

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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MARCH 2002



**WILL ZAGREB
BE JAN OVE
WALDNER'S
WATERSHED ?**

**GOLD MEDALS
FOR ENGLAND
IN THE SAFIRS
INTERNATIONAL
2002 IN
SWEDEN
pages 5 & 28**



**SAFIRS'
GOLDEN GIRL
JOANNA
PARKER**

STIGA

innova nova



**AIR-CAPSULE
SYSTEM**

DRIFT TO ASIA ACCELERATES

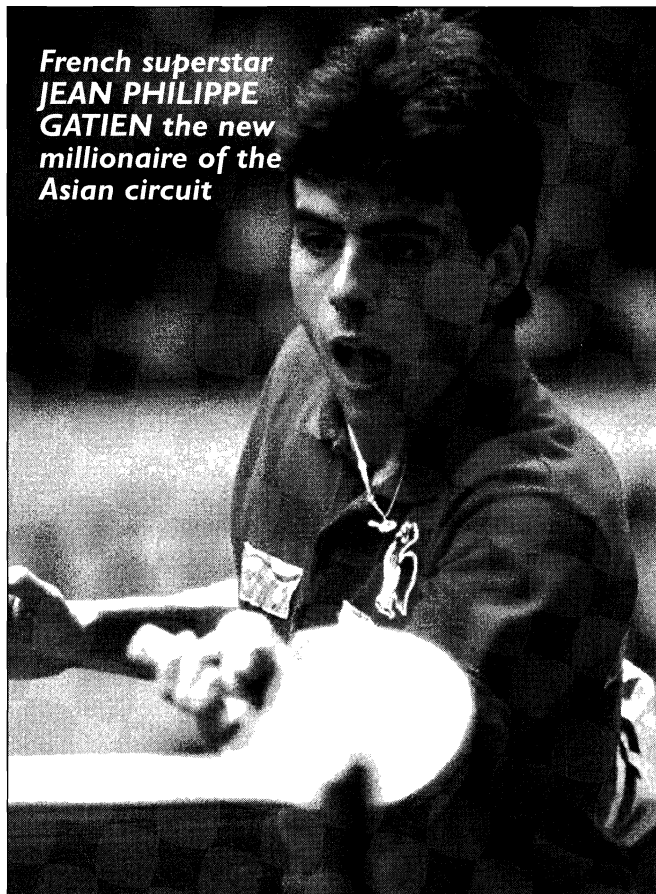
ALAN RANSOME REPORTS ON THE DRIFT OF EUROPEAN PLAYERS TO ASIA

FOR the last decade or so the majority of Asia's leading players have competed for several of Europe's leading clubs. In the last two years the trend has been reversed and not only have the majority of Asian players stayed at home, but now most of the big European names are spending much of their year playing in effectively domestic competitions in Asia.

The main reason is that a Japanese multi-millionaire Kimono manufacturer, Mr. Yukau, has been running the Kensheoen Super Circuit which involves a complex individual competition that takes place over 100 days each year. Each day of the competition is televised and broadcast over Mr. Yukau's 24 hour television channel which broadcasts only table tennis. The attraction for the players is a mixture of very lucrative guarantees combined with high prize money.

The leading player this year is the French superstar, Jean-Philippe Gatién whose earnings are likely to approach \$1million. Even lower ranked European international players can receive guarantees in excess of £100,000. For the coming season the list of European players is extensive including Gatién, Samsonov, Persson, Roskopf, Fetzner, J.M. Saive, Kreanga, Korbel and our own Matthew Syed who has been part of the circuit from its launch two seasons ago. In addition, most of the best Japanese players, including Matsuchita and other leading Asians, Chiang Peng-Lung of Taiwan and Yan San of China have signed up.

As well as the circuit in Japan, the Chinese Table Tennis Association have introduced their own National League and taking into account the enormous popularity of table tennis in China, it means that this competition will receive enormous publicity. In addition to the majority of the leading Chinese players competing, it is understood that Chinese clubs are now also trying to attract some of Europe's top players of which Sweden's former World Champion, Jan-Ove Waldner is a potential



*French superstar
JEAN PHILIPPE
GATIEN the new
millionaire of the
Asian circuit*

attraction.

The ITTF are generally supportive of initiatives which increase the popularity and financial support for table tennis around the world and have reached an agreement with the Asians that the dates of the Super Circuit in particular will avoid the dates of the major ITTF events such as the World championships and the majority of the ITTF Pro Tour Open championships. This does mean, however, that the opportunities to see European players on home soil will be limited and clubs such as those competing in the European Champions League, the Bundesliga and French League will lose some of their best players, or only have them available for occasional matches. This will also affect competitions like the European League where national teams will have even more difficulty in fielding their best players.

There has been some comment in Table Tennis News and elsewhere of late with regard to more English players taking

advantage of offers from European clubs to participate in Continental National leagues. Much of the flow is dictated by the strength of the clubs in Europe. Despite this current Asian situation, the clubs in Europe are much bigger and much stronger than the table tennis clubs in Britain where the local leagues have been largely built on small local clubs, the majority of which only have access to their playing facilities for a limited number of hours each week. Over the last few years the English Table Tennis Association has been strongly encouraging the formation of larger clubs, in particular with the Premier Club programme where currently some 300 clubs are now registered within the programme. Many of those, however, are small community clubs or school clubs, but some are developing into bigger clubs with their own facilities open for most evenings during the week and the weekends and are following the

Continental model.

One disadvantage that we currently have in this country in this regard compared to the Continent is the opportunity for our clubs to play important league home national matches as it is these matches that can attract local publicity and sponsorship. On the Continent clubs receive substantial local financial support from both the community and from local sponsorship. Two years ago the British League clubs voted to change the home and away system to four weekends at central venues, except for the Premier division. This is very enjoyable from the players' perspective and follows the excellent model established by the Women's British League some 15 years ago. This limits the benefits to our clubs and reduces their opportunity of promoting the sport within their own community and taking advantage of 28 rounds of publicity, half of which are being reported from a local base rather than eight at the moment all reported from a venue often more than 100 miles from home.

You could not imagine even lower division football clubs surviving without home fixtures but this does not just apply to the big sports. Clubs in sports such as basketball would be much the poorer without their home fixtures with the publicity and revenue that this develops.

If we are to develop strong table tennis clubs throughout England in the future, then to provide home matches for the clubs is essential. I do appreciate the benefits of weekend club table tennis and the enjoyment that it brings to the players. This was clearly evident at the recent Schildkrot Junior British League weekend in Stoke where 37 tables were in use and 74 teams participated. The key will be to find a way which encourages the weekend club play to continue, but at the same time gives the opportunity for our clubs to develop strongly on a local basis.

*Alan Ransome
ETTA Chairman*



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SKILL AND MAGIC

TABLE TENNIS is a sport where sleight of hand plays an ever increasing role, where legislators have wrestled with ways to counteract spin and speed and we are all aware of the devious effects of pimples, long, medium, and short. Then there are those disguised services where the ball appears at the last moment, to the consternation of player and public alike. To many it amounts to a combination of skill and magic - which brings me conveniently to introduce a player who has an interesting two fold expertise, writes Brian Halliday.

Steven Walsh started his table tennis career over 30 years ago at the YMCA in Tonbridge, Kent. There was a strong influence from coach Bob Woods, and after moving to Blackpool he made rapid strides within the game to become one of the leading players in the area, and where he reached a county standard of play.

His natural outgoing personality dictated a career path and before long he was a Pontins Bluecoat at Prestatyn. It was here he teamed up with international star Denis Neale for a series of exhibition matches. The art of "magic" was in the blood and his father had taught him the wily arts of the magician from an early age. As his knowledge of this branch of show business increased, Steven decided to try his luck on the cabaret and working mens clubs circuits in the North of England. A period of working as a taxi driver in the 1980s followed his early successes, but it was not long before he was back in the entertainment world.



STEVEN WALSH and Tricia

Steven has been entertaining passengers on cruise ships for the past four years with a combination of tricks and illusions that are totally baffling. He has developed his act to incorporate his charming partner Tricia, and says that increased success has meant that he has been able to extend the range of his illusions.

Steven, whose stage name is Steve Blake, still retains his table tennis

interests, and asked specifically to be remembered to all the many friends he made in the sport in the 1970s and 80s. He says that he would like to take in a tournament in the near future - but opponents beware, he may have a trick or two up his sleeve.

• Steve was interviewed on the "Braemar" by kind permission of Fred Olsen Cruise Lines.

CORNISH CHILDREN AID SUNSHINE APPEAL

A 24 HOUR MARATHON saw young Cornish table tennis players, as well as a few older players, raise much needed money for the BBC Radio Cornwall Sunshine Appeal in aid of

Pictured left are 12 year old YAINA ANDREW and 17 year old DAVID PLUMB, who raised between themselves £286, presenting a cheque for £700, in aid of the Sunshine Appeal to BBC Radio Cornwall's LAURENCE REED, live on his radio show in Truro.



WOODY'S World

GOLDEN news from the Safirs International 2002 tournament in Sweden, where Joanna Parker won the Gold medal in the Girls Under 14 Singles event.

There was golden success in the Boys Under 12 and 11 singles, with Paul Drinkhall winning the Under 12 event, whilst Darius Knight won the Under 11 singles.

These great singles victories were backed up with another Gold Medal with Nicola Deaton and Helen Lower winning the Women's Doubles. See Alan Ransome's report on page 5 and Bradley Billington's on page 28.

Last month's new email poll on "who was the prettiest" contest between Terry Young and Gareth Herbert, had the best response to any previous reader participation competition. The result was a win for Terry by 18 votes to 7.

This month's cover story is whether or not the European Championships in Zagreb in April, will be Jan Ove Waldner's 'watershed', penned by Brian Halliday, see pages 10 and 11.

This month's 'Straight talking' is on 11up vs 21up, see page 16.

John Wood

the Cancer Treatment Centre at Trelliske Hospital in Truro.

Their valiant effort raised a gross total of over £1500, which was split, after expenses, equally between the Sunshine Appeal and Cornwall Table Tennis Association which will assist in the running of their table tennis centre at Tregorrick Park, St.Austell.

At the time of going to press the Appeal had amassed a total of just under £500,000.

ACADEMY AT NOTTINGHAM

THE NEXT issue of TTN sees the first of a two part articles series where Brian Halliday takes a look at the Academy in Nottingham, on how it came into being and what the future might hold.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES APOLOGY

IN the last issue of TTN in a report on page 2, publishing the route of the 'Baton' around the UK in June. In error, Wales was omitted from the list.

ENGLAND WIN GOLD AT THE SAFIRS INTERNATIONAL 2002



Alan Ransome OBE,
Chairman of the ETTA

WITH gold medals for Nicola Deaton, Helen Lower, Joanna Parker, Paul Drinkhall and Darius Knight, English players enjoyed one of their most successful international tournaments at one of Sweden's top tournaments, Safir's International Open over the period 8 - 10 February.

The tournament, which attracted players from at least 15 countries, saw a surprise victory in the women's Doubles for Nicola and Helen who beat Japanese pairs in both the semi-final and final. In the Junior Girls singles three of the England squad, Katy Parker, Georgina Walker and Kate Steward all reached the quarter finals, whilst in the Under 14 girls singles Joanna Parker won the gold medal beating Romy Borbouse of Belgium in straight games in the final. Success in the Under 12 and Under 11 boys singles came when Paul Drinkhall beat Joe Aberg of Sweden 3 - 1 in the final of the Under 12 boys and Benjamin Rogiers of Belgium in the semi final 3 - 2, whilst Darius Knight beat another Swede, Tim Bergman, and Poland's Patryk Chojnowski in the Under 11 final and semi-final respectively.

Whilst this event is far from the standard of an ITTF Pro Tour, the results particularly for our younger players are extremely encouraging and bode well for the future.

PROPOSED CHANGE OF JUNIOR QUALIFICATION DATE

The Safirs Championships in Sweden was played using the proposed new junior and cadet



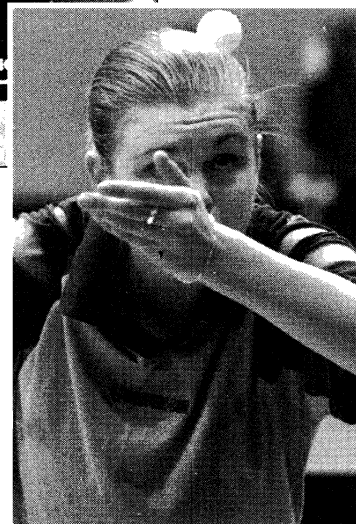
Golden girl JOANNA PARKER (left) winner of the Girls Under 14 Singles Gold medal, in the Safirs International in Sweden. Pictured below is GEORGINA WALKER who also tasted success in Sweden

age category which effectively gives players born between January and June an extra year in the junior and cadet category. The ITTF will be holding the World Junior circuit for the first time this year and will be staging the first World Junior championships at the end of 2003. The ITTF Executive Committee are proposing to the ITTF Annual General Meeting which is to be held in Zagreb at the beginning of April that the junior age limit be changed for the coming season from juniors under 17 on 1st July 2002 to being Under 18 on 1st January 2003.

This change is being proposed because some of the continents operate their table tennis season on the January - December calendar year rather than the European season of July to June, or effectively September to May. The proposal appears to have wide support, especially in Asia, and therefore it is likely to be adopted by the ITTF. If so, the likely response to this in England

would be to retain the junior July to June season so as to avoid all the various teams losing a proportion of their players at Christmas or changing the complete junior calendar orbit of our junior programmes. By only changing the eligibility date for participation for junior events by six months to fit in with the ITTF dates. This would create the minimum of disruption for our players.

After Zagreb all of this will be considered by the ETTA National Council and the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting at the end of June before the matter can be finalised for the start of the new season. The fact that half of the youngsters are being given an extra year in the junior events rather than time taken away from their junior and cadet careers is likely to remove much of the objection to this proposal. Such a change of date would benefit at least three of our leading prospects in that Joanna Parker, Paul Drinkhall and Darius



Knight all have birthdays in the first half of the year.

MORE PROPOSED SERVICE RULE CHANGES — DOUBLE THE HEIGHT!

Other controversial matters which are on the agenda for the ITTF Annual General Meeting are some further amendments to the service

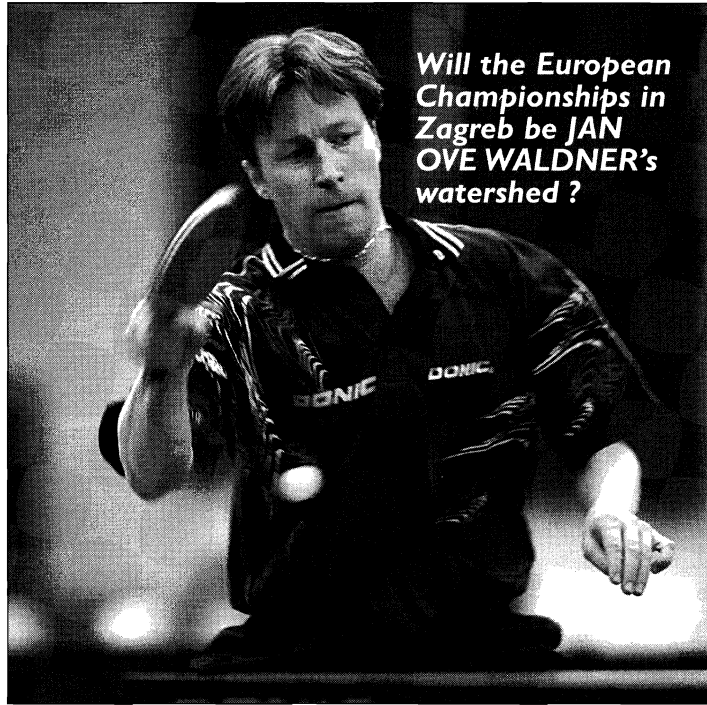
FROM THE CHAIR - 2

law. At the last ITTF AGM in Osaka, Japan last May, the new service rule was agreed for introduction next September. This was designed to ensure that the receiver would be able to see the service at the point of contact between the bat and the ball rather than having the ball hidden by the server's arm.

Whilst keeping to same principle, this proposal is subject to further change in the form of a new proposal from the ITTF Rules Committee, that to make even more certain that the receiver is able to see the ball, that the server must throw the ball up 12" rather than 6" as at present.

DRIFT TO ASIA ACCELERATES

For the last decade or so the majority of Asia's leading players have competed for several of Europe's leading clubs. In the last two years the trend has been reversed and not only have the majority of Asian players stayed at home but now most of the big European names are spending much of their year playing in effectively domestic competitions in Asia. For the implications of



Will the European Championships in Zagreb be JAN OVE WALDNER's watershed ?

this, read my article devoted to this subject, on the inside front cover of this issue of TTN.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The ETTA Development and Teaching & Training Departments are combining to launch a series of nine Regional Conferences

aimed at addressing one of the biggest problems in the sport today, the recruitment and retention of volunteers. These conferences are being held in conjunction with Sport England who have launched their own volunteer initiatives and have earmarked some £7 million over the next three years to encourage initiatives supporting local

volunteers.

The conferences will be looking at ways of rewarding and encouraging existing volunteers and in particular methods by which they can improve their skills by attending ETTA training courses in coaching, development, umpiring and refereeing, administration, tournament organisation etc, as well as examining ways of recruitment of new volunteers to be able to assist with the workload at local league and club level. From my experience one of the best ways of recruiting volunteers is through the family. When youngsters become keen on the sport with the backing of parents and other family members, these supporters can become excellent volunteers, using their time and expertise to support the organisation that is providing the opportunities for their youngsters.

Details of these conferences which will run from May through to October, will be issued shortly and information can be obtained from the ETTA Development Department in Hastings.

TABLE TENNIS WEEK

Another important initiative is one that is designed to take advantage of the extensive television coverage and publicity that table tennis is expecting to receive from the Commonwealth Games in Manchester which are to be played from 25 July through to 4th August. The ETTA will be launching through local leagues and Premier Clubs a TABLE TENNIS WEEK which will run from Saturday, 3rd August through to Sunday 11 August. Local leagues and clubs will be encouraged to promote a series of local competitions, come and try it sessions, shopping centre promotions and other activities which bring the sport into the community and give members of the community the opportunity to join local clubs. Further details of this project will also be available from the Development Department shortly.

*Alan Ransome
ETTA Chairman*

TABLE TENNIS ON TV

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ZAGREB

The 2002 European Championships are to be held in Zagreb, Croatia, from 30 March to 7th April. The Championships are being covered by Eurosport which can be received in the UK on either the Sky or Astra Satellite platforms or through most of the leading tv cable providers. The provisional transmission dates are as listed below:

April 2	15.00-17.30	Men's Team Finals
April 6	10.30-12.30	Women's singles semi finals
April 6	15.30-16.30	Women's Singles final
April 6	18.00-20.00	Men's Singles semi finals
April 7	16.00-17.00	Men's Singles final

It is anticipated that the above will be live coverage. Eurosport are expected to transmit some repeats which will be published in the television guides.

POSTBAG

3 BALL GAME

WHERE, oh where is English table tennis going? We seem to drop lower and lower every year in the World ratings.

There are of course several reasons for this in my opinion.

The first reason is that in the Boys table tennis, every youngster starts off with a 'One dimensional type of game.' That is the three ball game', serve, return and wallop. Then by the time they come to the notice of a coach, their playing style is already set. This must be almost 100% true of all youngsters playing boys table tennis.

We do not now have anyone of the stature of Peter Charteris, who would stand back and advise how to broaden a youngsters game, to include attack, defence and a middle game. To keep the playing style and tactics open. To make changes later.

It has to be a mystery how our top player Matthew Syed has few, if any players, trying to copy his very successful style. Matthew would seem to be the perfect role model for at least a few players.

A few seasons back it did seem that the playing styles would open up when Chen Xinhua came to England from China. Very few got the message to copy Chen, with his very good services, great forehand hit backed up by a 'cast iron' close to the table back spin defence.

This style took him up among the very best in the world. His opponents just did not know what he would do next. All parts of his game were joined seamlessly.

Had Chen learned his table tennis in England, in all probability he would have been a defender of the Matthew Syed standard, but more than likely a three ball attack player, lucky to get in the world's top one hundred. How many English born Chens have been lost to the three ball game.

The way we go about table tennis in England, if applied to say athletics, Steve Cram, would be trying to sprint like Linford Christie, or in soccer Tony Adams would be trying to play like Michael Owen.

The main conclusion I have come to is that we just do not have players with that fanatical desire to win. To leave no stone unturned to reach the top.

In the period that Chen and

Matthew Syed have been beating most of the three ball English players, quite often in straight games under ten, I doubt if there is one person, ranked in the top hundred, that has been prepared to take a year out to reinvent their game.

There are and have been many players with services that would rival Chen's, a forehand hit as good and even maybe a better backhand hit.

What Chen, Matthew Syed and a few others around the world do is not 'rocket science', it has been and can be learnt.

Over the years several players in the UK have made very dramatic changes to their game. Pre-war Richard Bergmann seemed to hit a great deal, but post-war he was mostly defence. Ian Harrison went the other way from defence to attack, and of course John Hilton and Stan Jacobson were great table tennis students and thinkers, shaping their game to suit their own strengths and weaknesses.

If you can't beat the likes of Matthew Syed etc., why not join them and learn to play their game.

*John O'Leary
Willesden, London*

POSTPONEMENTS ?

I READ recently in TTN of some Leagues having problems with postponements and cancellations of matches. We also had this problem until at last year's AGM, where I proposed a new rule that was adopted and so far this season has met with almost 100% success.

The rule reads as follows: "For all league matches played by or within the scheduled week of play and score sheets posted to the Divisional Secretary within 48 hours, both teams will receive three bonus points. Any team which cancels a match forfeits the three bonus points, and a late score sheet will result in the home team forfeiting the three bonus points."

This means it pays to play a man short rather than cancel as it would still be possible to gain 10 points (7+3), whereas with a cancellation and loss of bonus points the 3rd player would have to win all his three games in the re-arranged match to equal the 3 bonus points.

We in the Wisbech League have found this rule to work very well this season and I am led to understand that our neighbouring league, the

continued on page 8

COURTSIDE

by John Woodford

- **PARENTS** who keep their distance when their children or teenagers are on court have my respect. I have never yet come across a parent who is not biased. An umpire's or referee's decision against the player watched by mum or dad or both is invariably challenged.

- **AT** a recent soccer match in Eastbourne played between two under-10 teams, one of the teams was taken off the field for safety reasons - the result of parents abusing match officials opposing players and opposition parents.

- **WHAT** is sport in general coming to when at soccer, seated jobs stand to throw coins and bottles at the players? Happily, that has not happened at table tennis, but tempers have been lost and players suspended in the last few months after one incident in China and then the rumpus at the Western Open at Bath in December triggered by Ryan Owen.

- **HINDSIGHT** is often better than second thoughts. I am wondering who the first person was that thought of granting English leagues the right to continue with 21 points for their local events.

- **IT** is beginning to look as though England could be the only nation in membership of the ITTF who have allowed this to happen and probably unwisely, allowing this to continue until further notice, i.e.: next season.

- **RICHARD YULE**, chief executive ETTA assures me that the ETTA is all in favour of 11 points. There is a feeling that the dispensation given is to avoid veteran players dropping out of local leagues and so making worse the current drop in affiliations that has been going on steadily (we are told by Andy Seward) since 1978 !

- **INFORMATION** currently available is that a number of local leagues who tried out 11 points this campaign are preparing to return to 21 points.

- **A FEW MONTHS** ago, it seemed that about half the English leagues were playing 11 and the rest 21 points. Now, it seems the balance is tipping towards 21. Most young players are accepting 11 points but many older players yearn for 21.

- **THE** question is - is this an embarrassment for the ETTA or are they quite happy with the prospect next September of a large majority of local leagues playing 21 points ?

COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2002 MANCHESTER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR continued

continued from page 7

Kings Lynn and District League are anticipating adopting this rule, as many players participate in both leagues and have seen the benefit of our rule.

I hope this may be of use to some of your readers.

*Leslie.P.M.Sleight
Hon.Life President of Wisbech
League & Vice President of
Cambridgeshire TTA*

APPALLED

I WAS appalled to read Ken Muhr's article in the last issue of TTN, in particular, his comments that the over 40's would, in time "pass on", so their objections to the 11 up format could be discounted. I think that an apology would not go amiss to all readers of TTN who are over the age of 40. Surely even he must realise that the majority leagues are made up of the over 40s and without them, most leagues would cease to exist.

Did you know that a highly regarded coach has been taking a survey of players of all ages at national tournaments around the country and has ascertained that 75% of all players contacted were against the present format. He has, of

course, got signatures to prove his figures and the statistics of these findings have already been sent to the ETTA (but did not appear in TTN. Why not?)

I also know that, should the ETTA ever force the issue on the membership, then certain leagues would recommend their members to vote on leaving the ETTA. I am told that many players who are in leagues playing the 11up system dislike it so much, are now leaving to join another one that uses the 21up game. I know of members who are prepared to give up the game altogether if they are directed by the ETTA to play the 11up game. Is this what you really want? By the tone of your article, it appears that it is.

Surely the only way to settle this continuing controversy is for the ETTA to hold a national referendum to ballot every member. This would surely settle the issue fairly, once and for all. Or are you in the ETTA worried what the consequences of this might be?

*Peter Henderson
Sevenoaks, Kent*

VISIONARIES

IT WAS pleasant to start taking the

Table Tennis News again, having let my subscription slip when we moved up here, to Norfolk.

I smiled at the description of the founders of The London Junior Table tennis scheme. "Visionaries" Thanks Jon! We were called anything but when the scheme started "Nutters", "Mickey mouse", are two of the politer things we were called. Some coaches called us poachers and wouldn't let their youngsters come to our events.

The Scheme started with Malcolm Springthorpe and Reg Rockall deciding to do something for the kids in Haringay during the long summer holidays. Having advertised a free table tennis tournament with the only instructions wear plimsolls or trainers, and bring a bat if you have one. They were overwhelmed by the numbers who arrived, and thought that there was a clear demand for this type of event. I was asked if I'd help out at the next event As both Reg and Malcolm knew me, I'd been umpiring for Reg's "Edison" British league team. After my baptism at the second LJTTTS Free tourney, where we were again over run with numbers. We had to stop play several times to demand some of the bails

back so that we could continue. Several hundred children had passed through the doors that day.

Unfortunately there were not enough of us to deal with that number, we didn't have time to get all the names and addresses. Tried to get them to write their own names and addresses most were illegible or incomplete.

After dismantling the tables, the three of us sat down and had a cup of coffee in the centre and London Junior Table Tennis scheme was born. Malcolm to use his skills to raise money, Reg agreed to loan Edison clubs equipment and delivery and collection etc. I was asked to devise a scheme and organise the running.

