

TABLE TENNIS NEWS



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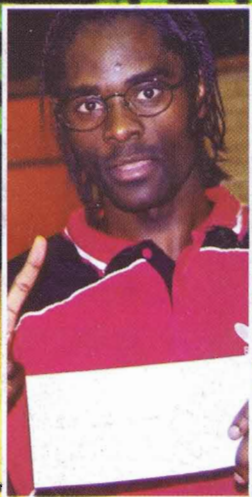
No.281 NOV. 2001

BARBARA KISS WINS AT SUSSEX

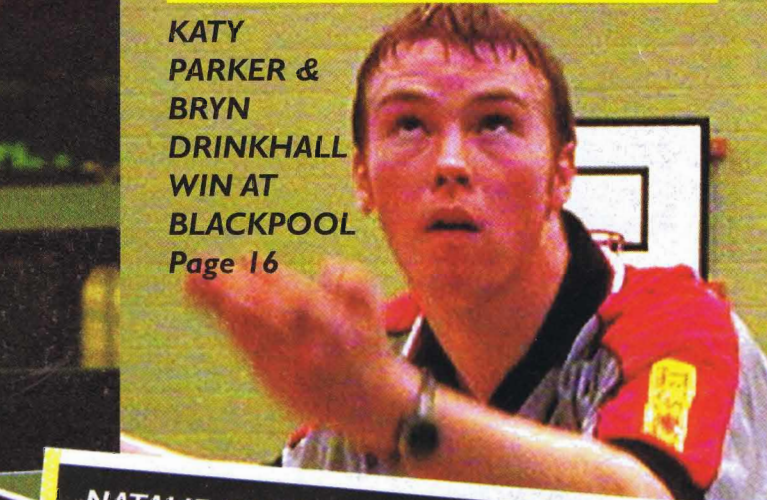
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MARCO ESSOMBA WINS IN PAIGNTON

Pages 14 & 15



KATY
PARKER &
BRYN
DRINKHALL
WIN AT
BLACKPOOL
Page 16



NATALIE BAWDEN &
DOMINIC HALL
Table Tennis News
Extra



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TTN EXTRA
A 16 page supplement including 'County Notes', 'Results' and much more.



TABLE TENNIS NEWS & TTN EXTRA

The Official Magazine of the
English Table Tennis Association

Issue No.281
November 2001

Publisher
English Table Tennis Association
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Subscription Rates
UK - £19, Europe - £30,
Rest of the World - £35

Printer
Printed in the UK by
Nima Print & Design Services,
91a Ashford Road, Eastbourne,
East Sussex BN21 3TE
Telephone: 01323 430036

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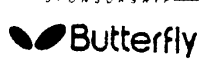
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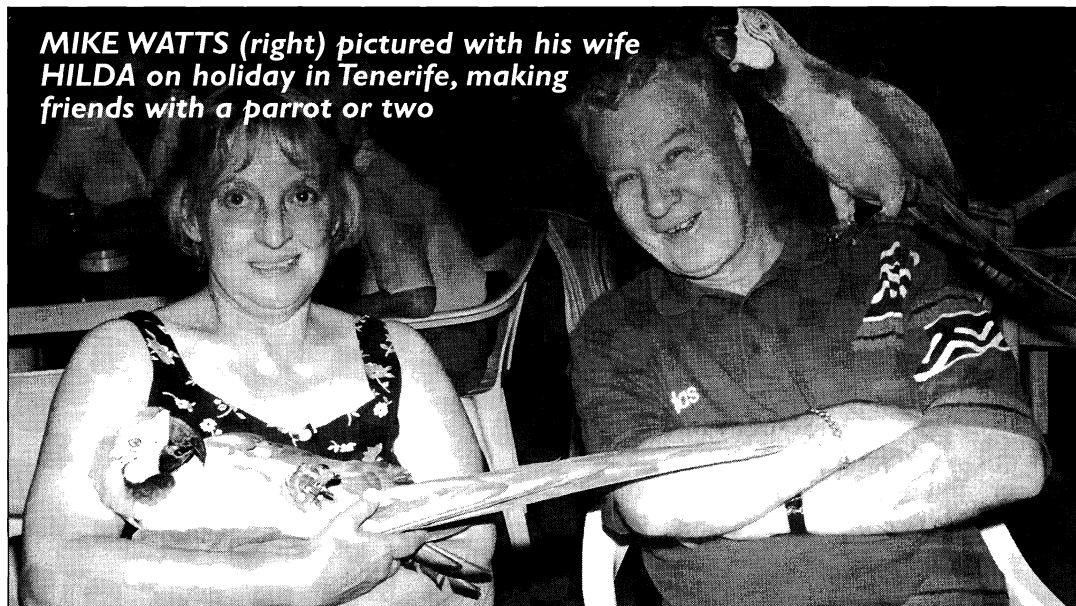


Lee Valley Park

The ETTA would like to thank the following organisations for their support



FRIENDLY MIKE WATTS



MIKE WATTS (right) pictured with his wife HILDA on holiday in Tenerife, making friends with a parrot or two

MIKE WATTS

IT'S with great sadness that we announce the death of Mike Watts. See Derek Schofield's and Mike Holt's tributes, plus Mike's wife Hilda's response on page 27.

Mike is pictured above with Hilda on holiday in Los Cristianos, Tenerife, a few years ago, where they made friends with a couple of parrots.

More recently, Mike renewed a friendship at the Los Cristianos airport in April of this year, when a voice behind said, "My God it's Mike Watts". Mike turned around to discover an old team mate from the Southend and District Table Tennis League, Brian Cooper and his wife Maureen, whom Mike had not seen for twenty years.

Another surprise was that Brian and his wife were staying at the same hotel as Mike and Hilda.

THE NEW BYNG HALL

THE NEW BYNG HALL, pictured above in an early stage of construction at the St.John's C of E Primary School, Tunbridge, Kent, which will be home to the successful Byng Hall TTC. A full report will appear in the next issue

WOODY'S World

NOVEMBER'S issue of Table Tennis News publishes the sad news of the passing of Mike Watts. On behalf of Table Tennis News I wish to express condolences to his wife Hilda and his family.

I have personally known Mike and Hilda for more than 10 years, and have always found them to be friendly and welcoming.

Their faces were ever present at major tournaments, were Mike usually had an organiser's role to perform. A job that he always carried out efficiently.

As a veteran player, I would like to thank Mike for creating the highly successful Veterans English Table Tennis Society, which has prolonged the playing careers of a vast army of the over 40's.

English table tennis has been enriched by the efforts of Mike, and he will be sadly missed.

John Wood

JUNIOR MASTERS

Owing to a clash of date with the World Schools Table Tennis Championships, which will affect some of our leading Junior players, it is considered appropriate to change our date for the Junior Masters. This event will now be held on Saturday and Sunday 4th/5th May 2002 at Cippenham.

*Keith Ponting
Vice-Chairman
(Competitions)*

TABLE TENNIS on TV

Event	Date of Transmission	Time of Transmission	Channel
German Open	01.11.01	01.30	Sky Sports 1 Digital
German Open	01.11.01	11.30	Sky Sports 2 Digital
German Open	01.11.01	15.00	Sky Sports 2 Digital
Swedish Open	05.12.01	19.30	Sky Sports Extra
Swedish Open	06.12.01	01.00	Sky Sports 2 Digital
Swedish Open	06.12.01	14.00	Sky Sports 1 Digital
Swedish Open	06.12.01	17.00	Sky Sports 3 Digital
Swedish Open	08.12.01	18.00	Sky Sports 3 Digital
Danish Open	18.12.01	17.30	Sky Sports 3 Digital
Danish Open	18.12.01	21.00	Sky Sports 3 Digital

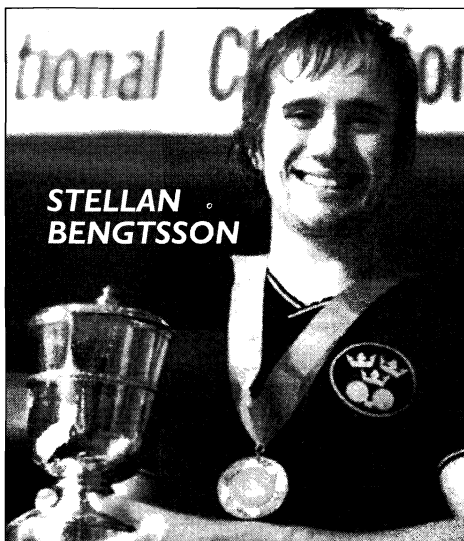
FURTHER SUPPORT FOR TABLE TENNIS CLUBS TO UPGRADE



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

THE Foundation for Sport & the Arts that supported table tennis facility projects to the extent of more than £500,000 in the 1990's is considering applications via the ETTA Development Department for further support for table tennis clubs. This programme supports Premier Clubs who submit proposals to assist them to upgrade or refurbish existing buildings to facilitate the playing of table tennis. The grants for individual schemes endorsed and recommended by the ETTA will range from £5,000 to £15,000.

Applications can include improved flooring, lighting or heating, refitted toilet or changing areas, access for the disabled, improvements to the building or provision for equipment storage. The first scheme that the ETTA have recommended is for the Byng Hall TT Club in Tunbridge Wells, Kent. This project is a joint venture between the club and the St. John's C of E Primary School in Tunbridge. The grant, if approved, will contribute to the upgrading of lighting and the provision of a sprung floor. The hall will be big enough to accommodate six match tables or up to 10 tables for coaching, and will enable the club to significantly expand its activities. Some other schemes are in the pipeline and there has been considerable interest shown in this new project. Any clubs interested should contact in the first instance their Regional Development Officer or Paul Baker the ETTA Facilities Officer to discuss their ideas. The previous grants from the FSA



"England's Under 12's at Nottingham are amongst the best in Europe", says former World Mens Singles Champion STELLAN BENGTSSON

supported via the ETTA for new build table tennis centres in Crippenham, Cirencester, Isle of Wight, St. Austell, Mossford (London), Guildford, Widnes, Hyndburn, Bolton, Hull, Scarborough, Barrow and Dewsbury.

EURO KIDS TO CONTINUE

The European Table Tennis Union are continuing with their programme to bring together the best Under 12's in Europe for week long training camps. Two camps have been held so far this year in Italy and in Luxembourg. Three more will take place over the next 12 months, the first one in France in December. At the last camp in Luxembourg Darius Knight was nominated by the ETTA and was selected by the coaches as one of the leading prospects. At the previous camp Bradley Evans and Paul Drinkhall participated in addition to Darius, however, at the time of the Luxembourg camp they were both part of the

England team participating in competitions and training in China. In a recent report commissioned by Sport England, former World Champion, Stellan Bengtsson attended the National Training Centre in Nottingham and gave an opinion that the group of Under 12 players in England were amongst the best in Europe, so that whilst the performances of our senior teams this season have not been as good as we would have liked, the youngest age category are clearly impressive.

EURO SPORT TO COVER THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2002 European Championships which are to be played in Zagreb, Croatia from Easter Saturday, 30 March 2002 through to 7th April, has attracted extensive television coverage on the Euro Sport channel. The team event finals, plus the semi

finals and finals of the singles events are to be broadcast with approximately 8 hours of coverage being agreed. The coverage of the Leibherr European Champions League is still under discussion between the ITTF and the broadcasters and further details will be issued as soon as they have been finalised.

The European Championships have been selected by the ITTF as the venue for this season's ITTF Annual General Meeting so that the major meetings for both the European and World bodies will both take place in Zagreb.

Two of the main items on the ITTF agenda will be further consideration given to the wording of the new service rule which is due to be introduced in September of next year, and consideration of the launching of a new competition, the World Junior Championships.

JUNIOR AGE DATE CHANGE?

For this competition the ITTF are seriously considering changing the age qualification for the junior and cadet events from 1st July, as at present, to fit in with the calendar year of 1st January. This change would make a significant difference to the junior programme as it is likely that the new date will be imposed for all junior international open events and, therefore, would cascade down to both national and county events. The rationale behind the change from the ITTF is that most of the continents operate the calendar year as opposed to the European year traditionally season to season which has been the norm. The European Table Tennis Union

FROM THE CHAIR - 2

Executive Committee which met in Luxembourg at the end of October are unanimously opposed to this change and will be lobbying in Zagreb and before to reject the change. The qualification dates are within the ITTF International regulations and therefore only 51% majority vote is needed for the change at a meeting of the ITTF Board of Directors (formerly the ITTF Council)

DATE CHANGE FOR THE EUROPE TOP 12

The Europe Top 12 tournament which was scheduled to be held in Rotterdam on 2/3 February 2002 has been moved to a week later, 9/10 February to suit television schedules in the Netherlands. Supporters interested in attending the Top 12 should contact Ton Van Happen at Rutac Sport & Events, Theo Koomenlaan 1, 5644 HZ Eindhoven, Tel. 040 238 1420. (E mail): ton@rutac.nl

TABLE TENNIS INCLUDED IN OLYMPIC YOUTH TOURNAMENT

The French Table Tennis Federation have been successful in their bid to have table tennis included in the multisport European Youth Olympic Days competition which is to be played in Paris in July 2003. Table Tennis was included in this competition when it was played in Belgium in the early 1990's but has not been one of the ten sports involved since that time. The age limit which is to be recommended by the ETTU and the French Federation is Under 15. This event in date terms is very close to the European Youth Championships and, therefore, the top youngsters of Under 17 and Under 14 level will be heavily involved in the Youth championships in Yugoslavia. This competition in Paris gives youngsters in their first year out of the cadet age group the opportunity of a major

international competition in which to participate. The competition is under the auspices of the European Olympic Committee.

EURO TALENTS

In addition to the Euro Kids programme, the ETTU are introducing a second high level training programme for the best 10 - 15 youngsters at the Under 16 age level in Europe under the title EURO TALENTS. The aims which are to be delivered through three training camps per season are to create a training environment for Europe's best youngsters to play together so as to enable them to challenge the world's top players, now mainly from Asia, in the future. It is also intended to run coach education programmes in conjunction with the training camps.

These two programmes will be partly financed by the ETTU and the national associations whose players participate and sponsors. The next Euro Kids week in France is to be sponsored by Vittel.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES TICKETS

In the last issue of Table Tennis News I gave readers full details of how to obtain tickets for the Commonwealth Games in Manchester next summer. Brian Stocks who is Head of the Sports Division in Manchester has advised that the ticket sales for the Games at this stage are exceeding all expectations and that supporters who wish to be sure of obtaining tickets need to book now.

**HELEN
LOWER
produced
one of
her best
performances
for England
in
Scarborough
against
Poland**

YORKSHIRE VALUE

Table tennis fans in Yorkshire enjoyed two interesting and exciting European League matches over the last month. England men were beaten 3 - 1 in Halifax by Spain, but the England women recorded their first victory of the season with an even more exciting win over Poland in Scarborough.

In the Polish match, Helen Lower opened the England scoring with one of her best performances to beat Monika Pietkiewicz This was followed by two cliff hangers as Katy Parker won the battle of the number three's against Magdalena Gorowska at 11-7, 9-11, 11-13, 11-3, 11-8 and then Nicola Deaton won her singles against Monika Pietkiewicz in a match that lasted three quarters of an hour and finished at 23-21 in the decider (using the 11 up scoring system!).

The England men's team were beaten 3 - 1 by Spain with Alex Perry scoring the lone England victory. Gareth Herbert's play swung from patches of brilliance to spells when he appeared to miss or miss hit relatively easy shots. If the brilliant spells had been a bit longer, the result could have easily turned in England's favour. In both matches the audience witnessed exciting and interesting contests. The match was staged at the Halifax Sports Centre and supported by the Calderdale Council and the Halifax Table Tennis League. The matches started just after 7 pm and finished shortly before 10 pm

and were some of the best European League matches that I have seen from an interest and competitive perspective. Perhaps it is the 11 up system that is making the difference ?

The Women's match was played in the recently built Scarborough Table Tennis Centre at the Graham School. From a design and appearance perspective it is one of the best centres in the country. It was good to see that the Centre is proving very popular with the local table tennis community and that John Caton and his team in Scarborough are very pleased with the very extensive use that the centre is experiencing.

POLISH PRESIDENT BECOMES MINISTER OF SPORT

Adam Giersz, the very active President of the Polish Table Tennis Federation, who established the table tennis academy in Gdansk and is behind the running of the Polish Pro Tour event, has been appointed by the Polish government as the new Minister of Sport. Adam is perhaps better known in England as the popular coach who always accompanied Andrzej Grubba on his many visits to play in events and matches in this country. Congratulations and best wishes are extended to Adam in his new important position!

Alan Ransome, ETTA Chairman



POSTBAG

IGNORED

AT a recent Regional coaches meeting we South West coaches heard about the work going on in our region/leagues, or with Primary School children - usually 10-11 year olds. Our own small league has 11 clubs catering for some 200 young players. Some of them (sometimes with parents also playing) have filtered into the Bridgwater League, which has increased in size by 22% this season.

It was argued that we should provide more regional competition for young players at 11-12 level. This should provide a more numerous base of young players for the game.

It was clear that a National Committee has passed along an edict that an 11-14 Regional League should be formed and that was it!

However, it was suggested that under 14's are either committed players doing the Open's, etc., or late enthusiasts to the sport with uncertain futures. In one case the under 14 league would be just another fixture, or in the other too difficult.

An under 12 league would eventually feed an under 14 league and it was voted unanimously that a regional under 12 League should be formed. This appears to have been ignored!

I sadly predict that table tennis will decay further if local coaches' views are ignored. Can the same be said for these National Committee who tell us what to do and otherwise ignore us?

*Les Bridges
Somerset Coaching Officer*

DIFFERENT GAME

FOR the first time ever I did not look forward to the start of the table tennis season. Quite simply because two of the Leagues I play in have switched to the 11up game. The tempo of which makes it an entirely different game and in my opinion nowhere near as enjoyable. With 11up doubles, due to the constant change of server and receiver, proving particularly hard for both players and umpire to adjust to.

Fortunately, I am registered for teams playing in three other Leagues which have decided to continue playing 21up. So taking into account the enjoyment factor I will be playing

as many games as possible 21up and as few as possible 11up. Partly because I don't enjoy playing 11up and partly because the two Leagues concerned involve far more travelling and I would be likely to spend more time on the road than on the table.

The problem as I see it being that any players dropping out will cause a disproportionate amount of disruption and loss of income both to the County and the ETTA. Saying this because these days most players are in the habit of playing in a number of Leagues, so one doesn't necessarily equal one anymore, but anything from one to five.

With, I would suggest, any League losing as the Season progresses, significant numbers of players as a consequence of the switch to 11up, holding a Special General Meeting with a view to reverting to 21up for the Second Half.

*Michael Bunting
Croydon, Surrey*

Editor's Note: I am sorry to hear that you are having difficulties with the new 11up scoring system Michael, but your suggestion that would see Leagues return to 21up would create administrative problems as well as playing difficulties. It would only sensibly work in the lower league divisions, otherwise it would unfairly inhibit the progress of senior, junior and veteran players of the Premier and 1st divisions, who also play in open tournaments, County Championships and British League.

Your statement that you are spending more time travelling than playing table tennis differs with mine. My early season experience both as an umpire in County Championships, and as a player in local league, seems to prove that playing best of five 11up is reasonably popular and takes approximately the same length of time as a 21up best of three game.

Anyway it's early days yet. I can remember the furore raised when the new 40mm ball was introduced, now most players say it's fine.

Even Europe's top player Vladimir Samsonov commented at the German Open recently, see page 10, that he was unhappy before the new ball and the 11up system came in, but now he is okay with it, and stated, "I support 11 points - it's definitely right for the sport."

continued on page 8

COURTSIDE

by John Woodford

• **THERE** is a saying in old Czechoslovakia (acknowledgment to "The Manor Born") - "I do not agree with what he says, but I will defend to the death his right to say it".

• **SERIOUSLY**, I hope that by the time these words appear, the members of Mancom who so unwisely hooted down their colleague Brian Halliday when he suggested that John Prean be allowed to write some carefully worded articles for Table Tennis News, will have had a rethink.

• **AS** I have said before, I am sometimes labelled "an Alan Ransome man" because I support him in a number of ways, but not in all his policies and of course by speaking up for John Prean on his magazine veto, some will say I should move to the Isle of Wight and be a complete John Prean man!

• **THE EUROPEAN** Court of Human Rights sometimes surprises me with the apparent triviality of some of the cases it deals with and sometimes upholds. I suspect that when it comes to the rights of contributors to national sports magazines, much would depend on how they saw the strength or weakness of the editing process.

• **THIS** magazine, as I may have said before, has three editing forces - Brian Halliday, Mancom and John Wood. I am not saying to Mancom that a house magazine does not have the right to stop the publication of certain critical material including personal abuse.

• **I AM** quite sure that no harm would be done by allowing Brian Halliday to oversee John Prean articles. Last word on this subject for now - had I been in Mr Halliday's position I would have resigned from Mancom on this issue.

• **LOOKING** ahead on the fixture list, I am hoping to be courtside at most of the events including the German Open, Swedish Open and all the home European League fixtures. Plans to run an English Open in 2002 have been abandoned and moved to 2003.

• **THAT LEAVES THE TWO** major events in the first half of 2002 as the European Championships in Zagreb starting on March 30 and of course the Commonwealth Championships in Manchester July 25-August 4 at the City of Manchester stadium where Matthew Syed will attempt to win the Commonwealth gold medal for the fourth time. Tickets are now on sale.

• **THERE IS A** new theory being put forward by Alan Ransome and others in the power corridors (which is extremely difficult to prove) on the number of players in England compared with the past.

• **ALMOST** every league in England has suffered losses of players and teams in the last decade. Some leagues who had twelve divisions now have six, but the decline has slowed down. The new theory is that we have many more people playing table tennis because of a "huge rise" in participation in schools and table tennis centres and clubs, especially with movements like the Premier Club scheme.

• **THE THEORY** of lots and lots of new, young players emerging from schools and top clubs is great but can we prove that this influx can anywhere near match in numbers the league losses over the past decade? Heads can be counted in leagues, but trying to count the new young players seems to me to be impossible.

OLDEST PLAYER?

I read with interest the Oct; TT News Extra, article "Oldest competitive player in Britain". It enquires about others of great age still competing, and I feel sure that it's referencing players of all standards.

Well I am pleased to say that in the Cotswolds at the Winchcombe Club in the Cheltenham Association we have a very active 88 year old, David Evans.

David, who started his career 'Down the Pits' and still remains a lower division player, is a great fellow and all the members admire his fitness, although the speed at which he cycles around the Town, sometimes causes us concern.

We, however, all hope that we will be half as fit as David when we are his age.

Dick Prior
(CITA & WTTTC Chairman)

GREAT PLEASURE

IT gave me great pleasure to read Matthew Syde's very descriptive column (TTN October 2001), upon

10 year old Hung Kei Li.

I first met this very accomplished youngster at "The Cotswold 4 Star Junior Open" last January, and immediately realised what great playing potential he already had, at the then age of only nine.

At this period of time both Li and his Father Tat Hoi had only been in England for a very short time, and Li spoke very few words of English, if indeed - any at all, so I spent quite some time in company with his Father Tat Hoi, who was rapidly beginning to overcome our language, and helpfully assisted with some of the history of his son and self, enough for me to go live on air for BBC Radio Gloucestershire later in the day and tell anybody interested about this very young player. He also got several words in the local press as well.

I am extremely pleased to further read that Li has now conquered our English language and that his Father is planning to start a business venture, and perhaps most important of all, that Mrs Tat Hoi and Daughter have flown over from Hong Kong to join them in the accommodation they rent near to the Nottingham Training

Centre.

It should be a family united? And indeed if it is, what also a boost for English Table Tennis.

I hope that both Father and Son will still remember me and I send my very best wishes to them all - they deserve it.

Alf Peppard
Gloucestershire.

GREAT EXCEPTION

I TAKE great exception to the remarks made by John Woodford, that were published in the September and October editions of Table Tennis News, relating to Helen Lower's conduct.

In the September issue, commenting on the Grand Prix Finals, he writes: "What happened to Helen Lower? She came to Potters, stayed the previous night, found she had been drawn in the same group as Barbara Kiss and headed back home."

I must assume John Woodford hasn't heard of the telephone, else he could have asked Helen, 'Why?'

before his article was published.

To set the record straight, the reason why Helen did not stay was due to being misinformed by the ETTA Head Office over her playing schedule. Helen had entered both the Doubles and Singles (but due to holidays she didn't know if her doubles partner had entered). However, three days before the event was to take place, she had not received her playing schedule. She therefore telephoned the ETTA Office for information and she was informed that her first doubles match was in the morning and her singles group match would be in the late afternoon. On arrival at Potters at 10am Helen was informed she was not in the doubles as her partner had not entered and her group matches would start at 5pm, leaving her a seven hour wait, which is no way to prepare for a tournament, plus her knowing that leading players would only be playing one game to claim the prize money. It was for these reasons why she decided not to stay.

In the October issue, reporting on the Home Countries Senior International, he writes: "CONFUSED - On match point against her (Katy Parker), Helen hit the ball, according to most spectators, six inches off. She raised her finger for an edge ball - the umpire was confused and gave the point to Helen."

Yes, Helen did raise her hand, only to apologise for winning the point from an edge. Katy did not dispute the point, which the umpire accepted. Anyone who knows Helen, be it player or umpire, knows that she is completely fair over disputed points, even to the point where she will stop the game to be sure her opponent wins the point when deserved.

Robert Lower
Wolverhampton

John Woodford's reply: Officials at Potters could not understand why Helen refused to play. I stand by what I wrote, but I accept her detailed explanation.

With regard to the Isle of Man Home Countries Senior International, I was astounded, as were most spectators, to see Helen appealing for an edge ball when I witnessed the ball 6 inches clear of the table.



