Tina, Mark, Debbie, Karen and Andrew and his grandchildren, Simon, Sean, Conrad, Bradley, Craig, Tessa and Stephen.

The third was this Church, in which we are now celebrating his life and the faith he found here together with the many, many friends he had amongst the congregation.

Another three, in no special order, were Table Tennis Administration, Barbershop Chorus singing and collecting gadgets from those magazines we all get through our letterboxes advertising goods we simply can't manage without even though we have done so for years. It must be said, however, that those gadgets were usually (and I quote Gerald) "something my Chrissie would like"

Other people will be telling you about some of the above but I am here to tell you about Gerald's love for, and commitment to, table tennis.

As far back as the mid 1970's Gerald and I used to play each other at table tennis. We all knew Gerald as a mild, laid back, kind of a guy but I am here to tell you that on the table tennis table he was quite the opposite. We had many a battle over the years and we both hated to lose.

Consequently things tended to get a bit heated but I am happy to say that at the end of our matches there would always be a firm handshake and a "well done Gerald" or "well done John" depending upon who had won.

In Table Tennis Administration Gerald had many roles - he was Chairman and Treasurer of the Bedford & District Table Tennis League and Treasurer of the Bedfordshire County Table Tennis Association.

He was an International Umpire

and, as such, he umpired many matches from first round junior singles up to full Senior International matches.

Gerald was also a National Referee which meant that he was in charge of the running of a complete tournament or championship with anything from six to thirty table under his control and, again, ranging from junior events up to the English National Championships. I was privileged to work with Gerald, either as his Deputy Referee or he as my Deputy and I do not recollect one occasion when Gerald was not in control. He was firm but he was also always fair and no-one could have had cause to complain about the decisions he made.

Table Tennis has a ruling body known as National Council, comprising a representative from each County together with various other officers and Gerald was National Councillor for Bedfordshire from 1980 to the present time. He was not one for pushing his views down other people's throats but when he did have something to say it always made a lot of sense.

Gerald was Secretary of the English Table Tennis Association Tournaments Committee which is set up to ensure that persons wishing to organise tournaments adhere to certain standards. Such was his worth that, some years ago, when a Chairman of that committee wanted to replace him, an influential person who was Chairman of another E.T.T.A. committee threatened to resign. Gerald stayed!

He was also Secretary of the English Table Tennis Association Calendar Working Party which is the body responsible for ensuring that each season's championships, tournaments etc. are as evenly spread throughout the season as possible. I was fortunate enough to work with Gerald on that committee and I have, in fact, just been elected Chairman of it and was looking forward with eager anticipation to working with Gerald as Secretary. Sadly this is not to be.

I hope what I have had to say about Gerald and Table Tennis has given you some idea of how much he will be missed by all of us in the game he loved and, whilst I don't know if they have committees in Heaven, I do know that if they do Gerald will soon be on some of them giving them the benefit of his wisdom and common sense.

We know that Gerald cannot sit on the right hand of God the Father because this place is reserved for His dear son Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour but if anyone deserves to sit

immediately to the left of the Father that person is Gerald Hammond.

John Jermy

FRANK HATTON

IT IS with great sorrow and regret that I have to report the sudden death of Frank Hatton, on Friday 14th December 2001, in Southampton aged 54.

Frank was best known for his major involvement in the Plymouth table tennis scene.

He was instrumental in forming the now disbanded Pilgrims Junior Table Tennis Club, in the early 1970's. This club was one of the bigger and more successful ones in the Plymouth and District Table Tennis League for many years. Notably the club won the Junior National Championships

during its 18 year existence.

Hatton was coach to many City and Devon players, who went on to achieve top honours in the sport, for example Paul Whiting, Mike Shearman, Carol and Sue Butler to name a few. All benefited greatly from Frank's expertise and training methods.

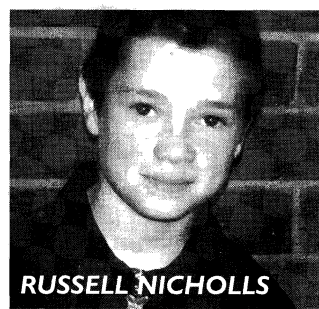
Plymouth born and bred, Hatton worked at Devonport Dockyard. He was strong in his beliefs, determined to achieve his aims and will be remembered as a man of pride.

