

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

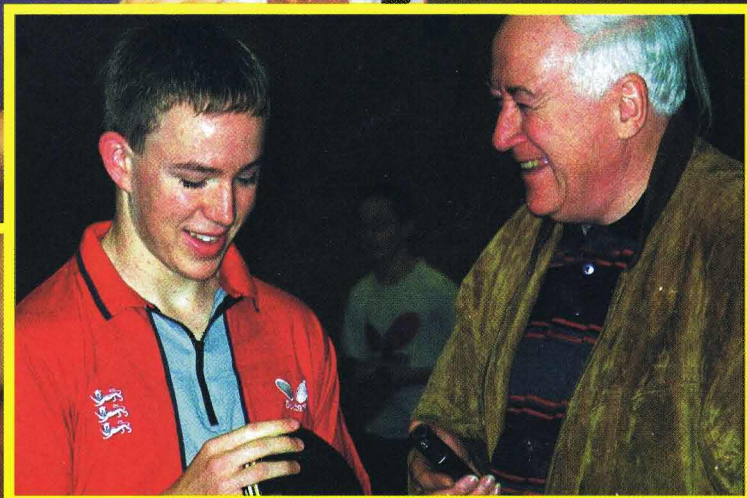
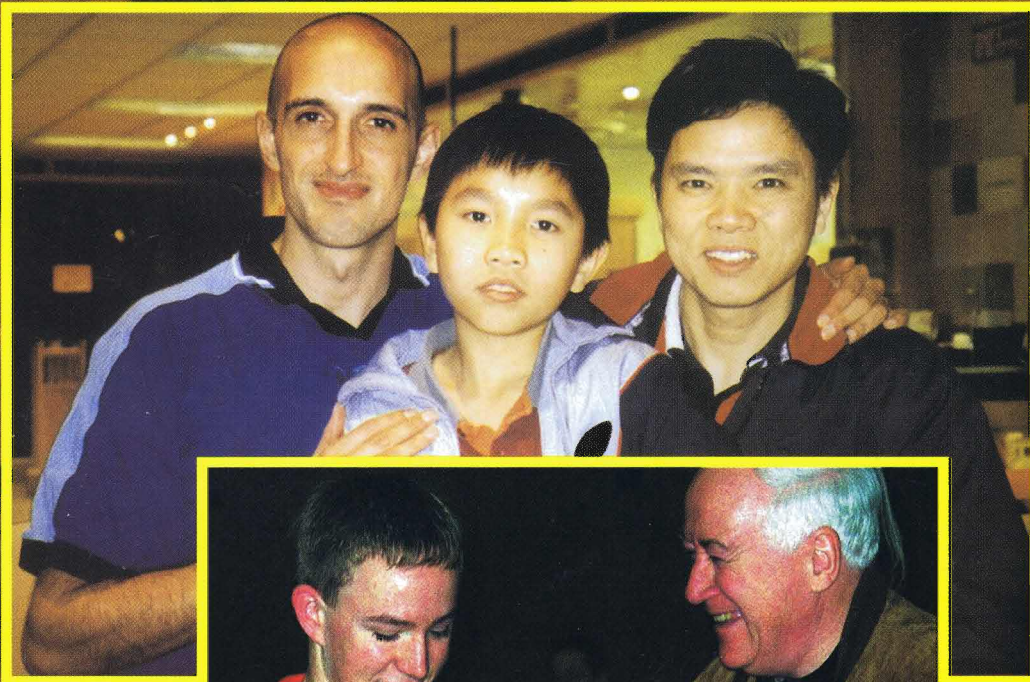
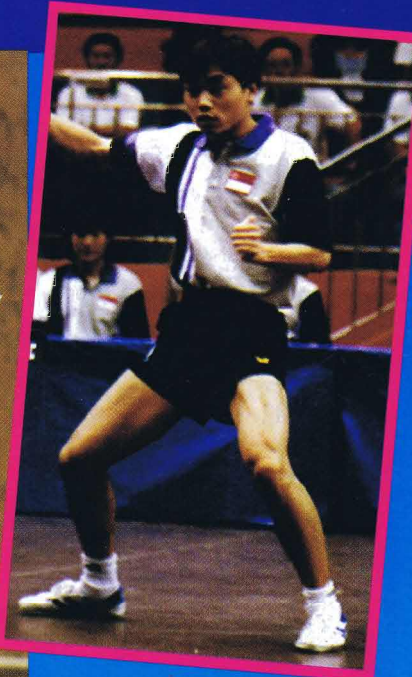
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JUNE/JULY 2002



BRIAN HALLIDAY IS BEDAZZLED BY THE NOTTINGHAM ACADEMY YOUNGER GENERATION



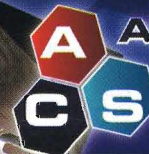
**DUAN YONG JUN
DEFEATS MATT
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PPP healthcare
COMMONWEALTH
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THE ETTA 80th ANNIVERSARY

1922-2002

1922-2002 The English Table Tennis Association will be celebrating their 80th anniversary with a dinner to be held in Birmingham at the end of June.

Brian Halliday has delved into the archives to find out what table tennis was all about all those years ago. This is the first of his two reports.

1922 AND ALL THAT

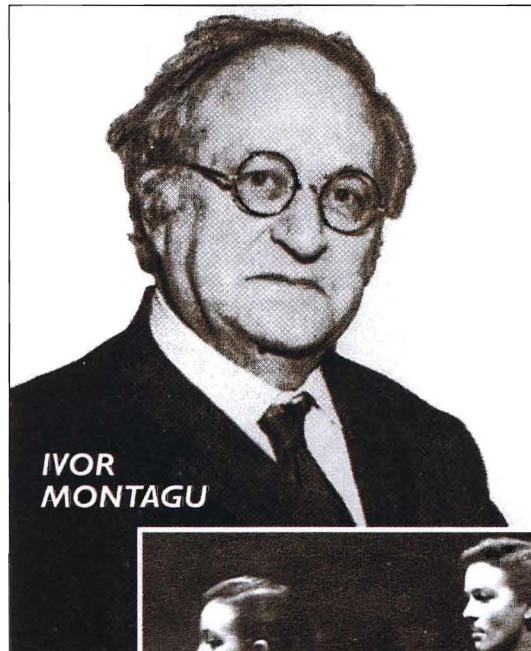
THIS YEAR we are celebrating the ETTA's 80th anniversary. It was that legend of our sport, Ivor Montagu, who fought off all efforts to resist change, who became the first Chairman, at the age of only seventeen.

The sport has had many and varied changes in its long history, most of these coming from English initiatives, and certainly in the early years England gave a lead that the rest of Europe were quick to follow.

England set the standards in the 1920s with so many dedicated administrators. Not that our players lagged behind. A trawl through the records reveals the names of champions, some half forgotten, some immortal, that have given us such a rich history. Barna, Bergmann, Perry, Leach, Hilton, Haydon, Simons, Dace, Franks, Hammersley-Parker, Douglas, Beregi, the Rowe twins, Woodhead, Blackburn - champions all. Right through to the present day we have had winners who entertained. Matt Syed and Nicola Deaton carry on that glorious tradition. Following in their wake are the burgeoning talents of our young stars of tomorrow such as Darius Knight and Joanna Parker.

A long tradition of excellence stemming from those far off days. Well what was the game all about in 1922? It was Ivor Montagu himself who kept a book of Press Cuttings for that very year, and to share some of them with you is a privilege.

The Selfridges store in London ran the first junior tournament, which was held in their toy department. 200 entered and play continued for a week, and it was reported that "the grown-ups became as excited as the games progressed as did the juvenile competitors".



IVOR MONTAGU



THE ROWE TWINS: ROS (left) and DI, England's Womens World Doubles Champions 1951 and 1954

The Daily Chronicle reported that "if club rooms are not available, players should take turns in

placing their own homes at the disposal of members. There are now Ping Pong teas, Ping Pong



One of England's new young hopefuls JOANNA PARKER

suppers, Ping Pong courtships - its all a regular winter feature of suburbia."

A correspondent to the Glasgow Herald in May 1922 complained that equipment was far too expensive. The writer explained that he had taken wire supports from his neighbour's sweet pea trimmers (he was not on speaking terms with him!) as net supports. He said that he had had difficulty with the net itself and had to cut up his wife's jumper. He then stitched along the top to get the string through. He was all set to play his wife then forgot that he had not purchased any balls.

The Evening Standard reported in September 1922 the formation of the London League. 18 clubs signed on.

Also in September 1922 the Guernsey Express reported that a Miss Thornhill had set up a Ping Pong club.

The Civil Service Stores were advertising the game at prices 4/1, 7/3, 9/6, and 12/6 (that is about 20p, 35p, 47p, 62p today!)

The All England Ping Pong Club increased its membership to 150. They advertised for new premises but only "where there were substantial light refreshments".

In the Cinema magazine they extolled the virtues of their new medium but "hoped it would not sink into insignificance as had roller skating and the ping pong craze."

The Evening News reported that even dancing had found a serious rival in Ping Pong. Manufacturers of equipment had to increase their staffs to cope with demand. The article said that "Ping Pong was the craze in England 18 years ago (1904) and it was estimated that nearly 10,000,000 people played."

The Daily Mirror jumped on the table tennis boom by organising a tournament with a car as first prize. Many thousands entered the inaugural event and the championships were to continue right through to the post 2nd World War years.

Ivor's book provides an extraordinary record of that first important year.

More gems from his archive in the next issue when we hope to reproduce some photographs not published since 1922.



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TTN EXTRA
A supplement including 'County Notes',
'Results' and much more.



TABLE TENNIS NEWS & TTN EXTRA

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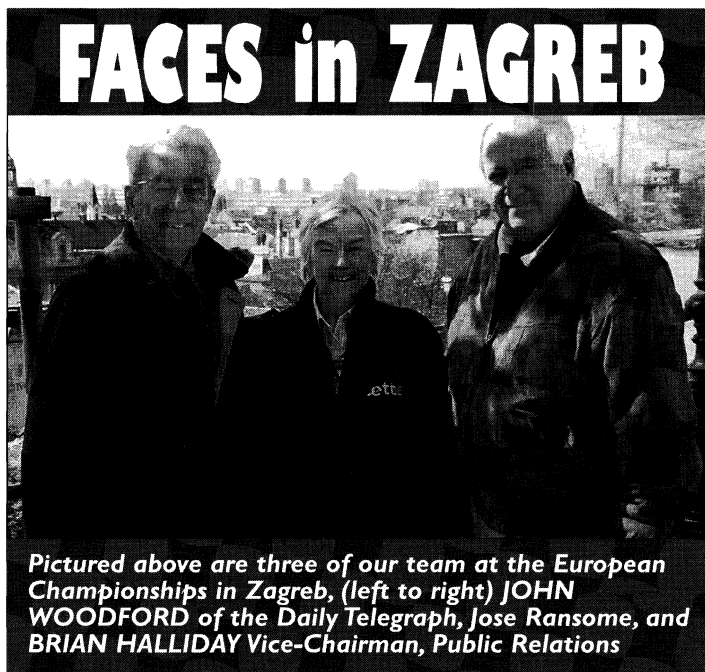


We ask all members of the association to support the above companies who are in turn supporting table tennis.

MAX THOMAS SPONSOR BARNET

SPONSORSHIP for sport is difficult to obtain these days, so it is very pleasing to report that Barnet Table Tennis Centre, in Hertfordshire, has obtained sponsorship for a Summer Handicapped table tennis tournament which will take place on Sunday the 14th July and will be sponsored by Max Thomas Bookmakers of London and Kent.

It is an open handicap singles tournament, open to all ages and abilities but they have to have played previously have played in a summer or winter league at Barnet, so Chris Budden can handicap players accordingly. The prize money is £300 in total, of which £150 and a trophy



FACES in ZAGREB

Pictured above are three of our team at the European Championships in Zagreb, (left to right) JOHN WOODFORD of the Daily Telegraph, Jose Ransome, and BRIAN HALLIDAY Vice-Chairman, Public Relations

cup goes to the winner, £80 for the runner-up, plus £35 each for the 3rd and 4th.

This possibly the first time that bookmakers have sponsored a table tennis tournament.

A spokesman for Max Thomas Bookmakers said, "If this tournament at Barnet is a success there could be bigger things in store for the sport".

WOODY'S World

ON BEHALF of Table Tennis News I wish to congratulate our Patron Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who celebrated her Golden Jubilee on 2nd June 2002.

This issue sees the cover story 'The Academy Part II' by Brian Halliday, published on pages 10 and 11. A reading must for parents and up and coming youngsters.

As we celebrate our 80th anniversary, TTN takes a look into the archives, see page 2.

Also as part of our double anniversary celebrations, Richard Habgood interviews Alan Ransome, see page 12.

John Wood



GLEN and CAROLINE WILKES

NEXT SEASON STARTS WITH THE SEPT/OCT ISSUE OF TABLE TENNIS NEWS COPY DATE IS 1ST AUGUST 2002 SEE PAGE 30 FOR NEXT SEASON'S COPY DATES



Etta Coaches Conference & National Volunteer & Club Awards Dinner 6-7-8 September 2002 'A Step In The Right Direction'

Where Lilleshall National Sport Centre, Newport, Shropshire

Theme This conference will take an in depth look at HOW to develop players through four stages of development from Intro to National level.

Who is it for? It is aimed at coaches working in Premier Clubs – Schools – Leagues – Counties - Regions and on the National Tournament circuit

Main Presenters Sue Campbell MBE Chief Executive – Youth Sport Trust
Mark Bawden Sport Psychologist Etta National Centre
Steen Kyst Hansen National Coach Etta National Centre
Peter A. Hirst Director of Teaching and Training Etta

Cost Full residential (includes Awards Dinner) £130
Day rate with meals (excludes Awards Dinner) £55 per day
Awards Dinner only £25

Application forms and further information from Irene Mitchell at: Etta, Queensbury House 3rd Floor, Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF teachandtrain.etta@talk21.com

E-mail: 01424 431222
Phone:

GLEN WEDS CAROLINE

TWO stars of Hertfordshire table tennis, Glen Wilkes and Caroline Seaholme, tied the knot on 27th April, at the Grim's Dyke Manor Hotel in Harrow.

Caroline's two bridesmaids were her two sisters Sarah and Alison. Glen's best men were Ian Black and Simon Rockall.

Table tennis guests were the famous Seaholme clan, Maria and Geoff Linskey, Angela Smith and Emma Hurling.

The happy couple spent their honeymoon in Mauritius.

LUCERNE

THE 11th World Veteran Championships in Lucerne, Switzerland, 24th to 29th June, has created some new world records.

There are a massive 2756 entries, 800 over the existing world record, from 61 countries.

There will be 10,000 matches played on 102 tables.

11up vs 21up
THE email poll on the big debate of 11up vs 21up, resulted in a definite win for the new 11up system with a 63% vote in favour.

TABLE TENNIS WEEK

Saturday 3rd to Sunday 11th AUGUST 2002

FROM THE CHAIR by Alan Ransome

COMMONWEALTH GAMES - ONE MONTH TO GO!



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

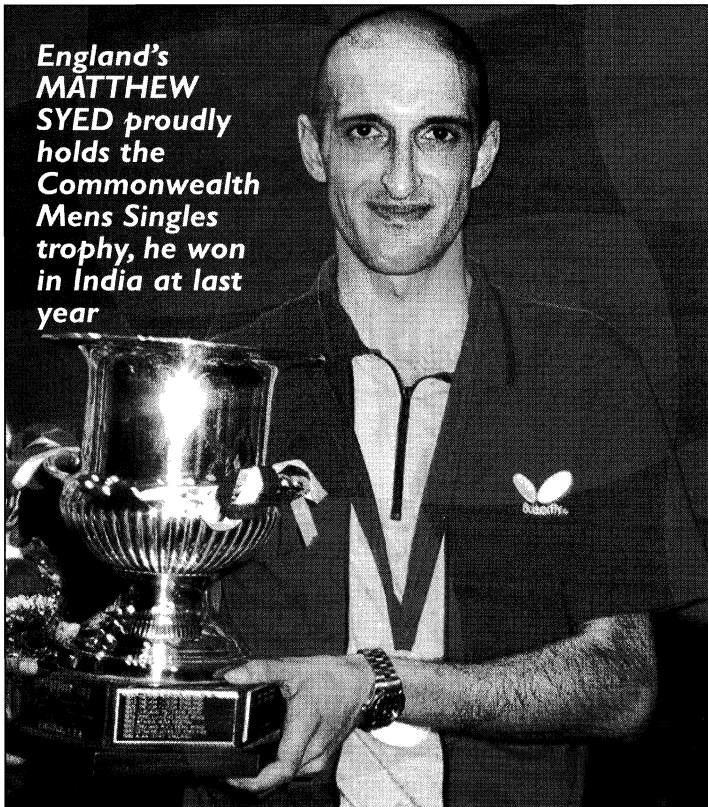
THE 17th Commonwealth Games, including table tennis for the first time, take place in Manchester from 25th July to 4th August. The Games are the most significant multi sport event held in England since the Olympics in 1948. Altogether 72 nations are represented in the 17 sports, with more than 5,000 competitors and officials participating. The table tennis competition will take place for ten of the 11 days, with 5 days dedicated to the team events and five to the six individual events, Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles, Mixed Doubles and Women's EAD (Disabled) Singles.

The table tennis competition will take place at the new Tennis Centre on the Sports City site next to the new Commonwealth Stadium and the Velodrome. Included at the Tennis Centre will be two show courts with 1,000 seats and 8 outside courts and 9 practice tables. The entry for the table tennis, although not yet finalised, is very encouraging and is likely to be approximately 20 men's and 17 women's teams within the region of 100 men and 75 women competing in the individual competitions.

Whilst English medal prospects are good, very stiff competition particularly from Singapore who have dominated the women's events in recent Commonwealth Championships, Nigeria who lifted the Men's Team title at the last Championships in New Delhi, India and Canada. Several other countries including Scotland, Wales, Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia are certainly capable of winning medals. The take up of tickets for the table tennis has also been encouraging with some of the sessions sold out. Seats are available for other sessions and details can be obtained from the Commonwealth Games website, www.commonwealthgames.com

Although at this stage we have not been given full information, it is likely that the television coverage will be extensive for the Games themselves, and that table tennis will

England's MATTHEW SYED proudly holds the Commonwealth Mens Singles trophy, he won in India at last year



receive more air time on a major terrestrial channel than at any time since the World Championships in Birmingham 25 years ago. The BBC are the host broadcaster and are scheduled to film coverage each day. The advent of the new digital channels is also likely to increase the extent of the coverage and the venue has been set out with two show courts on to which the best matches will be scheduled.

One important factor, of course, that will influence the amount of coverage is the extent of the British success. The England team are preparing hard for this event. They regard it as their most important of the season and are capable of winning a significant number of medals. Matthew Syed, the current Commonwealth Men's Singles Champion, is very determined and focussed to win his fourth Commonwealth singles title. The new English champion, Andrew Baggaley is certainly looking to build on his success in Sheffield. Gareth

Herbert, now back from injury, is intent on improving his form at the end of last season when he won the Bronze medal in the Men's singles in the Commonwealth championships in New Delhi and showed remarkable potential for England in the World Championships in Osaka. Terry Young and Alex Perry are looking to follow their Gold medal in New Delhi with a Gold in Manchester in the Men's Doubles. In fact the whole squad are intent on winning the Gold in the Men's Team event and this is well with their capability if they all play to their full potential.

With the strength of Singapore who have some of the best women in the world, and with a number of other countries having former Chinese players in their squads, medals for our girls are more difficult, but with 20 medal opportunities in the women's events, a strong performance particularly in the team event and the doubles could certainly produce rewards. In New Delhi our women won one Bronze

medal in the Mixed Doubles when Helen Lower partnered Alex Perry. Our team in Manchester of Nicola Deaton, Helen Lower, Katy Parker, Georgina Walker and Kate Steward, on home ground and with the crowd supporting them are medal prospects. Let's get behind them! In the disabled women's singles England are also strongly regarded amongst the medal potentials.

England also has medal prospects in the Womens EAD (Disabled) singles with Sue Gilroy and Kathy Milton.

Further British success could also come from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, all of whom have improved their performances of late.

TABLE TENNIS WEEK

In addition to being very exciting for the sport, the television coverage and publicity generated from the Games gives local table tennis leagues and clubs a unique opportunity to promote their own activities within their local area and to encourage people who have become interested in the sport as a result of the Games, to join local activities and organisations.

I have written to all local leagues and made a presentation to Premier Clubs regarding this opportunity with details of Table Tennis Week 3 - 11 August. The ETTA are ready to support local initiatives with publicity material, sample press releases and suggestions for programmes that can be initiated. One of the key points is ensuring that whatever opportunities there are for people to join local table tennis clubs, that they are widely publicised through the local press and radio, to give the best opportunity for new recruits to join them.

PPP healthcare COMMONWEALTH MASTERS

As part of the build up to the Commonwealth Games, the BBC agreed to televise a new event, the

FROM THE CHAIR - 2

PPP healthcare Commonwealth Masters tournament which was played at Wembley on 17th May. The event which brought together six of the top players in the Commonwealth, attracted more than 1,000 spectators to the Wembley Conference Centre which provided a magnificent venue and setting for the table tennis. BBC broadcast an uninterrupted 75 minutes of play the following day in Saturday Grandstand which received audience viewing figures of 1.1 million, the highest for table tennis for some years.

It was good to see a new major sponsor, one of Britain's leading healthcare providers PPP, supporting table tennis. The introduction to this sponsor came from one of our members from Brighton, Paul Andrews. The format for the PPP Healthcare Masters was based on the popular Pongus Cup competition from Denmark and was proposed by our No.1 player, Matthew Syed who is a member of our PR Committee. Matthew introduced a former Middlesex player, Alan Sherwood to the ETTA and Alan offered financial support to help the event to proceed. Overall the competition was extremely successful and was appreciated by the BBC. One of the key factors from their viewpoint was that three of the 6 players who were invited were British and that the majority of the 75 minutes of coverage included a British player on court. Another important factor that helped the success of the evening was Matthew Syed's defensive play which, against attackers Adam Robertson of Wales and the winner, Yong Jun Duan of Singapore, produced some really spectacular and entertaining play.

In addition to the television coverage, the event was an excellent promotion for the game in North London where our Regional Development Officer, Jon Kaufman, did a great job in promoting the event to the London clubs. Another feature of the evening was the Under 12 Challenge between two of our leading prospects, Paul Drinkhall of Cleveland and Darius Knight of Surrey which also produced some excellent play and amazed many in the audience many of whom had never seen so much talent and skill from players of this age.

SUCCESS FOR ENGLAND IN THE ITALIAN JUNIOR OPEN

Paul and Darius brought further credit to the ETTA by their

performances in the Italian Junior Open in Terni earlier this month when Paul won the Under 12 Boys Singles with Darius as Runner Up. The two England boys combined to win the Gold medals in the Under 12 Team event and the Silver Medals in the Under 14 Team event which are some of the best results that we have enjoyed in an international junior open for some time. The next major event in the junior calendar is the European Youth championships in Moscow next month.

NO JOY IN ZAGREB

The European Senior Championships were staged in Zagreb in April together with the Annual General Meetings of the ITTF and ETTU and the meeting of the ITTF Board of Directors. Although our Men's team were far from producing one of their best performances, they finished 17th and maintained their status in the First Division of the European competition. The Women's team were very unfortunate in what is now a qualification tournament for the European Championships, the European League. They finished equal top on the matches won in their section of the league but despite beating Poland and the Netherlands this year, lost out on games average and were placed only third, which put them into the 2nd category of the European Championships. Although the team won all their matches in Zagreb, 25th was the highest they could finish, whereas if the games count back in the European League had gone their way, their likely position would have been between 9th and 16th in the European ranking.

The high point of the Championships from a playing perspective was the emergence of a new generation of leading European men players headed by Timo Boll of Germany who won the Men's singles in Zagreb as well as playing an important role in the German team Silver medal.

NEW SERVICE LAW CONFIRMED

At the ITTF Annual General Meeting the introduction of the new Service Law which requires the ball to be visible to the opponent rather than hidden within the service action with some minor amendments was confirmed for introduction for 1st September 2002. This change will make it easier for the opponent to be able to read the spin on the ball and, therefore, easier to return the service which in turn should lead to longer

rallies and more interesting matches. The overall opinion within the delegates to the ITTF meeting was that the 11 up change had proved successful and that any thoughts of a reversal back to 21 up seemed to be extremely improbable.

The ITTF Congress in Zagreb voted to award the staging of the 2005 World championships to Shanghai in China who gained significantly more support than Lausanne in Switzerland. The next World Individual championships were confirmed as Paris for May 2003 with the World Team Championships in Qatar in 2004.

NEW ITTF JUNIOR PROGRAMME

At the ITTF Board of Director's meeting new legislation was introduced to move the eligibility date for Under 17 and Under 14 on 1st July to Under 18 and Under 15 on 1st January. A proposition is being put to an Extraordinary General Meeting of the ETTA at the end of this month which, if passed, will have the effect of changing the eligibility dates from the start of the new season in England. The immediate effect of this will be to give juniors and cadets born between January and June, an extra year in the age category. Once the new dates have been established, the main benefit of this change will effectively add six months to the junior and cadet age category which should reduce the loss of players at junior level to the sport and reduce the difference in standard between juniors leaving the age category and senior players.

This date change is just part of a new initiative from the ITTF to introduce more junior play worldwide. Included is an ITTF World Junior Circuit and a new World Junior Championship, with the inaugural event being played in Chile in December 2003.

The European Table Tennis Union Congress also took place in Zagreb when a proposal from the Executive Committee to abolish team events in the European championships was defeated by the delegates from the 50 countries who attended the meeting. The next European Championships were confirmed in Courmayeur in Italy in March of 2003.

MORE NEW FACILITIES FOR TABLE TENNIS

Significant progress has been made by the Development Department in

taking advantage of the recently allocated £581million from the Lottery distributor, the New Opportunities fund provided to local education authorities for improving sports facilities on school sites.

The Development Department and in particular our Facilities Officer, Paul Baker, worked closely with the New Opportunities Fund to provide information for all 150 local education authorities on the requirements for table tennis. To date several of the projects have included table tennis within their bids for the funding, including: Rushey Mead School, Leicester; Weavers School, Wellingborough, Farnborough School in Nottingham, Redland School, Worksop; Blessed George Napier School, Banbury; King Richard School, Portsmouth; Plymstock SSC, Plymouth. Further projects in Bradford, Bristol, Ealing and Didcot have included table tennis and there is significant additional interest from LEA's in other areas. There is still a long way to go, but the early signs are very positive and opportunities are clearly there for ETTA leagues and clubs in these areas to make good use of the new facilities.

For further information contact your Regional Development Officer or Paul Baker on his mobile: 07778 518799 or his email: paul@glynswood.freemove.co.uk

ETTA DOUBLE ANNIVERSARY

Following the Annual General Meeting in Birmingham in June, the ETTA are holding a special dinner to celebrate a double anniversary of 80 years since the forerunner of the Association, the Ping Pong Association, was established in 1922 and 75 years from the formation of the English Table Tennis Association in the 1926/27 season. This dinner follows the precedent set with the 50 Year celebrations with a dinner in London in 1977. Anyone interested in attending the dinner should contact Robert Sinclair at the ETTA office in Hastings.

*Alan Ransome
ETTA Chairman*

POSTBAG

GRAND PRIX UMPIRES

THE Butterfly Grand Prix Circuit is surely the most prestigious ongoing competition of ETTA, but one continually reads reports and letters concerning umpires - or the lack of them - at these events. It would seem that the regulations require qualified umpires to be used on the second day for the direct elimination matches, but adequate provision of these officials is often flagrantly ignored. It has been said for many years - with tongue in cheek - that umpires were a necessary evil! Now it would seem that they are more of an expensive luxury! One has read that "the umpire on duty did his best", and more recently that "the two umpires worked their socks off"!

I do not have access to the financial figures of Grand Prix events, so cannot judge whether they really cannot afford the modest expenses of umpires, or if they are just in a profit making situation, and they prefer to cash in to the maximum. It seems that a rise in entry fees to cover the costs would not be acceptable. Surely if the regulation is there it should be respected, or changed to another which is less demanding. How about requiring that all finals be controlled by qualified umpires, plus the quarter and semi-finals of the top events. This would need fewer umpires for a shorter period - but more than one or two please!

At present the umpire has been devalued by imposing his duties on unqualified persons who are certainly reluctant to accept this task, and often do not do it efficiently. How many illegal or doubtful serves are passed without comment?

It is sure that the English umpires have a high reputation on the Continent, so it is sad that their services are abused in their own country. They enjoy working in company with their colleagues, and there is good comradeship between qualified umpires. Being obliged to "work their socks off" is not good enough! They will just avoid these events that give them no satisfaction. No wonder recruitment is poor!

In France there is an umpires' association that promotes friendship and welcomes foreign umpires to their clan. Although long retired from active duty I can count on umpire friends in many European countries.

This situation must be addressed and suitable regulations produced that must be respected with penalties for non-observance.

D.N. Tyler IU 74801 Vice President.

REDUCE TO SUIT?

WHILE renewing my subscription to your magazine, I thought I would mention

that TTN consistently arrives late in the month, so much so that a substantial proportion of listed 'forthcoming events' have already taken place by the time I read the magazine. It would also be more helpful if venues for events were given in every case. If space is a problem, then reduce the size of type used for this feature.

While on the subject of using magazine space to best advantage, I would suggest that some of the match and tournament reports would lose nothing by being reduced to results only - often reports are simply results set to words. I appreciate that much modern table tennis consists of serve, hit, and counter hit, but surely tactics and styles come into the reckoning occasionally and would merit mention in reports?

Three topics that could interest readers: Matthew Syed on the use of pimped rubber in modern defensive play; John Hilton, the former European champion, on adapting to changes in the game; and Dennis Neale' ETTA coach' on speed versus spin.

*John Crossman,
Peterborough*

SELFISH?

I READ with interest the correspondence in the April Issue. I am a boring old man of 65 and young Eve Baxter would probably reckon my suit was bad.

Am I being selfish, as suggested by the yet to be revealed Vice Chairman, in hoping that the option for 21-up is continued for local leagues? Sure, I play and enjoy 21 up, but the reason is not that I have always played it, but that I consider it a better game at the level at which I am involved. Why?. Firstly, there is more chance for a game to "ebb and flow", and secondly because it allows the stronger players to ease up a little on weaker and younger players to allow them to play their shots. If I were to agree to a style of game I believe to be second best, then I am not being true to the sport as I perceive it. That is not selfishness, and we are each entitled to our choice.

For over forty years I have "coached" and looked after young players at my local village club. At present we have 24 under the age of 17 enjoying a weekly practice and finding it FUN. The youngest play in the former "Woolwich" Junior League, the intermediate in the National Junior League, and the oldest are finding their feet in the local Senior League. Although I encourage this, some coaches, among them my friend Gary Howes (also see the April issue) consider it is generally not a good idea for their charges to play against the various cagey styles of local league veterans

I have to accept that at around the age of 18 many of the youngsters I look after will not be playing regular table tennis. In

continued on page 8

COURTSIDE

by John Woodford

• **MOST** national associations have their problems. Frequently the troubles are kept under wraps - only the truth emerges from the journalists. Italy are boldly announcing that they are set to stage the 2003 European championships at Courmeyer (March 29-April 6) but currently, they have no proper national team.

• **THE** top seven players in Italy did not appear in Zagreb because they are in dispute with the Italian TTA. This has been going on for sometime and the parties were not speaking to each other when we left Zagreb.

• **ENGLAND** men were therefore victorious over three young players appearing for Italy in the mens team event and thereby escaped relegation!

• **THE ROW** centres on the dismissal of a coach. The Italian players objected to the extent of going on strike. That is the situation I managed to uncover in Zagreb - the Italian officials remained tight-lipped of course.

• **HOSTING** the European championships next year without their top seven players cannot be allowed to happen. As time marches on through the summer the ball seems to be in the court of the officials - a compromise situation seems to be the only answer.

• **HOME** and abroad, the season now ended has been one of the busiest I can recall. The advance fixture list for next season is already bursting at the seams. There is no room left for extra events especially for juniors. Many parents do not have the time, (or for some, the money) to run their kids huge distances at week-ends.

• **THE** second half of next season looks packed already - within a few weeks we shall have the European Championships in Italy, probably the Commonwealth championships in far-off but delightful Mauritius followed immediately by the world individual events in Paris.

• **THE RETURN** to terrestrial TV, with the BBC, on May 18 was the breakthrough desperately needed. So many people outside the sport comment on TT only being on Sky channels, but the very large problem ahead is that a sponsor has yet to be found for the 2003 English Open. If we fail to find a sponsor in the next six months it could be three seasons without an English Open.

• **AFTER** watching the TV version of the Commonwealth Masters, the, biggest question as the season ends is the possible retirement of Matthew Syed ?