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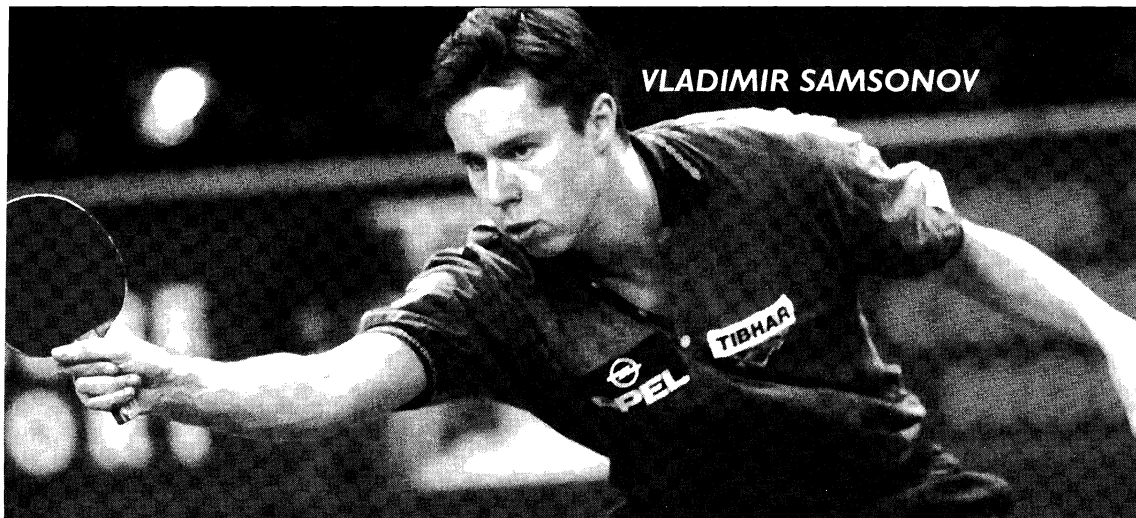
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MASTER SAMSONOV



VLADIMIR SAMSONOV

VLADIMIR SAMSONOV, 25, No.7 in the world is the master of European table tennis. Now living in Charleroi in Belgium and he has recently become a Dad, he is, it appears, reaching the peak of his career after crushing Jan-Ove Waldner 7, 2, 6, 6 in the semi-finals of the German Open in Bayreuth, writes John Woodford.

Samsonov went on to the final, where he easily beat off a challenge from Werner Schlager 6, 8, 10, 4.

Analysing Samsonov's game is not easy. His accuracy is the key. When attacked he usually stands a pace back to produce a top-spin counter-hit that frequently has his opponents floundering.

His progress through the draw went like this - Daniel Zwicky (10, 8, 5, 4); Maksim Chmyrev (9, 6, 9, 5); Oh Sang Eun (Korea) (13, -11, 3, 10, -4, 4), finishing off with Waldner and Schlager.

Jan-Ove did complain of a back problem towards the end of the tournament. But as he said at the press conference: "I do have a problem keeping up with the fitness of the younger players. I am now playing only in the Swedish League. I hope to keep going for some time yet. I am not going to make any forecasts ahead. Barring injury, I shall be playing in the European Championships in Croatia, regarding the Olympics in Athens, I will wait and see."

Samsonov's comments: I am happy with the new ball and the eleven points scoring. I admit I was unhappy before the new ball came in and before 11 points came in, but now I am O.K. I support 11 points - it is definitely right for the sport. The new service rules could bring many problems for players and umpires from next September."

Clearing two points - the Japanese team failed to arrive in Bayreuth because they were worried by the attacks by the terrorists in New York. The Chinese nationals found a better excuse for their absence - a clash with their national games, all sports, difficult to miss out

table tennis, obviously.

There was one Chinese player present - Ma Wenge winner of the English Open and the holder of the German title. He lives in Europe, but he went under to a fine show by Patrick Chila who went through to the quarters 8, -5, 4, 11, 9 against Ma Wenge.

RYU WINS WOMENS

Now for the top ladies - the winner from Korea now lives in France - Ryu Ji Hye. In the final she took a few minutes to become familiar with Jie Schopp's chop losing the first game 6; after that the Korean patiently piled on the top-spin into the German woman's defences to win 7,7,1,4.

Mihaela Steff (Romania) the top seed was at the receiving end of the biggest shock of the four-day tournament when in the first round of the womens singles she was floored 8 in the seventh by Petra Lovas (Hungary) who is ranked around eight in Hungary.

In the next round however, the Hungarian Lovas was easily defeated 4, 9, 6, 1, by another Korean Kim Kyang Ah.

Vyktoria Pavolich (Belarus) is a name I was not familiar with. But it seems she is quite a player - she brought down Krisztina Toth 6 in the seventh to reach the semi-finals where she fell into the Schopp backspin trap, beaten 7, 8, 6, 10.

BRIGHT SPOTS

The English contingent did not have a great tournament. Leaving Gareth Herbert behind with a wrist strain was not a good start, but Alex Perry in the mens singles came within touching distance of victory before losing in seven games to the former Polish player - No.3. Michal Dziubanski. Perry, the pride of Devon and Nottingham, levelled the Pole at 2-2 and led 9-6 in the fifth game but Alex could not hold the advantage. Neither Nicky Deaton or Helen Lower reached their best form in Bayreuth. Both secured single victories in the qualifying rounds but that was not

enough' to go onwards.

England's best show came in the mens doubles when Perry and Terry Young came through two rounds. In the second round they defeated a highly rated pair - Chen Wei Xing (Austria) and a top-rated chopper from Belarus Evgeni Chitchetinine, before losing to Zoran Primorac and Roko Tosic from Belarus.

A general comment from Soren Ahlen: "All our players battled hard. I was especially impressed by Andrew Rushton on this trip"

Finishing with the Mens Under-21 event where Rushton almost won his group but not quite - bear in mind that Rushton and Adam Robertson were playing against men mainly three years older.

FIELD DAY

Adam had a field day. In his first season as a senior player he made a breakthrough following a lean time over the past six months.

He won his group and advanced with the aid of a series of brilliant backhand shots to the second stage with a victory over the Swiss player Michael Christe, before losing a close encounter 3-2 (best of five in the 21s) to Fabian Moritz of Germany. Coaching Adam through his under-21 bid was the Welsh No.1 Ryan Jenkins, winner of the recent Sussex Open Grand Prix.

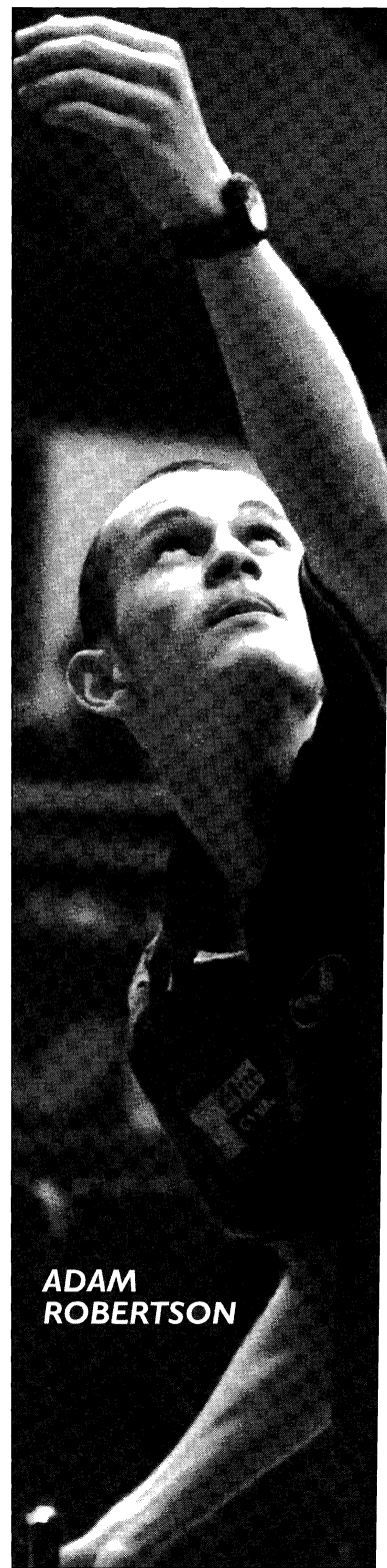
ORGANISATION

Once again the Germans emerge as the best organisers of tournaments in Europe. Superb playing conditions, six excellent hotels, shuttle buses every fifteen minutes to the venue the Oberfrankenhalle. The welcome from our German hosts was once again very friendly and the food and drink in the Press Centre never ran out, what more could we writers ask for?

FOOTNOTE: Bayreuth is a small town famous for its connections with the composer Richard Wagner whose house is now a museum complete with Wagner music for the tourists to enjoy.

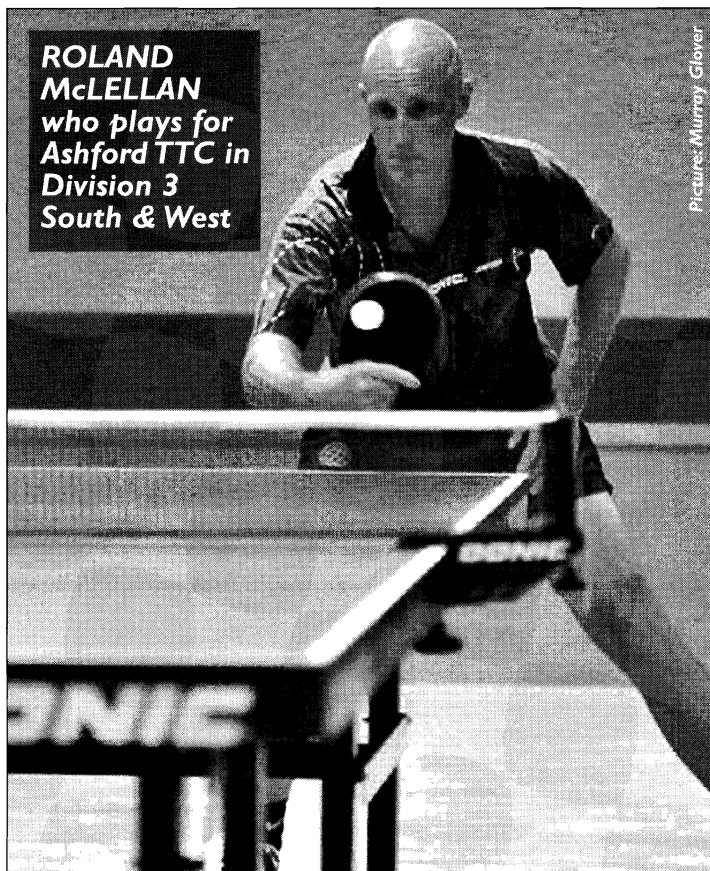
RESULTS:

MS: Semi-finals: V. Samsonov b J. Waldner 7,2,6,6 W. Schlager b L. Blaszczyk -9,11, -8 13, 5, 10.
FINAL: SAMSONOV b Schlager 6,8,10, 4.
WS: Final: RYU JI HYE b J. Schopp -6, 7, 7, 1, 4,
MD: Final: S. Grujic and A Karakasevic (Yugoslavia) b Blaszczyk and T Krzezewski (Poland) 7, 6, 10 -9, 4, 9.
WD: Final: Kim Bok Rae and Kim Kyang Ah (Korea) bt T., Boros (Croatia) and M. Steff (Romania) 10, -10, 8, -9, 5, 6.
MS, Under 21: B. Tokic (Slovenia) b J. Kosowski (Poland) 7, 4 -10, 7



ADAM ROBERTSON

PLAYER PICTURE PROFILE



**ROLAND
McLELLAN**
who plays for
Ashford TTC in
Division 3
South & West

Picture: Murray Glover

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PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
London Progress	2	2	-	-	21	7	4
Batts Team Peniel	2	2	-	-	18	10	4
Wellow House School	2	1	-	1	16	12	2
Darlington	2	1	-	1	14	14	2
JAGS	2	1	-	1	14	14	2
Barnet	2	-	1	1	10	18	1
OLOP Kingfisher	2	-	1	1	9	19	1
Byng Hall Farningham Print	2	-	-	2	10	18	-
DIVISION ONE NORTH							
Seasiders	4	3	1	-	26	6	7
Derwent	4	3	1	-	24	8	7
Ormesby	4	2	2	-	19	13	6
Darlington II	4	1	3	-	20	12	5
Norwich Todd Foxwood	4	2	-	2	13	19	4
Kingshurst	4	1	-	3	10	22	2
Grantham	4	-	1	3	10	22	1
Coventry	4	-	-	4	6	26	-
DIVISION ONE SOUTH							
Progress II	4	3	1	-	22	10	7
Horsham	4	2	2	-	21	11	6
Cippenham	4	2	2	-	20	12	6
Barnet II	4	1	3	-	18	14	5
DML Plymouth	4	-	3	1	15	17	3
Northampton	4	-	2	2	11	21	2
Ellenborough	4	1	-	3	11	21	2
PSP Westinsure	4	-	1	3	10	22	1
DIVISION TWO NORTH							
Halton Croda	4	4	-	-	23	9	8
Potteries	4	3	-	1	22	10	6
Uxbridge Burton	4	2	1	1	20	12	5
Dewsbury	4	2	1	1	19	13	5
Darlington III	4	2	-	2	13	19	4
Wellow liouse II	4	1	1	2	16	16	3
Derwent II	4	-	1	3	12	20	1
Manchester	4	-	-	4	3	29	-
DIVISION TWO SOUTH							
De Vere	4	4	-	-	23	9	8
Progress III	4	3	1	-	20	12	7
Fellows C.	4	3	1	-	19	13	7
Byng Hall F.P. II	4	2	-	2	18	14	4
KCD Stiga	4	1	1	2	15	17	3
Horsham II	4	-	1	3	13	19	1
Ashford	4	-	1	3	11	21	1
Hastings	4	-	1	3	9	23	1
DIVISION THREE NORTH							
Oakbank	4	4	-	-	29	3	8
Kendal	4	3	-	1	24	8	6
Clarks	4	3	-	1	24	8	6
Seasiders II	4	3	-	1	20	12	6
Barrow	4	1	-	3	11	21	2
Grove II	4	1	-	3	9	23	2
Dewsbury II	4	-	1	3	6	26	1
Darlington IV	4	-	1	3	5	27	1
DIVISION THREE MIDLANDS							
Grove	4	3	1	-	24	8	7
Bedford	4	3	1	-	22	10	7
Elgre	4	2	2	-	18	14	6
Birmingham Uni	4	2	-	2	15	17	4
Woodfield	4	1	1	2	16	16	3
Rotherham	4	-	2	2	12	20	2
Kingshurst	4	1	-	3	11	21	2
NT Cars	4	-	1	3	10	22	1
DIVISION THREE SOUTH							
Oxford F.C.	4	4	-	-	26	6	8
Cippenham II	4	3	-	1	22	10	6
Horsham III	4	3	-	1	19	13	6
Batts Team Peniel II	4	2	-	2	14	18	4
Progress IV	4	2	-	2	13	18	4
Ipswich	4	1	-	3	14	18	2
Byng Hall III	4	1	-	3	12	20	2
York Gardens	4	-	-	4	7	24	-
DIVISION THREE SOUTH & WEST							
Guildford	4	4	-	-	25	7	3
EBS-Orange II	4	3	-	1	22	10	6
Progress V	4	1	2	1	16	16	4
PSP II	4	1	2	1	14	18	4
JAGS II	4	1	1	2	15	17	3
OLOP II	4	1	1	2	14	18	3
Ashford II	4	1	-	3	12	20	2
KCD II	4	1	-	3	10	22	2

BRITISH LEAGUE TABLES

JENKINS & KISS WIN BATTLE OF HASTINGS

WITH around thirty British players appearing for clubs in Germany, France, Belgium and Switzerland, the British Grand Prix circuit is already very short of top players, writes John Woodford.

Once again, there were lots of players at Hastings - nearly 200, with some turned away because of no available time on the 14 tables. The Summerfields Leisure Centre main hall is regrettably too small, a pity because players like to be able to visit Hastings and take a stroll on the seashore.

The organisers should have cut the tables to 13, leaving some room for players and spectators to sit down - it was standing room only for many, even officials. The heat on the Saturday was mid-summer standard. It was difficult to impart spin - OK for flat-hitters - so said Nigel Eckersley after losing again to Ian Girdler.

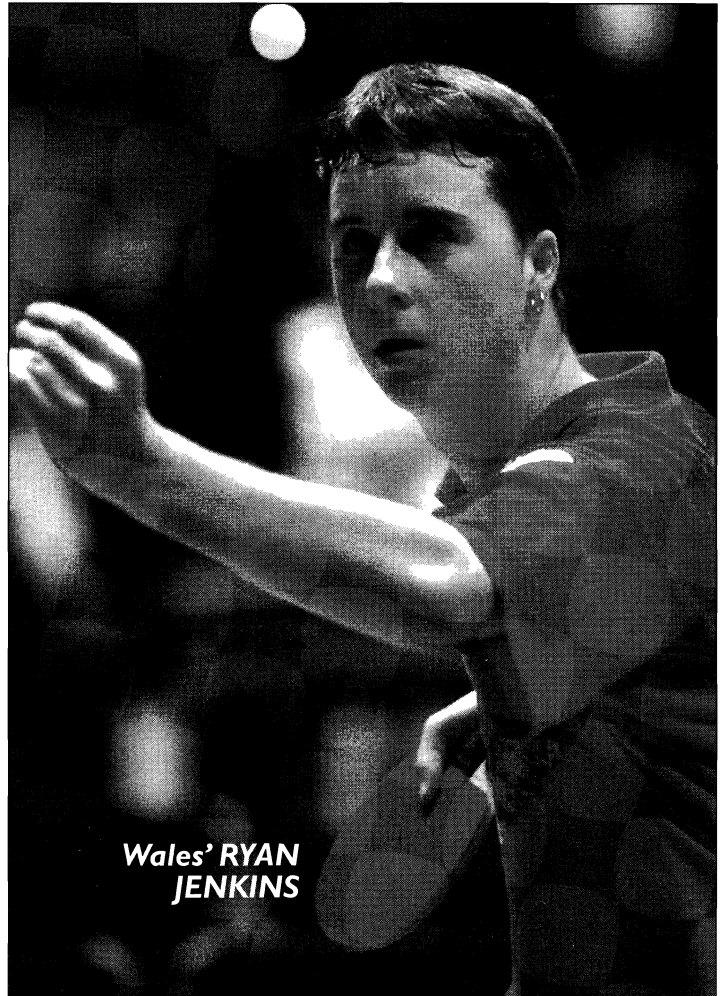
The worthy winner of the mens

singles was the top seed Ryan Jenkins. In the final he defeated the rampant Marco Essomba -3, -7, 12, 5, 6. The Welshman came brilliantly from behind as the score implies. Marco squandered two match points in the third game and should have won three-straight.

Both finalists had tough opponents in the semi-finals. Jenkins had to work extremely hard to knock out the former Lithuanian champion Laurence Trumpuaskas, whilst in the other semi-final Essomba needed all his flashing power-drives to stop the Hungarian Gergely Urban 16, -9, 10, 8.

ENGLAND'S WOMEN ABROAD

The womens England squad have been staunch supporters of the British GP circuit, but this time they were all on the continent, leaving the way clear for Barbara Kiss to take the



*Wales' RYAN
JENKINS*

**From ETTA Tournaments Committee
10th October 2001**

Re: Grove Table Tennis Club

Please note that Grove Table Tennis Club is no longer permitted to run Open Tournaments.

Tournaments Committee has withdrawn permission for Grove TTC to run Open Tournaments following a series of failures to abide by the normal regulations and administrative procedures, and its subsequent failure to comply with the Committee's instructions.

It is unlikely that Grove TTC will be permitted to run further Open Tournaments until April 2002 at the earliest.

**Geoff Twiss
Chairman**

ETTA Tournaments Committee

Hastings crown 4, 9, 5, just too hot for the Welsh former champion Natasha Lake (nee Williams) who is now a WPC.

Earlier, Mrs Lake had taken out Lindsey Thornton 10, -9, 6, 8, whilst Kiss defeated another Hungarian Dorka Nagy in four games in the semi-finals. Ironic, that that two Hungarians should be facing each other in the British GP, a situation caused by so many of our players earning money on the continent.

The mens doubles prizes went as expected, to the Welsh brothers Ryan and Stephen Jenkins. In the final they disposed of Urban and Abdul Wuraola 11-1 in the fifth game.

Steve Hall and Neil Wright pulled off a shock in the mens doubles quarters when they eliminated Ritchie Venner and Selwyn Campbell in the quarters.

Natasha Lake and Dorka Nagy triumphed in, the womens doubles

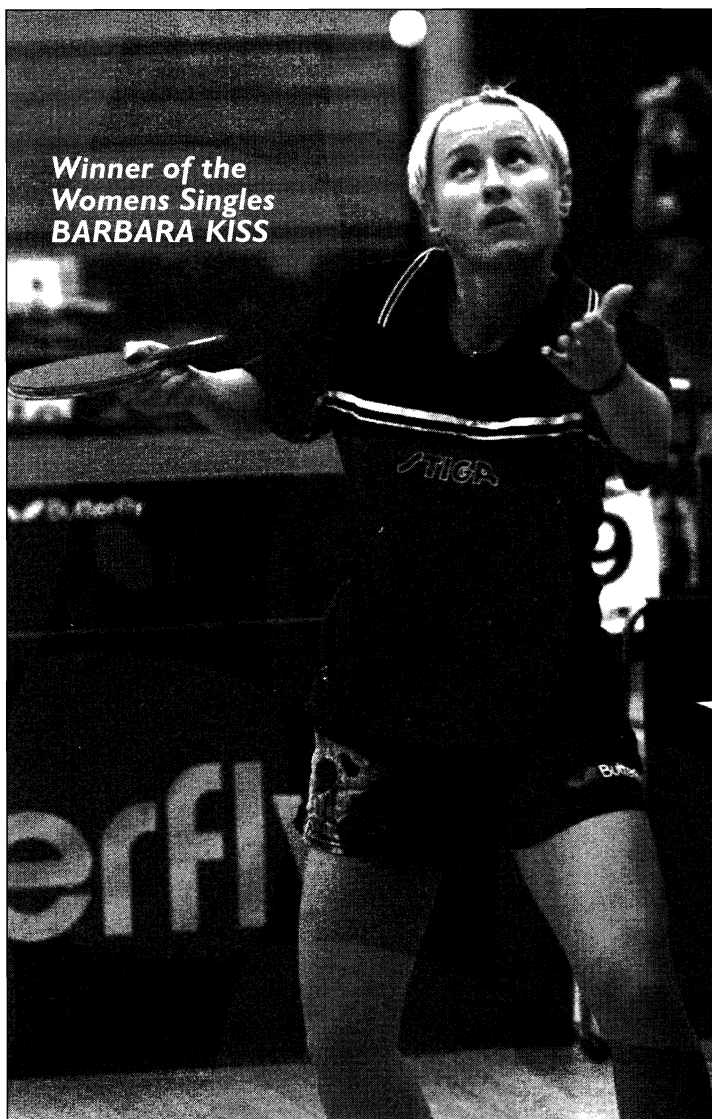
**Writes JOHN
WOODFORD
in Hastings**

final 11-9 in the fifth against Barbara Kiss and Lindsey Thornton.

Nagy also won the Under-21 singles final over Claire Emmerson from Suffolk.

Dominic Hall (Kent) continued his further improvement since joining a club in Germany when he took the Under-21 event in four games over Tim Yarnall from Northamptonshire.

The tournament was run by the Sussex TTA following the pull-out by the Hastings TTA who ran it for 65 years. The prominent organisers were Harvey Webb for the ETTA and Mick Strode who quite rightly stands no nonsense, especially when players are found gluing-up in the restaurant.



Winner of the Womens Singles
BARBARA KISS

There was multi-national dimension to the competition, with Dorka Nagy, a Hungarian student studying in London, winning the under 21 womens singles, Laura Hall, a Welsh youngster taking the womens band 2 singles and Koray Ozcan from Turkey, lifting the mens band 6. One of the greatest remaining exponents of the hardbat game, 67 year old Henry Buist (Orpington, Kent) was still good enough to progress to the final of the mens band 3 singles, but then found Vidal Graham (Middlesex) too strong. Left-handed junior with a cool temperament, Alex Green (Boston,

Lincolnshire), did well to reach two singles finals, winning the mens band 4 but losing in the final of the band 5.

Darren Griffin the pride of Gloucester won the Band 1 prize with a 8, 3, 5, success against Steve Hall's funny bat -no sponge on one side.

Band 1 women was won by Lauren Spink (Norfolk) - she defeated the former Sussex Open champion Rose Rainton in the final 10, 5, -9, 8. Lauren is No.2 Cadet on the England list.

RESULTS

Mens singles from semi-finals: Ryan Jenkins (Wales) bt Lorestas Trumpauskas (Lithuania) 11-7, 8-11, 11-7, 11-6. Marco Essomba (Surrey) bt Gergely Urban (Hungary) 18-16, 9-11, 12-10, 11-8.

Final: Ryan Jenkins (Wales) bt Marco Essomba (Surrey) 3-11, 7-11, 12-10, 11-5, 11-6.

Womens singles from semi-finals: Natasha Lake (Wales) bt Lindsey Thornton (Lancs) 12-10, 9-11, 11-6, 11-8. Barbara Kiss (Hungary) bt

Dorka Nagy (Hungary) 11-4, 11-6, 11-7.
Final: Barbara Kiss (Hungary) bt Natasha Lake (Wales) 11-4, 11-9, 11-5.
Mens doubles final: Ryan & Stephen Jenkins (Wales) bt Gergely Urban (Hungary)/Abdul Wuraola (Surrey) 9-11, 13-11, 11-6, 7-11, 11-1.
Womens doubles final: Dorka Nagy (Hungary)/Natasha Lake (Wales) bt Barbara Kiss (Hungary)/Lindsey Thornton (Lancs) 11-13, 11-3, 6-11, 11-4, 11-9.
Finals results (open singles and doubles to follow later):
Under 21 mens singles: Dominic Hall (Kent) bt Tim Yarnall (Northants) 11-7, 11-9, 7-11, 11-7.
Under 21 womens singles: Dorka Nagy (Hungary) bt Clair Emmerson (Suffolk) 11-4, 11-3, 11-4.
Veteran mens singles: Clive Carthy (Essex) bt Ian Girdler (Kent) 12-10, 11-8, 7-11, 11-6.
Veteran womens singles: Judy Morley (Gloucs) bt Jenny Harrison (Essex) 11-13, 11-9, 11-8, 7-11, 11-7.
Mens band 1 singles: Darren Griffin

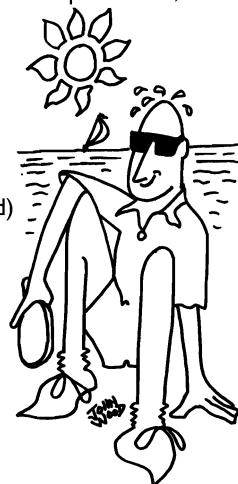
(Gloucs) bt Steve Hall (Wales) 11-8, 11-3, 11-5.
Mens band 2 singles: Simon Philipsz (Kent) bt James Sprackling (Middlex) 4-11, 11-8, 11-8, 11-8.
Mens band 3 singles: Vidal Graham (Middlex) bt Henry Buist (Kent) 11-2, 11-4, 11-6.
Mens band 4 singles: Alex Green (Lincs) bt Andy Packford (Oxon) 11-7, 4-11, 11-8, 11-8.
Mens band 5 singles: Mark Buckley (Kent) bt Alex Green (Lincs) 11-5, 11-5, 15-17, 11-8.
Mens band 5 singles: Koray Ozcan (Turkey) bt Chris Hall (Kent) 11-3, 12-14, 11-8, 11-5.
Womens band 1 singles: Laura Spink (Norfolk) bt Rose Rainton (Sussex) 12-10, 11-5, 9-11, 11-8.
Womens band 2 singles: Laura Hall (Wales) bt Sara Coggon (Sussex) 11-8, 11-9, 11-7.
Womens band 3 singles: Kim Barnard (Lancs) bt Anusha Seneviratne (Kent) 9-11, 7-11, 15-13, 11-5, 11-7.