The ethos was that it was to be entirely free, open to all and no requirement to book in advance! The scheme I devised was three levels of skill, non players - club/school players - league players, and again divided into three age groups, a very young group and the two older groups to match the ETTA cadet and junior levels.

After a few years we had to make a small charge or loose our grant. But it was still anyone come and play on the day, that was such a nightmare that we finally put in a booking scheme. Was I ever glad, made the referee's life a lot easier.

This system stood us in good stead? Well it worked after a fashion! Len Pilfold joined us and put in a very much improved system! His was well thought out and a considerable improvement on my hastily thought out scheme. My wife fed up with being left alone so much put her foot down. I had to cut back. I was away more weekends that I was home!

There are two people who Jon missed out - who were very much involved. The first because Jon never met him, was Graham Bartrop, who for several seasons was our mainstay referee, he worked incredibly hard for the scheme. His job changed and he was unable to continue as referee as his work involved weekends. The other person is the incredible Iris Moss! She has been the schemes treasurer almost from the first year, how she fits it in with all the other treasurer's jobs she does - I'll never know - in her spare bedroom the bed is (was) covered in neat piles of invoices, receipts, etc. for each of the organisations that she officiates for. Our committee meetings were held at Iris's flat, a range of sandwiches, plates of biscuits, with Iris trotting in and out with as much tea or coffee as you wanted. I think everyone loved her - I certainly did.

To conclude, a huge well done to

continued on page 15

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Business

WALDNER'S WATERSHED ZAGREB 2002?

BRIAN HALLIDAY looks at the life and career of Jan Ove Waldner and tries to assess his position in the overall history of the game - however there is a sting in the tail!

Waldner - a name known and revered in table tennis world-wide. A name that has dominated the sport for 20 years. A name that belongs to a man who has reached the summit but still strives for more.

For Waldner Zagreb 2002 is the probable watershed. The European Championships have, in the past, been a happy hunting ground for the Swedish superstar and he will be straining to peak one more time for one last massive attempt for the glory of yet another major title.

Maybe its a tournament too far. The reflexes are perhaps not as sharp as yesterday, the services lack a little of previous potency, and the ability to clutch unlikely victories from from almost certain defeat is on a diminishing scale. A wise man would be foolish to write him off completely but age, and perhaps even boredom, may contribute to his possible demise.

This is a player who has built his game around years of practice, a talent supreme, wonderful technique, artistic, elegant, an extraordinary improviser, and of course those lethal services that have confused and confounded opponents throughout his career. Now comes the snag. The revision of the service law next September means that the potency of the disguised service will be reduced, and for Waldner this will pose a problem against the world's best players. He has trouble enough now with some of the better Europeans, and to take away his major point winning attribute could well spell the end of the road. The forthcoming Championships allow one last chance of glory.

Jan Ove Waldner was born on 3rd October 1965 in Hagersten near Stockholm, and as a six year old boy was encouraged by his elder brother



to join the Sporvagen Club in Stockholm. Although extremely small, his head only reached the top of the table, he was a quick learner, and by the age of eleven he was playing his first Swedish League match.

Soren Ahlen, the Swedish National Coach and at present helping to shape England's future stars, says Waldner had an uncanny ability to exactly mimic other players in practice. He was able to combine the best strokes from many players into his own game. This facility became of major importance as his career flowered.

His first visit to China made a significant impact on the young

Swede. He was fascinated by the serving technique and decided that here was an area where, if he worked hard enough, he could perfect an immediate point winning shot. The disguise of point of contact and degree of spin, coupled with the ball thrown high enough to distract and confuse the opposition, were added to an ever increasing armoury that was to shake the table tennis world.

After a glittering junior career he reached the European Singles final in 1982, and then became Top 12 winner in 1984. A feat he was to repeat in 86, 88, 89, 93, 95, and 96. There was just no stopping the string of successes. European Team Champion in 86 and 88. In the

World Singles final in 1987 he came within a whisker of beating Jiang, but slight over confidence at the crucial moment gave victory to the Chinese. Jorgen Persson, his great friend, provided the opposition in the 1989 final and this time it was Waldner's turn to take the crown. Even here there was a narrow escape as he led 2-1 and 20-19 only to miss the match point and allow Persson back into the match. No mistake in the fifth as he won 21-10. He finally won the European title in 1996 by beating Persson again.

Even his Olympic exploits, he won Gold in 1992, paled beside his performance at the Worlds in Manchester in 97. His final win over Samsonov was perhaps one of the most perfect of performances of power and technique that one is ever likely to see.

He was seven times Swedish Champion and won too many international titles to list. Perhaps the matches that he will most be remembered for were as a member of the Swedish team that beat the all conquering Chinese for the first time. A combination of supreme athleticism and a clever tactical plan, whereby the Swedes played an off the table top spin game, brought a thrilling and deserved victory. Then there was that quite breathtaking win in the Team Final in the Worlds in Kuala Lumpur. Playing alongside Persson, the two 34 year olds tore the years back to record the most unlikely of victories over the resurgent Chinese.

What makes this man tick? Poker faced and enigmatic on the table. A mental process so hard to fathom. At one moment focussed to the point of fanaticism, the next distracted by events taking place elsewhere and on other tables. A combination of boredom and brilliance. Always the need to demonstrate the unusual and the unexpected. The four times World Champion Richard Bergmann also had that need to flirt with danger, even in the most important of

WHO IS THE GREATEST EVER?

matches. Two games and 15-20 down, there indeed was the supreme challenge to the master. Waldner is of the same ilk. He relishes adversity to a degree that is heart stopping for his supporters but frustrating in the extreme for his opponents.

Off the table he is remarkably shy and at times displays a surprising lack of maturity. He says that when he plays he is nervous but tries to conceal it, and recognises that the game is a battle of wills and that the image of an ice cool temperament is paramount. He has a great love for sports, especially football, volleyball, and golf. When playing at any of these games fun is pushed to one side and a ruthless competitive streak emerges. He is a student of the games history and expresses surprise and delight as to how he is regarded among the world's elite. Quiet and retiring he admits to a love of beer and the opposite sex, but rather surprisingly has never had a steady girlfriend.

Those that know him well speak of a quirky but totally endearing man with no vindictiveness whatsoever. His peers speak of him in hushed tones - such is the status of genius. The No.1 Belgium player Jean Michel Saive summed him up so well. "When he's good he reads your mind. When he's really good, he reads the ball's mind".

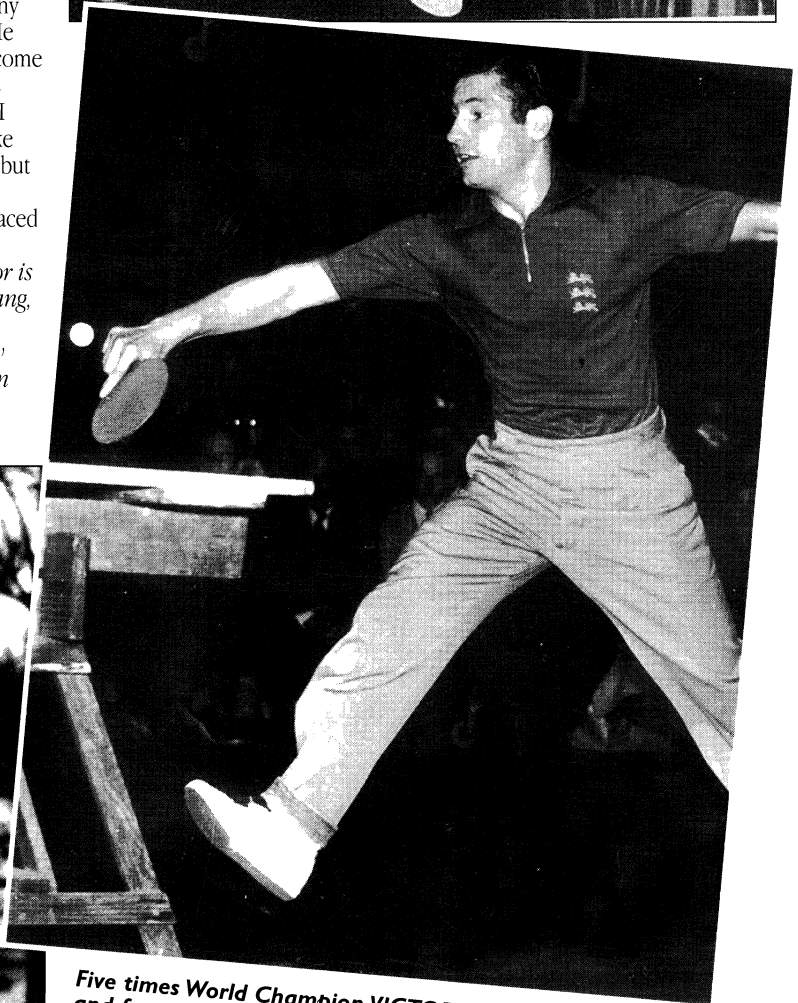
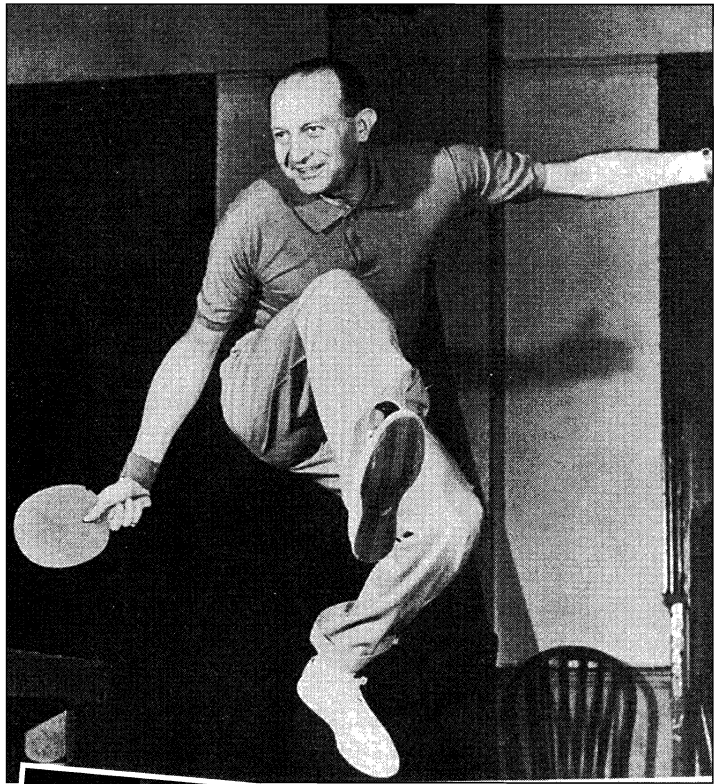
Well, is he "the greatest" that has ever been? My personal reaction is - very near but not quite. It has been my privilege to see all the top players over the last 50 or so years and I have tried hard to analyse their strengths and weaknesses. Wonderful players like Leach,

Bergmann, Vana, Liang, Barna, Deng, Roseanu, Alexandru (now there was a special player), all excited me. All displayed a sort of genius most of us strive for but never achieve. Waldner lives above them. He is without doubt almost at the top of the tree - but not at the pinnacle.

Who was the best? My nomination would be for Chuang Tse Tung. I was fortunate that I saw him play a number of times. One night in London was memorable when he destroyed our own Chester Barnes and again in 1965 in Ljubljana which gave him his third consecutive World Singles title.

Chuang was at the peak of his powers. Extremely quick with a forehand that was like a machine gun in action. He never missed. Liang told me that he was the fastest player of all time, and I believe him. Three successive titles could so easily have become four but for the advent of the Cultural Revolution. Remember this powerhouse of a player did not have the advantages of today's technology. No excessively spiny rubbers, no speed glues then. He just relied on sheer ability to become the best player from the millions who played the game in China. I have never seen anyone quite like him. OK, Waldner comes close, but even he must bow to the most extraordinary player that ever graced a table.

• *Well, is Brian Halliday right or is he wrong? Is it Waldner or Chuang, or maybe someone else? Table Tennis News would like to know your opinions - see email poll on page 17*



Five times World Champion VICTOR BARNa (top picture) and four times World Champion RICHARD BERGMANN from the hard bat era, are surely contestants for the title of 'The Greatest Player ever'.



CHUANG TSE TUNG

A JENKINS' HAT-TRICK

BEARING in mind that the Welsh and the Scots and the Irish enjoy sending squads of players to the England Grand Prix tour tournaments, it is now emerging that Ryan Jenkins is the most successful player in Britain at this time, writes John Woodford.

The man from Pontypridd devoured his third GP title at the Sir David English Sports Centre with a rewarding final round victory 11, -7, 5, -5, 8 over the very impressive former Swedish international Tommy Danielsson.

Danielsson last played for Sweden in Novi Sad in 1981 at the world championships. He still possesses a slick all-round game, flowing strokes on both wings, but being 23 years older than Jenkins, did not possess the power of his opponent.

INNOVATION

THE mens and womens finals were brought forward some three hours - something I have been campaigning for for a long time - the result was a crowd of over 200 people. In the other Grand Prixes, the late finishing singles finals, foolishly left to last, have often resulted in a crowd of between 10 and 20 fans. Common sense this time prevailed.

There are two old-fashioned and parochial things that happen in table tennis that hold us back when competing with our rival racquet sports - one is the reference to "closed" events instead of championships and the other always running the main singles events last at tournaments of all sizes.

Players especially, come a long way to GP events, often road journeys of five hours or more. At 9pm they expect to be on the road, if not they can expect to arrive home in the small hours with work or school early next morning.

Another player who had a good day was Cris Sladden (Essex) - he reached his first GP semi-finals losing to Danielsson -7, -6, -10, but before that taking out Gavin Rungay (SCOTLAND) at 12 in the fifth game.



A FANTASTIC MENS SINGLES FINAL BETWEEN RYAN JENKINS AND TOMMY DANIELSSON



NI XIA LIAN TOP WOMAN



THE womens singles was of course, dominated by the European No.4 Ni Xia Lian. She destroyed the Swedish girl Sophia Westholme 2, 5, 1 in the final.

I heard it said that Lian's strength was about the same as Ryan Jenkins. What an exhibition it could have been between Ryan and Lian, had it been possible.

From the English girls point of view

, Karen Lockwood (Cheshire) excelled to reach the semi-finals before losing to Lian; a major shock came when Louise Durrant lost to Sussex's Rose Rainton. Another surprise came in the womens groups when Gemma Yarnley (Kent) defeated the Welsh No.3 Jenny

Weiss.

In the banded events, Gloucester lifted a great double when Darren Griffin took Band 1 and Suzy Robinson landed the womens Band 1 in the final over Egle Adomeyte from Lithuania - a new name, poker-faced, but talented, a student at Willesden and scooped up by London Progress. Footnotes: The playing conditions were fine on 18 tables. Next year, more attention will be needed on food for the players - supplies ran out at mid-day, apart from machines. Being on the edge of town, the hotels were a £7 taxi-ride away. The other failure was no-one could be found to wall-chart progress. The two umpires worked their socks off, including Doris Moors. The only people who knew what was happening were those on the control desk, who were pestered by the media. Otherwise, a good tournament.



RESULTS

Men's singles (from semi-finals): Tommy Danielsson (Sweden) bt Cris Sladden (Essex) 11-7, 11-6, 12-10. Ryan Jenkins (Wales) bt Gergely Urban (Hungary) 11-7, 13-11, 12-10. Final: Ryan Jenkins (Wales) bt Tommy Danielsson (Sweden) 13-11, 7-11, 11-5, 5-11, 11-8.

Women's singles (from semi-finals): Ni Xia Lian (Luxembourg) bt Karen Lockwood (Cheshire) 11-5, 11-4, 11-3. Sofia Westholme (Sweden) bt Dorka Nagy (Hungary) 11-5, 11-1, 9-11, 11-5.

Final: Ni Xia Lian (Luxembourg) bt Sofia Westholme (Sweden) 11-2, 11-5, 11-1.

Under 21 men's singles: Gavin Rungay (Scotland) bt Eoin Byrne (Ireland) 11-5, 9-11, 7-11, 11-6, 11-9.

Under 21 women's singles: Sofia Westholme (Sweden) bt Suzy Robinson (Gloucs) 11-7, 11-4, 11-5.

Veteran men's singles: Nigel Eckersley (Sussex) bt Clive Carthy (Essex) 11-13, 11-7, 8-11, 11-9, 11-5.

Veteran women's singles: Jane Durham (Cleveland) bt Brenda Buoeay (Lancs) 11-13, 8-11, 11-6, 12-10.

Men's doubles: Ryan & Stephen Jenkins (Wales) bt Gergely Urban (Hungary)/Ritchie Venner (Sussex) 9-11, 11-5, 11-5, 11-8.

Women's doubles: Ni Xia Lian (Luxembourg)/Gemma Yarnley (Kent) bt Dorka Nagy (Hungary)/Lindsey Thornton (Lancs) 11-6, 11-6, 12-10.

Men's singles band 1: Darren Griffin (Gloucs) bt Niall Cameron (Scotland) 11-7, 6-11, 11-9, 8-11, 11-8.

Men's singles band 2: James Sprackling (Middx) bt Chris Beckley (Surrey) 6-11, 12-14, 11-9, 11-8, 11-6.

Men's singles band 3: John Bowe (Ireland) bt Keith Yarnley (Kent) 11-3, 11-4, 11-9.

Men's singles band 4: Mark Buckley (Kent) bt Ian Packford (Oxon) 10-12, 11-7, 8-11, 11-8, 11-9.

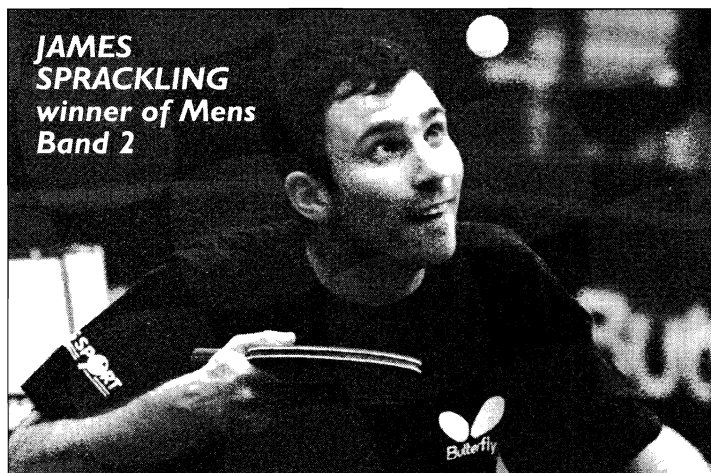
Men's singles band 5: Mark Buckley (Kent) bt Martin Smith (Surrey) 11-9, 8-11, 11-9, 11-5.

Men's singles band 6: Martin Smith (Surrey) bt Chris Hall (Kent) 12-10, 10-12, 12-10, 12-10.

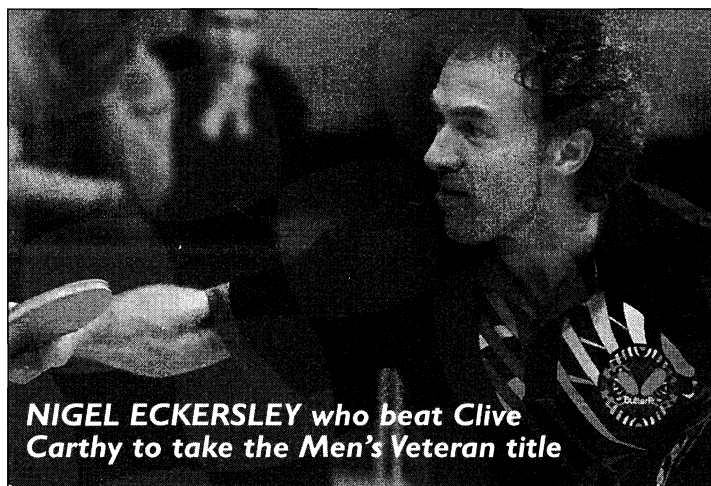
Women's singles band 1: Suzy Robinson (Gloucs) bt Egle Adomelyte (Lithuania) 11-9, 15-13, 11-6.

Women's singles band 2: Egle Adomelyte (Lithuania) bt Gemma Yarnley (Kent) 11-3, 11-4, 12-10.

Women's singles band 3: Michelle Barrett (Devon) bt Helen Parton (Devon) 11-4, 11-6, 11-4.

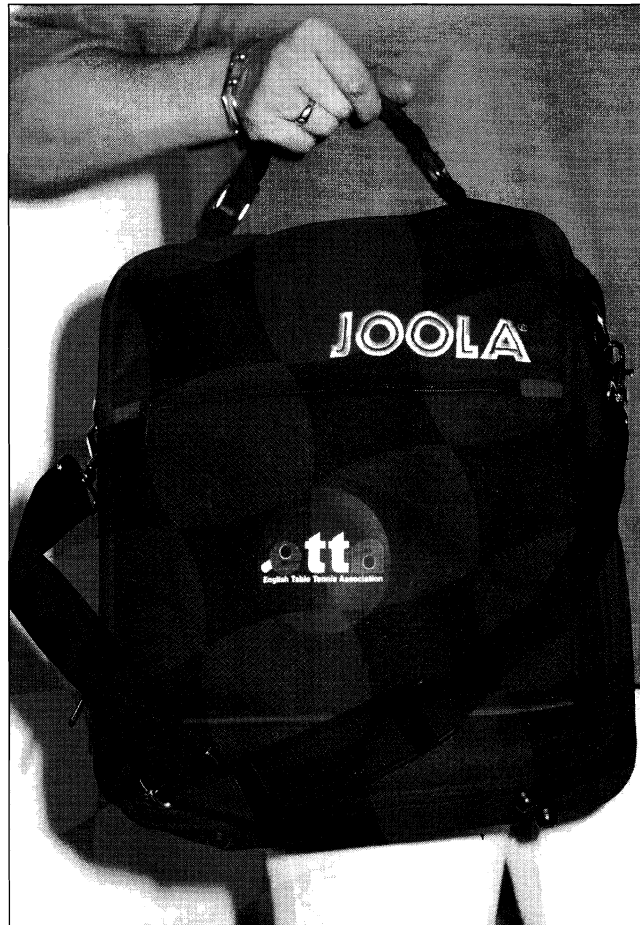


JAMES SPRACKLING
winner of Mens
Band 2



NIGEL ECKERSLEY who beat Clive Carthy to take the Men's Veteran title

NEW ETTA LOGO BAGS



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

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

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

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

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

BOLL TOPS THE POLL

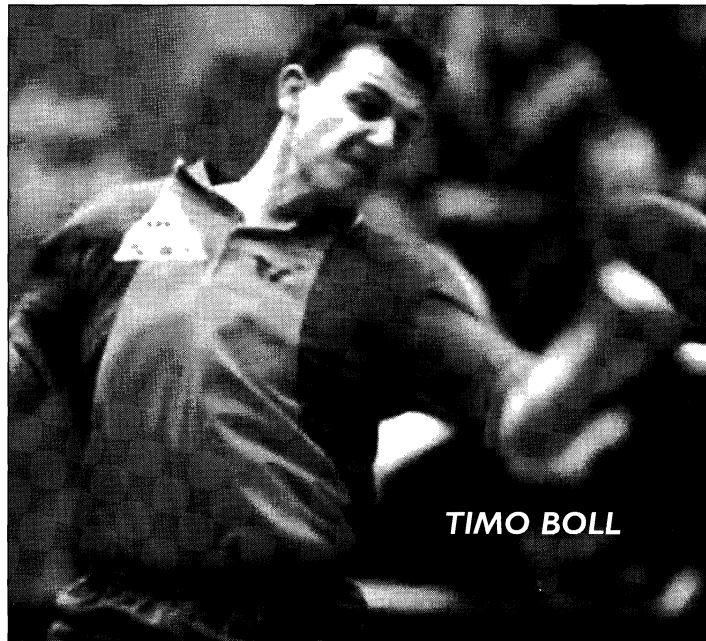
IT HAS taken Germany a long time to find a replacement for their world-class Jorg Roskopf, but now they have found one, he is Timo Boll, aged 22 a pleasant young man who with a fine display of pace and purpose, who snatched the European Top-12 crown in Rotterdam, writes John Woodford in Rotterdam.

There is nothing spectacular about his game. It is conventional top-spin. He came through a titanic struggle in the final to bring down Samsonov, whose ball control has to be seen to be believed.

But Samsonov lacks the 'Big Kill'. The Belarussian forged a 3-1 lead in the final. He should have won it, but the German bounced back skillfully to take the seventh game 11-7.

Boll was fresh from winning the Austrian Open, although Jan-Ove Waldner (not present in Rotterdam) had to pull out through injury in the Austrian final.

The French came up with two semi-finalists - Chila falling to Samsonov in five and the tiny Eloi also going under in five to Boll whose odds against winning the European crown in Zagreb must have shortened considerably.



TIMO BOLL

BOROS TOP WOMAN

Tamara Boros is the reigning queen of European table tennis, although she was engaged in an interesting battle in the final before she

outpowered Nicole Struse (Germany) in four games.

Earlier, Struse proved she is still a power in European circles when she went past the former European champion Ni Xia Lian 11-7 in the seventh game.

In the other womens semi-final Boros brought down a fairly new name - Vicktoria Pavlovich from Belarus, a player who can attack and defend at European level - not many

players around who can do both and reach the final stages of a European tournament.

The Chinese women players in Europe are not having a great deal of success at this time. Liu Jia (Austria) lost to Galina Melnik (Russia) whilst Jie Schopp (Germany) failed to reach the later stages.

The Dutch have a good record on staging top-12s. The stadium was next door to the Feyenoord soccer stadium. The table tennis crowd numbered nearly two thousand on the first day and fifteen hundred on the second after their local men Heister and Keen had bowed out. Footnotes: Struse was faulted twice for not throwing the ball high enough, whilst in a clowning incident, Werner Schlager losing heavily to Lucjan Blaszczyk (Poland) got a yellow card and lost the point when he served under his right leg.

RESULTS:

Mens Singles

Semi-finals: V. Samsonov b P. Chila 11-4, 7-11, 11-3, 11-7, 11-2.

T. Boll b D. Eloi 12-10, 10-12, 11-9, 11-4, 11-7.

FINAL: BOLL b Samsonov 12-14, 11-6, 9-11, 8-11, 11-7, 14-12, 11-7.

Womens Singles

Semi-finals: N. Struse b Ni Xia Lian 13-15, 11-7, 11-5, 4-11 11-6, 11-9, 11-7.

T. Boros b V. Pavlovich 16-14, 11-5, 11-8, 4-11, 11-6.

FINAL: BOROS b Struse 11-6, 11-4, 11-9, 11-8.

From ETTA Tournaments Committee
January 2002

Re. Grove Table Tennis Club, Shropshire

Tournaments Committee has now lifted the ban that it imposed on the Grove Table Tennis Club, and it is prepared to consider applications from that club to run further tournaments as long it adheres to the normal administrative procedures.