• **HE** did a tremendous job in master-minding the promotion of the tournament, but to try and win it as well, was really asking too much of one man.

• **DUAN YONG JUN** surprise, surprise, is currently No. 118 on the world list with Matthew at 73 and Chetan Baboor at 86, so unless there are some big changes - most unlikely at this end of the season - those three will be the top seeds in Manchester in the order as the world list.

• **MATTHEW** has the world at his feet. He came over in fine form in his TV interviews on TV. I cannot help feeling that he will soon give politics top priority although the the money cannot be as good as table tennis in Japan.

• **BY** the time the next general election starts to loom I am sure that the Labour Party will have found him a safe seat in the House.

**COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2002
MANCHESTER**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR continued

continued from page 7

my view this is not chiefly because of 11 or 21 up, or, at that age, Late nights, just that a lot will have moved on to employment, study, and other interests. Why table tennis, and quite a lot of other sports, are not played more through adulthood, is due more to social changes. I don't have any easy answers, but shall try to carry on helping the youngsters and 'having a go' as long as I can.

John Knock
Tonbridge, Kent

ENRAGED

I FELT so enraged by the contents of 'SportBreak' magazine that I had to respond. If it weren't presented as serious fact, designed to undermine the efforts of the current ETTA management, it would be laughable. It would take several pages to answer in full, but let's take the main points.

It is disappointing in the extreme that John Prean has found another outlet to pursue his vendetta against Alan Ransome, and to espouse his views on table tennis in this country. His article is full of half-truths and misinformation as usual.

The snide comments regarding Michel Gadal and the workings of the Sports Lottery Fund are breathtaking in their ignorance. And the criticisms of the National Academy are so wide of the mark he must live on another planet. Michel and Soren Ahlen have instilled in the players the sort of pride, willingness to work, and desire to succeed that has

been missing in the junior ranks for a generation. Because of this work, we now have as good a crop of young players at national level as any other European nation. Yes, both Soren and Michel will be sadly missed and will be extremely difficult to replace.

Instead of congratulating the ETTA for successfully gaining significant funding from the Lottery World Class Performance and Potential programmes, Mr. Prean moans about what fractions of the £750,000 spent on the Academy would do for regions, centres and clubs. The truth of the matter is that we probably could not have afforded any national teams without Lottery funding, because our members contribute so little to the running of the Association. He is obviously ignorant about the £1million plus granted to grass-roots table tennis from the Lottery 'Awards for All' programme in the last couple of years. But even he cannot be unaware of how local table tennis has benefited from the Lottery Capital Grants programme, (total grants awarded to table tennis projects nearly £6million), especially as the Carl Prean Centre was built with the aid of a substantial sum from this fund. The vast majority of all these grants have been gained with the assistance of the ETTA Development staff.

One more point - it's a bit rich for the man who was in charge when the ETTA Coaching Department was dismantled in the late 1980's to now bemoan the prowess of our players on the world stage. (As you sow, so shall you reap...)

There is a cancer in English Table

Tennis, but it isn't the current Chairman who is the problem. Unfortunately, there are too many people in this sport with no vision, who are only too ready to blame someone else for their own failings. It is time for change. Time to recognise that the structure of table tennis in England must change radically if it is to survive. Time to recognise that some of the advances made in recent years - the National Academy; the Premier Club programme - are major steps in the right direction, and are having a positive effect. One can argue about the fine detail of how these programmes are being delivered, but the principle of building large, continental style clubs, and having full-time academies must be the right way forward.

And what about the man who now expresses the wish to become Chairman of the ETTA? Superman obviously, because not only is he going to chair National Council and Management Committee, he is also going to attend major events, ETTU and ITTF committee meetings, and on top of that, he is going to attend, and play in, virtually every other event in the country as well! This shows a naivety about the demands of the post that is frightening.

Where does all this 'behind closed doors' stuff come from? As a player, coach, administrator and ex-member of staff, it isn't something I relate to. Sure, there are some things that must be discussed in private in any organisation, but you trust that those you elect have the interests of the game at heart, and you put your two pennies worth in when

the time is right. If Alex doesn't know what is going on, he can't have been reading Table Tennis News, or been listening to his National Councillor. Bearing in mind his comment that regular information should be circulated to local leagues and counties, does he even know he has a National Councillor who is supposed to report back to his county committee, or that information sheets for leagues and counties are produced after every (NC) meeting? The major problem is that many Leagues and counties are not bothered about what happens at National Council, so do not report it to their members.

I'm fed up with reading articles and letters from whingers and 'knockers' who have no concept of what it will take for table tennis to become a high profile, major sport in this country once again. If 'SportsBreak' were really interested in the future of our sport, it would do better to argue on the facts. Instead, it seems more intent on spreading misinformation and innuendo in the guise of printing 'what is really happening', and printing articles from a man who, despite his past experience, seems to have very little grasp of the realities of the current situation.

Come on Mike - instead of printing articles from Prean's poison pen, let's have a sensible, informed debate about the future of Table Tennis!

Dave Berriman
National Councillor for Sussex and lifelong table tennis fanatic!

NO PROGRESS

NO MAN UTD players in the England Squad, this is effectively the equivalent of that the England Table Tennis Coach Soren Ahlen has done (who like Eriksson is Swedish). London Progress have won the British Premier League in the last four consecutive seasons and they also won the Ladies' top Division as well. Yet not one of them are being chosen for the Commonwealth Games.

Chris Andrews, London

ONE SERVICE?

I HAVE a question about the change of service in the recent European Championships mens team final between Sweden and Germany.

In the 4th set of the final match between Wosik and Hakanisson, I noticed that they were changing services after only 1 point (it wasn't 10-10), it was the beginning of the 4th set and carried right on to the final set. This only started to happen in the 4th set and not in the first 3 sets.

I was wondering could you give me an explanation to this situation.

Thai, London

Editor's reply: Thai, the scoring was correct, because the match had reached expedite, but the TV commentator had not noticed, so the viewers were not informed. In the 3rd game when the time went to 10 minutes and 17 seconds, with the score at 16-15 expedite was called by the umpire. Then the rest of the match was under expedite rules, which is only one service each.

See report on page 15.



ETTA E-MAIL ADDRESSES

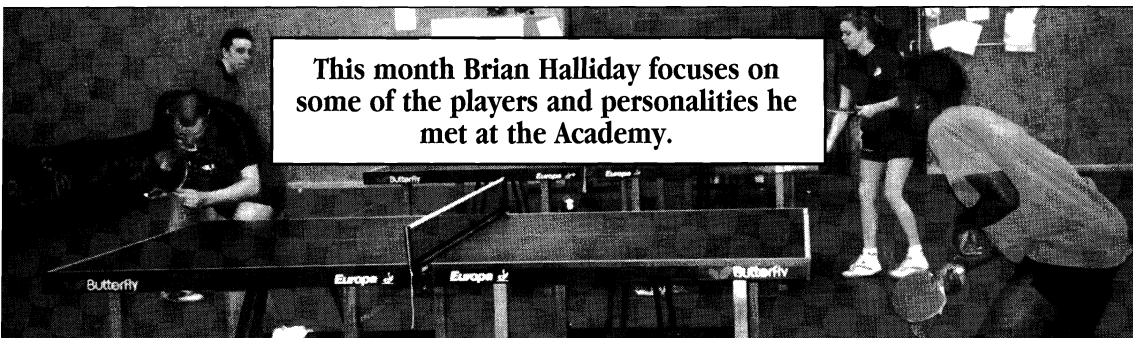
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THE ACADEMY AT NOTTINGHAM Part 2



This month Brian Halliday focuses on some of the players and personalities he met at the Academy.

HOLME PIERREPONT is located on the outskirts of Nottingham and, as the site of the National Water Sports Centre, has impressive facilities for rowers, canoeists - in fact everything one could wish for when messing about on the water. It is situated in pleasant countryside all conducive to relaxation after strenuous athletic activity.

The table tennis Academy is based in a large hall which can house up to 10 tables. Our staff and players have use of the restaurant, and rest and relaxation areas.

There are 28 players based at the Centre who come within the categories Commonwealth, Potential, and Start players. The number of practice partners are considerable and include Samuel Correau from France, Des Douglas, Koubrat Owalabi, and Adam Robertson, among many others. While I was there it was good to see ex Chinese No. 5 Lin Gang in action against the senior men.

Most of the senior players live nearby in the Nottingham area but many of the remainder live in residence within the complex.

Supervision of the residential players is the responsibility of Reg and Pauline Rockall. Not an easy job this but all their duties are performed with a smile. Psychological aspects of the sport are carried out by Dr Mark Bawden who has regular meetings with the players. Jill Parker is our World Class Performance Administrator and has overall responsibility for keeping players happy and content. Jill holds monthly meetings with each player to discuss all aspects of their days at the Centre. In the education area Jill also has weekly meetings at Dayncourt School to discuss progress of each of the younger players.

The coaching staff under Soren Ahlen comprise Jia Yi Lui and Steen Hansen. Steen arrived from Denmark recently and

Photographs by JOHN & LESLEY WOOD

has special coaching responsibilities for the women's squad. Part time coaches are the excellent ex international trio of Alan Cooke, Bradley Billington, and Denis Neale. The staff are completed by Physio, Karen Burn, and Masseur, Jeremy Carnell.

Sessions are programmed on the basis of 10 a week and these include multi ball and individual coaching. The ratio of coaches to players is flexible but is usually 1 to 3 or 4. Physical work takes place twice a week for running and twice a week for weights work. At the risk of making myself unpopular I question whether that is sufficient!

The overall programme is impressive and well organised. Training Camps have been held in China, Luxembourg, France, Austria, Sweden, and Denmark. Players have been escorted to Open Championships in Germany, Holland,

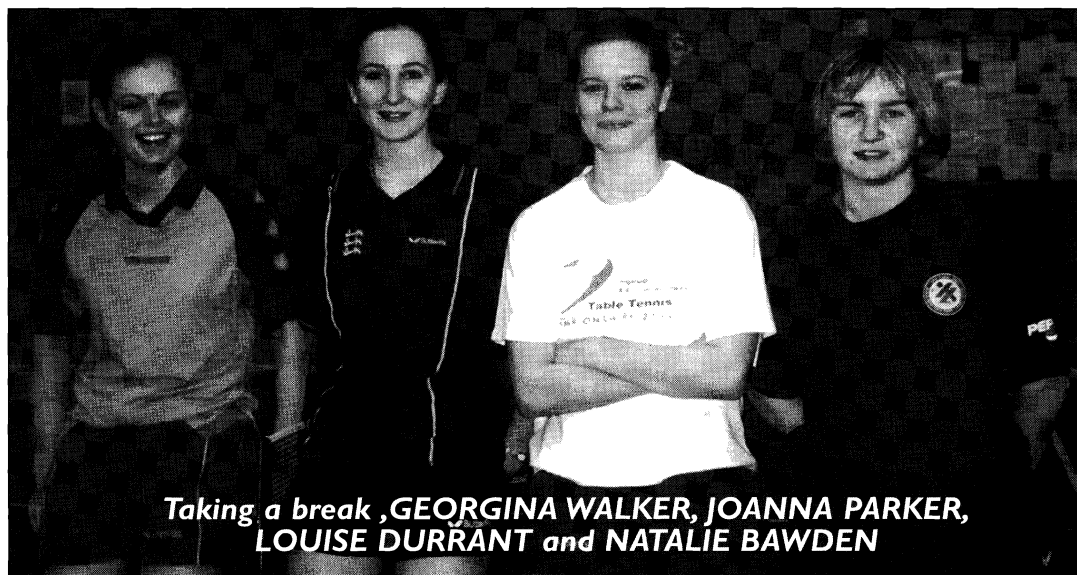


Sweden, Slovakia, Denmark, Finland, and Portugal. All this activity has taken place during the period from August to the end of December.

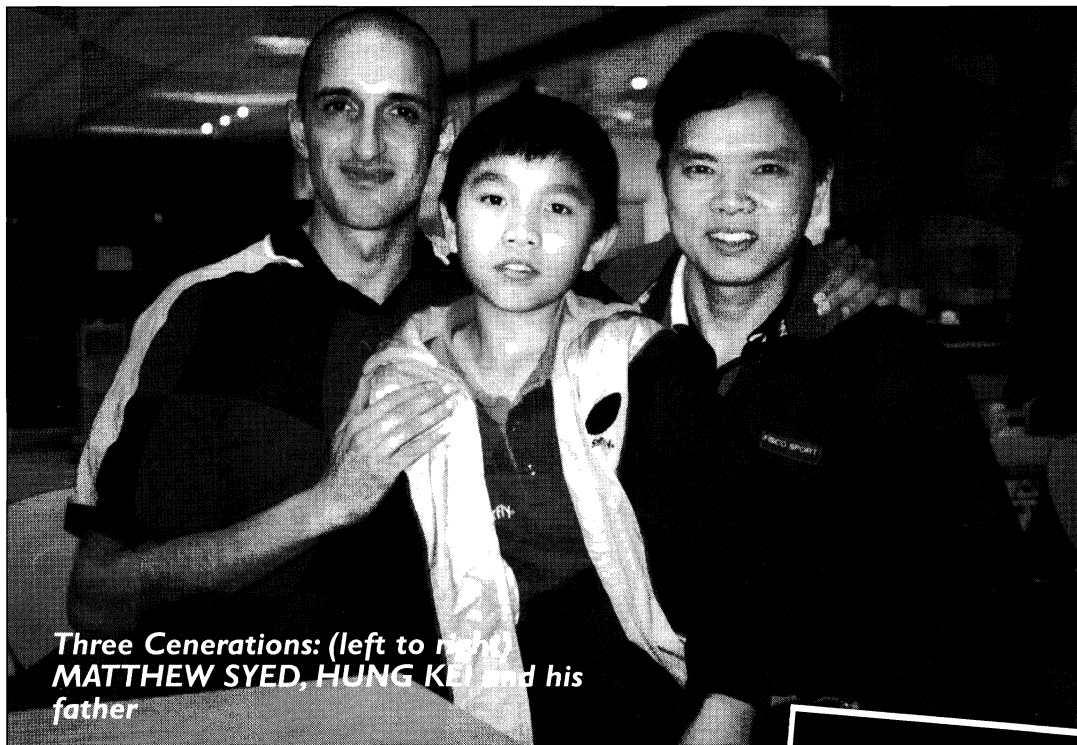
Senior players will have approximately 7 sessions a week depending on club commitments at home and abroad. The youngest will have a 3 hour session after school, with Thursday being a free day for organised social activities in which everyone can join in.

So who are these players, how do they fit in, and what do they actually think of it all? The senior players I know well, especially in the cases of Messrs Syed, Young, and Herbert, a playing friendship going back a long way. (Your scribe used to beat them in their formative years - victories which I can never resist recalling - to their enormous embarrassment). Andrew Rushton and Alex Perry were working really hard. This was the first time that I had seen Andrew and he looks a pretty good prospect to me. Others on site included the promising Dale Barham who suggests that he might have that old "Chester Barnes" charisma. I first met up with the quite charming duo of Natalie Bawden and Louise Durrant in India and Japan early last year and here they are striving to crack that next level on the ladder to success.

How pleasant to see a defender in action. Of course I admit to a bias in this area and have a lifelong regard for the likes of Takashima, Alexandru, and al. - (look them up if they were before your time!). It was good to watch Joanna



Taking a break, GEORGINA WALKER, JOANNA PARKER, LOUISE DURRANT and NATALIE BAWDEN



Three Generations: (left to right) MATTHEW SYED, HUNG KEI and his father

Wolves supporter. Speaks well on the advice as to nutrition but "likes chips"

Paul Drinkhall - One of two talented brothers from the Ormesby club. Very promising player with ambitions to do well at European and World level.

Dale Barham - A player for 9 years. Full time at the Academy. Looking for a contract to play abroad. Has a love of Pizzas and supports Newcastle United.

Hung Kei Li - 1 year at the Academy and is already making a name for himself. Thinks it is all OK. Would like to play for England one day. Keen on Man Utd and has a supportive father. Likes Basketball, Swimming, Hockey, and Football. Prefers Chinese food. Hong Kong is his favourite country but England comes a close second.

Joanna Parker - 3rd year - attends school every day and lives in the Centre. Played in Portugal and beat a useful Canadian. (since then did very well in Sweden). A defender with huge promise.

Natalie Bawden - Training hard since playing in India and Japan. Played in the Portuguese Open and European Youths in Italy. Receptive to the new ideas from Steen Hansen. Mentioned the strides made by Katy Parker. "She has improved

Parker in action, defending quite well off the table and coming in to put the loose ball away. With Matt Syed and Jill Parker on hand I am sure that more of the intricacies of the defender's art will be explained to her.

There is little doubt that the Academy is well organised and with everyone's total commitment will produce quality international players in the medium term. I am not a coach but cannot resist making a couple of suggestions:

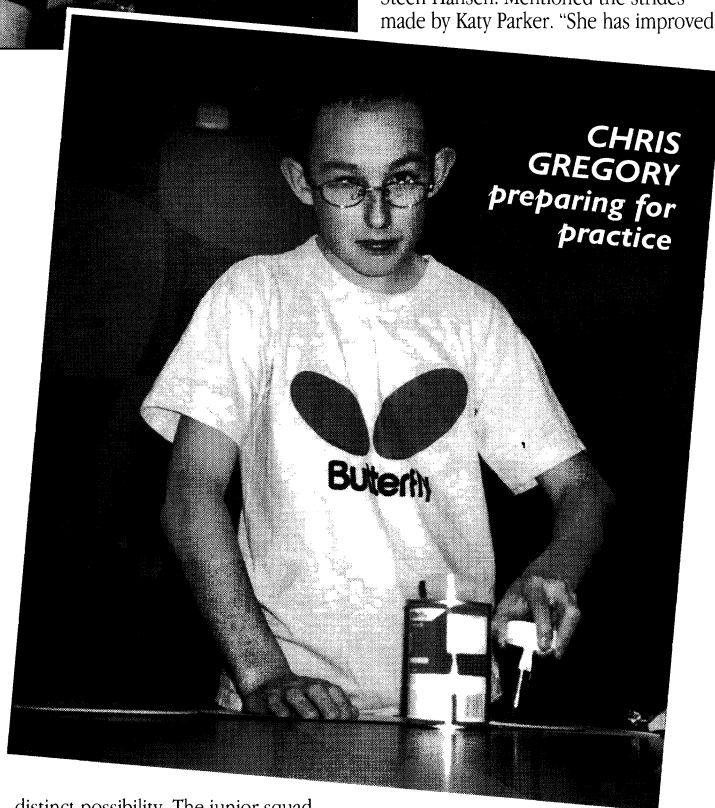
1. The basis for the success of the French squad (European Champions) was the close bonding of a group of players (Gatien, Chila, Legout, Eloi). At one stage they were sent off as a group to a distant part of the country and told to find their way back to the Academy. Personal initiative encourages togetherness which translates to team spirit. Could we do more in this direction?

2. More use of Video. The squads need to analyse and study the world's top players and learn from them. Footage of prospective opponents such as Boll and Maze should be made available to ensure

that our players are aware of the standards that must be reached. Each player at the Centre should be filmed, and then faults within play can be discussed and rectified.

It is not realistic to compare our set-up with say the Chinese. English prejudices would not allow children to start as young as four years old. It would not permit minimal schooling to ensure a very strict regime where even the family ties are sacrificed to sporting excellence. The Chinese will brook no criticism - it is 100% or you're out! This is not the English way. Players are more individualistic here - they have pressures from parents and mentors to succeed in life should table tennis success pass them by. It is not easy for our highly specialised staff to break through the English syndrome, but it is to their credit that they are coping so well within the limitations of our system in comparison to that employed by the Chinese.

A pessimistic viewpoint? Perhaps. The main point is that we should strive to be the best. Certainly European glory is a



CHRIS GREGORY preparing for practice



DALE BARHAM (left) shares a joke with BRIAN HALLIDAY

distinct possibility. The junior squad shows immense promise. Once one player cracks it at top European level, others will follow on quickly. France and Sweden have demonstrated this quite clearly, and there is no reason why England should not be challenging the best that Europe can provide.

Bradley Evans - Hails from an enthusiastic table tennis background. Has played for 6 years and is ambitious. Played in Slovakia for the Under 14s. Chelsea supporter and thinks Matt Syed is "quite good"...

Chris Gregory - Has been playing for 5 years. Likes it at the Academy. Ambition is to "play the best that I can". Appreciates being coached well. Likes Badminton and Football and is a strong

a lot and this has helped raise the standard of the rest of the girls."

Louise Durrant - Says she is playing "pretty well" Recent win over Barbara Kiss. When I suggested that she has the capability to beat the best, she agreed that no game is impossible but said she must learn to play well all the time "and not to be scared"

Lin Gang - 32 years old Chinese. Invited to the Academy as a practice partner. Started at age 4. Was ranked Number 5 in China. Played in Swedish club team with Kong Ling Hui. Lives close to Hong Kong. Stopped serious play in 1999. Is studying now but is not finding it easy to adapt.

ANNIVERSARY & THE GAMES

RICHARD HABGOOD: This Jubilee year for our Patron is also a special year for the English Table Tennis Association. Can you tell me how the Association is marking its own anniversary?

ALAN RANSOME: 2002 is a double anniversary for the ETTA, being 80 years since the formation of the original organisation, The Ping Pong Association in 1922, and 75 years after the formation of the English Table Tennis Association in the 1926/27 season. We are following the pattern established when the 50th anniversary of the Association was held in 1977 by holding a special dinner on the evening after the AGM in Birmingham on the 29th June. A special booklet is being prepared by Brian Halliday to commemorate the evening and Jill Parker is producing a slide show of photographs depicting the Association and its activities throughout the decades.

RH: Table tennis for the first time in the Commonwealth Games is a most exciting prospect. Will the (table tennis) playing format follow that of the Olympic Games?

AR: The playing format for the Commonwealth Games will be much more interesting and comprehensive than that of the Olympic Games. The Olympics has only the four main events, (men's singles and doubles and women's singles and doubles). The ITTF have been trying to introduce team events for some years without any success, and more recently efforts have been made to add a mixed doubles, but so far this also has not been successful.

With the Commonwealth Games in Manchester we were given a clean sheet of paper, as this was the first time that table tennis has been part of the Commonwealth Games and we have taken full advantage of that opportunity. There are ten playing days in Manchester. The events will be men's team events and women's team events which will take up the first five days. Men's singles and doubles, women's singles and doubles, mixed doubles, plus the EAD women's singles, which is an event for players with a disability, will take place over the second five day period, with the finals being on the last afternoon of the Games. This will give a total of eight medal events as opposed to four in the Olympics.

The Paraplegic Games are held separately at the Olympics and the two medal tables are not combined.

In the lead up to the ETTA Anniversary and the Commonwealth Games, Richard Habgood, a member of the PR Committee, interviewed ETTA Chairman, Alan Ransome.

The entry for the Commonwealth Games table tennis competition is very good, approx. 100 men and 70 women, and therefore both the team events and the individual events will have a full schedule.

We are hoping and expecting that the table tennis competition will be given substantial coverage by the BBC and this schedule of eight separate finals should improve our chances of good coverage. In addition we are very hopeful of a good performance by the England teams, and if this happens this will encourage the BBC to give the event extra coverage. It is our expectation that having established this extensive programme for Manchester, that the same will be adopted for the next Games in Melbourne in 2006 and beyond.

RH: For those of us unable to obtain a ticket, will we be able to see our sport on television?

AR: We expect that the BBC will provide very good coverage, as yet we have not received the details. It is reasonable to expect that as the BBC now have digital services available that they will have the facility to show several sports on different digital channels at the same time, so that any viewer who has access to the BBC digital services is likely to be able to see extensive coverage. We will keep in touch with the BBC and as soon as the information is available we will disseminate it to our members as widely as possible.

RH: We've just had the PPP healthcare Commonwealth Masters at Wembley shown on BBC's "Grandstand" programme which was a great success. How significant do you think is the important of obtaining television coverage for the Association's future programme of events.

AR: Receiving television coverage is vital to every sport. Unfortunately the policy of all the terrestrial channels over the last decade or so has been to concentrate heavily on the sports that produce the biggest viewing figures and they have not

had either the budget or time available for sports like table tennis. Our coverage of the ITTF Pro Tour on Sky and European Championships on Eurosport have been extensive, but unfortunately the viewing figures fall well short of the coverage when compared with the terrestrial channels. Our acceptance in the Commonwealth Games has given us a fresh opportunity of television coverage and there is no doubt that the PPP healthcare Commonwealth Masters Tournament shown on BBC's Grandstand in May did a great deal to enhance the standing of table tennis, both with the BBC and with their viewers. It is very important that we have a good Commonwealth Games from a television perspective and we will certainly be making a strenuous effort to ensure that we build on the success of the Commonwealth Masters and the Games in encouraging the BBC to cover more table tennis in the future.

RH: You've mentioned that you are looking forward to the forthcoming National Table Tennis Week; the dates being 3rd - 11th August. What is National Table Tennis Week all about, and what has or is being done to promote it?

AR: The National Table Tennis Week has been created by the ETTA Development Department to take full advantage of the television coverage and promotion of table tennis from the Commonwealth Games. The last time that we received extensive coverage from the BBC was the World Championships in Birmingham in 1977, when BBC2 showed two hours coverage on most of the afternoons, plus "Match of the Day" highlights in the late evening. The interest in table tennis, as a result of this coverage, was very extensive and our affiliation figures grew by 10% in the following season, which is the only increase we have had year on year for approx. thirty seasons. I have written to all local League Secretaries to invite them to participate in the National Table Tennis Week. The idea that we have

is that each league and each premier club should have the opportunity to stage some special events within their own locality to attract any of the viewers who have watched table tennis on the television, and are interested in taking up the game, to join one of the clubs. There are several types of events that could be held; a families tournament, a major promotion in shopping arcades, participating in the School Holiday Coaching programmes promoted by the Local Authorities' Recreational Departments, putting on a summer tournament for the affiliated players and running a novice event with each affiliated player being required to bring a friend as well as taking entries/newcomers. These are just some suggestions and there are many more.

One of the main points is to promote heavily through the local media the events that are being staged, so that the people who have watched the table tennis on television know that they would have an opportunity of playing the sport and joining a club. A partner for such a publicity campaign could be the local paper, as they are obviously covering the Games and having a local dimension could be of interest. Another obvious partner would be the BBC's local radio stations. With the BBC being the host broadcaster for the Games, they have a particular interest in promoting the Games and local radio stations would like to have a local link such as this.

The ETTA's Information Officer, Ken Muhr, is preparing a series of draft press releases that would be of help to any local club or league that requires assistance. The ETTA Development Department also have a supply of posters and leaflets that are ideal for this type of promotion, and a supply is available from the ETTA office in Hastings.

The main point here is that this is a one off opportunity for our members, on a local basis, of promoting their clubs and their activities. It may well be several years before another chance like this comes along for recruiting new members, therefore we are doing the most we can to encourage our local organisations to take full advantage of the opportunity.

RH: Thank you Alan, and good luck in the Commonwealth Championships!

BUTTERFLY GRAND PRIX

LOCAL GIRL WINS

LOCAL GIRL Helen Lower, the England no.2, was the comfortable women's winner of the Midlands Open Butterfly Grand Prix held at Aldersley Leisure Village, Wolverhampton, supported by Wolverhampton Metropolitan Borough Council, while Hungarian Urban Gergely won the men's singles, writes Ken Muhr.

On route to the final Lower dropped only one game – to Scotland's Claire Bentley in the first round, who she overcame 11-9, 11-8, 8-11, 11-4. In the semi-finals she powered through Kubrat Owolabi (Middlesex), 11-8, 11-5, 11-3. Then in the final she again had too much power and spin for the sensation of the tournament, 14 year old defender from Chertsey, Surrey, Joanna Parker, triumphing 11-5, 11-5, 11-8. Lower lifted a second title when, partnered by Kubrat Owolabi, she had a narrow 11-5, 10-12, 7-11, 12-10, 11-9 women's doubles final win over Barbara Kiss (Hertfordshire) and Lyndsey Thornton (Lancashire).

Joanna Parker, the national cadet champion and England junior no.4, beat two top Hungarian players to reach the women's singles final. In the quarter-finals she chopped consistently and used her backhand hit to good effect in overcoming the forehand attack of student Dorka Nagy. Then in the semi-final she deposed the stylish title holder Barbara Kiss, a student at South Bank University, 11-6, 12-10, 11-8, Kiss seemingly unable to confidently read Parker's combination bat chop defence. However, although Joanna played well in the final, she was not yet a match for Lower.

Another Hungarian student, Gergely Urban, the 4th seed and losing finalist last year, took the men's singles in 3 close games, 12-10, 12-10, 11-9 over Scottish no.2 Gavin Runggay, the 3rd seed. The powerful and clean attacking Urban had difficulty returning Runggay's 'reverse pendulum' service, coming back from 7-10 in the first game and 8-10 down in the second, but he won most of the open rallies. In the semi-finals he had put out the 2 times Paralympic 'standing' gold medallist, Taju Agunbiade (Nigeria), whose two wing close to the table attacking game had given him his best run in an Grand Prix.

The hard grafting Runggay had reached the final via British League champion club London Progress duo Jason Sugrue (Middlesex) the 5th seed in the quarter-finals, and Marco Essomba (Surrey), the 2nd seed, in the semi-finals, both opponents being unable to handle his serves well. The biggest shock in the men's singles was the 3rd round 11-7, 8-11, 11-9, 19-17 defeat of top seed Ryan Jenkins, the Welsh no.1, by Scotland's Niall Cameron. The 8th seed, national junior champion Matt Kenny (Yorkshire) fell in the 4th round 9-11, 12-10, 9-11, 11-

8, 7-11 to Stephen Beerling (Kent).

Urban took his second title when with Abdul Wuraola (Surrey) they beat Scottish pair Runggay and Cameron 11-7, 5-11, 11-6, 11-9 to lift the men's doubles. The Scots had put out the top seeded Welsh, Ryan and Stephen Jenkins, while Urban and Wuraola had defeated the 2nd seeds, Marco Essomba and Jason Sugrue.

The losing open singles finalists Joanna Parker and Gavin Runggay gained compensation when they took the under 21 women's and men's under singles. Parker had to fight hard in the first 3 games before finally defeating Naomi Owen of Wales 10-12, 11-9, 14-12, 11-4. Runggay was challenged hard by the left-handed, continuous attack of student Rob Pountney (Surrey), before immersing victorious in the under 21 men's singles, 11-8, 6-11, 11-8, 12-10.

Top seed and national no.2, the left-handed attacker, Jan Dunning (Worcestershire) beat the national veteran champion Jane Durham (Cleveland) 8-11, 11-9, 11-5, 11-4 to win the women's veteran singles, while Brian Johns (Cheshire) comfortably defeated surprise finalist Chris Beckley (Surrey) to win the men's veteran singles. Beckley had put out top seed Nigel Eckersley (Sussex), the former England international, 11-13, 11-8, 5-11, 11-7, 11-8 in the semi-finals.

Bryn Drinkhall, the then England no.8 from Cleveland, won the men's band 1 singles from a strong field including 3 England junior internationals ranked higher than himself. Drinkhall, a member of the Ormesby Club, Middlesbrough, had his best win in the quarter-finals when he came back from 4-8 down in the 3rd game to beat top seed Abdul Wuraola (Surrey) 11-6, 11-4, 12-10. He thereby avenged a group loss suffered by his younger brother, who had done outstandingly well to take Wuraola to 5 close games before succumbing after his 'winning' shot ending a long rally was called a 'let' on a technicality towards the end of the 5th game.

In the final Bryn Drinkhall generally had too much spin, consistency and power for the talented England no. 5 junior Craig Bryant (Devon) to triumph 11-6, 5-11, 11-6, 11-8. In the band 1 semi-final, Bryant's variety of serve and shot had given him a slight edge over the England junior no.4, Greg Baker (Warwickshire), winning 11-6, 4-11, 11-5, 13-11.

A local Staffordshire man, Tony Issac, won the men's band 2 singles by beating Chris Beckley (Surrey). The band 3 final was an all Welsh affair, Owen Clutterbuck defeating Lee Davies. A tiring James Brown (Yorkshire), who also lost (to Oxfordshire's Tom Filmer

11) in the band 6 final, was unfortunate to fall 12-10, 3-11, 11-2, 15-17, 7-11 to Keith Bird (Derbyshire), the title holder, after having several match points in the 4th game of the band 5 final – the last match of Saturday evening.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

OUR BIG CHANCE TO MOVE FORWARD

BY THE TIME you read this the Commonwealth Games will be only days away. The table tennis venue is looking good. The flooring has been laid and the stands with seating for 1500 are in place. All it needs now are the tables and various pieces of hardware, so that we can get everything under way, writes Jim Beckley.