ENGLISH PLAYING ABROAD

THE NUMBER of English players appearing abroad is still increasing. England are by no means the poorest of table tennis nations but many other countries have rich sponsors at club level and get more support from their governments, writes John Woodford.

Here is a list of players abroad. It is not comprehensive, there may be others :

- MATTHEW SYED (Japan, France)
- GARETH HERBERT (Germany)
- ALEX PERRY (France)
- ALAN COOKE (Switzerland)
- TERRY YOUNG (Germany)
- ANDREW BAGGALEY (Germany)
- CARL PREAN (Germany)
- BRADLEY BILLINGTON (Switzerland)
- ANDREW RUSHTON (Germany)
- MICHAEL ISHERWOOD (Spain)
- DANIEL HORNER (Belgium)
- STEPHEN BEERLING (France)
- DOMINIC HALL (Germany)
- LEROY PYE (France)
- GARY TENDLER (Belgium)
- MICHAEL CHAN (Germany)
- KATY PARKER (Sweden)
- KATE STEWARD (Sweden)
- NATALIE BAWDEN (Belgium)



In Europe there are a lot of players playing in other countries for clubs, but there may not be as many as the 19 English players as listed above.

There is added interest now when our players clash, especially in Germany where recently, Carl Prean defeated Gareth Herbert 3-2.

Andrea Holt might have been added to the list above, but as her "divorce" from the ETTA now seems permanent I have omitted her name. The vast majority would agree that money has to be spent on the teenagers and not those past 30.



ESSOMBA & MYSKOVA SHINE IN PAIGNTON

MARCO ESSOMBA lifted his second Grand Prix title at Torbay Leisure Centre with an interesting final round victory 9, 7-7, 8, against Bradley Billington who did him a favour by eliminating the top seed Gareth Herbert, writes John Woodford.

Why Marco appears only on the English dummy ranking list is unclear. He has been resident in England for sometime, like Barbara Kiss who gets a full ranking at No.6.

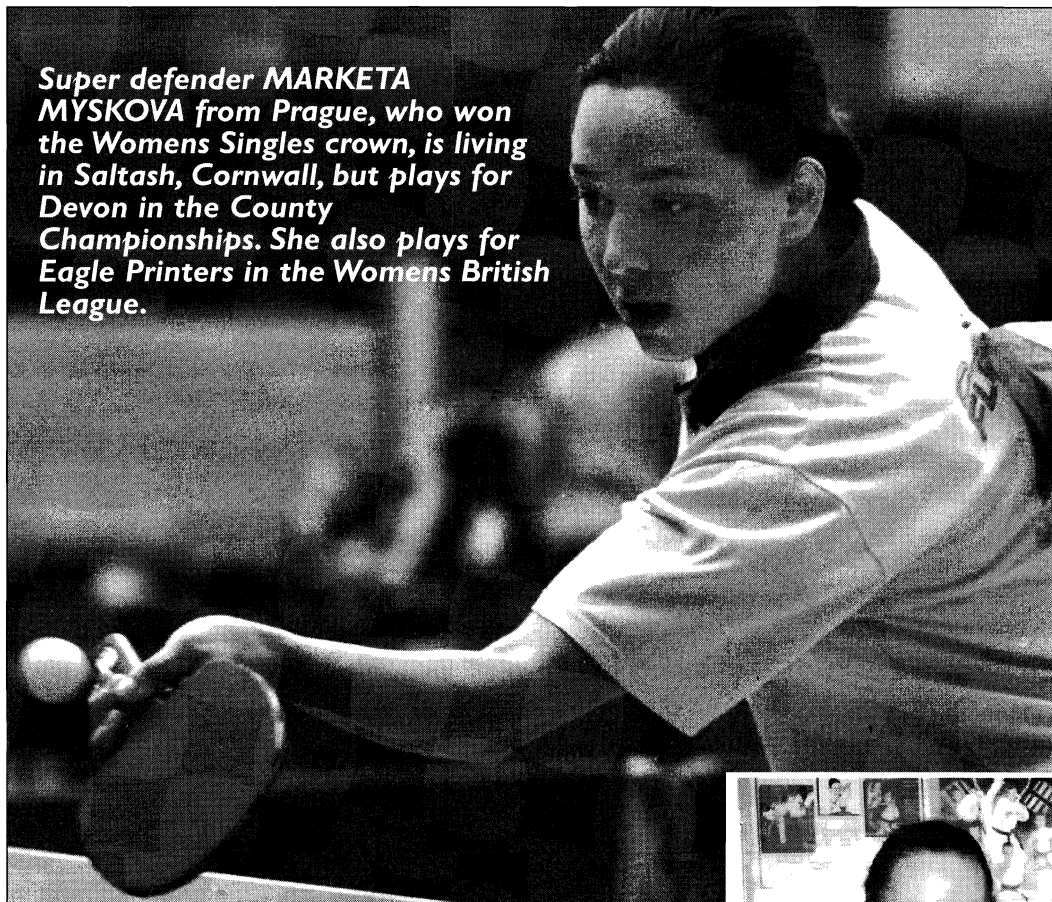
For the record, on the October 1 list, Marco had amassed 4037 points which puts him in twelfth position on the England list. His first grand prix victory was at Hastings, 13 months ago. However, the Torbay event was not, unfortunately, awash with star players, which is hardly surprising when we count up the number of top players appearing on the continent.

Adam Robertson the Welsh No.2 in his first season as a senior is not quite maintaining the progress that we all had hoped for during the past two years. He was an Essomba victim 8, 8, 8, in the mens singles quarters and again lost to Essomba (and Jason Sugrue) in the mens doubles final partnered by Stephen Jenkins.

Essomba, grateful that Gareth Herbert was in the other half defeated without too much trouble Ritchie Venner (Sussex) 5, 8, 8, in the semi-final round.

TOURNAMENT STOPPER

Billington's fine win over Herbert was the tournament stopper the



Super defender MARKETKA MYSKOVA from Prague, who won the Womens Singles crown, is living in Saltash, Cornwall, but plays for Devon in the County Championships. She also plays for Eagle Printers in the Womens British League.

Derbyshire coach with nothing to lose, simply piled on the top-spin. No stranger to the Gareth services he forced his opponent into rash counter-hitting.

After his defeat Gareth told me "Although we practice all the time with 11 points, when it comes to real play, I have not yet mastered the art of winning points quick enough to meet the early crisis stages."

LEADING LADIES MISSING

None of the leading England squad women were able to come to Devon. This left Naomi Wilson (Somerset) as the only England player to reach the semi-finals.

The two finalists emerged as Marketka Myskova from the Czech Republic and the capital city of

**Words by
JOHN WOODFORD
& JOHN WOOD
Pictures by
JOHN WOOD**

Prague and the ever-present Hungarian Barbara Kiss who is a student living in North Middlesex.

Miss Myskova is an au pair who is reported as being here in England only until Christmas. Aged 23 she is an impressive chopper who can also attack. The womens final was a classic battle seen so rarely these days - a good defender against a strong hitter.

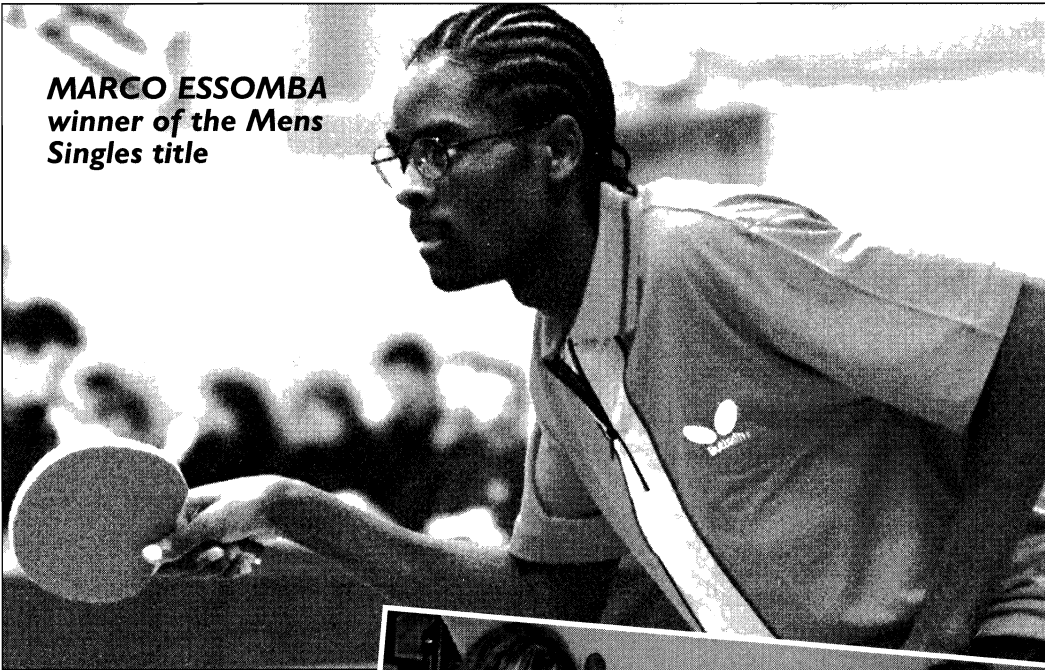
Myskova snatched the first game 7 but the Hungarian bounced back to win the next two 3, 8. The Czech



NAOMI WILSON



MARCO ESSOMBA
winner of the Mens
Singles title



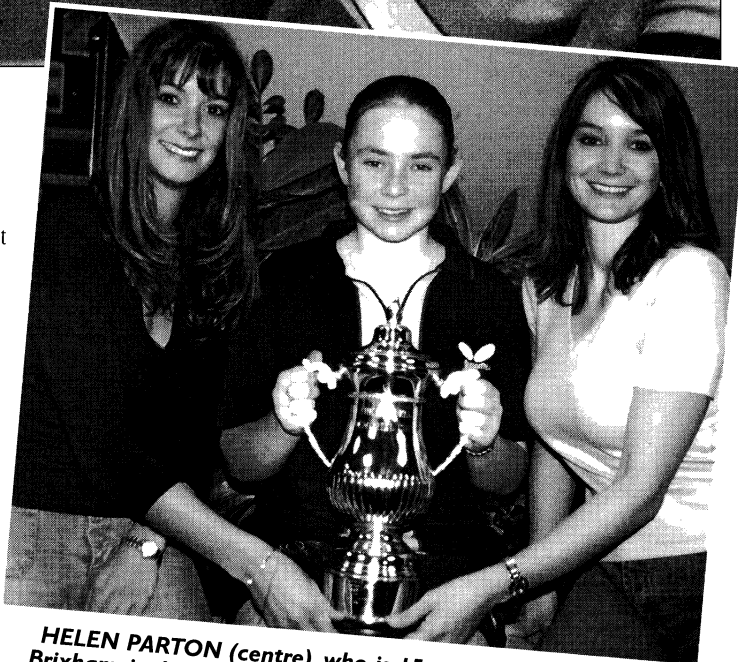
lady came again to level the score at 2-2, but with the issue in doubt until the final point, finally triumphed 9 in the fifth, one of the best finals on the tour, to date.
FOOTNOTE: The Devon tournament is, as far as I am aware, the only tournament offering holidays as prizes. The Band 1 winner Abdul Wuraola won a 3-day break at a Seasons Holiday Resort with eight other winners ranging from the veterans events through the banded events winning two-day holiday breaks at attractive places like the Isle of Wight, Bournemouth, Dartmouth, Torquay, Newquay and Ilfracombe.

A STAR IS BORN
CRAIG BRYANT followed up his success of winning the Mens Under 21 Singles event, by winning the Mens Band 2 singles, and then was presented with the 'Pat Archdale Trophy', for being the South West's top ranked junior, writes John Wood.

In the Under 21 final Bryant beat Owen Griffiths from Wales, 8, 7, 8, and in the Mens Band 2 final he beat another Welshman, Neil Page, -9, 6, 9, 8.

Devon's Bryant then went on to blaze a trail in the Mens Singles event, over-powering yet another Welshman Stephen Jenkins in the last sixteen, -9, 9, 5, 6, before losing an exciting all attack quarter final to Ritchie Venner from Sussex, 7, -12, -12, -9.

Naomi Wilson from Somerset also had a fantastic tournament, winning the Womens Under 21, reaching the final of the Womens Band 2 and the Womens Singles semi-final.



HELEN PARTON (centre), who is 15 years old and come from Brixham, is this year's winner of the Pengelly Cup. This award is for the 'Most improved Devon Junior at the tournament'. The trophy was presented by Sarah Pengelly-Jones (left) and Rachel Pengelly-Bourke.



CRAIG BRYANT (right), is pictured receiving the 'Pat Archdale Trophy', for the top junior on the May Ranking List for the South West Region, from ETTA Vice Chairman for Competitions **KEITH PONTING**.

BANDED PRIZES

Band 1 Men's Singles Winner: 3 Day

Break at any Seasons Holidays Resort.

Runner up: Trophy

Band 1 Women's Singles Winner: 2

Night Break at The Portland Heights

Hotel. Runner up: Trophy

Veteran Men's Singles Winner: 2 Night

Break at The Royal Castle Hotel,

Dartmouth. Runner up: Trophy

Veteran Women's Singles Winner: 2

Night Break at the Hotel Courtlands,

Bournemouth. Runner up: Trophy

Band 2 Men's Singles Winner: 2 Night

Break at the Savoy Holiday Village, Isle of

Wight and Red Funnel Ferries.

Runner up: Trophy

Band 2 Women's Singles Winner: 2

Night Break at The Belgrave Hotel,

Torquay. Runner up: Trophy

Band 3 Men's Singles Winner: 2 Night

Break at Torquay Holiday Hotel, Torquay.

Runner up: Trophy

Band 3 Women's Singles Winner: 2

Night Break at The Grantham Astor

Hotel, Newquay. Runner up: Trophy

Band 4 Men's Singles Winner: 2 Night

Break at The Palm Court Hotel,

Ilfracombe. Runner up: Trophy.

RESULTS

Mens singles: S/F: Bradley Billington

(Derbyshire) bt Gareth Herbert (Berkshire)

11-9, 11-7, 7-11, 11-8. Marco Essomba (Surrey)

bt Ritchie Venner (Sussex) 11-5, 11-8, 11-8.

Final: Essomba bt Bradley Billington 11-5, 11-8,

3-11, 11-8.

Womens singles: S/F: Marketa Myskova

(Czech Republic) bt Dorka Nagy (Hungary)

11-5, 11-9, 11-9. Barbara Kiss (Herts) bt Naomi

Wilson (Somerset) 11-5, 11-3, 9-11, 11-2. Final:

Myskova bt Kiss 11-9, 9-11, 8-11, 11-4, 11-9.

Mens doubles: Jason Sugrue (Middlesex)/

Marco Essomba (Surrey) bt Adam Robertson /

Stephen Jenkins (Wales) 11-5, 11-6, 11-9.

Womens doubles: Dorka Nagy (Hungary)

/Michele Cohen (Wiltshire) bt Barbara Kiss

(Herts)/Lindsey Thornton (Lancs) 11-6, 11-6,

9-11, 11-9.

Mens under 21 singles: Craig Bryant

(Devon) bt Owen Griffiths (Wales) 11-8, 11-7,

11-8.

Womens under 21 singles: Naomi Wilson

(Somerset) bt Suzy Robinson (Gloucs) 8-11,

7-11, 11-9, 11-3, 11-5.

Veteran mens singles: Chris Beckley

(Surrey) bt Mike Short (Devon) 5-11, 11-3,

11-8, 8-11, 11-5.

Veteran womens singles: Jenny Harrison

(Essex) bt Penny Perry (Devon) 11-4, 8-11,

11-6, 6-11, 13-11.

Mens band 1 singles: Abdul Wuraola

(Surrey) bt Craig Bryant (Devon) 12-10, 11-8,

9-11, 12-10.

Mens band 2 singles: Craig Bryant (Devon)

bt Neil Page (Wales) 9-11, 11-6, 11-9, 11-8.

Mens band 3 singles: Shaun Marples

(Derbys) bt Ian Packford (Oxon) 13-11, 1-11,

11-6, 11-13, 11-2.

Mens band 4 singles: William Power (Kent)

bt Tom Williams (Devon) 6-11, 11-9, 9-11, 11-6,

11-6.

Mens band 5 singles: Neil Cartwright

(Dorset) bt Mike Hugh (Devon) 8-11, 11-3, 11-8,

11-9.

Mens band 6 singles: Mark Buckley (Kent)

bt Daniel Mayhew (Devon) 8-11, 1-11, 11-2,

11-4, 11-5.

Womens band 1 singles: Sarah Horsnell

(Middlesex) bt Suzy Robinson (Gloucs) 11-13,

11-7, 11-4, 7-11, 11-7.

Womens band 2 singles: Jenny Harrison

(Essex) bt Naomi Wilson (Somerset) 11-8, 12-10,

7-11, 12-10.

DRINKHALL & PARKER TOWERING SUCCESS

BLACKPOOL & District Table Tennis League must be congratulated on organising a very successful event over the weekend of 6th-7th October at Blackpool Sports Centre. The standard of play was of the very highest quality, as was to be expected with most of the country's top junior players competing, writes Tony Meredith.

Bryn Drinkhall and Katy Parker are this year's junior champions, whilst Tim Yarnall and Lauren Spink took the honours in the Cadet singles.

YARNALL DEFEATS THE TOP SEED

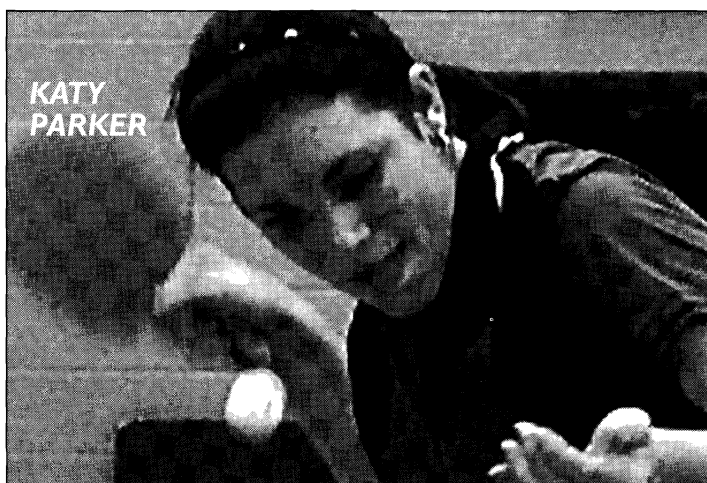
The best performance of the weekend came in the junior boys singles when 13 year old combi-bat player Tim Yarnall from Northampton defeated no.2 seed Greg Baker (Tamworth) at the quarter final stage in a tense five-gamer. Yarnall played superbly all weekend and not only did he proceed a round further than his seeding in the main event, he also won the cadet boys singles and the doubles partnered by Manchester's Adam Bleakley whom he defeated in the singles. In the semis of the main event he went down to no.3 seed Bryn Drinkhall from Ormesby, who had earlier disposed of Lancashire's Louis Rosenthal. Cheshire's Danny Horner reached the final after defeating Devon's Craig Bryant in five. The final also went the distance, where Drinkhall edged home game 6 in the decider.

A CLASS APART

Preston's Katy Parker, ranked no.1 and top seed, proved that she is now a class apart in the junior girls ranks.



BRYN DRINKHALL



KATY PARKER

She defeated second seed Natalie Bawden (Essex) by 3 games to 1 in the girls final. After dropping the first game, she never really looked to be in any trouble. She has now come of age and should soon be knocking on the door for the England top women's spot. People may soon be asking the obvious question – can she emulate her mother, Jill Hammersley-Parker, who was

European Champion?

Kent's Gemma Yarnley defeated Sarah Brown (Essex) in the junior girls banded final. Lauren Spink of Norfolk, seeded 2, caused a slight upset in the cadet girls singles when she overcame Brentwood girl Abigail Embling, the no.1 seed, deuce in the fifth.

There was another close contest when Danny Rees (Brentwood) edged out Nottingham's Richard Wesley in the deciding game of the cadet boys banded final. Lauren Springthorpe of Grantham, who is still in the under 12 ranks, won the cadet girls banded event with a comfortable victory over Northwich girl Elizabeth Dennett. Paul

Drinkhall, brother of Bryn, got the better of Darius Knight in a very entertaining under 12 boys final and Lauren Springthorpe made it a triple success when she ousted Cheshire's Sophie Byron in the under 12 girls and took the cadet girls doubles title with partner Gemma Yarnley.

The revelation of the tournament was eleven year old Darius Knight from Battersea, London. He won the junior banded event defeating Lincolnshire's Alex Green 11-9 in the deciding game. He also reached the quarter-finals of the main event, but just lost out in the deciding game to seventh seed Craig Bryant. Could he be Desmond Douglas 2? He looks rather like him and is also left-handed. If he stays with it, he must surely be a future England No.1.

RESULTS:

Junior Boys Singles : Bryn Drinkhall (Cv) bt Danny Horner (Ch) 8, 8, -4, -8, 6. Junior Girls Singles : Katy Parker (1a) bt Natalie Bawden (E) -8, 3, 8, 8. Junior Boys Banded Singles : Darius Knight' (Sy) bt Alex Green (Li) 9, -8, 11, -4. 9. Junior Girls Banded Singles : Gemma Yarnley (K) bt Sarah Brown (E) 9, 11, -7, 9. Junior Boys Doubles : Bryn Drinkhall/Craig Bryant (Dv) bt Chris Gregory (Sp)/Adam Bleakley (La) 10, 9, 8. Junior Girls Doubles : Katy Parker/Natalie Bawden bt Kate Steward (So)/Georgina Walker (Ng) 7, -7, 8 -18, 4. Cadet Boys Singles : Tim Yarnall bt Adam Bleakley -10, 8, 9, 7. Cadet Girls Singles : Lauren Spink (Nk) bt Abigail Embling (E) 6, -10, -5, 9, 10. Cadet Boys Banded Singles : Danny Rees (E) bt Richard Wesley (Ng) 4, -4, 7, -10, 8. Cadet Girls Banded Singles : Lauren Springthorpe (Li) bt Elizabeth Dennett (Ch) 9, 5, 2. Under 12 Boys Singles : Paul Drinkhall (Cv) bt Darius Knight 2, 9, -12, 8. Under 12 Girls Singles : Lauren Springthorpe bt Sophie Byron (Ch) 5, 3, 8. Cadet Boys Doubles : Tim Yarnall/Adam Bleakley bt Paul Drinkhall/Darius Knight 4, 8, 9. Cadet Girls Doubles : Lauren Springthorpe/Gemma Yarnley bt Abigail Embling/Bethany Rees (E) 2, 3, 5.

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TABLE TENNIS NEWS EXTRA

November 2001 – Issue no. 281

Editorial

Readers are reminded that the views expressed in these columns are my personal ones.

The England Women's Team 3-1 win over a young side from Poland is their first European League First Division win for a long time and represents a huge psychological boost. It was also an excellent team effort, Helen Lower and young Katy Parker putting in fine singles performances, and Nicola Deaton, although below par in losing her first singles, demonstrated tremendous courage and fighting spirit to overcome Monika Pietkiewicz 23-21 in the fifth (!) from 2 games down, to give England the match.

It was a **tremendously exciting match** and the **lady mayor and the packed house at Scarborough Table Tennis Centre loved it.** England NPC Alan Cooke considered Nicola's last game an **'absolute epic** and that the **up-to-11 scoring system, with more pressure points, added to the tension and entertainment value.**

Terry Young, who has been losing too many frustratingly close singles, has had recent greater international success as a doubles player. After going through 2 rounds with **Alex Perry in the German Open Pro Tour in Bayreuth, he partnered Austrian Robert Gardos to reach the Dutch Open Pro Tour (Rotterdam) men's doubles last 16, with good wins over Czechs Plachy and Vozicky and Germans Steger and Wosik.** The Anglo-Austrian pair finally fell over 5 games to Korean top seeds, Lee Chul Seung and Ryu Seung Min.

They are now both out of the respective age group categories, but the only British players in the **European Youth Ranking List** following the Youth Championships in Terni in late July, were **Joanna Parker (England), no. 19 in the cadet girls, and Adam Robertson (Wales), no.13 in the junior boys.**

However, **expect Katy Parker back soon** following her recent return to form.

It has been put to me that **juniors and cadets do not get enough publicity in Table Tennis News** and I tend to agree. They need the recognition for their efforts. I have previously **advocated a 'With The Juniors' column** on the lines that Laurie Landry produced many years ago, but **we need a volunteer** for this. Meanwhile, send in to John Wood and myself, your letters, articles, competition reports and photographs about improving youngsters and we will try to put them in. Incidentally, as I write I am pleased to learn how **well the South of England Counties Cadet Championship went** at Westergate, Sussex on 3rd November, and no doubt similar regional divisions around the country went of this very welcome addition to the County Championships.