Although the Club has indicated that it does not plan to organise further tournaments, it has suggested that others may wish to use the Whitchurch Leisure Centre as a venue for such events.

Tournaments Committee has already received and approved applications from Whitchurch Table Tennis Club for several Two-Star tournaments at this Centre, beginning in March 2002.

Geoff Twiss
Chairman
ETTA Tournaments Committee



TAMARA BOROS

Len Pilditch, he really deserves all the credit possible, as he has been the mainstay for some years now, I remember just how much work was involved.

I could go on for several pages about the early days, but this letter is too long now. Up here in this backwater of table tennis, I miss the hustle and bustle of running a London club. When I retired here I said I'd just play for a team and not get involved, now two years of peace and quiet have passed and after a chat with the development Officer Dave Simpson for the Wymondham & District TT league, I think I've just agreed to run a Sunday morning coaching class, start a team or two in Watton - if it's possible (there is no organised table tennis in this town) Also do an evenings youth club coaching once or twice a week. I don't know what I've let myself in for but it's better than peace and quiet!
*David Miller NR, IU
Watton, Norfolk*

PAY-BACK TIME ?

MUCH of Brian Halliday's insert (TTN December), was devoted to my own article 'La Grand Illusion' (Sport Break). This was offered to TTNews, accepted by Brian and then forbidden by his management colleagues. I find it hard to accept Brian's protests that there is no censorship. it is sad that so constructive a contribution could not be read in that spirit. The main thrust was to show how the vast sums of Lottery money we have been getting could have been used better, benefiting far more players and clubs and producing, much better international results,

After all, Chairman Ransome inherited excellent teams which in four successive European Championships over 8 years had won bronze and silver and now we are in the second category of European Nations, outside the top 12. What we previously achieved we did on a shoestring and now with so much more money we are doing rather badly. I had hoped for a more positive response.

Apart from putting all our eggs into one basket, that of the small but costly "academy", we seem to have lost an awful lot of good players. According to the official versions, they all departed of their own volition. It is easy to remain blind to the obvious, but I prefer to look a little more deeply and ask " why ? "

Others must speak for themselves, but in the case of my own son, my knowledge is a little better than that of official ETTA spokesmen and apologists. One should always ask how such decisions are made, since

players do not turn their back easily on what they have worked for years to achieve, a place in the England team.

In Carl's case, there was no choice, as he was treated so badly that to endure what was heaped on him would have destroyed his self-respect.

He had contributed substantially to our international teams' successes and when he left he was only 32. How important he may or may not have been may be noted from the following: Apart from the 4 European medals above (plus one at World level) which lasted till 1994, in 1996 (when Carl did not play) the team was relegated from the first category of 12 top nations. In 1998 he did play and was unbeaten in the team event and our team was promoted to the top category. In 2000 he did not play and the team was again relegated

In the European League, his last full season, in a match for promotion to the top division, the team won the first match (vs Czechoslovakia) 4-2 when he did play and lost the return 4-0 when he did not play and so missed promotion.

Perhaps these are selective occasions and nobody always wins, but, after 20 years service, one would have thought that our chairman or one of the highly paid coaches would have summoned the energy to lift the phone, as Alan Ransome did so often in the past to resolve various problems. Alas, today we prefer to lose matches and strike postures and the game is the loser. Some have put it to me that the awful treatment accorded to Carl is the establishment's revenge on me - "pay back time". I hope not. "The real loser is the England team, which misses a player who has often won at the highest level.

*John Prean
ETTA Chairman 1986-91*

UNFAIR ?

OVER the years the ranking scheme in this Country has come in for considerable criticism for various reasons. Unlike a lot of other coaches, I have long been a supporter of the system in the belief that ultimately each person ends up in their correct position despite one or two hiccups on the way. Recently, however, I have found it necessary to write to the Ranking Committee to question the policy which allows selective results to be fed into the scheme.

At the beginning of the season I made enquiries about European Junior Tournaments with a view to taking a number of youngsters abroad so that they could gain experience against foreign

opposition. I could not believe my ears when I was told that only England squad players could qualify for ranking points at these tournaments.

One member of the Ranking Committee has sent me a personal reply, for which I am grateful, in which he states that we place too much emphasis on ranking points. I can wholeheartedly agree with this but my complaint is about fairness rather than the relative importance of the points.

In this Country the 'top' juniors do not appear at many tournaments and for someone just outside the top the opportunity to gain points is extremely limited. We already have a "them and us" with the Academy group and the present method of treating players in Europe will only accentuate this.

More recently I note that the Greater London T.T.Championships are offering ranking points for a 'closed' event. Does this mean that the Kent closed and the Slough closed can in future be treated as ranking events? I think not.

All players pay the appropriate licence fee and can therefore expect to receive equal treatment, but at present it would appear that the powers that be are making up the rules as they go along

I have had an amenable chat with the Chairman of the Ranking Committee and I now await his written reply attempting to justify the

unjustifiable.
*Ken Phillips ETTA Coach
Maidenhead, Berkshire*

AMAZED !

I WAS amazed that some local leagues are reluctant to play 11up.

Though these comments are my own they reflect what a number of players have told me:

1. Two players of equal strenghts can be boring when played up to 21. The better player may find it a time-waste and the poorer discouraging.
2. Equal adversaries find the 11up system very exciting, and it more often goes the distance, very exciting for players.
3. 11up matches are not so drawn out, likely finishing earlier, therefore attracting more competitors.
4. Many leagues have players, who play beyond the league, so a uniform scoring system would be better.

Could it be that some players find scoring a problem, knowing their 5 x table best, it being easier and more familiar. Do practice scoring in two's. You'll soon get the hang of it.

For ancient players like myself, 11 up followed by a minute's rest is a Godsend.

*Dolly Harmer
Leighton Buzzard & Dist. League*



BTTAD
**BRITISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION
FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

**Programme
Administrator**

BTTAD, the organisation representing table tennis for people of all disabilities in Great Britain, is seeking to appoint a Programme Administrator to administer the programme for the GB Table Tennis Team for the period up to and including the 2004 Athens Paralympics. Administration of BTTAD's planned 'Potential' programme will also be part of the role.

Applicants should have financial accounting skills, be well organised and have an ability to manage administrative activities at a detail level.

This is a part time paid position as a result of UK World Class Performance Lottery funding.

Further details, including job description and person specifications can be obtained from

**David Russell, BTTAD, 'Cliffden', Polurrian Cliff,
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Tel: 01326 240380 Email: bttad@lineone.net**
Closing date for applications is 31st March 2002. Details of interview arrangements will be made available later.

11 UP VS 21 UP

WE'VE all heard the same conversation in our local leagues over the last year. It probably went something along the following lines: "I don't know what they're doing to this sport; first it's the ball, now it's 11-up and next year they're changing the service rule. Why are they doing all this?"

The reply will have varied from "Well, actually I quite like 11-up" to "I couldn't agree more; if this league goes to 11-up I won't be playing next year".

Whereas most players accepted the change to the 40mm ball with the minimum of fuss there can be little doubt that those same players are exceptionally reluctant to embrace the new scoring system.

Somerset National Councillor Andy Seward's research on the decline in the number of affiliated teams threw up a telling statistic. Those 48 leagues who have changed to the 11-up system have lost more teams - 5.6% compared with the 2.8% lost by those leagues who have stayed with 21-up.

SO WHAT IS PEOPLE'S PROBLEM WITH 11UP? FROM SOME PLAYERS' PERSPECTIVE IT SEEMS TO OFFER MANY PLUS-POINTS:

- Games are over more quickly so younger players should be keener to



STEVE KERNS TAKES A LOOK AT THE 11up vs 21up DEBATE

take part

- The shock result is probably more likely and the best players have less chance to coast before moving up a gear
- You could say that it helps in an unevenly matched game - losing 11-0 somehow seems less traumatic than losing 21-0!
- By alternating service every two points, the server does not have the opportunity to build up a psychologically important lead in the

first five points.

- Play can arguably be more exciting as you are more likely to reach 10-10 than 20-20.
- Contrary to some people's opinions you don't have to alter your tactics. You can still use the same serves - you just get fewer of them at once!
- And of course we are constantly reminded that it makes table tennis more attractive to television.

CRITICS OF 11UP WILL PROBABLY RESPOND ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

- "If it ain't broken don't fix it"
- "I take 10 points to get going - what chance have I got?"
- "Who cares whether the score is 10-10 or 1-1 - a great point is still a great point!"

• "When was table tennis last on main-stream television? And when it is, they only show the highlights starting at something like 15-15, so it makes no difference."

• "Doubles is more difficult under 11-up as players fail to come to terms with the constantly changing playing formations."

• "Playing under the extra stress of the new scoring system is less enjoyable and players are less likely to go for their shots."

SO WHAT IS THE ANSWER ?

NO one wants to see players giving up prematurely but there doesn't seem to be a lot of choice in the matter. The sport's international governing body have changed the rules and it isn't really in the best interests of the sport if local leagues are left to their own devices for ever (although the ETTA have said there are no plans to change that this year).

People point out that other sports such as bowls and squash, even athletics and boxing, have different rules for different levels of competition but are the rule changes they have undergone really as fundamental as the 11-up? And a number of players are saying it's not easy swapping between systems and they will therefore pack up local leagues if necessary to concentrate on the higher-level competitions.

On the whole I think the ETTA probably made the right decision in allowing local leagues to make up their own minds. They were heavily criticised in some quarters for not having taken a more active stance on the matter but at least this way, the more reluctant players have had a chance to think about it and may be less likely to give up the game if the change becomes mandatory.

As ETTA chairman Alan Ransome said: "I've never received a post bag anything like this before. Literally everyone has an opinion on the subject."

And finally how long will it be before some of those same players who were the most critical of 11-up actually admit: "I prefer the new scoring system". I know at least one who has!

• See Dolly Harmer's 'Reader's Letter' "Amazed", on page 30.

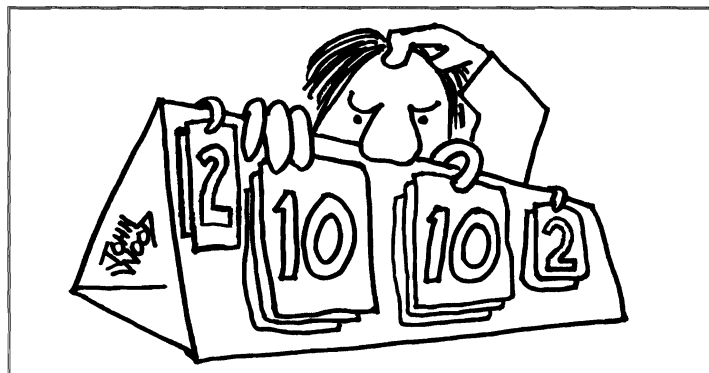


TABLE TENNIS NEWS EXTRA

Issue No. 284 March 2002

Editorial

At Christmas in Cambridge I met up with a former TT pupil, **Emma (nee Swan) Laughton**, who played for England cadets some 30 years ago but then gave up to concentrate on her academic studies (she did English at Kings College, University of Cambridge). I gave Emma some old copies of Table Tennis News, and a few days later she wrote to say that she had been reading through them: **"It's so interesting and stirring; how valiantly everyone struggles to keep the sport afloat and developing, a bit like the Church really."**

The comparison with the Church, I think is a good one and true, with many worthy stalwarts doing their bit for the sport, often in difficult circumstances and without obvious reward. Taking the analogy further to include small religious or political sects, then the **positive elements** among the leaders and activists of passion, commitment, fortitude and strongly held beliefs **are great strengths which can bind people together, but there is also the potential for division**, accusation, internecine strife and character assassination which holds back the cause. Whilst constructive criticism, questioning and debate within such organisations is a good healthy thing that allows them to develop and evolve, being intolerant of difference and criticising destructively leads to fractiousness, ultimately denying the organisation the possibility of mass public support.

It is not that bad in table tennis, but **I sometimes do find it painful how people I respect for their love and contribution to the game can be at loggerheads with each other or the establishment**. Remember, **'united we win (stand), divided we lose (fall)'**, and to gain popular appeal our real competition within our sport should be with other countries, the competition for our sport should be with other sports, and for sport it should be with 'culture' or recreational pastimes, whatever. **Be mindful of the bigger picture and work together for the common cause**.

A band of (too few) volunteers and a tiny clutch of professionals are creaking under the strain of keeping English table

tennis going. With this in mind, I struggle to find an adequate response to supremely dedicated and highly successful coach **Ken Phillips**, who said (Jan/Feb edition) that he **thought he was not valued**. I often hear people extolling the value of the volunteer in general, and praising Ken in particular (so he obviously is valued), so I find it hard to believe that he always feels like that and has not been shown appreciation to his face. **Apart from telling people you appreciate them** – which we all should do but often don't think to – and occasionally in some formalised way making a point of it, such as giving a **presentation or recognition award, I am unsure realistically what can be done**. Remember, even the 'top table' is composed of overworked volunteers and professionals, and who thinks to tell them that they are valued?!

However, although we all derive some pleasure and satisfaction from doing what we do – else we would not do it – and stickability when the going gets rough is one of the most important attributes for a worker for table tennis, Ken does have a very serious point: sometimes the only praise we get is when we retire, move or die (when it is too late!) and occasionally, the time and effort we give to table tennis and the aggravations we face can feel too much. Then we feel undervalued. 'Comforter, where is your comforting?!' It is at these times that **there needs to be someone who can give some recognition, comfort and support**, or even offer to run sessions/write letters/take minutes/organise a team for a short time, etc to give the worker a break. But, apart than through occasional training, or support groups or mentors or back-up rotas for specific positions, I don't think that realistically this support can be officially/formally provided. The only answer I can see is to be **collectively aware of the need and to build up a culture of mutual support, so that help and encouragement are there when they are needed**. This would more easily follow if we could more genuinely all work together for the greater good of table tennis. I appreciate my rambling response is inadequate but readers may have more helpful ideas (such as going on a Valuing Volunteers Course?)!

Following European League success in December by England women over Poland at Scarborough and England men over Slovakia at Newton Aycliffe, there have been the **terrific successes in February for Darius Knight, Paul Drinkhall and Joanna Parker in winning, respectively, the under 11 boys' singles, the under 12 boys' singles and the under 14 girls' singles at the high standard Safirs International Tournament in Sweden**. As England Performance Director **Soren Ahlen** says, these encouraging results show that the National Training Centre is, **"working in the right direction."**

It has not been my intention to show the introduction of **games up to 11** in an undue positive light, and therefore I must report some **significant findings from Andy Seward's analysis of local league affiliations** which I did not know when I penned my last editorial: that of those leagues he looked at, the **rate of decline in affiliations in those going over to 11-up was twice (5.61%) that of those sticking to 21-up (2.83%)** – the overall rate was 3.41%. Of course you can interpret statistics in different ways, but I would still say that a 5.61% loss, though regrettable, was less than most people feared.

My sense of the situation is that **from initial negativity, more people are coming round to thinking positively about the new scoring system**, but that the Management Committee and National Council will probably be content for **local leagues to continue to have discretion next season as which scoring system to use**. However, whether you are for or against it, I still say that the **future must be with what is now the international law of table tennis**.

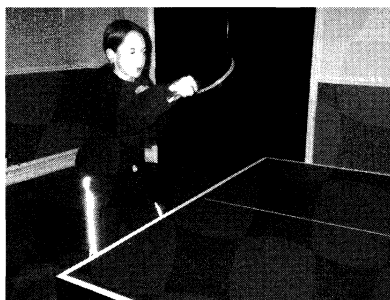
Thank you those clubs and leagues that continue to send me copies of their newsletters, some of which are excellent. I particular liked all the interesting facts and useful information in **Allen Roper's Hillingdon Table Tennis Newsletter**.

Ken Muhr

BERKSHIRE by John Cunningham

Individual Handicap Competition

The Reading League's popular Individual Handicap Competition took place on Sunday 13th January with Division 3 Tidmarsh star Lee Calcutt winning an enthralling final against young Melanie Farquhar 21-19, 19-21, 21-18



Melanie Farquhar

Berkshire Closed 2001/2 results

Men's Singles: Martin Adams bt Graham Outrim 11-5, 11-7, 11-4

Ladies' Singles: Tracey Hicks bt Sharon Mitchell 11-6, 12-10, 11-5

Over 17 Singles: Lee Calcutt bt Lisa Bosley 10-12, 11-6, 11-3, 7-11, 11-8

Men's Doubles: Graham Outrim/Hari Gehlot bt Martin Adams/Paul Jarvis 11-5, 11-6, 11-8

Ladies' Doubles: Sharon Mitchell/Denise Rolfe bt Denise Weller/Lisa Bosley in a group play-off

Mixed Doubles: M Adams/Mary Allen bt G Outrim/Sharon Mitchell 11-13, 11-5, 6-11, 11-7, 12-10

Veterans Singles: Graham Outrim bt Bob Davis in a group play-off

Berkshire Inter-Town

Reading retained the Barbara Peisley Trophy when this year's competition was held at the Cippenham Centre, Slough, in December. Reading won 5 of the 6 divisions and would probably have won the Senior Division 1 as well if they had been able to field a full squad.

Results – Final Tables

Senior 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Maidenhead	3	3	0	0	14	4	6
Reading	3	1	1	1	9	7	3
Newbury	3	1	0	2	8	10	2
Bracknell	3	0	1	2	3	13	1

COUNTY NOTES

- A look around the country

Senior 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Reading	3	3	0	0	15	3	6
Newbury	3	1	1	1	8	10	3
Bracknell	3	1	0	2	7	11	2
Wokingham	3	0	1	2	6	12	1

Senior 3	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Reading	3	3	0	0	13	5	6
Newbury	3	2	0	1	11	7	4
Bracknell	3	0	1	2	5	13	1
Maidenhead	3	0	1	2	7	11	1

Vets 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Reading	3	2	1	0	14	4	5
Bracknell	3	2	1	0	13	5	5
Newbury	3	1	0	2	5	13	2
Maidenhead	3	0	0	3	4	14	0

Vets 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Reading	3	2	1	0	13	5	5
Bracknell	3	1	2	0	10	8	4
Maidenhead	3	1	1	1	8	10	3
Newbury	3	0	0	3	5	13	0

Vets 3	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Reading	2	2	0	0	12	0	4
Maidenhead	2	0	1	1	3	9	1
Bracknell	2	0	1	1	3	9	1
Newbury	withdrew						

Barbara Peisley Trophy – Final Table

1.	Reading	23
2.	Bracknell	13
3.	Maidenhead	12
4.	Newbury	11

The Times Series Award CLUB SERVICE (Service to sport and the community Award) was awarded to Our Lady of Peace Table Tennis Club At the Sports Personality Awards 2001. Ceremony organised by Wokingham District Sports Council.

CHESHIRE by Alan Blears

A welcome addition to the North West tournament scene was

provided by two festive season events in Knutsford. The Christmas Cadet and Under 12 tournament attracted a large number of boys but relatively few girls. Local winners were:

Girls' U12 winner – Caroline Hallows (Stockport); Girls' Cadet/U12 Challenge winner – Lynsey Pich (Halton); Cadet Girls' runner-up – Kathryn Hatton (Halton); Cadet Boys group two runner up – Mark Platt (Crewe)

The New Year Briar Mid-Cheshire Open suffered surprisingly few problems considering that much of Cheshire and neighbouring counties were hit by snow on both days. In the roughly parallel Junior Boys Groups One and Two, 11-year-old Matthew Knott of Congleton took group one, with Stockport's Adam Slater runner-up in group two. Another Stockport player, Phillip Silver, took the "Best Performance" trophy.

In the Open events, 15-year-old Elizabeth Dennett (mid-Cheshire) won her first Open Women's singles title, while 11-year-old sister Fiona made it a family double by winning the "Best Performance" award. Other Cheshire successes were Wayne Percival (Frodsham), runner-up in the Men's Supergroup, Dominic Johns (Mid-Cheshire), Men's Group One winner, and Martin Greene (Crewe), winner of Men's Group Three.

Thanks are due to Mike Johns, Gail McCulloch, Ken Armson and their assistants for organising these events.

National Junior Trials

Stockport's Karen Shepherd must now be considered a part-time player, and her preparation for the National Junior Trials consisted of two hours practice a week before. This did not stop her from winning a series of five-game sets to reach the semi-final, where in another thriller she lost 11-9 in the fifth to Kelly Sibley.

National Junior League

Cheshire teams dominate in N.W. Area South after the second round of matches. Wirral A lead from

Halton A in Division 1, while Stockport A have 100% record in Division 2. The diminutive 10-11 year old girls of Stockport B, Caroline Hallows, Amy Walker and Emma Kelly, did remarkably well to win one and draw two of their second-round matches.

Jonathon Taylor (Wirral A) leads the Division 1 averages with 95%, while George Yardley, Sam Kilby and Adam Slater (all Stockport A) have each lost just one set in Division 2.

CHESHIRE LEAD THE WAY

Cheshire's veterans have always been top of the pile or thereabouts, and after their latest set of results in the Veteran County Championships they go into the final session in Knutsford as favourites.

They had three good victories over Yorkshire, Lancashire and Essex and now face Dorset, Sussex, Surrey and Kent.

Any side with John Hilton must have a good chance and it was Hilton who in winning five of his six matches gave Cheshire the start they needed.

Cheshire are not making the mistake of being over confident. They know there are some difficult matches ahead but with John able to make the second weekend, along with the two Johns brothers, Mike and Brian, and super vet Doreen Schofield, Cheshire must rate their chances quite high.

CORNWALL by John Wood

IN THE G and J Parks sponsored West Cornwall League, Harris Mill lead the top two divisions, with Tregorrick Park in second place.

Harris Mill A began the second half of the Premier Division season with a 10-0 away win at People's Palace A. This puts Tregorrick Park A firmly in the driving seat for the runners-up spot. They are level on points with People's Palace A but with a game in hand.

There was an intriguing match at Redruth, when the B team played host to their A team. Again the A team was hampered by a late withdrawal, Austin Chapman going down with flu. Peter Crago was

drafted into play when he turned up to watch the match.

He consequently went on to beat Bernard Harvey in five ends, and to take ends off Paul Thomas and Andrew Broad. The biggest surprise of the night was when Broad beat the A team Number 1 Graham Lobb in four ends. The match finished in a 5-5 draw.

In the First Division, Harris Mill C demolished bottom side Penpol 10-0. Anthony Solway played in his place to gain a hat trick of wins, beating Andrew Nicholson 20-18 in one end. He then played with his brother Chris in the doubles to complete the clean sweep.

Other results: Premier Division: St Ives A 3, Harris Mill 7, Falmouth Docks A 7, Godolphin A 3. First Division: People's Palace D 6, People's Palace C 4; People's Palace E 3, Hanis Mill E 7; Hanis Mill D 8, People's Palace C 2. Second Division: Hanis Mill G 5 St Ives B 5; Mylor B 9, Hams Mill F 1. Third Division Cape Cornwall D 5, Mylor C 5; People's Palace H 4, Cape Cornwall C 6.

The Cornwall Schools' Championships were held at Tregorrick Park Table Tennis Centre, St Austell, on Saturday 2nd February, where the West Cornwall, Mid Cornwall and North Cornwall Leagues were well represented.

CUMBRIA by Gordon Brown

County star Julie Stitch, who plays in the Kendal League, got her name on three titles and was runner-up in another final in the Cumbria Closed Championships at Kendal Leisure Centre.

In the women's final she beat Faye Gasson, of Barrow, many years Julie's junior, while Faye was also on the receiving end of Julie's talents in the women's doubles, in which Julie and Helen Mugatroyd beat Faye Gasson and Helen Crawford, who also come from Barrow.

Stitch won the mixed doubles with clubmate Chris Knowles, beating Zoë and Zeke Dixon, also of the Kendal League.

Julie reached her fourth final, the veterans' singles, but although she took Barrow's Roy Warrener to five games, she missed out.

But there was no doubt that the former Yorkshire player was the star of the tournament, which featured many promising young talents.

The open singles was won by Steve Dixon, of Kendal, who edged out defending champion, Zeke Dixon, in the final.

In earlier rounds Lee Stagg, of Barrow, surprisingly beat seeds James McGrath and Paul Stebbing, but Steve Dixon beat him in the semis. Peter Rushton and Steve Dixon, of Kendal, won the men's doubles at the expense of Barrow pair Warrener and Jonathan Crawford, who had earlier beaten the previous holders, Zeke Dixon and David Archer, the number one seeds. Crawford made amends in the under 14 final, beating the 11-year-old Kendal sensation Matthew Regan, who was taken to five by Roger Pimblett in the semi-final but his marvellous attacking play pulled him through.

Harry Carter, who comes from Kendal, won the under 17 boys' title when he beat Jonathan Crawford, the partner with whom he had been triumphant in the under 12 final.

Cumbria representatives were due to pack the Northern Region Schools Championships Finals. Seven schools have got through the sub-regional stages with Queen Katherine School, Kendal, and Barrow Sixth Form College due to contest the boys and girls under-19 titles respectively at Grantham in Lincolnshire, and five teams from younger age groups contesting finals at Blackburn.

There will be St. Columbs boys and Askam girls in the under 11s, Dalton's Dowdales and girls in the Under 13s and Parkview girls, Barrow, in the under 16s.

DEVONSHIRE by John Vincent

Congratulations are due to:

1) Craig Bryant on being selected to represent England Schools at The World Schools Championships in Senec, Slovakia, from 5th to 12th April 2002.

2) Darren Reed on being invited to three England Under 12 Training Camps at the National Training Centre in Nottingham.

Devonshire Senior Closed Championship Results

Men's Singles – Craig Bryant bt Paul Whiting; Ladies' Singles – Helen Lambert bt Penny Perry; Men's Doubles – Ian Bellingham/Tom Williams bt Mike Short/Kevin Buddell; Ladies' Doubles – Helen Lambert/Jane Swabey bt Penny Perry/Sue Buddell Mixed Doubles – Kevin Buddell/Sue Buddell bt Mike Short/Helen Lambert Veterans' Singles – Tom Williams bt Ian Bellingham; 'Plate' – Phil Reeves bt Roger Anniss

Plymouth Junior Championships

Jacob Kodicek (Inter-City TTC) became a triple champion, defeating Sam Bruty (Woolwell) on each occasion:-

Under 21 Boys' Singles (Brian Rogers Cup) 21-15, 22-20.

Under 21 (Intermediate Cup) 21-13, 24-22; Under 15 (Open) Kitto Trophy 12-21, 21-10, 21-11

In the under 17 Boys event, Sam Bruty gained his revenge over Jacob with a brilliant display of defending to earn his victory 21-18, 13-21, 21-19. Brian Pengelly has improved Sam's game greatly over the past few weeks.

The girls under 17 championships was contested by Lisa Radford, Michelle Barrett and Sally Smith in a round robin.

Lisa won both her games to become champion, defeating runner-up Michelle Barrett 21-14, 21-15.