There has been a terrific response from table tennis volunteers for the one hundred and one jobs that will be needed to make sure everything goes smoothly. The vast majority will be from the North West who will travel back and forth each day from home to venue. But because this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to be involved with the biggest sporting event ever staged in this country others from further afield will have made their own private accommodation arrangements.

The table tennis venue, built as an indoor tennis centre and once the Games are over will revert back to being a centre for tennis, is within the confines of Sport City an enormous complex which includes the main stadium and the squash centre.

Advance ticket sales have gone well. Most days are sold out, although there are still some seats left and a call to the ticket people on 0870 162 2002 will confirm what seating is still available.

Whilst as a competition the Games are not as big as the English Open or the English Nationals for that matter, but what it lacks in numbers, it most certainly gains in publicity potential.

The amount of TV as well as newspaper coverage will be far in excess of what we have ever achieved before. For these ten days in July/August the media will be full of words and pictures of what is happening in Manchester, and table tennis will get its fair share.

Also it is particularly important that we get among the medals. The pressure on the players to do well will be enormous. We will be one of the minor sports on view but look what happened to Curling when our ladies team won gold in the USA earlier this year

Following Wimbledon fortnight bookings at indoor and outdoor tennis courts increase. Coaches will tell you that the number of newcomers rises substantially. It's the same in other sports. Soccer will benefit from the World Cup and cricket will get a boost after the current series is over.

If any of these sports can bring home a medal then the world's your oyster.

Success at a major sports event like the Commonwealth Games which is only second in status to the Olympic Games means unprecedented publicity.

It is an opportunity that table tennis in this country has not had for decades and as such must be seized with both hands. It may not be the end of the world if we are not among the medals, but if we are it could herald a revival of the sport not seen for years.

TIMO BOLL THE NEW KING OF EUROPE

FOR something like twenty years men's table tennis in Europe has been dominated by Sweden. That has now ended. The two former world champions Jan-Ove Waldner and Jorgen Persson are moving out of the limelight, writes John Woodford.

The Swedish strength now seems limited to the 2000 winner in Bremen Peter Karlsson and apparently their only fast rising star Fredrik Hakansson, their national champion in 1998, 2000, 2001 and 2002.

Timo Boll of Germany, labelled by his coach as "the perfect player", is the new champion of Europe. He is a lefthander with a splendid technique, a synchronisation of speed, motion and spin.

The Big Question is "will he become a threat to the Chinese?" Let us hope so. Samsonov can beat a few Chinese, can this new 21-year-old do better? Time will tell.

As one German journalist put it - "Boll is quick, but the Chinese are quicker".

Boll took six games to win the mens singles final against Kalin Kreanga, easing home 6 in the sixth game.

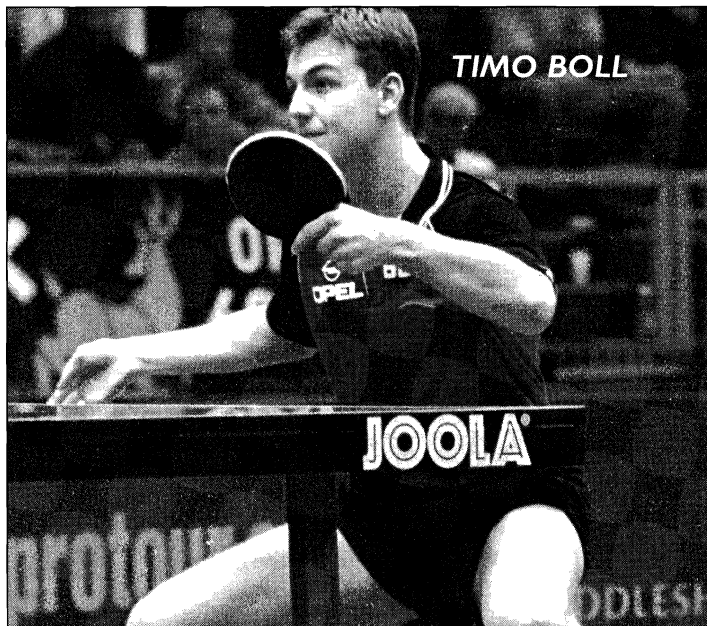
I also recall that Boll survived a match point in the semi-finals against Werner Schlager. One unlucky edge then and I would be writing a different story, all about Schlager.

What happened to the Big Guns in the later stages of the mens singles? In the quarters Primorac beat Samsonov 4-0; Kreanga beat Waldner 4-2, Schlager beat Karlsson 4-3 and Boll beat Bentsen 4-0.

Kreanga, now aged 30, seemed to be the danger man with his incredibly dangerous backhand counter-driving - his victory over Primorac was the 'Biggest Match' of the tournament as 1,500 Croats bayed for their favourite - "Zoky" Primorac, but the honours went to Kreanga as he battled on to win at 7 in the seventh game.

The second semi-final was also a nail-biter, again in seven games, with Boll perhaps lucky to survive after the Austrian missed match-point.

The mens singles final was a trifle anti-climatic won by Boll at 6 in the



Words by JOHN WOODFORD and BRIAN HALLIDAY in Zagreb

third.

At the Press Conference after Kreanga said "If I could serve better I might have won. It is now too late for me to become European champion."

Boll said "The earlier rounds were easy for me, but I kept my concentration. I am reaching out for more success. It is hard to reach this level but this was the most important win of my career so far".

ENGLAND in the MENS SINGLES

FIRST out was Terry Young (bad neck problem) - he lost to Geir Erlandsen of Norway; Gareth Herbert knocked out Adam Lindner of Hungary before losing to Hakansson in a tremendous six-rubber duel; Alex Perry was unlucky to get Kreanga whilst Andrew Baggaley went under to Slobodan Grujic from Yugoslavia.

The Matthew Syed tale of woe starts here. With some difficulty he managed to account for the leading

Turk (Yaldiz) but then England's top man fell to Robert Gardos at 6 in the fifth game. The Syed lethal long returns were absent - they came back high and shortish with the Syed new bat.

How Matthew is going to cope at the Commonwealth Games when so much depends on good English results is a mystery.

ENGLAND in the WOMENS SINGLES

BOOSTED by four wins in the team event and high hopes of promotion one might have expected better things. Helen Lower retired with a shoulder problem, leaving Nicky Deaton losing 6, 3, 12, 12 to Peggy Regenwetter and Katy Parker fighting hard but going under to Marie Olsson of Sweden.

Kate Steward took the fourth game from Andrea Maychoffer of SWEDEN, but lost 4-1, whilst Georgina Walker did well before losing to Alba Prades of Spain,

SHOCKS GALORE

THERE were shocks galore in the later stages of the womens singles, days after British interest. Top seed

Tamara Boros (Croatia) went down in the semis to Kristina Toth (Hungary) and the second seed Mihaela Steff (Romania) crashed to the ceiling-high serving from Csilla Batorfi (Romania).

The Bournemouth Open Grand Prix champion Ni Xia Lian lifted her second European singles title 4-1 against Toth in the final. Lian also won the mixed doubles with Lucjan Blaczczyk from Poland.

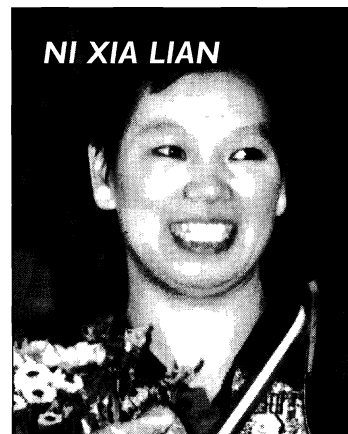
Boll teamed up with Zoltan Fejer-Konnerth to win the mens doubles against the Polish pair Blaszczyk and Tomasz Krzeszewski four-straight 12, 8, 6, 10, in the final.

Consolation for the two top seeds - Steff and Boros - they won the womens doubles, but it was a 4-3 final round struggle before they up-ended the Belarus defenders Victorias Pavlovich and Tatsiana Kostromina.

Footnote: Overall, the Croatians were good organisers - about 8 from 10 in most areas. There were huge gaps in the schedule - four hours on the last day - for television, of course.

They knew little about computing systems for results but their paperwork with results was fast and good.

The hotels were adequate - most of the players were 50 metres from the venue. One huge plus: a team of 40 students, all in smart light blue uniforms were hostesses for all sorts of important events in Zagreb - some larger cities can afford this sort of luxury as a vital part of their tourism-leisure programme.



EUROPEAN TEAM EVENTS

WHERE DID IT ALL GO WRONG?

THE MEN'S team events at the European Championships were organised under a new format this year. The elite countries were ranked from 1 to 12 and were grouped in the Super Division. The remaining 37 countries made up Divisions 1 and 2, writes Brian Halliday.

A beautiful Spring day in Zagreb and England all set to make an impact on Division 1, or so we thought!

Preparations had been thorough. Confidence at a reasonably high level, especially when news arrived that all was not well with our first opponents. All sorts of ructions in the Italian camp. Coach sacked. Seven players expressed solidarity with him, and were promptly suspended. Someone whispered that there might have been Mafia involvement - but rumour feeds on rumour. Italy took the opportunity of blooding a quartet of juniors, and England rubbed their hands with glee as they prepared for action.

Matt Syed was rested and Gareth Herbert was first on table. Then disaster struck. Gareth seemed nervous and indecisive, and promptly lost to Fabio Andreoli - a player we had never heard of. Andrew Baggaley was understandably apprehensive to start with but soon got going and levelled the match. Terry Young was never at his best but scraped home. Baggaley then showed Herbert where he had gone wrong and crushed Andreoli 7, 6, and 5, and England had won a somewhat shaky victory.

Croatia were the next opponents and with a partisan crowd giving full vocal support, this was never going to be an easy match. The home country gave us due compliment by being at full strength. Herbert was dropped, so Baggaley opened against Tomic. A three straight defeat did little to inspire Matt Syed and he in turn was plastered all over the arena by the world class Zoran Primorac.. 2-0 quickly became a 3-0 rout with Terry Young going down to Dragutin Surbek junior, also by 3 games to nil. Some excuse for Terry here as the young Surbek, presumably to compensate for a lack of flair, employs a service which is blatantly foul. Every single serve was thrown between clenched fingers and the umpire should have been ashamed for turning a blind eye. I thought for one moment we had returned to the finger spin days of the 1930s. Surbek senior was watching and he must have cringed with embarrassment.

Russia next and down we went again to a 3-0 defeat. Alex Perry looked quite good against Evgeni Fadeev, led 2-0, then ran out of

steam and lost 2-3. Syed had no answer to Smirnov, and Baggaley lost to Andrianov after taking the first game.

We were now plying for places 15 or 16, and the same trio were retained against Poland. Another 0-3 reverse with only some spectacular retrieving from Syed able to raise the England supporters deflated spirits. Matt just lost out to old rival Lucjan Blaszczyk 11-9 in the fifth game. Perry lost to Such 1-3 and Baggaley was no match for Kusinski.

Where did it all go wrong? It would be too easy to blame the preparations, the Academy, the coaches, the overall set up. No, the answer, and it is not easy to write this, lies with the players. For a number of years there has been a reliance on Matt Syed to pull us out of trouble. The 'Matt will win his two' syndrome has come home to haunt us. With the England No 1 finding it an increasingly uphill struggle to cope without the benefit of long pimples, the onus was on the rest of the team to show a more dedicated and mature responsibility. There is no doubt that technical expertise is increasing at an incredible rate all over Europe. Today's players demonstrate a fantastic dynamism and athleticism never seen in our sport before. It is evident that we are not keeping pace with our competitors and our future strategy needs a re-think - and quickly.

PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE

NOT all gloom however. Our women, so often the butt of criticism, gave promise of better things to come with a series of quite excellent results. It would be pretty churlish to say that the opposition was not up to much, but you can only beat what is put before you, and England certainly did this with aplomb.

A 3-1 win over Norway put the girls in good heart, with Helen Lower in a more positive frame of mind, and winning both singles. Nicola Deaton started on a winning note but Katy

Parker went down in five to Oddry Folkestad.

Coach Steen Hansen fielded the same team against Macedonia and the 3-0 result was impressive. Deaton took five games to see off the No.1, while Katy Parker opened her account 2, 3, and 3 against Matovic. Lower again won her match easily.

Georgina Walker made her debut against Turkey and performed creditably before losing in the fifth to Ozturk. Both Lower (1) and Deaton (2) were at their best and England recorded their 3rd successive win.

Three wins became four as Estonia were beaten 3-1. Morozova got the better of Deaton in five, but wins from the undefeated Lower, and one each from Deaton and Parker, ensured that England had gained promotion to the next category at the next European Championships.

Very satisfying for the team and the coach, but the very strange league system meant that the players had no chance of finishing higher than 25th. They were more than capable of producing results against better opposition, and it is difficult to see how England benefited from these matches. Nevertheless congratulations, the girls played with pride and no little skill.

EXTRAORDINARY

The team events overall provided some extraordinary matches, the brilliance of which will remain long in the memory. The semi-finals and the final of the mens were quite superb.

Sweden beat Austria by 3-1 with another show of astonishing genius from Waldner. The great man demonstrated his usual brand of impressive flair and even produced two new strokes that fans had not seen before. One a new service, and one a sort of chopped block drive. Innovation was always the name of his game.

The France v. Germany game was quite unbelievable with France coasting at 2-0 after wins for Eloi over hot favourite Timo Boll, and Chila demolishing Wosik 3-0. Newcomer Bastien Steger then crushed Legout to start the German

comeback. Very much more will be heard of Herr Steger in the years to come. Boll beat Chila and everyone thought that Eloi would make short work of Wosik. The Frenchman overdid the Gallic flair and an inspired Wosik played 'out of his skin' to notch up a famous win. No wonder he was mobbed by his teammates as the crowd gave him a deserved standing ovation.

The final lived up to prior expectations with this new look German side extending the holders to a fifth and deciding match.

Timo Boll, the current superstar of Europe, at last justified the season's rave reviews. He demolished Waldner with a display of consistency and frightening power. An excellent performance against the resurgent Swede who had been in impressive form throughout the whole event. Boll had earlier put paid to Hakansson, but the reigning European Champion Peter Karlsson was just too experienced for Lars Hielscher (why didn't they play Steger?).

With the match score at 2-2, Hakansson against Wosik was a thrilling affair, with these class attackers trading blows to such an extent that neither would concede a point if it could be helped. It was never a technical classic but nevertheless reached several heart stopping moments, especially in the third game when the score reached 16-15 and the expedite rule came in. The Swede lost this one but won the next two games to give his country a 3-2 victory. At a subsequent meeting of the ITTF the rule concerning expedite under the 11 up scoring system was changed to fall in line with the present up to 21 rule. The effect that from now on is that expedite does not come in if the players have reached 9-9. The revision was too late for poor Wosik!

The whole championships were quite magnificent, with reasonable crowds and excellent organisation.

One interesting incident bears reporting. Wednesday evening and play was near completion for the day. I took a final stroll round and looked in on the single table purpose built arena. Only a couple of lights on, no spectators whatsoever, but the sound of the ball back and forth. Now who on earth would be playing in half light after everybody had gone home? Zoran Primorac was practising with Tomic. There is no secret why the Croatian is one of the best in the world. It is hard graft and practice, even in the most unfavourable conditions. A lesson for all, no matter what ones standard of play happens to be.

JENKINS & KISS No. 1's

RYAN JENKINS, 22 from Pontypridd, who played in seven Grand Prix tournaments and won six including the final venue at Cheltenham Leisure Centre, won around £3,600 overall during the season, writes John Woodford.

His only banana-skin on the tour was at Wolverhampton where he lost to Niall Cameron from Scotland. Jenkins showed us again the best of his all-round game, lots of power, ample top-spin and the courage to counter-hit when the chips are down on both wings.

He defeated Marco Essomba, who finished second overall 4, 8, 7 in the final. Marco said after his defeat "Ryan played so solidly, there was nothing I could do to stop him." The man from Camerons still seeking a British passport has played consistently well through the tour participating in ten tournaments.

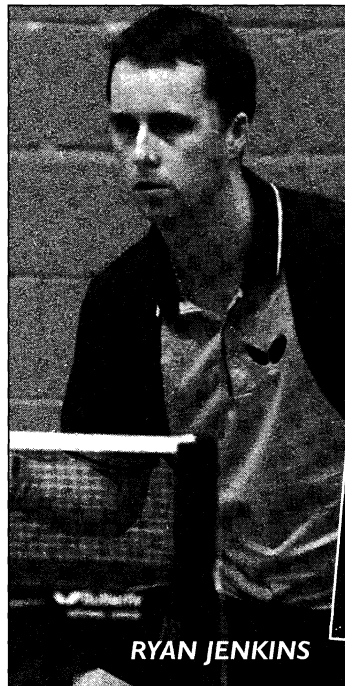
Gergely Urban (Hungary) and his two compatriots Barbara Kiss and Dorca Nagy have also supported the tour Urban and Kiss played in ten tournaments taking advantage of the England squad players appearing abroad and unable to support the tour, except on a few occasions.

Glancing back at the mens semi-finals - Stewart Crawford was in great form to reach the last four after taking out Jason Sugrue (London Progress) in the quarters. In the semi-finals Crawford was beaten 3,10, 8 by Jenkins.

The second semi-final was a triumph for Essomba - he eliminated Urban, but at 8 in the fifth game.

DEATON WINS BUT KISS TAKES WOMENS TITLE

Nicola Deaton played in four tournaments finishing at Cheltenham and winning the lot. An outstanding performance taking into consideration her university commitments and now with exams



coming up, she is still playing as well as ever.

In the final she was devastating 5, 4 and 5 against Barbara Kiss who won the overall tour title having appeared ten times through the campaign. Lindsey Thornton is still improving. The Lancashire girl was only beaten by Kiss at 10 in the fifth game of their semi-final.

In the other semi-final we saw a performance from a very young lady (now just 15) - Joanna Parker from Chertsey in Surrey, who hopefully will be a star performer for England in the future. After winning the under-21 final and winning the same event at Wolverhampton (where she also beat Barbara Kiss), she was only stopped 7, 12, 10 by Nicky Deaton.

I can only hope that the Surrey girl, who is at the Academy, will be chosen by Soren Ahlen for the fifth place in the womens squad for the Commonwealth Games in Manchester.

This is another case (rather like Dale Barham) where a young player is so far ahead of her rivals that it is a complete waste of time playing in junior events. Miss Parker needs to be playing against seniors all the time from now on.

Another player who caught my eye and is beginning to pull up trees is Craig Bryant from Devon - he lifted the Under-21 title 3 in the fourth against Craig Gascoyne from Nottingham.

Lauren Spink (Norfolk) who is



collecting more and more scalps, squandered three points in the semi-finals of the Under-21 womens event before losing to the ultra-defensive Siwan Davies of Wales.

In the final of the Under-21's we again watched spellbound by the attacking and defensive skills of Joanna Parker as she overpowered the Welsh girl's defences 7, -5, 9, 6.

A number of the top England veterans will be travelling to Switzerland shortly for the World Veterans Championships.

One of those is Nigel Eckersley who won the Grand Prix title by just 13 points from the England champion Clive Carthy (Essex). They met in the Cheltenham final in a titanic struggle won by Carthy 8 in the fifth, but it was the Sussex veteran who won the big kitty by just 13 points.

Only five women in the veterans event, so it was played as a round robin - an arrangement that took more than a couple of hours - the winner was Durham's Jane Durham, with Carol Eckersley coming second.

Finals results:

Mens singles (from semi-finals): Ryan Jenkins (Wales) bt Stewart Crawford (Scotland) 11-3, 12-10, 11-8. Marco Essomba (Surrey) bt Gergely Urban (Hungary) 11-8, 8-11, 11-4, 6-11, 11-8. *Final:* Ryan Jenkins (Wales) bt Marco Essomba (Surrey) 11-4, 11-8, 11-7. *Women's singles (from semi-finals):* Nicola Deaton (Derbys) beat Joanna Parker (Surrey) 11-7, 14-12, 12-10. Barbara Kiss (Herts) bt Lindsey Thornton (Lancs) 5-11, 11-9, 11-9, 1-11, 12-10. *Final:* Nicola Deaton (Derbys) bt Barbara

Kiss (Herts) 11-5, 11-4, 11-5.

Men's under 21 singles: Craig Bryant (Devon) bt Craig Gascoyne (Notts) 13-11, 6-11, 11-4, 11-3.

Women's under 21 singles: Joanna Parker (Surrey) bt Siwan Davies (Wales) 11-7, 5-11, 11-9, 11-6.

Veteran men's singles: Clive Carthy (Essex) bt Nigel Eckersley (Sussex) 14-12, 9-11, 15-13, 11-8.

Veteran women's singles: 1st - Jane Durham (Cleveland), 2nd - Carol Eckersley (Sussex).

Men's doubles: Ryan & Stephen Jenkins (Wales) bt Marco Essomba (Surrey)/Jason Sugrue (Middlesex) 11-8, 11-6, 3-11, 12-10.

Women's doubles: Nicola Deaton (Derbys)/Dorca Nagy (Hungary) bt Barbara Kiss (Herts)/Lindsey Thornton (Lancs) bt 12-10, 13-11, 8-11, 5-11, 11-8.

Band 1 men's singles: Craig Bryant (Devon) bt Abdul Wuraola (Surrey) 11-8, 10-12, 11-8, 11-4.

Band 2 men's singles: Neil Page (Wales) bt Hari Gehlot (Berks) 11-9, 11-5, 11-8.

Band 3 men's singles: Shaun Bibby (Yorks) bt Mark Newns (Oxon) 11-3, 11-7, 12-14, 10-12, 11-2.

Band 4 men's singles: Mark Daniels (Wales) bt Mark Newns (Oxon) 11-8, 11-8, 11-2.

Band 5 men's singles: Earl Sweeney (Warwicks) bt Keith Bird (Derbys) 12-10, 11-9, 8-11, 11-8.

Band 6 men's singles: Ayo Ademakinwa (Essex) bt Jon Hughes (Somerset) 11-6, 11-3, 11-7.

Band 1 women's singles: Gemma Chapman (Bucks) bt Lauren Spink (Norfolk) 11-7, 11-8, 11-7.

Band 2 women's singles: Laura Hall (Wales) bt Tamar Seamour (Oxon) 6-11, 11-4, 12-10, 7-11, 11-5.

Band 3 women's singles: Claire Wilson (Durham) bt Lisa Bosley (Berks) 11-7, 13-11, 11-8.

Final postions:

Mens singles: **1st** Ryan Jenkins 756 points, **2nd** Marco Essomba 740, **3rd** Gergely Urban 609. *Women's singles:* **1st** Barbara Kiss, **2nd** Nicola Deaton 589, **3rd** Dorca Nagy. *Mens U21:* **1st** Gavin Runggay 681, **2nd** Craig Bryant 646, **3rd** Gavin Jones 542. *Women's U21:* **1st** Suzy Robinson 446, **2nd** Gemma Chapman 444, **3rd** Lauren Spink 324. *Mens veterans:* **1st** Nigel Eckersley 545, **2nd** Clive Carthy 532, **3rd** Chris Beckley 420.

Women's veterans: **1st** Jane Durham 516.5, **2nd** Judy Morley 325, **3rd** Jenny Harrison 265. *Mens doubles:* **1st** Gergely Urban/Abdul Wuraola 560. *Women's doubles:* **1st** Barbara Kiss/Lindsey Thornton 400. *Mens band 1:* **1st** Abdul Wuraola 620. *Women's band 1:* **1st** Lauren Spink 532. *Mens band 2:* **1st** Chris Beckley 425, *Women's band 2:* **1st** Tamar Seymour 449. *Mens band 3:* **1st** Roy Norton 414. *Women's band 3:* **1st** Gail Davey 279. *Mens band 4:* **1st** Will Power 383. *Mens band 5:* **1st** Earl Sweeney 360. *Mens band 6:* **1st** Andy Henry 391.



TABLE TENNIS NEWS EXTRA

Issue No. 286 June/July 2002

This will be the last magazine before the **Manchester Commonwealth Games (25th July to 4th August)**, which will be massive event – I don't think table tennis people yet appreciate how big. Table tennis is included for the first time and the **England team (Matthew Syed, Andrew Baggaley, Alex Perry, Gareth Herbert, Terry Young, Nicola Deaton, Helen Lower, Katie Parker, Georgina Walker and Kate Steward plus Sue Gilroy and Cathy Mitton** in EAD wheelchair event) have a **very good chance of picking up medals**, particularly in the men's and EAD women's events. Chinese players playing for several countries are likely to dominate in the (able bodied) women's events.

It is **very important that England does well**. Not only may the future of the National Training Centre and High Performance Programme as presently set up ride on it, but there is also the **probability of enormous media interest**, including more (potentially much more) BBC terrestrial TV coverage than even that achieved by the PPP healthcare Commonwealth Masters. Although the most of the key table tennis days are officially sold out, tickets may still become available, so it is well worth checking **www.commonwealthgames.com (Tel. 0870 609 2002)**.

Our three-times **Commonwealth champion Matthew Syed**, always good to watch, lost in the final to Singapore's Duan Yong Jun, but nevertheless the **PPP healthcare Commonwealth Masters Championship at Wembley Conference Centre on 17th May was his triumph**. A Nigerian journalist who I sat beside was amazed at the ethnic mix of the large, enthusiastic audience. Although some older supporters may have preferred the hushed and formal, snooker like atmosphere of international table tennis of yore, I thought that the **buzz and excitement** from youthful, good humoured audience participation – the cheers and chants, rattles and banner waving, and the Sikh school (drums) band (even if it did briefly drown out the MC, Bond girl Helene Hunt) – was absolutely great! A dynamic vision of a new table tennis!

Behind the scenes many people put in a huge amount of time and effort to make the Masters a success, but full credit must go to Matthew Syed whose inspired idea it was and who made a considerable personal contribution to seeing it through to fruition, to the probable detriment of his own playing performance.

With no room for Muhr's Memo this edition, I cannot outline the massive media exposure that the PPP healthcare Commonwealth Masters achieved for table tennis, but the most significant thing was getting back on **terrestrial TV**. The **feedback** from the 1 hour and 10 minutes of the Masters on **BBC1 Grandstand** has been overwhelmingly **excellent**, with the only small disappointment expressed being that no footage was shown of the 'super kids' under 12 challenge between Darius Knight and Paul Drinkhall. I have been encouraging people to **contact BBC TV** to say what they thought of it - particularly if positive! Send your letters to BBC1 Grandstand, c/o BBC Television Centre, Wood Lane, London W12, or tel. 0870 0100222. Harold Taylor of the Sycamore Club, Nottingham, has also suggested writing to: BBC Sport, Room 5090, BBC TV Centre, London W12 7RJ e-mail: grandstand@bbc.co.uk and POINTS of VIEW, BBC Television, London W12 7TS e-mail: pov@bbc.co.uk Letting the BBC know about this or their TT coverage of the Commonwealth Games will encourage them to broadcast more of our sport.

The **ETTA is justifiably proud in celebrating its 80th year** since the TTA was set up and **75th year** since the England prefix was added, during which time the sport of table tennis has changed hugely. Just as we have a duty to pass on the legacy of the past, we also have a duty to ensure that the sport has a future, as it continues to evolve. Therefore, though the **ETTA AGM** will probably vote to allow local leagues continued discretion as to whether they play their internal competitions up to the traditional **21 points or to the new 11 points**, I personally see no sense in any forward looking league sticking to 21 up, which is the scoring system of the

past, as opposed to operating what is the worldwide law of table tennis now or for the foreseeable future. And any league that reverts back from 11 up to 21 up for their main competition (and a few are considering this) is in my opinion crazy! Respect and take pleasure in history, but move on with the times!

Elsewhere in this edition, you can read an ITTF paper giving a **full explanation of the new service law** (to prevent 'shielded' services), prepared by Colin Clemett and effective from 1st September 2002. It is unlikely that there will be any discretion on whether this law can be implemented!

Also you will see that nominations are invited (by 31st July) for **National Volunteer and Club Awards 2002**, with various categories of **Coach of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Special Award, TT Development Officer of the Year and Press Officer of the Year**. I am particularly pleased that **Random House Ltd**, publishers, and **Howard Jacobson**, author, will again be supporting the latter award, and would advise that ideally **portfolios** should be of 4 or 5 items of **published (or broadcast) work** and not press releases only.

It is with considerable frustration and apology to disappointed contributors and readers that **I must leave out** (hopefully until the September issue) a **huge number of articles and reports** – I hold a massive amount of material. For example, the **2nd National Premier Club Conference on 25th May** was considered a great success. I have also **cut back** – I hope with sensitivity, rather than the brutality than some people have advised – several **county notes contributions** that are far too long. **Please, correspondents, keep nearer to the designated 300 words!** It would save much grief!

Players, by all means have a brief break, but remember that while others are resting, you can be training to gain a new season edge. **The summer can be a time for significantly improving your game!**

Ken Muhr

BERKSHIRE by John Cunningham

Ali Subhan held off a strong challenge from Hari Gehlot to win the Reading Masters for the first time.

This end-of-season tournament, involving 10 of the best players in the Reading and District Association, provided some superb table tennis.

The tournament, played at Kingfisher Table Tennis Club in Woodley and sponsored by OLOP/IMPACT, started with Subhan winning his group match against top seed Gehlot 11-9, 12-10, 4-11, 7-11, 12-10.

Gehlot, though, fought back to reach the semi-finals against 2nd seed Martin Adams.

Martin clinched the first game 11-5 and the second 13-11, but Gehlot produced some inspired attacking play to win the next two 11-5, 11-6. He moved 7-3 ahead in the fifth, but Adams dug deep to level at 7-7, only for Gehlot to reel off the next four points in style to clinch a sensational 11-7 victory.

In the final, Gehlot took an early 4-0 advantage which Subhan soon clawed back before going 9-7 ahead and closing out the first 11-8.

Gehlot seized the initiative again in the next, racing 8-2 ahead and winning it 11-6.

This time it was Subhan's turn to fight back, going quickly 4-1 ahead and reaching game-point at 10-5.

Gehlot managed to level at 10-all, but Subhan took the next two points and the game 12-10 to put himself 2-1 up.

At 6-0 Subhan in the fourth it look all over, but again Gehlot battled back and from seemingly nowhere he was suddenly level at 7-7. Subhan just held on to take the game and the title 11-9.



The Reading Masters Top 10

Left to right: Andrew Walker, Nigel Maltby, Bob Davis, Ali Subhan, Tony Reynolds, Tony Palaczky, Barry Morten, Hari Gehlot, Martin Adams, Dave Streat

COUNTY NOTES

– a look around the Country

The recent death of ex-Reading Chairman Tom Williams brought back memories of earlier times from 1967.

Tom's talented son Adrian had started playing at Reading YMCA, and although he won Under 11 open tournaments his train spotting interest dominated. Tom, although middle-aged, thought he would also learn to play. He worked hard and was soon playing a good standard in the League as some still remember. Soon there was a thriving group of non-teenagers, some of whom, such as Sid Montgomery, reached a high standard.

Tom Williams played an instrumental financial role when Alan Dines started IMPACT in 1971. This was a large-scale start up at four venues to coach 400 children and Tom recognised the potential. Tables were needed and Tom eventually persuaded the Reading Committee to lend IMPACT finance to purchase tables. This was paid back within the year to the surprise of some sceptics. Tom's support at this stage was vital but more support was still needed for several years as many members of the Reading Committee continued to oppose junior coaching and frequently demanded that it be stopped! This may surprise people today now that Reading is established with a national reputation. The reasoning then was that too many youngsters were being introduced to table tennis and the only way for them to play in teams would be to push out existing players. Fortunately for all of the new generations of juniors since then, Tom was a strong Chairman who, with diplomacy and charm, managed with great difficulty to keep the negative faction under control.

Thanks Tom for the vital role you played in the IMPACT start-up. May this tribute remind and inform everyone.

by Alan Dines

CHESHIRE by Alan Blears

Many events to report, and so little space, so apologies if some of the coverage seems rather brief.