Jon Kaufman has suggested using the **senior British League to promote itself and junior table tennis** by having **junior matches as curtain raisers to Premier Division League ties.** London Progress apparently invited visitors **Batts Team Peniel to bring a junior team to their last home fixture to compete against a team of youngsters of their own, and this match proved to be a very popular experiment, a bonus being that the juniors then boosted the audience for the senior match.** London Progress will now repeat this junior match formula at future British League matches and encourage other Premier Division clubs to do the same.

Regarding a slightly older age group, **Mike Payne (mjpayne@ontel.net.uk)** is of course a **great advocate of university table tennis.** He encourages league secretaries to contact university clubs (he or Jo Kirk at BUSA on Joanne@busa.org.uk can provide a list of those they know of) about entering local league teams for season 2002/2003 or to encourage

them to enter the **BUSA team competition next season.** University TT playing students are also encouraged to enter the **Universities Individual Championships in Warwick on 16th/17th February** (closing date 17th January). Further details available from Mike or Jo. To publicise university table tennis activities, contact Mairi Irvine (Mairi@busa.org.uk) or Mike, and you can also send interesting items to John Wood or myself for TTN.

As we went to press with the October TTN, we were shocked and saddened to learn of the (too sudden) **death of Mike Watts** through cancer. Worthier people than I pay tribute elsewhere, but Mike, a modest and sincere man, was a **true enthusiast of table tennis who did a gigantic amount for the game, both as a volunteer and a professional.** I doubt if anyone can get to grips with the full extent of his involvement, and much will be left un-noted. Nick Standen told me that Mike even ran a British League team while he was working as ETTA Events Manager in Hastings, and Bill Clark, former chairman of the Milton Keynes League, said that he used to play football with Mike in Southend in the 60's, before Mike moved on to a higher level of play – he was later also to become a football referee.

Key recommendations of **Dr Jack Cunningham's Funding Review of Elite Sports** are: **support for 'modernisation' of governing bodies** (e.g. in IT), **need for further development of high quality coaching and club structures,** the production of **integrated lottery plans** with one lead body for World Class Programmes for Olympic/Paralympic sports (like table tennis), and **revisions to athletes' funding arrangements.** Subject to the Government's response, they could have major implications for elite sport, including table tennis.

Ken Muhr

MUHR'S MEMO: Information Officer Messages from Ken Muhr

Again not a great deal to report on in the national media, although **John Woodford** virtuously gets table tennis snippets regularly in **The Daily Telegraph**, and occasionally in other dailies through his **Press Association copy**. **Soren Ahlen**, as a governing body of sport 'overseas invader', got a tiny mention in a Guardian article about the new Australian chief executive of Sport England, David Moffett. Interestingly, he also did a 6 minute **BBC Radio Leeds** interview after the England men lost to Spain in Halifax, a comparison with the Swedish, England football manager Sven Goran Eriksson apparently being made.

The biggest table tennis feature was the two thirds of a broadsheet page given in **The Independent on Sunday** by **Jonathan Thompson** about the general aspects of our sport. It was fairly basic stuff but gave contact numbers and this kind of exposure is very valuable to us. I was also very gratified when a **two page article**, together with photos of an attractive model playing, a front-page billing ('Burn fat fast with Table Tennis (we kid you not)') and several quotes by myself, finally appeared in the **November Slimming magazine**. The health and fitness aspects of table tennis and the famous people who play it can continue to be successfully promoted.

Table tennis very nearly got a rare mention in The Sun. However, I **blew it when I told their reporter that I thought it highly unlikely that the 4 hours 18 minutes** he had read (in a local paper) that it had taken to complete a Huddersfield League match, **made it the longest ever local league match.** In my experience many matches have gone on longer and my first 'phone call after speaking to The Sun, bore this out: **Brian Halliday** told me about a **match in the Reading League** about 10 years ago, between Sonning Common and Post Office, that had gone on for **6 hours 15 minutes** (finishing at 1-45am!), with 6 of the 10 sets going to expedite! Beat that! I think that **hearing about some of the longest ever local league**

matches would be a fascinating feature for future editions of TTN Extra – contributions are invited – and maybe even for local media.

Did anyone see Hung Kei Li on BBC TV Newsround? It has been recorded but I am not sure whether it has been broadcast.

There is always **much more table tennis media coverage in the regions** that I am specifically aware of (correspondents, please tell me). For example, Butterfly Grand Prix's nearly always generates a lot, and it is really only because I work locally that I was able to see in print the extensive press coverage in Sussex by John Woodford and myself for the **Sussex Open Butterfly Grand Prix in Hastings**, and I also know that Ritchie Venner was interviewed by BBC Southern Counties Radio. International matches also still generate a lot of local (if not national) interest, and I know for example from the extensive communication with the **Halifax Courier** that they will have given the **England v Spain men's European League First Division tie** much space. Likewise, Colin Deaton tells me that Nicola's photograph was on the front page of the **Sheffield Star** following **England women's 3-1 victory over Poland in Scarborough.**

The 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester, 25th July – 4th August (tel. 0161 240 2002, fax. 0161 240 2004, e-mail. info@manchester2002.co.uk website. www.commonwealthgames.com) **should increasingly generate table tennis media exposure**, and our best title hope for a gold medal, **Matthew Syed**, who hopes to become Commonwealth men's singles champion for a record 4th time, had a small feature and photo about himself in the 5th edition of the publicity magazine **Our Games**. There will be **200 hours of coverage on BBC terrestrial TV** for the Games so table tennis should get a very good look in, particularly if we are successful. Incidentally, the Games are still looking for volunteers: tel. 0845 345 3457 or write to: Volunteers, Manchester 2002, PO Box 2002, Manchester M60 3RP.

Bits of advice I gleaned from a UK Sport media study day are: **BBC – 'promote healthy and active lifestyles through participation and use the power of sport to help people develop and improve their lives', build up personalities** (can be used for programmes such as Blue Peter and Saturday morning show) particularly focussing on new heroes for the Athens 2004 Olympics (*too soon for us!*), **take up** on an ad hoc basis TV and radio broadcasting **opportunities as they arise, be receptive to new ideas and create links with media personnel; UK Sport – Maximise your presence on the internet** making the most of your resources (keep it simple, engage the user, be unique in content, keep it up to date etc), **think 'out of the box'** to get media coverage.

The BBC Sport Academy is being launched in the late spring 2002 on BBC Online and it will be about **participation in different sports** (initially the major ones). The ETTA continues to make endeavours to get more table tennis on terrestrial television and Matthew Syed has recently met the BBC to discuss possibilities. However, although more than anything else I am asked by our members why the ETTA does not get table tennis on terrestrial TV, it is much tougher than they are aware – badminton and squash are also frustrated by this.

Finally, as it was not mentioned in the October issue, I think it only right that I should give Mighty Walzer author **Howard Jacobson's word's about our new Random House supported ETTA Press Officer of the Year Award winner, Steve Kerns: "He wrote with a bit of zest, giving the drama of play, the strokes and the sense you were there. He was more absorbed in matches, the comedy of it, the social by-play."** A good example for other press officers to emulate.

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Berkshire by John Cunningham

Kim Spicer did not let her supporters down in the Special Olympics held in Cardiff.

The Our Lady of Peace table tennis star celebrated her birthday by taking second place in the ladies doubles and a great fourth position in the ladies singles. Kim teamed up with Karen Kay to take the silver medal, beating Victoria Bromley and Paula Moses 21-18, 21-15, M Murdoch and J Bryne 2-14, 21-11 and, in the match of the day, the fighting duo came from behind to beat Bernice Deavall and Hannah Stone 17-21, 21-12, 21-19.

In the battle for the gold, however, they found Paula Latham and Jacqueline Smith just too good and lost 21-7, 21-16. In the singles Spicer beat doubles partner Ley 21-14, 21-7, Bromley 21-16, 21-17, Ley in turn beat Bromley 21-15, 21-16.

The eventual winner Latham was given her closest match by Spicer, just winning 17-21, 21-10, 21-15, while Ley gained a creditable fifth place by beating Victoria Bromley 21-15, 21-16.

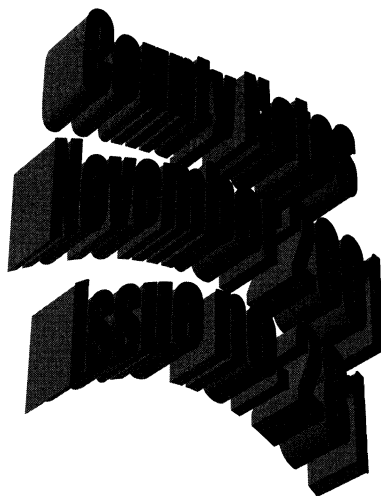
Spicer completed her Olympic day with a hard fought defeat at the hands of second placed Smith and third placed Donnelly. The scores reflecting her gallant play 21-14, 21-15 and 21-16, 21-14 respectively. A great day for Kim and her proud dad as she brought back the medal she promised her OLOP team-mates.

Halliday back in league action

The Reading League season got underway last week when players had to adjust to the rules and tactics associated with the new 11-up best-of-five system. It met with mixed response.

In Division 2, Brian Halliday made a welcome return to table tennis and managed two fine victories against Merril Massey and Brian Meheux as Kingfisher D held Sonning Common & Peppard B 5-5.

Our Lady of Peace table tennis coordinator John Cunningham, who recently received a Service to Earley Town Council award and was voted the British League Press Officer of the Year by the ETTA, is celebrating a hat trick of awards.



He received the Maurice Goldstein Merit Award for devoted service to table tennis from Alan Ransome, Chairman of the ETTA.

This award was given in recognition of his work done at national, county and local level.

“This prestigious award from the top body of table tennis has rounded off a great year for Our Lady of Peace, who have grown from a small group of youngsters and parents in the local league to a club with national and European status”.

Berkshire Veterans lost 5-4 to Devon after taking a 3-0 lead thanks to wins by Tony Brown, Ian Schwartz and Syd Montgomery. In the doubles, however, it was a different story, as the strong Devon side fought back to 3-2. Penny Perry made the match score 3-3 by beating Merrill Massey in the battle of the ladies.

The next two matches went to the deciders, but both were won by Devon, giving them a 5-3 lead.

Brown lost 11-7, 8-11, 6-11, 10-12 while Montgomery can count himself very unlucky to lose out by a 10-12, 5-11, 11-6, 11-5, 12-10 scoreline.

Schwartz secured a last match win to make the final score 5-4 to Devon. He was also voted player of the match.

Cheshire by Alan Blears

Back in the mid-70s, the Johns brothers, Mike and Brian, enjoyed success as a doubles partnership in tournaments all over the country before going their separate ways. Mike spent a lengthy spell as ETTA Events Manager in Hastings, but has

now returned to Cheshire and resumed his partnership with younger brother Brian. That this spells trouble for their opponents was evident in the Veterans Home Countries International in Wrexham where they cruised to a 3-1 win over fellow English pair Tony Gelder and Dave Harding. They clearly relished their success as they have decided to stay together for the season.

Mike, who is practising three or four times a week and claims to have never felt fitter, went on to win the O50's singles title with a 3-1 win over Dave Harvey.

Another evergreen veteran, Doreen Schofield, was also among the medals, taking the O50s doubles with Judy Morley, and also the O60s singles title with a 3-0 win over Ireland's Dot Taylor.

Junior/Cadet Trials:

The Cheshire junior and cadet trials brought some unexpected results. In the girls events Jordyn Layfield finished fifth in the cadets but third in the juniors, while in the cadet boys a five way tie for second place had to be decided on games countback.

The leading positions were:

Junior Girls – 1. Clare Langford, 2. Hayley Parker, 3. Jordyn Layfield 4. Ashley Layfield 5. Sophie Byron, 6. Fiona Dennett, 7. Jaynie Turner (Karen Shepherd exempt).

Junior Boys: 1. Neil Powell 2. Tom Page, 3. Aaron Beech, 4. Jonathan Taylor 5. Gavin Lloyd 6. Arjun Chandna 7. Robert Wylie 8. Mark Davies

Cadet Girls: Hayley Parker 2. Sophie Byron 3. Ashley Layfield 4. Fiona Dennett 5. Jordyn Layfield 6. Kathryn Hatton 7. Robyn Green 8. Joanne Murphy

Cadet Boys: 1. Jonathan Taylor 2. Richard Barker 3. Andrew Davies 4. Sam Kilby 5. Adam Slater 6. James Willdig 7. Robin Farrington 8. Ajai Singh 9. Matthew Knott

Stockport veteran Roger Hampson seems to be getting better and better these days. When most players are accepting that age takes its toll, local

businessman Roger, it seems, is saving his best performances for later in life.

His latest successes were against the Johns brothers Mike and Brian, in a Lancashire and Cheshire League clash.

"I told our lads at the start of the season that I needed a rest. But I agreed to play in this opening match against Mid-Cheshire to help out. But after this result I feel that I will be called on again very soon," he said.

Besides seeing off the Johns', Roger also beat Terry Turner to complete a memorable hat trick.

Skipper Phil Biggs also beat the two brothers as Stockport picked up a useful 5-5 draw against the current champions.

With the Veteran British League coming up Roger is now more than likely to receive a call-up.

"The British League is an important competition and Stockport have a good chance of making it back into the premier division so I expect to be asked to play."

Cornwall by John Wood

Cornwall's Senior, Junior and Veteran table tennis teams were in action last month in the English National County Championships, at Tregorrick Park Table Tennis Centre in St. Austell.

The Senior 2nd team beat Hertfordshire's 1st team 6-4 in an exciting match which saw last year's junior county champion, tall and aggressive Chris Brown, power his way to two impressive singles victories. Brown was well supported by super defender Kate Alken who won her two singles, plus Graham Reed and Michelle Turner who won one apiece.

The junior 1st team also flew the flag for Cornwall, with Chris Brown, now with his junior cap on, leading the way to two impressive 3-0 victories in Cornwall's 7-3 victory over Warwickshire. This match also saw two stunning attacking displays by Adam Tatlow and Andrew Broad. The 7th game was won by Michelle Turner, also wearing her junior cap on this occasion.

Sadly, the Cornish Junior 2nd team suffered a 4-6 loss to Warwickshire 2nds, but it was a close run thing, with Cornwall's no. 1 and no. 2, Nick

Smale and James Charlton, both winning their two singles.

This season has seen the introduction of a new scoring system worldwide, that of up to 11 points instead of 21. This new idea is to speed up the game and increase crisis points mostly for the benefit of TV. It will take time to re-adjust to going got it from the off, otherwise it seems that the game is over before it has started.

The new scoring system, plus a packed and bustling Tregorrick Park Table Tennis Centre, seemed to affect the Cornish Veteran team more than the other teams, as they firstly trailed 1-3 and then 2-4, before going onto a superb 5-4 victory over Herefordshire.

This fantastic fight back was led by Neville Reed, whose use of his combination bat of spin and long pimped rubbers, saw him defend superbly with the occasional flashing forehand attack to take both his two singles 3-0. Reed also took the men's doubles game, in partnership with Derek Lucas who also won the last game of the day against Hereford's Neville Meredith. A game of fast thrilling all action attack, which saw Lucas win 10-12, 11-7, 11-8, 11-6, to celebrate his 47th birthday.

Cornwall's other game was won by team captain and ace defender, Bob House.

Devonshire by John Vincent

The new table tennis centre at Okehampton has already been used successfully for (1) a Premier Club weekend (2) County matches:

Senior Seconds beat Worcestershire 10-0. Craig Bryant, Kevin Buddell, Richard Pillar, new girl Marketa Myslova and Liz May produced this good result in Division 2B of the County Championships. Junior Seconds beat Shropshire seconds 6-4 in Division 3C of the junior section. Daniel Mayhew 2, Darren Reed 2, Simon Poyner 1 and Lisa Radford 1 achieved this good result.

Junior Thirds lost to Shropshire Seconds 3-7. Paul Christie 2 is showing much improved form this year. Defender Sam Bruty took 1. Christopher Smith, his sister Sally and Lizzie Binks made up the team.

(3) A Junior Training Day run by Head Coach Graham Slack ably assisted by Valerie Clack, John Vincent, Dennis Gibbs and Neville Reed.

Matthew Syed was our star attraction acting as a training partner with his brother, Andrew, helping with the coaching and practice. Matthew was very popular with the players and coaches, always willing to join in fun and games and the competitions and, of course, winning them all.

Kate Triscott from MARJONS did the psychology with groups of six "looking at one's personality". I sat in on one group session and was impressed with the content and smoothness of delivery. Kate will be helping my Plymouth players in future.

Junior Preliminary Trials for the South West

These were held at Okehampton. Simon Poyner was unlucky, having to go into hospital with appendicitis the day before. He should be fit to make a comeback in about six weeks time.

The county did very well with 7 cadets and 5 juniors qualifying for the final trials, which will be held in Cirencester in November.

Qualifiers

Cadet Boys: Darren Reed had a good victory over Dorian Robinson (Somerset), Paul Christie, Christopher Smith, Stuart Wherrett who managed a close victory in his last match to qualify.

Cadet Girls: Sally Smith, Lizzie Binks, Lucy O'Callaghan

Junior Boys: Jacob Kodicek, Shaun Gibbs, Sam Bruty (second reserve)

Junior Girls: Helen Parton, Lisa Radford, Michelle Barrett, - Sally Smith (first reserve)

Essex by Steve Kerns

Cannon Fodder

County Junior Match Secretary Alan Shepherd reports from Cippenham where the County Junior third team made a promising start to the season in division 3D of the County Championships winning twice against

Sussex III (6-4) and Gwent (7-3) as well as missing out 4-6 against Gloucestershire. Samuel Cannon, the County's second ranked cadet, was the undoubted star of this team and took his six singles in style.

Against Sussex the Ilford lads, Samuel Cannon and Daniel Bronziet, were both undefeated whilst Matthew Taylor (Harlow) and Becky Metson (Braintree) both chipped in with a win apiece. Cannon and Bronziet were again successful in the Gwent encounter although Daniel had to pull out all the stops to defeat Alex Jones over five legs. William Thoresby made his debut and showed little sign of first-match nerves as he also took his singles. With Becky Metson scoring a fine win over Rachel Mealing, Essex were comfortable 7-3 winners. Gloucestershire were our last opponents and Cannon was again faultless, taking his two singles comfortably. William Thoresby won once and Matthew Taylor gave an excellent account of himself against Gloucestershire no. 1 Michael Harvey (son of the legendary Dave Harvey) just missing out over four pulsating games. Matthew came back to play very well in his second match to get the better of Steve Gummer in the fifth end.

The Junior Ranking Committee has published its first Ranking List of the season:

Junior Boys: 1. Keiran Lally 2. Umair Mauthoor, 3. Matthew Staines 4. Tony Halling 5. Lee Daines 6. Anthony Greenwood 7. Jack Leather 8. Robin Ashleigh 9. Samuel Cannon 10. Max Cornhill 11. Daniel Bronziet 12. Matthew Taylor 13. William Thoresby 14. Michel Andrews 15. Christopher Todd

Junior Girls: 1. Natalie Bawden 2. Amy Wright 3. Leanne Bentley 4. Sarra Wang 5. Rebecca Jackson 6. Rebecca Metson 7. Laura Lesser 8. Lindsey McNutt 9. Ruth Ashleigh 10. Lorna Staff

Under 14 Boys: 1. Tony Halling 2. Samuel Cannon 3. Michael Andrews 4. Christopher Todd 5. Daniel Stander 6. Hua-Aun Tan 7. Michael Dahler 8. Philip Hartley 9. Thomas Leader 10. Daniel Nunn.

Under 14 Girls: 1. Sarra Wang 2. Lindsey McNutt 3. Ruth Ashleigh 4. Lorna Staff 5. Jade Cornhill 6. Kerri-Lee Webb 7. Ameer Potts 8. Haylee Potts

Under 12 Boys: 1. Philip Hartley 2. Thomas Leader 3. Daniel Nunn 4. Christopher Bird 5. Thomas Hill 6. Mark Mulley 7. Michael Richman 8. Sam Brown

Under 12 Girls: 1. Sarra Wang 2. Jade Cornhill 3. Kerri-Lee Webb 4. Ameer Potts 5. Haylee Potts 6. Rachel Arriya

Colchester League

New League Press Officer Martyn Green suggests that this year's first division might be a little more open than usual with many teams opting to play on Thursday nights at the League's new facilities at the Thomas Audley School. Fixed night matches are certainly more 'family-friendly' with partners able to plan their weekly rotas more easily, but conversely they can mean the abandonment of a player's involvement in a League if the chosen night genuinely does not suit that player. Last year's champions Civil Service A (renamed "rjg" Consumables) will be without 'rig' as Rik James cannot make Thursdays and a lot of pressure will rest on his teammates David Cole, Steve Edmonds, Terry Dowsett and Andy Wadling to maintain a challenge in his absence. Last year's runners-up Paxmans A look the best equipped to take advantage of any slip-ups and their team of John Andrews, Dave Moss and Mick Buckley are sure to be in the running. They might not be too pleased at the remainder that they last won the title 14 years ago! Doesn't time fly? Paxmans should also be commended for spreading their players throughout their teams as they have included Essex junior stars Keiran Lally and Anthony Greenwood and the still impressive Bob Hellaby in their C team. Britannia (Ipswich) with a line up of Andy Holmes, Andy Doshier, Ian Brown, Clare Emmerson and Ameer Sparkes are also capable of troubling the best on their day but probably lack that little consistency over a season to challenge for the title.

Gloucestershire by Alf Pepperd

Editor's note: Unfortunately, owing to ill health, Alf is having to give up writing Gloucestershire notes and, therefore, on this exceptional occasion, we publish all of his very long report below.

Table tennis legend Desmond Douglas gave his seal of approval to new facilities for sport in Cheltenham.

Top seniors, veterans and youngsters are expected to use the facilities at Cheltenham College Sports Centre, which were funded by Lottery money and a grant from the Cheltenham Table Tennis Association.

The Lottery's Awards for All scheme contributed £4,500 and the local association £1,000 which has paid for 12 new tables and will also fund coaches.

Chairman of the newly-formed Cheltenham Table Tennis Club, who will use the facilities on Tuesday and Thursday nights, Nick Davidson, said that the money would provide a top-level coach for the club and also allow the club to develop the possibility of obtaining as many local coaches as possible.

The new club will also be able to provide performance days for certain groups of people, such as schoolchildren, women and the disabled. Douglas, National Champion 11 times and twice English Open title holder in his illustrious playing career, opened the centre by taking on two players at the opposite end of the county spectrum.

His first match was against youngster Andy Merrick, and played under the new 11-up scoring system, Douglas won the first game 11-7 and was 5-0 up in the second before Merrick hit back to 6-5, only for Douglas to go on to win 11-8.

Next up for a crack at Desmond was Gloucestershire's top male player Darren Griffin, ranked at 52 in England and 12 times County Champion, Douglas beat Griffin in straight games 11-5, 11-4, in a game full of good rallies.

Speaking afterwards Douglas said that the new centre was exactly what the game needed, and that it should provide a solid example to other parts of the country – to see a centre like

this is fantastic, he said and this is how it should be.

Desmond further added that it was good to note that the new club is open for everyone to use, and he stressed the fact that table tennis has always had a problem in competing with other sports and that we have got to try to keep pace with them as much as possible.

The ETTA is trying, but it is hard unless the game has a major sponsor and gets television interested, the game is bigger abroad, especially in the Far East, but Europe is catching up fast.

We all need to attract the younger generation to the sport and keep them interested, by going into schools and selling the game to them.

In conclusion, the above event took place in Cheltenham on Tuesday 4th September 2001, and the following committee workers are to be congratulated upon the culmination of doing a very fine job.

Nick Davidson – Chairman, Dave Green – Secretary, Chris White – Treasurer, Mark Mulchay – Committee Member, Richard Gummow – Committee Member

1st official Gloucestershire Ranking list of top players for 2001/2

Senior Men: 1. Darren Griffin (G), 2. David Harvey (C), 3. William Dawe (G), 4. Mark Donaghue (G), 5. Brian McRandall, 6. Guy Greening (C), 7. Alan Giles (S), 8. Roy Morley (G), 9. Dave Adamson (S), 10. Dominic W Sands (C), 11. Howard Williams (S), 12. Ian Heskins (S)

Senior Women: 1. Natasha Lake (C), 2. Suzy Robinson 3. Judy Morley (G), 4. Jacqui Carver (C), 5. Linda Probert (C), 6. Michelle Entwistle (Cir), 7. Marianne Willsher (S), 8. Elaine Bassett 9. Stella Davis (G), 10. Julie Taylor (C)

Veteran Men: 1. David Harvey (C), 2. William Dawe (G), 3. Guy Greening (C), 4. Alan Giles (S), 5. Roy Morley (G), 6. Dave Adamson (S), 7. John Fannin (G), 8. Rob Willsher (S), 9. Roy Fowler (C), 10. Peter Wood (G), 11. David Lloyd (S), 12. Bob Trimble (G)

Veteran Women: 1. Judy Morley (G), 2. Linda Probert (C), 3. Michelle Entwistle (Cir), 4. Julie Taylor (C), 5. Cathy Hipkiss (C), 6. Janie Kirby (G)

Junior Boys: 1. Dominic Wynn-Sands (C), 2. Harry Shahlaei (C), 3. Michael Harvey (C), 4. Tom Burdett (G), 5. Steve Gummer (G), 6. Matt Fitzsimmonds (C), 7. Matt Mulchay (C), 8. Dave Merrick (C), 9. Craig East (C), 10. Andrew Merrick (C), 11. Samuel White (Cir), 12. Simon Frilling (C), 13. Tom Putney (Cir).

Junior Girls: 1. Stella Davis (G), 2. Celina Bell (G), 3. Joanne Pigott (G), 4. Jessica Hurford (S), 5. Emily Bell (G).