National Junior Trials at Stratford-upon-Avon

Devon's Junior boys did very well with Craig Bryant reaching the semi-final stage. He lost to eventual winner Matthew Kenny of Yorkshire.

Jacob Kodicek looked impressive in his group reaching the last 16

before being outgunned by his county colleague Craig Bryant.

Shaun Gibbs also reached the last 16 before going out in a five-setter.

Lisa Radford was on holiday so Helen Parton took her place in the junior girls' event. Helen won one, lost two and was then unfortunate that her other two opponents did not arrive.

Lizzie Binks (Exmouth) won one in the Cadet Girls and she also competed well against her other opponents, taking them all to four sets.

Division 3C of the County Junior Championships

Junior 2

We needed a win to clinch the championships but on the day were second best losing 7-3 to Somerset at Godney. Lisa Radford 2 and Daniel Mayhew 1 won our games.

Junior 3 played at the same venue on the same day. They lost 8-2 with the part improving Paul Christie (Brixham) and Lizzie Binks (Exmouth) having some success with one each.

ESSEX by Steve Kerns

Essex Schools Championships

The Essex Schools Table Tennis scene has been dominated by the Peniel Academy for virtually the last 15 years and this year's Individual Championships at BATTs were no different. The consolation events were an added incentive for the non-Peniel players although with events being played on a straight knock-out basis, some unexpectedly strong players found themselves competing at "consolation" level. Of the eight main events seven of them were won by Peniel players, the exception being the U13 Girls' Singles where Sarra Wang (Braintree) took the title with an emphatic 3-0 win over Rachel Jamieson. All-action Daniel Rees took the U16 Boys' title but only after overcoming Matt Staines (Braintree) 11-9 in the fifth and Keiran Lally (Clacton) 11-8 in the decider in the final. Rees completed a "mixed" and no doubt highly exhausting day by beating Alistair

Hill (Braintree) 3-1 in the U19 Boys' Consolation final. The only player to take two of the main titles was Peniel's Cadet International Abigail Embling who was successful at U16 and U19 Girls' level. She was fully extended in both finals beating teammates Gemma Heard 11-7, 11-9, 14-12 at U19 level and Emma Weil 11-8, 7-11, 11-8, 12-10 in the U16 final. The favourite Peter Cleminson duly took the Boys' U19 title with a 3-1 win over Matt Staines after Matt had made his mark with successive victories against three strong Peniel players - Stephen Cooper, Joshua Love and Paul Dewhurst. Cleminson defeated former Essex no. 1 junior Aaron Fennell (Harlow) at the semi-final stage.

COUNTY JUNIOR THIRD TEAM

Essex Junior Third team concluded their programme with two draws and a win in division 3 (D) of the County Championships and their young team showed real promise for the future. An opening 8-2 victory over Wiltshire came about via clean-sheets from Max Cornhill, Daniel Bronziet and Matthew Taylor with the two girls Kelly Skeggs and Becky Jackson only missing out against the higher ranked Alpa Jobanputra. Next opponents were Sussex II with whom we drew 5-5 and it was an undefeated Kelly Skeggs and Daniel Bronziet who led the way with Michael Andrews being desperately unlucky to come home empty-handed. Michael lost the fourth end 12-14 against Luke Fearall after leading 2-1 and was unable to reach the same heights in the fifth. With the score 5-4 to Essex he led Daniel Bulmer 2-0 before his opponent staged a spirited fight-back to level at 2-2. Michael raised his game to storm into a 5-1 lead but again his plucky opponent wasn't finished and with the assistance of a "time-out" pushed on to lead 9-7. Although Michael again fought back bravely he eventually lost 12-10 to give Sussex a well-earned draw. The team completed its campaign with a 5-5 draw with Bucks IV and it was Kelly Skeggs and Daniel Bronziet who were the stars, winning two singles each. Kelly's win

over Carole Linz 11-8, 6-11, 11-6, 11-13, 11-7 was the best set of the match. Buck's prodigious Myles Evans proved to be too strong for the Essex lads Max Cornhill and Mathew Taylor on this occasion, not bad for a 10 year-old!

VETERANS' BRITISH LEAGUE

At the other end of the age scale the Veterans' British League saw the aggressively named BATTs Bulldogs come out on top in Men's Division Four amassing 18 points out of 20. Such was their domination that all four of their players finished in the top seven placings in the individual averages and they eventually enjoyed a comfortable winning margin of five points. The team's best result was an emphatic 6-0 whitewash of second-placed Lillington Free Church in the penultimate match.

Lillington included Lindon Douglas (cousin of a certain Desmond) in their line-up but he went down to both Brian Adams and Fred Lockwood. Neil in particular had a great campaign taking the "Player of the Weekend Award" for the first weekend, no mean achievement when teams from all six divisions were eligible. Team Captain Brian Adams used his tactical awareness to great effect by picking the right team for each match and Fred Lockwood proved to be a great no. 1 only losing two singles out of 12. Players' averages were - Fred Lockwood (83%), Neil Brierley (81%), George Reeves (72%) and Brian Adams (64%). The player who topped the averages for this division will rekindle memories for the more mature reader - Yorkshire's former England no. 1 Junior Kevin Beadsley who stayed undefeated and looked pretty formidable by all accounts.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE by Dave Harvey

The Senior County Table Tennis Closed Championships were played at Cirencester Deer Park on Sunday 3rd February with the following results. The tournament was well organised as usual by the extremely efficient Gill Smith.

Men's Singles

Retained by the no 1 seed Darren Griffin who overcame the No 2 seed Dave Harvey comfortably in the Final by 3 sets to 1. In the semi finals Darren beat Harry Shahlaei (12 years of age) in straight games that provided the shock result of the tournament when he beat the highly favoured Mark Donaghue (seeded 4) in the last 16. In the other semi, Dave beat Brain McRandal by a similar margin who had earlier disposed of Bill Dawe in a close fought quarter-final.

Ladies' Singles

As expected this contest was won by former Welsh No1 and previous top 200 World ranked player, Natasha Williams, who comfortably saw off the challenge of Suzy Robinson in the final having disposed of top national veteran player Judy Morley in the semi.

Men's Doubles

Won by Bill Dawe & Guy Greening over McRandal & Fannin. Earlier surprise result was the combination of Harvey & son Mike (also 12) who knocked out Griffin & Roy Morley before being easily beaten in the semis by the losing finalists.

Under 21s

Won by Dominic Wynn-Sands who beat Harry Shahlaei in 3 sets. In the Quarter-finals the match of this event was between Mike Harvey and Harry who saved a match point in the 4th set eventually winning a hard-hitting game by the narrowest of margins 9-11,11-7, 8-11,12-10, 11-9.

Veteran Singles

Retained by Bill Dawe who won in 3 straight sets from his good friend & archrival Dave.

Other results:

Mixed Doubles - Wnr D.Wynn Sands/Natasha Lake against Griffin & Morley. Minor Singles - Wnr Abubaker Saleh, R/Up Yacoub Tily. Ladies' Doubles Wnrs - Robinson & Morley. R/Up Marianne Wilshire & Michelle Entwistle. Men's Consolation - Wnr Peter Wood. R/Up Lawrence Shahlaei

County Junior Div 2 match played at

Saracens Club on 2nd Feb. The county Juniors lost their final match of the season by 8 sets to 2 against Bucks 4ths. The boys were represented by Mike Harvey, Tom Berdutt & Steve Gummer. Tom played very well and won both of his games without dropping a set to record the home side's only success. However, both of the girls represented by Gloucester City's Emily Bell & Sofie Embursson (debut) gave an excellent account of themselves against highly ranked opposition and gained valuable experience in the process.

HAMPSHIRE by Brian Lamerton

Not a lot to report apart from a very successful junior championship and as I am told that the youngsters (those who read TTN!) enjoy seeing their name in print, here goes:

Portsmouth dominated the boys events with the junior title going to the no. 1 seed Nic Anderson who just got the better of the holder David Woodacre 11-6, 12-10, 13-15, 5-11, 11-7. The cadet final was another nail biter as Michael Gibbs overcame Scott Tucker 11-7, 7-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-9. Southampton boys got a look in at under 12 where Alistair Jones defeated John McBeath 11-9, 12-10, 11-5.

Southampton's Emma Dobson retained her girls' junior title when in a repeat of last season's final she defeated younger sister Jenny 6-11, 11-9, 11-9, 11-8. Jenny was also the loser in the girls' cadet final when in a surprising reversal of the previous final the title went 12-10, 11-7, 12-10 to the Isle of Wight's Joanna Hurt. This was a big surprise as in the same week Jenny finished second in the final regional trials (Jenny subsequently finished 8th in the national trials which earned her a reserve berth for the masters - congratulations). Annabelle Morle, last season's runner-up, took the under 12 girls' title defeating Sarah Warwick (Southampton) whilst the junior doubles went to Southampton in the hands of Christ Willsher and Daniel Long, and Michael Gibbs and

William George took the cadet doubles trophy back to Pompey.

These championships, as most major TT events in Hampshire, took place at Redbridge Community School in Southampton, where County Secretary Harold Albery is a Governor. Many readers will know the school through county and school visits and will be interested to know that the school is currently being completely rebuilt within the grounds and that they are applying for sports college status with table tennis as a nominated sport, and further that they have been accepted as a Premier Club at introduction level.

ISLE OF WIGHT by John Prean

Our Newsletter draws attention to opposition among 'older, longer-serving members' to the 11-up system, even threats to retire and form a breakaway league, if 21 up is not restored! There was, of course, a vote at our AGM in the summer where there was a large majority for the new idea, admittedly attendance being a record low. Nevertheless most clubs were represented. As I no longer play competitively, I abstained. I liked the scoring system when watching our county team in action, as indeed I did in national experiments some years ago. Even then, as ETTA Chair, I noted much opposition.

My advice remains to practice harder, to play more. Too many people play once a week in their local league match and half the year they don't play at all. The new system does require good nerves and consistency at the more frequent pressure points and the answer is obvious. As Gary Player observed elsewhere, it is amazing how one's luck improves, when one practices more. I remain sad that this minor matter stirs up such emotions, when so many other things in our sport need urgent reform, not least that our membership numbers have fallen so long, which places a question mark about our future as a sport. It should be a lively debate at AGMs all over the country during the summer, the prospect of playing up

to 21 one day and to 11 the next very real.

I read in various papers sent to me by the ETTA that county notes generally are only read by people in the county in question. This is not my experience, as I read all county notes, even my own. Similarly, people go out of their way to tell me that they have read what I have written and "always do". One of the questions I am most frequently asked is why I don't write more! But that is another story. There was a time when county correspondents chanced their arm and commented on national matters. My own notes were once called "Letter from the Isle of Wight" (with apologies to Alistair Cooke) when I reported on my travels around the country. Later county writers were encouraged to concentrate on parochial matters, which I did not think a good idea for the obvious reason of the national readership and interest. I was accused of using my column to criticise ETTA management. No such complaints were ever received when I praised what had been done, as I often do. I hope the lesson will be learned that my colleagues will be encouraged to cover wider fields of general interest to counties.

Our county matches again produced respectable rather than stunning results. We drew 5-5 with both Bucks and Surrey II. We welcomed back Danny Burns who decided to risk his knee, which needs an operation and won two out of four, his win against Surrey and Simon Philips being a landmark, as his opponent is in the top 100 in England. Jill Fothergill's three out of four in these matches deserves applause, her only defeat against Gemma Chapman, Alison Botha scored her first win against Jane Dickens (Bucks) by 8 in the 5th. Carl provided the usual four bankers. To return to a higher division, our players will have to practice a lot harder (see earlier notes).

Lucy Pointer returned against Bucks. The kindest comment one can make is that her heart was not in it and her spell in the ETTA Academy seems ultimately to have led to her retirement at 17, not the bright England future hoped for.

She was capped at cadet level, even made the European Youth team in one year. Here she was a sensation, a young girl beating grown men, a never-ending source of copy for the local newspaper. One noted that, in Nottingham, her game was not improving despite practising every day and basic faults seemed undetected, certainly unchanged. For us locally Lucy was a "star", one we seem to have lost.

Our other "star" Carl Prean seems to have returned to the National Ranking List in 4th place, having previously been omitted or rejected. He will sink further, I imagine, when Matthew Syed returns to the list after a couple of wins. Matthew knows that there is a bonus of £1,000 waiting for him, if he can beat Carl in a specially arranged challenge match in which I would hope some TV coverage may be possible. The money would be one-way. It would cost Matthew nothing, if he loses. I await his reply with interest.

KENT by Adrian Hall

Kent Juniors Fighting for Promotion

Kent 5 – Buckinghamshire II 5

Thanks to the girls for this promotion saving point as Kent came back from 1-3 down to take a 5-4 lead before Bucks finally secured a deserved point.

Kent: John Harley (Med) 1, William Harrington (Ash) 0, Stephan Head (Med) 0 Gemma Yarnley (Folk) 2, Joanne Hubbard (T.Wells) 2.

Dorset 4 - Kent 6

Kent: John Harley (Med) 1, William Harrington (Ash) 1, Stephan Head (Med) 0, Gemma Yarnley (Folk) 2, Joanne Hubbard (T.Wells) 2.

Kent 6 - Gwent 4

Kent: John Harley (Med) 0, William Harrington (Ash) 1, Stephan Head (Med) 1, Gemma Yarnley (Folk) 2, Joanne Hubbard (T.Wells) 2.

It will be winner takes all when Kent meets Sussex at Bying Hall, T.Wells on March 9th. The winner will gain promotion to the premier division of the Junior County League.

My thanks to Kent League organiser David Cue for keeping me

updated with the Kent League results.

Men's Division One

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Folkestone	4	3	1	0	29
Dover	4	3	0	1	26
Medway	3	2	0	1	19
Folkestone B	3	2	0	1	18
Bromley	4	0	3	1	16
Thanet	3	0	1	2	12
Sittingbourne	3	0	1	2	8
Canterbury	2	0	0	2	2

	P	W	%
Mark Buckley Med	6	6	100.00
Paul Cronin Med	6	6	100.00
D Ayoola Brom	9	8	88.88
Phil Morford Folk	12	10	83.33
Paul Smallman Dov	12	10	83.33
Lee Edington Folk	6	5	83.33
Mick Eames Than	9	7	77.77
Kevin Powell Folk	12	8	66.66
Ian Gordon Med	9	6	66.66
Chris Marr Sitt	6	4	66.66
David Tilbee Folk	6	4	66.66
Chris Hadley Dov	3	2	66.66
Cliff Smallman Dov	12	6	50.00
Neil LeMilliere Med	6	3	50.00

Veterans Division One

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Medway A	3	3	0	0	20
Medway B	5	2	0	3	20
Dover	3	2	0	1	18
Thanet	3	1	0	2	18
NE Kent A	2	2	0	0	15
Bromley A	5	0	0	5	12
Canterbury A	1	1	0	0	7

	P	W	%
Mick Ling Med	6	6	100.00
John Glass Cant	3	3	100.00
Neil LeMilliere Med	6	5	83.33
Steve Cragg NWK	6	5	83.33
Peter Davis NWK	6	5	83.33
Paul Marshall Than	6	5	83.33
Peter Baker Med	15	12	80.00
Michael Howard Dov	9	7	77.77
Mick Eames Than	9	6	66.66
Tony Randol NWK	3	2	66.66
Tina Stewart Cant	3	2	66.66
Paul Waumsley Dov	3	2	66.66
Peter Davis NWK	3	2	66.66
Mick Kilden NWK	3	2	66.66
Steve Banister Med	3	2	66.66
Anton May Brom	9	5	55.55
Derek Broan Dov	6	3	50.00
Ted Tydeman Med	6	3	50.00

DON'T PLAY CARDS WITH THIS FELLOW FROM THE COXHEATH CLUB

Martin Hobbs is Club secretary for the Coxheath Club in the Maidstone League and an organiser of many

social events involving his and local league members. I was pleased to receive the following correspondence recently from him.

"I recently travelled to Hollywood, California, to take an exam to become a member of The Academy of Magical Arts and I am pleased to announce that I passed. This is America's most prestigious magical society, just like The Magic Circle is in England.

I keep very busy throughout the year entertaining for many household names such as Tesco's, B.H.S., Honda & Woolworths. I also perform at lots of children's parties, combining a mixture of games and magic which together can last 45 minutes or longer."

Regards

Martin Hobbs (M A G I C I A N), Tel. 01622 741968

e-mail: magician999@aol.com

LANCASHIRE by Tony Meredith

Dennis Smith Trophy

Mighty Liverpool, the holders of the Dennis Smith Memorial Trophy, were forced to give Lancaster & Morecambe a walkover in this season's competition – they were unable to raise a team.

Lancashire & Cheshire League

Oldham drew at Bolton but went down 4-6 at home to Mid-Cheshire. Blackpool beat Manchester 7-3 thanks to Steve Bevan's three. Manchester included Fabio Mantegazza in their line up and upset Bolton 7-3. In mens one Lancaster & Morecambe overhauled Warrington 8-2 with Zeke Dixon unbeaten. Preston drew with Halton thanks to the efforts of Steve Crook. Barrow travelled to Macclesfield (they started out the day before) and lost out 2-8. Paul Madden did the damage for the Silkmen. Warrington edged out Bury 6-4 where Buddy Grieco sang a good song. Macclesfield were 7-3 victors at Halton with that man Madden again in sparkling form. Ellesmere Port continue to dominate mens two. They beat Rochdale 9-1 with Ron Weatherby and Ian Campbell both unbeaten. Manchester "A" narrowly beat Bury "A" 6-4 who also went

down 1-9 at Trafford. Halton "A" drew with Mid-Cheshire "A" who had Dominic Johns unbeaten.

In the ladies division Blackpool claimed a walkover when Halton were unable to raise a team through illness. Inconsistent with that is the fact that a home match against Oldham from October has been re-arranged. Oldham ran out 7-3 winners at Wirral with Mandy Winskill in top form, and beat Mid-Cheshire by a similar score. Liverpool trounced Mid-Cheshire 9-1 but Gail McCulloch beat Sue Burgess and took Brenda Buoeuy to a decider. Wirral gained a 7-3 success at Halton thanks to some fine play from Gemma Lloyd. 12-year-old Sophie Byron defeated Halton no.2 Karen Tonge in straight games. Macclesfield were twisted out of their match with Manchester when the visitors had Diana Twist unbeaten in the 7-3 victory.

Preston crushed Wirral 9-1 in the vets premier with Steve Crook and Andy Michnoviec both unbeaten. Manchester defeated Oldham 7-3 and drew with Stockport who had Phil Biggs in good form. Macclesfield pipped Preston 6-4 where Phil Mayman won three. Blackburn, whose players all defected to East Lancashire at the start of the season, were hammered 10-0 by Oldham. Only in 7 of the 20 games played did they reach double figures.

Sad note to this season's proceedings is Stockport's expulsion from the League. This affects both the men's and veterans' premier divisions. Apparently none of their players were registered in the Stockport League and the committee had no alternative but to expunge all their results.

Blackpool Closed

Steve Bevan added this year's men's singles title to his tally of previous successes when he comfortably beat Jon Ash in a one-sided final. Bevan had overcome RDO Martin Ireland in the semi-final and Ash had accounted for Les Richmond. Kim Roberts retained her women's crown in straight games over Alwyn (Mrs.Bucket) Burrough. Results:- Men's Singles: S.Bevan bt J.Ash 17, 16. Women's Singles: K.

Roberts bt A. Burrough 17, 16. Junior Singles: Adam Ormerod bt Danny Bolton 12, 11. Veteran Singles: Brian Oldfield bt John Lynch 13, -14, 9. Men's Doubles: Bevan/Oldfield bt Ash/Richmond 17, -18, 19. Women's Doubles: Roberts/Burrough bt Rene Hughes/Linda Crossen 12, 10. Mixed Doubles: Roberts/Ireland bt Crossen/Richmond 17, 19.

Liverpool Closed

Kevin Dolder confirmed his class when he beat John Rankin to retain his men's singles title. Rankin led 20-19 in the opening game but failed to capitalise and the second became one-way traffic for Dolder. A similar situation took place in the women's final where Alice Howard took the title over Paula French but could easily have lost in straight games. Howard came back from 8-12 down in the first to win that game, lost the second, but ran out a comfortable winner in the decider.

Results:- Men's Singles: K.Dolder bt J.Rankin 20, 10. Women's Singles: A.Howard bt P.French 17, -19, 7. Junior Singles: Paul O'Donnell bt Clara Howard 13, 14. Veteran Singles: Ken Jackson bt David Roberts 17, 16. Open Doubles: Dolder/Rankin bt Peter Lee/Peter Taylor 16, 16.

Junior British League

Seasiders girls were first division champions of the Junior British League held at Stoke on Trent over the weekend 16-17th February. The team of Kerry Radford, Clara Howard and Amanda Bell were also handed the "Team of the Weekend" award. It was a fitting reward for the talented Kerry Radford who is in her last year as a junior. Seasiders boys finished mid-table in division 2A.

Katy & Adam

By the time you read these notes Preston's Katy Parker will have been a guest at the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations being held at Buckingham Palace on 11th March. Meanwhile brother Adam, now 18, continues to make good in his chosen sport of cricket. He has been

awarded a three-year contract with the M.C.C. and is due to go on tour to South Africa in March. Adam is also a member of Lancashire County Cricket Club's under 19 squad. As an under 12 he won the Lancashire Junior Open singles, beating Andrew Rushton in the final. On the same occasion sister Katy was also under 12 champion.

NORTHANTS by Dennis Millman

Trevor Ore, the Northants County Ranking Administrator, has recently issued the latest ranking list, which continues to be headed by David Welsman, while Tim Yarnall, who wasn't registered at the start of the season, is not included.

Richard Elliott, following his fine form of late, now occupies the number two berth, while excellent progress has also been made by Adrian Roper, Chris Gibbons and Mark Nannery. Leading positions: 1. Dave Welsman 2. Richard Elliott 3. David Gattis 4. Adrian Roper 5. Chris Gibbons 6. Ryan Keates 7. Keiran Dabbs 8. Mark Nannery 9. Andre Sagl 10. Rafe Miller 11. Greg Yarnall 12. Steve Silk 13. David Gallo 14. Richard Bashford 15. Gordon Shaw 16. David Murphy.

Numerous postponements, due in part to non-availability of premises, are clouding the picture in Wellingborough's Premier Division, with top of the table contenders Old Gramms A and Higham Band having completed just seven matches in three and a half months.

Leaders Westfield A have played one more, but with Adrian Roper at his considerable best, Greg Yarnall realising his exceptional potential and England's no. 1 Cadet Tim Yarnall now available on a more regular basis, there should only be one winner.

Leading positions:

Westfield A	8	7	1	0	73
Turvey A	9	6	1	2	59
Old Gramms A	7	6	1	0	56
Higham Band A	7	6	0	1	45

It's a much closer call at Kettering, where Braybrooke's title hopes have all but disappeared, following the premature departure of Andrew Sagl to Prague, and the temporary loss of Gerald Finney and Chris Gibbons to

post-operative recuperation and an unfortunate road traffic accident respectively.

Both are happily on the mend, but Higham Band and SAS Thrapston, together with Corby A, whose newcomer Chris Ross got the better of Elliott, Keates and Nannery in straight games to send Higham to a second defeat, look likely to finish in the top three.

Latest positions:

Higham Band	10	8	0	2	74
Braybrooke A	10	8	1	1	72
SAS Thrapston	10	7	0	3	70
Corby Town A	11	8	0	3	65

On the knock-out cup scene Wellingborough's best of four ends up to 11 format a much better bet than Northampton's three ends up to 11, while Kettering's retention of the tried and trusted '21 up' system for two of its three cup competitions has gone down favourably with those traditionalists who remain suspicious of the up to 11 scoring now used in all four of the Northants major leagues.

Regrettably, I have to report the deaths of two of our table tennis enthusiasts, Kettering's Harry Hanger and Wellingborough's Ken Bussey.

Harry, despite a prolonged illness, always retained that sparkling personality most evident when in his hometown he won two men's singles, six men's doubles and three mixed doubles between 1950 and 1959, with a further men's event added in 1967 in partnership with Dick Cole.

On the other hand, Ken Bussey, the quiet man of table tennis, was able to retain his enthusiastic contribution to the game until he died in hospital on 7th January.

He was born in London but at the age of seven he was evacuated to Northamptonshire where he attended Harlestone Village School.

After the war he returned to Islington, but he had fond memories of his adopted county and when his firm relocated, Ken moved to Wellingborough. Nevertheless he retained his London roots and remained a fervent support of Arsenal Football Club.

However, his main interest was table tennis and he enjoyed a long-playing career, first with Irthlingborough Band Club, then at Wellingborough Working Men's Club before finally representing Burton Conservatives. Former opponents still recall his close-to-the-table style allied with a penetrating backhand that won him many games.

Ken was already a proficient umpire and in 1994 he became Northants Umpires Secretary, a task he fulfilled with his customary patience and dedication for the remainder of his life.

When he retired after 42 years service with the same firm, he became a volunteer driver for both the Wellingborough Volunteer Bureau and the Wellingborough Sports for the Disabled Club, continuing to put back more into other people's lives than he himself obtained.

He will be greatly missed by all his many friends and playing acquaintances, whose condolences go to his partner Eva and to all his family.

NORTHUMBERLAND by Pauline Long

It has been quiet on the County front at the time of writing, with the veterans and juniors not due to play their next series of Division 1A and 3B matches at Halifax and Grantham respectively until 2nd/3rd February (just past the deadline for this issue), and the seniors' final weekend in Division 1A even later on 9th/10th March at Walsall.

However, some players have been extremely active in various tournaments around the country, mainly resulting in improved England rankings. The latest of which I am aware are as follows (previous ranking in brackets):

SENIOR MEN: 28, Eddie Smith (31); 32, Andrew Wilkinson (43); 69, Dave Godbold (84); VETERAN MEN: 38, Ian "Benny" Robertson (40); 57, Malcolm Lusk (64); 60, Geoff Salter (58); 214, Rob Dodds (178); 259, Jimmy Scope (214);

0-50; VETERAN MEN: 30, Geoff Salter (-); VETERAN WOMEN: 94, Pauline Long (-).

The second half of the Northumbria League season commenced on 7th January, following a two-week break for Christmas and New Year. North Shields YMCA 'A's team of Andrew Wilkinson, Malcolm Lusk and Keith Patterson have played unchanged throughout the first half of the season to currently lead the Premier Division by just two points (one point for each set won), with Andrew yet to drop a set. Second-placed Birtley SC 'A', last season's champions, will obviously not give up their title without a fight, and can call on the services of Eddie Smith (only one defeat this season), Dave Godbold, Geoff Salter, Chris Thorp, Neil Herrington and Gary Sangster. Sunderland-based St. Gabriel's, even with Dave Robson, Tony Gelder, George Watson, Lynne Herrington and Shirley Gelder, are not quite as strong in depth as the other two teams, but are still 10 points clear in third place over the next team Seaburn Dene.