Cheshire Closed

A clash with the Derby 4 Star Junior Select and U21 Nationals decimated the junior events, the girls' section being cancelled but the adult competition was a great success. Roll of honour:

Results:

Cadet Boys Singles: Winner – Richard Barker, RU – Andrew Davies; Junior Boys Restricted: Winner – Andrew Davies, RU – Danny Russell; Junior Boys' Doubles: Winners – N Powell/A Chandna, RU – D Russell/G Lloyd; Junior Boys' Singles: Winner – Gavin Lloyd, RU – Danny Russell; O70s Singles: Winner – Derek Schofield, RU – Terry Donlan; O60s Singles: Winner – Derek Schofield, RU – Terry Donlan; O50s Singles: Winner – Mike Johns, RU – Ron Bradburn; O40s Mens: Winner – Mike Johns, RU – Dave Nelson; O40s Women: Winner – Doreen Schofield, RU – Marie Turner; Restricted Men's: Winner – Terry Turner, RU – Dave Nelson; Restricted Women's: Winner – Jill Schofield, RU – Marie Turner; Grade A Singles: Winner – Simon Douglas, RU – Frank Sorrentino; Grade B Singles: Winner – Alf Southall, RU – Matthew Knott; Restricted Doubles: Winners – T Turner/N Rafferty, RU – J Eaton/D Johns; Mixed Doubles: Winners – I Campbell/J Schofield, RU – T Turner/M Turner; Women's Doubles: Winners – TA Nolan/G Lloyd, RU – D & J Schofield; Men's Doubles: Winners – M & D Johns, RU – T Turner/N Rafferty; Women's Singles: Winner – Gemma Lloyd, RU – Terri-Ann Nolan; Men's Singles: Winner – Wayne Percival, RU – Mike Johns

Junior County Championship

Danny Horner returned for the second round of matches and was unbeaten in helping the team move into runners-up spot in the Premier Division. Well done Danny, Neil Powell, Tom Page, Katy Ingham, Clare Langford and Karen Shepherd, who is to resume serious training with Denis Neale.

Cadets County Championship Final

Cheshire had to be satisfied with runners-up spot here too when a

thrilling match against southern champions Surrey ended in a draw, the title being decided when Surrey won a boys' doubles match play-off. The disappointed team of Jonathan Taylor, Richard Barker, Matthew Langford, Elizabeth Dennett, Hayley Parker and Sophie Byron should nevertheless be proud of their performance.

National Junior League – North West Area South

Cheshire teams dominated both divisions, with Wirral just holding off Halton 'A' to win Division 1 by 110 points to 108. Of the regular players Wirral's Jonathan Taylor and Arjun Chandna topped the averages with 97% and 95% respectively.

In Division 2 Stockport 'A' was a convincing winner by 13 points from Manchester 'B', with all five players being in the top eight of the averages. George Yardley finished second to Manchester's Siful Khan with 91% and Amrit Kaur was top girl with 82%.

This division was the one with most girls, and it was encouraging to see the improvement in the younger ones Lynsey Pich and Lauren Ward, and the all-action Stockport 'B' trio of 10/11-year-olds Caroline Hallows, Amy Walker and Emma Kelly.

Stiga Hyndburn Junior Grand Prix

Tony Meredith, Ken Armson, Faith Moore and their assistants are to be congratulated on this excellent series of six tournaments. Cheshire youngsters featured strongly throughout, with several being "in the money" after the final event. The lucky recipients of cash or vouchers with their finishing positions are:

Girls U12 - 2) Sophie Byron 3) Caroline Hallows 4) Amy Walker; Boys U12 - 3) Matthew Knott; Cadet Girls - 4) Caroline Hallows 5) Amy Walker; Cadet Boys - 4) Adam Slater; Girls Overall - 7) Sophie Byron; Boys Overall - 4) Aaron Beech 5) Adam Slater; Junior Merit - Aaron Beech.

Always seeking to improve, the committee will be reviewing the system of points allocation for next season.

Stockport Junior Competition

34 children from three local leagues entered this annual event, including eight Stockport girls in the U12

section. In this, defending champion Steve Barrett lost in the semis to Amy Walker, who in turn lost the final to Caroline Hallows. No. 3 seed Jake Barratt was the surprise winner of the Boys U12.

The older events were dominated by the Hillcourt club's cadets Sam Kilby and Adam Slater. Sam took the U14 and U17 titles, but Adam took revenge in the U20 Youth Cup, beating not only Sam but also defending champion Amanda Pollard.

Girls U12: W - Caroline Hallows, RU - Amy Walker; Boys U12: W - Jake Barratt, RU - Nick Day; U12 DR Doubles: W - Emma Kelly/Jordan Booth, RU - Ben Spencer/Paul Kershaw; U12 Mixed Consolation: W - Ben Spencer, RU - Paul Kershaw; Cadets: W - Sam Kilby, RU - Adam Slater; Juniors: W - Sam Kilby, RU - Adam Slater; Junior DR Doubles: W - Caroline Hallows/Martin Aldred, RU - Amy Walker/Adam Slater; (Note two U12 girls in U17 Doubles final!); Youth Cup: W - Adam Slater, RU - Sam Kilby.

STOP PRESS: The Knutsford Junior 2 Star has been cancelled

DEVONSHIRE by John Vincent

The final of the National Junior League in Plymouth was run on Saturday 23rd March 2002. Players from West Cornwall, North Devon and Plymouth need competition for ranking points down in the South West so this League on their doorstep was very beneficial to them.

Plymouth National Junior League Table

1. Woolwell 'A'	76 pts
2. Ilfracombe (North Devon)	76 pts
3. Harris Mill 'A' (Redruth)	46 pts
4. Ivybridge 'A'	35 pts
5. Woolwell 'B'	34 pts
6. Yealmpstone	26 pts
7. Harris Mill 'B' (Redruth)	20 pts
8. Ivybridge 'B'	20 pts

Devonshire Senior I in Premier Division

The County team of Craig Bryant, Paul Whiting, James Whiteman, Mike Short, Marketa Myskova and debutant Sonia Holman did well to survive in the Premiership in the County Championships at Grantham.

Devonshire Junior I in Premier Division

Playing without Craig Bryant on the Saturday, there was disappointment for our team which was relegated on countback. Devonshire's top players were Craig Bryant 4 out of 4 and Shaun Gibbs 5 out of 8.

DML/Plymouth British League Team

This team, led by Paul Whiting, which plays in Division 1 South, had a brilliant weekend winning all four of their matches.

They defeated Horsham 5-3, PSP Westinsure 7-1, EBS Orange Northampton 6-2 and Cippenham 8-0.

Their wins over second placed Cippenham and third placed Horsham have enabled the DML/Plymouth team to leapfrog into second place.

National League

The DML/Plymouth table tennis team completed their fixtures in Division 1 South with two excellent victories over Barnet 6-2 and league leaders London Progress II 7-1 to finish runners-up. Craig Bryant at no. 1 took 3 out of 4 and he was well supported by Paul Whiting with four wins, Mike Short and Marketa Myskova each taking 3 out of 4. With London Progress I already in the Premier Division, the opportunity of a place in the Premiership next season is likely to be accepted.

National Schools Individual Championships

This season Shaun Gibbs and Chris Brown are to be congratulated on their selection for England Schools in the 'home internationals' at the end of June in Cardiff, Wales. All our players did well in the National Championships. Shaun Gibbs, Chris Brown, Michelle Barrett and Chris Smith all reached the quarter-final stage. Sally Smith reached the last 10 and then just missed out in a play-off for a quarter-final place. Darren Reed and Simon Poyner both managed a place in the last 16. Lisa Radford came third in her group and in the under 11 girls debutant Hannah Bradford won one game.

South West Region Under 10/12/14 Squad

We had three boys in the team which came third out of ten in the National Regional Team Competition. They were Simon Poyner no. 1 U/14,

Darren Reed no. 2 U/12 and Elliot Goss no. 2 U10.

ETTA Junior Masters

Craig Bryant did very well to finish third in this very prestigious competition. His only losses were against no. 1 Matthew Kenny (Yorkshire) and no. 2 Bryn Drinkhall (Cumbria).

Cheltenham Open Grand Prix

Bryant had an excellent tournament. He won the Men's Band I and also the Under 21 event when he beat Craig Gascoyne (Nottingham) in the final.

Michelle Barrett did well to reach the quarter-final stage in both the ladies Bands 2 and 3. Lisa Radford, after a slow start in Band 2, improved in Band 3, defeating the no. 2 seed in her group and finally reaching the quarter-final.

Helen Parton, now ranked no. 1 Devon girl on the junior ranking list for May, also reached the quarter-final of Band 3.

Intercity's Rory Harries and Jacob Kodicek both had good tournaments with Rory getting to the last 16 in Bands 3 and 4 whilst Jacob did equally well reaching the last 16 in both Bands 4 and 5.

Beacon Electrical Plymouth & District League Winners

Division 1 – Intercity 'A'; Division 2 – Civil Service 'B'; Division 3; Ridgeway 'A'; Division 4 – Hill and Lang 'B'; Division 5 – Astor 'D'; Division 6 – Woodland Fort 'H'; Division 7 – Trelawny 'G'; Plymouth Schools League – Ivybridge 'A'.

Divisional Cup Winners

1. Intercity 'A' 2. Civil Service 'B' 3. Ridgeway 'A' 4. Hill & Lang 'B' 5. Astor 'D' 6. Spar Saltash 7. Woolwell 'D'.

Handicap Team Event (covering all 7 divisions). Winners – China Fleet 'B'

ESSEX by Steve Kerns

COLCHESTER CLOSED

Rik James defended his crown when he took the Colchester League Mens Singles title for the seventh time whilst Essex first team star Kate

Wadling won her fourth successive Ladies' Singles trophy. Rik came through a strong if rather small field without dropping a game, beating an in form EBS-Orange Northampton British League player Andy Doshier (19,16) in the semi-final and long-time rival Dave Cole 18,19 in a typical all-action final. Cole had been fully extended in his semi-final by his 16 year-old British League team-mate Keiran Lally winning 19,18. Lally had already removed the no. 3 seed Steve Kerns (who ???) from the draw in the first round. Ipswich League veteran Ken Lewis featured in the latter stages of a number of events and although he missed out narrowly in the Veterans Singles Final against Suffolk Veterans Champion Andy Holmes, he can be pleased with his weekend's work which included victories in both the Handicap Singles and Handicap Doubles (with son Mark). Other winners included Anthony Greenwood (Junior Boys), Michael Andrews (Cadet Boys) and George Earle (Over 60s). Selected results included:

Ladies' Singles: Kate Wadling beat Sue Welham 14,14; Men's Doubles: Andy Doshier/Steve Kerns beat Rik James/Steve Edmonds 17,14; Ladies Doubles: Kate Wadling/Sasha Harvey beat Sue Welham/Amanda Hogger 14,-18,16; Mixed Doubles: Rik James/Sasha Harvey beat Steve Edmonds/Sue Welham 14,14; Veterans' Singles: Andy Holmes beat Ken Lewis 16,19; Over 50s Singles: Ian Brown beat Ian Whiteside 6,16.

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH

The Essex Junior first team retained their Premier division status at Grantham over the weekend of 23/24 March 2002 without the services of their leading player, the injured Natalie Bawden. The team lost 3-7 to Surrey but scored a vital 7-3 win over bottom-placed Warwickshire. A win against Devon would have been sufficient but the Devon side added England no. 3 Chris Bryant to their line-up and Chris tipped the scales in his side's favour as they won 6-4. Team Manager Alan Shepherd admitted here that he felt that this was the end of the road for his team but his determined side clearly had other ideas. Facing Yorkshire who were still in with a chance of second position, the team produced their best performance of the season. Keiran Lally lost a desperately close opening

encounter 12-10 in the fifth against Andrew Woodhead, but the fast-improving Tony Halling cancelled this out with a hard-fought 3-2 success against the Yorkshire no. 3. England no. 2 U12 Sarra Wang had a great win over Amanda Bell, and then Lee Daines came up with the performance of the weekend as he demolished Simon Noutch (ranked no. 13 in England) 3-0 - an absolute gem of a win. Amy Wright was unlucky to miss out over five games against Tanya Waller but Tony Halling came up trumps with a brilliant win over Andrew Woodhead to put Essex 4-2 ahead. Sarra and Keiran then lost successively to Tanya and Simon as Yorkshire pulled back to 4-4. Amy Wright really showed her mettle at this stage by getting the vital win against Amanda Bell and Lee completed an outstanding performance by overwhelming the Yorkshire no. 3 to give Essex their 6-4 success. Alan Shepherd, speaking in the same style as England Manager Sven Goran Eriksson, summed it up perfectly - "I cannot speak too highly of all my team, the character and team-spirit displayed by all my players over the four games was quite outstanding".

GLOUCESTERSHIRE by Dave Harvey

British Schools Under 12 International

Mike Harvey has been selected to play in the above series of Home Internationals against the teams of Scotland, Ireland, Wales & I.O.M. in Dublin over the weekend and will also compete in the individual competition, following in the footsteps of previous Gloucestershire representatives, Ann Humble, Suzy Robinson & Harry Shahlaei.

County Division 1 Championships

The county Senior Team, just failed in their attempt to regain promotion to the Premier Division (a spot they last occupied some 35 years ago) when they narrowly lost 6 games to 4 to the eventual winners Glamorgan.

Highlights of this match was Darren Griffin's and Dave Harvey's win against the Welsh no 3 international (dummy ranked 12 in England) Steve Jenkins and Suzy's win over Catherine Davies. Judy Morley played from her sick bed and despite being plagued with a heavy viral infection won several crucial games in the series of 3

matches.

Brian Macrandal also claimed several notable victories. This result was the best achieved for many years and the county hope to go one better next year.

University Team Championships

Suzy Robinson achieved outstanding results in both the mixed & ladies doubles where she and respective partners lost in the final and semi finals respectively.

Cheltenham Tournaments

Both the no 1 & no 2 seeds Dave & Harry reached the final which is to be staged on Thursday 12th April at the Cheltenham College.

In the semis Dave beat Nicky Mytton 2, 2 & 5, whilst 12 year old Harry overcame Dave Adamson -4,9,-12, 6 & 6. Other events on Finals Night as follows: Mens' Doubles between Nick Mytton & Doug Payne (1st seed) v Dave & Mike Harvey (4th seed).

Consolation Singles - Mike Harvey v Ken Smith Junior Boys Singles - Dominic Wynn - Sands v Harry Shahlaei.

Other Results

The Ladies competition was played on a round robin basis between 6 entrants and the winner was Jacqui Carver (Holder) R/Up Elaine Marshall. Veterans competition winner was Alan Giles who beat John Fannin over 5 sets. Earlier Alan disposed of Dave Harvey in straight games in one semi final and John overcame Nicky Mytton in 5 close sets.

Junior & Intermediate Results Boys Under 12s, 14s & 21s winner Harry Shahlaei; r/ups Andy Merrick, Mike Harvey & Lawrence Shahlaei respectively.

Boys' Doubles: Wnrs Dominic & Harry, r/ups Tom Berdutt & Steve Gummer; Girls Under 12s & 14s: winner Stephanie Carver r/ups Emily Carver & Harriet Almond Junior Mixed Graded Events; Under 11s - winner Robert Harvey r/up Edward Cheadle; Under 14s - winner Matt Waring r/up Niall Pawsey; Under 17s - winner Martin Logan, r/up James Pickup; National Jnr Midlands League Team of Dave Merrick, Craig East, Sam White & Andy Merrick finished second with averages of 78%, 78% 71% & 63% respectively.

Forthcoming Events

National Referee Cheltenham's Gill Smith has recently sat and passed a sequence of tough examinations and is now a qualified National Referee to add to her growing list of table tennis achievements.

Finally it is with much sadness to report that Gladys Pepperd has died following the recent death of her husband Alf. Both Gladys and Alf were much respected and admired by all who knew them and both supported table tennis at all events throughout the County and nationally, and will be greatly missed by all who knew them.

HAMPSHIRE by Brian Lamerton

Southampton ended their season with a finals/presentation evening at Chamberlayne Leisure Centre before an audience of 70 plus. Christos Hannides, a county schools winner at all four age levels in the 70s/80s and a prominent member of the local scene ever since, took his first title when he defeated the holder, Victor Imiseev, at 13-11 in the fifth game of a thrilling men's singles final. Sue Hibberd retained her women's singles title defeating Anne Longland in a repeat of last year's final. Miki Sinanan won the veterans' title and there was much excitement in the New Forest home of the Willsher family when brother and sister, Chris and Sophie, arrived home with the two junior singles trophies.

The holders triumphed again in Portsmouth where Rod McMullen and Mary Barron ran out winners of the main singles events, with Roger Hookey and David Woodacre lifting the veterans and junior titles respectively.

In an age of declining local tournaments it was good to see the reinstatement, after several seasons, of the Gosport and Fareham closed tournament. Andy Phillips was the men's singles winner, Nicola Whitcher the women's, Nick Faithfull the cadet and James Botten the junior, whilst a name from when Hampshire were a force in veteran TT, Ray Lush, re-appeared as partnered by Alan Willcocks they took the doubles.

There was disappointment for the county junior team when despite going through the season unbeaten they could only finish second to Essex. With Emma Dobson and Nic Anderson now over age, next season's

rebuilding exercise will start with Jenny Dobson, David Woodacre and Alex Garlick, the remainder of this season's squad.

Bournemouth (yes I know many of you think that Bournemouth is in Dorset but they have always retained their TT alliance to Hampshire) were successful in both Divisions of the inter-town junior league; division 1 team being James Whitehorn, Neil Cartwright, Charlie Joyce, David Sclanders and Ellen Turner, and Division 2 team Matt Billingsley, Mark Grimley, Mark Perkins, Joy Whitehorn and Sarah Warwick. Grimley, Perkins and Whitehorn from the latter team joined by James Law and Matthew Ware, also won Division 1 of the cadet league with Basingstoke (represented by Patrick Garlick, Sue Thompsett, Robert Short and Alex Piper) pipping Portsmouth by one set to take Division 2.

Ending on a sad note we have to record the death of Norman Ronald Way. Your scribe first met and played against Norman when he (Norman) was a student at the forerunner of Southampton University in the late 40s. Norman, originally from Bournemouth, went on to become an internationally renowned engineer before settling in the north of the county to become Mr Table Tennis of the Alton League. The large congregation at his funeral service held in St. Mary's Church, Bentley, was evidence of the esteem with which he was held.

ISLE OF WIGHT by John Prean

Most of the passion generated has been on the 21up controversy which is exercising minds all over the country, but it is not a cause which I would hurry to the barricades. However, much space was taken up in our local Newsletter and perhaps a decent attendance at our AGM will result and so provide an occasion on which our members will learn what the real problems of our sport are.

The main one is that of falling numbers. Our leagues are drifting towards a state of affairs where competition will be unequal, where divisions are small, the season shorter and a future, which is not at all bright.

We have at last grasped the nettle of attracting young people again and, having stressed this need for some time, it was I who was landed with the post of coaching officer and so a notable promotion from the post of

ETTA Chairman I occupied in 1991. It was to be for two months only, but there is no sign of a successor. However, results have been gratifying. At last very young visitors are appearing and staying with us. Some older members who honour us with a visit to our centre on odd occasions are finding they have to wait for a table or have to play doubles till the kids go home.

One looks, of course, for the next step, the time when the newcomers reach a standard that enables them to play in the League. There we reach the impasse about which I have talked and written for so long, **which** is that parents these days simply will not allow their children the late nights thought acceptable in my time, which affect schoolwork and the sleep needed to do this properly. I do know the answer to all this, which is, of course, to start matches earlier, not least on time and to adopt formats which do not drag till deep into the night, but there one meets the older player who is indifferent to all that and wants only to continue in ways which have not worked and which have proved so detrimental to the long term interests of the game. Frankly, I see the 21up nostalgia in that light. I see no reason why matches should be played over 10 sets and see 7 or 8 as quite sufficient. That would remove one obstacle to our revival and renewal which can only come, if new people, younger people, enter the sport. I do not think the national leadership has given sufficient attention, let alone leadership, on this vital need. It is all very well talking about the many young people who come to our "Premier Clubs", but where do they go from there? They can't just practice week after week without any objective and few will be good enough to go to national tournaments week after week. The local leagues remain the first vital step and maybe the only one, and they just have to be strengthened and get on a sound and sensible basis.

There are doubts, too, about our county team, the women's positions the reason for the uncertainty. Whilst there is no difficulty in finding three plausible men, it will be hard to fill the two female places. The ETTA persists with this format. Women, sad though it is, make up only 7% of our members, but are expected to fill 40% of the places in county teams.

The possibility of a British League Isle of Wight team has been discussed, but the benefits to the local association

and members are not clear, as there are no home matches which might provide an opportunity for identifying with the team, get a few spectators and press space. One is reminded of the remark "Everything in our favour is against us". To put it mildly, the future is not clear and that advanced in official arguments of lots of youngsters playing and being enrolled to replace those who have left the local leagues is not realistic. There have to be clear signposts and roads on which today's beginner will travel. I see only mist and wishful thinking in official circles.

Our Closed Championships took place with what must be a record low entry, the usual reason advanced being the dominance of 22-year-old Danny Burns, who took the men's title for the 7th time. In the Ladies' final Jo Hurt (14) beat Anne Williams and they were also the only entries, a depressing state of affairs. Some well-known names were missing and Lucy Pointer seems to have retired at 17 after her three years at the "Academy", a sad ending to a career which seemed so promising at one time.

Carl Prean was our only entry in the English Closed. Various reasons were advanced for his presence, including one (in a national newspaper) that he was participating "to embarrass the administration"! The real reason was, of course, that he hoped to win. Due to the excellent play of Andrew Baggaley in the quarter-finals this did not prove possible on the day, as a 2-0 win melted into a 2-4 defeat. We wish the new champion every success.

LANCASHIRE by Tony Meredith

A Life of Sporting Success

It is with great sadness that I have to report the passing of George Ressel from the Preston Table Tennis Association who died in March after a short illness. For many years George had been known as a leading administrator for the Preston League and a Vice President of the Lancashire & Cheshire League. As NPC for Preston's town teams he achieved historic success when Preston were both Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl winners in 1982. As a player he was a member of Gryf's championship winning team on five occasions between 1954 and 1970. In 1960 he realised the ultimate personal success when he won the Preston men's singles title.

The George Ressels of this world will never be replaced and he will be

sadly missed by all who had the good fortune to know him.

Starlet Graham selected for England

County starlet Cherith Graham from Liverpool has been selected to represent England Schools in the forthcoming Schools International to be held at Cardiff from 28th-30th June. Congratulations and best wishes go with her.

Meanwhile, Seaside have finally made it to the top flight of the British League. After many seasons in the lower divisions they have gained promotion to the Premier Division by winning Division One North in convincing style.

Lancashire & Cheshire League

The Dennis Smith Memorial Trophy was contested by Halton and LBH with Halton trouncing the former winners 5 nil. It was a similar situation in the Norman Cook Memorial Trophy where Liverpool beat Blackpool by the same scoreline. Rumour has it that the when the pies arrived it caused the biggest cheer of the evening.

Liverpool also held on to the premier division title with an 8-2 victory at Bolton. Kevin Dolder excelled with wins over Michael Moir, Louis Rosenthal and, former European Champion John Hilton, all in straight games. Bolton were runners-up in the division, their best result for some years. Bury hammered Preston 10 nil to seal men's one with Halton a creditable second. In division two Ellesmere Port were champions after a resounding 8-2 success at Bury "A" where Ron Wetherby was unbeaten. Halton secured the runners-up slot with a whitewash of Preston "A".

The ladies competition resulted in Liverpool gaining a double success but by the closest of possible margins. They had drawn at Oldham and needed to win 9-1 against Southport to pip the former to the title. They actually won 9-1 and retained the title by just one set.

Liverpool went on to make it a triple success when they clinched the veterans premier division with an 8-2 victory over Stockport/Tameside (take your pick) who had to settle for second place. Halton were vets one winners with Liverpool "A" in second place.

The junior divisions were played in the new format of a central venue over two Sundays. The events took place at Halton Table Tennis Centre and

proved to be successful and very popular with the players.

Barrow were undisputed champions of the premier division even though they lost their final match 2-4 to Halton. Wirral were 6 nil victors over Southport "A" in their final match and took the runners-up slot. Wirral "A" went one better than their first team by winning division one.

Preston Closed

Veteran Barry Crook won a hat-trick of titles including the open singles crown. Barry defeated Paul Shirley (brother of Jill Shirley) deuce in the third in a very exciting final. He continued his success in the vets final when he saw off the evergreen Tony Rigby, also in three games. To top up his previous successes he teamed up with Rigby to take the open doubles title against the strong pairing of Brian Oldfield and Mike Sibley. Hannah Roberts was junior champion when she easily overcame Daniel Martindale in straight games. Results:- Open Singles: Barry Crook bt Paul Shirley – 11, 10, 22. Veteran Singles: Barry Crook bt Tony Rigby –14, 15, 18. Open Doubles: -14, 15, 18. Junior Singles: Hannah Roberts bt Daniel Martindale 7, 3.

National Junior League

Formby "A" walked away with Division One North of the National Junior League by a massive 33 point margin from their second placed "B" team. Sally Duncliffe topped the averages with 97% and her record of 31 from 32 was the best from all four divisions. Team-mates Brendan McAleese and Tom Bray both finished on 94%.

STOP PRESS – LANCASHIRE JUNIOR OPEN

The unpredictable Stephen Denny from Bingley lifted the Lancashire junior crown and a handsome cheque for £100 when he defeated Durham's Kevin Wilson in straight games. This was Denny at his best displaying control, power and, at times, touches of sheer brilliance. Nottingham's Kerry Radford was the expected winner of the junior girls' singles with Jane Easley (Staffs) runner-up.

NORTHANTS by Dennis Millman

It is not often that any sporting occasion provides both quantity and quality in full equal measure. However, when Arthur Palmer put the final touches to the 2002 County Closed Tournament after three days of frenzied activity he must have felt justly rewarded in the knowledge that the event had enjoyed the best of both worlds.

Much of the quality came from the younger players with the Yarnall brothers noticeably prominent, with 14-year-old Tim having no difficulty in retaining both his junior titles but finding things very different when confronted by former champion Keiron Dabbs in the final of the men's singles.

Dabbs started badly but halfway through the second end his fluent backhand began to take effect with Yarnall faltering under sustained pressure to surrender both the initiative and the lead.

Trailing by two games to one, Yarnall recaptured both power and accuracy to square the match with Dabbs now prone to unforced errors. The decider was keenly contested with Dabbs taking a 2-1 lead, but he was never ahead again though he levelled the scores on seven occasions. Surprisingly, throughout the final game neither player was able to win consecutive services until with the match poised at 9-9 Yarnall took two in a row for a second successive title.

This brought his winning tally to five, for in addition to his singles successes he joined brother Greg to add a first men's doubles crown and a fourth junior title, with holders Dabbs and Ray Kingston the beaten senior finalists, while Robert Williams and Michael Clarke were junior runners-up for a third time.

However, on this occasion Tim Yarnall wasn't the most prolific winner. That honour went to an enterprising Melissa Price who was helped to a total of six triumphs by Greg Yarnall, when with a composed win over Ryan Keates and Clem Little, they became the first junior pairing to take the mixed doubles since Kevin Alden and Anne Wallis 28 years ago. Price was also successful in the junior girls' singles against Sarah Hollis, while Katie Mansfield was her vanquished opponent in both the Class 4 and the classified event for juniors. Mansfield turned the tables at Over 14 level, and with the honours duly satisfied the talented pair teamed up to win both doubles events.

Kettering's Viv Smiley maintained her recent impressive form to take a first women's singles crown with a calculated performance against three-times winner Clem Little. Smiley modified her customary all-out attacking style reaping major rewards that carried over to the corresponding doubles in which singles finalists took a fourth title in five years against Helen Watts and Sue Moloney, the only pairing to interrupt the winning sequence. Little further enhanced her weekend's work when she got the better of Janet Wright in the final of the women's veteran event to record her seventh success in nine years.

Newly eligible Steve Silk was a convincing winner of the men's veterans against another first-timer in David Gallo, but Silk and Ray Kingston made no impression in the final of the doubles when confronted by holders Gordon Shaw and Steve Brown.

Nothing had gone right for Kingston until he partnered Dennis Millman in the over 50 doubles to beat Alan Ashbury and David George in the final for the loss of 13 points.

Bill Fletcher at this level was a shade fortunate to retain his over 50s singles title, when in a fluctuating encounter with Ashberry, he lost a two game lead before squeezing through in a fifth end decider.

It was another close call in the over 60s doubles where Brogan and Trevor Ore led late in the fifth only for Fletcher and Dobrowolski to win at the death – their fifth successive title. Finally, Fletcher perpetuated his speciality with a seventh straight success in the over 60 singles, after perennial finalist Dobrowolski had been eliminated by Brogan.

At the opposite end of the age scale, England ranked Chris Doran and Cherry Orchard's Matthew Carter impressed taking the under 12 doubles in the face of spirited opposition from Harborough Academy's Lee Dilkes and Miles Barnes, with Doran going on to beat Carter in the singles. However Doran's most memorable moment came when he and a positive Ben Starmer beat Tim Yarnall and Sam Piranty in the under 14s event.

Close encounters that eventually justified the seedings included a battle of brothers in which the Yarnall duo prevailed 9, -9, -10, 2 and 9 against David and Paul Gatiss, while at the same second round stage Dabbs and Kingston just held on at 17-15 in the fifth, when Martin Hall and Lee

Pilkington provided some talented opposition.

Finally, a word of congratulation to Dave Rees and his fellow coaches, whose work is beginning to pay rich dividends, with many emerging young stars now ready to compete on equal terms with the best players in the county. Long may it continue.

NORTHUMBERLAND by Pauline Long

A much weakened senior county team of Dave Godbold, Chris Thorp (on debut), Gary Sangster, Christine Robinson and Pauline Long eventually travelled to Walsall on 9th/10th March for the final series of Division 1A matches against Yorkshire II, Essex II and Worcestershire.

Unfortunately, as expected, they found the absence of the unavailable Eddie Smith and Andrew Wilkinson too much to cope with, and lost 2-8 in each case. Dave played a real captain's part when winning all his six singles from his unaccustomed no. 1 position, but unfortunately no one else was able to give him any support. It appears that very little commitment has been shown by some top players for various reasons and now that the team has been relegated to Division 2A, it remains to be seen who will make themselves available. Hopefully, if they feel unable to play, there are others who will!

The County Closed tournament was held on 23rd March at the new venue of Ashington Community High School, and attracted an entry of 51 competitors contesting 10 events. Andrew Wilkinson regained his open singles title, beating Dave Godbold in the final. In the semi-finals, Dave put out Eddie Smith in a repeat of last year's final, while Andrew defeated Darren McVitie. Dave and Eddie gained partial compensation by retaining their open doubles title against Andrew and Steve Penman, but all the other titles changed hands. Winners and runners-up in the other eight events were as follows:

Women's Singles: Karen Henry bt Linda Pinkham; Cadet Singles: Adam McCormack bt Ben Thomson; Junior Singles: Adam McCormack bt Paul Smith; Veterans Singles: Geoff Salter bt Malcolm Lusk; Handicap Singles: Steve Penman bt Gavin Thompson; Band 1 Singles: Darren McVitie bt Steve Penman; Band 2 Singles: Mark O'Connor bt Mike Daniels; Band 3

Singles: Gavin Thompson bt Alex Warents.

The Northumbria League season has officially been completed, but there were still a few matches outstanding which could affect the outcome of the Premier Division title between North Shields YMCA 'A' and Birtley SC 'A'. Other promotion and relegation issues already appear to have been decided, and details are as follows:

Premier Division: Relegated – St. Jude's and College Street 'B'; Division 1: Promoted - Byker CC 'A' (winners) and Cramlington Codgers; Relegated – Whitley Chapel and Mortimer; Division 2: Promoted - West Gate CC 'A' (winners) and Newton 'B'; Relegated – North Shields YMCA 'E' and LJLJAN; Division 3: Promoted – Newcastle University 'A' (winners) and Newton 'D'; Relegated – North Shields YMCA 'F' and St. Charles 'B' Division 4: Promoted – Whitehouse Lane 'B' (winners) and Cramlington Trojans.

The Team Handicap Knockout Cup Competition had at the time of writing reached the semi-final stage, with three Cramlington teams all remaining in contention for the second successive year. Last year's runners-up Rejects were joined by Codgers and Knights, with the odd team out being North Shields YMCA 'A'.

The Northumbria League representative teams of Eddie Smith, Andrew Wilkinson and Dave Godbold (Wilmott Cup) and Malcolm Lusk, Geoff Salter and John Williamson (Alec Brook Trophy) were due to play their next round of matches during April, but no results were known at the time of writing. The Northumbria Summer League was due to commence on 13th May, so for some it appears there is no such thing as a close season!

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE by Mike Tunningley

Eventual National Junior League regional winners, Hull, thwarted Worksop Boys' attempts to finish runners-up. Needing to win all four matches in the final leg, Worksop were held to a 3-3 draw by Hull in a thrilling finale. Ironically it was Hull's Damian Piper, who incidentally plays his table tennis in the Worksop League, who frustrated Worksop's efforts by defeating Matthew Dodds in a nail-biting finish 7-11, 11-8, 11-5, 8-11, 12-10 to give Hull a share of the

spoils. Worksop finished the four-leg tournament in a creditable third place having lost only one match in twenty. Worksop Girls finished in ninth place after losing Sarah Perks and Nicola White during the season. Thomas Wesley finished top of the boys averages, while Lisa Ripley topped the girls'.