We send our condolences to his wife Jane and other members of his family.

John Vincent

Devon Coaching Officer

KNUTSFORD CADET & UNDER 12 OPEN



PLAYERS from as far a field as Devon, London and Scotland converged on the Egerton Youth Centre in Knutsford on Sunday 23rd December, to participate in the 1st Knutsford Cadet and Under 12 Open Championships.

Shropshire's Russell Nicholls, the middle of three table tennis brothers, won the Cadet Boys Super Group with Adam Kelly (Middlesex) the runner-up. The Cadet Girls event was won by Scotland's Jenny Galloway from Cheshire's Kathryn Hatton.

In the Boys Under 12 Super Group, Scotland again provided the winner with Craig Howieson beating Paul Johnson (Lincolnshire). Local success was achieved by Stockport's Caroline Hallows in the Under 12 Girls Singles. Runner-up was Durham's Sarah Robinson.

The winner of the 'Player of the Tournament' award was Cumbria's Liam Regan, who, in spite of having a zero rating remained undefeated in winning the Cadet Boys Group Two.

The playing format of 7 or 8 person groups proved very popular and organisers Sportbreak were requested by an overwhelming number of both players and parents to use this format in future events.

DREAM DAY FOR SANI

WOLVERHAMPTON'S SANI CLAIR had the most successful day's table tennis ever on Sunday 30th December, when, against all the odds he won the Mens Singles Super Group at the Briar Mid Cheshire Open.

Seeded 7th in a group of 8, his only loss was to 2nd seed Chris Ford (Liverpool), who in turn lost to Mike Johns (a late replacement for flu victim John Hilton) and top seed Keith Williams (Liverpool). Pipping Ford to the runners-up spot was Cheshire's Wayne Percival.

Mens Singles Group One winner was Dominic Johns, playing his first tournament since returning from Australia.

15 year old, local girl Elizabeth Dennett won the Womens Singles with fellow junior Jane Easley the runner-up.

ENGLAND SUCCESSES

TWO sparkling victories just before the festive season were a boost for players, coaches, professional staff, volunteers and England fans - 3-2 by our womens team taking revenge over Holland - and then up to chilly Co. Durham where the men out-gunned Slovakia 3-1, writes John Woodford.

The Netherlands team, currently have just one strong player Melissa Muller winning both in four games against Helen Lower and Nicky Deaton.

England got away to a flying start with a 14, 6, 7 win by our national champion, Nicola Deaton, against Floor Tebbe, with most of the counter-hitting rallies going England's way. Our Derbyshire star is probably the best counter-hitter in an England team for some years. Muller then beat Helen Lower but the Wolverhampton professional snatched the first 9 and looked all set for a fifth game before the Dutch No.1 got home at 8.

Then England played their ace card - Katy Parker in the middle of the order playing with much more assurance and drive than in the Swedish Open. Cathy Hof was all at sea not knowing what to make of the Parker strategy - a top-spin drive, a chop and a float in varying order - so Katy gave England a vital 2-1 lead by 9, -9, 3, 3.

Nicky Deaton tried hard against Muller who also can defend in depth and attack, even from the rear, but the Dutch girl claimed victory 7 in the fourth.

This left Helen Lower with the pressure-game - the decider against Tebbe. Helen then showed us some of her best shots, never letting up with an onslaught of aggression to win the game 7, 4, 9 and sealing the England victory that should see them finish nearer the top than the bottom of the group taking into account

their earlier win against Poland at Scarborough. Another excellent captaincy by Bradley Billington.

TWO CARDS

AND, so on to Durham, with a day to spare for the match against Slovakia. But, we had two cards up our sleeves that paved the way for the team's first win of the season - the presence of our world-class star of the Japanese circuit - Matthew Syed who, who is now back in Japan until mid February.

The second surprise was that the Slovakian team had to travel overland 36 hours from Bratislava by coach, losing a night's sleep, but leaving the Slovakian TTA with £2,000 extra in their bank, that would have gone on air fares.