The only other unbeaten teams apart from North Shields YMCA 'A' are Byker CC A's team of Jim Balkwill, Mark Kimberley and John Donnelly who are leading Division 1 after 11 successive victories; Ouston CC 'B' (Norman Badger, Joe Tron and Margaret Neale), who are the Division 3 table-toppers with nine wins and three draws; and Westgate 'A's team of Kamel Zamli, Terry Straughan and Stu Anderson, who despite seven wins of Division 2, and are only lying second behind Newton 'B', even though the latter team has been beaten twice.

The Team Handicap Knockout Cup Competition has now reached the last 16, and this round was due to be played during week commencing 18th February, which was free of scheduled League matches. Teams included three each from North Shields YMCA and Cramlington, two from College Street, and one from DSS, ABB, Mortimer, Seaburn Debe, Byker CC, Dunston, and Birtley SC. An earlier round match between Newcastle University 'B' and Northumbria University was still not decided.

OXFORDSHIRE by Avril Haynes

Oxford Juniors still unbeaten Midland League

Juniors

Coventry 1 Oxford 9

Oxford travelled to Coventry for their division two match and maintained a 100% record. Greg Boone and Sam Harrison both had three good singles wins each and combined to win the doubles. Anthony Weaver won two singles to complete the victory.

Senior

Oxford 3 Dudley 7

Oxford were unbeaten by a strong Dudley side with Karl Bushell winning two singles and Mark News picking up one singles.

Veteran

Oxford 4 Nottingham (C) 6

Oxford lost a hard match with eight out of ten rubbers going to four of five sets. Nigel Taylor starred for Oxford winning all three of his singles. Ian Arnold won a singles.

COUNTY VETERANS

Oxfordshire (3) 2 Hertfordshire(5) 7
Oxfordshire were defeated by a strong Hertfordshire team, the only victories coming from Ian Arnold, who played extremely well to win both his singles..

SHROPSHIRE by Terry Ridgway

Telford's welcome return to the Inter-County Championship has strengthened the overall quality of the League and provided a number of exciting matches, none more than last month's 13-11 defeat by last year's champions Shrewsbury, Darrel Corfield, Rob Mansfield, Matt Croft, Gary Thompson and Dean Putney starring for Shrewsbury. Malcolm Langofrd, Tony Ackroyd, Nigel Holding and Dave Elkin the men for Telford.

Telford League - Division 1

Tense at the top of Division 1 as Albrighton 'B' lead by two points with Albrighton 'A' and Industrial Bearings closing in fast. Leading average go to Malcolm Langford, Tony Ackroyd, Nigel Holding and Terry Ridgway with either one capable of capturing the trophy at the end of the season. Division 2 is

equally as close with Idsall 'A' favourites but Lilleshall 'A', Mathesons 'A' and Bridgnorth 'D' are fighting for promotion places.

Shrewsbury League

Premier Division

Pontesbury 'A' lead at the end of January but unbeaten Cricket Club 'A' have a game in hand an unbeaten record as they look to retain their trophy. Third place is up for grabs as Cricket Clubs B & C sides are in a battle with Unison 'A' and Pontesbury 'C'. Darrel Corfield, Rod France, Rob Mansfield and Nigel Holding lead the most wins listings.

Division One

Hospital 'B' hold the lead but Cricket Club 'D' have the only 100% record at present and hold games in hand. Gary Thompson, Motto Jones and Shropshire's veteran star Jane Bevan look forward to the top of the table clash in February.

Shropshire Veterans

A superb performance by the county's over 40 side as they came within one game of toppling unbeaten Gloucester 2nds last week, wins by Malcolm Langford, Mike Dudley and Jane Bevan together with the Bevan/Langford mixed doubles put Shropshire 4-2 up. John Fannin pulled back from 2-0 down to Langford 3-2 and the county side could not match Gloucester's experienced squad with Adamson and Willsher beating Ridgway and Dudley in the remaining.

The annual Shrewsbury League Championships at the London Road Sports Centre saw entries well up on last year, including nine in the junior event being held for the first time in years.

Pride of place goes to Pontesbury A's Paul Cornfield who maintained his form throughout the day to take the title for the first time.

He did it the hard way, coming from behind in both the quarter and semi-finals to take his place in the final.

In the quarters he came up against good friend John Lumley, who bulldozed away to win the

first 18. Corfield bounced back to win the second 21-9 and the third had tension written all over it with Corfield's nerve holding to win 22-20.

Mike Dudley proved an equally stubborn opponent in the semis, winning the first 21-12, but Corfield held firm to take the next two 22-20, 21-10.

Awaiting Paul in the final was defending champion and team mate Rob Mansfield, who got to the final by overcoming Terry Ridgway in the quarters and yours truly in the semi.

The final saw two contrasting styles in opposition and it was the attacking play of the winner who took the first 21-18 and then led convincingly in the second. Mansfield dug deep to go on to take the second, also 18, but with the match in the balance Corfield held his nerve to take the title in style 21-10 in the final set.

Mansfield had further disappointment later when he was beaten by Mike Dudley in the veterans' final.

Dudley reaching the final following a convincing win over Terry Ridgway, with Mansfield getting the opportunity to defend his title with a semi-final win over Colin Sayce.

The final saw Dudley take the first 21-15, but Mansfield fought back to win the second 21-18. The third was a classic with great play from both players keeping the spectators on the edge of their seats. It was Dudley who prevailed in the end, clinching his first title 21-16.

The junior event was a credit to league coach Gary Thompson, with many of his elite taking party. With players competing in a round robin it was a competition that lasted most of the day, with the top two meeting in the final.

They were Yockleton's Matthew Bayliss and Hospital's Jonathan Bevan, reaching the final to play in front of a sizeable crowd for the first time.

The divisional competitions were played under the new ITTF rules of 11 up - while this proved difficult for the scorers, many found the format to their liking. The Premier final was another classic with both players involved treating the crowd to some wonderful table tennis. Dean

Pountney took the trophy by defeating John Lumley 5-11, 11-8, 13-11, 11-9.

The Division One title was fought out by partners Gary Thompson and Jane Bevan. Gary kept his nerve to take the household honours 11-6, 12-14, 11-6, 11-7. Simon Taylor of Unison took the Division Two trophy with a three set victory over Phil Williams.

The doubles final between Mansfield/Lumley and Corfield/Corfield is being held over until a later date.

A special thank you from the committee to Veronica Bebbington without whose help the competition would not have run so smoothly. Also thanks to Mike Chidlow and Ken Hayward who, despite early exits, stayed on to score many a match.

Warwickshire by Caroline Williams

Sibley Shines at Nationals

The top juniors and cadets converged on Stratford-upon-Avon for the English National Junior & Cadet Trials and two Leamington girls were amongst them.

13-year-old Kelly Sibley gave the outstanding performance, winning the Cadet Girls' Singles and coming runner-up in the Junior Girls', in the semi-finals of which she beat Karen Shepherd (Cheshire) from 2 games down. Stephanie Hawkins also competed well and had a couple of good wins in her groups but was unable to qualify for the later stages in either event.

Kelly Sibley as befits her England 2 Cadet ranking was number one seed and duly saw off the challenge of the number three from Norfolk, Lauren Spink to win the cadet event. On the Sunday Kelly continued to progress, winning her junior group and reaching the final, where she was unable to overcome the combination bat wives of Kate Steward (3 Junior), and so Kelly had to be content with runner-up in this event. A weekend tally of 17 wins from 19 matches against the country's top juniors and cadets was an outstanding performance.

The following weekend Kelly retained her Junior and Cadet Girls' Singles titles as well as Junior Girls' Doubles and Ladies Doubles' titles at the Warwickshire Closed Championships.

Kelly is thought to be such an outstanding prospect that she has been invited to take up a full-time placement with the ETTA Academy. A string of consistent performances at home and abroad has earned her international recognition. Kelly started at Nottingham in mid-January.

Leamington Lady, Birmingham Gent lead County Closed

At the **Warwickshire Closed Table Tennis Championships** held in January in Warwick Ian Ferguson (Birmingham) took the Men's Singles title for the third year running and was runner-up in the Men's Doubles. Ladies Singles champion in 2000, Liz Haynes (Leamington) was unable to enter last year but underlined her return to form by again taking the title. She also gained the Mixed Doubles title and was runner-up in the Ladies Doubles.

Results of the Warwickshire Closed (runners-up in brackets):-

Men's Singles – Ian Ferguson (Ryan Stockham); Losing semi-finalists – Dave Clarke, Gareth Hayward; Men's Doubles – Andy Lebutt / David Grundy (Ian Ferguson / Dave Clarke); Ladies' Singles – Liz Haynes (Sarah Riach); Ladies Doubles – Kelly Sibley / Julie Richardson (Helen Turner / Liz Haynes); Mixed Doubles – Earl Sweeney / Liz Haynes (Simon Upson / Helen Turner); Junior Boys' Singles – Gareth Hayward (Leigh Bradford); Junior Girls' Singles – Kelly Sibley (Nikki Pilgrim); Cadet Boys Singles – Brett Medforth (Tom Madeley); Cadet Girls' Singles – Kelly Sibley (Nikki Pilgrim); Junior Boys' Doubles – Gareth Hayward / Jaz Allen-Sutton (Leigh Bradford / Edward Freeman); Junior Girls' Doubles – Kelly Sibley / Nikki Pilgrim (Stephanie Hawkins / Rachael Pilgrim); Veterans' Singles – Kevin Pilgrim (Mike Browne);

Veteran Over 50 Singles – Graham Hoskin (John Taylor); Veteran Doubles – Earl Sweeney / Phil Paine (Chris Leach / Mike Browne) Junior Plate – Oliver Hayes (Paul Nicholls)

Cippenham Veterans' 2-Star Open by Graham Trimming

Fourth seed Derek Holman came back from two games down to win a superb Men's Singles final at the Cippenham Veterans' 2-Star Open Championships on 3rd February. Holman's renowned resilience eventually got the better of his Surrey and Graham Spicer TTC team-mate Steve Davis in a final full of exciting attacking table tennis. Davis' powerful two-winged attack, especially his lightning backhand, looked to have sealed another title for the fifth seed as he won the first two games 11-8, 11-8. Holman came back to level the match at 2-2 but Davis again emerged as favourite as he raced into a 5-1 lead in the fifth deciding game. Holman found a backhand block shot that was the equal of Davis' backhand and this became the telling factor as, summoning up all his fighting spirit, Holman eventually won 11-9.

No one should have been surprised as Holman had also come back from two games down in his semi-final against Barrie Gilbert, filling in the top seeded position in place of the injured and absent Henry Buist. The Gilbert defence won the early exchanges but was eventually worn down by the forehand topspin loop and clever backhand of Holman to the extent that the fifth game closed 11-3. Even one round earlier, in his quarter-final match against David Crowley, Holman dropped the first game and eventually won 17-15 in the fourth.

The shocks, however, happened in the bottom half of the draw where the highest ranked player, Terry Haley, was beaten in the second round by the unseeded Michael Wilkins, a Bucks county player. Wilkins won a close first game 14-12 and then won in the fourth after dropping the third game. However,

Wilkins was no match for the power of Steve Davis in the quarters and took his leave of the competition. Davis' semi-final victim was Charlie Childs who won the first game of their encounter after having provided another second round shock when he dispatched his Hampshire colleague third seed Ramesh Bhalla.

Other seeds who were displaced included Chris Pickard who lost in the groups to Keith Yarnley 11-9 in the fifth and Tom Adams who lost to the same player in the second round, also 11-9 in the fifth. Adams had also been beaten 13-11 in the fifth in the groups by Geoff Grange.

Other interesting results included Barry Morten's defeat of Mike Wilkins 18-16 in the fifth (in the groups) and John Barclay's fifth-game win over Geoff Grange in round one.

Top seed Sharon Mitchell, from Reading, duly won the Women's Singles, beating in the final Mary Heffernan of High Wycombe. It was the pair's second meeting of the day as both came out of group one. In the final Mitchell won in three straight games whereas the clash in the group had been a much closer affair and required five games to establish Mitchell as the winner.

The second seed, Haruko Posford, only managed to finish second in group two having been beaten by Flavia Wade. Both of these players then lost their semi-final matches. Local players were involved in close matches. Evergreen Georgia Veneer, just turned eighty years of age, took Heffernan to a fifth game and Jan Chapman, who later won the Consolation event, led in the third against Posford when 2-0 up in games.

Results:

Men's Singles: Derek Holman (Sy) bt Steve Davis (Sy) -8, -8, 6, 9, 9
Women's Singles: Sharon Mitchell (Bk) bt Mary Heffernan (Bu) 9, 9, 7
Men's Consolation: Ian Schwartz (Bk) bt Ian Buchanan (Mi) 7, 12, 8
Women's Consolation: Jan Chapman (Bk) bt Joan West (Sy) 8, -9, 5, 9

The next veterans' open at Cippenham is the annual summer event on 15th June. Entry forms will

be available in due course from Graham Trimming (01628 636978) or can be downloaded from the www.cippenhamttc.co.uk web site.

Bribar Sportbreak Open by Mike Johns

Cheshire's Katy Ingham won her first senior open tournament at the Egerton Youth Club, Knutsford, on 3rd February when she won the Ladies Singles round robin ahead of Wolverhampton's Jane Easley.

Surprise winner of the Men's super group was National Over 50s Champion Mike Johns. As the event organiser Mike had not intended playing, but following the late withdrawal of younger brother Alec, he was forced into action. Yorkshire's James Brown was undefeated in Group One with Tom Murray (Cheshire) in second place.

Tim Wearden (Cheshire) came out on top of a three-way tie in Group Two, Chris Tarr (Shropshire) came second with Daniel Russell (Cheshire) in third place. Group Three was won by Leigh Hipkins (Staffs) from Dave Arrowsmith of Derbyshire, with exchange school teacher Paul Horn from Hanover, Germany, winning Group Four from former Berkshire junior Simon Douglas (Cheshire).

Men's Singles Super Group: winner: Mike Johns (Cheshire), runner-up – Keith Williams (Lancs); Men's Singles Group One: James Brown (Yorks), runner-up – Tom Murray (Cheshire); Men's Singles Group Two: winner – Tim Wearden, runner-up – Chris Tarr (Shropshire); Men's Singles Group Three: winner – Leigh Hipkins (Staffs), Dave Arrowsmith (Dy); Men's Singles Group Four: Paul Horn (Germany), runner-up - Simon Douglas (Cheshire); Ladies Singles Super Group: winner – Katy Ingham (Cheshire), runner-up – Jane Easley (Staffs).

National Junior & Cadet Trials Stratford-upon-Avon

The English National Junior & Cadet Trials, supported by Stratford District Council & the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, took place at Stratford Visitor & Leisure Centre, Stratford-upon-Avon over the weekend of 5th/6th January.

13-year-old Kelly Sibley from Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, gave the outstanding performance, winning the cadet singles and coming runner-up in the juniors, in the semi-finals of which she beat Karen Shepherd (Cheshire) from 2 games down. Kate Steward (Taunton, Somerset) topped the junior girls for the 3rd year in succession.

Top 8 positions:

Junior Boys: 1, Matt Kenny (Yorks); 2, Gregory Baker (Staffs); equal 3, Craig Bryant (Devon)/Alex Green (Lincs); equal 5, Tom Page (Cheshire)/Martyn Clarke (Cleveland); 7, Andrew Leighton (Durham); 8, Tim Yarnall (Northants).

Junior Girls: 1, Kate Steward (Somerset); 2, Kelly Sibley (Warwicks); equal 3, Nicola White (Yorks)/Karen Shepherd (Cheshire); equal 5, Gemma Chapman (Berks)/Lauren Spink (Norfolk); 7, Joanne Hubbard (Kent); 8, Claire Wilson (Durham).

Cadet Boys: 1, Darius Knight (Surrey); 2, Shaun Rogerson (Lincs); equal 3, James Milton (Bucks)/Samuel Cannon (Middlesex); equal 5, Tony Halling (Essex) /Daniel Rees (Essex); 7, Harry Shahlaei (Gloucs); 8 David Hayes (Bucks).

Cadet Girls: 1, Kelly Sibley (Warwicks); 2, Lauren Spink (Norfolk); equal 3, Anusha Seneviratne (Kent)/Hayley Parker (Cheshire); equal 5, Kelly Skeggs (Essex)/Sarrah Wang (Essex); 7, Lisa Bosley (Berks); 8, Jenny Dobson (Hants).



Junior Boys Gregory Baker and Matthew Kenny (winner)



Junior Girls Kelly Sibley and Kate Steward (winner)

Cotswold 4 Star Junior – 26th/27th January 2002

Under 12 Girls: winner – Lauren Springthorpe (Li), Runner-up – Rachel Jamieson (E) 7, 7, -7, 7; Under 12 Boys: winner – Harry Shahlaei (Gs), runner-up – Luke Alderson (Wal) 8, 3, 7; Cadet Girls: winner – Lauren Springthorpe (Li), runner-up Lauren Spink (Nk) -11, 10, 8, -8, 9; Cadet Boys: winner – Tim Yarnall (Np), runner-up – Niv Bogen (Mi) 9, 6, 7; Junior Girls: winner – Lauren Spink (Nk), runner-up – Nicola White (Y) 8, -7, 3, 7; Junior Boys: winner – Dominic Hall (K), runner-up – Craig Bryant (Dv) 11, -8, 5, 4.

Readers may be interested in the following article on the Goldstein family, reproduced by kind permission of the Jewish Telegraph (04.01.02), even if 'something of a spent force' is rather too pessimistic about table tennis!

Andrew's ace day playing world table tennis champion! by Judith Hayman

Table tennis is something that runs in the Goldstein family genes.

The late Maurice Goldstein, of Birmingham, was dubbed "Mr Table Tennis" and as President of the English Table Tennis Association was the country's no. 1 organiser of the sport from the 1960s to 1980s.

His son, David Goldstein, 63, says "Dad played too, but his real contribution was promoting and organising rather than playing".

"At one time Birmingham had the biggest table tennis league in

Europe. He made a massive contribution to the organisation of the game at local and national level."

Younger brother Rabbi Andrew Goldstein, of Northwood and Pinner Progressive Synagogue in London, also caught the table tennis bug from his father.

He recalls: "We used to have our own table tennis team at home in Birmingham with my father, my mother Gladys and brothers David and Bernard. We played in the Birmingham League in the 1950s."

The family home, as well as accommodating dad's tailoring business, was also the headquarters of the table tennis association.

"World champions Richard Bergman (a Hungarian Jewish émigré) and Victor Barna (a Viennese Jew) came to our house", says Andrew. "One of the highlights of my life was playing Bergman as a 12-year-old".

In the 1960s the Goldsteins hosted the first Chinese team ever to come to England. Maurice also organised the 1977 World Championships in Birmingham.

Andrew recalls "The whole family was involved."

David thought it a shame that his father never read Howard Jacobson's book "The Mighty Walzer" which, he says, "encapsulated what the game was like in the 1950s."

Andrew said "Although Jacobson's book was based in Manchester, all the characters could have been members of the Birmingham table tennis world".

Birmingham's Maccabi and Frederick Jacobs table tennis leagues, established in the 1950s, still flourish today.

David regrets that table tennis in this country is something of a spent force, but he does his part to bolster its popularity.

Every Thursday lunchtime he teaches 80 students on 10 tables at Wheelers Lane Technical College. But, sadly, none of his children has taken up the sport.

Thursday night is table tennis night at the Northwood and Pinner Synagogue – and the rabbi plays league matches, too.

He says "I am playing better now than ever. It really matters that I win. The playing also keeps me fit."

He admits that his rabbinical and table tennis duties sometimes overlap.

Says Andrew "There is a problem when matches are drawn on a Friday night or yomtov or when I have a shiva house to attend."

Andrew's daughter Ruth is a professional cellist and son Aaron an all-round sportsman, will gain semicha this year.

Has he influenced anyone to take up the game?

"I might have inspired a couple to become rabbis, but I'm not sure about the table tennis," he smiles.

A Decade of Computer World Rankings

By Andre Damman (abridged by Ken Muhr)

It all started in the year 1991. The first official World Ranking by computer was published in October 1991. Since then 89 lists have been published, an average of nearly nine a year.

Eleven Number Ones

In the course of these 10 years, eleven players occupied the top position on the ranking, some of them during one uninterrupted period, others at several distinct times.

At the start the reigning world champions Deng Yaping and Jorgen Persson were automatically placed in the top position of the ranking; this lasted until the 1992 World Championships when no precedence was given any more to the champions.

As far as the women are concerned the situation is very simple and very clear: Deng Yaping took the lead from the beginning and only gave away her sceptre in January 1999, when she retired; her position was immediately taken by Wang Nan who is still strongly in the lead today.

On the men's side, nine players have contested the leadership, the tenure being achieved by Jan-Ove Waldner.

Jorgen Persson and Jean-Philippe Gatién, the first two leaders, never regained their top ranking once deposed. However, Kong Linghui, having reached the number one spot and been overtaken, regained the position on a further seven occasions.

The number one players – Men

	Days
1.WALDNER Jan-Ove (Swe) (3)	823
2.KONG Linghui (Chi) (8)	786
3.SAMSONOV Vladimir (Bel) (4)	657
4.SAIVE Jean-Michel (Bel) (2)	516
5.WANG Liqin (Chi) (2)	356
6.PERSSON Jorgen (Swe) (1)	274
7.LIU Guoliang (Chi) (4)	179
8.WANG Tao (Chi) (2)	105
9.GATIEN Jean-Philippe (FRA) (1)	53

The number one players – Women

1.DENG Yaping (Chi) (1)	2,675
2.WANG Nan (Chi) (1)	1,007

The figure in brackets denotes the number of different times the player has ascended to the number one ranked position in the world.

The longest periods without interruption

1.WALDNER Jan-Ove 534 days (8/92-2/94)
2.SAIVE Jean-Michel 484 days (2/94-6/95)
3.WANG Liqin 322 days (12/00-10/01)
4.SAMSONOV Vladimir 321 days (01/98-11/99)
5. PERSSON Jorgen 274 days (10/91 –7/92)

During the 10-year period, five players have been ranked in the top 20 throughout. Kim Taek Soo (KOR), Jorgen Persson (SWE), Zoran Primorac (CRO), Jean-Michel Saive (BEL) and Jan-Ove Waldner (SWE). However, no female player has managed to achieve the same performance.

On two occasions there has been a tie for first position: in December 1996 when Liu Guoliang and Kong Linghui shared the first place and a second time when Kong Linghui and Jan-Ove Waldner did the same in October 1997.

[This article first appeared in the November 2001 issue of ITTF Table Tennis Illustrated.]

Russian Request for Table Tennis Videos by Igor Holland

As you know, many TT clubs in Europe now suffer from a lack of 'fresh blood'. The reasons for this

vary for different clubs: each club deals with the problem on its own.

We have designed a project as follows: the best and most striking TT exhibitions and matches are to be widely displayed in schools, children's camps, clubs, etc, to entice youngsters from the streets and into our sport. But we failed to start this project owing to being unable to discover any relevant video-recording in good condition in Russia. (The National Federation of Russia proved to be of little help to our project: suffice it to say that they have over the past 20 years omitted to prepare any coaching film for domestic use!)

Thus, we have to ask for help from more advanced table tennis countries and hereby ask you to make an important contribution to our project. A VHS video cassette copy of the J. Secretin & P. Purkart (France) exhibition or something similar would fit best and even re-recordings will do. I am sorry to say that most of our children's clubs in Russia have currently to be run on a shoestring and thus we can't pay big money for films.

Many thanks in advance for any help.

Igor Holland, Regional Youth Centre Chief Coach, P.O. Box 383, Ulianovsk, 432063 Russia. E-mail (attention Igor Holland) cos@simrsc.mv.ru

Editor's Note:

This sounds a very good idea, of value anywhere in the world. I hope some readers can help Igor. Sadly, although Russians may put up with poor quality, I suspect that our pampered English kids would only accept the highest quality videos and therefore, without funding, we have no way nationally of providing a similar scheme.

Ken

Sizzling Chops & Devilish Spins, by Jerome Charyn
(Four Walls Eight Windows, 2001, \$24)

CHARYN'S ART OF STAYING ALIVE

"...wasn't I also a confidence man, tricking people, blowing wool over

their eyes, asking them to take some mystery tour...?" (135)

Reviewed by Tim Boggan, USATT Historian

This unique book by Jerome Charyn, which I hasten to say I recommend, is about ping-pong, yes, but, more entertainingly to me - something of a *pongiste* and table tennis insider whose writings Jerry has borrowed liberally from - the sizzle has less to do with the Game and more to do with the Writer. For the most part, the table tennis history sections of the book, including "Ping-Pong Diplomacy" and the backgrounds of Ruth Aarons, Dick Miles, and Marty Reisman, at home or abroad, I'm of course already very familiar with but the interviews with Dr. Jean-Francois Kahn, the International Table Tennis Federation's Sports Science Chair, and Jerry's account of his visit to see Michel Glikman, the 1931 French Champion, plus some of the historic photos, particularly one of young Miles as he graduated from the 8th grade, were to me new and welcome. What most interested me, though, in this "tale of two cities" (New York and Paris), is Charyn's permeating image of himself as a writer cum ping-pong player...as presented through an often romanticized and somewhat schizoid persona. This for me is the *soul* of the book.

Let it be said that, though the uninitiated reader might not realize it, Charyn, as a table tennis writer, is an outsider. ITTF President Sharara's name is spelled Shakara; World and Olympic Champions Kong Linghui and Liu Guoliang are rendered as Kong Linhui and Lui Guoliang, Lou Pagliaro, who's shown in a great action shot on the cover of the book, is referred to not as "Paggy" but "Pagi," Reisman's Club at 96th and Broadway is said erroneously to be the "Riverside" Club (but Bobby Gusikoff, who for a decade ran the rival 73rd St. Riverside Plaza Hotel Club, where Miles played, is never mentioned, and his once popular Club, called inaccurately "a poor man's Marty Reisman's," is subsumed under a later guise as "Morris' club on West

Seventy-third Street...in the basement of the Ansonia [Hotel]), and there are a number of other mistakes - all of which inadvertently make a valid point: namely, that Charyn doesn't really care to be a table tennis insider.

Let it be said, too, that Charyn's "I" persona, who I often think of as a fictional stand-in, a double for the author, certainly considers himself an outsider - in fact, is pleased to be a "mongrel," a "wanderer," a "vagabond," a "voyager," a "fellow outlaw" welcomed into "Reisman's band." To Charyn, Reisman, whom he's also dependent on for quite a bit of background in this book, is a USATT-outlaw hero. "The Needle," Charyn's fictional appellation for Marty, suggests a criminal sub-culture?