Peter Eyre became only the second player in Worksop's League history to win both the Carnation Cup and DTH Senior Doubles title in the same season. Partnering Matthew Dodds in the Carnation Cup final they went on to defeat Thomas Wesley and Graham White by a 3-1 margin. In the Senior Doubles he partnered John Lowde to a straight sets win over Andrew Lee and Alan Duffy.

MBE look favourites to take First Division title from current champions Priory Carpets A, while Manton MW B look set to make a quick return to the First Division after defeating second placed Manton MW C by an 8-2 margin.

In the Mansfield League Fringe TTC, who currently lead Division one have reached the semi-final of the Shippam Shield where their opponents will be Ravenshead Seniors. The other semi-final pits St Wilfrid's I against Ravenshead Allstars. D Brooks heads the Division One averages with 97%, with Bill Ainsworth, again of Fringe, in second place with 89%. In Division Two, Ravenshead Allstars head the table, with G Godber and C Loxton averaging 90% and 88% respectively.

The Mansfield League's presentation will feature football stars from Mansfield Town along with England international table tennis star, Bradley Billington.

OXFORDSHIRE by Avril Haynes

Banbury Takes Four Titles

The County Closed Junior Table Tennis Tournament took place at Innogy Power Station Sports Hall in Didcot. Players from Witney, Didcot, Banbury and Oxford took part. The standard of play was very encouraging for all groups. This bodes well for the future.

Finals Results:

Under 12 Singles: Daniel Rowan (Banbury) bt Michael Rowan (Banbury) 12-10, 11-6, 11-9; Under 12 Doubles: Daniel and Michael Rowan (Banbury) bt Adam Wells (Oxford)

and Michael Watts (Didcot) 3-11, 3-11, 11-7, 11-9, 11-8; Cadet Boys: Sam Harrison (Oxford) by Avinasi Jethwa (Banbury) 11-6, 11-6, 11-7; Cadet Girls: Laurel Christer (Witney) bt Laura Gubbins (Witney) 11-2, 12-10, 11-4; Junior Boys: John Camilleri (Banbury) bt Greg Boone (Oxford) 11-8, 11-6, 11-5; Junior Girls: Laurel Christer (Witney) bt Laura Gubbins (Witney) 11-7, 11-2, 7-11, 11-6; Junior Doubles: John Camilleri and Simon Nolan (Banbury) bt Greg Boone and Sam Harrison (Oxford) 11-9, 11-5, 11-9.

Town Versus Gown Match

The annual town versus gown match took place at the Forum Centre in March for the 13th time for the present trophy. Oxford had won 10 of the previous matches and drawn two.

Karl Bushell won the opening singles and teamed up with Paul Borrowdale to win one of the doubles. Jeremy Flint and Andrew Flint both won a singles and the doubles to ensure a draw. The ladies match was won by Oxford 5-2. Janet Brown won both her singles and doubles with Anne Borrowdale who also won a singles as did Sally Chambers.

Veterans County

Oxon (3) 4 Huntingdonshire 5
Oxford stormed to a 3-0 lead but then lost the next three rubbers. Oxford then won another rubber with Nigel Taylor winning his second singles but the last two singles were won by Huntingdonshire. The other victories came from Ian Arnold and Chris Lansley who both won a singles for Oxford.

Surrey (4) Oxon (3) 3
Oxfordshire travelled to Guildford and lost a tough match. Chris Lansley won a singles and the doubles with Anne Borrowdale. Ian Arnold also won a singles.

Midland League Veterans Nuneaton 9 Oxford 1
Oxford lost a hard fought match with 10 games going to deuce and six rubbers going to 4 or 5 games. The only win for Oxford came from Ian Arnold to save a whitewash.

Nottingham B 4 Oxford 6
Oxford travelled to Nottingham and won their match of the season with Nigel Taylor playing well for his three singles wins. He was well backed up

by Ian Arnold winning two singles and Tony Wheeler picking up one singles.

Oxford 6 Walsall 4
Oxford ended the season with their second victory. Both Ian Arnold and Nigel Taylor played extremely well winning three singles each.

Oxford League League Winners
Division 1 – Crown House A; Division 2 – Haddenham A; Division 3 – Nielsens A; Division 4 – Haddenham B.

Individual League winners
Division 1 – Karl Bushell – Forum B; Division 2 – Paul Borrowdale – Vikings B; Division 3 – Mike Aistrop – Nielsens A; Division 4 – Lewis Hooper – Forum H.

Development League: Winners
Holton C; Individual – Peter Grebenik – Holton C

SHROPSHIRE by Terry Ridgway

Telford Association - Division 1

	P	W	L	F	A
Albrighton A	18	14	1	136	44
Albrighton B	18	14	2	133	47
Ind. Bearings	18	14	0	130	50
Bridgnorth A	18	12	6	101	79
Abbey B	18	8	9	89	91

Albrighton sides dominated the season's top division with the A and B sides taking first and second places in the tightest title race for years. Industrial Bearings never lost a match and could only claim third place!

Promotion to Division One went to Idsall 'A' with a very young side coached and led by Chris Tarr, Jo Hurdley, Andrew Gradwell, Michelle Tarr and Chris will prove hard to beat next season.

Shropshire County Championship

County no. 1 Tony Akcroyd confirmed his position as Shropshire's top player with a series of stunning displays to capture this year's Closed Singles Trophy, there were no surprises as all 16 top seeds qualified for the knockout stages but Tony maintained the highest standard of play to put out County Junior Coach Chris Tarr and leading Telford player, Nigel Holding, in the quarter and semis setting up a final against Albrighton team mate and doubles partner Dave Elkin. Akcroyd destroyed Elkin with devastating

topspin drives and backhand blocks to cruise to a 21-5, 21-8 victory.

Bridgnorth's Wendy Baggott defended her ladies title in a round robin event, defeating club-mate Lynne Davies and Shrewsbury's Jane Bevan in style.

No. 1 seeds Matt Croft and Dean Pountney took the 2002 doubles trophies back to Shrewsbury to add to their 2000 success with an excellent 21-16, 21-18 win over the Akcroyd/Elkin partnership. In a tournament that ran on time and was very well organised it would have been nice to see some of the promising county juniors take part as even the attraction of the last home match of the season for nearby Wolves led to the absence of some of Shrewsbury's leading senior stars!



Shropshire County Association Chairman Geoff Bristow presenting the Women's Trophy to Wendy Baggott



Geoff Bristow presents the Closed County Singles Trophy to Tony Akcroyd

Shrewsbury League Premier Division

Shrewsbury's Premier Division is dominated by two clubs as Pontesbury 'A' hold a slight lead over Cricket Club 'A', which is currently undefeated and determined to defend the trophy.

Division One

Cricket Club 'D' lead with one match left but Pontesbury 'C' has one match in hand and could catch the top side in the last week.

Shrewsbury's Veteran A side clinched Division Two victory in the Midlands League when a 6-4 victory over Nuneaton A – the town side of Mike Dudley, Rob Mansfield and Rod France finished this season unbeaten to capture the trophy.

Oswestry League

In the Oswestry 1st Division, Kinnerley 'A' (Brian Bevan, Vic Wedge and Dave Hunt) for the second year running have taken the top honours, and as per last year the runners-up spot went to SOH 'A'.

In Division 2 it was last year's relegated team of Porthywaen 'A' who took the title (Harvey Kynaston, Pete Scott, John Lewis and Bill Coxhead), from Caereinion 'B' and Caereinion 'C' sides.

The knock out cup competition saw a win for Porthywaen 'C' who were competing as a team for the last year before disbanding due to educational commitments. The four lads joined up as juniors and have played together for six years, getting to the cup final on two previous occasions. In their last year before university, William Kynaston, James Carsley, Richard Hardy and Murray Drennan have taken the title from the SOH 'A' team of Alun Jones, Brian Suckley and Jim Bishton.

Shrewsbury Handicap Cup Final

The final of the tournament took place on 1st May and Cricket Club A overcame a 200 point handicap to beat Railways 'B' by 13 points, Dean Pountney, Mike Dudley and Terry Ridgway working hard to pull back the substantial start given to the Division One side.



Shrewsbury Chairman and County Legend Motto Jones presenting the Handicap Trophy to winners Cricket Club 'B' (Terry Ridgway, Dean Pountney and Mike Dudley)

SOMERSET by Martin Rumary

Of the county teams this year the juniors take pride of place by gaining promotion following two wins in their last two matches against Shropshire 2nds and Warwickshire 2nds. The team of Phil Tillotson, Gareth Duddridge, John Hughes, Claire Howe and Carly Roper played every match and with the probable change in qualification date four of them will be available next season.

The county championships at Weston-super-Mare resulted in Brian Reeves taking the men's singles title for the umpteenth time while the ladies' singles was won by Naomi Wilson for the first time. She also won the girls singles, ladies doubles and junior doubles along with John Hughes who also took the junior boys' title.

It was regrettable that a few of the top men players failed to take part for various reasons.

Men's Singles: Brian Reeves bt John Crabtree; Ladies Singles: Naomi Wilson bt Christine Cowell; Junior Boys' Singles: John Hughes bt Gareth Duddridge; Junior Girls Singles: Naomi Wilson bt Carly Roper; Veterans Singles: Brian Reeves by Bill Bruton; Men's Doubles: Brian Reeves/John Crabtree bt Bill Bruton/Mike Hurley; Ladies Doubles: Naomi Wilson/Christine Cowell bt Shirley Dark/Claire Gibbs; Mixed Doubles: Richard Jones/Christine Cowell bt Andy Seward/Ann Sandford; Junior Doubles: Naomi Wilson/John Hughes bt Carly Roper/Aaron Denman.

Kate Steward has taken another step in her career in being selected for the England ladies squad for the European Championships in Zagreb. She didn't play in the team event but did so in the individual competition, where she didn't manage to get past the first round.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE by Alan Dunn

The Barnsley TT Development Group has been holding regular meetings, and working hard forming a structured development plan for the future. The results of work so far are a) the creation of Barnsley Table Tennis Academy, b) the new junior friendly

Premier Table Tennis Club, the Priory Predators, c) funding has been raised by a successful application for an 'awards for all' grant. All the team have worked tirelessly but especially Brian Heathcote, the new League Development Officer.

The Barnsley Table Tennis League finished with the following results:

Div 1 Champions – Stocksbridge, 2nd – Barnsley North End, 3rd – YMCA; Div 2 Champions – SYPBD, 2nd – Worsbro YC, 3rd – YMCA 'A'; Div 3 Champions – Woolley MW; Darfield, 3rd – West Melton.

Unfortunately, the loss of one of the strongest clubs looks like forcing the League to play a two division format. The new Priory Predators club competed in the National Cadet League, played at Halifax, and considering all the players were novices they did remarkably well, how easily these new players fit into the existing Barnsley League structure (still up to 21) remains to be seen.

In Rotherham most of the success stories seem to involve the Scorpions Club, winners of the Roth Premier League for the first time in their short history. Probably even more important for the future is the club's National Cadet League title for the Yorkshire region. For Junior British League boys/girls and senior team result see www.scorpions.itgo.com

The Rother Valley & District Table Tennis League finished with the following results:

Premier: Champions – Scorpions 'A', 2nd Swinden Hs, 3rd – Mainline 'A'. Division 1: Champions – St. Aidens 'A', 2nd – Thorpe 'B', 3rd – Swinden Hs 'C'. Division 2: Champions – Scorpions 'E', 2nd – Mainline 'D', 3rd – Scorpions 'F'.

The Rotherham TT Development Group has various schemes and plans for the future either underway or in the planning stage.

In the Steel City an Iron Lady is emerging as the possible saviour of our sport, Denise Ward, and her development team are leading the way in our county. She seems to have the ability to cut through the naturally negative table tennis player's reactions to junior table tennis, and boy, is that showing in the results she's achieving. The Hillsborough initiative and the work she does with the Castle Club is the most important thing to happen for Sheffield for many years. I hope the Sheffield TT world appreciates all the work Denise puts in.

The Hallam TT League finished with the following results:

Division 1: Champions – Stocksbridge ‘A’, 2nd – Abbeydale ‘A’, 3rd – Castle ‘A’. Division 2: Champions - Crookes ‘D’, 2nd – Abbeydale ‘C’, 3rd – Wadsley Bridge ‘C’. Division 3: Champions – Vulcan ‘C’, 2nd – Vulcan ‘D’, 3rd – Hallam Grange ‘A’.

For more results and tables 1-7 and Junior League see www.hallamtabletennis.co.uk

Barnsley, Rotherham and Sheffield areas require volunteers to help in all aspects of our sports development, whether it be administration, coaching, running teams, feeding new players or helping with transport. If you’ve got some free time and you feel you’d like to put something back into your sport contact me on (01709) 324548 or e-mail aldunnpingpong@hotmail.com and I’ll put you in contact with someone from your locality.

SUFFOLK by Andrew Doshier

The main action in Suffolk in February occurred at the Britannia Table Tennis club in Ipswich where 16 of the regions best players competed in the 4th Britannia Top 16 invitation event.

The final between Dave Gattiss and Paul Cicchelli saw a difference in the England rankings, but these can often be misleading, and the way Gattiss played you would never have believed it. It was the Northampton player who ran out a 4-1 winner, in particular the third and fourth sets were close, but in the end the serve & follow up were telling.

Veteran & Junior Suffolk Closed

This year’s junior event saw the emergence of perhaps the brightest Suffolk star in years in Lee Barnes who entered the under 12, 14, 17 and open singles, and played in something close to 30 matches during the day and got to the final in all but one event he entered for! In the veterans event Ian Brown was the top seed in all events, while Charles Fulcher was making his debut in this field.

In the junior events, first on was the under 14 girls event which saw Rachael Stephens emerge the winner in a round robin group system, then Lee Barnes won the first of his three titles, a victor in the under 12s’ final over Mark Hemy. This was also the situation in the under 14 boys where again Barnes was far too strong winning in straight games. Amy

Maskall took out the under 12s girls’ singles beating Emma O’Gorman in the final.

In the under 17s singles Aimee Sparkes defeated her doubles partner Jacqui Wallace. The junior open singles final was a classic in every sense and pitched the experience of Andrew Gross against the youth of Lee Barnes. Barnes played superbly to take the first two sets, but gradually was pegged back and after a titanic game went down 3-2.

In the Under 17 boys’ singles final it was Hanif Jetha who went into a 2-1 lead and 5-3 up against the favourite Andrew Gross. Gross though showed a lot of grit to turn the game round & equate the leg scores before coasting home at 3 in the decider.

Gross and Barnes finished off with the doubles title beating Sparkes and Wallace in the final. Andy Holmes was the star of the Veterans event. He won both his singles events in the open and over 40s without losing a match all day. In the final Charles Fulcher was very much a favourite having not lost to Andy Holmes since the 80’s, however Holmes played very well and from being 2-1 down and behind in the fourth stuck in there to emerge a five set winner.

Holmes retained his O40s title beating Barry Thain comfortably. In the restricted singles Leveridge, very much on of the favourites, came through in the final over Sinclair and in the doubles, he teamed up with Thain to beat Sinclair and Peter Fordham.

The Ipswich Closed Championships

Lee Barnes again made a huge impression winning the Cadets and Junior boys’ singles & even managed to beat Dad Greg in the division two final.

Mark Thorpe beat Ken Lewis to capture the first division title, while in a round robin event Bob Jennings won the third division crown. The fourth division title was won by Darin Crawford.

Sonja Talbot won doubles and singles in the women’s events, her partner in the doubles being Susan Suckling.

The mens’ doubles saw Andrew Warner and Dave Halliday beat Doshier and Fulcher to end a three year run, Warner in particular was superb in attack. Jimmy Farrow won the final of the premier singles (open to players outside the top 10 in the premierships averages) beating Martin Bozier in the

final.

The mens’ singles final saw Andrew Doshier edge it deuce and deuce against a game and very unlucky. Charles Fulcher, who has been many times a finalist and still could add this to his list of titles in the future.

SUSSEX by John Woodford

Surely this has been one of the busiest seasons on record. Sussex, in the Premier Division of the County Championships, when at full strength is second only to Yorkshire. The complete Sussex team is Ritchie Venner, Adrian Moore, Nigel Eckersley, Sally Weston, Rose Rainton – all six are fighters – not an easy team to beat, but they finished second, once again.

Since the Horsham British League team broke up due to lack of a sponsor, Venner has been playing for Darlington, Moore for Tunbridge Wells and Eckersley for Reading.

Strangely, Venner started well for Darlington, but then lost a number of games. Eckersley was an asset for the Reading club OLOP, whilst Adrian Moore played no. 1 for Tunbridge Wells who have been relegated.

In the penultimate round of premier matches, Moore was acclaimed Player of the Match when he took a maximum against Reading that included Eckersley – Reading won the match 10-4.

Huge activity on the Sussex junior front with Sussex first team winning promotion to the premier division after drawing 5-5 away to Kent with our Big Man Gary Wilson (Worthing) and Arundel’s Michael Simpson winning a key match.

But most promising juniors are not getting to assessment and development sessions, frequently because they cannot get transport, normally provided by parents as a last resort by overworked coaches.

There are at least two cases in East Sussex where youngsters should be at trials but cannot get there, often because parents cannot spend the whole day taking their kids to the sessions.

The Sussex season will end with the Seaman and Nicholls Cups, the invitation events for the top eight Sussex players.

The Seaman Cup will bring together a probable clash between the new Sussex champion Mayur Majithia and the Sussex No. 1 Ritchie Venner. The Nicholls Cup will renew the rivalry

between Sally Weston and Rose Rainton, with former champion Teresa Bennett capable of beating both Sally and Rose.

Now it is all over – all good things come to an end – the next Sussex Open Grand Prix – one of the most popular tournaments over the last 66 years when held at Hastings, will not be held there again.

Three generations of Hastings enthusiasts have run it, but now they have had enough. Even when the county took it over a single extra person could not be found willing to join the organising committee, despite the fact that others were in place for the Hastings weekend – referee, entries secretary, etc.

That's bad news. The good news is that a bigger venue has been found and provisionally booked for autumn 2003 – the Crawley Leisure Centre – 16 tables and local people willing to help run it.

The overcrowding of the fixture list has now reached epidemic proportions – the calendar is more crowded than the London tube in the rush hour between Victoria and Oxford Circus.

The new ETTA Calendar Secretary should not accept any more new events – it is not fair to organisers who have been on the list for years. There are now ample facilities for young players – tournaments, national leagues, local leagues, coaching sessions at all levels – many parents have had enough ferrying their kids around.

WARWICKSHIRE by Caroline Williams

Two nights for Leamington Closed finals

The finals of the Leamington Closed Championships were mostly played on the scheduled night of Saturday March 16th. Kelly Sibley had reached a record-breaking 9 finals but was not available in March as she was on England duty in Hungary at the time. It was possible, however, for five of the finals which involved Kelly to be played at Eathorpe on April 25th. The results from both nights are as shown, best of 5 games to 11 :-

Men's Singles semi-finals:- Martyn Todd beat Andy Cockerill 8, -3, 8, 9; Jon Williams beat Mark Woolerton 12, 1, 4; **Men's Singles** final:- Jon Williams beat Martyn Todd -11, 7, 3, 8; **Fragmere Properties Men's Doubles**:- Mark Jackson / Mark

Woolerton beat Andy Cockerill / Phil Paine -9, 7, -5, 8, 5; **Grade 1 Singles**:- Phil Paine beat Kelly Sibley 8, 6, 5; **Grade 2 Singles**:- Kelly Sibley beat Terry Smith 8, -8, 8, 9; **Grade 3 Singles**:- John Taylor beat Barry Hobbins 6, -8, 15, -9, 6; **Grade 4 Singles**:- Keith Knott beat Chris Blowey 6, 2, 5; **Grade 5 Singles**:- Sophie Cooper beat Ryan Fenwick 11, -7, 9, -5, 9; **Asda Stores Junior Boys' Singles**:- Matthew Cooper beat Barry Hobbins 5, 10, 7; **Junior Girls' Singles**:- Kelly Sibley beat Stephanie Hawkins 4, 4, 3; **Under 15 Boys' Singles**:- Barry Hobbins beat Edward Freeman 3, 5, 8; **Under 15 Girls' Singles**:- Kelly Sibley beat Stephanie Hawkins 2, 8, 8; **Under 13 Boys' Singles**:- Edward Freeman beat Luke Hobbins 8, 8, 8; **Under 13 Girls' Singles**:- Charlotte Freeman beat Sophie Cooper 8, -9, 8, 6; **Under 11 Singles**:- Charlotte Freeman beat Philip Blowey 2,7,7; **Junior Doubles**:- Kelly Sibley / Stephanie Hawkins beat Matthew Cooper / Edward Freeman 9, 7, 6; **Handicap Singles**:- Rob Warnes beat Mark Woolerton 61/34; **Spirit Volkswagen Veteran Singles**:- Phil Paine beat Earl Sweeney 13, -10, -8, 4, 9; **Lime Garages' Over 50 Singles**:- Graham Hoskin beat Brian Aston 4, -4, 5, -7, 1.

Ray Meredith

Leamington Association members were very sad to hear that Ray Meredith, the Association's Treasurer and League Secretary, died at home on the night of Friday 3rd May. His wife Carol was with him when he died. Ray had had a series of heart attacks over the previous fortnight but had been discharged from hospital.

Ray first played in the Leamington League as a young man and was originally elected to the committee over 40 years ago. For a period he moved on to other things but in 1995 he returned to table tennis to start the AP Club. He persuaded AP Sports and Social Club to give him the use of a disused beer cellar and refurbished it himself, with the help of his family, to give Leamington a new table tennis venue and club. Later, when the Association needed a new meeting place for its AGM and committee meetings, he arranged this at AP.

In 1995 he entered a team in the then 6th division and had the satisfaction of seeing it climb steadily up the league until today AP is a first division club.

Ray was a strong family man and his family was an integral part of the club.

Both his children, Andrew and Samantha, have become first division players and Sam also reached number 7 in England as a cadet. His wife Carol, a competent club player, has also become a County Umpire.

Ray rejoined the Association's Committee as League Secretary in the late 90s and later took on the job as Treasurer as well.

Ray worked hard for the Association in many different ways. He could, for example, always be seen setting up tables the night before tournaments and taking them down afterwards.

He will be sadly missed. Leamington Association will not be the same without him.

WORCESTERSHIRE by Martin Clark

Senior County Championships

Senior 1sts

After losing their opening encounter to Essex 4-6 the team beat a weakened Derbyshire side 7-3, and then against Northumberland showed great resilience and ran out 8-2 winners to secure division one status next year.

Veterans 1sts

The first weekend at St. Neots had left us with only two points from three games.

We certainly had a good start at Halifax for the second weekend with a 7-2 win over Bedfordshire, however, high riding Cheshire 2nds set us back following a 3-6 reversal.

A 5-4 result over Lancashire 2nds and a most emphatic 9-0 victory over Yorkshire 3rds left us with 8 points and a safe 4th place.

Veterans 2nds

We ran out winners 7-2 against Warwickshire 2nds and against Gloucestershire we finished 6-3, leaving us on 8 points and a respectable mid table place.

50th Senior Closed Championships

Droitwich Leisure Centre was again the venue for the annual championships in which we celebrated our 50th year.

Julian Wooton, finally, after many years of trying, achieved his first men's singles title beating reigning champion Lewis Sicket in the final, overcoming a two game deficit to win -4,-7,6,6,7.

Joanne Hill also entered the record books as women's champion for the first time, beating veteran Lynda Reid 10, 5, -10, 9, in the final.

The veterans' singles title went to Ken Walton who beat Mike Meredith 6, 7, 8, to regain the title he won some years ago.

Stalwarts Janet Hunt and Lynda Reid fought out the veterans' women's singles with Janet, this time, the victor -3, 9, 8, 10.

The under 21 singles was played on a group basis with Abou Vardinejad emerging in first place with Lee Hipkins runner up.

It hardly seems possible, however, the veterans' doubles provided Mervyn Wood with his 22nd winners medal in the event as he partnered Roy Norton for the 13th time.

Other results:

Men's Doubles: Steve Horton & Julian Wooton beat Lee Horton & Mark Brookes 9, 3, 5; Women's Doubles: Dot Macfarlane and Lynda Reid beat Janet Hunt & Joanne Hill 5, -7, 8, 8; Mixed Doubles: Dot Macfarlane & Mike Meredith beat Mark Fiddian & Sarah Thatcher 5, 6, -7, 7; Consolation Singles: Mark Fiddian beat Sid Hodgetts -8, 8, 5, 5.

Malvern League Individual Championships

Abou Vardinejad was the winner of the Whatley Recorder Main Singles beating Mark Jones in the final. This was the second time a division two player had won the main title.

The closing stages of the Express TV Services main doubles could not have been closer with last year's losing finalists Jim Aherne & Chris Hewitt winning an exciting final 11-9 in the fifth against Lincoln Franklin & Nigel Forsheew.

In the Roy Holland veteran's singles, Dave Woodyatt gained revenge over Alan Salisbury who had beaten him in last years' final.

Norman Merchant recorded victory in the SuperVets final against John Meredith.

The ladies' singles was won by Beryl Shammon who overcame the challenge of Elaine Mills.

Other winners: Division 2 singles - Abou Vardinejad; Division 2 doubles - Paul Coleman & Steve Farr; Division 3 singles - Joe Higgs; Division 3 doubles - Joe Higgs & Matt Lang; Junior singles - Joe Higgs; Cadet singles - Matt Lang; Girls singles - Alison Sage.

Bromsgrove / Redditch & District Closed Championships

This year's event was held for the first time at Arrow Vale Leisure Centre and was dominated by Roy Norton.

In the Men's Singles final he beat a gallant Mark Fiddian in two straight games.

Earlier again, he saw off Fiddian's challenge in the Handicap final in a 31 up event that saw Norton off -15 and Fiddian off -14.

In the Veteran's event Chris Maiden was the player to feel the effect of Norton's prowess as he came from behind in both games to secure victory.

The women's title was won by Dot Seward, at her first attempt, when she beat Sue Leech.

Men's Doubles title was taken by Fiddian and Maiden, who beat Martin Clark and Norton.

Clark then teamed up with Sue Leech to win the Mixed Doubles with a win over Ian Maybury and Dot Seward.

In a round robin event P. Harris came out on top, with Simon Tibke runner up.

Dudley & District Closed Championships

Held at Wood Green TT Centre, Wednesbury, on Saturday 7th April

Open Singles: Semi-finals: Steve Horton beat Mark Brookes 17,-11,21; Julian Wooton beat Glen Roberts 19,10; Final: Wooton beat Horton -12,13,18; Open Doubles: Julian Wooton/Mark Brookes beat Ken Walton/Graham Foxall 14,14; Restricted Singles (Divs 2 & 3): Jason Jones beat Matthew Hutton 17,-19,11; Restricted Doubles: Dave Whittington/Matt Squires beat Stephen Smith/Alistair Broadbent -20,20,17; Veteran Singles: Ken Walton beat Graham Foxall -19,14,14; Intermediate Singles (under 21): Matt Squires beat Stephen Smith 18,19; Junior Singles: Matthew Hutton beat Aeron Weldon 18,17; Bob Kirkham Handicap: Matt Squires (+12) beat Jason Jones (+4), 31-26.

YORKSHIRE by Barry Snowden

Yorkshire Closed Championships

Hull and Northallerton were major winners at this season's Yorkshire Closed event, supported by McCain Frozen Foods, held once more on the east coast at Scarborough Table Tennis Centre over the weekend of 15th/16th March.

The event organised once more by the more than capable John Caton and refereed expertly by Geoff Scruton assisted by umpires Nancy Scruton, Lewis Ward and David Wilson.

The senior events were held on the Saturday and saw three duel winners as Michael James, John Crawford and Sally Clark all took two titles apiece.

James successfully retained the men's singles title with a final victory against his brother Simon who fought out a thrilling climax to the blue riband event which saw the elder James take an 11-8 9-11 6-11 11-5 11-7 victory.

The brothers teamed up to take the doubles event in the most exciting final of the day as they just beat off a spirited effort from the Northallerton pairing of Crawford and Gary Webster 10-12 11-8 4-11 11-6 12-10.

Crawford had more success in the veterans' singles which he took with ease with a final victory over surprise finalist David Wood of Halifax 11-7 11-6 11-6, and doubled his haul of titles with a thrilling win over Hull's Scott Taylor 8-11 11-7 6-11 14-12 13-11 in the final of the band one singles.

The final duel winner was Sally Clark (Marling) who took the ladies' singles with a final win over Sandra Rider 14-12 11-5 12-10, and met Rider once more in the final of the ladies doubles as Clark partnered Hull team mate Tanya Waller to a 11-8 11-6 11-7 victory over the Leeds pairing of Rider and Amanda Bell.

The following day saw the junior events where all but two of the eight events came from players who play in the eastern side of the county.

The blue riband junior singles were both won by players from Hull as Simon Jackson took the boys event with a final victory over Scarborough's Gareth Olney 11-7 11-7 11-8, whilst the girls event proved much closer and saw Tanya Waller beat her higher ranked county team mate Amanda Bell 11-7 12-10 9-11 4-11 11-6.

Other final results:

Senior Band 2 - Amanda Bell beat Danny Machon (Scarborough) 11-8 11-6 11-8; Cadet Boys - Chris Parker (Leeds) beat Eric Bradbury (Keighley) 11-9 7-11 5-11 11-5 11-3; Under 12

Boys - Rorie Roberts (Keighley) beat Daniel Fenteman (Leeds) 13-11 11-4 11-5; Under 10 Boys - Finn Needham (Ryedale) beat Edward Famby (Ryedale) 11-3 11-7 1-11 11-8; Cadet Girls Emily Glass (Ryedale) beat Emma Famby 11-6 11-4 11-5; Under 12 Girls - Stephenie Penrose (Scarborough) beat Amy Aranyi (Scarborough) 11-6 11-3 11-3; Under 10 Girls - Gemma Deeley (Scarborough) beat Rebecca George (Scarborough) 10-12 11-7 11-9 15-13.

Yorkshire Clubs Team Events

Finals - played at Hull YPI on Friday 22nd March.

Men's:

Hull YPI (S James, M James, P Marshall) 5 beat Brook Motors, Huddersfield (D Lindley, S Ellis, T Dyson) 1

Veterans:

Tog 24, Cleckheaton (D Hope, T Bottomley, S Kosmowski) 5 beat Bradford Fastbats (R Priestley, K Bell, P Bryants) 2

Junior:

Bramley Ebenezer, Leeds (M Tanna, A Bell, S Nutch) 5 beat Hull YPI (R Noble, S Jackson, D Johansson) 4.

Cippenham Cadet 3 Star Open Championships (14.4.02)

Home club player Bradley Evans saved three match points before finally eclipsing the challenge of Marc Armstrong in the Boys' Singles final at the Cippenham Cadet 3 Star Open Championships on 14th April. Despite being jet-lagged from his training trip to China, from which he returned only two days previously, Evans was not troubled until he reached the final. Ashley Skeggs, Dorian Robinson, and Joseph Chacholiades were all defeated three-straight. The final, however, was a different matter as fourth seed Armstrong went into a 2-1 lead after coming back from a 3-9 deficit in the third to win 11-9.

Armstrong had been made to work very hard in his semi-final overturning a 2-1 lead held by Cippenham's David Hayes, the second seed. Hayes had also had to come back from losing the first game against the precocious Gavin Evans, the eight year-old brother of Bradley. Gavin Evans, the

biggest hope in English table tennis, showed his immense talent in reaching the quarter-final of this under-14 tournament but was made to fight very hard in the last 16 by Adam Kelly who succumbed 17-15, 12-10, 9-11, 21-7.

Sarra Wang (Essex) was the winner of the Girls' Singles, denying the host club a win double by beating Cippenham's Sylvana Bielec in the final three-straight. Wang had a game taken from her only once, in the semi-final when she had to come back from 1-0 down against Nikki Pilgrim, conqueror of fourth-seed Kelly Skeggs. In the top half Bielec, seeded three, beat Claire Howe in her semi-final. Apart from Bielec, the only other Cippenham player to make it through the qualifying groups was Eleanor Tweedy.

The consolation events were won by the Essex pair Billy Deville and Felicity Love, the latter defeating Cippenham's Caroline Linz 11-9 in the fifth of an epic final.

A massive entry of 106 players made hard work for organizer Sue Hayes and referee Mick Strode.