Spare a thought for ETTA Events Manager Harvey Webb - he had to drive from Slough to Heathrow, to Victoria Coach Station and then the six-hour drive with the Slovak team to Durham.

However, they put up a brave show, not displaying any signs of their tiring trek across Europe.

Captain Alan Cooke did not understand why the Slovaks got their order wrong - playing their star man Jaromir Truksa only in one game - thus avoiding Syed. However, Syed was able to use exhibition mode towards the end of both is games as he brought down Peter Sereca 6, 5, 6 and finally Martin Grezo 7,4,6.

In the second game of the night before a crowd of around 200, Andrew Baggaley made his return to the England team after a long absence due to an elbow problem. It was a delight to see the Milton Keynes professional (now playing in Sweden) cut through Martin Grezo 9, 5, 7. Playing all-out attack, topspin and all-out driving Baggaley, especially severe to the opponent's backhand court, gave England the 2-0 advantage. Alex Perry, then faced

the hardest task of the night as he was beaten -8, 7, -8, -8 by Jaromir Truksa, the Slovak top man.

But with Syed to come in the fourth game the Durham fans scented victory, England's first this season after losing two away matches.

This victory over the Slovaks should prevent any threat of relegation before we reach Zagreb in March.

Alan Cooke summed up the match with these words -

"It was a good team performance' made easier by the strange playing order of the Slovaks which meant that their best player, Truksa, played only 1 singles. Matthew Syed did a professional job in winning his singles, but he has much more to come in the second half of the season as he builds up to the Manchester Commonwealth Games. Andrew Baggaley played very well, looking fresh and very fit after training in Sweden and at the national centre. Alex Perry looked good considering that he is struggling to balance university work with training.

In summary, it augers well for the Commonwealth Games."

Footnote: On the two venues, the Cippenham club is of course, a model set-up - we need another hundred like Cippenham around the country. Newton Aycliffe it seems, is fortunate to have a large leisure centre in the middle of a fairly small town; an excellent, spacious venue, just a pity it is so far north.

RESULTS:

ENGLAND WOMEN 3, HOLLAND 2
N. Deaton b F. Tebbe 14, 6, 7 H.

Lower 1 M. Muller 9, -10, -3, -8; K. Parker b C. Hof 9, -9, 3, 3; Deaton a Muller -8, 8, -5, -7; Lower b Tebbe 7, 4, 9.

ENGLAND MEN 3, SLOVAKIA 1
M. Syed b P. Sereca 6, 5, 6; A. Baggaley b M. Grezo 9, 5, 7; A. Perry 1 J. Truksa -8, 7, -8, -8; Syed b Grezo 11, 4, 6.

During the last year the ITTF tried to persuade the IOC to include the mixed doubles in the Olympics, but before Christmas the IOC excluded that possibility and now the ITTF has decided to follow another route.

"We told the IOC that an inclusion of mixed doubles would not mean an increased number of athletes, but we have to accept the position of the IOC which is not to increase neither the number of athletes nor the number of events. We were also told that it is too late to change anything for Athens, so now we put our hopes in Beijing", says President of the ITTF Mr. Adham Sharara.

Also years ago, before the mixed doubles discussion, the ITTF had tried to get the team event on the Olympic programme, without however removing any of the existing events. Now the ITTF will 'invent' a new Olympic event for mens teams and womens team, with doubles included.

"The response we have had from the IOC gives me reason to believe that the change could be accepted. It would be great to introduce a new team event at the Olympics in China where table tennis is one of the top sports", says Mr. Sharara.

STOP PRESS DAWEI ITTF PRO TOUR FINALS

THE two Chinese Ma Lin and Wang Liqin are probably right now the two best players in the World.

In a spectacular Mens Singles final at the Dawei Pro Tour Grand Finals, in Tianjin, China, in January, saw Ma Lin win a close decision in the 7th game.

"After my disappointing World Cup performance in Italy in November things have been going better and better for me, now I am beginning to profit from the experience of many international events", says Ma Lin.

The Womens Olympic Champion and the World Champion Wang Nan of China, is still the reigning queen of table tennis, winning the Grand Prix title, here in Tianjin.