What engages me in this always readable book is the way Charyn (who, like all fact/fiction writers, really is a confidence man taking us on tour), has romanticized his persona to reflect "neurosis, rebellion, creativity, and criminality" - all attributes of he who comes to Paris to write (a la Hemingway), and also to fiercely play table tennis as a way of saying, like Miles and Reisman, "no to the dominant culture." Indeed, it's these four attributes of the writer/player, which in a moment I'll take up one by one (*but unfortunately not in TTN Extra!*) that gives some cohesion to what otherwise has to be considered a hodge-podge of a stimulating book. For Charyn, the "Art of Staying Alive" (as he sub-titles his book), has surely as much to do with *writing*, how that flies, as with the bounce of the ball off his pipped racket.

Which is not to say that Jerry, who says he's ranked 11013th in France, doesn't very much enjoy the Game - I've played with him, and he does. It's just that he enjoys writing more. The writer/ping-pong player analogy is inescapable: "What had given me the edge," he says, "was my own unorthodoxy. I played like no one else. And I felt a kind of kinship between table tennis and my scribbling, which had its own wild side...."

Editor's Note:

Tim Boggan says that the book he reviews above (I regret I have had to severely cut his paper) is going to be printed in London as well as New York.

Ken

Famous People Who Played Table Tennis

We are indebted to Peter Forrest, who provided all the material for this month's column. He writes:

'Another famous person - possibly the most famous person in Britain after Blair, Posh and Becks - who plays table tennis. This is the opening of a long article I discovered from Q magazine, July 2000:

'You join us at a tense moment in the Hook End pingpong qualifiers. The score stands at 20-12, final game, Britain's toppermost pop star to serve. He allows the ball an inch of air, sells a deceptive forehand dummy then nimbly pirouettes and plays the entire shot from behind his back. This amoral manoeuvre inevitably wrong-foots his opponent and seals the match for the good-looking lad from Stoke On Trent. "Soz about that," says **Robbie Williams** cheerily. "Couldn't resist it."

He celebrates his table tennis supremacy by assuming a pained expression and breaking wind melodiously.'

He's just been voted best British male singer for the third year in a row at the Brits, though, so is definitely very famous as well as flatulent. I once played against a man called **Martin Barre**, in the Exeter TT League. I had no idea who he was, except that one of his team-mates said he played electric guitar. I didn't realise till later that he was a founder member and continuing mainstay of **Jethro Tull** - one of the top groups worldwide since 1968. He was modest and charming, and never mentioned his famous credentials, despite my asking all sorts of questions about the guitar he used, etc..

A US band called **Fun-Lovin' Criminals** are very big in Britain and Europe, trading on a tough New York City image. They headline

festivals regularly. Their contract always stipulates that a table tennis table is provided in their accommodation.

The French electro-pop band **Air** had a very successful **track** in the late 90s called **Kelly Watch the Stars**. The **video for this consisted largely of a table tennis match between two young women**. The **video's director, Mike Mills**, says he chose this theme simply because he **'loves the game'**. Mills, a former professional skateboarder, is **one of the top directors in the world**, and this is one of the videos for which he is best known. It was **regularly shown on MTV**, and can still be seen occasionally on other satellite channels.

A German film magazine on the internet has this to say about the idea of Balls of Fury, the film you mentioned as a table tennis version of Enter the Dragon: 'Oh mein Gott!'

TABLE TENNIS FASCINATION: MAGIC MOMENTS 1999-2001. Reviewed by Ken Muhr

The ITTF describes this book as an official photo document and that really is what it is - nearly 170 pages of colour photographs from 4 major events: World Championships, Eindhoven, 1999; World Championships, Kuala Lumpur, 2000; Olympic Games, Sydney, 2000; World Championships, Osaka, 2001. The forward explains:

"At the World-title events, the supreme competitions where all players aspire to take part, powerful rallies are exchanged and mental battles fought. There are moments that can never be captured by any audio-visual image. There are some scenes not visible to the spectator's eye. The only way to preserve a player's expression forever - photos have that mysterious power of arousing peoples' emotion. Boundless energy and life brought forth by a tiny white ball. And all the ensuing drama. This edition contains all the thrills and fascination of table tennis. All the magic moments."

It might sound trite, but I could add that this collection of photographs

does reveal the agony, the ecstasy, the action, the emotion, the drama of crucial points and moments in top-level matches, and the photographs are very good. However, my only small criticism is that although there is great value in recording the jubilation and despair of winning and losing moments, I would have liked to have seen even more (because there are quite a few) pictures and sequences of big and tricky shots, by top table tennis athletes, within the rally and concluding the point.

The narrative, in several languages including English, is minimal, but that is no problem because the photographs largely speak for themselves. One other observation: whereas large crowds often are to be seen in the photographs, too often the 'moment' in table tennis time seems to have been witnessed by too few spectators and the camera only, which makes the photographs an even more valuable record of what happened.

Really, at only US\$12 a copy, this book/'magazine' is an excellent buy for all table tennis enthusiasts: available from ITTF, Av. Mon-Repos 30, 1005 Lausanne, Switzerland. Fax: 0041 21 340 70 99 E-mail: ee@ittf.com. Payment can be made by quoting Visa or Mastercard credit card details.

ITTF News

172 players will compete in the Athens 2004 Olympics, 86 men and 86 women. Other ITTF news is that they are launching an international Junior Circuit, on the lines of the ITTF Pro Tour, with 2002 being a trial year.

My Table Tennis Story by Tony Jervis, an inmate of HMP Kingston, Portsmouth where he says the warders are very keen on TT.

I arrived at Gartree prison in July 1995, a good allrounder at P.E., but knowing nothing of league table tennis, rubbers, blades or the ETTA. The prison ran a table tennis club twice per week in a large sports hall

(4 x badminton courts) with 4 quality tables, one in the middle of each badminton court. Table tennis was also on in each wing association room – the 4 wings having much older metal tables.

I began playing the no.1 in the prison from 6 to 8-30pm every night on the wing, and all day weekends plus in the club sessions. Within 6 months I was ready for the 'B' team at the start of the 95/96 season in the first division, and the player coaching me was in the 'A' team in the premier division (Kettering & District League). My end of season averages in 4 seasons of K.D.T.T.L. 1st division were 43% (1996), 66% (1997), 72% (1998) and 86% (1999-2000) until I was moved to Kingston in Portsmouth in January 2001.

Kingston is a much smaller prison and table tennis tables were only taken out of a cupboard for Xmass competitions here. I began getting them out during dinner times, and sounded out interest on the landings.

The next step was to have them placed in the corner of a large dining room/stage hall, where they would be accessible every evening during association times. The prison then bought 2 new quality Butterfly tables and plenty of 40mm 3* balls. I organised a season of friendlies with local teams from the Portsmouth & D.T.T.L. The matches went well but we unfortunately missed this season's league formation meeting, but hope to play in the East Hampshire summer league now the E.T.T.A. have given details.

The hall we play in is ideal for table tennis, with good lighting, a hard floor and space for 3 match tables. Four of us who play regularly have local league experience and a number of stayers are also ex league players. Quality rubbers are scarce, although there are plenty of old bats for keen players to knock up with.

I write to the (equipment mail order) catalogues for old rubbers and have made up bats for anyone seriously interested. Alex Perry sent me his old 'Scriver's' in '97 and I found my game instantly improved. If we get in a league I will save and experiment with 'Bryce', as we tried opponent's rubbers and they are

superior to 'Scriver'. Anyone with old 'Bryces' in a reasonable condition and prepared to donate them to our team, could kindly send them to me at H.M.P. Kingston, Portsmouth PO3 6AS.

Top Player Conduct

Most top table tennis players do not take their overall responsibility for promoting the best interests of the game very seriously, although it is interesting to note ITTF President Adham Sharara's concern over recent televised matches not being up to standard owing to the uncaring and nonchalant attitude of some players. On the conduct of top British sportsmen and women generally, a UK Sport survey has revealed that while 80% of spectators think that professional sports people act in a fair way, they also thought that there was an overall decline in sporting conduct over the last 10 years. My own (KM's) view is that top table tennis players generally are a great example of good sporting conduct.

MUHR'S MEMO: Information Officer Messages from Ken Muhr

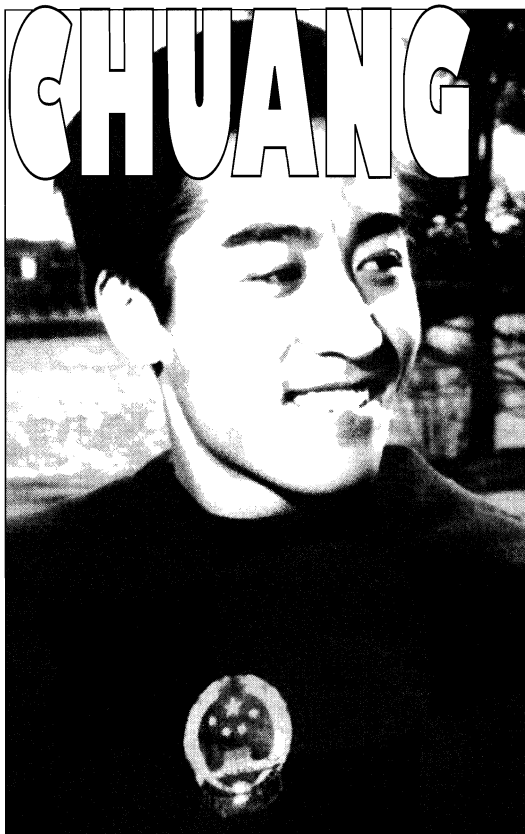
February was a short and frantic month so I apologise if I leave out important media exposure from this column. The national newspapers copy was again led by **John Woodford** (regularly in The Telegraph) and occasionally in The Express and Daily Mail, and **Richard Eaton** (who has been writing a little more on table tennis recently) occasionally in The Times and Guardian. The Ryan Owen affair continues to rumble on, with John getting a rare bit of Press Association copy in the Daily Mail. More positively have been short reports of England senior player (i.e. Gareth Herbert, Terry Young, Andrew Baggaley and Alex Perry) relative successes in ITTF Pro Tour events, and best of all from a table tennis point of view the title wins for our youngsters **Darius Knight, Paul Drinkhall and Joanna Parker** (and for Nicola Deaton and Helen Lower in the women's doubles) at the **Swedish Safirs International Tournament**. John also touched on other areas in The Telegraph,

such as Butterfly Grand Prix results and the planned Chinese super League.

However, the main item to achieve wide coverage has been the **build up to the National Championships at Sheffield on 2nd/3rd March**, with **particular interest** generated by the entry for the first time in 3 years of former champions **Carl Prean and Andrea Holt**. As well as the story in the Telegraph, John even got a mention for Prean's entry in The Express, whilst Richard wrote about Andrea in The Times and Carl in The Guardian. Immediately before the Championships (1st March), **The Times** published a large and positive feature by **Sarah Potter on Andrea Holt** (which also included Andrea's Manchester Commonwealth Games aspirations), in the same edition as a large feature by Matthew Syed on the World (football) Cup countdown in Japan. Also regarding the Championships, I know that **Nicola Deaton**, following being interviewed on Calendar TV, was due, with Bradley Billington, to be interviewed by BBC Radio Sheffield. In fact there has been a very big effort to publicise the Championships within a large radius of Sheffield, and I know that some excellent press coverage has been achieved.

I rarely get to see it, but I am aware that local/regional newspapers often do give TT lots of space. This is definitely so when a Butterfly Grand Prix tournament is staged locally, but of course there is much else besides. For example, from the south, **Brian Lamerton** has sent me **full pages achieved in the Southampton Echo**, and John Woodford a full page on the local closed championships in the Eastbourne Herald. I am always pleased to receive cuttings.

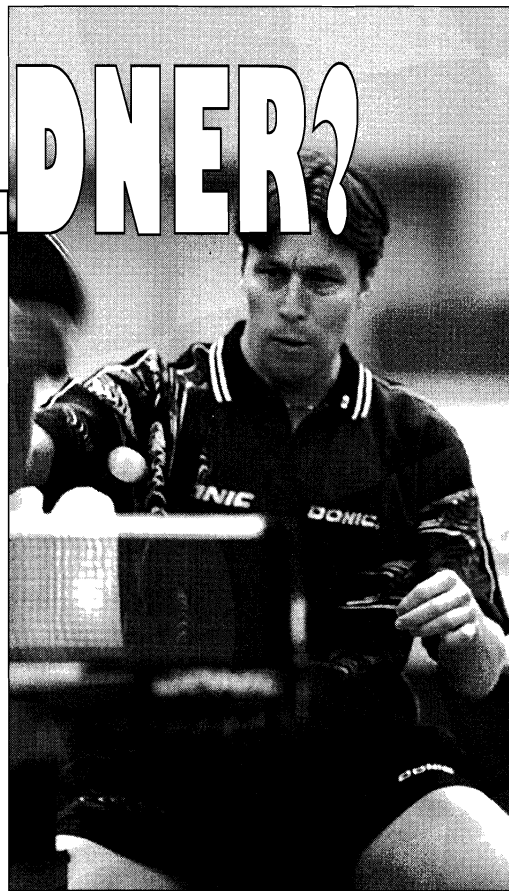
Other sundry items: **Brian Halliday** had published a well crafted piece on **Gareth Herbert** in the latest edition of **BlaqSport**, while Rose Rainton sent me 5 pages from The Woodworker on making a table tennis table. I heard in a Radio 4 interview, older son Duncan say about father John Prean, that he came from a long line of Austrian generals!



CHUANG OR WALDNER?

WHO'S THE GREATEST ?
 Well is Brian Halliday right or is he wrong? Page 10 and 11. What do you think? Is Jan Ove Waldner or Chuang Tse Tung the greatest player ever? Or perhaps you think its someone else? Table Tennis News invites you to email us. All you need to do is to type your greatest player of all time in the "Subject" box, and we will count up the results. Email us at: johnwood@macace.co.uk

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POLICE TAKE PREMIER

SALLY BAX (Ellenborough) receives her 'Player of the Weekend' award from the Mayor of Halton, Councillor Chris Loftus

THE POLICE had to come from behind to retain their title as Veterans British League Premier Division champions, writes Jim Beckley.

After the first session in Stoke they trailed Ryelands by two points. But they came out fighting and although they slipped up against Ryelands in the last match of the weekend by then they knew they had done enough to win.

This was a weekend to forget for the Ryelands players who clearly lacked the support of Scottish international Richard Yule. They failed to pick up vital points against Bat & Ball and Bournemouth and with the Police firing on all cylinders the Cheshire based side knew they had the title in the bag well before the end.

Richard Yule's brilliant first session in Stoke put him top of the averages with 90 % closely followed by Keith Williams and John Rankin, both from Police.

A similar thing occurred in the ladies premier division. Millennium ladies trailing Colebridge from the first session, came back to retain their title with a last gasp win over their challengers.

Colebridge without captain Joan Humphrey-Middlemore and No 1 Jan Dunning, nevertheless put up a brave show with stand-in Elaine Short turning in a brilliant 90% average while Linda Simpson nursing a bad knee still managed to achieve 61%.

But give the Belles their due. They played with the same three players throughout and it came off. Sheila King, Helen Shields and Sandra Harper pulled out all the stops with each finishing in the 80% or above. Three whitewashes against Ryelands, Colleens and Worcester Ladies gave

them an unbeatable sets advantage. But no close results in the ladies Division One. HEL Ladies were clear winners finishing six points clear of the nearest rivals Combined Counties with Merseysider Brenda Buoeu finishing with 90%.

Tameside came down from the mens Premier Division last season after finding the going too tough. Well this time they started well leading the first division on sets average and looking comfortable leaders. But they were finally edged out by eventual winners Potters Leisure Resort in a Sunday morning clash.

Ellenborough will move up to the first division next season after a good all round performance from their four players who failed to get into the top five averages but whose all round performances won the day.

Cippenham were the clearest of winners in Division three finishing the tournament with a six point lead from South Essex. With Clive Payne finishing with a creditable 100%.

Batts Bulldogs finished unbeaten and claimed promotion by a clear margin of five points with Fred Lockwood, Neil Brierley and George Reeves all finishing in the high 70/80 % averages.

But if Colebridge ladies failed to clinch the premiership title, their men will be well pleased with their performances in winning Division 5. Again the same three players dominated the weekend with Neil Wheatley, Barry Hunt and Roy Prosser the heroes.

The importance of table tennis was emphasised by the Mayor of Halton Councillor Chris Loftus who said, before handing out the trophies, how important the competition and the publicity it brought to the town was.

But perhaps the loudest applause of the closing ceremonies went to organiser Gill Smith whose diminutive form was half hidden by a big floral display of flowers presented to her by referee Alan Duke on behalf of all the players and officials.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MENS PREMIER							
Police AA	10	8	1	1	47	13	17
Ryelands	10	6	2	2	39	21	14
Bat & Ball	10	4	4	2	33	27	12
BATTS Racquetsport I	10	3	2	5	25	35	8
Bournemouth	10	3	2	5	24	36	8
Fullerians	10	0	1	9	12	48	1
MENS DIVISION 1							
Potters Leisure Resort	10	8	2	0	42	18	18
Tameside	10	8	0	2	39	21	16
Shamrocks	10	5	1	4	31	29	11
Graham Spicer	10	4	1	5	27	33	9
Plymouth Extremes	10	2	1	7	23	37	5
Thompson Insurance	10	0	1	9	18	42	1
MENS DIVISION 2							
Ellenborough	10	5	4	1	36	24	14
St.Marks	10	4	5	1	33	27	13
Merrow	10	3	4	3	33	27	10
OLOP	10	2	5	3	31	29	9
Police AA	10	2	4	4	27	33	8
Jim's Gym Juniors	10	1	4	5	20	40	6
MENS DIVISION 3							
Cippenham	10	8	1	1	43	17	17
South Essex	10	5	1	4	32	28	11
BATTS Racquetsports II	10	3	5	2	30	30	11
Seasiders	10	3	3	4	28	32	9
Annahilt	10	1	4	5	27	33	6
Tokyu World Transport	10	2	2	6	20	40	6
MENS DIVISION 4							
BATTS Bulldogs	10	8	2	0	45	15	18
L B Vets	10	6	1	3	37	23	13
Xystus TTC	10	3	3	4	26	34	9
Lillington Free Church	10	3	2	5	28	32	8
Ashford	10	3	1	6	21	39	7
Scottish Thistles	10	1	3	6	23	37	5
MENS DIVISION 5							
Colebridge BC	10	7	3	0	40	20	17
Jarvis Nomads	10	5	2	3	34	26	12
Bribar Kingfisher	10	4	3	3	31	29	11
East Lancashire	10	2	3	5	26	34	7
Trident Blinds	10	1	5	4	24	36	7
Guildford	10	1	4	5	25	35	6
WOMENS PREMIER							
Millennium Belles	10	9	0	1	53	7	18
Colebridge BC	10	7	2	1	37	23	16
Ryelands	10	4	2	4	30	30	10
Bribar Brambley	10	3	3	4	29	31	9
Colleens	10	3	1	6	21	39	7
Worcester Ladies	10	0	0	10	10	50	0
WOMENS DIVISION 1							
HEL Ladies	10	9	1	0	47	13	19
Combined Counties	10	5	3	2	32	28	13
The 4 J's	10	3	5	2	33	27	11
Ellenborough	10	4	2	4	32	28	10
Billwood	10	1	3	6	18	42	5
Halton & Friends	10	0	2	8	18	42	2

RULE BOOKS

This column has been picking its way through league handbooks to look at the different ways leagues approach problems with the intention of giving food for thought to management committees and AGMs up and down the land. It has looked separately at postponements, walkovers, playing up, start times and points systems. In the process, various other snippets have caught the eye. So as a final round-up, this month's column looks at some novel approaches and idiosyncrasies, writes Ron Fosker.

How, for instance, do you deal with misbehaviour, either administrative or on the table. Most leagues have a fines system, with fines in some cases as little as £1. Table tennis players may not be on footballers' salaries but that must be a fairly limited deterrent – and something of a nightmare to administer. Some leagues prefer to take away points, or suspend or expel miscreants, or act 'as they see fit' as Maidstone has it. Reading threatens to 'suspend privileges'. Sorry, lads, no more Rolls Royces or executive suites.

Some of the misdemeanours are clearly spelt out, suggesting an attempt to stop a repeat of something that embarrassed them in the past. 'The insertion of fictitious results on scorecards' will result in the team being 'severely fined', says Sunderland. Yes, we've all seen those. Similarly Eastbourne will suspend for a year players playing under assumed names.

There are leagues that refuse to allow teams to have Saturday or Sunday as home nights. Others probably don't think it necessary as no one has ever asked. None of the handbooks I looked at included teams playing at the weekend – apart, that is, from Braintree, my own league where one club – mine, as it happens – has been playing on a Sunday for more than 20 years. It would be naive to pretend this has been universally popular but it has been gradually grudgingly accepted. Indeed two other clubs later adopted Sunday as a home night and one year there were more teams playing on a Sunday than any other night.

It started because it was the only way to fit in eight teams on two tables in a venue that had only one evening free during the week. But it

came to be favoured by a number of players, particularly those who commuted to London and were saved the dash back home and late appearance at matches that weekdays involve.

Other snippets worth noting: Eastbourne bans people playing two matches on the same evening
A number of leagues refuse to allow teams to play with one player
Two leagues ban smoking, Stamford asks that the room temperature

should be around 13 degrees C.

West Essex tackles the problem of the strong player from a neighbouring league having a disproportionate effect on the league table by popping in to play a couple of games: 'A player from another league will have their registration cancelled if they have not played three games by 31 January, unless ranked below the three most regular players.'

The length of the rules section

varies, but normally runs to around four pages of the handbook. Reading leaves no stone unturned and occupies 16 tightly printed pages.

Reading's contact list helpfully gives not just the address of the venue, but directions how to get there.

And finally a personal gripe. Numerous rules are infected by estate agent-speak, where you don't buy or sell a house, you purchase or vend a property. Matches invariably commence rather than start, people become persons and things happen 'prior to' rather than 'before'. One league even asks for its teams to be ranked in meritorious order.

So, a meritorious suggestion: Get the blue pencil out.



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Strathclyde M74 J5
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Bolton
Gateshead
Leeds City Centre
Leeds East
Liverpool Albert dock*
Manchester East</p> | <p>Manchester Salford Quays
Middlesbrough
Stockton-on-Tees
Wakefield (Spring 2002)
Washington (Spring 2002)
York Clifton
York East
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WEST MIDLANDS
Birmingham Castle Bromwich
Birmingham NEC
Birmingham North
Birmingham Oldbury M5 J2</p> | <p>Birmingham South
Coventry A45
Lichfield
Stafford South
Stoke on Trent
Warwick M40 J15
SOUTH ENGLAND & WALES
Basildon-Rayleigh
Bath (Winter02)
Braintree - Essex
Bridgend
Bristol City Centre
Bristol North (Spring 02)
Buckhurst Hill - Essex
Canterbury
Cardiff Bay
Chingford - Gt. London
Crawley
Dartford Bridge M25 J1A</p> | <p>Exeter M5 J29
Gloucester South
Luton Airport Winter 2001
Luton - Hemel
Oxford (Summer 02)
Pontypool
Poole
Reading
Southampton West
Swindon West
Taunton M5 J25
LONDON
London City*
London Greenwich*
London Hammersmith*
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London Wimbledon*</p> |
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1st FOR PROGRESS



Left: SALLY CLARK (MARLING) presents an ETTA Mug to the Mayor of Hull Cllr. FRED BEEDLE. Below: Woman of the Weekend GEMMA CHAPMAN



LONDON PROGRESS are Women's British League premier division champions at the first attempt, by winning division 1 Cippenham have bounced back to the premier at the first attempt, Gautby Ladies from the Wirrall, in their first season, are division 2 champs. and long-time members Grove (second team that is!) top div.3. B.A.T.T.S. were nominated "Team of the week end" and Gemma Chapman (Cippenham) "woman of the week end" That provides the bare facts of the week end of 26/12/01 at the Y.P.I. Centre in Kingston-upon-Hull where one of the none playing highlights was that thanks to the cooperation of the centre staff and members of Hull & District T.T.A. the playing hall (both of them) was all set up by 8-30 p.m. on the Friday evening - a time when we are still waiting to gain entry to a number of venues, writes Brian Lamerton.

Bosedo Kaffo, Aparna Narendran and Glenda Ashison carried the flag for Progress throughout both week ends with Kaffo maintaining a 100% record. The only team point dropped by Progress was in completion of the round-robin matches when they were held to a draw by hosts Hull Sandhill with both Joanna Roberts and Sally Clark (Marling) taking Kaffo to a fifth game. In the "crunch" match for the title Narendran got her team off to a flier with a 12-10 fifth game win over Natalie Bawden ranked 22 places above her. Narendran & Kaffo each won both of their sets in this match with Bawden's team mates Georgina Walker and Louise Durrant winning one apiece to complete a 4-2 scoreline. Durrant with 7 wins from 8 starts finished second in the individual averages.

In the top division 1 match champions Cippenham took the lead three times against Eagle Printers only to be pegged back on each occasion to produce a 3-sets-all draw as a final score. Eagle had

Pictured above left are LONDON PROGRESS: APARNA NARENDRAN, GLENDA ASHISON, and BOSEDE KAFFO, being presented with their Premier Champions trophy by Kevin Johnson and Richard Hudson of Hull & District TTA

2001/2002 FINAL TABLES							
PREMIER Top Half	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
London Progress	3	3	0	0	12	6	6
Grove I	3	2	0	1	11	7	4
Suvi Sportswear I	3	0	1	2	7	11	1
Hull Sandhill I	3	0	1	2	6	12	1
PREMIER Bottom Half							
Horsham Ladies	3	2	1	0	12	6	5
Leeds Ladies	3	2	0	1	10	8	4
Irish Ladies	3	0	2	1	8	10	2
Hollington	3	0	1	2	6	12	1
FIRST DIVISION							
Cippenham I	10	7	3	0	41	19	17
Eagle Printers	10	6	2	2	36	24	14
Halton I	10	5	1	4	34	26	11
SEH Windows & Doors	10	4	2	4	30	30	10
Pinewood Fullarians	10	3	2	5	30	30	8
Norton Ladies	10	0	0	10	9	51	0
2nd DIVISION Top Half							
Gautby Ladies	2	1	1	0	7	5	3
Darlington I	2	0	2	0	6	6	2
Suvi Sportswear II	2	0	1	1	5	7	1
2nd DIVISION Bottom Half							
Ellenborough	2	2	0	0	8	4	4
East Midland Ladies	2	1	0	1	6	6	2
Ashford	2	0	0	2	4	8	0
3rd DIVISION Top Half							
Grove II	3	2	0	0	15	3	6
Hull Sandhill II	3	1	1	1	7	11	3
B.A.T.T.S.	3	0	2	1	7	11	2
Hilton	3	0	1	2	7	11	1
3rd DIVISION Bottom Half							
Darlington II	3	3	0	0	13	5	6
Byng Hall	3	2	0	1	11	7	4
Norwich Gels	3	1	0	2	7	11	2
Halton II	3	0	0	3	5	13	0

blown their chances when going down 4-2 in their penultimate match with Halton, Halton's Katy Ingham defeating Nikki Kennard 16-14 in the fifth game of the final set. In this latter match Halton's Gemma Lloyd became the only player, over both week ends, to take an end from Marketa Myskova (and promptly lost the next 11 love!). Cippenham's winning team were Gemma Chapman (losing only to Myskova), Claire Plumridge and Rebecca Fisher.