Results:

Boys' Singles: Bradley Evans (Bu) bt Marc Armstrong (Mi) 8, -7, -9, 5, 13
Girls' Singles: Sarra Wang (E) bt Sylvana Bielec (Bu) 8, 7, 7
Boys' Consolation: Billy Deville (E) bt Andrew Merrick (Gs) 11, 8, 13
Girls' Consolation: Felicity Love (E) bt Caroline Linz (Sy) 7, 5, -3, -9, 9



(l-r) Bradley Evans, Marc Armstrong, Sylvana Bielec, Sarra Wang

NATIONAL CADET SQUAD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2002 by Ken Armson MBE

The 2nd NSC involving some 140 cadet players representing the ten regions took place at Fenton Manor, Stoke, on 28th April, the event being given improved status by the addition of a perpetual trophy donated by Karen Tonge, Vice Chairperson,

Teaching & Training, winners and runners up receiving medals and all participants receiving a certificate. This was a much-needed improvement as the prize for the winning team last year was a visit to the NTC with costs to be borne by players.

Match play again involved the playing of 25 matches using 24 tables with a tight and hectic schedule that kept everyone on their toes and ensured competitors had plenty of games. You could not fail to be impressed by the atmosphere as these young players gave of their best for their Region, for some it was their first taste of competitive table tennis and they clearly enjoyed every minute. If talent and ability on display was any guide to the future we may well have been watching more than one future English champion. Just as dedicated were coaches and volunteer helpers and for them this was the culmination of yet another twelve months' work, the success of which has to be calculated not in the winning but in the number of young players taking part. This appears to be the only event that gives youngsters an opportunity to represent their Region as a team and meet other aspiring players of their own age and also give coaches the opportunity to enjoy the fruits of much hard work.

On the day East Midland were the eventual winners, but in reality there were no losers for in enjoyment, effort and the will to win every team was a winner and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to be part of a successful format. The work of coaches and volunteers tends to be overlooked when individual success is achieved but an event such as this would not be possible without the unstinting efforts of that important group, and all Regions are to be congratulated for the dedication and input on the day of those responsible for each team.

National Volunteer and Club Awards 2002

If you or your club want to say a big THANK YOU!!! to someone who has done a great job – then nominate them for an ETTA Award.

Every person nominated will get a certificate and be automatically judged for the National Award in each category.

Presentation for the National Winners will be at the Awards Dinner on Saturday 7th September 2002 at Lilleshall National Sports Centre (only

National winners will be notified prior to the Presentation Dinner).

Categories are:

Young Coach of the Year

- For coaches 16-25 years
- Coaches must hold an ETTA qualification
- Will be judged on level of activity and achievement

Tutor Coach of the Year

- Must be an ETTA approved tutor
- Will be judged on level of activity and achievement

Female Coach of the Year

- Must be an ETTA qualified coach
- Will be judged on level of activity and achievement

Male Coach of the Year

- Must be an ETTA qualified coach
- Will be judged on level of activity and achievement

Contribution to Coaching

- Must be an ETTA qualified coach
- Will be judged on long active service

Volunteer of the Year

- Contribution to the sport
- Will be judged on service in any role of table tennis activity and achievement

Special Award

- Contribution towards people with a disability in table tennis
- Will be judged on level of activity and achievement

Table Tennis Development Officer of the Year

- Must be TTDO Silver Award holder
- Will be judged on level of activity and achievement

Press Officer of the Year (supported by Random House)

- Portfolio of 4 or 5 best pieces of published work required
- A separate mail-out re this award will follow soon

Please provide nominees names (block capitals), address, telephone number

and reason for nomination (continuing on a separate sheet if necessary), and state who the nomination was by (name, address, position, etc). Return date 31st July 2002, to Irene Mitchell, Teaching and Training Administrator, ETTA, Third Floor, Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF.

National Under 12 Training Sessions by Steen Kyst Hansen, ETTA National Coach

The intensive work with the youth will still in the years to come be the highest priority for the ETTA. Only from building from below will we have a chance to put English table tennis back on the European map and later on the World circuit. This is not going to be an easy task. Everywhere in the world young players are working professionally, with a lot of commitment and big goals.

I am very happy with the attitudes and commitment from our young under 12 players, who took part in the three sessions at the National Water Sports Centre, Nottingham. Here we saw players with fire, passion and a big interest on how to improve their game – not everyone with a talent like Jan Ove Waldner, but with a big talent for hard work and not afraid of putting in the hard work. That is the spirit we have to bring to all clubs, regions – yes all places where table tennis is being played. If we all pull in the same direction, then I am sure in a few years we will be on our way and achieve our goals.

The players who we have selected, in our opinion, have some of the qualities which are needed to become a high level international player – commitment, correct attitude, an ability to concentrate, work hard and also having raw talent.

It has to be clear that at any time it will still be possible to make changes concerning future participants. We want and demand to see hard work, correct attitudes and we will also look at results, although this is not paramount. From our side, we will try to teach the players that personal responsibility, commitment, attitude, and daring to set big targets are essential for success! It is very important that the players work towards their long-term goals on the international scene, and not let results in England be their main priority!

For the players who have not been selected this time – do not give up! Keep on working with the intensity

that those at Nottingham showed. We know you are out there and we will keep an eye on you and see how you perform and progress. If you show the correct attitude it is never too late and there may be other opportunities.

At the beginning of May the selected players will receive a programme concerning the activities this summer. We are working on this at the moment to make an interesting and challenging programme for you guys, so continue to work hard!

If there are any selected or non-selected players who need some help in their daily training, please do not hesitate to contact me: Steen Kyst Hansen, tel: 0115 8462835, Mobile: 07970 575 288, E-mail: steen.hansen@ntlworld.com

The selected players were:

Boys: Paul Drinkhall, Darius Knight, Gavin Evans, Daniel Reed, David Meads, Harry Shalaei, Chris Lewis, Nicky Skipp, Damian Nichols. Girls: Lauren Springthorpe, Chloe Dunmall, Sophie Byron, Melanie Farquhar, Rebecca Tweedy, Fionna Dennet, Rachel Jamieson, Caroline Hallows, Rebecca Singh, Emma Vickers.

ESTTA Individual Championships (sponsored by Jarvis Sports), Fenton Manor Sports Complex, Stoke-on-Trent, 27th April 2002.

These Championships were attended by 256 youngsters from all over the county.

Girls U19: winner - Annabelle Sorrentino (Me), R-U: Andrea Baldi (Sy), 3rd – Claire Wilson (Du), Kerry Radford (Ng); Girls U16: winner - Abigail Embling (ExC), R-U – Nicola White (Wy), 3rd – Kendall Smith (H & W), Gemma Chapman (Bu); Girls U13: winner - Lauren Springthorpe (Li), R-U: Gemma Yarnley (Kc), 3rd – Sarra Wang (Exc), Sarah Perks (Ng); Girls U11: winner - Emma Vickers (Dy), R-U: Rachel Jamieson (ExC), 3rd – Fiona Dennett (Ch), Caroline Hallows (Gm); Boys U19: winner – Peter Cleminson (ExC), R-U – Dominic Hall (Kc), 3rd – Alex Green (Li), Craig Gascoyne (Ng); Boys U16: winner – Tim Yarnall (Np), R-U – Stephen Denny (Wy), 3rd – Richard Wesley (Ng), Shaun Marples (Dy); Boys U13: winner – Harry Shalaei (Gs), R-U – Daniel Rees (ExC), 3rd – Ben Barlow (Sy), David Meads (Du) Boys U11: Dorian Robinson (SyC), R-U – Stewart Mudie (Li), 3rd – Christopher Doran (Np), Wing Yung Chan (SyC).

New Service Rule effective 1 September 2002, as approved at the ITTF's AGM on 5 April 2002 in Zagreb, Croatia, prepared by Colin Clemett, Chairman of the ITTF Rules Committee). The changed paragraphs are in bold.

2.6 A GOOD SERVICE

2.6.1 Service shall start with the ball resting freely on the open palm of the server's stationary free hand.

2.6.2 The server shall then project the ball near vertically upwards, without imparting spin, so that it rises at least 16cm after leaving the palm of the free hand and then falls without touching anything before being struck.

2.6.3 As the ball is falling the server shall strike it so that it touches first his court and then, after passing over or around the net assembly, touches directly the receiver's court; in doubles, the ball shall touch successively the right half court of server and receiver.

2.6.4.1 **From the start of service until it is struck, the ball shall be above the level of the playing surface and behind the server's end line, and it shall not be hidden from the receiver by any part of the body or clothing of the server or his doubles partner.**

(The purpose of this rule is to make the ball visible to the receiver at all times during service. The serving player or pair must not take any action which would prevent the receiver from seeing the ball from the time at which it leaves the server's hand and seeing the side of the racket used to strike the ball.)

2.6.5 It is the responsibility of the player to serve so that the umpire or the assistant umpire can see that he complies with the requirements for a good service.

2.6.5.1 **If there is no Assistant Umpire, and the umpire is**

doubtful of the legality of a service he may, on the first occasion in a match, warn the server without awarding a point.

2.6.5.2 If subsequently in the match a service by that player or his doubles partner is of dubious legality, for the same reason or for any other reason, the receiver shall score a point.

2.6.5.3 Whenever there is a clear failure to comply with the requirements for a good service, no warning shall be given and the receiver shall score a point.

2.6.6 Exceptionally, the umpire may relax the requirements for a good service where he is satisfied that compliance is prevented by physical disability.

Explanation and intent of the new rule

The **intent** of the new service rule is to make the rule itself clear and easy to interpret. The new rule is designed to make the **Service** in table tennis an "OPEN" technique which is fully visible to the receiver at all times.

A detailed instructional and explanatory package will be distributed by the ITTF's Umpires & Referees Committee to all International Umpires in order to guarantee consistent application of the rule and respect of the spirit of the rule.

In the meantime, the ITTF is distributing an explanatory package to the National Associations in which the new service rule is demonstrated in written and visual form.

In order for the server to ensure that he/she complies with the new service rule, here are a few pointers to help achieve this objective:

1. As soon as the free hand (the hand holding the ball in service) and arm has projected the ball upwards, the free hand/arm must be immediately removed to the side. In other words, the free arm must not remain in any area between the ball and the receiver - it has to be out of the line of sight of the receiver and the ball as demonstrated in the attached Powerpoint presentation, video streams and photos.

2. If the server could imagine a triangular space created by the ball and both net posts, then extends this space upwards to head level, the server must then ensure that no part of his body or clothing enters this space (or remains in this space) after he projects the ball upwards in service. This will ensure that the space between the ball and the receiver remains clear of any obstructions. This is a simple way to ensure that the service meets the legal requirements.

2. A slight modification from current services is required. Players must learn, in forehand services, to swing their free arm out of the way as fast as possible to create a legal, open and visible service.

We regret that, owing to lack of space, several major tournament reports will have to be held over until the September/October issue. I particularly apologise for the Gillingham Butterfly GP report, which was given to me to print when there was no room in the glossy - Ed.

Father and Son in England Top 100 by Chris Brewer

I have seen a recent copy (April) of Table Tennis News, which shows Adam in the ranking list at 95 and me at 97. Although we have both been in the top 100 before at higher levels, this is the first time we have both been in at the same time. Out of interest I wondered if readers knew if many other fathers and sons had been in the top 100 at the same time.

Georgina @ Sports Variety Club Presentations, Grosvenor House Hotel, London

Nominated by ESTTA, Nottinghamshire international Georgina Walker was one of the 15 sports stars to attend the above top notch evening on 13th May and broadcast on Sky TV.

<p>English Table Tennis Association Limited Tel: 01424 722525 Fax: 01424 422103 Kenmuhr.etta@talk21.com admin@ettahq.freeseerve.co.uk www.etta.co.uk</p>
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PLAYER TIPS

THE MAIN Manchester Commonwealth Games (25th July to 4th August) Singles Medals Contenders by Ken Muhr

England have their best chance in the mens singles, with hopes focussed on Matthew Syed:

Matthew Syed (Richmond, Surrey), 31 (2.11.70), the 4 times English national champion (1997, 1998, 2000 and 2001) and current Commonwealth champion (also champion in 1997 and 2000) he successfully defended the latter title in New Delhi, India, 2001. Having reached a peak of no.24 with wins over several of the worlds best, the vastly experienced Syed is Englands highest world ranked player.

Although he made the final of the recent PPP healthcare Commonwealth Masters at Wembley, his loss to Singapore's Duan Yong Jun suggests he has a lot of training to do if he is to achieve his dream at Manchester of lifting the Commonwealth Games gold, and thus becoming Commonwealth singles champion for a record 4th time. He plays a spectacular, long-range defensive game and currently is probably the greatest retriever of

the ball in the sport. His favourite player is Waldner and favourite sportsman Muhammad Ali. A feature writer for The Times, a TV commentator, and possessing a first class degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from Balliol College, Oxford, the multi-faceted Syed was the Labour Party's prospective candidate for the parliamentary constituency of Wokingham (John Redwoods seat).

Johnny Huang, 39 (5.10.62), is Chinese by origin, but for over 10 years has been one of the Commonwealths top players through representing Canada. Plays an early timing, hard hitting (particularly on the forehand), shakehands grip attacking style, his best year being 1996 when he reached the quarter-finals of the Atlanta Olympic Games mens singles (he also took part in Sydney 2000), led the ITTF Pro Tour Circuit and achieved a world ranking

of no.10. He was Commonwealth champion in 1991 (triple crown mens singles, mens doubles and mixed doubles) and 1994, and competes regularly and successfully on the international circuit. He was mens singles runner-up on the USA Pro Tour in 2001.

Chetan Baboor, 28 (22.4.74), the Indian no.1, was the unfortunate 2001 loser, 7-21, 16-21, 21-11, 23-21, 26-28, to Syed of probably the greatest ever Commonwealth mens singles final after holding 3 match points - but he has twice been Commonwealth mens doubles champion. The wily Baboor, 4 times Indian national champion, plays a difficult counter-attacking game with a lot of variation. His best ever result was beating the then world no.1 and Olympic champion Liu Guoliang (China) at the Asia Top 12 in 1999. He has played in 3 Olympic Games, and most admires Swedish former


Olympic and world champion, Jan-Ove Waldner (and Michael Jordan and Michael Schmacher outside of table tennis). Quite an academic himself he is currently studying for a MBA at the Thunderbird European Campus in France. Chetan also shares with Matthew Syed an interest in philosophy he gave Matt a book on the subject after the last Commonwealth Championships.

Segun Toriola, 27 (18.9.74), the Nigerian no.1, was outstanding in leading his team to the mens gold medal at the 2001 Commonwealth Championships in New Delhi and narrowly losing to Chetan Baboor in the singles semi-final. The African Games mens singles champion of 1995 and 1999, and the 1998 African Championships winner, Toriola has participated in 3 Olympic Games: 1992, 1996 and 2000. He plays an attractive open game, with powerful two-wing topspins away from the table, and currently represents a club in the Dutch national league super division. His favourite player and sportsman is Jan-Ove Waldner.

Duan Yong Jun, 30 (22.1.72), the Singapore no.1, was the 2000

continued on page 19

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BC06

JUNIOR & CADET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

PARKER & BARHAM CHAMPIONS

FOURTEEN year old Joanna Parker (Chertsey, Surrey), last seasons national cadet champion, was the surprise winner of the junior girls singles, while the fancied no.1 seed Dale Barham (Peterborough, Cambridgeshire) triumphed in the boys, at the National Junior & Cadet Championships played at Lynnsport & Leisure Park, Kings Lynn on 18th/19th May, and supported by the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk, writes Ken Muhr.

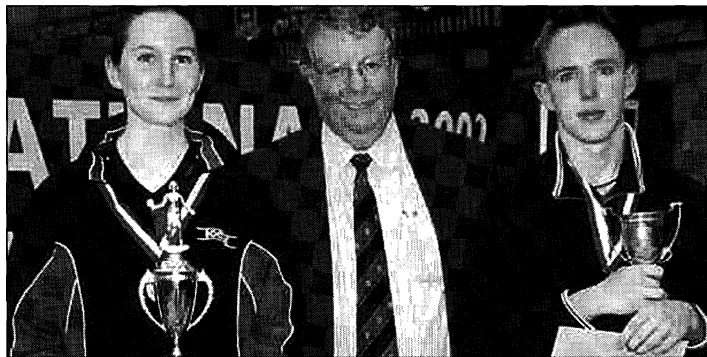
Parker, the national no.3 girl, had a close fought 14-12, 3-11, 12-10 final victory over the national junior no.2, Junior Masters and under 21 champion, Georgina Walker (Kirkby in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire). Although Walker forehand looped well to Parkers chopped defence, Parker demonstrated her recent improvement with some excellent mixed returns, good length of ball and well-chosen hits.

In the semi-final she had a comfortable 11-8, 11-8, 11-5 success over her namesake Katy Parker (Lancashire), the favourite and current national No.1 who was the 2000 national champion. Both girls played a similar game but Katy attacked more and Joanna was more consistent. In the quarter-finals Joanna had indicated her form through her 11-5, 11-7, 5-11, 11-4 defeat of Nicola White (Yorkshire), whose strong hit against chop often causes her a lot of trouble.

Georgina Walker had been fortunate to survive 3 match points against her when 2-1 in games and 10-7 down against the 1999 champion, Natalie Bawden (Essex), recently returned to competitive play from injury, but Walker kept her cool in winning 4-11, 11-6, 9-11, 14-12, 11-6. In the semi-finals she put out last years champion, Kate Steward (Taunton, Somerset) - the pimples combination bat player who is now attacking more 11-4, 12-10, 9-11, 11-6.

Although dropping occasional games on the way, 16 year old Dale Barham (Peterborough, Cambridgeshire), the national under 21 champion, was very much the outstanding player in the junior boys singles. The lefthander, who has been training in China, generally had too much spin, speed and power for Dominic Hall (West Malling, Kent) in the final, triumphing 11-7, 11-4, 10-12, 11-7, though Hall rallied himself well enough to take the third and lead 4-0 in the 4th.

In the boys semi-finals Barham had beaten Peter Cleminson (Essex) 8-11, 11-4, 11-5, 11-9, Cleminson having top spun and grafted well for a very close 15-13, 13-11, 8-11, 13-11 quarter-final victory over the 4th seed, Greg Baker (Warwickshire). Earlier, in the second round, Cleminson had been fortunate to survive probably the match of the tournament with his 12-14, 5-11, 13-11, 13-11, 12-10 defeat of Richard Moss (Yorkshire) play stopped on other tables to watch the all (positive table tennis) action encounter! He had already been



ETTA Chairman ALAN RANSOME presents the Junior trophies to (above) JOANNA PARKER and DALE BARHAM, and (below) the Cadet trophies to ABIGAIL EMBLING and TIM YARNELL



yellow and red carded for bad behaviour during the first 3 games and when he reacted again near the end of the crucial 3rd game to a net-and-edge ball from Moss, was lucky that referee Richard Scruton did not disqualify him. The rest of the match was without further incident, but one felt sorry for the sporting Richard Moss who conducted himself impeccably throughout and had held match points.

The defending junior boy champion Matt Kenny (Yorkshire) was put out 12-10, 4-11, 11-8, 11-9 in the 3rd round by Lancashire cadet Adam Bleakley, who attacked very well and made very few mistakes. Bleakley then lost 6-11, 11-9, 8-11, 9-11 to a player on recent good form, Bryn Drinkhall (Cleveland), the national junior no.3, but Drinkhall in turn fell 10-12, 9-11, 10-12 to Dominic Hall (Kent) in the semi-finals, the latter player, who had recently dropped from 3 to 10 in the national rankings following a disastrous Junior Masters, looking the more confident. Simon Nutch (Yorkshire) had edged out 7th seed Daniel Horner (Cheshire) in a 3rd round 9-11, 4-11, 11-8, 13-11, 12-10 marathon, and took Hall to 5 games in the quarter-finals.

Matthew Kenny gained compensation for losing his singles crown by winning both the boys and mixed doubles: in the boys doubles he partnered Greg Baker (Warwickshire) to defeat Dominic Hall and Peter Cleminson in 5 exciting games, 11-7, 10-12, 8-11, 11-9, 11-8. In the mixed doubles he and Natalie Bawden triumphed 11-7, 7-11, 11-8, 8-11, 11-4 over Dale Barham and Georgina Walker. Katy Parker and Natalie Bawden beat

Georgina Walker and Kate Steward 11-7, 11-9, 11-5 to lift the junior girls doubles title.

The top seeds in both the boys and the girls cadet singles, Tim Yarnall (Northampton) and Abigail Embling (Brentwood, Essex) both won their respective events. The unflashy Yarnall remained coolly focussed throughout the competition, even when 2 games to 1 down in the semi-finals against the 12 year old lefthander from Battersea, Darius Knight (Surrey). Knight demonstrated a range of vicious topspins and subtle touches, but Yarnall maintained excellent ball control and distribution, and was ultimately too solid and consistent for his super talented opponent, winning 9-11, 11-6, 8-11, 11-5, 11-6.

In the final, Yarnall met another exceptional 12 year old, Paul Drinkhall from Loftus, Cleveland. Drinkhall played some tremendous power shots combined with skilful touches and improvisation, but again superb ball placement from close to the table by Yarnall meant that Drinkhalls every shot was a difficult one, and when Drinkhall played safe, Yarnall picked off a winner, finally avenging his Cadet Masters loss, 11-7, 11-9, 11-8.

Drinkhall had reached the final via the 2nd seed Adam Bleakley, who he beat 13-11, 11-13, 11-6, 11-9, in a hard fought match with power forehand topspins, punched backhands and excellent controlled parrying back from the table.

Abigail Embling was outstanding in the cadet girls singles with her heavy topspin loop game, but she was pressed hard in the final by Lauren Spink (Norfolk),

before getting the 11-5, 9-11, 11-9, 12-10 verdict, Spink using spinny forehands and sharp backhands to good effect. Embling had outgunned Kelly Sibley (Warwickshire) in her semi-final, while Spink had come through to the final with wins over Lauren Springthorpe (Lincolnshire) in the quarter-finals and Gemma Yarnley (Kent) in the semis.

The super kids Paul Drinkhall and Darius Knight won an exciting 5 game match, 4-11, 11-7, 15-13, 4-11, 11-8 over Adam Bleakley and Tim Yarnall to lift the boys doubles, while Lauren Spink and Kelly Sibley had an easier 11-2, 13-11, 11-5 win over Abigail Embling and Bethany Rees for the girls doubles title.

Whilst overall standards at the National Championships have continued to rise as the result of the National Training Centre, which has set standards (and stimulated local coaching sessions and academies determined to prove they can do better!), I am concerned that most of our top youngsters still cannot compete with the best in Europe. However, although a slightly over-excited Paul Drinkhall was outplayed by Tim Yarnall, paradoxically I saw - in a moment of revelation in that performance, in Paul's enforced improvisations and very near misses, the possibility of real class, world class! I am becoming a believer Paul and Darius are something special!

Finals results:

Junior boys singles (from semi-finals): Dale Barham (Cams) bt Peter Cleminson (Essex) 8-11, 11-4, 11-5, 11-9; Dominic Hall (Kent) bt Bryn Drinkhall (Cleveland) 12-10, 11-9, 12-10. Final: Dale Barham (Cams) bt Dominic Hall (Kent) 11-7, 11-4, 10-12, 11-7.

Junior girls singles (from semi-finals): Joanna Parker (Surrey) bt Katy Parker (Lancs) 11-8, 11-8, 11-5; Georgina Walker (Notts) bt Kate Steward (Somerset) 11-4, 12-10, 9-11, 11-6. Final: Joanna Parker (Surrey) bt Georgina Walker (Notts) 14-12, 3-11, 12-10, 12-10.

Junior boys doubles: Matt Kenny (Yorks)/Greg Baker (Warwicks) bt Peter Cleminson (Essex)/Dominic Hall (Kent) 11-7, 10-12, 8-11, 11-9, 11-8.

Junior girls doubles: Katy Parker (Lancs)/Natalie Bawden (Essex) bt Georgina Walker (Notts)/Kate Steward (Somerset) 11-7, 11-9, 11-5.

Junior mixed doubles: Matt Kenny (Yorks)/Natalie Bawden (Essex) bt Dale Barham (Cams)/Georgina Walker (Notts) 11-7, 7-11, 11-8, 8-11, 11-4.

Cadet boys singles (from semi-finals): Tim Yarnall (Northants) bt Darius Knight (Surrey) 9-11, 11-6, 8-11, 11-5, 11-6. Paul Drinkhall (Cleveland) bt Adam Bleakley (Lancs) 13-11, 11-13, 11-6, 11-9.

Final: Tim Yarnall (Northants) bt Paul Drinkhall (Cleveland) 11-7, 11-9, 11-8.

Cadet girls singles (from semi-finals): Abigail Embling (Essex) bt Kelly Sibley (Warwicks) 11-4, 11-9, 11-8. Lauren Spink (Norfolk) bt Gemma Yarnley (Kent) 11-5, 10-12, 11-9, 11-4. Final: Abigail Embling (Essex) bt Lauren Spink (Norfolk) 11-5, 9-11, 11-9, 12-10.

Cadet boys doubles: Paul Drinkhall (Cleveland)/Darius Knight (Surrey) bt Adam Bleakley (Lancs)/Tim Yarnall (Northants) 4-11, 11-7, 15-13, 4-11, 11-8.

Cadet girls doubles: Kelly Sibley (Warwicks)/Lauren Spink (Norfolk) bt Abigail Embling/Bethany Rees (Essex) 11-2, 13-11, 11-5.

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Commonwealth silver medallist to Matthew Syed in Singapore (after putting out Chetan Baboor in the semi-finals), and the winner of the South East Asian Games in 1999. He plays a ferociously powerful but elegant shake-hands game with a particularly strong forehand, which he used to great effect in defeating Baboor and Syed to win the PPP healthcare Commonwealth Masters. A regular of the international Pro Tour circuit, he has been playing table tennis since he was 7, when his father initiated him into the sport in his native China. The primary school he went to in Tianjin, was famous for table tennis. He left the Beijing training centre for Singapore in 1995. Apart from Waldner in table tennis, his favourite sportsman is Michael Jordan.

Gareth Herbert (Slough, Berkshire), 21 (20.11.80), has some of the most wicked serves in the game, and attacks with great variety and flair. He plays in the German Bundesliga. Gareth had a series of outstanding wins, including over the 4th seed from Singapore, Duan Yong Jun, to reach the mens singles semi-finals of the Commonwealth Championships in April 2001, when he then lost to his team-mate Matthew Syed. His form rose to even greater heights at the World Championships in Osaka, Japan, where he beat the then world no.19 Petr Korbel (Czech Republic) in the team event and had chances of overcoming the then world no.7, Zoran Primorac (Croatia) in the singles. However, at the beginning of this season he failed to retain his Home Countries International singles title, losing in the final to Euan Walker (Scotland) in the Isle of Man and, acerbated by a wrist injury, has been struggling to find his form.

Alex Perry (Exeter, Devon), 26 (30.7.75), the 1999 national champion, is a speedy and tenacious lefthander who has been combining play with study at the University of Nottingham. He was the 2001 British Universities champion and is taking some time out of study to train for the Commonwealth Games. He can also boast a win over arguably the world greatest ever player, Swede Jan-Ove Waldner! His sporting hero is another former Swedish table tennis star, Mikael Appelgren. Alex is still on good form, giving Matthew Syed a close match in the 2001 national singles final and reaching the final again in 2002, when he lost to Andrew Baggaley. He won the 2001 Commonwealth Championships mens doubles gold medal with Terry Young, and has won 6

Commonwealth medals in total.

Andrew Baggaley (Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire) is only 19 (26.2.83) but has an excellent temperament and a controlled two wing topspin, attacking game. He was a singles bronze medallist at the 2000 European Youth Championships at Bratislava, but was disappointed not to get gold. Although ranked only about 12th in the Commonwealth, he is training very hard, has improved considerably and could be in significant contention for a Commonwealth Games singles medal. Recently he sensationally took the national mens singles title at Sheffield, hitting off the holder, Matthew Syed, in the

semi-finals. Having competed in the German Bundesliga, Andrew now plays in the Swedish National League.

Other players to look out for:

Terry Young (Maidenhead, Berkshire), the 2001 Commonwealth doubles champion with Alex Perry, has long been threatening to make a significant singles breakthrough; New Zealand's **Peter Jackson** is a seasoned international campaigner; Wales will be represented by two wing loopers **Ryan Jenkins**, their no.1 and 18 year old national champion, **Adam Robertson**, a European Youth silver medallist; Scotland have their long time national champion and no.1 **Euan Walker**, the current Home Countries International

champion, and their rising star **Gavin Runggay**, junior no.1 and senior no.2; and Nigerians such as **Saubana Ayemojuba** are always capable of causing surprises.

WOMENS SINGLES

Chinese players are likely to dominate the womens singles, Nicola Deaton having only an outside chance of a medal.

Li Jia Wei, 20 (9.8.81) from Singapore, is currently (June) the world no.14, having reached a peak of no.12 earlier this year. A right-handed, shakehands grip, speedy hitter, originally from Beijing, China, she totally dominated the last two Commonwealth Championships,

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WEEKENDS ARE BETTER?

"It's so much better playing over weekends ! "

A polite conversational opener many of us will have used at the four British League weekends ! But despite the fact that most players prefer this format it certainly hasn't led to the smoothest running of the eight regional divisions. National Press Officer Aubrey Drapkin has produced a fascinating set of statistics that strongly suggest that the four weekend format isn't quite as successful as most players seem to think. In all 448 matches (including the Premiership games) were played in this year's British League and of those played over the four weekends 82 of them were played with teams either turning up short, playing out-of-order or with unregistered players. After deducting the Premiership matches the figure for indiscretions rises to an alarmingly high 20.3%, a figure that most local Leagues would deem unacceptable! Over the course of the season 33 results have had to be amended with the number of offences jumping from an acceptable 8.6 % in round two to an appalling 30.5 % in round three. Division 3 (North) was the worst affected of all and in that particular division 35.7 % of all matches played featured a misdemeanour of some sort. And this doesn't take into account those matches where both teams were short !. It is clear that problems caused by injury and illness are compounded under the four weekend format of play. So come on Clubs - sign on more players next year and let's ensure that games are at least played with full teams !.

The British League Committee would also like to acknowledge the hard work that many Clubs have put into making these weekends a success. None more so than Tony Meredith who took such an effective lead in organising the matches in the Northern divisions. Thanks Tony and congratulations to the Seaside Club on achieving promotion to the Premier.

Division One (South): Champions London Progress II were able to relax but on the day they were no match against a rampant DML Plymouth who bulldozed them 7-1 to take second place. With promotion dependent on the outcome of a BL Conference Rule-change proposal that teams be allowed to have more than one team in the same division neither team are aware of their fate at this stage. Plymouth's Paul Whiting, Mike Short and Craig Bryant were all undefeated as Plymouth made their intentions clear from the outset. Plymouth completed their campaign with a 6-2 win over Barnet II - the two games that escaped them being a fine win for Morris Greenberg over Mike Short and a desperately close -12,-10, 7,9,10 success for Brooke Shi over Craig Bryant. Promoted EBS-Orange Northampton have had a great season and capped it all with a 7-1 win over PSP Westinsure and a 6-2 success over Ellenborough. Steve Munson was back to his best against Ellenborough and he scored a great 3-0

win over Jimmy Walsh. Dave Gattiss (so strong against chop) hit his way past Derek Balding 5,3,12. PSP Westinsure bow out of the first division having lost 6-2 against Cippenham. Martin Adams took the Man-of-the-Match Award after beating both Eddie Roofe and Dave Richards. Horsham I fell back to fifth after losing 6-2 to London Progress; with the deceptive counter-hitting Jacob Bogen doing really well to beat both Andy Walker (13-11 in the decider) and Ramesh Bhalla (11-8 in the fifth). Two great wins. Horsham signed off for the season with a 5-3 win over Cippenham - with Jeremy Wilson impressing with wins against Brian Burn and Mike Rhodes. However he missed out on the Man-of-the-Match Award; which went to Andy Walker who earned it the hard way with a 15-13 in-the-fifth success over Martin Adams and a 3-1 victory against Mark Butler.

Division One (North): Seaside's eventually finished five points clear of Ormesby and they showed their class as they beat their closest rivals 6-2 in the Championship decider. Ormesby's former Scottish international Keith Roger showed up well with an opening victory over Greg Baker but Seaside's were in no mood to be denied. Kevin Dolder beat both Bryn Drinkhall (3-1) and Roger (3-2) and John Rankin played his part with victories against Daniel Welsh (3-0) and Steven Bailey (3-2). Seaside's made short work of Norwich Todd Foxwood racing home 8-0. Only one game went to a decider (Paul Cicchelli versus John Rankin) as Dolder, Baker and Paul Hutchings turned on the power. Derwent finished a further point back in third place although they had to work much harder to dispose of Norwich eventually winning 5-3. Junior Richard Moss didn't get his name on the score-sheet but came very close to doing so before missing out 3-1 against Cicchelli and 11-8 in the decider against Martin Gray. Norwich's Jon Cockburn will be more than satisfied with his win over Andrew Horsfield. It was a case of "too little-too-late" for Kinghurst Bribar who nonetheless did enough to secure their third win of the season in the morning session when they beat Darlington II 6-2. Kinghurst's Ian Ferguson and Scott Prime were both unbeaten. Second-to-bottom Grantham faced Kinghurst in their last match secure in the knowledge that they couldn't be relegated as their playing record was far superior to their opponents. It didn't matter at the end of the day as Kinghurst were never really in it. Grantham raced into a 5-0 lead before Gareth Hayward scored a fine win over Mark Donahue at 12-10 in the decider. Grantham's Mark Green, Steve Davis and Brian Hill were all undefeated.