Note: Sam Ewens and Matt De Jong are not available for county selection

Code:

G = Gloucester, S = Stroud, C = Cheltenham, Cir = Cirencester

First round of County Matches

Our Gloucestershire 1st Veterans team in Division 3D travelled to Warwickshire and lost to the home team 2-7, our sole success came when Alan Giles beat Clive Irwin, and then followed that up with a victory with Guy Greening in the men's doubles. Full match scores below, Warks names first:

Barry Hunt bt Guy Greening 11-6, 6-11, 11-8, 9-11, 9-11; Clive Irwin bt Dave Adamson 5-11, 11-5, 11-9, 7-11, 12-10; Phil Paine bt Alan Giles 11-4, 11-7, 4-11, 8-11, 11-8; MXD: Lloyd/Irwin bt Probert/Adamson 14-16, 11-7, 12-10, 11-6; MD: Hunt/Paine lost to Greening/Giles 11-7, 10-12, 5-11, 11-13; W/S: Ann Lloyd bt Linda Probert 11-6, 11-8, 11-5; Hunt bt Adamson: 11-9, 11-6, 7-11, 6-11, 11-9 Paine bt Greening 11-6, 11-8, 14-12; Irwin lost to Giles: 4-11, 12-14, 6-11

The Gloucestershire 2nd Veteran team played Herefordshire 1sts at Deer Park School, Cirencester, and Gloucestershire ran out worthy 8-1 winners – Janie Kirby, the team's lady player, had her first ever singles

success when she beat Sue Seagust 13-11, 11-5, 5-11, 11-9

Full match scores below, Gloucestershire names first:

Rob Willsher lost to Harry Jutle 11-9, 7-11, 7-11, 9-11; Pete Wood bt Norman Merchant 8-11, 11-13, 12-10, 11-7, 11-7; John Fannin bt Gordon Stables 11-8, 6-11, 11-5, 11-7; MXD: Kirby/Willsher bt Seagust /Stables 13-11, 11-5, 5-11, 11-9; M/D: Wood/Fannin bt Jutle/Merchant 11-8, 17-15, 12-10; L/S: Janie Kirby bt Sue Seagust 13-11, 11-5, 5-11, 11-9; Willsher bt Merchant: 7-11, 11-5, 11-3, 11-5; Fannin bt Jutle 6-11, 11-2, 12-10, 11-4; Wood bt Stables 11-9, 11-8, 5-11, 11-6

Severely handicapped by the non-availability of the junior no. 1 and 2 boys, the Gloucestershire Junior U17s county side travelled to Cippenham to play three games in Division 3D of the County Championships and achieved excellent results in winning two games and drawing one.

Results as follows:

V = Sussex 2nds, Gloucestershire won 7-3; V = Essex 3rds, Gloucestershire won 6-4; V = Wiltshire, Gloucestershire drew 5-5

Gloucestershire were represented in all three games by Michael Harvey, Tom Burdett, Steve Gummer, Stella Davis and Celina Bell

All three of the Gloucestershire boys were making their county debuts and played exceptionally well, as did the girls.

Isle of Wight by John Prean

The season begins with our two major problems unresolved. Our numbers are again lower and our access road to our Table Tennis Centre will again turn to quagmire once the rains start. There is a clear connection between the two. When the road was passable, our numbers were actually rising. How hopeful everything looked then!

At least we did not have to disband our county team, which we would have done, if forced into the hard

labour of block weekends. We still take the view that, with so many weekend events that stretch over two days, we do not need another. We still see our home matches as a focal point where members can meet socially to watch some decent table tennis as opposed to playing. The young can see a clear next step up the ladder. We don't see much point in having a county team, if no one ever sees them play. I accept that this is a probably a minority view, but so far a tolerated one.

After our relegation last time, we are hopeful of a return to the higher section. Much will depend upon the availability of Jill Fothergill in the second ladies spot and how well she will play after a year out of the game. Similarly, we hope to have Carl Preat for some of the matches. There are only six this season. Lucy Pointer is still waiting for her op. It must be a couple of years since she saw the first specialist and joined the National Health queue, but she battles on as a once-a-week player after her long spell (full-time) at the ETTA academy in Nottingham, where she was injured. Danny Burns and Roger Hookey will again fill the others places with Alex Rorke a distinct possibility, not least when opponents have a player who is weak against defence and we know about it in time!

The 11-up playing system was accepted by a large majority – not with real enthusiasm but sensible realism. As the International Congress has voted for it, there is no point in battling against the tide. Some thought the sport must change to have a chance of gaining greater public acceptance, not least to generate more pressure points and excitement than is often the case with 21 up. We did not think there was a great deal we could lose and perhaps there was a chance of mass TV with a shorter playing system, as had already been imposed on, say, bowls, by TV demands. Time will tell.

Carl, although now our only player in the top 10 of an English ranking list, has to endure some good-natured ribbing over his no. 7 spot. He can only reply "I shall not allow this great honour to go to my head."

In real life, in a German league match, he did beat the new English no. 1 Gareth Herbert 3-2. In the same

match Ryan Jenkins won the battle of the top Welshmen against Adam Robertson 3-0. It seems you have to go to Germany to see our top players play each other, but that is another story.....

Northants by Dennis Millman

A muffled church clock strikes 12 in the background while indoors the rhythmical ping-pong of a table tennis ball indicates that a match is still in progress. This familiar scenario could well be a thing of the past with the advent of the 'best of five, up to 11' format adopted by all four of the county's main leagues – Kettering, Wellingborough, Northampton and Towcester.

Early reports suggest that overall there may have been a minor reduction in team strength, but at Kettering – the first league to get underway – the starting numbers were the same as last season, after early forecasts had promised a fourth successive increase.

Now, just three days into the new season, the six scorecards received contained the names of 14 new or returning players, with the most significant of these the former Northants and Kettering Veterans champion Mike Pond, who began where he left off, and with no previous experience of either the big ball or the new scoring system, raced to a treble in straight games to give SAS Thrapston a good start to their Premier Division campaign.

While 14 newcomers signifies that all is well on the coaching and publicity front, somewhere along the line a similar number of players must have departed and the reasons for such an exodus must be addressed.

Last year Higham Band took their 10th Premier title in 12 years and although Graeme McKim has again decided to call it a day, a much-improved Steve Silk should prove an adequate replacement. With Kettering no. 1 Richard Elliott supported by Ryan Keates, Mark Nannery and Steve Brown, it looks like an 11th title success for Higham Ferrers side.

The new format brought little change to Northants County Championship fortunes, for they always seem to play second fiddle to Yorkshire opponents

and sure enough both veteran sides ended on the wrong end of 7-2 defeats.

Chris Gibbons took over as skipper of the Veteran Firsts but had the misfortune to take the first two ends in both his singles, before going down in the decisive fifth. Even in the mixed doubles he and a consistent Clem Little held an initial lead before going down to Pat Thorley and Bill Grant.

However, Gordon Shaw, with the advantage of 10 years' experience in the GRP Designs Trophy, a Kettering cup competition that has always used the 'up to 11' format, took one of his singles and joined Michael Edwards to add the men's doubles against a pairing that included Trevor Williams, a member of the Keystone team that won the Kettering Premier Division title in 1981.

The Veteran Seconds also faced strong opposition but this did not phase new Northampton League Secretary Janet Wright, who took her singles in five close ends after teaming up with Gerald Finney for a straightforward doubles success.

Pete Wingrove and Mike Hawes made their debuts, with Wingrove coming closest to victory when he went down in the fifth and final game to Dave Adams.

It was glory for Wright but defeat for Northants.

Northumberland by Pauline Long

The Northumbria Summer League season was successfully completed, with North Shields YMCA remaining unbeaten throughout the season to regain the Division 1 title from last year's winners, St. Gabriel's. Other division winners were: Division 2, St. Jude's (after a countback of ends and points won over runners-up Cramlington Codgers); Division 3: Cramlington Stingers; Division 4: DSS 'B'.

The Winter League commenced on Monday 17th September with 58 teams – only one less than last season, despite some reservations among the older players regarding the new 11 up rule – contesting five divisions. Cramlington Table Tennis Club has now taken over from North Shields YMCA as the largest league entry with eight teams, as opposed to seven for the YMCA, who has dropped two of

its teams for this season. Cramlington is still the only club to adopt individual names for its teams instead of the more usual letters of the alphabet according to standard. The existing Codgers, Stingers, Tigers, Knights, Rejects, Spartans and Colts are now joined by Trojans, who appear to have replaced the Belles.

The County senior and veterans teams have again entered in their appropriate divisions, together with a junior team, which this year will hopefully be able to compete by rearranging its matches away from the school half-term holiday. Teams have also been entered in the Wilmott Cup and Alec Brook team competitions, but not in the Rose Bowl or Carter Cup, as the availability of players of a high enough standard could not be guaranteed.

The County Board of Directors are currently still looking for a sponsor for both the League and County teams, and any suggestions or offers of assistance would be welcome. The board was re-elected unchanged for this season, except for Lesley Blakey, who has resigned. They are:

President: Harry Dignan
Chairman & League Secretary: Dave Scholfield
Vice-Chairman: Dr. John Donnelly
County Secretary: Alan Morpeth
Treasurer: Brian Pierce
Publicity Secretary: Pauline Long
County Umpires Committee Secretary and National Councillor: Aubrey Drapkin
Coaching Officer: Peter Wilkinson

Other elected Directors are: Alan Headley, Jimmy Scope, Ronnie Bell, Ray Lydall and Bob Atwell.
Jimmy, Alan and Dave Godbold will be the contacts for the County veteran, junior, and senior teams respectively.

Development Officers are:
Northumberland – Alan Headley,
North Tyneside – Alan Morpeth and
Dave Schofield, Newcastle – Dr. John Donnelly and Dave Scholfield,
Gateshead – Jimmy Scope

The Newcastle Grand Prix has been scheduled for 10th and 11th November at Eldon Square. The provisional date for the Closed tournament (for which we are also looking for a sponsor) is

either 23rd or 24th March 2002, possibly at the new West Gate Sports Centre, the only new League club this season, having entered two teams in Divisions 2 and 4.

Best wishes to all County and League players for a successful season.

Finally, it is regretted to announce the death in mid-August of Tony Borg (North Shields YMCA). Tony, in his mid-60s and Maltese by birth, was a long-time player and friend of many officials and fellow players, and will be sadly missed. Our sympathies are extended to his family.

Shropshire by Terry Ridgway

38-year-old Tony Ackroyd has made it to no. 1 in the season's, Shropshire County ranking list, Bradford born Tony has won the Telford Division One averages for the last four years and only narrowly lost in the last County Championships final. The County Committee agreed on a formula that takes into consideration individual player's averages in their respective league, their performance in the County Championships and also added extra points for playing and winning in the County inter-league competition.

Top Ten

Seniors: Tony Ackroyd – Telford (1), Norman Merchant – Ludlow (2), Terry Ridgway – Bridgnorth (3), John Holding – Telford (4), Rob Mansfield – Shrewsbury (5), Mike Dudley – Bridgnorth (6), Darrel Corfield – Shrewsbury (7), Nigel Holding – Telford (8), Matt Croft – Shrewsbury (9), Gary Thompson – Shrewsbury (10)

Veterans: 1 – Norman Merchant, 2 – Terry Ridgway, 3 – John Holding, 4 – Rob Mansfield, 5 – Mike Dudley

Women: 1 – Wendy Baggott (Bridgnorth), 2 – Jane Bevan (Shrewsbury), 3 – Karen Ward (Bridgnorth), 4 – Michelle Tarr (Shifnal)

Shropshire's first ever veterans side kicked off with a winning start – in an excellent match against last season Div 4 runners-up Wiltshire 2nds got two wins for Terry Ridgway, one for Jane Bevan and the two doubles matches clinched a 5-4 victory. Mike Dudley

and Rob Mansfield played very well and were both unlucky not to pick up good wins.

Shifnal's Idsall School ran another successful summer league with Woodfield retaining their title. Worcestershire's Ken Walton, Ray Dixon and Roy Norton playing as super vets were pushed into second place by Andy Rich and Andy Bellingham as the Wolverhampton based side again collected the £150 prize money.

14-year-old Chris Gregory was the pride of the county with his recent performance in the Home Counties Junior and Cadet International at Widnes. Winning the junior doubles with partner Daniel Horner of Cheshire they also edged out Scotland 3-2 to clinch the team event. England's gain may prove to be Shropshire's loss as young Christ Nunn plays at the Academy and may not be available for this season's county junior squad.

On the domestic front last season's Division One runners-up St. Gobain have disbanded with County no. 1 Tony Ackroyd and Graham Phillips moving to the Albright Club this should strengthen two already very good sides! Shrewsbury's leading player Darrell Corfield is still undecided about playing this season, with his side finishing runner-up in the town's Premier it would be a shame to lose a player of his undoubted quality.

The Shropshire Inter-County Tournament will be even stronger this season with a very good Telford squad joining the established teams of Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Bridgnorth and Ludlow for the keenly contested Midland Bank sponsored Trophy.

Sussex by John Woodford

The Editorial Board of this magazine needs to sort the problem out of County Notes correspondents submitting words that may not appear for anything up to eight weeks ahead.

As a journalist, I find it irritating that the gap in-between writing and publication is so large that subsequent events overtake what has already been written.

The two months deadline is caused by the Hastings headquarters staff under so much pressure to compile the

material in Ken Muhr's part of the magazine in time to match the rest of the material coming in from John Wood in Cornwall.

County Notes should also be restricted to 400 words top whack.

However, Ritchie Venner taking time out from the British League following collapse of the Horsham first team through lack of sponsorship is making waves and pulling up some trees on the Grand Prix circuit.

He reached the semi-finals at Torquay at the Clare Pengelly Memorial Grand Prix, losing to the 2000 Sussex Open Champion Marco Essomba.

Meanwhile, the Horsham/British League first team – Andy Walker, Peter Bartram, Jeremy Wilson and Ramesh Bhalla – could use one more strong player before the next weekend in December at the China Fleet Club at Saltash.

Sussex juniors suffered a number of "losses" to the senior ranks for this campaign, leaving the two most successful players as Luke Bridge and Gina Rogers. West Sussex have hit back by arranging the Sussex inter-league championships in early January down in deepest West Sussex – the Six Villages Centre at Fontwell near the racecourse.

Worcestershire by Martin Clark

County Championships

Senior Seconds

The trip to Devon was fraught with selection problems ultimately forcing the team to travel without a second lady. Morale must have been low during the long journey and made even worse following a 10-0 defeat.

Veterans Seconds

A poor start to the season here too. Glamorgan provided a great test to the team and despite some very close sets we finally succumbed 1-9 with only Mike Meredith getting a consolation set right at the end.

2000-1 County League Final Table

	Points
Dudley	4 (36-9)
Kidderminster	4 (24-21)
Bromsgrove	3 (24-21)

Worcester	3 (22-23)
Malvern	1 (18-27)
Evesham	0 (11-34)

Coaching Secretary

Following the resignation of Roger Stephens after many years invaluable service the county is searching for someone to fill this important role. Anyone interested should contact General Secretary Lynda Reid or Chairman Doug Young.

Junior Closed Championships

These will be held at Christopher Whitehead School in Worcester on either 18th November or 2nd December.

Senior Closed Championships

The venue will be either Droitwich Leisure Centre or Arrowvale School, Redditch on 10th or 17th February 2002.

Yorkshire by Rea Balmford

It is with great sadness that I open the Yorkshire column this month by extending condolences to the family of ETTA stalwart Mike Watts, with whom, in the past, it has been my privilege to work on occasions, particularly on the tournament circuit, both in the 'Broad Acres' and further a field.

Tributes will be paid by many who knew Mike better than I but on occasions when I have worked with him, particularly on the Yorkshire Open and Yorkshire Junior, I never found him less than efficient, friendly and helpful.

He will be missed, and our thoughts are with those close to him.

It may seem banal to return to routine, but life must go on, and the first series of matches in the junior and cadet competitions played in October are to hand.

Doncaster (Jnr Div 1), Hill (Cadet Div A) and Halifax (Cadet Div B) lead their respective sections after returning clean sheets, but it is sad to note that some of the bigger leagues were not represented.

This is a malaise that has plagued table tennis for many years, but the situation seems to deteriorate rather

than improve. A 'crowded calendar' is the reason given, but if our sport is to cater for the 'grass roots' as well as for the 'high fliers', it is now time that some serious thought was given to the problem of an overcrowded calendar and the blind, mad chase for ranking points.

What about two open tournament weekends each month of the season, leaving the others free for county matches, closed/invitation events, inter-league programme, coaching at all levels, etc?

The sport has been revolutionary about 11-up – every League has the opportunity to try it and eventually to accept or reject it – bring back the 'County Closed' and 'League Closed' tournaments, the once flourishing inter-league programmes as all levels from cadet to over 70 – or whatever other age limit is put on super-vet status.

Don't say 'it wouldn't work' – ask the old hands who played in Leeds v Bradford, Hull v Doncaster, Halifax v Huddersfield confrontations. Yes, I know things were always better in the old days, but there was intense competition to represent your league, as opposed to today's apathy – fact!

Do put forward your positive ideas for re-introducing to our sport the popularity it used to engender – I can remember some hundred plus spectators locked out of, a county match at Pontefract Town Hall – I was one of the lucky ones to get in – I was an umpire!

I accept that one crucial factor is television, but other sports still manage to claim their 'fans' and entice them away from the 'box', we must do the same.

Reaching into the Community by Mark Smith

A demonstration on the benefits of table tennis impressed a variety of people who attended the New Opportunities Fund's 'Reaching Communities celebration last month in Durham. The New Opportunities Fund (UK-wide Lottery distributor) has supported a number of educationally based initiatives in the Northern Region and nationally, under 'Study Support' – 'Out of School Hours Learning' section.

Table tennis received £39,000 to fund a 3-year programme to develop 'Out of School Hours' table tennis Clubs within 4 schools (1 secondary school and 3 primary schools) in the Stockton on Tees area. This funding covers the coaching fees, resources, transport costs, promotional material and coach education, to deliver a structured programme to develop both table tennis skills as well as leadership and officiating skills through the ETTA's Dunlop Skills Award and Junior Umpire Award. The programme is also linked closely with two Premier Clubs, Ormesby Table Tennis Club and Northfield School Table Tennis Club, who will provide the exit routes for these new school clubs to feed into.

Mark Smith, ETTA Regional Development Officer for the North said, "This new cash boost is fantastic for the development of grass roots table tennis in the area. With £750 million of Lottery money earmarked mainly for sport on school sites over the next 3 years distributed through local authorities, this is a great opportunity to include table tennis."



Mark Smith & Keith Wilson

Launch of UK's first centre for Child Protection in Sport

Sport took a giant leap forward in the fight against child abuse on Monday 29th October with the launch of the first UK Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU).

The new unit, a partnership between the NSPCC and Sport England, will advise organisations on how to introduce child protection policies, commission research into abuse within

sport and raise the profile of child protection among sports governing bodies.

The CPSU, based in Leicester at the NSPCC National Training Centre, is a key development of the NSPCC FULL STOP campaign to end cruelty to children. It will improve the protection of millions of children involved in sport and provide anyone who knows or suspects child abuse within sport with someone to turn to. It will:

- Act as a first point of contact for sports bodies concerned about child protection in sport;
- Establish systems for dealing with allegations of abuse within sport;
- Commission research into prevalence and risk factors for child protection and abuse in sport;
- Minimise opportunities for inappropriate individuals to enter or operate and raise awareness of the importance of child protection in sport;
- Provide information and training;
- Develop cross-sport standards and systems;
- Provide advice and support in developing child protection policies.

Since March this year all bodies funded by Sport England must have protection policies in place (as the ETTA does have) to receive funding.

Trevor Brooking, Chair of Sport England, said "Sport plays such an important part in the lives of young people that we have a real responsibility to ensure their experiences are safe and fulfilling. The Child Protection in Sport Unit will enable the sporting world to take the issue of child abuse by providing clubs and governing bodies with the expertise and support they need to protect and nurture children in their care."

Quoted in the Guardian (30.10.01) Steve Boocock, the head of the Child Protection in Sport Unit, said "There is no sport in this county which has not been affected in some way. But we can't just say there is a problem and scare parents from sport. CU want to address the problem and come up with a solution".

The new scheme is more than just dealing with sex abuse. Boocock also wants to educate sport about overstretching its young talent.

11th World Veterans Championships, Switzerland 2002

The 11th World Veterans Championships are to be held in Lucerne, Switzerland, from 24th-29th June 2002. The organising committee is Swiss Table Tennis Federation, Central Office, Kronenhalde 9d, CH-3400, Burgdorf, Switzerland, e-mail: wm2002@sttv.ch, website www.worldvet-2002.com

Booking agency: LTI Tours Ltd., Arsenalstrasse 40, CH-6010, Kriens-Lucerne, Switzerland, tel: 00 41 41 318 4141, fax: 00 41 41 318 4140, email: iti@iti.ch, website: www.worldvet-2002.com

A Third Auction for table tennis collectibles

A third mail auction for table tennis collectibles like stamps, postmarks, postal stationery, postcards, phonecards, coins, pins, badges, autogrammes, medals, documents, balls, bats, sets, books and magazines and other things related to our sport will be held in March 2002. There will be no buyer's premium except postage. Deliveries are highly welcome until 30th November 2001, seller's fee = 10% of hammer price.

The catalogue for this auction will be sent to some 150 collectors all over the world. (Deliverers will receive a free copy of the auction catalogue. If you only like to receive the catalogue please send £7 or US\$ 10 in banknotes.) For delivery information or other info please contact:

Lutz Schoenfeld, Karl-Kellner-Str. 27b
30853 Langenhagen, Germany
Or e-mail: webmaster@tt-domain.de
homepage at: <http://www.tt-domain.de>

Table Tennis Museum

In the September TTN Extra, Graham Trimming wrote about Chuck Hoey's

Table Tennis Museum Website. I (KM) have since heard directly from Chuck who says: 'I am pleased that you have enjoyed perusing my website - a huge amount of work to prepare, and of course an even larger task to have put such a collection together over some 25+ years. I am currently searching for commercial or private sponsors who can takeover this great collection and provide a good home for it. May I ask what have you heard about the ITTF Switzerland project?

I attach a photograph, which you might enjoy - a table tennis motif humidor, hand-crafted of fine wood - both halves of the table open. My personal favourites, as a former player (just an old-fashioned hard-rubber chopper/pick hitter of no status) are the rackets.

I am currently looking for the pin issued for the 1950 World Championships at Budapest ... as well as examples of the earliest sponge bats such as introduced in 1952 at the Bombay Worlds.

I am now preparing an expansion of the website - the work never ends!

Best wishes for continued success with the ETTA.



European Championships – Zagreb, Croatia 2002

The European Championships are going to be held in Zagreb, Croatia,

from 31st March to 8th April (Team Events 30th March to 2nd April. Individual events – 3rd – 8th April) 2002. Organising Committee: Trg Sportova II, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia, tel: 00 385 1 3650 254, fax: 00 385 1 3099 200, email: euro2002@email.linnet.hr

Time Out in National Under 12 Boy's Singles Final

Ken Armson MBE wishes to point out that on reflection he believes Carol Moore called Time Out when the score stood at about 13-all in the third game between Paul Drinkhall (Cleveland) and Bradley Evans (Bucks), rather than the 18-17 stated in his September TTN Extra report.

Correction: ITTF Contact Details

At the end of Brian Halliday's review of Zdenko Uzorinac's book, 'Table Tennis Legends', in the September edition of TTN, some incorrect contact details were given for the International Table Tennis Federation, from whom the book can be obtained. The correct address is as follows:

International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF)
Avenue Mon Repos 30
1005 Lausanne
Switzerland
Tel: 00 41 21 340 7090
Fax: 00 41 21 340 7099
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Message from ITTF President Adham Sharara, regarding the new service rule

The new service rule will come into effect on 1st September 2002.

During this AGM modifications to the rules could still take place. Therefore, the ITTF will not provide any final wording until after the next AGM in case of any changes or modifications that may be adopted. For the time being the new rule is provided in the ITTF Magazine and in

the ITTF Bulletin according to the AGM resolution passed.

The official interpretation of the rule as well as explanatory diagrams will be made available and distributed after the next AGM (after April 2002). In any case we cannot use this rule until next September so there is no need to speculate now.

The main thrust of the new rule is for the Receiver to be able to see the service clearly at the moment of impact. The umpire's role is to judge that the Receiver had a clear view of the ball. This is a much easier judgement than the current rule. The final effect of this rule, once properly implemented, is that the service will be clear to the Receiver, and the Server will not be able to hide the point of contact or obstruct the view of the Receiver.

This rule was proposed by England and the Rules Committee and was supported by the Executive Committee and passed by the AGM in Osaka.

It is obvious that a clear interpretation will be needed in order to give the umpires a clear mandate on how to apply the rule. It will also give the players and the coaches a clear understanding of how to technically perform the service within the newly established rules and parameters.

Patience is a virtue and any unnecessary false interpretations and variations are not beneficial at this moment. After the next AGM, the final detailed wording and interpretation will be the final guiding principles and rules to be applied.

Trade Websites by Ken Muhr

There is a notice in the latest Butterfly World Report (Nov.Dec. 2001, no.114), a useful glossy illustrated newsletter that gives international tournament reports and articles, to say that it is the last issue for 'the time being'. However, occasional Butterfly Newsletters will come out in the future, and meanwhile readers were referred to websites www.butterfly.co.jp (Japanese) and www.butterfly-world.com (English, French, German). Of course the Japanese site is not easy to follow for us westerners, but if you click into "top players' gallery" or "technique", you will come across some excellent

active photo sequences of top players showing advanced technique. There is some interesting information and articles on the European language site, but overall one has the impression that it is still being developed, there is more apparent emphasis on the Butterfly equipment side and the technique sequences are absent.

The TIBHAR magazine 'Tischtennis Aktuell' in German and English had a lot of very interesting articles and opinions, but unfortunately it too is no longer published in hard copy. Readers are invited to visit the website www.tibhar.com where there are still a few shorter articles under 'tta', as well as theory papers and player profiles led by Vladimir Samsonov. The TIBHAR trade side is (unsurprisingly) plugged more on the website than in the old magazine.

In my TTN Extra review I was not totally flattering about Dimosthenis E. Messinis's coaching book 'Table Tennis From A to Z' – thorough but too dry and technical – but his website www.tabletennis.gr (Denis' Table tennis World) is really quite good! There was lots of basic information and links, articles to read and things to do, photos of top players to look at, but about the best feature from my point of view was the playing sequences ('movie clips') of Kalinikos Kreanga and others performing various shots and movement patterns. I might have been using the control panel incorrectly, but I found you had to watch each clip through in juddery slow motion before clicking on to play to see the action at normal speed. I will forgive Dimosthenis in heavily promoting his book on his own website!