Division 2, already a team short in their 8-team format were further decimated by the late withdrawal of Graham Spicer which meant a disappointing reduced programme for the remainder, many of whose round trips topped 500 miles, although there were a few additional "friendly" matches played. Karen Lockwood was the star of winners Gautby Ladies with a 100% return throughout including a vital brace in each of the final play off matches, a 3-sets-all draw with Darlington 1, and a 4-2 success over Suvi Sportswear 2. With the Darlington v Suvi match also drawn this was a very close final grouping. Gautby's squad was completed by Clare Langford, Cherith Graham and Terri-Anne Nolan. It was good to see Norton Ladies Helen Butcher back on the table for the first time in this event since her very serious accident some three and a half years ago.

The Grove 2 trio of Heather Shutt, Naomi Owen and Kelly Sibley carried all before them in division 3 dropping but 4 sets the whole week end (2 of them to Hilton's Annabelle Sorrentino).

Popular umpire George Turton was the recipient of the Solihull Trophy.

The Lord Mayor of the City of Kingston-upon-Hull, Councillor Fred Beedle was present at the opening ceremony and presentation duties were shared by Richard Hudson (Chairman Hull & Dist. T.T.A.) and Kevin Johnson (Vice President and benefactor to the Association).

BRITISH LEAGUE

MARCH of PROGRESS LONDON PROGRESS's relentless march towards their fourth successive British League Premier division title continues and they now have a perfect record of 18 points out of 18, writes Steve Kerns.

However after being pushed to beat second-to-bottom placed JAGS 8-6 they won't allow complacency to set in. JAGS put up a magnificent showing and actually led 6-5 in a match where no single player remained undefeated. There were shocks galore with former Lithuanian international Lorestas Trumpauskas avenging an opening 0-3 defeat against Jason Sugrue by sensationally getting the better of Marco Essomba 11-8 in the fifth end (only Essomba's second defeat). Trumpauskas went on to beat County colleague Cris Sladden 3-1. Sugrue was a shock 3-1 victim of Abdul Wuraola whilst Sladden was also beaten 3-1 by an inspired Clive Carthy who had previously defeated highly impressive newcomer Tomek Gretscheil 12-10 in the decider. With the pressure mounting Progress produced a finish worthy of the "Champions-elect" as Essomba despatched Carthy (7,7,9), Gretscheil (who had been unbeaten in the division One South weekend in December) saw off Wuraola (8,8,7) and Sugrue completed the job by beating Selwyn Campbell (13,8,9).

BATTS Team Peniel trail Progress by six points but made it 6 wins out of 9 after beating Byng Hall Farningham Print I, 9-5 and then proceeding to get the better of a slightly under strength Wellow House School very convincingly 12-2. John Holland was unbeaten in both matches whilst Chris Jamieson excelled against Wellow House by also staying undefeated. Wellow House reserve Jason Ramage was desperately unlucky to lose 14-12 in the decider against Joe Kennedy whilst Andy Wignall scored a fine victory at 12-10 in the decider over Peniel's no. 1 Neil Charles.

Byng Hall will be relieved that JAGS did lose to Progress as they haven't won since week three of the season when

they beat JAGS 8-6. They were no match for Darlington succumbing 11-3 with Darlington reserve Louis Rosenthal taking his three singles. Rosenthal beat both Phil Cox (3-0) and John Huckle (3-1) and completed an excellent day's work with a superb 11-9 in the fifth victory over Adrian Moore.

JAGS had in the previous round of matches scored a fine 8-6 win over third-placed Darlington (admittedly without their no. 1 player Fabio Mantegazza) with Lorestas Trumpauskas battling his way through to three hard-fought wins. Lorestas saw off Ritchie Venner 11-4 in the decider and completed the job with a vital 13-11 in the fifth victory over John Hilton. Eddie Smith was by far the best of the Darlington players hammering Clive Carthy (3-0), Selwyn Campbell (3-1) and Abdul Wuraola (3-1). Wuraola in turn made his mark with a 3-0 success against Ritchie Venner.

OLOP who have six points to their name look the other side who could potentially be relegated. They caught Progress on top form and were crushed 13-1. Progress introduced Paralympic "Standing" Champion Taju Agunbiade to the fray and he made the jump from division Two (South) to the Premier Division look easy as he won twice with victories over Abraham Conteh and Rob Pountney. He just missed out against Ben Johnson 11-8 in the decider as Essomba, Sladden and Sugrue were all undefeated.

OLOP's 11-3 defeat against Barnet will give them greater cause for concern as they might have expected better. In fairness they look to have been incredibly unlucky as seven games went to a decider and they lost six of them. Nigel Eckersley put up a fantastic showing against Gergely Urban before losing 13-11 in the fifth end having previously been beaten 3-0 by Linda March. Barnet's Anthony Corbin made his mark by defeating Pountney (3-2) and OLOP reserve Hari Gehlot (3-0) although he missed out against Ben Johnson (2-3). A gallant Hari Gehlot came close to getting on the score sheet in his Premier division debut just missing out 11-7 in the decider against Nicky McKoy.

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PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
London Progress	10	10	-	-	110	30	20
BATTS Peniel	10	7	-	3	82	58	14
Darlington	10	6	-	4	80	60	12
Barnet	10	3	3	4	62	78	9
Wellow House School	10	4	-	6	59	81	8
JAGS	10	3	1	6	60	80	7
OLOP Kingfisher	10	2	2	6	55	85	6
Byng Hall Farningham Print	10	1	2	7	52	88	4
DIVISION ONE NORTH							
Seasiders	8	7	1	-	49	15	15
Derwent	8	6	1	1	43	21	13
Ormesby	8	5	2	1	41	23	12
Norwich Todd Foxwood	8	3	-	5	25	39	6
Darlington II	8	1	3	4	29	35	5
Coventry Pheonix	8	2	1	5	25	39	5
Grantham	8	1	2	5	27	37	4
Kinghurst Bribar	8	2	-	6	17	47	4
DIVISION ONE SOUTH							
London Progress II	8	7	1	-	46	18	15
Cippenham	8	4	2	2	39	25	10
Horsham	8	3	3	2	36	28	9
DML Plymouth	8	3	3	2	34	30	9
EBS-Orange Northampton	8	2	4	2	30	34	8
Barnett II	8	2	3	3	28	36	7
Ellenborough	8	2	1	5	26	38	5
PSP Westinsure	8	-	1	7	17	47	1
DIVISION TWO NORTH							
Dewsbury	8	6	1	1	42	22	13
Potteries	8	5	1	2	41	23	11
Halton Croda	8	5	1	2	38	26	11
Derwent II	8	4	1	3	35	29	9
Wellow House School II	8	4	1	3	33	31	9
Darlington III	8	3	0	5	21	43	6
Uxbridge Burton	8	2	1	5	32	32	5
City of Manchester	8	-	-	8	14	50	-
DIVISION TWO SOUTH							
London Progress III	8	7	1	-	47	17	15
Fellows Cranleigh	8	6	1	1	43	21	13
Fellows C.	8	6	-	2	38	26	12
Byng Hall Farningham II	8	5	-	3	37	27	10
Horsham II	8	1	2	5	28	36	4
Hastings	8	1	2	5	20	44	4
Ashford	8	1	1	6	23	41	3
KCD Stiga	8	1	1	6	20	44	3
DIVISION THREE NORTH							
Oakbank	8	6	1	1	49	15	13
Clarks Wakefield	8	6	-	2	44	20	12
Kendal Open Club	8	5	1	2	41	23	11
Seasiders II	8	4	1	3	36	28	9
Darlington IV	8	2	2	4	20	44	6
Barrow	8	2	1	5	24	40	5
Dewsbury II	8	1	3	4	22	42	5
Grove II	8	1	1	6	20	44	3
DIVISION THREE MIDLANDS							
Grove	8	6	1	1	45	19	13
Elgre	8	5	2	1	39	25	12
Birmingham University	8	5	-	3	39	25	10
Bedford Modern	8	4	2	2	36	28	10
Rotherham Scorpions	8	2	3	3	28	36	7
Halton NT Cars	8	3	1	4	25	39	7
Woodfield	8	1	1	6	24	40	3
Kinghurst Bribar II	8	1	0	7	20	44	2
DIVISION THREE SOUTH							
Oxford Fireplace Centre	8	8	0	0	49	15	16
Cippenham II	8	6	0	2	43	21	12
Horsham III	8	6	0	2	41	23	12
London Progress IV	8	4	0	4	32	31	8
Byng Hall Farningham III	8	3	0	5	26	38	6
BATTS Team Peniel II	8	3	0	5	23	41	6
Britannia Hanbury Ipswich	8	2	0	6	25	39	4
York Gardens	8	0	0	8	16	48	0
DIVISION THREE SOUTH & WEST							
Guildford	8	8	0	0	53	11	16
EBS-Orange North'pton II	8	6	0	2	44	20	12
London Progress V	8	3	2	3	33	31	8
OLOP Kingfisher II	8	3	1	4	27	37	7
PSB Westinsure II	8	2	3	3	26	38	7
KCD Stiga II	8	2	2	4	26	38	6
JAGS II	8	2	1	5	28	36	5
Ashford II	8	1	1	6	19	45	3

CHESHIRE & SURREY WIN NEW CADET DIVISIONS

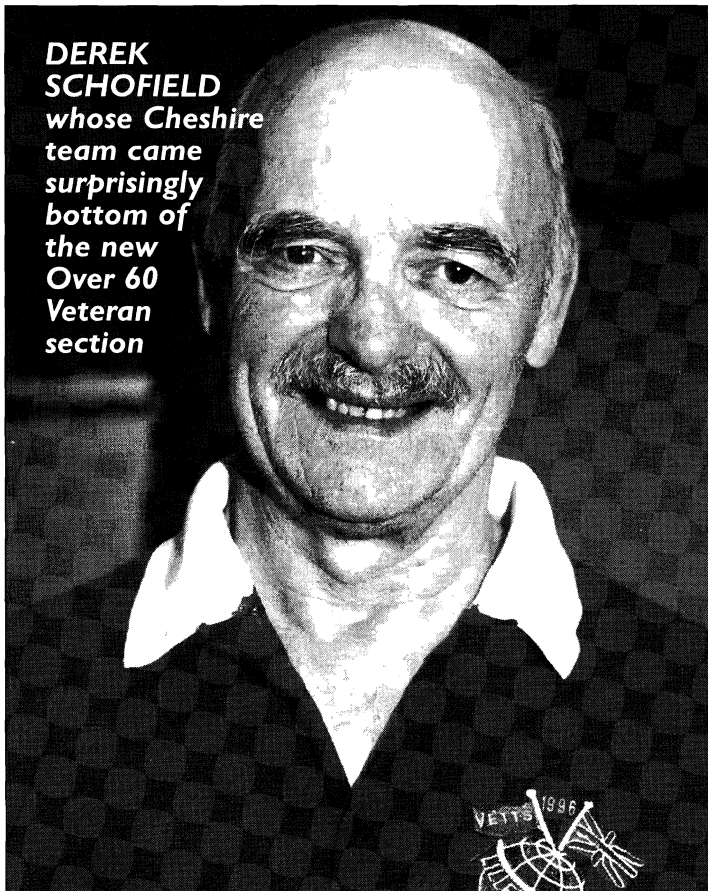
THE Cadet North Division and the Over 60 Veterans Division, the new sections introduced to the Championships this season, have now completed their fixtures, writes Stan Clarke.

The Cadet division North comprising five teams played their matches at the Halifax Table Tennis Centre in December. Cheshire emerged worthy champions having won all of their matches. They started at 9.30am facing Cleveland winning 6/4 then at 11.30am their opponents were Yorkshire, the 7/3 result in favour of Cheshire may seem to indicate an easy match but three sets needed five games and four needed four games to produce a winner. The third round of matches at 13.45pm paired Cheshire with Durham, which produced what was apparently an easier match with six of the sets requiring only three games before a final result of 7/3 for Cheshire, their final match was against neighbours Lancashire who fought back bravely from 2/0 down to level the match 4/4, then Haley Parker beat Jessica Hall 8,-10, 6, 7, leaving Alistair Lindley to face Richard Barker in the final set of the day, needing to win to force a draw. Alistair, who in his first set had -7, 6, 8, -11, -9, to Matthew Langford, found himself losing the first two games against Richard -2,-3 staged a great fight back to level the set taking the next two games 7,10, but in the final game Richard just held on to win the set 12/10, giving Cheshire a 6/4 victory. So congratulations to Jonathon Taylor, Richard Barker, Matthew Langford, Andrew Davies, Elizabeth Dennett, Haley Barker and Sophie Byron, as the winners of the North division they will be invited to play off against Surrey, winners of the South division, to produce an overall champion, the match will be played at Grantham during the Premier division weekend. Player of the weekend in the North division must be Adam Bleakley of Lancashire who won all of his eight sets with only David Meads of Durham taking a game from him.

ESSEX WIN OVER 60 VETERANS

The last of the new sections to play was the Over 60 Veterans who played

DEREK SCHOFIELD whose Cheshire team came surprisingly bottom of the new Over 60 Veteran section



over the weekend of 5th/6th January at the Woodgreen Centre, Wednesbury, ably organised by Ray Dixon. The Essex team of Fred Lockwood, Ray Murray, Peter Ballard and Shirley Carroll proved too strong for the remainder, winning all of their matches, only Middlesex pushing them close before going down 5/4.

I must say that I found Cheshire in bottom place rather surprising, with Derek Schofield, Terry Donlan, Vince Hankey and Doreen Schofield they seem to be a formidable side but apparently their opponents did not agree and they failed to win a match. Win of the weekend for me was the defeat of Doreen Schofield by Sylvia Tyler, Sylvia, two games to one down took the final two games 8, 8, for a very good victory.

It is a shame that there were not more entries for this section, perhaps not enough players are prepared to admit they have reached the big 60, but there are plenty of us out there, so how about a big effort next season to increase the

participation level.

SENIOR DIVISION 1B

What a strange division, two Counties have completed all of their seven fixtures, two have played five, two have played four and two have only played two. Middlesex, who have completed their fixtures are in top spot, but I will be very surprised if they stay there for very long despite the fact that they have eight points, in fact I will be surprised if they finish in the top four. Gloucestershire are just one point behind with three matches still to play as are Wiltshire with two still to play, but in my opinion the dark horses are Glamorgan, who have played only two matches winning both, but more importantly are averaging eight sets per match, that is a tremendous return bettered only by Lancashire in division 1A. So don't be surprised if they are knocking on the promotion door come the end of the season.

At the other end of the Division Hampshire must do no worse than pick up ten sets from their remaining three matches to avoid finishing in bottom spot but I think that both Hampshire and Cornwall will be competing in the second division next season. Good to see Natasha Lake, nee Williams taking part in the County Championships again after all her trials and tribulations and apparently playing as well as ever, next time you see her ask her about the toothpaste on the door handle of my car.

SENIOR DIVISION 2C

With only five Counties contesting this division Cambridgeshire have ensured promotion with three wins and a draw amassing seven points, Suffolk are runners-up with five points. Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire finished on level points, level on sets difference but Lincolnshire finished in third place having won 74 games and lost 77 compared to 72 for 80 against for Northamptonshire. Norfolk took the wooden spoon having failed to gain a single point and winning only eight sets from a potential forty.

JUNIOR DIVISION 1B

With only three matches still to be played the top places are still up for grabs. Sussex and Kent are level on points, separated by only three sets, in first and second places respectively with Buckinghamshire 2nd ready to pounce should the top two slip up in their final matches. Dorset and Berkshire have completed their matches and are relegated. Berkshire didn't help their situation when they played Middlesex with one boy short, then they played their two other boys at 2/3 leaving the number one place as the missing player, I have to say that I am amazed they were allowed to get away with a stroke like that by the match referee, however as the two remaining boys failed to win a set the match result was unaffected

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS LEAGUE TABLES

Tables up to 9th February 2002 - Compiled by Leslie Smith

SENIORS

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

DIVISION 1A

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

DIVISION 1B

Glamorgan	4	4	0	0	29	11	8
Middlesex 2nd	7	4	0	3	42	28	8
Gloucestershire	4	3	1	0	28	12	7
Wiltshire	7	3	1	3	35	35	7
Hertfordshire	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Berkshire	7	3	0	4	35	35	6
Cornwall	7	0	1	6	18	52	1
Hampshire	4	0	1	3	9	31	1

DIVISION 2A

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

DIVISION 2B

Glamorgan 2nd	6	5	1	0	44	16	11
Devonshire 2nd	5	3	2	0	38	12	8
Worcestershire 2nd	6	4	0	2	31	29	8
Somerset	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Cornwall 2nd	4	1	0	3	15	25	2
Avon	4	1	0	3	12	28	2
Herefordshire	5	0	0	5	12	38	0

DIVISION 2C

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

Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire 2nd have withdrawn

DIVISION 2D

Kent 2nd	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Buckinghamshire	3	2	1	0	21	9	5
Sussex 2nd	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Isle of Wight	5	1	3	1	27	23	5
Surrey 2nd	3	0	1	2	10	20	1
Oxfordshire	2	0	0	2	5	15	0
Berkshire 2nd	3	0	0	3	4	26	0

JUNIORS

PREMIER DIVISION

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

DIVISION 1A

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

DIVISION 1B

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

DIVISION 2A

Derbyshire	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

Surrey 2nd	4	3	1	0	27	13	7
Essex 2nd	4	2	2	0	27	13	6
Hampshire	4	2	2	0	26	14	6
Kent 2nd	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Oxfordshire	4	1	2	1	20	20	4
Middlesex 2nd	4	0	2	2	14	26	2
Avon	4	0	1	3	11	29	1
Surrey 3rd	4	0	0	4	10	30	0

DIVISION 3A

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

DIVISION 3B

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

DIVISION 3C

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

DIVISION 3D

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

CADETS

NORTHERN DIVISION

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

SOUTHERN DIVISION

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

VETERANS

PREMIER	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Cheshire	3	3	0	19	8	6(64-60)
Surrey	3	3	0	19	8	6(68-45)
Kent	3	2	1	15	12	4
Yorkshire	3	1	2	14	13	2
Lancashire	3	1	2	13	14	2
Essex	3	1	2	12	15	2
Sussex	3	1	2	10	17	2
Dorset	3	0	3	6	21	0

DIVISION 1A

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

Middlesex	5	4	1	29	16	8
Kent 2nd	5	4	1	28	17	8 (105-72)
Hampshire	5	4	1	28	17	

JUNGLE FORMULA SUCCESS

WITH spring and summer approaching, this following article by the 'Jungle Formula' company, could be of interest to players preparing to play tournaments abroad, and those going overseas on holiday.

Jungle Formula has obtained exclusive endorsement for their insect repellent range from the

Hospital for Tropical Diseases and has also joined forces with the Foreign Office to promote better travel preparation for people going abroad.

APPROVAL

The Hospital for Tropical Diseases has given Jungle Formula's range of products their stamp of approval, with a major focus on the Extra

Strength' part of the range for usage in high risk tropical areas.

We need to educate travellers that it is pure myth that some people get bitten and some don't. We ALL get BITTEN but some people do not show a reaction to bites. Remember it only takes one bite to contract a disease. Safe travel involves a dual protection programme: the correct

anti-malarial medication along with the use of an effective DEET based insect repellent such as Jungle Formula Extra Strength Pump Spray.

In addition, insect resistance to some anti-malarial medication is increasing, which combined with the fact that no anti-malarial offers 100% protection, means that first line of defence is to avoid being bitten. Therefore, the use of an effective DEET based insect repellent cannot be emphasised enough.

We strongly recommend that if travelling to a high-risk area, travellers should consult their GP, or indeed the Hospital for Tropical Diseases Travel Clinic at least 8 weeks prior to departure. This way they can obtain the most effective, preventative anti-malarial for the country they plan to visit.

THE JUNGLE FORMULA RANGE

Jungle Formula is a strong, effective range of insect repellents that offers protection against, mosquitoes, midges and other flying, biting insects. The range covers all specific needs related to insect protection: - short and long haul travel, wasp repellent and after bite care.

In response to travellers travelling to more high risk malaria areas Jungle Formula has extended its Extra Strength Range for 2001.

- **EXTRA STRENGTH** - Jungle Formula's Extra Strength range is approved by the Hospital for Tropical Diseases for travellers visiting tropical areas with a high risk of Malaria and other insect transmitted diseases, such as West Africa, Asia, India and South America. The range consists of Jungle Formula's Extra Strength Liquid and the NEW Jungle Formula Extra Strength Pump Spray and both contain 50% DEET offering up to 10 hours protection.

- **STANDARD** - This part of the range includes a Roll-on, Spray, Lotion and Gel and is approved by the Hospital for Tropical Diseases for travellers visiting non-tropical areas with a low risk of Malaria and other insect transmitted diseases. (For full Jungle Formula details please see attached product information sheet).

- **OTHER PRODUCTS** - The range also offers a Wasp Repellent Spray and Bite and Sting Relief Spray.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Check out the FCO web site: (www.fco.gov.uk/knowbeforeyougo), British travellers can find out in a flash how best to avoid trouble. Packed with essential travel advice and tips, the web site offers a wealth of country specific information that only the FCO can provide. With such advice so close, make sure you check it out before you go so far.

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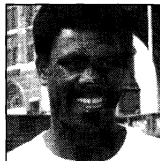
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ETTA NATIONAL RANKING LIST

TOP OF THE TABLE

7th FEBRUARY 2002 - List 96

Further details please ring Doreen Nightingale 01424 722525

Senior Men

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 SYED, Matthew (SY.)	4836*	
(2)	2 HERBERT, Gareth (BK.)	4668	
(3)	3 PERRY, Alex (DV.)	4634*	
(4)	4 COOKE, Alan (DY.)	4628	
(5)	5 BAGGLEY, Andrew (BU.)	4571*	
(6)	6 PREAM, Carl (IW.)	4550	
(7)	7 YOUNG, Terry (BK.)	4510	
(8)	8 RUSHTON, Andrew (LA.)	4431	
(9)	9 BILLINGTON, Bradley (DL.)	4428*	
(10)	10 EDEN, Andrew (LA.)	4123****	
(11)	11 BARRHAM, Dale (CA.)	4019	
(12)	12 SUGRUE, Jason (MI.)	3950	
(13)	13 KENNY, Mathew (Y.)	3950	
(14)	14 ISHERWOOD, Michael (DY.)	3930****	
(15)	15 HOLLAND, John(Dy) (E.)	3868	
(16)	16 SLADEN, Kris (E.)	3801	
(17)	17 GOODALL, Justin (K.)	3684	
(18)	18 VENNEN, Ritchie (SX.)	3678	
(19)	19 JAMES, Michael (Y.)	3659*	
(20)	20 TAYLOR, Jonathan (LA.)	3604	
(21)	21 CHAN, Michael (SY.)	3602*	
(22)	22 CHARLES, Neil (MI.)	3566	
(23)	23 WURAOA, Abdul (ST.)	3566	
(24)	24 MOORE, Adrian (K.)	3555	
(25)	25 BROWN, Mark (K.)	3541	
(26)	26 ROGERS, Chris (LE.)	3539	
(27)	27 BARR, David (BK.)	3529	
(28)	28 CARTHY, Clive (CA.)	3521	
(29)	29 SMITH, Eddie (ND.)	3515	
(30)	30 CUTLER, Tom (MI.)	3495**	
(31)	31 HILTON, John (CH.)	3493	
(32)	32 ECKERSLEY, Nigel (SX.)	3482	
(33)	33 SMITH, Mark Richard (Y.)	3455	
(34)	34 DOLDER, Kevin (LA.)	3452	
(35)	35 WHITING, Paul (DV.)	3439	
(36)	36 NEIL, Lee (NG.)	3436	
(37)	37 KENNEDY, Joe (K.) (E.)	3433	
(38)	38 SLATER, Stephen (ST.)	3426**	
(39)	39 JOHNS, Brian (CH.)	3398	
(40)	40 WILKINSON, Andrew (ND.)	3383	
(41)	41 PAPANTONIOU, Costas (MI.)	3382	
(42)	42 HUTCHINGS, Paul (LA.)	3373	
(43)	43 BRIANT, Craig (DV.)	3368	
(44)	44 CUNNINGHAM, Andy (K.)	3367	
(45)	45 BAKER, Gregory (ST.)	3348	
(46)	46 HALL, Dominic (K.)	3341	
(47)	47 ATKINSON, David (CA.)	3315*	
(48)	48 POUNTNEY, Robert (SY.)	3311	
(49)	49 GIBSON, Sean (E.)	3299**	
(50)	50 GRIFFIN, Darren (GS.)	3297	
(51)	51 ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3293	
(52)	52 DRINKHALL, Bryn (CY.)	3290*	
(53)	53 RANKIN, John (LA.)	3286	
(54)	54 HORNER, Daniel (CH.)	3278**	
(55)	55 JOHNSON, Ben (BK.)	3272	
(56)	56 MCKOY, Nick (MI.)	3259	
(57)	57 BARATY, Eli (MI.)	3253	
(58)	58 YULE, Richard (SX.)	3232**	
(59)	59 CLAYTON, Tony (DO.)	3229	
(60)	60 BRIDGETT, Gregory (DV.)	3224	
(61)	61 GREEN, Mark (NG.)	3223	
(62)	62 CAMPBELL, Selwyn (SY.)	3220	
(63)	63 TENDLER, Gary (E.)	3218	
(64)	64 GANNON, David (LE.)	3216	
(65)	65 JONAH, Jerome (K.)	3215*	
(66)	66 SHORT, Mark (YS.)	3203**	
(67)	67 WILLIAMS, Keith (LA.)	3202	
(68)	68 PAYNE, Phil (SO.)	3197	
(69)	69 WIGNALL, Andy (LI.)	3169	
(70)	70 BOGEN, Yaacov (MI.)	3168	
(71)	71 CORBIN, Anthony (HE.)	3161	
(72)	72 HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3153	
(73)	73 MARDEN, Michael (DU.)	3151	
(74)	74 GELDER, Tony (DU.)	3149	
(75)	75 COX, Philip (K.)	3148	
(76)	76 HORSFIELD, Andrew (YS.) (Y.)	3147	
(77)	77 WALSH, Jimmy (HE.)	3146	
(78)	78 WELSMAN, Dave (NP.)	3136	
(79)	79 GIRDLER, Ian (E.)	3134	
(80)	80 ADAMS, Martin (BK.)	3132	
(81)	81 GODDOLD, David (DU.)	3126**	
(82)	82 BARTRAM, Peter (SX.)	3122	
(83)	83 JAMIESON, Christopher (E.)	3117	
(84)	84 CICCHELLI, Paul (SK.)	3093	
(85)	85 BAILEY, Steven (CY.)	3086	
(86)	86 WHITEMAN, James (DV.)	3085	
(87)	87 SMITH, Richard A (Y.)	3080	