BEST OF BRITISH

17 year old former European Youth silver medallist, Adam Robertson from Wrexham, the Welsh No.2, had the outstanding British result at the Austrian Open International Pro Tour at Wels, when he defeated the world No.69 Martin Bratanov of Belgium, 7, 8, 6, -13, 9 to win his Mens Singles group. Earlier Robertson, who trains at the England National Training Centre in Nottingham, had beaten Australian John Tawadrous 4-1.

ITTF GO FOR OLYMPIC TEAMS

THE doubles events replaced by team events at the Olympics! That is the objective of the ITTF and President Adham Sharara has announced that he will already now be applying to the IOC with the hope that the team events would be a reality at the Beijing Olympics 2008.

WORLD TOP TEN

31st DECEMBER 2001

MEN			WOMEN		
1 (1)	2317	WANG Liqin CHN	1 (1)	2332	WANG Nan CHN
2 (2)	2121	SAMSONOV Vladimir BLR	2 (2)	2089	ZHANG Yining CHN
3 (3)	2092	MA Lin CHN	3 (3)	2032	RYU Ji Hye KOR
4 (4)	2049	LIU Guozheng CHN	4 (4)	2018	BOROS Tamara CRO
5 (5)	2030	KONG Linghui CHN	5 (5)	2006	LI Ju CHN
6 (6)	2026	CHIANG Peng-Lung TPE	6 (6)	1922	STEFF Mihaela ROM
7 (7)	1985	KIM Taek Soo KOR	7 (7)	1904	SUN Jin CHN
8 (8)	1983	LIU Guoliang CHN	8 (8)	1882	CHEN Jing TPE
9 (9)	1976	WALDNER Jan Ove SWE	9 (9)	1878	KIM Hyon Hui PRK
10 (10)	1975	SCHLAGER Werner AUT	10 (9)	1871	NIU Jianfeng CHN
62 (63)	1452	SYED Matthew ENG	175(180)1076	LOWER Helen ENG	
131(132)1154	HERBERT Gareth ENG		179(184)1068	DEATON Nicola ENG	

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2002

16th-17th	Schildkrot Junior British League	
16th-17th	ETTA Bournemouth Open	
	Butterfly Grand Prix	
19th-22nd	ITTF Pro Tour Egypt Open	Cairo
23rd	Ormesby & Gainsford Cups R3	
23rd-24th	VETTS Northern Masters	Blackpool
24th	British League (11) Premier Division	
24th	Cirencester Cadet/Junior 1 Star	
24th	Stiga (Hyndburn) GP 3 Star	

MARCH

2nd-3rd	ETTA Senior National Championships	Sheffield
2nd-3rd	Derby 4 Star Junior Select	
4th-8th	ITTF Pro Tour Qatar Open	Doha
9th	County Championships (7) Cadet, Junior, Senior & Veteran	
9th-10th	County Championships (2) Veteran Premier Weekend	
10th	National Cadet League (3)	
10th	British League (12) Premier Division	
16th	ESTTA National Team Finals	
16th-17th	British League Weekend (3)	
17th	Leach & Hammersley Cups (3)	
17th	Pat Archdale Cup (1)	
22nd-24th	BUSA Team Championships	Birmingham
23rd	County Championships Senior Premier	
23rd	Chandlers Cadet/Junior 1 Star	
23rd	County Championships Junior/Senior Premier Divisions (2)	
23rd	National Junior League (4)	
23rd-24th	North Herts Banded 2 Star	
29th-30th	ETTA Butterfly Grand Prix	Gillingham
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	Alex Brook Trophy R2	
13th-14th	ETTA Butterfly Grand Prix	Blackpool
14th	Cippenham Cadet 3 Star	

TABLE TENNIS NEWS COPY DATES

ISSUE	COPY DATES
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OCTOBER 2001	1st SEPTEMBER 2001
NOVEMBER 2001	1st OCTOBER 2001
DECEMBER 2001	1st NOVEMBER 2001
JAN./FEB.2002	1st JANUARY 2002
MARCH 2002	1st FEBRUARY 2002
APRIL 2002	1st MARCH 2002
MAY/JUNE 2002	1st MAY 2002

THE ETTA WEBSITE

www.etta.co.uk