Division Two (South): Champions London Progress certainly didn't have it all their own way in beating relegated Ashford 5-3. Ashford were a man short but put up a great fight with Keith Foot seeing off Paul Jablon (at 11-8 in the decider) and Marc Burman and Henry

Buist both getting the better of Laikram Persaud. Progress Cadet Niv Bogen "steadied the ship" with a fine win over Henry Buist and with the score at 4-3 he eased past Keith Foot 3-0. De Vere NETTS stayed in contention for second place by defeating KCD Stiga 6-2 with Essex no. 1 Junior Keiran Lally scoring great wins over Lee Dredge and Roger Hooke. NETTS No. 1 Dave Cole looked particularly sharp as he beat both Dredge (3-0) and Danny Burns (3-1). NETTS did well to secure a 4-4 draw against London Progress. Taju Agunbiade was too strong for the NETTS players but an excellent 3-0 win for Lee Balaam over Paul Jablon gave NETTS a glimmer of hope and with Cole, Lally and Steve Kerns all winning once they were able to hold onto second position. Whether NETTS are promoted will again depend on what is decided at the British League Conference. The battle to avoid relegation "saw the unexpected appear to become the norm" as Hastings overcame a three-man Fellows Cranleigh 5-3. Cranleigh's Gavin West was by far his side's best player beating Rosemary Rainton and Stuart Hobden (both 3-1) whilst an inform Paul Barry showed Hastings what they have been missing on too many occasions this year. If that was a good performance by Hastings then their performance against Byng Hall was quite outstanding. Paul Barry was again undefeated seeing off Chris Knight (3-0) and Simon Phillipisz (3-1) whilst Nick Standen and Rosemary Rainton both beat Chris Ross. With Stuart Hobden losing to John Huckle 16-14 in the decider Hastings had come within a whisker of achieving one of the best wins of the season. Byng Hall had been less charitable against Horsham II (who were also in desperate need of points) and took the match 6-2. Byng Hall's Chris Knight and Simon Phillipisz were both undefeated whilst Graham Carter scored an outstanding 3-2 win over John Huckle and Sally Weston a rather emphatic 3-0 victory against Chris Ross. Horsham just had enough in hand to beat a three-man Ashford 5-3 although this owed a lot to Alex Cumbers's superb 3-2 victory over Henry Buist.

Division Two (North): Dewsbury took the title in the League's lowest scoring division after beating Darlington III 7-1. Congratulations to their home-grown side of Richard Lightowler, Simon Pugh, Shaun Ellis and Darren Page. This division featured the season's least likely result as Derwent II missed out on second place after only managing to draw with City of Manchester who hadn't scored a single point the whole season ! Mark Ramsbottom scored a very good win over Stephen Horsfield as Manchester surged into a 3-0 lead. Derwent hit back to make the score 3-3 at which point Ramsbottom got the better of Mick Wilcockson. This meant that Richard Moss's 3-0 win over Jason Riding was only good enough to earn Derwent a draw. Moss's loss against Bill Russell at 17-15 in the fifth proved costly

on this occasion but his efforts hadn't gone unappreciated and they earned him his umpteenth Man-of-the-Match Award of the season. Halton Croda secured second position with a 5-3 victory over Dewsbury after taking matches two to six. Richard Lightowler opened proceedings with a fine 3-0 win over Mike Johns but in turn missed out against the all-action "loop-machine" Chris Ford over five ends. It was Ford who not undeservedly took the Man-of-the-Match plaudits as he again managed to rescue a 2-0 deficit to defeat Lightowler. Halton Croda didn't have it all their own way against City of Manchester either and their 6-2 win hides the impressive wins for Mike Moir over Mike Johns and for Mark Ramsbottom against Malcolm McEvoy. Sani Clair took the Man of the Match Award and perhaps his team-mates will understand the score-sheet comments - "He always gives 100 % - fast !".

Division 3 (South & West): Guildford completed their season as the only team who managed to score maximum points and if they can turn out their best players regularly in division two they should do very well. They were able to afford the luxury of leaving out Mayur Mayithia and Terry Haley but still had enough in hand to beat third-placed OLOP 5-3 and Ashford 7-1. OLOP's Tony Reynolds impressed with a very good win over Jason Tendler but Jason hit back with an emphatic 3-0 win over the normally impregnable Hari Gehlot. Again Guildford's all-round strength was impressive as their no. 1's Adam Laws showed real composure to beat Reynolds 11-9 in the decider. A very good match for Laws who also beat a top-name-from-the-past - Ali Subhan. The mid-table battle between OLOP and JAGS ended all square after JAGS had surged into a 3-1 lead. Hari Gehlot came out on top in the battle of the no. 1's as he beat Farhat Rasul from 2-0 down and this inspired the OLOP come-back as they retrieved a 4-2 deficit with Tony Reynolds beating Adrian Davies (3-2) and Ali Subhan completing the job by beating Tony Morris 3-1. EBS-Orange Northampton eventually finished a distant second ten points behind the Champions. With Mike Wilkins and Mark Purcell both undefeated they beat PSP Westinsure II 6-2 although they will be disappointed with their 5-3 defeat against JAGS II. Adrian Davies and Farhat Rasul were both unbeaten for JAGS, Davies's victory over Andy Doshier at 16-14 in the decider looking to have been the pick of the action. Bottom side Ashford signed off for the season with an emphatic 7-1 success against London Progress V. Six games were decided in the fourth end and one in the fifth and Ashford won all bar one of them. Winston Wong, Keith James and Richie Bolton were all unbeaten. Pen-hold hitter Wong took the Man-of-the-Match award.

Division 3 (South): Another very clear-cut division with Oxford Fire Place Centre amassing 27 points out of a

possible 28. They white-washed Britannia Hanbury Print 8-0 with Karl Bushell, Ian Packford, Andrew Packford and Glen Freeman all playing well. Oxford were fully extended by London Progress IV (winning 5-3) and by Egle Adomelyte in particular who beat both Andrew and Glen. Karl Bushell was Oxford's "rock" and he saw off both Jogenes Senorin and Taiwo Adedayo. Cippenham II hung onto second place (having scored 21 points) despite losing 5-3 to an inform Progress side for whom Jogenes Senorin and John O'Leary both won twice. Some close games here with Progress's John O'Leary scraping home at 11-9 in the fifth against Robert Lemon and Taiwo Adedayo seeing off Robert Hansell at 11-8 in the decider. New team Horsham III completed a very successful first season in the League in third place and they won their last two matches beating BATTs Team Peniel II 5-3 and York Gardens 6-2. Horsham's Simon Pink took the Man-of-the-Match Award for his "two very controlled wins" against BATTs. It must be a different player to the Simon Pink who used to play for Lloyds Bank in the London Banks & Civil Service League!. Horsham had in fact found themselves 2-3 down against BATTs before Terry Dean had started the come-back with an 11-7 in the fifth win over Amy Wright. Horsham no. 1 Fawzi Youisf showed up well against York Gardens and he beat both Leo Vreinsreider and Vaidas Karalius. Vreinsreider in turn just came out on top 17-15 in the fifth end against Terry Dean. York Gardens finished bottom but had the satisfaction of signing off their season with a convincing 7-1 win over Byng Hall.

Division 3 (North): True to form this division provided the most unregistered players with six matches affected by the virus!. At the end of the day it is pleasing to say that the results didn't have to be amended in any of these matches. It is sad that teams cannot field full teams but "decent" of the Clubs involved to ensure that their opponents at least have someone to play against. Oakbank with a refreshingly young and talented team (Shaun Marples, Stephen Denny, Andrew Woodhead and Neil Marples) duly took the title eclipsing Kendal 8-0 and they

rounded off their season off with a 6-2 success against Barrow. The Barrow wins came exclusively from their no. 1 player Tristan Swan who beat both Shaun Marples (3-1) and Stephen Denny (11-9 in the fifth end). Second-placed Clarks Wakefield were well beaten 7-1 by Seaisiders II. Clark's Mark Land beat Neil Powell 11-9 in the fifth end in the opening set but that was as far as it went as far as Clarks were concerned. From game two onwards Cherith Graham, Gareth Wiles and Brendan McAleese totally dominated affairs. Clarks were also held to a draw by fourth-placed Kendal in yet another match featuring an unregistered player. Zeke Dixon ensured Kendal didn't go home empty-handed as he dominated from the no. 1 position beating Zoe Cheesman 3-1 and Mark Land 3-0. Zoe hit back with a 3-0 victory over Jason Million. The Dewsbury versus Barrow match was neck and neck all the way and the 4-4 result was probably fair.

Division 3 (Midlands): New Club ELGRE completed an excellent first season in the League as they took the title. They had to do it the hard way after facing third-placed Birmingham University and fourth-placed Bedford Modern and they eventually won these matches 6-2 and 5-3 respectively. John Taylor, Trevor Kerry and Alex Green all won twice against Birmingham University after both Taylor and Kerry had got the better Stuart Seaholme after extremely hard fought encounters. Taylor came through 11-6 in the fifth end with Kerry taking the honours at 13-11 in the final set. Bedford Modern were an equally difficult nut to crack especially with Simon Rockall in their line-up. Rockall just prevailed in his two singles as he saw off Taylor 12-10 in the fifth set and in his second last-gasp win he got the better of Kerry by an identical score-line. ELGRE's Alex Green was again unbeaten and this enabled Wayne Glossop to get the better of Oliver Young 3-0 in the all-important vital last match. Bedford Modern missed out 5-3 against Grove I but this match proved to be a personal success for Simon Rockall who produced his best form of the season demolishing both Tony Isaac and Nupur Santra.

PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
London Progress	14	12	0	2	146	50	24
BATTs Peniel	14	9	1	4	106	90	19
Darlington	14	7	0	7	106	90	14
Wellow House School	14	7	0	7	95	101	14
Barnet	14	5	4	5	91	105	14
JAGS	14	5	3	6	91	105	13
OLOP Kingfisher	14	4	2	8	81	115	10
Byng Hall Farningham Print	14	1	2	11	68	128	4
DIVISION ONE NORTH							
Seaisiders	14	12	2	0	87	25	26
Ormesby	14	9	3	2	74	38	21
Derwent	14	9	2	3	70	42	20
Norwich Todd Foxwood	14	5	2	7	49	63	12
Darlington II	14	3	4	7	47	65	10
Coventry Pheonix	14	4	1	9	44	68	9
Growtham	14	2	4	8	50	62	8
Kinghurst Bribar	14	3	0	11	27	85	6
DIVISION ONE SOUTH							
London Progress II	14	11	2	1	76	36	24
DML Plymouth	14	9	3	2	73	39	21
Cippenham	14	7	2	5	65	47	16
EBS-Orange Northampton	14	6	4	4	58	54	16
Horsham	14	6	3	5	60	52	15
Barnett II	14	3	3	8	40	72	9
Ellenborough	14	3	2	9	46	66	8
PSP Westinsure	14	1	1	12	30	82	3
DIVISION TWO NORTH							
Dewsbury	14	10	2	2	75	37	22
Halton Croda	14	9	2	3	65	47	20
Derwent II	14	8	3	3	68	44	19
Potteries	14	7	1	6	64	48	15
Wellow House School II	14	6	2	6	58	54	14
Uxbridge Burton	14	6	1	7	59	53	13
Darlington III	14	4	0	10	39	73	8
City of Manchester	14	0	1	13	20	92	1
DIVISION TWO SOUTH							
London Progress III	14	12	2	0	80	32	26
De Vere NETTS	14	10	1	3	66	46	21
Byng Hall Farningham II	14	9	1	4	67	45	19
Fellows Cranleigh	14	8	1	5	66	46	17
KCD Stiga	14	4	1	9	46	66	9
Hastings	14	3	3	8	42	70	9
Horsham II	14	3	2	9	44	68	8
Ashford	14	1	1	12	37	75	3
DIVISION THREE NORTH							
Oakbank	14	11	2	1	88	24	24
Clarks Wakefield	14	9	2	3	72	40	20
Seaisiders II	14	8	2	4	62	46	18
Kendal Open Club	14	6	3	5	59	51	15
Dewsbury II	14	4	4	6	50	62	12
Barrow	14	3	3	8	43	68	9
Grove II	14	3	2	9	37	73	8
Darlington IV	14	2	2	10	32	79	6
DIVISION THREE MIDLANDS							
Elgre	14	11	2	1	77	35	24
Grove	14	11	1	2	79	33	23
Birmingham University	14	9	1	4	71	41	19
Bedford Modern	14	6	4	4	62	50	16
Rotherham Scorpions	14	3	4	7	45	65	10
Halton NT Cars	14	4	1	9	35	76	9
Woodfield	14	3	2	9	45	64	8
Kinghurst Bribar II	14	1	1	12	31	81	3
DIVISION THREE SOUTH							
Oxford Fireplace Centre	14	13	1	0	84	28	27
Cippenham II	14	10	1	3	74	38	21
Horsham III	14	9	1	4	66	46	19
London Progress IV	14	9	0	5	64	47	18
Byng Hall Farningham III	14	4	1	9	44	68	9
BATTs Team Peniel II	14	4	0	10	40	72	8
Britannia Hanbury Ipswich	14	3	1	10	40	72	7
York Gardens	14	1	1	12	35	76	3
DIVISION THREE SOUTH & WEST							
Guildford	14	14	0	0	92	20	28
EBS-Orange North'pton II	14	8	2	4	69	42	18
OLOP Kingfisher II	14	6	3	5	55	57	15
JAGS II	14	6	2	6	61	51	14
KCD Stiga II	14	6	2	6	52	59	14
London Progress V	14	3	3	8	45	67	9
PSP Westinsure	14	2	3	9	38	74	7
Ashford II	14	3	1	10	35	77	7

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YORKSHIRE JUGGERNAUT

SENIOR PREMIER

ONCE again it was arranged that both the senior and junior premier divisions would play their final rounds of matches at a common venue and once again that venue was Meres Leisure Centre at Grantham, for added interest the play off between the winners of the north and south Cadet division also took place during the weekend, writes Stan Clarke.

In the senior division Sussex were very firmly in top spot as the only team to have won all of their matches, with Yorkshire in second place having won two and drawn one, Middlesex were in bottom place without a point, with Kent in the second relegation place but with each team having four matches still to play many things could change.

In the first round of matches Sussex played Devonshire and got off to a good start, winning the first two sets before Marketa Myskova, (Good west country name), beat Rose Rainton to get Devon on the score sheet, it was to no avail as Sussex won the next four sets to take a winning lead before Devon rallied again with wins by Paul Whiting over Ritchie Venner and James Whiteman over Adrian Moore made the final score a more respectable 7/3 in favour of Sussex. In the afternoon matches Sussex played Surrey, with the same result, a 7/3 victory, Ritchie Venner and Nigel Eckersley undefeated. Big winner for Surrey was Joanna Parker, with wins over Rose Rainton and Sally Weston.

Yorkshire started their campaign against Middlesex, knowing that they must win their matches to keep the pressure on Sussex, they did just that, but only just, running out winners by 6/4, in no small part due to the efforts of Joanna Roberts, the only unbeaten Yorkshire player in the match. For Middlesex Jason Sugrue showed his class with wins over Peter Marshall and Michael James. For the afternoon match Yorkshire were drawn against Leicestershire, Chris Rogers won the opening set against Peter Marshall, but Yorkshire shot to a 3/1 lead before Karen Smith closed the gap to 3/2 by beating Nicola Smith, it did little good as Yorkshire raced into a 6/2 lead, once again Karen produced the goods beating Joanna Roberts to make the score 6/3 but Quang Shi beat Dave Gannon in the final set to make the match score 7/3 to Yorkshire.

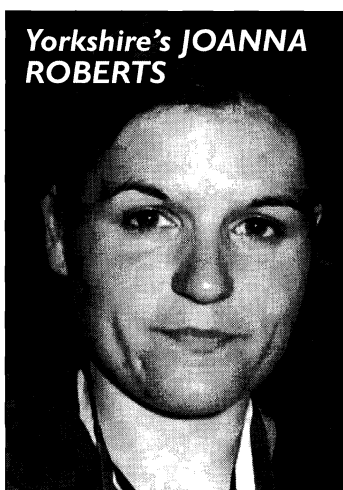
The Sunday morning brought the top two into battle against each other, a win or draw for Sussex would almost certainly see them crowned champions, after being so close for the past two seasons, they started off in fine style when Adrian Moore beat Michael James but Quang Shi levelled the match by beating Nigel Eckersley, then Nicola White beat Sally Weston and Peter Marshall beat Ritchie Venner to give Yorkshire a 3/1 lead. Sussex fought back as Rose Rainton beat Joanna Roberts, 2/3, not to be outdone Yorkshire roared into a 5/2 lead as Quang Shi beat Adrian Moore and Nicola White

THE LATEST NEWS hot off the press is that Andy Seward, our County Championships Committee Chairman, has decided to stand down at the end of this season. Andy believes that it is unwise to continue in any office for long periods of time and after six years at the helm has consequently decided that it is time to step down. During his period in office Andy has overseen some far reaching changes in the championships, indeed it was he who was responsible for the introduction of the two new sections for "Cadet" and "Over Sixty" players, it would be a fitting retirement gift for Andy if more teams subscribed to the new sections next season. The remainder of the committee wish Andy well in whatever his next role may be.

beat Rose Rainton. Ritchie Venner stopped the rot by beating Michael James in straight games to make the match score 5/3, but the youngsters of the "White Rose" County are made of stern stuff and they rounded out the match 7/3 when Joanna Roberts beat Sally Weston and Peter Marshall beat Nigel Eckersley. A superb match that took four hours twenty minutes to complete, I know, I was one of the Umpires.

The final round of matches and Sussex could only hope to win their match and hope that Yorkshire would slip up against Surrey. Sussex did win their match, beating Essex 7/3, but by now Yorkshire had the bit firmly between their teeth and made short work of beating Surrey 8/2, only Robert Pountney beating Michael James and Joanna Parker beating Joanna Roberts offering any resistance to the Yorkshire juggernaut. So once more Sussex have to be content with second place as Yorkshire once again snatch the championship from under their noses. I understand that there is no truth in the rumour that Sussex have taken out a contract to have Yorkshire "Nuked".

If the top of the division was exciting then the bottom was unbearably tense, Middlesex after four matches were in a parlous state, still without a point, could the unthinkable be about to happen? Would they loose their long held place in the premiership? Their campaign to remain in the top flight hinged on the outcome of the next three matches, but even three wins would not necessarily see them safe from relegation depending on the outcome of the games involving the other teams in the relegation battle, still they made a fine start by beating Essex 8/2, then on the Sunday beating Kent by the same score. Their final match was against Devonshire and they needed to get a result to be safe, at 5/4 down it looked as though all was lost, but Neil Charles hung on to beat James Whiteman 9/11, 8/11, 11/4, 11/3 11/9, and gain one point, making their total, five. Leicestershire, after losing their first match against Yorkshire had beaten Surrey to give them four points, one



more win, or two draws, would see them safe. Their penultimate match was against Essex, an unusual match in that only two sets required more than three games, however Essex just pipped Leicestershire on the post to win 6/4. So their last match between Kent, already relegated, assumed enormous proportions, Leicestershire must win to be sure of avoiding relegation, in the event they made a disastrous start, losing the first three sets before fighting back to take a 5/4 lead, leaving Dave Gannon the unenviable task of beating Dominic Hall, to win the match for Leicestershire, he won the first game 14/12 but Dominic fought back to take the next three 11/5, 11/4, 13/11, making the match a draw. Leicestershire finished on five points, level with Middlesex but an inferior sets difference saw them continue their regular yo-yo procession between premier and first divisions. Kent who were unable to win a match all season finished in bottom place.

CADET DIVISION

THE play off between the winners of the North and South divisions, to establish an overall winner, brought together Cheshire and Surrey, the match finished with the teams level at 5/5, but it had

been agreed beforehand that in the event of a draw the match would be decided by the result of one set of boy's doubles, which was duly won by Surrey, to make them the first champions of the newly formed section.

JUNIOR PREMIER

AFTER the first round of matches Glamorgan and Yorkshire were locked together in top position, separated only by sets difference, it was ironic therefore that the first match of the second weekend paired the two teams against each other and they were not level for long, Simon Nouch won the first set for Yorkshire, beating Liam Thomas in five games, but that was their only success and the Welsh team ran out easy winners 9/1. So it seemed an easy ride to the championship for Glamorgan, unfortunately for them Cheshire had other ideas, despite an appalling start which saw them sink to a 3/0 deficit, the Cheshire team clawed their way back into the match to establish a 6/3 lead, thanks mainly to double wins for Daniel Horner and Kate Ingham, Glamorgan did manage to win the last set but lost the match 6/4. However on the Sunday morning Glamorgan returned to winning ways, beating Surrey 8/2, only Joanna Parker, one of several players who played Senior and Junior divisions simultaneously, offering any resistance beating Naomi Owen and Laura Hall. The final match of the championships paired Glamorgan and Devonshire and despite a spirited fight, the West Country side were unable to subdue the Welsh team, who ran out winners by 7/3.

Cheshire started their campaign by battering Devonshire 9/1, before going on to beat Glamorgan in their second match, which brought them level on points with the leaders, however they were brought down to earth in their penultimate match when they faced lowly Buckinghamshire, despite a double by Daniel Horner, they were unable to keep the southern team at bay and lost 4/6, by such small margins are championships won and lost. As if to mitigate their earlier defeat, in their final match they hammered Warwickshire 10/0, but by that time the damage was done and Glamorgan were worthy champions.

What of Yorkshire? Level on points with the leaders at the start of the weekend, their defeat by Glamorgan must have unhinged them as they promptly lost their next match against Buckingham 2/8 before battering poor Warwickshire 9/1, only to lose their last match against Essex 4/6, they finished in third place, on level points with Surrey but with a slightly superior sets difference.

The bottom two places are filled by Devonshire, who were slightly unlucky in finding five points not enough to avoid the drop, and Warwickshire who can have no complaint, having failed to score a single point and picking up only 11 sets from a possible 70.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS LEAGUE TABLES

Final Tables for 2001-2002 Season - Compiled by Leslie Smith

SENIORS

PREMIER	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yorkshire	7	6	1	0	47	23	13
Sussex	7	6	0	1	47	23	12
Essex	7	3	1	3	33	37	7
Devonshire	7	2	2	3	32	38	6
Surrey	7	2	2	3	31	39	6
Middlesex	7	2	1	4	34	36	5
Leicestershire	7	2	1	4	30	40	5
Kent	7	0	2	5	26	44	2

DIVISION 1A

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

DIVISION 1B

Glamorgan	7	7	0	0	52	18	14
Gloucestershire	7	5	1	1	47	23	11
Middlesex 2nd	7	4	0	3	42	28	8
Wiltshire	7	3	1	3	35	35	7
Hertfordshire	7	3	1	3	34	36	7
Berkshire	7	3	0	4	35	35	6
Hampshire	7	0	2	5	17	53	2
Cornwall	7	0	1	6	18	52	1

DIVISION 2A

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

DIVISION 2B

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

DIVISION 2C

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

Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire 2nd have withdrawn

DIVISION 2D

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

JUNIORS

PREMIER DIVISION

Glamorgan	1	6	0	1	53	17	12
Cheshire	7	5	0	2	47	23	10
Yorkshire	7	4	0	3	36	34	8
Surrey	7	4	0	3	35	35	8
Buckinghamshire	7	3	1	3	37	33	7
Essex	7	3	0	4	32	38	6
Devonshire	7	2	1	4	29	41	5
Warwickshire	7	0	0	7	11	59	0

DIVISION 1A

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

DIVISION 1B

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

DIVISION 2A

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

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

DIVISION 2B

Essex 2nd	7	5	2	0	55	15	12
Hampshire	7	5	2	0	51	19	12
Surrey 2nd	7	5	1	1	47	13	11
Kent 2nd	7	4	0	3	34	36	8
Oxfordshire	7	2	2	3	32	38	6
Surrey 3rd	7	2	0	5	33	37	4
Middlesex 2nd	7	0	2	5	17	53	2
Avon	7	0	1	6	11	59	1

DIVISION 3A

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

DIVISION 3B

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

DIVISION 3C

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

DIVISION 3D

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

CADETS

NORTHERN DIVISION

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

SOUTHERN DIVISION

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

National Play Off - Surrey beat Cheshire 6-5

VETERANS

PREMIER

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

DIVISION 1A

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

Cambridgeshire have withdrawn

DIVISION 1B

Kent 2nd	7	6	1	43	20	12 (153-94)
Middlesex	7	6	1	43	20	12 (148-101)
Hampshire	7	5	2	37	26	10
Surrey 2nd	7	5	2	34	29	10
Avon	7	3	4	32	31	6
Buckinghamshire	7	2	5	27	36	4
Hertfordshire 2nd	7	1	6	19	44	2

DIVISION 2A

Cheshire 2nd	7	7	0	43	20	14
Norfolk	7	6	1	37	26	12
Essex 2nd	7	5	2	42	21	10
Worcestershire	7	4	3	36	27	8
Lancashire 2nd	7	2	5	24	39	4
Bedfordshire	7	2	5	22	41	4
Nottinghamshire	7	1	6	27	36	2
Yorkshire 3rd	7	1	6	21	42	2

DIVISION 2B

Dorset 2nd	7	7	0	43	20	14
Berkshire 1st	7	6	1	40	23	12
Wiltshire	7	5	2	41	22	10
Kent 3rd	7	4	3	34	29	8
Middlesex 2nd	7	3	4	34	29	6
Hampshire 2nd	7	2	5	22	41	4
Berkshire 2nd	7	1	6	27	36	2
Kent 4th	7	0	7	11	52	0

DIVISION 3A

South Yorkshire

COMMONWEALTH GAMES PREVIEW - 3

continued from page 19

taking the womens team event, womens singles and womens doubles in 2000, and making a clean sweep of all these 3 events plus the mixed doubles in 2001. She has similarly dominated the South-East Asian Games she is the current singles and womens doubles champion, and was the singles runner-up in the 2001 Austrian Open ITTF Pro Tour.

Jing Jun Hong, 33 (13.10.68), Singapore, has also been world no.10 (she is now no.17), and will be Li's

biggest rival for the Commonwealth Games title. Also ethnically Chinese, she is more powerful than her colleague, a right-handed topspinner on the European model. She was a losing singles semi-finalist (4th place) at the Sydney 2000 Olympics, and twice reached the last 16 at the World Championships (1993 and 2001). Jing was the 1997 Commonwealth singles champion (she was also 3 times runner-up), and twice the South-East Asia champion (1995 and 1997).

Geng Lijuan, 39 (15.1.63), was

twice (in 1983 and 1985) a world team champion for her native China (she was also a non-performing squad member of winning teams in 1981, 1987, 1991 and 1993 and Chinese national champion, 1982), and the losing world singles finalist (but mixed doubles winner) in 1985, and achieved a world top ranking in 1986 and 1987. Since moving in 1989 to Canada, whom she represented in 2 Olympics (1996 & 2000) and has been national champion of from 1991 to 2001, she has won the North American

Championships singles 7 times from 1991. She is an incredibly consistent close to the table shakehands, right-handed hitter.

Nicola Deaton (Chesterfield, Derbyshire), 25 (29.10.76), took up table tennis when she was 6 on the QE 2 during one of her fathers (Colin, a former England junior no.2) sports promotions, and was something of a prodigy, winning national titles at each age range she has competed in. The then European no.4 cadet girl, she won a doubles silver medal (with Sally Marling) and a team bronze medal in the cadet events of the 1991 European Youth Championships. In the same year Nicola took 3 Commonwealth bronze medals at Nairobi: in the singles, doubles and team event. A fast counter hitter and tenacious fighter who plays professionally in France, she has been Englands top women player of recent years, winning the national singles title at Sheffield in March for the 5th time. The only non-oriental 2001 Commonwealth Championships quarter-finalist. Nicola is currently studying Psychology at Nottingham University.

Helen Lower (Wolverhampton, Staffordshire), 32 (9.5.70) and ranked no.2 in England, is currently a stalwart of the national team but it was relatively late in her career that she earned regular international recognition. Fiercely determined with a strong forehand loop and pounding backhand, she took Nicola Deaton to the wire in the 2000 National Championships womens singles final at Sheffield, and is the only English player to have defeated Deaton (at the Newcastle Butterfly GP, December 2000) in 4 seasons. With Alex Perry she was a 2001 Commonwealth mixed doubles bronze medallist. She plays professionally in the French national league and her favourite sportsman is Andre Agassi.