Famous People Who Played Table Tennis

I forgot to mention the new International Olympic Committee (IOC) President, Belgium Jacques Rogge, in my October report, but John Wood included in the glossy his meeting with ITTF President Adham Sharara, where he stated he enjoyed playing table tennis, 'especially as an attacking player'.

Responding to all the cricketers mentioned in the last issue, Charles Usher from Kendal says, 'Another cricketer who was more than useful (at

table tennis) in his teens is Grahame Burgess, the ex Somerset all-rounder and now first class umpire. Grahame, who played for Street Youth Club, was a member of the Somerset Association of Youth Clubs team, who twice reached the National Association Finals, which in those days (the mid 60s) were held over a weekend at Crystal Palace. (I was their Coach and NPC!)

Dave Hutchinson from Teesside has reported that Northants county cricketer and now a member of the international panel of cricket umpires, George Sharp, was a Hartlepool junior table tennis champion and schoolboy international who played with Paul Freeman in Hartlepool. George apparently still asks after Alan Ransome!

The Young Athlete's Handbook: Your guide to success in sports. By the Youth Sport Trust (Penny Crisfield et al). Reviewed by Ken Muhr

The blurb on the back cover, addressing the young athlete, says, 'This essential handbook contains everything you need to create your own training programme, including a 52 week diary that helps you to see how your own training plan is progressing. This book covers it all in comprehensive and easy-to-understand chapters.

You have to cope with: balancing home life, school life and sports. This handbook guides you through the sometimes difficult decisions and often conflicting pressures to allow you to concentrate on each area of your life and make sport participation a positive and enjoyable experience.'

But although the 'How to use this book' preliminary chapter says that The Young Athlete's Handbook has been written to help young talented sportspersons become the best athletes they can, it does stress that it is, 'a substitute for a good coach, supportive parent or guardian'.

As can be seen by the title of the first main chapter, 'Knowing Your Sport and Yourself', which deals with sport analysis, training phases (what we call periodisation) and personal profiling, the book is appropriate for athletes from all sports including table tennis.

It really is very well set out, pretty thorough in covering all aspects of pursuing high level sports participation in a user friendly way, and assumes that athletes will take a fair amount of responsibility (including planning) for their own careers – which is only right and necessary!

It would be wrong to pick out specific chapters for praise because they are all good and valuable, but maybe table tennis players know more about 'Training Smarter' and 'Getting Fit' – even if they don't always follow the precepts – and I think England Performance Director Soren Ahlen would agree that 'Eating Right' and 'Tuning Your Mind' are particular areas which our junior and cadet international need to work on. The last two chapters which are about goal setting, action planning (short and long term) and designing and maintaining a diary, emphasise that if you the athlete are serious, in the end it is down to you – though with a little help and advice from your friends.

So I would highly recommend this book, both for the aspiring young athlete who would be motivated to read it (but let's face it, some players do not like reading!), and for coaches and parents who can gain insights also. Cost: £13-95. ISBN 0-7360-3712-8. Published by: Human Kinetics, Units C2/C3, Wira Business Park, West Ring Road, Leeds LS16 6EB Tel. 0113 278 1708 E-mail. custserv@hkeurope.com

THE SPORTSWOMAN magazine

Women's sport in Britain has come a long way in the last century. As more sports open their doors to female competitors, British women have played a key role in breaking records and breaking down barriers, yet despite these considerable achievements, there is still relatively little coverage of women's sports in the mainstream press. This is the gap that The Sportswoman aims to fill, providing in-depth and positive coverage of women's sport, targeted specifically at women who are themselves active participants. It aims to celebrate the achievements of sportswomen and address areas of

interest to the female sporting community (e.g. sponsorship & funding, health & nutrition, fitness, coaching & psychology, and careers for women in sport).

The Sportswoman is a monthly magazine (£3 an issue) for competitive female athletes and covering women's competitive sport from all over the world from a British perspective. Non-competitive, participatory sporting activities are only covered in so far as they are fitness tools for the competitive sportswoman. Regular feature articles are published by top female sports journalists such as Sue Mott of The Telegraph and Teresa Mclean of The Financial Times, and the big issues within women's sport are debated. Published on quality glossy paper there is a strong pictorial content in full colour (including a small picture of Bettine Vrieskoop of Holland, in the August issue I reviewed).

It is an attractive, well-produced magazine but I just wonder whether it might be a tad too mainstream, and not risk controversy enough. Anyway, it is not for me (KM) to judge. To obtain a copy or find out more contact: Citadel Data Ltd, Victoria House, Desborough Street, High Wycombe, Bucks HP11 2NF Tel. 01494 512919, e-mail: citadeldata@aol.com
Editorial office: Tel./Fax. 01869 819632, e-mail: editor@thesportswoman.com

An Interview with Alan Hedley – Cramlington Table Tennis Club (ETTA Premier Club at Participation) by Mark Smith

Alan Hedley has been involved in table tennis since the tender age of 10 playing for South Shields YMCA. 45 years later Alan had played and coached all over England and also worked for a number a local authorities promoting sport and leisure and wherever possible table tennis. Now he runs a very successful Table Tennis Club in Cramlington, Northumberland, which allows people of all ages to take up the game and enjoy it at whatever level they wish to reach. With a wide cross section of the community playing at the club it

enjoys many social events with everybody getting involved.

Q. How did you get involved in Table tennis?

A. I started playing at the local youth club in South Shields, Tyne and Wear. Table tennis was a great deal more popular then and it was hard work even getting on a table. I was 10 years old when I started playing and 15 years old when I began competing in the local league for South Shields YMCA.

Q. What made you decide on your present post?

A. I have always worked with youngsters through my job and passing my knowledge on seemed the natural thing to do through running a table tennis club and coaching within it. Youngsters are the future to the popularity of table tennis in this country and opportunities to play in a supportive club environment I feel are essential to keep table tennis moving forward.

Q. What has been your greatest success?

A. Starting Cramlington Table Tennis Club. In settling back in Northumberland after working all around the country there has been the support locally to build a strong table tennis club. Because there has been a strong commitment from these people the club has got a good reputation in the local area as being a well organised JUNIOR FRIENDLY TABLE TENNIS CLUB.

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

A. The first time a youngster who I have coached beats me. This gives me a great deal of satisfaction as all the time invested has paid off.

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

A. Organising events, club tournaments, social evenings, anything which brings people together in pleasant surroundings to have fun. I also enjoy involving new people in the game and supporting them to develop their skills as players, coaches or administrators. I love making things happen.

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

A. Too many! (Joke!). Approximately 15 hours per week for when my wife reads this! I do enjoy other hobbies such as playing the guitar but table tennis takes up most of my time.

Q. What changes would you like to see?

A. More support and understanding of the life long benefits of the sport from local authorities and sports centres/leisure centres to support table tennis clubs. Also a change in attitude from many people who enjoyed the game for so long to put something back into the game. I believe it is the responsibility of everyone involved in table tennis in whatever capacity to take a little bit of ownership and promote/develop the sport in some way.

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

A. As a defender myself I can relate more to the skills involved in combating the modern fast attacking game as its seems to be a dieing art. Matthew Syed has masters this and also is a great ambassador for table tennis.

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

A. Try and play to your strengths and your opponent's weaknesses and above all enjoy a wonderful game.

Three Things Mere Mortals Can Learn From Tiger Woods by Sean McCann, Phd. Edited by Ken Muhr

I publish below the body of an article by Dr Sean McCann, taken from Sean O'Neill's excellent American website www.tabletennis.about.com

"The careers of Michael Jordan (Basketball), Wayne Gretzky (Ice Hockey), and Tiger Woods (Golf) all show three key behaviours that can help any athlete at any level.

Talent isn't a gift, it's a job!

A series of research studies found that people have two differing points of view about talent. One view is that talent is something you have or don't have. Athletes with this view of talent expect things to come easy and tend to give up quickly when skills are hard to learn. This makes sense to them, because if it is hard to learn, then they must not be talented.

The other view is that talent must be developed through hard work. People holding this view stay at tasks much longer, expect skill development to take time and do not become highly frustrated when things aren't easy. Research found that this viewpoint results in much higher performance, because these athletes expect to have to work long and hard to develop their talent.

Superstars are athletes with physical talents and a strong work ethic that refines and develops talent. Virtually every basketball coach and team-mate describe Michael Jordan as the hardest worker they ever saw in the sport. Gretzky and Woods also shared this intensity and drive to constantly improve their special talents.

Woods and Gretzky had success as children, while Jordan didn't make his high school basketball team in his first try. Despite these differences, all three athletes worked relentlessly to improve. They never expected greatness to be easy. They didn't become frustrated by the work to develop skills, and they didn't stop working until they were satisfied that their talent was fully developed.

Be willing to change a successful formula to be even better.

Despite winning the Masters' Golf Championship by a record margin a few years ago, Woods did something that takes a special kind of bravery and confidence. He took apart his golf swing and was willing to get worse before he got even better. Changing the basics of your game is hard enough to do when you are losing; doing it when you are winning is almost unprecedented.

Woods made the change because he felt his swing was not consistent enough. Making a change took time, and it initially caused a decline in Wood's performance. As most people now know, the change ultimately paid off. Tiger's recent victories in the U.S. Open and British Open by record margins are proof of a special kind of courage.

This type of courage comes from measuring yourself against your own high standards rather than another's standards. Although Woods and Jordan could beat most other players without making changes, their courage allowed them to improve and rank among the greatest athletes of modern times.

Learn emotional intelligence - stay in control!

Another common thread linking the careers of Woods, Jordan and Gretzky, was their shared ability to maintain control, despite the tremendous pressure they faced. A simple term for this control is emotional intelligence. It is the ability to use emotions effectively; emotional intelligence is absolutely necessary when athletes are asked to carry the burden of tremendous expectations.

In addition to the task of managing pressure, emotional intelligence allows these three superstars to be efficient and effective while competing. With a remarkable gift for scoring goals, and owning nearly every scoring record in NHL history, Gretzky was remarkably efficient while playing. He never appeared flustered or out of control,

despite his intensity. Similarly, Jordan and Woods are both tremendously focused despite environments that would distract almost anyone else.

In Wood's recent record victories at the U.S. and British Opens, he awed his opponents with his focus and control. One example of this control is a patience and restraint beyond his years. This type of self-restraint is a sign of emotional intelligence; it takes great mental discipline and a talent that requires work to achieve. Jordan developed emotional intelligence over time, learning when to attack and when to be patient. By the end of his career, Jordan learned to save his best performance for the most important moments at the end of the game - for the win. This consistent ability to remain in control and act decisively when it counted led Jordan's teammate Luc Longley to describe him with one word, "Predator!".

Lessons for your athletes

If you are talented, you can be good without working hard; but to be great, you must work hard. If you expect things to be easy, you will become frustrated easily, give up early and never reach your potential. If you expect sport to be hard, you can take pleasure in the gains you make as you do hard work. Talent is a job, not a gift.

Coaches, you can make this distinction by praising the process rather than the product. Try saying "good work" instead of "nice shot." Tell an athlete that they are a "terrific worker" rather than a "terrific talent," and you reinforce the skills that take them to the next level.

- If you want to be better than you are, you may have to change the way you do things. You need the best information about your current level, focus on what level you want to reach and decide if you can get there from where you are. If not, have your coach help you understand what you might need to change. A big change may cause you to perform poorly for a while; this may be scary. However, if you are brave

enough, you can take your performance to a higher level.

Coaches, you can assist by paying close attention to any small successes achieved by these changes. Athletes may be too upset about poor performances to stick with the change, and if you don't put extra work into reinforcing the little wins, you may lose your last chance to make meaningful change. Remind them that Woods was "pretty good" before he took apart his game, and he was also anxious and frustrated during the change process.

Emotional self-control is the key to competitive success. Great athletes know when to act and when to be patient. Controlling fear, anger, frustration and confidence is an athlete's responsibility, and you should work as hard on emotional intelligence as on the physical part of your sport. It doesn't matter if you are in a bad or unfair situation or if you are under real pressure. You may not be able to change your environment, but you can change your response to it. This is your job, no one else's.

Coaches, you can help athletes develop emotional intelligence by acknowledging that a situation is tough, but emphasizing that there are many ways to respond. Ask the athletes to develop two responses, one that helps and one that hurts performance. Ask them to make a choice; don't do it for them. Your job is to control as much of the environment as possible and model positive responses to the things you can't control. It helps if coaches work regularly to enhance their own emotional intelligence!

Paying Homage to the Class Shot by Ken Muhr

Twice I saw it at the Sussex Open Butterfly Grand Prix in October - the paying homage, by deep-bowing, outstretched arms supplication, by an opponent or spectator of a wonderful shot from a player. First Chris Beckley did it when Clive Carthy power flicked past him a tight back-spun serve positioned short to his forehand. And then in the men's singles final, several spectators so

honoured a ridiculous backhand power loop-flick down the line by Ryan Jenkins, of a heavily spun short serve from Marco Essomba.

Is this a new trend? Or has it been around for some time? Jon Kaufman says that left-handed Londoner Terry Brown may have been the originator of this mode of expressing awe and appreciation of the class shot. What do readers think?

Jarvis Sport Grand Prix Essex 4 Star 29th/30th September 2001 Harlow Sports Centre By Alan Shepherd

It is gratifying to be able to report a well-supported event, although disappointing to have to say that, despite a nationwide distribution of entry forms, only 10 of the top 30 ranked boys and 14 of the girls actually entered. There was a very large contingent from Durham, led by the intrepid Keith Wilson, and one Day 1 they had their first success. This came when the excellent David Meads came through to the Final of the Under 12 Boys' Singles where he met the pride of the Gideon Ashison stable, namely Darius Knight, of Surrey. Neither boy had so far dropped a game, so it was par for the course that a tremendous battle should have been won by Darius 7, 11, -18, -13, 9!! The corresponding girls' event was contested by England's top two players, Lauren Springthorpe, from Grantham, Lincs, and Sarra Wang, from Braintree, Essex. In what was to become the first of three matches over the weekend between these two girls, Lauren won -9, 2, 8, 5. Incidentally, she also won the other two!

Onto the Under 14 category. There were quite a few big matches among the boys. For instance, David Meads (above) ousted the higher-ranked Tony Halling (Essex) by the scores of -10, -4, 11, 9, 8 in Round 2. At the same stage Daniel Rees (Essex) and Niv Bogen (Middlesex) were both successful in five games against Michael Harvey (Glos) and Samuel Cannon (Essex). The two semi-finals could not have been closer. In the top half Adam Bleakley (Lancs) had to pull out all the stops to defeat Darius

Knight (9, 9, 12) while in the bottom half Niv edged home against Bradley Evans (Bucks) -6, 5, -8, 12, 11. The final was a triumph for the lower-ranked Niv, who was in tremendous form in defeating Adam 8, 9, 4.

The Cadet Girls' quarter-finals were contested by the top 8 in the Ranking List, and the top 4 all managed to get through. The ranking order was then upset, with Kelly Sibley (Warks) defeating no. 1 Abigail Embling (Essex) following which Kelly vanquished no. 2 seed Lauren Spink (Norfolk) in the final. In the light of her outstanding performances on the following day, Kelly would be a true contender for the "Player of the Weekend".

There were some lively encounters in the supporting Consolation Singles, where Matthew Thomas (Middlesex) took the title with a run of 15 consecutive winning games. His beaten opponent in the final was Ashley Skeggs from the local Braintree League, who got there by winning his semi-final match 6, 15, -8, -9, 12. His sister Kelly went one better by winning the girls' Consolation Singles final against Chloe Dunmall (Kent). This was after a best of five victory in the semi-final over the no. 21 ranked Rebecca Tweedy (Bucks). However, since Kelly herself is ranked at no. 24, perhaps this was not so surprising!

Sunday was entirely taken up by under 17 events, open, banded and consolation. In the main event the top boys all came through to the latter stages with the addition of Saturday's Under 12, hero Darius Knight and his mate Paul Moore, who is so far unranked, having not played for a year or so, but will clearly be climbing up there very soon. He came into the latter stages thanks to a 5-game win over no. 27 ranked Richard Moss (Yorks). Eventually, Paul lost to Dominic Hall (Kent) and Darius to Daniel Horner (Cheshire) the two finalists. The final itself was a classic as the scores reveal. Daniel won the first two games and was moments away from a 3-0 victory. However, Dominic 'hung in there', took the third game by 13-11 and took the next two games not comfortably, but with a little in hand.

The highlight of the Junior Girls' event was undoubtedly the semi-final

between Natalie Bawden (Essex) and Kelly Sibley. Natalie was well behind in the first game, but upped the tempo to take that one 11-9. She would now win easily, everyone thought. However, Kelly played brilliantly to win the next two games and lead by quite a margin in the fourth game. Only then did Natalie succeed in bringing the experience that she gained in competing at international level to bear, and she secured the fourth game by 11-9. Thereafter she did go clear and won a memorable match in the fifth game. What a performance by Kelly, however. The final was a slight anti-climax, as however hard Joanna Parker (Surrey) fought – and she is a very tough competitor – Natalie always had a few more shots up her sleeve, and got home 7, 9, 9.

The Consolation Singles were won by the Essex player Matthew Staines and the Durham player Claire Wilson and the Banded Singles by Darius Knight (again!) and Emma Weil (Essex).

Results

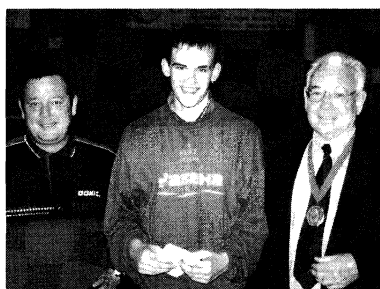
U12 Boys' Singles: Darius Knight (Sy) bt David Meads (Du) 7, 11, -8, -13, 9; U12 Girls' Singles: Lauren Springthorpe (Li) bt Sarra Wang (E) -9, 2, 8, 5; U14 Boys' Singles: Niv Bogen (Mi) by Adam Bleakley (La) 8, 9, 4; U14 Girls Singles: Kelly Sibley (Wa) bt Lauren Spink (Nk) 11, 9, -1, 4; U14 Boys Consolation Singles: Matthew Thomas (Mi) bt Ashley Skeggs (Sk) 7, 2, 4; U14 Girls Consolation Singles: Kelly Skeggs (Sk) bt Chloe Dunmall (K) 6, 10, 8
 U17 Boys Singles: S/F: Dominic Hall (K) bt Greg Baker (Wa) 8, 5, 6, Daniel Horner (Ch) bt Peter Cleminson (E) 9, 7, 7, Final: Dominic Hall bt Daniel Horner -7, -12, 11, 7, 8; U17 Girls' Singles: S/F: Natalie Bawden (E) bt Kelly Sibley (Wa) 9, -5, -8, 9, 4, Joanna Parker (Sy) bt Gemma Chapman (Bu) 5, 9, 5; Final: Natalie Bawden bt Joanna Parker 7, 9, 9; U17 Boys' Banded Singles: Darius Knight (Sy) bt James Milton (Bk) -9, 5, 9, 6; U17 Girls' Banded Singles: Emma Weil (E) bt Emily Tucker (Bu) 13, -6, 8, 9; U17 Boys' Consolation Singles: Matthew Staines (E) bt John Giachardi (E) 4, -12, 1, 10; U17 Girls' Consolation Singles: Claire Wilson (Du) bt Jane Easley (St) 10, 11, 2



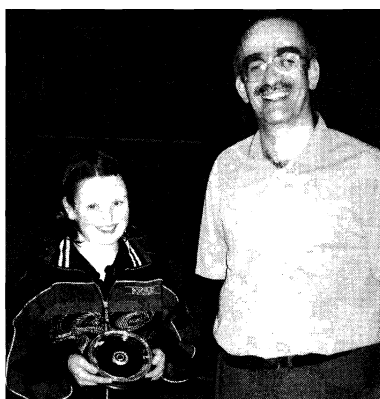
Junior Girls Singles Quarter-finalist Nicola White (Yorks)



U17 Girls Singles winner Natalie Bawden, Nicky Jarvis (left), Mayor of Harlow (right)



U17 Boys Singles winner Dominic Hall (Kent), Nicky Jarvis (left), Mayor of Harlow (right)



U12 girls singles winner Lauren Springthorpe (Lincolnshire)

Northern Counties Cadets County Championship

The above inaugural event is being organised by Barry Snowden and will be held at Halifax Table Tennis Centre, Club Lane, Halifax on Saturday 8th December 2001, commencing at 10am.

English Schools' TTA General Secretary gives notice

Geoff Gardiner, ESTTA General Secretary, hopes to relinquish his position but their AGM persuaded him to continue for a further 12 months.

However, he says this will definitely be his last term in office. If anyone feels able to take on this role please inform Geoff on tel. 01257 264873 (36 From Street, Chorley, Lancs PR6 0AN.)

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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SPORTBREAK- ETTA REPLIES

THE English Table Tennis Association has no wish to either censor or stifle comment. Informed, truthful, and constructive criticism on all aspects of the game is welcome. In Issue 1 of the Sportbreak TTC magazine there are a number of items which require a reply.

1. The editorial implies censorship within the E.T.T.A. This is not true. In Table Tennis News the Editor, together with advice from the Editorial Board, decides on matters of policy.

2. Page 3 suggested that Brian Halliday (Vice Chairman, Public Relations) had rejected a coaching article submitted by Karen Tonge (Vice Chairman, Teaching and Training). This is absolutely untrue. No articles on coaching have been received from Karen yet. The comments concerning Mike Holt (Vice Chairman, Marketing) are not accurate. Mike was told by his employers in August that his role in the company had changed and would require a far greater commitment from him. This would affect the amount of time he could give to the E.T.T.A. and it was decided to review this matter when it became clearer on his return from holiday in October. By the time of the National Council meeting in October Mike felt that he was unable to continue and gave a full explanation to Council. Mike has contributed a great deal to the Association and it is to be hoped that his absence will be short.

3. There are a number of statements in John Prean's piece that need clarification. a) Mr Prean took over as Chairman of the Association in 1986 and in the ensuing year lost the entire Management Committee, with the exception of Alan Ransome. This included Peter Charters, Colin Clemett, Ian Whiteside, Aubrey Drapkin, and George Yates. They were replaced by among others, Malcolm Allsop and Peter Hillier. In the 4 years of Mr Prean's stewardship there were a total of 15 Management Committee members. In the 11 years of Alan Ransome's chairmanship there has been a smaller turnover total of 17 Management Committee members over the much longer period. b) Peter Hillier, who Mr Prean quotes "had done a magnificent job" continued in his role under the new Chairman until he was challenged through the electoral process and decided not to contest the position.

c) Questions concerning the Chairman's companies sponsoring support for the English Table Tennis Association have, as a matter of course, been reviewed by Sport England as part of their various audits. Everything has been found to be in order. The Trade Committee, as proposed by Alan Ransome before he became Chairman, monitors all trade matters and concerns, to ensure strict impartiality at all times.

d) Michel Gadai is the subject of Mr Prean's criticism. Mr Gadai said it would take 8 to 10 years to ensure success at European level. Mr Gadai was employed on the basis of his record of success in producing World and European Champions, and was the best candidate for the post at that time. The E.T.T.A. policy of attracting the best coaches available has continued with the appointment of Soren Ahlen of Sweden.

e) The subject on the generation of sponsorship would need an article of its own. The past 10 years have seen generous support valued in the region of £5,000,000 from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, Birmingham City Council and Sport England (events) for the European Championships, Friendly Hotels, the Woolwich, major sponsorship from Manchester City Council, Manchester Airport, Sport England (events) for the World Championships and Manchester City Council for the 1996 European Olympic Qualification tournament and the World Veterans Championships, Sportingbet.com for the 2001 English Open, as well as many local authorities and venue providers. The impact on our sport has been significant. These achievements are being built on through the appointment of Brian Spicer as Commercial Manager.

Brian Halliday - Vice Chairman, Public Relations

LEADERS LONDON PROGRESS

HEREFORD LEISURE CENTRE was the chosen venue for the first week end of the Women's British Leagues 14th season. Having carefully studied the numbers and quality of entry (many more top ranking players appearing than of recent seasons) the organisers opted for an 8-team premier division. As the round-robin will not be completed until the second session of the second weekend an already tight league table still has much interest contained within it, writes Brian Lamerton.

Leaders London Progress have yet to play Suvi Sportswear and Hull Sandhill whilst Grove have already played each of the remaining top four. Leading individual players, both with ten out of ten maximum wins, were Bosse Kafo of Progress and Sally Marling (Hull Sandhill) who did remarkably well returning from a lay-off and whose selection as 'Woman of the Weekend' was enthusiastically acclaimed by all. Grove, 7 times winners from 1990-96, who fielded Trudie Bloor, Georgina Walker and Louise Durrant were top of the pile at the end of day 1. but fell apart on Sunday losing, by 4-2 on each occasion, to Hull Sandhill and London Progress. The battle of the two Sussex clubs, Horsham and Hollington, was won 5-1 by the former with Janet Dunning and Sally Weston winning two apiece but it looks likely that these two together with a disappointing Irish Ladies are battling to avoid the two relegation positions. The Irish Tina Bollard did however win 8 times from the number three spot. The Womens British League was probably the first such competition played under "11-up"; it made little difference to the overall time and produced some very close and exciting individual encounters; Suvi Sportswear's Karen Smith being involved in two of these; defeating Georgina Walker 20-18 in the fifth and losing in five to Sally Marling when 4 of the games went into overtime.

Cippenham, despite dropping points to SEH Windows and Doors and Pinewood Fullerians look set to regain their premier division status as they lead division 1 with Gemma Chapman their driving force going through the week end unbeaten. Star of this division was however Marketa Myskova (Eagle Printers) who won

each of her 10 sets 3straight with her opponents only once obtaining more than 7 points. S.E.H and Pinewood can still play a big part in the ultimate shape of this division; much will depend on their own reverse fixture after a first half draw in which Pinewoods Lisa Crick won twice. Halton who had jumped two divisions will struggle to keep their place but rotating from a squad of 5 players will have gained much experience; Gemma Lloyd with 6 wins from 8 outings the most successful.

Gautby Ladies from the Wirral are in command of division 2 after 8 wins (out of 8) from Karen Lockwood, 7 from Terri-Anne Nolan and 6 Cherith Graham but they have yet to play second placed Graham Spicer Angels. Lesley Keast (Suvi Sportswear) was on course for a maximum but after winning nine times on the trot went down in her final game after holding a 2-1 lead over Karen Lockwood. Diane Pearce was responsible for 6 of Ellenborough's 8 winning sets and continuation of this form into the second half should see her team stay ahead of Ashford and East Midland Ladies in the fight to stave off relegation.