(97)	88 WALKER, Andy (SX.)	3076*	
(98)	89 HARDING, David (SY.)	3075	
(99)	90 ROMANO, Mark (K.)	3066	
(100)	91 ROOFE, Eddie (WI.)	3066	
(101)	92 JAMES, Simon (Y.)	3061*	
(102)	93 BUTLER, Mark (DO.)	3039	
(103)	94 GASCOYNE, Craig (NG.)	3039*	
(104)	95 BREWER, Adam (NK.)	3029**	
(105)	96 ROCKALL, Simon (BU.)	3016*****	
(106)	97 BREWER, Chris (NK.)	3015	
(107)	98 DENNISON, John (E.)	3008	
(108)	99 MAJITHIA, Mayur (SX.)	3002*	
(109)	100 READ, Mark (WA.)	3002**	

Senior Women

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 DEATON, Nicola (DY.)	4033	
(2)	2 LOCKWOOD, Helen (ST.)	3924	
(3)	3 MARCH, Linda (E.)	3715	
(4)	4 PARKER, Katy (LA.)	3693	
(5)	5 OWOLABI, Kubrat (MI.)	3667****	
(6)	6 STEWARD, Kate (SO.)	3634	
(7)	7 BAWDEN, Natalie (E.)	3536	
(8)	8 WALKER, Georgina (NG.)	3533	
(9)	9 DURRANT, Louise (NG.)	3443	
(10)	10 MARLING, Sally (Y.)	3438	
(11)	11 PARKER, Joanna (SY.)	3438	
(12)	12 SMITH, Karen (LE.)	3339	
(13)	13 EMBLING, Abigail (E.)	3324**	
(14)	14 HARRIS, Jill (ST.)	3220	
(15)	15 NARENDRA, Aparna (MI.)	3202	
(16)	16 SPARKES, Rebecca (SK.)	3199***	
(17)	17 LOCKWOOD, Karen (CH.)	3160	
(18)	18 WESTON, Sally (SX.)	3160	
(19)	19 ROBERTS, Joanna (Y.)	3154	
(20)	20 HOWARD, Alice (CH.)	3146	
(21)	21 THORNTON, Lindsey (LA.)	3141*	
(22)	22 YARDY, Hannah (E.)	3138****	
(23)	23 RAINTON, Rosemary (SX.)	3137	
(24)	24 DUNNING, Jan (WO.)	3135*	
(25)	25 KEAST, Lesley (LI.)	31021	
(26)	26 BLOOR, Trudie (SP.)	3098	
(27)	27 COHEN, Michele (AV.)	3095	
(28)	28 SPINK, Lauren (NK.)	3093	
(29)	29 ASHISON, Glenda (SY.)	3089	
(30)	30 SIBLEY, Kelly (WA.)	3063	
(31)	31 SHORT, Elaine (DV.)	3062	
(32)	32 NEWNS, Clare (CH.)	3060	
(33)	33 WHITE, Nicola (Y.)	3057	
(34)	34 HARPER, Sandra (BD.)	3056	
(35)	35 CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.)	3050	
(36)	36 BONGERS, Jose (ST.)	3017	
(37)	37 SMITH, Sarah (NG.)	3012	
(38)	38 SMITH, Angela (MI.)	2995*	
(39)	39 BUOY, Brenda (LA.)	2991	
(40)	40 DURHAM, Jane (CY.)	2988	
(41)	41 SHIELDS, Helen (Y.)	2976	
(42)	42 DAVISON, Sarah (SK.) (E.)	2954	
(43)	43 MORLEY, Judy (GS.)	2947	
(44)	44 SILBURN, Nicola (Y.)	2935	
(45)	45 LLOYD, Gemma (CA.)	2924	
(46)	46 MALTBY, Margaret (NP.)	2923	
(47)	47 BALDI, Andrea (YS.) (Y.)	2920**	
(48)	48 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)	2917	
(49)	49 MARLING, Samantha (MI.)	2913	
(50)	50 KING, Sheila (SX.)	2904	
(51)	51 BAWDEN, Marilyn (E.)	2899	
(52)	52 INGHAM, Katy (CH.)	2892	
(53)	53 PEARCE, Diane (K.)	2879	
(54)	54 SIMPSON, Linda (Y.)	2867	
(55)	55 FISHER, Rebecca (MI.)	2867	
(56)	56 ROBISON, Suzanne (GS.)	2866	
(57)	57 PERRY, Penny (DV.)	2863	
(58)	58 BENNETT, Teresa (SX.)	2840****	
(59)	59 PERRY, Lucy (DV.)	2838*	
(60)	60 WANG, Lucy (E.)	2829*	
(61)	61 BURGESS, Suzanne (CH.)	2819	
(62)	62 RIDER, Sandra (Y.)	2818	
(63)	63 DIGNUM, Margaret (WO.)	2811	
(64)	64 SORRENTINO, Annabella (CH.)	2811	
(65)	65 SCHOFIELD, Doreen (CH.)	2807	
(66)	66 HARRISON, Jennifer (E.)	2807	
(67)	67 PESTRA, Debbie (NG.)	2796**	
(68)	68 KNIGHTLEY, Gillian (BK.)	2789	
(69)	69 COGOGN, Sara (SX.)	2777	
(70)	70 GELDER, Shirley (DU.)	2767	
(71)	71 GARLICK, Helen (K.)	2760	
(72)	72 MUDGE, Kim (E.)	2740**	
(73)	73 BRISTOW, Angie (K.)	2742*	

(86)	74 SHALER, Eileen (LE.)	2740	
(87)	75 JUDSON, Carol (Y.)	2735	
(88)	76 WILSON, Naomi (SO.)	2734	
(89)	77 LEHMANN, Bettina (LE.)	2723*	
(90)	78 DAWSON, Marjorie (E.)	2723***	
(91)	79 YAJDI, Carmen (SY.)	2721	
(92)	80 HORSNELL, Sarah (MI.)	2714	
(93)	81 SAVER, Elaine (E.)	2711**	
(94)	82 SEAHOLME, Sarah (HE.)	2710	
(95)	83 MAY, Elizabeth (DV.)	2699	
(96)	84 BENTLEY, Ruth (NG.)	2690	
(97)	85 SPARKES, Aimee (SK.)	2690	
(98)	86 BROWN, Janet (OX.)	2687	
(99)	87 HALES, Linda (DO.)	2680	
(100)	88 FLOWERDAY, Anne (E.)	2680	
(101)	89 VICKERS, Jane (DY.)	2677**	
(102)	90 GRAHAM, Sylvia (LA.)	2676***	
(103)	91 TODD, Nicole (E.)	2675	
(104)	92 SEYMOUR, Tamar (OX.)	2674	
(105)	93 DEARING, Emily (Y.)	2664	
(106)	94 H-MIDDLEMORE, Joan (WA.)	2661*	
(107)	95 WRIGHT, Amy (E.)	2656	
(108)	96 POINTER, Lucy (IW.)	2645	
(109)	97 REID, Lynda (WO.)	2643	
(110)	98 WHITE, Jean (LI.)	2639	
(111)	99 JOHNSON, Susan (BK.)	2633	
(112)	100 HICKMAN, Susan (E.)	2628	

Junior Boys

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 BARHAM, Dale (CA.)	4019	
(2)	2 KENNY, Mathew (Y.)	3950	
(3)	3 BRYANT, Craig (DV.)	3368	
(4)	4 BAKER, Gregory (ST.)	3348	
(5)	5 HALL, Dominic (K.)	3341	
(6)	6 ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3293	
(7)	7 DRINKHALL, Bryn (CY.)	3290*	
(8)	8 HORNER, Daniel (CH.)	3278**	
(9)	9 YARNALL, Tim (NP.)	2996	
(10)	10 BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA.)	2858*	
(11)	11 DENNY, Stephen (Y.)	2817	
(12)	12 CLEMINSON, Peter (E.)	2814	
(13)	13 NOUTH, Simon (Y.)	2742	
(14)	14 BOGEN, Niv (MI.)	2654	
(15)	15 CLARKE, Martyn (CY.)	2628	
(16)	16 DRINKHALL, Paul (CY.)	2578**	
(17)	17 MARPLES, Shaun (DY.)	2496	
(18)	18 GREEN, Alex (LI.)	2489	
(19)	19 GREGORY, Christopher (SP.)	2487	
(20)	20 KNIGHT, Darius (SY.)	2464	
(21)	21 MAUTHOR, Umair (E.)	2364****	
(22)	22 EVANS, Bradley (BU.) (NG.)	2354	
(23)	23 YARNALL, Greg (NP.)	2302	
(24)	24 CARTWRIGHT, Neil (DO.)	2274	
(25)	25 PEEBLES, Robin (LA.)	2224**	
(26)	26 BROOKS, Warren (BU.)	2056	
(27)	27 WYNN-SANDS, Dominic (GS.)	2040	
(28)	28 LALLY, Keiran (E.)	2017	
(29)	29 MOSS, Richard (Y.)	1964	
(30)	30 WILSON, Kevin (ND.)	1940	
(31)	31 POWELL, Neil (CH.)	1935	
(32)	32 LEIGHTON, Andrew (DU.)	1917	
(33)	33 CHAMILLER, John (OX.)	1883	
(34)	34 HAYWARD, Gareth (WA.)	1862	
(35)	35 NICHOLLS, Ashley (SP.)	1816	
(36)	36 STAINES, Matthew (E.)	1814	
(37)	37 HARLEY, John (K.)	1809	
(38)	38 SHAHLAEI, Harry (GS.)	1803	
(39)	39 LEMON, Robert (ST.)	1770	
(40)	40 MILTON, James (BU.)	1763	
(41)	41 ROGERSON, Shaun (LI.)	1758	
(42)	42 BROWN, Christopher (DV.)	1748	
(43)	43 BRADFORD, Leigh (WA.)	1745	
(44)	44 REES, Daniel (E.)	1738	
(45)	45 SHUTES, William (NK.)	1721**	
(46)	46 MOORE, Paul (SY.)	1672***	
(47)	47 HAYES, David (BU.)	1653	
(48)	48 PAGE, Tom (CH.)	1630	
(49)	49 MORAN, Edward (SP.)	1609***	
(50)	50 GIBBS, Shaun (DV.)	1605	

Junior Girls

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 PARKER, Katy (LA.)	3693	
(2)	2 STEWARD, Kate (SO.)	3634	
(3)	3 BAWDEN, Natalie (E.)	3536	
(4)	4 WALKER, Georgina (NG.)	3533	
(5)	5 PARKER, Joanna (SY.)	3438	
(6)	6 EMBLING, Abigail (E.)	3224**	

(8)	7 SPINK, Lauren (NK.)	3093	
(9)	8 SIBLEY, Kelly (WA.)	3063	
(10)	9 WHITE, Nicola (Y.)	3057	
(11)	10 CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.)	3050	
(12)	11 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)	2917	
(13)	12 INGHAM, Katy (CH.)	2892	
(14)	13 WILSON, Naomi (SO.)	2734	
(15)	14 SPARKES, Aimee (SK.)	2690	
(16)	15 WRIGHT, Amy (E.)	2656	
(17)	16 POINTER, Lucy (IW.)	2645	
(18)	17 ROBERTS, Hannah (LA.)	2601	
(19)	18 SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LI.)	2533	
(20)	19 GRAHAM, Cherish (LA.)	2530	
(21)	20 LANGFORD, Clare (CH.)	2501	
(22)	21 BROWN, Sarah (E.)	2460	
(23)	22 CALCUTT, Lisa (BK.)	2410****	
(24)	23 YARNLEY, Gemma (K.)	2362	
(25)	24 BROWN, Grace (E.)	2331	
(26)	25 RADFORD, Kerry (NG.)	2269*	
(27)	26 TONG, Rebecca (LA.)	2250***	
(28)	27 CRAVEN-GRIFFITHS, Kelly (LE.)	2082*	
(29)	28 HOWARD, Clara (CH.)	2052	
(30)	29 YAJDI, Christina (ST.)	2023	
(31)	30 WILSON, Claire (DU.)	2018	
(32)	31 DENNETT, Elizabeth (CH.)	2009	
(33)	32 WEIL, Emma (E.)	1995	
(34)	33 TUCKER, Emily (BU.)	1948	
(35)	34 HUBBARD, Joanne (K.)	1896	
(36)	35 SHUTT, Tanya (Y.)	1845	
(37)	36 SHUTT, Heather (Y.)	1786	
(38)	37 HOLLETT, Gemma (SY.)	1758	
(39)	38 HEARD, Gemma (E.)	1728	
(40)	39		

WORLD JUNIORS

The ITTF Junior Circuit, will for the trial year 2002 consist of 4 open junior tournaments. The winner of the individual events (Junior boys and Junior girls) will be directly qualified for the US \$10,000 ITTF Junior Circuit final December 12-15, 2002 in Stockholm, Sweden.

US TAKES ONE MORE TOUR

USA Table Tennis has signed the contract with the ITTF for another Pro Tour event in 2002 and one more time the US Open will take place at the Convention Centre in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this year 4-7 July.

The US Open last year was a great success. The professional Pro Tour is played alongside the traditional national US Open with participation of hundreds of North American players. They will once more have the opportunity to watch the best in the World - when they are not at the table themselves.

STOP PRESS LESSON FROM WANG

IN Cairo, Egypt, February, 18 years old and only ranked No. 43 in the World Wang Hao (China) for the second day in a row gave a lesson to one of the World top players.

Recently in the semi-finals of the Egyptian Pro Tour in mens singles, the victim was No. 3 in the World Vladimir Samsonov, later it was the Belgian Jean-Michel Saive's turn to face Wang Hao.

Wang again in the final seemed unbeatable and he sent Saive home with a clear 4-0 defeat. The Belgian wasn't even close getting only 7, 6, 2 and 5.

"I never expected this, I am at the Pro Tour events to learn, so winning the Egyptian Open is just great, I don't think I have ever played

better" said Wang Hao.

TWO TITLES FOR LI NAN

First Li Nan took the Egyptian Pro Tour title in womens doubles then after half an hours rest, she did the same in women singles beating Tamara Boros (Croatia) in a spectacular womens match.

Boros had to surrender to a very well playing Li Nan, and this was the first time during the last two years

WORLD TOP TEN							
31st JANUARY 2002							
MEN			WOMEN				
1	(1)	2309 WANG Liqin	CHN	1	(1)	2354 WANG Nan	CHN
2	(3)	2159 MA Lin	CHN	2	(2)	2053 ZHANG Yining	CHN
3	(2)	2108 SAMSONOV Vladimir	BLR	3	(4)	2042 BOROS Tamara	CRO
4	(6)	2041 CHIANG Peng-Lung	TPE	4	(3)	2030 RYU Ji Hye	KOR
5	(9)	2030 WALDNER Jan Ove	SWE	5	(5)	1988 LI Ju	CHN
6	(5)	2012 KONG Linghui	CHN	6	(6)	1935 NIU Jianfeng	CHN
7	(4)	2012 LIU Guozheng	CHN	7	(14)	1922 LI Nan	CHN
8	(10)	1997 SCHLAGER Werner	AUT	8	(6)	1913 STEFF Mihaela	ROM
9	(7)	1978 KIM Taek Soo	KOR	9	(13)	1884 GUO Yan	CHN
10	(14)	1970 BOLL Timo	GER	10	(8)	1883 CHEN Jing	TPE
65	(62)	1452 SYED Matthew	ENG	177(178)1073		DEATON Nicola	ENG
131(133)1155		HERBERT Gareth	ENG	180(175)1065		LOWER Helen	ENG

that Boros lost a Pro Tour final.

The Croatian started out best and had the lead 1-0 and 2-1, but slowly

Li Nan took over blocking better and better and creating long rallies where Boros often made the first mistake.

ALAN COOKE & NICOLA DEATON 2002 SUMMER SCHOOL



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

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



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

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

Evening seminars will include an opportunity to listen to and question all the International Coaches/Players as well as a talk from the England Team Sports Psychologist Mark Bowden 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

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

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

APOLOGY

IN last month's TTN we published a report entitled 'Best of British', stating that Adam Robertson from Wales had beaten the World ranked No.69, Belgium Martin Bratanov, at the Austrian Open ITTF Pro Tour, in fact Robertson lost to him.

The original information came from the ITTF website.

ENGLAND SUCCESS IN SWEDEN

THE SAFIRS INTERNATIONAL 2002, one of Sweden's premier grand prix tournaments, was an ideal event for an England squad, blended with a mix of youth and experience to compete in, writes Bradley Billington.

With 621 competitors from 18 nations, 28 categories and 37 tables it was the largest tournament many of our 11 strong squad had played in.

The opening day saw the mens and womens 'Elite' category. The strength of the competition evident with the first round exit of Swedish international Frederick Hakansson. Both Andrew Rushton and Dale Barham qualified through the groups but were eliminated in round one, as were Katy Parker and Kate Steward in the womens. Nicola Deaton also went out first round as Helen Lower progressed through the first round but lost a close match to Ito from Japan.

That evening, alongside the staged semi finals, a friendly international between Sweden Cadets B team and our young side of Bradley Evans, Paul Drinkhall and Darius Knight was being keenly contested. A resounding 3-0 victory for England was to be the start of a successful weekend for the talented trio.

The boys followed up this performance with some quality play in the individual competition. Bradley reaching the semi finals of the under 13's, Paul winning the under 12's and Darius taking the under 11's title. At times their play was of a very high standard and their quality of shot selection under pressure was a key feature of their matchplay.

Success for Nicola Deaton and Helen Lower in the womens doubles showed that they have the potential to do well in this event at the Commonwealth Games this summer. With semi final and final victories over Japanese opposition, the two performed admirably and as the tournament progressed began to look an accomplished partnership. Dale and Andrew also did well reaching the quarter finals of the mens doubles.

More success came in the girls with Joanna Parker winning the under 14's and reaching the semi final of the under 15's. Kate Steward, Katy Parker and Georgina Walker all played well and reached the quarter finals of the under 17's. Suggesting that the depth



NICOLA DEATON (left) and HELEN LOWER had a magnificent victory in the Womens Doubles beating Japanese opposition in both the semis and the final.

of the junior girls squad this year is strong enough to push for higher places at this years European Youths in Moscow.

Dale competed well in the junior boys until an injury hindered his progress through to the later stages.

They all played in many more categories but these were the highlights from their main events. The development of the three youngsters shows that there is a fantastic base of talent on which to build....and as table tennis enthusiasts we should pull together so that the opportunities for such talent to blossom remain in place.

The tournament itself was a shining example to all involved in the 'real' purpose of tournaments....for players to be playing. 621 players, 28 events, 37 tables...with only the elite on Friday, this left 26 events to be played over two days! No problems whatsoever. Playing numerous events, players (with their own individually printed schedules from the organisers) were on and off playing matches throughout the weekend. The most notable feature was that there was not any 'periods of nothing happening' and free tables with no matches on for long periods.....a sight unfortunately all too familiar at many English tournaments.

The concept of having under 10,11,12,13,14,15,17,20 plus senior



banded events is one which I feel we could adopt in this country. The opportunity for youngsters to play in their own categories alongside top seniors is one which should appeal to the masses of tournament goers. The quality of organising here

shows that it is possible to hold such an event and one which I feel could benefit the future of our competitive structure. We have the organisational and refereeing experience to do it....lets draw upon it.

OBITUARY

ALF PEPPERD

With the recent death of Alf, aged 78, the sport has lost one of its leading South West personalities. His love of table tennis was remarkable, firstly as a player of some repute, but, for the past 47 years, he dedicated himself to promoting the sport, by making regular weekly press and radio reports.

Born in Somerset, he moved to Gloucester on his demob from Naval Service in 1946, to resume the family farming business at Rudford, and of course, to create a thriving club in his farm barn.

Married to Gladys, a staunch ally in all his activities, Alf showed an astonishing determination to "spread the word" on all matters table tennis, that it is unlikely that anyone will surpass his achievements.

At his funeral, the local church and the adjacent school hall were full to overflowing with mourners who came to pay their respects to a person everyone will remember with admiration and affection.

Our sympathies go out to Gladys, sons Richard and Michael and family.
Les Smith

ADMIRAL LORD NELSON

1. Introduction

The club is based at Admiral Lord Nelson School, Dundas Lane, Portsmouth.

2. Club history

The club was formed in September 99 following successful bids for grant aid from various sources which included a grant of £4500.00 from the Award for All scheme. The club was formally opened in February 2000 by Kate Hoey MP Minister for Sport.

The club's formation was initiated by the Portsmouth & District Table Tennis Association as part of its Development plan, with the intention to concentrate on junior player development with the longer term objective of arresting the decline in league competition.

The club gained ETTA Advanced Premier Club status in 2000

3. People

• **Affiliation:** the club is managed by a steering committee headed by the P&DTTA's Chairman Brian Hall. While the Association retains an interest in the club's affairs through appointees to the management committee, the club has become largely independent in its operation and finances.

• Personnel:

Chairman Brian Hall,
V Chairman Paul Wilding
Secretary Tim Currass
Treasurer Roger Winkworth
Membership Secretary Bill Moody
Coaches Level 3 Dave Wiles, Brian Hall, Steve Long, Level 2 Pete Woodacre*, Trevor Head* Tim Currass**, Bill Moody** TTDO
Silver Brian Hall

*Key * at final stages of Level 3 qualification*

*** currently pursuing Level 2 qualification*

• Administration

The Management Committee comprises eight appointees by the P&DTTA, and four junior club members. The balance is likely to change in the future with a proportional reduction in the number of P&DTTA appointees.

The club's operational policies involve an "open to all membership".



Limited coaching is given at Club sessions – with a priority going to beginners. Separate dedicated coaching sessions are organised for intermediate and advanced junior players who come from different schools and originate from within and outside of the City boundary.

The club encourages P&DTTA tournaments to be held at its venue. In partnership with the IA it also organises a range of other activities eg holiday taster sessions, primary school coaching sessions, and inter school tournaments.

• **Marketing:** the club publicises itself through a variety of avenues:-
a) advertisement in the P& DTTA handbook

b) reference in the P&DTTA website
c) contributions to the weekly article in the Portsmouth News

d) holiday and primary school programmes

e) teachers and school clubs both at ALNS and elsewhere

f) word of mouth by club members
g) via the City of Portsmouth Sports Council

h) staging tournaments

• **Partnership:** The links with the P&DTTA, the IA, the ETTA,

Hampshire Playing Fields Association and Admiral Nelson School are strong. Links with other schools are developing with the result that students are being referred to the club for coaching. This process is reflecting the aims of the ETTA's Premier Club structure.

The club operates closely with the Warriors TTC (Disabled Persons) and equipment is shared.

Arrangements also allow the school to use certain equipment for a pre-school table tennis club

1. Places

• **Equipment:** the club has 12 tables, 48 barriers and transporter, but with the sharing arrangements the operational tables number 17.

• **Playing area:** 16m x 30m approx. The playing area has a wood sprung floor. Lighting is fluorescent with a dimming facility. The area can accommodate 17 tables in recreational mode and 8 tables in tournament mode.

• **Facilities:** use of the club facilities is achieved by an annual lettings agreement with the school.

1. Programmes

• Playing programme
Morning, Afternoon, Evening,

Monday
Primary school coaching
Club Matches

Intermediate coaching

Tuesday

Wednesday
Club Session

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

Club Session

Advanced coaching

• **Venue availability:** available throughout the year, with occasional exceptions for school events eg Christmas Festival, Parents evening etc. However, the facility is in great demand and getting additional time slots is difficult.

• **Other activities:** conventional club competitions, pyramid and ladder challenges, visits to English Open.

1. Conclusion

• What makes this club special: the dedication of key members of the club, the growth of membership and interest demonstrated over the last few years; that it has turned an operational deficit into a surplus; that it has used a host of partnership links to evolve into a thriving club; and that junior club members have achieved successes through league performances and competitions eg the Hampshire Junior Championship 2002:-

Winner and Runner Up Under 17 Boys

Winner and Runner Up Under 14 Boys

Winner and Runner Up Under 14 Boys Doubles

Runner Up Doubles Under 17 Boys Doubles

• **Plans for the future:**

a) to extend club sessions and create sub sessions for different categories of player

b) to facilitate player development through more dedicated coaching

c) to attract more girls to participate in the sport

d) to encourage more schools to become involved in the Premier Club scheme.

Strengths: Links with ALNS, P&DTTA, ETTA, and especially the IA
Weaknesses: Limited scope to expand club activities at ALNS. The heavy demand for tables dilutes quality of club sessions

Opportunities: Outreach work to develop interest in other locations

Threats: Manpower resources for coaching and club management could dissipate given constant workload.

The club's operational policies involve an "open to all membership",

The fee structure is as follows:

	Annual Session	Session members	Non members
Adult	£10.00	£2.50	£3.50
Junior/OAP	£5.00	£1.50	£2.00

CALENDAR

MARCH

16th ESTTA National Team Finals
 16th-17th British League Weekend (3)
 17th Leach & Hammersley Cups (3)
 17th Pat Archdale Cup (1)
 22nd-24th BUSA Team Championships Birmingham
 23rd County Championships Senior Premier
 23rd Chandlers Cadet/Junior 1 Star
 23rd County Championships
 Junior/Senior Premier Divisions (2)

23rd National Junior League (4)
 23rd-24th North Herts Banded 2 Star
 29th-30th ETTA Butterfly Grand Prix Gillingham

APRIL

30th Mar -7th April European Championships Zagreb
 6th Chesham High School Chesham
 Under 13/14/16 years 2 Star

6th Wilmott Cup & Rose Bowl R3
 6th-7th VETTS Southern Masters Bracknell

7th British League (13) Premier Division
 7th Stiga (Hyndburn) Junior GP 3 Star

13th National Council
 13th Alex Brook Trophy R2
 13th-14th ETTA Butterfly Grand Prix Blackpool

14th Cippenham Cadet 3 Star
 20th Chesham High School U13/14/16
 20th-21st British League Weekend (4)
 20th-21st Cadet Masters Cippenham

21st British League (14) Premier Division
 21st Seaside's Junior Graded 3 Star

27th ESTTA Individual Championships
 27th-28th ETTA Butterfly Grand Prix Wolverhampton
 28th National Regional Squad Championships Stoke

MAY

4th-5th Junior Masters Cippenham
 11th British League Conference

11th Chandlers Junior/Cadet 1 Star
 11th Alex Brook Trophy R3
 11th Pat Archdale Cup R2

11th-12th ETTA Butterfly Grand Prix Cheltenham
 18th-19th Cadet/Junior Nationals
 18th-19th VETTS Nationals Thornbury

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THE ETTA WEBSITE

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