Other players to look out for: **Li Karen** (whose brother **Li Aaron** also plays for New Zealand) is another Chinese Kiwi; **Petra Cada**, originally from Prague, Czechoslovakia, now plays for Canada; **Das Mouma** (India), **Bethan Daunton** (Wales) and **Funke Oshonaiké** (Nigeria)

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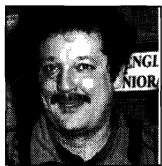
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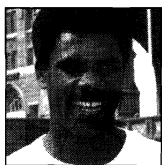
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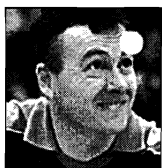
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Further details please ring Doreen Nightingale 01424 722525

Senior Men

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 SYED, Matthew (SY)	4818	
(2)	2 BAGGALEY, Andrew (BU)	4742	
(3)	3 PERRY, Alex (DV)	4696	
(4)	4 HERBERT, Gareth (BK)	4670	
(5)	5 COOKE, Alan (DY)	4639	
(6)	6 PREAM, Carl (IW)	4546**	
(7)	7 YOUNG, Terry (BK)	4517	
(8)	8 RUSHTON, Andrew (LA)	4432	
(9)	9 BILLINGTON, Bradley (DY)	4403	
(11)	10 BARHAM, Dale (CA)	4378	
(12)	11 EDEN, Andrew (LA)	4125**	
(14)	12 SUGRUE, Jason (MI)	4050	
(17)	13 HOLLAND, John (DY) (E)	3942	
(16)	14 ISHERWOOD, Michael (DI)	3936**	
(18)	15 SLADEN, Kris (E)	3909*	
(19)	16 KENNY, Mathew (Y)	3871	
(23)	17 MOORE, Adrian (K)	3775	
(64)	18 DRINKHALL, Bryn (CV)	3752	
(24)	19 TAYLOR, Jonathan (LA)	3749	
(21)	20 VENNER, Ritchie (SX)	3694	
(22)	21 PTE, Leeroy (NK)	3683*	
(25)	22 GODDALL, Justin (K)	3668	
(26)	23 JAMES, Michael (Y)	3652	
(27)	24 ROGERS, Chris (LE)	3638	
(28)	25 CHARLES, Neil (MI)	3597	
(29)	26 MARSHALL, Peter (Y)	3588*	
(31)	27 CHAN, Michael (ST)	3573*	
(32)	28 BARR, David (BK)	3556	
(58)	29 BRIANT, Craig (DV)	3555	
(30)	30 WURAOA, Abdul (SY)	3547	
(34)	31 SMITH, Eddie (ND)	3544	
(39)	32 KENNEDY, Joe (K) (E)	3509	
(45)	33 JOHNS, Brian (CH)	3504	
(52)	34 CARTHY, Clive (E)	3500	
(36)	35 BROWN, Mark (K)	3495	
(47)	36 POUNTNEY, Robert (SY)	3491	
(40)	37 WHITING, Paul (DV)	3481	
(42)	38 NEIL, Lee (NG)	3465	
(46)	39 SMITH, Mark Richard (Y)	3455***	
(33)	40 ECKERSLEY, Nigel (SX)	3444	
(49)	41 DOLDER, Kevin (LA)	3440	
(51)	42 HILTON, John (CH)	3432	
(54)	43 WILKINSON, Andrew (ND)	3411	
(57)	44 GANNON, David (LE)	3410	
(66)	45 BEERLING, Stephen (K)	3406	
(53)	46 PAPANTONIOU, Costas (MI)	3403	
(44)	47 GRIFFIN, Darren (GS)	3391	
(55)	48 CUNNINGHAM, Andy (NK)	3358	
(61)	49 JOHNSON, Ben (BK)	3344**	
(60)	50 HUTCHINGS, Paul (LA)	3327	
(63)	51 HORNER, Daniel (CH)	3316	
(65)	52 ATKINSON, David (CA)	3315****	
(62)	53 MCKOY, Nick (MI)	3308	
(56)	54 BAKER, Gregory (ST)	3304	
(76)	55 SHORT, Mark (YS)	3296	
(116)	56 YARNALL, Tim (NP)	3280	
(127)	57 CLEMINSON, Peter (E)	3280	
(71)	58 CORBIN, Anthony (HE)	3271	
(74)	59 JAMIESON, Christopher (E)	3270	
(59)	60 ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA)	3267	
(81)	61 GREEN, Mark (NG)	3265	
(80)	62 BARATY, Eli (MI)	3265	
(50)	63 HALL, Dominic (K)	3253	
(69)	64 WILLIAMS, Keith (LA)	3245	
(82)	65 MCLEAN, Ian (NK)	3241	
(68)	66 RANKIN, John (LA)	3241	
(72)	67 TENDLER, Gary (E)	3238	
(75)	68 CLAYTON, Tony (DO)	3229***	
(93)	69 GIRDLER, Ian (E)	3223	
(85)	70 CAMPBELL, Selwyn (SY)	3221	
(78)	71 WIGNALL, Andy (LI)	3217	
(79)	72 HARVEY, Dave (GS)	3216	
(77)	73 BRIDGETT, Gregory (DV)	3210	
(70)	74 WALSH, Jimmy (HE)	3200	
(75)	75 DABBS, Kieron (NP)	3198N	
(83)	76 PAYNE, Phil (SO)	3197***	
(77)	77 LOGSDON, Philip (NK)	3197	
(97)	78 BARTRAM, Peter (SX)	3163	
(96)	79 GELDER, Tony (DU)	3162	
(89)	80 COX, Philip (K)	3159	
(91)	81 GODDOLD, David (DU)	3150	
(95)	82 ADAMS, Martin (BK)	3149	
(92)	83 DENNISON, John (E)	3149	
(94)	84 JONAH, Jerome (K)	3146*	
(84)	85 WHITEMAN, James (DV)	3141	
(86)	86 HORSFIELD, Andrew (YS) (Y)	3137	
(100)	87 SMITH, Richard A (Y)	3122	

(87)	88 ROOFE, Eddie (WL)	3122
(128)	89 BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA)	3101
(103)	90 WELSMAN, Dave (NP)	3100
(102)	91 BAILEY, Steven (CV)	3096
(90)	92 MARSDEN, Michael (DU)	3096
(101)	93 CICCHELLI, Paul (SK)	3087
(106)	94 FORD, Christopher (LA)	3080
(99)	95 BUTLER, Mark (DO)	3080
(98)	96 JOHNS, Mike (CH)	3070
(111)	97 GASCOYNE, Craig (NG)	3067
(108)	98 ROMANO, Mark (K)	3056*
(110)	99 WALKER, Andy (SX)	3047
(104)	100 HARDING, David (SY)	3040

Senior Women

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 DEATON, Nicola (DY)	4013	
(2)	2 LOWER, Helen (ST)	3986	
(4)	3 PARKER, Katy (LA)	3748	
(6)	4 HOLT, Andrea (LA)	3744	
(5)	5 MARCH, Linda (E)	3715	
(12)	6 PARKER, Joanna (SY)	3658	
(8)	7 WALKER, Georgina (NG)	3655	
(9)	8 OWOLABI, Kubrat (MI)	3653	
(13)	9 BAWDEN, Natalie (E)	3536***	
(10)	10 STEWARD, Kate (SO)	3523	
(14)	11 DURRANT, Louise (NG)	3442	
(15)	12 MARLING, Sally (Y)	3438***	
(20)	13 EMBLING, Abigail (E)	3385	
(17)	14 THORNTON, Lindsey (LA)	3354	
(16)	15 SMITH, Karen (LE)	3335	
(19)	16 ROBERTS, Joanna (Y)	3268*	
(21)	17 WESTON, Sally (SX)	3225	
(25)	18 DUNNING, Jan (WO)	3206	
(23)	19 KEAST, Lesley (LI)	3203**	
(24)	20 NARENDRA, Aparna (MI)	3202	
(26)	21 HARRIS, Jill (ST)	3189	
(27)	22 RUOCCO, Shelley (E)	3187*	
(29)	23 LOCKWOOD, Karen (CH)	3162	
(40)	24 NEWNS, Clare (H)	3147	
(28)	25 COHEN, Michele (AV)	3137	
(31)	26 YARDY, Hannah (E)	3131*	
(22)	27 WHITE, Nicola (Y)	3130	
(37)	28 HARPER, Sandra (BD)	3128	
(35)	29 CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK)	3126	
(30)	30 RAINTON, Rosemary (SX)	3101	
(34)	31 BLOOR, Trudie (SP)	3095**	
(36)	32 ASHISON, Glenda (SY)	3087**	
(41)	33 SHORT, Elaine (DV)	3083	
(38)	34 ADONNELTY, Egle (MI)	3075	
(43)	35 SIBLEY, Kelly (WA)	3073	
(39)	36 HURLING, Emma (HE)	3066	
(33)	37 HOWARD, Alice (CH)	3062	
(48)	38 BUIEY, Brenda (LA)	3058	
(42)	39 DURHAM, Jane (CV)	3055	
(46)	40 SMITH, Angela (MI)	3055	
(44)	41 SMITH, Sarah (NG)	3039*	
(45)	42 BONGERS, Jose (ST)	3033	
(122)	43 SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LI)	3005	
(47)	44 FISHER, Rebecca (MI)	2999	
(32)	45 SPINK, Lauren (NK)	2983	
(52)	46 ROBINSON, Suzanne (GS)	2976	
(49)	47 BALDI, Andrea (YS) (Y)	2959*	
(50)	48 WANG, Lucy (E)	2958*	
(57)	49 LLOYD, Gemma (CH)	2955	
(51)	50 DAVISON, Sarah (Sk) (E)	2954***	
(53)	51 SHIELDS, Helen (Y)	2954	
(55)	52 BAWDEN, Marilyn (E)	2946	
(54)	53 SILBURN, Nicola (Y)	2935***	
(58)	54 MALTBY, Margaret (NP)	2934	
(56)	55 MARLING, Samantha (MI)	2928*	
(62)	56 PERRY, Lucy (DV)	2919	
(59)	57 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH)	2898	
(60)	58 PEARCE, Diane (K)	2894	
(61)	59 KING, Sheila (SX)	2889	
(65)	60 RIDER, Sandra (Y)	2887	
(66)	61 HARRISON, Jennifer (E)	2867	
(66)	62 SIMPSON, Linda (Y)	2864	
(63)	63 PERRY, Penny (DV)	2848	
(64)	64 MORLEY, Judy (GS)	2835	
(86)	65 TODD, Nicole (E)	2834	
(69)	66 INGHAM, Katy (CH)	2823*	
(78)	67 WILSON, Naomi (SO)	2815	
(77)	68 COGGON, Sara (HE)	2812	
(72)	69 DIGNUM, Margaret (WO)	2811***	
(73)	70 SCHOFIELD, Doreen (CH)	2803*	
(71)	71 SORRENTINO, Annabelle (CH)	2798	
(96)	72 HORSNELL, Sarah (MI)	2797	
(70)	73 BURGESS, Suzanne (CH)	2795	

(74)	74 KNIGHTLEY, Gillian (BK)	2794
(76)	75 GELDER, Shirley (DU)	2794
(83)	76 SEYMOUR, Tamar (OX)	2775
(79)	77 SAYER, Elaine (E)	2773**
(80)	78 GARLICK, Helen (K)	2759**
(79)	79 DAWSON, Marjorie (E)	2751
(82)	80 BRISTOW, Angie (K)	2745
(101)	81 DEARING, Emily (Y)	2735
(84)	82 VICKERS, Jane (DY)	2728*
(68)	83 YARNLEY, Gemma (K)	2725
(85)	84 SEAHOLME, Sarah (HE)	2722
(81)	85 SHALER, Eileen (LE)	2718
(91)	86 VAJDI, Carmen (SY)	2717
(90)	87 FLOWERDAY, Anne (E)	2713
(88)	88 MERSH, Jackie (K)	2710**
(89)	89 JUDSON, Carol (Y)	2710**
(87)	90 BROWN, Janet (OX)	2709
(92)	91 LEHMANN, Bettina (LE)	2707
(93)	92 MUJDE, Kim (E)	2695*
(95)	93 BENTLEY, Ruth (NG)	2690
(94)	94 HALE'S, Linda (DO)	2688**
(95)	95 GRAHAM, Sylvia (LA)	2685
(97)	96 MAY, Elizabeth (DV)	2679**
(98)	97 STEWART, Tina (K)	2675**
(99)	98 H-MIDDLEMORE, Joan (WA)	2661****
(100)	99 JOHNSON, Susan (BK)	2656**
(102)	100 KENNARD, Nikki (E)	2650*

Junior Boys

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 BARHAM, Dale (CA)	4378	
(2)	2 KENNY, Mathew (Y)	3871	
(8)	3 DRINKHALL, Bryn (CV)	3752	
(5)	4 BRYANT, Craig (DV)	3555	
(7)	5 HORNER, Daniel (CH)	3316	
(4)	6 BAKER, Gregory (ST)	3304	
(7)	7 YARNALL, Tim (NP)	3280	
(10)	8 CLEMINSON, Peter (E)	3280	
(6)	9 ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA)	3267	
(3)	10 HALL, Dominic (K)	3253	
(11)	11 BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA)	3101	
(12)	12 DRINKHALL, Paul (CV)	2935	
(14)	13 NOUTH, Simon (Y)	2898	
(15)	14 GREEN, Alex (LI)	2715	
(16)	15 CLARKE, Martyn (CV)	2713	
(13)	16 DENNY, Stephen (Y)	2707	
(19)	17 MARPLES, Shaun (DY)	2662	
(18)	18 KNIGHT, Darius (SY)	2590	
(20)	19 GREGORY, Christopher (SP)	2553	
(21)	20 EVANS, Bradley (BU) (NG)	2476	
(22)	21 CARTWRIGHT, Neil (DO)	2392	
(23)	22 YARNALL, Greg (NP)	2383	
(24)	23 PEEBLES, Robin (LA)	2330*	
(26)	24 LALLY, Keiran (A)	2313	
(32)	25 MOSS, Richard (Y)	2270	
(25)	26 HARLEY, John (K)	2239	
(33)	27 WILSON, Kevin (ND)	2233	
(34)	28 LEIGHTON, Andrew (DU)	2172	
(42)	29 MEADS, David (DU)	2079	
(41)	30 REES, Daniel (E)	2074	
(28)	31 LEMON, Robert (SY)	2047	
(27)	32 CAMILLERI, John (OX)	2031*	
(38)	33 SHAHLAEI, Harry (GS)	2010	
(40)	34 NICHOLLS, Ashley (SP)	1981	
(30)	35 BROOKS, Warren (BU)	1977*	
(29)	36 POWELL, Neil (CH)	1956	
(31)	37 WYNN-SANDS, Dominic (GS)	1955	
(36)	38 MILTON, James (BU)	1939	
(39)	39 BROWN, Christopher (DV)	1921	
(51)	40 CANNON, Samuel (MI)	1902	
(35)	41 ROGERSON, Shaun (LI)	1896	
(43)	42 HAYWARD, Gareth (WA)	1871	
(37)	43 STAINES, Matthew (E)	1867*	
(46)	44 BRADFORD, Leigh (WA)	1745	
(45)	45 GIBBS, Shaun (DV)	1739*	
(58)	46 KODICEK, Jacob (CO)	1685	
(48)	47 PAGE, Tom (CH)	1657	
(47)	48 HAYES, David (BU)	1649	
(45)	49 HALLING, Tony (E)	1649	
(49)	50 WOODHEAD, Andrew (Y)	1616	

Junior Girls

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 PARKER, Katy (LA)	3748	
(2)	2 PARKER, Joanna (SY)	3658	
(2)	3 WALKER, Georgina (NG)	3655	
(5)	4 BAWDEN, Natalie (E)	3536***	
(3)	5 STEWARD, Kate (SO)	3523	
(6)	6 EMBLING, Abigail (E)	3385	

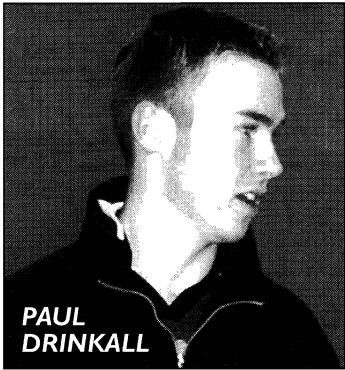
(7)	7 WHITE, Nicola (Y)	3130
(9)	8 CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK)	3126
(11)	9 SIBLEY, Kelly (WA)	3073
(19)	10 SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LI)	3005
(8)	11 SPINK, Lauren (NK)	2983
(12)	12 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH)	2898
(14)	13 INGHAM, Katy (CH)	2823*
(15)	14 WILSON, Naomi (SO)	2815
(13)	15 YARNLEY, Gemma (K)	2725
(16)	16 POINTER, Lucy (IW)	2645***
(17)	17 SPARKES, Aimee (SK)	2608
(18)	18 ROBERTS, Hannah (LA)	2603*
(23)	19 WRIGHT, Amy (E)	2577
(21)	20 BROWN, Sarah (E)	2572
(20)	21 LANGFORD, Clare (CH)	2565
(22)	22 GRAHAM, Cherish (LA)	2489
(25)	23 RADFORD, Kerry (NG)	2364
(24)	24 WEIL, Emma (E)	2335
(26)	25 BROWN, Grace (E)	2304
(28)	26 WILSON, Claire (DU)	2284
(27)	27 DENNETT, Elizabeth (CH)	2200
(33)	28 HUBBARD, Joanne (K)	2144
(29)	29 CRAVEN-GRIFFITHS, Kelly (LE)	2086
(30)	30 STEWARD, Tina (K)	2051
(31)	31 TUCKER, Emily (BU)	1992*
(32)	32 CLUCAS, Hazel (K)	1942*
(34)	33 VAJDI, Christina (SY)	1927**
(35)	34 EASLEY, Jane (ST)	1903
(36)	35 WEIL, Lucy (E)	1891
(39)	36 SHUTT, Heather (Y)	1863
(37)	37 HOLLETT, Gemma (SY)	1856*
(42)	38 BELL, Amanda (Y)	1830
(39)	39 WALLER, Tanya (Y)	1822*
(43)	40 SENEVIRATNE, Anusha (K)	1759
(44)	41 PARTON, Helen (DV)	1748
(40)	42 BALDI, Rachel (YS) (Y)	1728*
(41)	43 BARRETT, Michelle (DV)	1716*
(48)	44 MEADS, Joanne (DU)	1587
(45)	45 HUMAN, Emma (BK)	1582
(45)	46 HEARD, Gemma (E)	1565*
(51)	47 WANG, Sarra (E)	1518
(46)	48 CHEESMAN, Leah (E)	1477*
(47)	49 CLEMINSON, Jessica (E)	1445**
(49)	50 ROGERS, Gina (SX)	1436**

Cadet Boys

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 YARNALL, Tim (NP)	3280	</

WORLD SCHOOLS 2002

A players view of the recent trip to the World Schools Championships in Senec, Slovakia.



PAUL DRINKALL

Five out of eight English boys made it through to the knock-out stages as did six of the eight girls. However, no boy proceeded further than the last 64. The girls fought hard to reach the later rounds with Joanna Parker reaching the last 16, before losing in a gripping match - again to Chinese opposition.

Georgina Walker and Kelly Sibley were interviewed by the Slovakian television company - another interesting experience.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Jarvis Sports, the coaches (Paul Birch, Gail McCulloch, Nicky Jarvis,

WORLD TOP TEN			
MAY 2002			
MEN		WOMEN	
1	(1) 2252	WANG Liqin	CHN
2	(2) 2152	MA Lin	CHN
3	(5) 2111	BOLL Timo	GER
4	(3) 2107	SAMSONOV Vladimir	BLR
5	2043	SAIVE Jean Michel	BEL
6	(6) 2032	KONG Linghui	CHN
7	(9) 2007	SCHLAGER Werner	AUT
8	(8) 2005	WALDNER Jan Ove	SWE
9	(7) 1991	LIU Guozheng	CHN
10	(4) 1951	CHIANG Peng-Lung	TPE
73	(66) 1422	SYED Matthew	ENG
135	(135) 1159	HERBERT Gareth	ENG
1	(1) 2381	WANG Nan	CHN
2	(3) 2088	ZHANG Yining	CHN
3	(2) 2075	BOROS Tamara	CRO
4	(5) 1982	LI Ju	CHN
5	(4) 1975	LI Nan	CHN
6	(6) 1961	RYU Ji Hye	KOR
7	(7) 1922	NIU Jianfeng	CHN
8	1904	LIN Ling	HKG
9	1886	NI Xia Lian	LUX
10	(8) 1881	STEFF Mihaela	ROM
184	(180) 1057	DEATON Nicola	ENG
185	(187) 1056	LOWER Helen	ENG

Esther Coleman), the Head of Delegation (John Blackband), the umpires (Wilf Rhodes and Margot Fraser), and the

International Schools Federation under the leadership of John Arnold, for organising a fantastic tournament.

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



ON THE WHOLE the teams performed well with Peniel Girls finishing 6th, Peniel Boys twelfth, the National Boys sixth and the National Girls narrowly missing out on a medal when losing to Poland 4-2 in the bronze medal play-off, writes Daniel Groome.

Bryn Drinkall and Joanna Parker had outstanding wins against players from China and Chinese Taipei respectively. Bryn's win against Chinese opposition, equals that of Georgina Walker in France 2 years ago.

Although the teams performed well, there were some minor hiccups along the way, with the first occurring before we even left the airport. Security guards pounced on umpire Wilf Rhodes and searched his luggage removing a corkscrew. The offending item had to be left at the airport.

Jarvis Sports, the team sponsors, did an excellent job of providing kit and equipment, except for Mr Jarvis himself, who found himself supplied with extra small trousers!

The trip which lasted a week, included 3 days of team competition, a day sampling Slovakian culture and two days of singles competition.

The day of culture began with a sightseeing tour of Bratislava complete with full police escort and culminating in an evening of entertainment with each of the participating nations providing an insight into their country. This was a very entertaining evening in spite of the nerve-racking experience of performing in front of several hundred people.

The English performance was made up of a piece about the Union Jack, followed by a rendition of the Beatles' song "All you need is love", masterfully orchestrated by Peter Cleminson.

Following the trip to Bratislava came two days of intense singles competition. Once again, there were some outstanding English performances with Bryn again beating the same Chinese player and Craig Bryant won a set against the eventual Chinese winner.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2nd WEEK - August 12th to August 16th

Participants £329.00 per week • Non-Participants £199.00 per week

Cost includes all accommodation and meals

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

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

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

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

DUAN YONG JUN SURPRISE WINNER

THERE have been occasions in the recent history of the sport when our reporting of major events has been guilty of over dramatisation. Not this time. The Conference Centre at Wembley has provided a table tennis venue in the past, but, even with world class performers on view, it cannot have seen a better or more perfectly presented event than the recent PPP healthcare Commonwealth Masters, writes Brian Halliday.

The whole concept of the event was the brainchild of Matt Syed. His total input into the project resulted in a major success both live at Wembley and on TV the following day. Grandstand programme coverage was brilliantly conceived and edited and the constant feedback to the Association has been that the presentation and play has added a new fresh, updated, image to the sport.

How on earth does he do it? The constant preparation, meetings, discussions, and planning must have taken their toll, but then he had to follow this up with intensive playing training to ensure that he maintained his own high level. Everyone involved in our game recognises that in Matt Syed we have an extraordinary personality with a flair and charisma too rarely seen - even in the so called more popular sports.

Matt's performance at Wembley was spectacular. He knew that for the evening to be a success he had to guarantee a delivery of his own special brand of crowd pleasing table tennis. Not easy this when you are trying to entertain and win at the same time.

The fact that he fell at the final



Surprise winner DUAN YONG JUN, whose big powerful forehand topspin was too fast for England's MATTHEW SYED

hurdle to Duan Yong Jun of Singapore was almost incidental to what almost became "The Matt Syed Show".

The absence of the Nigerian Toriola cut down the number of matches, so Scotland's Ewan Walker started proceedings by being soundly beaten by Duan.

The second match saw a breathtaking battle between Adam Robertson, a veritable Welsh Lion on this occasion, and Syed. What a match it turned out to be with a brilliant mixture of attack and defence. All credit to Adam for helping to set Wembley alight. He should keep the videotape to show his grandchildren one day. For the record Matt triumphed by 3 games to 2, but it was a close run thing.

The talented Chetan Baboor then played Duan and was completely out of touch. The Indian was a pale shadow of the player that had electrified us all in New Delhi last year. No problems then for the Singapore player who eased through to the final.

The English No 1 never quite got to

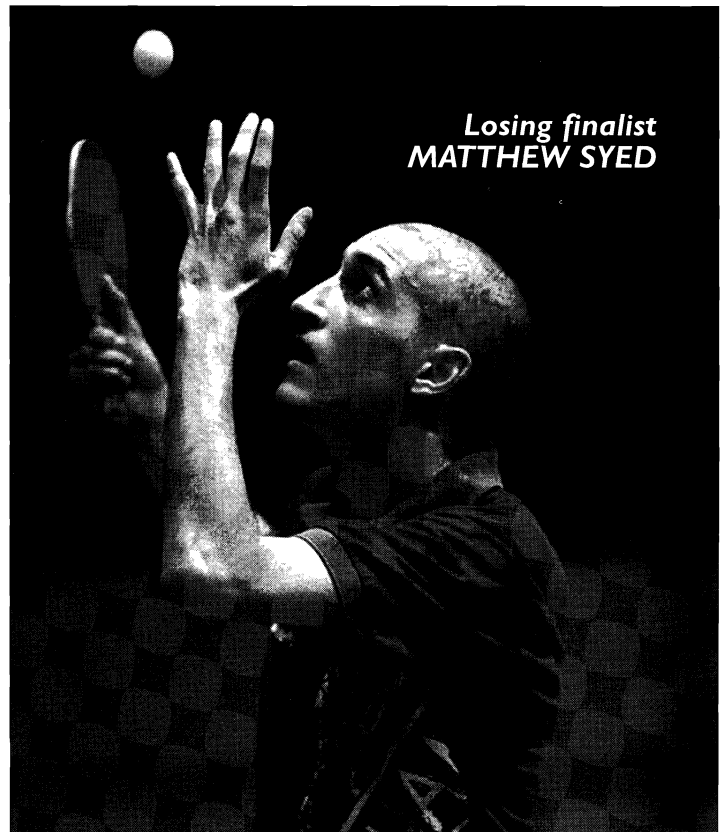
Commonwealth singles defeat in 2000.

There was an added bonus for spectators with a Superkids Challenge Match between Darius Knight and Paul Drinkhall. These two under 12s received a massive ovation after demonstrating that England have two outstanding prospects. Darius won a match full of thrilling stroke play. The rest of Europe had better watch out - and soon.

As a foretaste of what is in store at the forthcoming Commonwealth Games this championship could not have been bettered. If the excitement, good sportsmanship, and presentation skills are continued in Manchester, then the full houses of spectators are in for a real treat.

The ETTA acknowledge the help and assistance received from PPP healthcare, Matt Syed, Wembley Conference Centre, Butterfly, Schildkrot, Gerflor, U At The Game, Interflora, Sussex Water, BBC TV, Nima Print and Design, and special thanks to Alan Sherwood.

grips with Duan's powerful game. Maybe exhaustion had taken its toll, but on this occasion Duan extracted sweet revenge for his



Losing finalist MATTHEW SYED



NORTH HERTS GRAND PRIX



OPEN SINGLES WINNERS: SANDRA and MICK HARPER, picture with Referee JOHN JERMYN

A FAMILY AFFAIR

THIS NORTH HERTS (ASHE CONSTRUCTION) GRAND PRIX TOURNAMENT was a true family affair, with Mick Harper winning the mens singles title, whilst his wife Sandra won the womens crown. On top of this the Jermyn family was well represented with Richard winning the mens Band 1 and 2, and his parents officiating, John was the referee and his mother Di was the tournament organiser, writes Alex Murdoch.

This National Table Tennis event took place over the weekend of 23rd/24th March at Hitchin Boys School Sports Centre with over 70 players taking part from around the UK.

Mick Harper, who has played in this area since being a junior and represented his county around the country for many years and at 47 years old he won his first Open event.

Sandra Harper, in a tremendous semi-

final of the womens singles beat Siwan Davies of Wales. Siwan is looking forward to playing for her country at the European Championships in Zagreb.

Richard Jermyn returned to his home area and won two events, whilst Sara Coggon, who is soon moving to Stevenage and will play for the Le Roi Club at the Hitchin Boys School Sports Centre, also won two titles.

We would like to thank Ashe Construction for their continued sponsorship and the Hitchin Sports Centre staff for all their help in making this such a successful tournament.

Thanks also to Mick Stroud, the Referee, who stepped in at the last minute to deputise for John Jermyn on the Saturday. John was in hospital, but managed to watch his son, Richard, play late on Saturday, and was Referee on the Sunday. Not forgetting the Deputy Referee Peter Thurman and the Organiser Di Jermyn.

EVENT

OPEN MEN
OPEN WOMEN
UNDER 21 MEN
UNDER 21 WOMEN
VETERAN MEN
VETERAN WOMEN
MENS BAND 1
WOMEN BAND 1
MENS BAND 2
WOMEN BAND 2
MENS BAND 3
WOMEN BAND 3
MENS BAND 4
MENS BAND 5
MENS BAND 6

WINNER

MICK HARPER (CAMBS)
SANDRA HARPER (BEDS)
JOHN HARLEY (KENT)
SIWAN DAVIES (WALES)
HENRY BUIST (KENT)
SANDRA HARPER (BEDS)
RICHARD JERMYN (KENT)
SARA COGGON (SUSSEX)
RICHARD JERMYN (KENT)
SARA COGGON (SUSSEX)
NEIL CARTWRIGHT (DORSET)
JANE EASLEY (STAFFS)
IAN PACKFORD (WILTS)
CHRISTOPHER HALL (KENT)
CHRISTOPHER HALL (KENT)

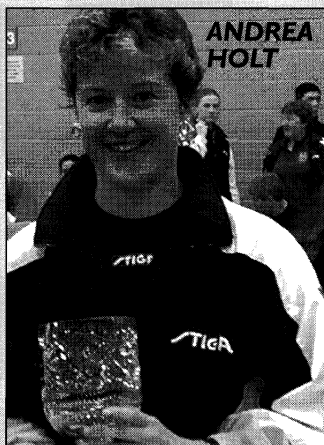
RUNNER UP

TIM SEAHOLME (HERTS)
SARAH HORSNELL (MIDDX)
SAM CANNON (ESSEX)
SARAH HUDSON (BEDS)
STEVE DAVIS (SURREY)
LINDSAY DARE (HERTS)
ANTHONY ISSACS (STAFFS)
SIWAN DAVIES (WALES)
MARK DARE (HERTS)
LINDSAY DARE (HERTS)
MARK DARE (HERTS)
ANUSHA SENEVIRATNE (KENT)
ANTHONY BOSTIC (SURREY)
EARL SWEENEY (WARKS)
IAN GORDON (KENT)

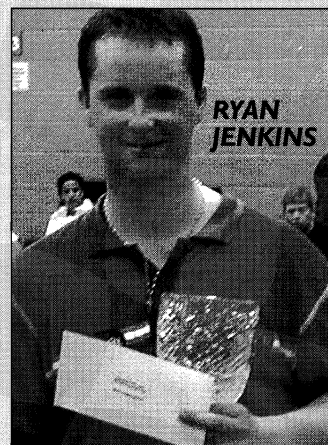
NORTH HERTS GRAND PRIX

BLACKPOOL BUTTERFLY GRAND PRIX

JENKINS & HOLT LIFT TITLES



ANDREA HOLT



RYAN JENKINS

BLACKPOOL Table Tennis Club promoted yet another highly successful ETTA Grand Prix event over the weekend of 13th and 14th April at Blackpool Sports Centre. A mega entry of 210 players competed over the 2 days. Furthermore, the popularity of the event was such that 60 entries had to be returned, writes Tony Meredith.

The Welsh no.1 Ryan Jenkins, seeded 2, turned on the power to beat the top seeded former England and Commonwealth champion Alan Cooke (Chesterfield) in the men's singles to repeat the result of 2 years earlier. He had overcome former Cameroon international Marco Essomba (Surrey), a student at Middlesex University, in the semi-finals. The 5th seeded Essomba, who plays for British League champion club London Progress, had come through a hard fought quarter-final, 11-9, 9-11, 3-11, 11-9, 11-9, with another former England international, Bradley Billington (Chesterfield), the 3rd seed. Jenkins was, perhaps, a little fortunate to come through his quarter final with Hungarian Gergeley Urban who had two match points at 10-8 in the fifth only to miss a relatively easy forehand at 10-9 and let the Welshman back in. The best result of the day was the 2nd round victory of 15 year old Shaun Marples (Chesterfield), 13-11, 5-11, 4-11, 11-9, 11-3 over 16th seed Kevin Dolder (Lancashire).

The former 3 times national champion, Andrea Holt from Bury, was the expected women's singles winner, and although the combination bat defender was taken to five, her Hungarian opponent, second seed Barbara Kiss, never looked like winning. Her gentle top spins were never going to be good enough to win the pressure points against such an experienced campaigner as Holt.

Bryn Drinkhall from Carole Moore's Ormesby stable was a very worthy winner of the under 21 men's singles. He was victorious over Devon's Craig Bryant in a five-game final. More importantly, in the semi-final he overcame No.1 seed Gavin Rungay (Scotland) in a magnificent marathon 16 in the deciding game. This result could well rate as the best of his career so far.

Finals Results: Men's Singles: Ryan Jenkins (WAL) bt Alan Cooke (Dy) -5, 9, 7, 9. Women's Singles: Andrea Holt (La) bt Barbara Kiss (He) -5, 5, 6, -9, 7. U21 Men's Singles: Bryn Drinkhall (Cv) bt Craig Bryant (Dy) 4, -11, -10, 7, 9. U21 Women's Singles: Lucy Perry (Dy) bt Suzy Robinson (Gs) 10, -7, -10, 10, 7. Vet Men's Singles: John Hilton (Ch) bt Ian Girdler (K) 7, -9, 9, 4. Vet Women's Singles: Brenda Buoye (La) bt Jane Durham (Cv) Round Robin. Men's Doubles: Alan Cooke (Dy)/Gergley Urban (HUN) bt Bradley Billington (Dy)/Abdul Wuraola (Sy) 8, 5, 11. Women's Doubles: Gillian Edwards (SCO)/Becky Fisher (Mi) bt Stephanie Matthew (SCO)/Gemma Chapman (Bu) -6, -10, 9, 9, 7.

CALENDAR

JUNE		
23rd	Isdall U12/14 2 Star	
24th-29th	11th World Veterans Championships	Lucerne, Switzerland
29th-30th	British Schools International	Cardiff
JULY		
4th-7th	ITTF Pro Tour	USA
7th	Isdall U12/14 2 Star	
11th-12th	ITTF Pro Tour	Brazil
12th-23rd	European Youth Championships	Moscow
14th	Whitchurch Junior 2 Star	
20th	National Council	
20th	VETTS Rating Tournament	Hinkley
21st	VETTS AGM	Coventry
21st	Whitchurch Cadet/Junior/Senior 2 Star	
25th-Aug.4	Commonwealth Games	Manchester
AUGUST		
17th-18th	Cadet/Junior Regional Training	
24th-25th	ETTA Butterfly Grand Prix Major	Liverpool
31st-Sept.1	British League Weekend (1)	
31st-Sept.1	Womens World Cup	Singapore
SEPTEMBER		
1st	British League (1) Premier Division	
5th-8th	ITTF Pro Tour	Korea
6th-8th	ETTA Teaching & Training Conference	Lilleshall
7th-8th	Womens British League Weekend (1)	
7th-8th	VETTS North Eastern Masters	Sunderland
7th-8th	Cadet/Junior Regional Training	
12th-15th	ITTF Pro Tour	Japan
13th-16th	Veterans Home Countries International	Largs, Scotland
14th	County Championships (1) Cadet, Junior, Senior & Veteran	
15th	British League (2) Premier Division	
21st-22nd	Cadet/Junior Preliminary Trials	
28th-29th	Essex Cadet/Junior 4 Star	
29th	British League (3) Premier Division	
OCTOBER		
5th	Chesham Junior 2 Star Graded	Chesham
5th-6th	Clare Pengelly Memorial Tournament	Paignton
5th-6th	Stiga Blackpool Cadet/Junior 4 Star	Blackpool
5th-6th	Cadet/Junior Regional Training	
12th-13th	Junior British League (1) Weekend	
12th-13th	VETTS Midlands Masters	Stoke-on-Trent
17th-20th	ITTF Pro Tour	Germany
19th	County Championships (2)	

TABLE TENNIS NEWS COPY DATES

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