Team of the week end Grove 2. represented by Kelly Sibley, Naomi Owen and Heather Shutt were heading for a perfect score in division 3 before in their final match coming up against Hilton and in particular Annabelle Sorrentino who retained her 100% record whilst the Grove team won a set apiece in a drawn match. Sibley's loss against Sorrentino was her only setback throughout the week end and she shares second spot in the averages with Zoe Fisher (Hull Sandhill 2) who lost only to Naomi Owen.

The arrival of this prestigious event was enthusiastically welcomed in Hereford, great co-operation from Leisure Centre management and staff. Saturday's proceedings were opened by Bryan White, secretary of the local sports council and Hereford league management members Dave Gough and Rod Dawson after leaving the hall around midnight on Friday were back to present the prizes on Sunday.



Pictured above are the 'Team of the Weekend' GROVE II, (left to right) KELLY SIBLEY, NAOMI OWEN, HEATHER SHUTT.

Pictured right is SALLY MARLING being presented with the 'Woman of the Weekend' award by DAVE GOUGH of the Hereford League



WOMENS BRITISH LEAGUE TABLES

PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
London Progress	5	5	0	0	21	9	10
Suvi Sportswear I	5	3	1	1	19	11	7
Grove I	5	3	0	2	20	10	6
Hull Sandhill I	5	1	4	0	16	14	6
Leeds Ladies	5	2	1	2	15	15	5
Irish Ladies	5	1	1	3	13	17	3
Horsham Ladies	5	1	1	3	12	13	3
Hollington	5	0	0	5	4	26	0
FIRST DIVISION							
Cippenham I	5	3	2	0	20	10	8
Eagle Printers	5	3	1	1	17	13	7
Pinewood Fullerians	5	2	2	1	18	12	6
SEH Windows & D	5	2	2	1	16	14	6
Halton I	5	1	1	3	14	16	3
Norton Ladies	5	0	0	5	5	25	0
SECOND DIVISION							
Gautby Ladies	4	4	0	0	21	3	8
Graham Spicer Angels	4	3	1	0	16	8	7
Suvi Sportswear II	5	2	2	1	17	13	6
Darlington I	5	3	0	2	16	14	6
Ellenborough	4	0	1	3	8	16	1
Ashford	4	0	1	3	6	18	1
East Midland Ladies	4	0	1	3	6	18	1
THIRD DIVISION							
Grove II	5	4	1	0	22	8	9
Hull Sandhill II	5	3	1	1	20	10	7
Hilton	5	3	1	1	19	11	7
Byng Hall	5	2	1	2	17	13	5
B.A.T.T.S.	5	1	3	1	14	16	5
Norwich Gels	5	2	1	2	13	17	5
Darlington II	5	0	1	4	8	22	1
Halton II	5	0	1	4	7	23	1

WALKOVERS

IN his second article on the approach different leagues take to thorny issues, Ron Fosker looks at walkovers and claimed matches, writes Ron Fosker.

It may not happen at Anfield or Highbury but in the real world of club table tennis, there are going to be occasions when a team is unable to raise enough players to fulfil a fixture. How often this happens may depend on what the rules say on postponements, the subject tackled in the last issue.

The harder it is to postpone a match, the more likely it is that teams will have to give it away. So what penalty should they face for doing so? And what about fielding teams of two players, or even one?

For some leagues, giving a 10-0 victory to your opponent is seen as adequate punishment (although it is not always 10-0: see below). Others regard it as a more severe crime and lay down additional penalties. In some cases this is a fine, in others a loss of points.

And in one case both. In the random selection of handbooks that I researched, Maidstone, one of the hawks on postponements, was the only league to fine the team (£5) and dock points: three for a first offence (in a 10-point for

a win system), six for a second and ten for a third.

Some leagues threaten expulsion after repeated offences. Hastings: Teams consistently incurring defaults may be withdrawn. London Banks and Civil Service League: The management committee may call for an explanation and may direct that the team should be expelled. Braintree is straight to the point: will be automatically removed.

Northampton on the other hand insist that the match should eventually be played, but the team that failed to turn up may lose ten penalty points.

In some cases an unearned 10-0 victory for the aggrieved team is seen as too much. The Banks and Civil Service League regards it as a 7-0 victory (but a 10-0 defeat for the offenders) while West Essex has a more intricate system. There the score is recorded either as the average number of points the team has gained so far, or, if it is in the second half of the season, the number of points they gained in the first fixture between the two clubs, or six points, whichever is the greater. It sounds complicated, but you can see the logic behind it.

Short-changing your opponents by turning up a player short incurs fines in a number of leagues and the more bureaucratic penalty in Hastings of having to send in a written explanation to the league.

One-person teams are banned by some

leagues and in Lowestoft 2v2 is not allowed. In most cases this would result in a scoreline between 7-2 and 5-4 with both teams able to claim two sets. North Herts, however, allows no claims on such occasions but leaves the score at 5-0, 4-1 or 3-2.

The Clacton League has an innovative approach of guest players in an attempt to avoid both walkovers and turning out a player short. Teams are docked two points for turning up with only two players, four points for having only one player and six for conceding. To avoid these penalties, they may call on guest players whose games don't count but enable the team to avoid losing extra points and also to give their opponents a full evening.

Clacton League chairman Brian Rowlen explained the thinking behind the rule: "In the days when we had two points for a win, some teams didn't try too hard to get a third player if they knew they could win with two. We therefore brought in a rule to penalise teams who turned up with only two players. When we moved to a point per set, the penalty was a deduction of two points.

"But we had complaints that there were occasions where it was just not possible to turn out a full team, particularly if it was the lowest ranked team, or the only team in the club.

"We therefore brought in the rule that allowed teams to use a guest player,

either from a higher ranked team within their own club, or from another club, so long as they were registered in the league. Any wins don't count but it enables the opposing team to have a full evening and it saves them having points deducted."

There are two exceptions to the rule. Teams are not allowed to borrow players from the club they are playing against, and they are not allowed to use players who are already playing in another match.

Brian Rowlen reckons guests are used around 20 times a season, and last season there were only eight two-man teams, so the rule seems to be working.

He said: "By and large it works. It is liked by the players, who can see the sense in it. Teams mostly stick to the spirit of the rule by not asking a first division player to play in division four and it usually means that teams have a decent evening."

And last season it actually saved a team from withdrawing from the league.

One of the teams in the lowest division had started with four players but two dropped out early on. They played the next half a dozen games with two players and a guest while they searched round for another player to sign on.

They eventually found one and carried on for the rest of the season.

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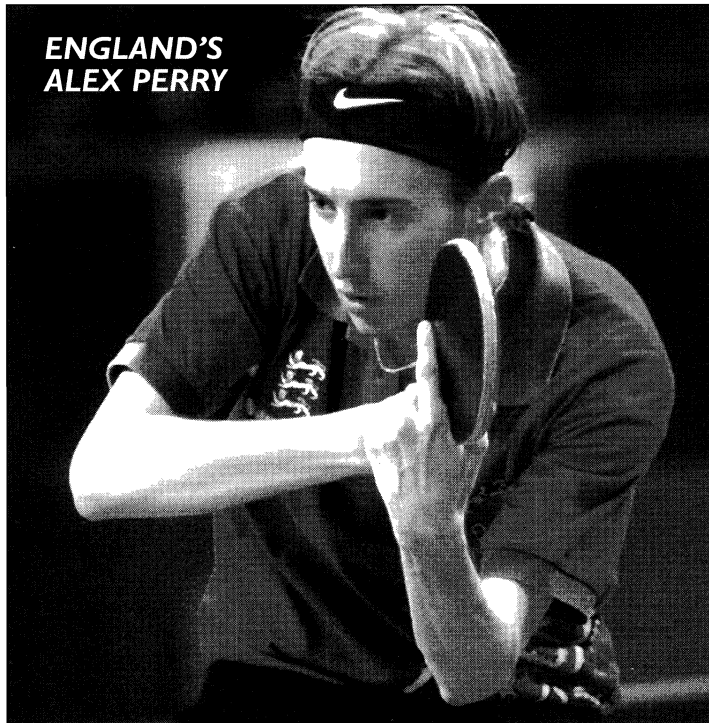
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PERRY WINS BUT SPAIN TRIUMPH



ENGLAND'S ALEX PERRY

HALIFAX players and fans provided the biggest crowd at a European League match for some time past - not far short of 600 including those who did not pay at the gate at the excellent North Bridge Leisure Centre on October 9, writes John Woodford.

The crowd was rewarded by a very high standard of play from both teams - England without Matthew Syed (in Japan) and Spain minus He Zhe Wen - but they had a Chinese coach.

Spain ended with a well-deserved 3-1 victory, a result that must place them above England in Zagreb next March at the European Championships.

The order of play is so vital in these

matches. Alex Perry was unbeaten, but he only played once. Soren Ahlen gambled on England No.2 Gareth Herbert playing twice - in both encounters Gareth took his opponents to five games - losing 7-11 in the opening game to Dani Torres and then 6-11 to Alfredo Carneros in the last match of the evening.

Gareth, when I spoke with him on the Isle of Man said he was having problems adjusting to 11 points - the same applied at Halifax.

Perry played well. His mother Penny will be specially pleased to read that comment as she has recently felt that Ken Muhr and myself were "under-reporting" him with alleged lucky points!

Alex piled on the top-spin on both wings winning the first two games 5 and 4; Machedo hit back 8 and 12 but the man from Devon and Nottingham bounced back, especially quick on the backhand to win 6 in the 5th.

At that point it seemed that if Gareth could lift his game a 2-2 situation could be on the cards, leaving Terry Young to face Torres in the decider, but it was not to be.

Terry himself seems to have hit a plateau - he always looks capable of winning at this level - he scored 28 points against Carneros who notched

34 - not much in it - but the man from Maidenhead has somehow got to get away to a new beginning and off that plateau.

So, summing up the play, a lot of sparkling table tennis, England might have won if Matthew had been there - much would have depended on the order of play though.

Two wins by Matthew in the A or B position and one from Alex Perry might have done the trick.

The local organisers put on an excellent evening - Calderdale Council, Halifax Table Tennis Centre and Sedgefield Borough Leisure Services all welded together by ETTA Events Manager Harvey Webb, who has now fallen into the MC job besides having to transport a load of equipment from Hastings including would you believe, surrounds.

Appreciation also for the Welsh umpires - Peter Higgins and Jackie Williams, the lady who was bitten 200

times by mosquitoes in New Delhi and has vowed never to return to India!

FOOTNOTE: I returned south on the 0720hrs Yorkshire Pullman from Leeds, which took only two hours to Kings Cross, travelling at over 100 miles an hour without reducing speed at any stage until approaching the London terminus - I was so impressed I thought about moving into first class accommodation for breakfast - the extra cost would have been £80! So I opted for a massive baguette with egg, bacon and and sausage for £4.55 !

SCORES:

ENGLAND 1 , SPAIN 3

G. Herbert 1. D. Torres -8, -3, 7, 10, -7

T. Young 1. A. Carneros -9, -9, -10

A. Perry bt. C. Machedo 5, 4, -8, -12, 6

Herbert 1. Carneros -7, 7, 9, -9, -6

MESSAGE FROM THE ITTF PRESIDENT ADHAM SHARARA

THE NEW SERVICE RULE

THE new service rule will come into effect on 1 September 2002. In the meantime, there will be an AGM held in April 2002. During this AGM modifications to the rules could still take place. Therefore, the ITTF will not provide any final wording until after the next AGM in case of any changes or modifications that may be adopted. For the time being, the new rule is published in the ITTF Magazine and Bulletin, and on page 21 of this magazine, according to the AGM resolution passed.

The official interpretation of the rule as well as explanatory diagrams will be made available and distributed after the next AGM (after April 2002). In any case we can not use this rule until next September so there is no need to speculate now.

The main thrust of the new rule is for the 'Receiver' to be able to see the service clearly at the moment of impact. The umpire's role is to judge that the Receiver had a clear view of the ball. This is a much easier judgement than the current rule. The final effect of this rule, once properly implemented is that the service will be clear to the Receiver, and the Server will not be able to hide the point of contact or obstruct the view of the Receiver.

This rule was proposed by England and the Rules Committee and was supported by the Executive Committee and passed by the AGM in Osaka.

It is obvious that a clear interpretation will be needed in order to give the umpires a clear mandate on how to apply the rule. It will also give the players and the coaches a clear understanding of how to technically perform the service within the newly established rules and parameters.

Patience is a virtue and any unnecessary false interpretations and variations are not beneficial at this moment. After the next AGM, the final detailed wording and interpretation will be the final guiding principles and rules to be applied.

Adham Sharara, ITTF President

SOME OF THE INFORMATION FOR THESE PAGES WAS OBTAINED FROM ETTA & ITTF OFFICES AND ITTF MAGAZINE 'TABLE TENNIS ILLUSTRATED'

THE POLISH MIRACLE

Dutch Open, Rotterdam, 28 October 2001.

TOMASZ KRZEZEWSKI (POL) No. 62 in the World did the impossible. He won the mens singles at the Dutch Open beating the young German Timo BOLL (No. 18) and on his way to the final he beat two other World top players, Kalinikos KREANGA (GRE) and Vladimir SAMSONOV (BLR).

Krzejewski never hesitated. In the final against Boll he was even improving his game punishing the young German for each and every mistake. Boll was in there till 1-1 but then Krzejewski took over and Boll was losing confidence. The Polish won 4-1 to take his first Pro Tour title.

"This week has been excellent for me. I have been playing very well, let's hope it can continue", said the Krzejewski admitting that normally he has been on a lower level.

"I always had good services but in my normal game I make too many mistakes. This week has been different, let's hope that this is only the beginning".

SECOND TITLE FOR RYU

RYU Ji Hye (Korea) took the second Pro Tour title in two weeks, when she won the final in the womens singles. Ryu also won the German Open last week and in the final in Rotterdam she once more showed that she has taken her game to a higher level.

Tamara Boros (Croatia) was not playing badly, Ryu was just too strong. It looked like an easy walk in the park for Ryu who went to 3-0. Then Boros came back though. She went to 2-3 and she was also close to reaching 3-3. Ryu though kept her head down and took the game and the title.

Mens doubles champions were Timo BOLL/Zoltan FEJER-KONNERTH (Germany), whilst the womens doubles champions were NIU Jianfeng/BAI Yang (China).

EARLY CHEERS FOR HEISTER

Earlier in the tournament Danny Heister really gave his Dutch supporters something to cheer for in his 3rd round match in mens singles against Jorg Roskopf (Germany).

He was several times on the verge of losing, but each time he fought back.

In the 7th game he was down 6-9, but then he won 5 points in a row to take the match 11-9 and advance to the quarter finals.

MENS WORLD CUP

The best players of the World will compete in Courmayeur, Italy, over 4 days 8th to 11th November 2001.

Thursday the 8th is the opening day of the Mens World Cup with an entry of the best players on the World Ranking and all the continental champions.

There are no easy matches at the World Cup but nevertheless the players were looking forward to the draw with interest.

The draw put two Chinese in group 'A'. The World Champion WANG Liqin (CHN) will have to face the older compatriot MA Wenge who won the World Cup twice a decade ago. MA Wenge was invited on a wild card because LIU Guozheng (CHN) had to cancel due to a shoulder injury. Jean-Michel SAIVE (BEL) 'landed' in group 'A' as well.

Group 'C' looks like the other difficult group. CHIANG Peng-Lung (TPE), Werner SCHLAGER (AUT), Peter KARLSSON (SWE) and Ahmed ALI SALEH (EGY) will have to fight for the two first places in the group which qualifies for the quarter finals.

Werner SCHLAGER was not that enthusiastic about the draw.

"CHIANG Peng-Lung is very good, and to get the European Champion (Peter KARLSSON) from the third seeding group of players is not good for me. I don't think anybody would find it lucky to play the European Champion as a supposedly weaker player. Anyway nothing is supposed to be easy at the World Cup", says the Austrian top player.

Ahmed ALI SALEH (EGY) would normally be considered as a 'trainee' in the group. ALI SALEH though was shocking everybody two weeks ago when he defeated No.15 in the World MA Wenge at the Dutch Open.

The Italian entry, Yang Min, is in the group with Jorg Roskopf (GER), Vladimir SAMSONOV (BLR) and Augusto MORALES (CHI).

"Yang Min is a dangerous player, I don't like playing him", says Jorg Roskopf. "Anyway, regarding that we could have had MA Wenge or Kalinikos KREANGA in the group, I cannot complain".

A GOOD SERVICE

(with effect from 1 September 2002, designed by the ITTF Rules Committee)

- 2.6 A good service
- 2.6.1 Service shall start with the ball resting freely on the open palm of the server's free hand.
- 2.6.2 The server shall then project the ball near vertically upwards, without imparting spin, so that it rises at least 16 cm after leaving the palm of the free hand and then falls without touching anything before being struck.
- 2.6.3 As the ball is falling the server shall strike it so that it touches first his court and then, after passing over or around the net assembly, touches directly the receiver's court; in doubles the ball shall touch successively the right half courts of server and receiver.
- 2.6.4 From the time at which the ball leaves the server's hand until it is struck it shall be above the level of the playing surface and behind the server's end line.
- 2.6.5 When the ball is struck, no part of the body or clothing of the server or his doubles partner shall be within or above the triangular area formed by the net and imaginary lines between the ball and the tops of the net posts, at a height where it could hide the ball from the receiver.
- 2.6.6 It is the responsibility of the player to serve so that the umpire or the assistant umpire can see that he complies with the requirements for a good service.
 - 2.6.6.1 If the umpire is doubtful of the legality of a service but neither he nor the assistant umpire is sure that it is illegal he may, on the first occasion in a match, warn the server without awarding a point.
 - 2.6.6.2 If subsequently in the match a service by that player or his doubles partner is of dubious legality, for the same or for any other reason, the receiver shall score a point.
 - 2.6.6.3 Whenever there is a clear failure to comply with the requirements for a good service no warning shall be given and the receiver shall score a point.
- 2.6.7 Exceptionally, the umpire may relax the requirements for a good service where he is satisfied that compliance is prevented by physical disability.

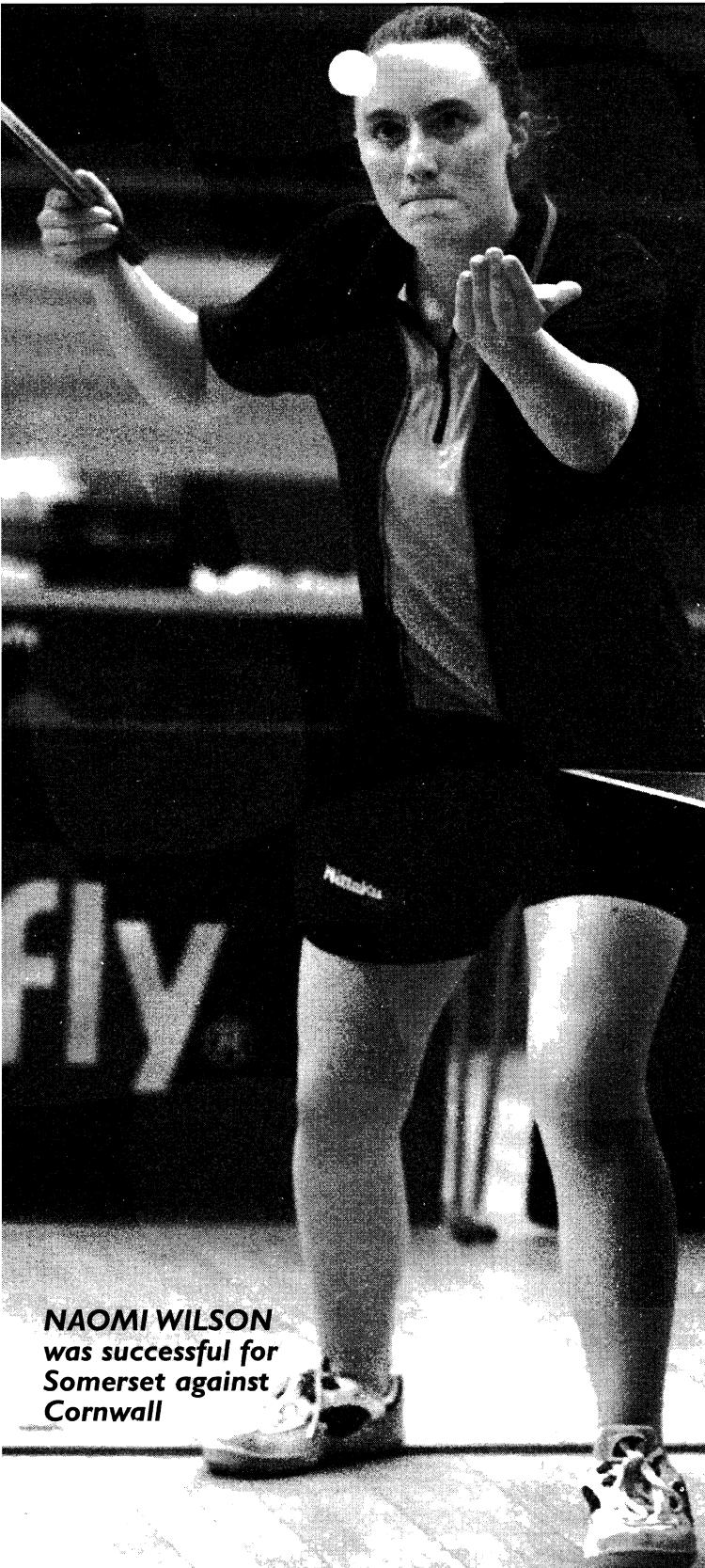


WORLD TOP TEN

OCTOBER 2001

MEN			WOMEN				
1 (1)	2291	WANG Liqin	CHN	1 (1)	2332	WANG Nan	CHN
2 (2)	2117	LIU Guozheng	CHN	2 (2)	2141	ZHANG Yining	CHN
3 (4)	2076	MA Lin	CHN	3 (4)	2025	STEFF Mihaela	ROM
4 (5)	2068	CHIANG Peng-Lung	TPE	4 (3)	2006	LI JU	CHN
5 (3)	2062	KONG Linghui	CHN	5 (5)	1984	BOROS Tamara	CRO
6 (10)	2031	KIM Taek Soo	KOR	6 (6)	1952	SUN Jin	CHN
7 (6)	2017	SAMSONOV Vladimir	BLR	7 (12)	1917	RYU Ji Hye	KOR
8 (7)	1985	PRIMORAC Zoren	CRO	8 (7)	1906	CHEH Jing	TPE
9 (11)	1963	LIU Guoliang	CHN	9 (8)	1898	YANG Ying	CHN
10 (8)	1932	SCHLAGER Werner	AUT	10(11)	1897	LIN Ling	CHN
63 (58)	1441	SYED Matthew	ENG	163(155)	1080	LOWER Helen	ENG
126(121)	1158	HERBERT Gareth	ENG	173(160)	1059	DEATON Nicola	ENG

A NEW SEASON PACKED FULL OF CHANGES



NAOMI WILSON
was successful for
Somerset against
Cornwall

SO here we are again, all set for a new season packed full of changes, an extended County Championships with the inclusion of two new sections i.e. Cadets division and over 60 Veterans division. Unfortunately despite an introductory offer of two for the price of one, the take up of places has not been as good as may have been expected when compared to the response from Counties in their replies to the questionnaires of last season. In particular the entry to the under 21 section was so poor that it was not viable to include this section in this years Championship, unfortunate, as this seemed to be a popular section when the Counties were polled, writes Stan Clarke.

The response to the Cadet and over 60 Veterans sections was also disappointing but enough Counties entered for the committee to agree to include them in the competition this year, hopefully they will prove a success and next season will see an increase in numbers.

We also have the introduction of the dreaded / loved (delete as appropriate) best of eleven points per game, five games per set format. It is perhaps a little soon to be passing judgment, but it seems to me that to be successful in this format that it is an advantage to be a sprinter rather than an endurance person, there is so little time to settle down and assess your opponents strengths and weaknesses, I'm just glad I'm not a defender. The Championships seem to have started early this season with the first matches being played on 15th September, long before many local leagues started their matches, but with the calendar so congested it is inevitable.

SENIOR DIVISION 1B

Only two results from this division, but Middlesex 2nd got their season off to a flyer disposing of Hertfordshire 8/2 in the morning before crushing Cornwall 9/1 in the afternoon, not a bad days work .

SENIOR DIVISION 2B

Three matches played in this division, Glamorgan disposed of

Herefordshire 8/2 whilst Devonshire 2nd battered Worcestershire 2nd 10/0, mind you Worcestershire did little to help their own chances by fielding only one lady player.

Somerset played a close fought match against Cornwall 2nd, running out winners by 6 sets to four after the match was tied on four sets all, Naomi Wilson beat Michelle Turner and Mike Hurley beat Chris Brown in the last two sets to earn the two points, 3 of the sets going to five games and 3 requiring four games to produce a winner.

JUNIOR DIVISION 3C

A total of five matches played in this division at three venues, at Godney Somerset were hosts to Cornwall first and second teams and pretty poor hosts they were, holding the Cornwall first team to a draw in the first match before going on to beat the second's, to move to the top of the division

JUNIOR DIVISION 3D

The division played three matches on the one day, first round starting at 10.00am, second round at 12.30pm and a third round starting at 3.00pm. The most successful team were Buckingham 3rd who finished the day as the only team with a 100% record. They started their campaign by beating Buckinghamshire 4th by 7/3, a closer match than the score suggests, having warmed up they then thrashed Sussex 3rd. 10/0, then in the afternoon round of matches they disposed of Gwent 2nd 9/1, not a bad days work, winning twenty six sets and dropping only four.

Gloucestershire are currently in second place with five points having won two and drawn one, They struggled to hold a depleted Wiltshire team (Only one girl) to a draw, before beating Sussex 2nd 7/3 and Essex 3rd 6/4. Third place is held by Essex 3rd who started off well with wins over Sussex 3rd and Gwent 2nd before Gloucestershire upset their applectart.

Sussex 2nd and Sussex 3rd are the bottom two teams, both teams loosing all three matches, Sussex 2nd avoid the wooden spoon by virtue of having won two sets more than their third team.

GLUCOSAMINE SULPHATE HELPS REPAIR 'WEAR AND TEAR'

BANKING ON SUPPLE JOINTS
IT'S OFFICIAL, exercise combined with a nutritional boost can help put good health in the bank. alongside ones conventional pension plan A new study just published in the medical journal *The Lancet indicates that a nutritional boost with glucosamine sulphate can help to guard against fallout from damaged joints.

Running, jogging, ball games and any load-bearing exercise contributes to producing stronger heavier bones, reducing the risk of fractures in later life. Physical exercise also acts as a tonic to the cardiovascular system but the downside is wear and tear on the joints. So how to keep knees, ankles and other joints in tip-top condition?

The research showed that people with osteoarthritis of the knee joints, who took glucosamine sulphate daily in a three year trial had better joint structure and could feel the benefit. But those taking a dummy pill continued to deteriorate. 212 patients took part in the trial conducted by the Bone and Cartilage

Metabolism Research Unit at the University of Liege, Belgium.

Taking a supplement such as Wassen's 'GlucoSelene' (glucosamine + selenium + vitamins C+E + manganese + vitamin B6) provides an excellent source of glucosamine sulphate. This substance has been shown to help stimulate the production of tissue components, which hold onto water within the cartilage acting as a sponge when joint pressure is applied. Three tablets daily of 'GlucoSelene' would closely mirror the trial dose levels of glucosamine sulphate and may have an important part to play in joint health maintenance.

'GlucoSelene' has been formulated to provide nutritional support for the maintenance of healthy connective tissue, particularly that of the joints, enhancing the production of substances essential for the maintenance and repair of joint tissues. The antioxidants selenium, manganese, along with vitamins C and E have been included for their protective effect against free radical damage, whilst vitamin B6 plays an important role in the regeneration of body tissues.

In the trial, headed by the Bone and Cartilage Metabolism Research Unit

at the University of Liege, Belgium, 212 patients with knee osteoarthritis took either glucosamine or a placebo once daily for three years. Placebo patients reported worsening symptoms, while glucosamine patients reported improvements.

For further information please contact Wassen's nutritional adviser on vitamins@wassen.com or visit the company's web site at: www.wassen.com

REFERENCES

* Long-term effects of glucosamine sulphate on osteoarthritis progression a randomised, placebo-controlled clinical trial. Reginster JY et al. *Lancet* 2001; 357 251-256

experts Tanita have introduced a new body fat monitor with an extended five year memory, which means keeping a track of your body fat percentage as part of your training programme is easier than ever.

The TBF-562 is a high-tech set of scales that displays daily body fat readings on a graph - showing at a glance the progress of fat loss or maintenance of fat levels. This new addition to the Tanita body fat monitor range also has a separate LCD display that can be hand-held or wall-mounted for an easy view of the graph analysis.

The new generation body fat monitor has a five year memory that enables you to store readings over time and analyse trends in your body fat levels and fitness programme. Giving your body fat percentage reading for the past 7 days, the graph function also shows averages for the past 12 week and 12 month periods, allowing you to monitor changes in your body such as those that take place during a training programme.

Other useful features on the new model include memory buttons to store details for up to five users, making it ideal for use by small sports groups, and the option to analyse weight readings as well as body fat. The TBF-562 also has a Body Mass Index calculator (BMI), which is a measure of your weight and height. However as BMI does not distinguish between muscle and fat tissue, experts recommend that you consider both BMI and body fat percentage.

The Tanita TBF-562 is the first of its kind in the UK and will be on sale in leading retail outlets at the suggested retail price of £129.99. Used regularly, this body fat monitor will encourage you to keep motivated and focus on your long-term training objectives.

The Tanita Body Fat Monitor 562 is priced at £129.99, available from Lillywhites, Porter Nash Medical, www.wellbeing.com, Fitness Options and Bentalls. For your nearest stockist call the Tanita helpline 0800 731 6994 or visit the website at www.tanita.co.uk.

NEW BODY FAT MONITOR GIVES ATHLETES THE FULL HEALTH PICTURE

PEOPLE who are committed to fitness know the importance of monitoring body fat levels for optimum performance. Now body fat

GRAND FINALS IN TIANJIN
 THE 2001 Pro Tour Grand Final shall be held in Tianjin, China, on 10-13 January 2002.

The co-host will be the Chinese Table Tennis Association, the title sponsor is DAWEI, the equipment sponsor is TAMASU-Butterfly, and the floor sponsor is Gerflor (Brand name for Taraflex).

We believe that this event will serve as the launch of a new era for the Pro Tour. The ITTF will raise the level of importance of the Pro Tour and will make very exciting announcements within the next two months regarding the future of the Tour: more prize money, more TV coverage, enhanced presentation, etc. We are very excited that our efforts and many months of hard work will now translate into a very professional table tennis tour.
Adham Sbarara, ITTF President

ITTF PRO TOUR 2002

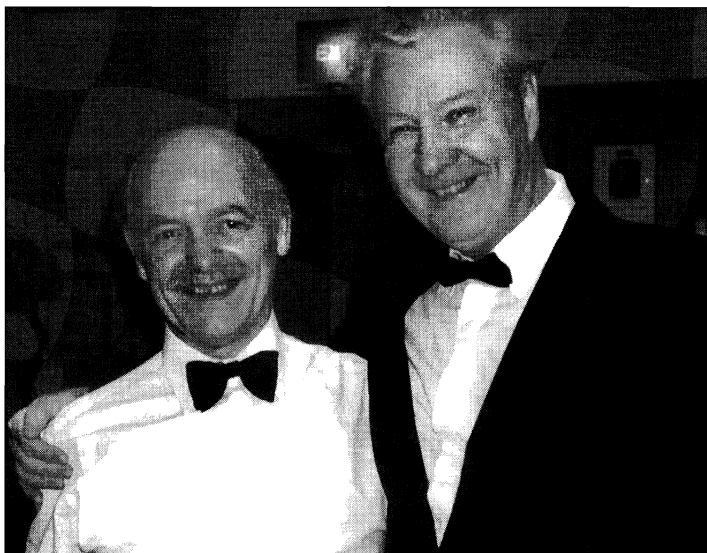
10-13 January 2002	2001 ProTour Grand Finals	Tianjin, China
23 - 27 January	Austrian Open	Wels
19 - 22 February	Egypt Open	Cairo
4 - 8 March	Qatar Open	Doha
2 - 5 May	Italian Open	Courmayeur
30 May - 2 June	China Open	
11 - 14 July	Brazilian Open	Rio de Janeiro
12 - 15 September	Japan Open	Kobe
17 - 20 October	German Open	
24 - 27 October	Dutch Open	
14- 17 November	Polish Open	Warsaw
21 - 24 November	Farum Danish Open	Farum
12 - 15 December	Pro Tour Grand Finals	

2002 WORLD CUP DATES

30 August-1 Sept.	Womens World Cup	Singapore
31 October-3 Nov.	Mens World Cup	

MIKE WATTS - A FRIEND

1937-2001



MIKE WATTS (right) pictured with DEREK SCHOFIELD at one of the VETTS dinners

A LARGE gathering of friends were present after Mike's funeral and Mike Holt, Vice Chairman, Marketing, paid a sincere and eloquent tribute.

He said that he had first been contacted by telephone over 20 years ago when Mike had phoned him with a request for him to assist with the English Junior Championships at Hinckley. 10 years later Mike Holt was still assisting with these annual championships, such as Mike's persuasive abilities.

He said that over the ensuing years they became friends as well as colleagues, a friendship that he would always remember and value.

He went on to say that Mike's priority had always been his family, Hilda, his daughters and his grandchildren. His work within the E.T.T.A. took him away from home for many weekends but always he rang Hilda to let her know he was OK.

His second passion was table tennis, organising, playing, or watching. His enthusiasm was infectious whether speaking to a sponsor, international player, or ITTF official, or just an ordinary local league player. He just loved the sport and this enthusiasm was so infectious that everyone was soon caught up in it.

Mike's other passions were his car, holidays, and his beloved Aston Villa. Even at National Council meetings, his first question around 4.40 would be to ask how the Villa had got on. In later years holidays were important for Hilda and Mike, and Mike Holt said how much these memories would mean to Hilda.

It was whilst ringing to arrange for the presentation of the highest honour that the E.T.T.A. can bestow that Mike Holt was told of Mike's passing. That award is to be presented to Hilda. Mike would have been very proud.

Mike Holt said how privileged he was to have known Mike and that he would miss his friendship very much. He was respected by the Table Tennis fraternity worldwide and would be a great loss to the sport. One lasting thought "I expect Mike is up there now checking out the venue size to make sure that he can get enough tables to run his next tournament" God bless you Mike, Rest in peace.

Among Mike Watts many table tennis commitments, and volunteer works were the following:

Deputy General Secretary 1980-86, National Events Manager 1987-89, 1995-96, World Championships Tournament Director - Manchester

1996, World Veterans Championships Director Manchester 1998, Member of the English Championships Committee and National Championships Committee 1975-2001, ETTA Vice Chairman 1991-95, Essex County General Secretary 1969-78, Essex Treasurer 1989-90, Southend League Secretary 1965-72, Founder member and Committee member of VETTS in 1984. Honours bestowed - Ivor Montagu Award 1976-77, Vice President 1992-93, Malcolm Scott Award 1998-99. Honorary Life Member 2001.

A DEAR FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE

A tribute by Derek Schofield (VETTS Chairman 1984-1998).

When Mike passed away in hospital on Sunday 14th October 2001, we didn't just lose a dear friend and colleague, the world of English table tennis lost one of the finest and most highly respected administrators the sport has ever known.

His knowledge of the sport was boundless, having served in practically every capacity from club level, to international level, organising World and European Championships, and countless other international and national events.

His talents were also recognised by the European Table Tennis Union, who invited him to serve on their Veterans European Championships Committee - A position he carried out diligently for many years.

Although I had known Mike for

many more years than I care to remember, it wasn't until 1983 when, following on from the successful staging of the first ever World Veteran Championships, he approached me with the inspirational idea of forming some kind of veterans association in England.

During January 1984, at an inaugural meeting of many interested parties, Mike's 'Brainchild' became a reality, and the Veterans English Table Tennis Society was born.

As General Secretary, he used his special talents to help steer VETTS through its formative years, until it became what it is today - Arguably the most successful innovation in English table tennis over the last twenty years.

On his retirement as General Secretary in 1993, Mike was immediately invited to be President - An office he carried out with great dignity.

Mike was also an accomplished player, notching up many veteran doubles titles playing alongside Henry Buist, and in the County Championships, had the distinction of playing for no less than four counties - Warwickshire, Essex, Sussex and Norfolk.

In 1998, The Veterans English Table Tennis Society for the first time teamed up with the English Table Tennis Association, to stage the 9th Veteran World Championships in Manchester, with once again, Mike being the focal point as Organiser, and setting his own usual high standards.

Certainly from the VETTS point of

view, the tournament was an unqualified success, and could quite easily be used as a role model for future championships.

Mike was essentially a family man, so naturally, our thoughts and prayers go out to his loving wife Hilda, daughters Deborah, Lynn, and the rest of the family in their time of sadness.

I believe that the undoubted success of the Veterans English Table Tennis Society, which currently enjoys worldwide recognition, is a fitting tribute to Mike, whose original idea and dedication most certainly helped to provide veteran players everywhere with many more extra years of competitive pleasure.

MIKE WATTS

I AM sitting here, looking at a blank sheet of paper, not knowing how to begin writing about the devastating events that have happened in the lives of Mike and myself over the past five months until sadly in October the end of Mike's life.

He had been unwell since May and spent a total of eight weeks out of twelve in hospital both in Kings Lynn and Addenbrooke's in Cambridge. There they tried very hard to find the cause of his jaundice. He had many scans and tests over these weeks but it was only at the end of August that his cancer was finally diagnosed. We had such a short time to come to terms with this unexpected news before his condition suddenly deteriorated and he passed away on Sunday 14th. October.

Words can never express how I felt about the cards, letters, 'phone calls, donations and flowers I have received, not forgetting of course the cards Mike himself also received whilst he was so ill.

The number of people who attended Mike's funeral was completely overwhelming for myself and my family. The tributes paid by Mike Holt and Derek Schofield were a great comfort to us.

The donations received for Cancer Research and The Macmillan Nurses have exceeded £1,000 and I cannot possibly put into words what this means to both myself and the family.

I once again thank you all from the bottom of my heart for your love and support which has helped me so much at this sad time in my life.

Hilda Watts

UXBRIDGE TABLE TENNIS CLUB

A CASE STUDY

1. Introduction

Uxbridge Table Tennis Club, Burton upon Trent, Staffs. The club plays from Uxbridge Community Centre, which was formally an old disused school.

2. Club history

Uxbridge Table Tennis Club was formed in 1984 by Terry Gadsby, to provide a facility for school leavers who could no longer use the Local Education Authorities facilities in Burton. At this stage there was no equipment or money but lots of enthusiasm and a willingness to work hard. After meeting with the local Youth and Community Services a venue was found, some old Youth Club (in dilapidated state) tables were obtained and the club was on its way. After more meetings the District Council Leisure Officer found money for two new tables and the local table tennis league donated another new table. A local firm (SAS Ltd) donated cash for equipment and a 'top level' coaching course. From here things started to move steadily along, Burton Breweries Trust, R.Peach and Co Ltd and East Staffs Sports Council, all gave financial help, giving the club its initial boost.

3. People

Affiliation
ETTA Premier Club (excellence), Burton Senior League, Derby League, Derbyshire County TTA, East Staffs Sports Council, East Staffs Youth Service, East Staffs Twinning Committee

Personnel
Neil Houghton – Level 4
Geoff Farmer – Level 3
Terry Gadsby – Level 2
Chris Newton – Level 2
Helen Lower – Level 2
Steve Shaw – Level 2
Terry Gadsby – TTDO Silver Award
John Pope – County Umpire
Wilfe Rhoades – International Umpire

Administration
Uxbridge TTC Committee is made of the following positions:
President, Vice President (3), Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Officer, Development Officer, Coaching Officer, Maintenance Officer, British League Manager, Junior Team Manager, Local League Secretary and Committee Members

There is also the following sub committee: Coaching, Development, Sponsorship/Finance and Schools Liaison

Membership numbers:

1999/2000	2000/2001
All members	85
Disabled members	12
Ethnic minorities	8
	33

Club membership is open to anyone. Junior Membership is £2 per season and Adult Membership is £4 per season. Each coaching session and club night cost £2.

• Marketing

The club produced a quarterly newsletter, which contains results, information, latest activities and contacts. Weekly reports are issued to the local papers. Press releases are sent out to all are partners before and after events, both playing and non playing events. An Open Day is being held this year, this is a general sports open day in the Community Centre which the table tennis club is heading up, it is designed to not only to bring new members and volunteers into sport but to recognise the hard work volunteers within table tennis do. The Burton Volunteers Bureau will be in attendance to present special awards to the club's volunteers to say 'thank you'. Radio Derby and Nottingham will also be doing a live broadcast on the day. Several discussions have been held with local television but unfortunately were unsuccessful!! We'll just have to keep trying to get them involved.

• Partnership

Uxbridge TTC over the last year has gone about forming a cluster of clubs around itself in line with the ETTA's Premier Club programme; this is to ensure the long-term stability and future of table tennis in Burton upon Trent. Following school clubs have been established through links between the club and the ETTA's Regional Development Officer. Grants have been obtained for nearly £20,000 to make these clubs operate. All the school clubs have weekly coaching sessions, funded by Uxbridge TTC. Anglesey School has taken the next step down the road and started its own 'proper club' now. They could well be competition in the future! A challenge we welcome. The following shows the links that have been established in the Burton area.

- Anglesey Primary School (6)
 - King Edwards TTC, Lichfield (12)
 - William Shrewsbury Primary School (2)
 - Belvedere Primary School (5)
 - Paget High School (6)
 - Rykneld Primary School (6)
 - Stretton Brook Special School (2)
- Brackets indicates the number of tables*

In addition to the school links, the club has a long tradition of helping other community groups access table tennis. Over the past ten years the District Cubs and Scouts have held an annual tournament on ten tables. The sessions attract hundreds of cubs and scouts each year.

4. Places

14 tables and nets, forty barriers, two robots, scoring machines, addition

halogen lights for British League matches etc, scoring machines, several Tops bags and additional bats and balls are within the club building and 19 tables and nets, hundreds of bats and balls in local schools

• Playing area:

Three rooms are used for table tennis at Uxbridge, a main hall (22.12m), a practice room (12.5) and a match room (12.5m). All have solid, wooden tiled flooring and fluorescent lighting. Additional halogen lighting is available for exhibition or British League type matches

• Facilities:

The building is owned by East Staffs Youth and Community Services and we hire the facility on an annual basis, at a very agreeable cost. A kitchen with cooking area, a bar (non alcoholic), social area, meeting room and secure storage area are the additional facilities within the building

A major lighting upgrade in the main hall is the next project.

5. Programmes

This is the regular in club programme:
Monday night – Club Night 7.30pm onwards, Match Night & Social League 7.30 – 10.30pm
Tuesday Night – Girls Session 5 – 7pm – Advanced Session 7 – 9pm – Match Night 7.30pm onwards
Wednesday Night – Over 50's 10am – 12pm Disabled Session 3 – 5pm
Beginner Session 5 – 7pm Match Night 7.30pm onwards
Thursday Night – Asian Women's Session 6 – 8pm
Friday Night – Match Night & Open Practice 7.30pm onwards
Saturday – 10.30am – 12.30pm Open Coaching - Junior League 12.30pm – 2.30pm

This is the regular off site programme (based around school terms)
Tuesday – Rykneld School 3.30 – 5pm
Belvedere School 3.30 – 5pm
Wednesday – William Shrewsbury School 3.30 – 5pm
Thursday – Paget High School 3.30 – 5pm
Friday - Anglesey School 3.30 – 5pm

The following team competitions are entered:-
Burton Senior League, Derby League, Uxbridge Schools League, National Cadet League, National Junior League, Junior British League and British League

• Venue availability:

The venue is available every night for matches and four nights for full coaching sessions, the hall is also available almost every weekend throughout the year

- Trip to the Commonwealth Games next year is planned
- A new Schools League will be started in October 2001
- Held many training events e.g. Level 2 Coach Education Courses, Premier Club Action Planning Evenings, Disability Awareness Training

6. Conclusion

• What makes this club special?
How we would like to be thought of is that we will help anyone who wants to play table tennis whether they be an individual aspiring to be a national player or a youth club wanting help to run a coaching session or tournament. Over the last 12 to 15 months we have radically made a difference to table tennis in our town and proactively made table tennis open to all. Being announced ETTA Premier Club (excellence) of the Year has give all the club and local community a huge boost which is spurring us on to work even harder.

• Plans for the future including SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis

Strengths
Willingness of volunteers to help anyone, sometimes at a moments notice
Support of several major influential authorities in Burton
Weaknesses
Takes longer to start some projects than desired

Not enough fund raising from within the membership, development is becoming dependent on grants

Opportunities
Lots more schools and other groups we can offer table tennis too
Huge amounts of funding sources to apply for

Threats
Youth Service increasing the rent so we cannot spend has much on development and coaching
Active Sports taking away the attention of the sports development department.

A major decision to be made in the future is whether to start the application process for a Lottery Sports bid for our own dedicated facility in Burton-upon-Trent.

NEXT ISSUE

FEATURES

BYNG HALL

TABLE TENNIS

CLUB

THE MAGICIAN'S ART or DAYLIGHT ROBBERY

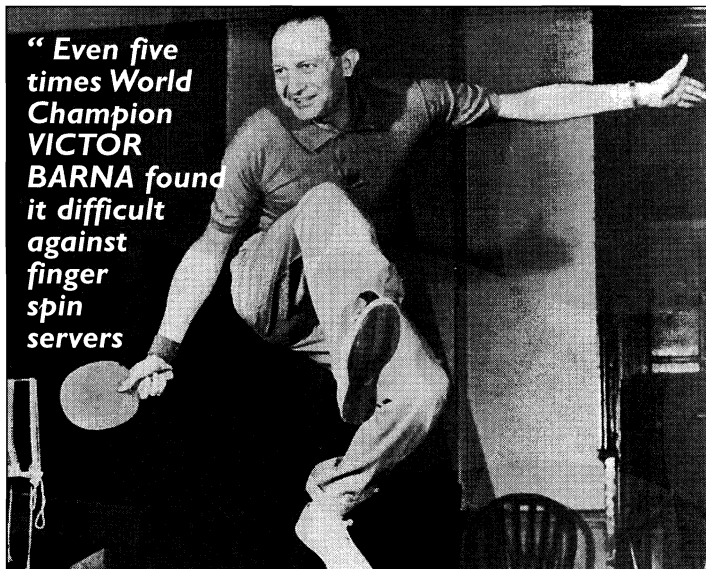
THIS SEASON'S big rule change, playing up to 11, and talking point seemed to arrive quite suddenly. Next season will see another profound change. This concerns the service. The relevant clause is this : 2.6.5 "When the ball is struck, or part of the body or clothing of the server or his doubles partner shall be within or above the triangular area formed by the net and imaginary lines between the ball and the tops of the net posts, at a height where it could hide the ball from the receiver."

Like Colin Clemett in his excellent article (TTNews May/June) I hope that clearer wording will be found, but the intentions must be applauded.

THE SKILL ALMOST OF MAGICIANS

Services SHOULD be delivered in a manner which allows the opponent to see the ball being struck. I like to think that this also is the intention of the present rules and that this is what most players want. The problem remains that things happen very quickly, that a few gifted players have the skills almost of magicians, whose hand is quicker than the eye, certainly than of most of us. At top level the flat hand may be shown to the umpire and opponent, but not when the ball is struck. The hand will move quickly towards the body and the body toward the ball to shield it from view. Then, unseen, it will be propelled against the bat, producing further spin and disguise, and a service will be produced where the contact of ball to bat is not seen and the return is the result of guess work. A mistake will follow or a poor return. A thunderous fast loop to finish the rally will punish the indifferent return from the disguised, invisible service. The rally will have lasted exactly two points.

To most this will seem against the spirit of the sport as both a fair contest and as a spectacle. To a minority it will appear as a new skill and so good luck to those who have learned it, perhaps the result of years



"Even five times World Champion VICTOR BARNA found it difficult against finger spin servers"

of practice.

It is not a new situation. In the late 1930's, the hard bat era, there was the invention of the finger or knuckle spin service, which reduced world class players to novices and even 5 times world champion Victor Barna found it difficult. Such services were banned, because most people wanted the game to flow, to see rallies. The present service, did not arrive overnight. It was a gradual development, each year presenting new challenges, as the contact moved a little further out of sight behind the body. The transition was slow, the hand so quick, that the profound change was barely noticed. Complaints by victims were attributed to the bitterness of those who had been defeated.

DISCRETION THE BETTER PART OF VALOUR...?

How are good intentions to be translated into firm rules that everybody understands and honours? Players and umpires are on different sides of the table. How can an umpire, sitting on the side, know what is visible to the player positioned at another end? Then there is the ongoing problem that umpires, at any rate qualified ones, do not appear until the player has reached a high standard. Even ETTA

Grand Prix events and the German 2nd division (in which appear internationals from all over the world) do not have qualified umpires. In our local leagues it will be one of the players from either side who will umpire. There is no surer way of making an enemy than to call him or her for a foul serve and even extend a warning about such a possibility! 99 out of 100, among which cowards I include myself, will see discretion as the better part of valour and will try to avoid the pleasures of a truly ruined evening.

Higher up, real umpires may be made of sterner stuff, but by no means all. There will be those who will not wish to see their weekends ruined by the deeply felt anger and hostility of the offended player, supported by camp followers and coaches and the rows and controversies which will follow.

Internationally, umpires may not get the backing they deserve. They may be upheld at the time by the referee, but invitations will grow fewer, if an umpire is seen as a 'trouble maker'. Top officers of leading nations do not want to see their stars, their main hope of TV and sponsorship, called for foul services and seen as cheats. They may not forgive umpires who have upset the happiness that comes

from sitting at the top table, basking in the reflected glory of their stars' victories.

PLAYERS WILL GO TO ANY LENGTHS

Sadly, what we like to call 'winners' are also those who will go to any length in pursuit of victory, in their ambition to be the best. That is the main reason behind the drug culture which has poisoned so many sports. It is also the reason why the service of today has developed as it has. The opponent may be cheated, but what is that compared with victory, national glory and lottery grants? The more honest will say 'Everybody does it' and such are the facts of sporting life.

Unfortunately, leading officers and legislators, influenced by their top players, shrink from the one really obvious remedy, that of making everyone serve in front of the body. This would kill the current practice of serving from the side and the temptation of moving bat and ball behind the body for the brief moment of impact when nothing can be seen.

This practice is spreading fast and more and more players are seen as getting away with it, improving their results and ranking. One should not be ungrateful that the ITTF has at last grasped the nettle, but it will require a great deal of courage to kill the foul serves which now haunt the sport at the elite levels all over the world.

I cannot help recalling how obstinate has remained the problem of GLUE.

A few top players apart, everybody knows that this is awful for the game, cutting rallies, speeding up rubbers already too fast, reducing the sport's appeal as a spectacle, but there it is in all its foul smelling grandeur, an integral part of our modern game.

With that experience in mind, I can only give two cheers to the rule change in respect of the service. I remain grateful that, due to different skill levels, this will not be a major problem in our local leagues where the rare combination of the magician's hand and the willingness to cheat for victory has not yet taken root.

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

10th	Chandlers Cadet/Junior 1 Star	
10th-11th	Newcastle Open	
	Butterfly Grand Prix	Newcastle-upon-Tyne
10th-11th	South of England Cadet/Junior 3 Star	
11th	Bribar Mid-Cheshire Veterans	
	2 Star Open	Knutsford
17th	Chesham High School Graded 2 Star	
17th-18th	Stockton-on-Tees Cadet/Junior	
	4 Star Select	
17th-18th	Schildkrot Veterans British League	
17th-18th	Senior Premier (1)	
22nd-25th	ITTF Pro Tour Swedish Open	Skonde
24th	Wilmott Cup & Rose Bowl R1	
24th-25th	Cadet/Junior Regional Trials	
24th-25th	VETTS Eastern Masters	Grimsby
25th	British League (6) Premier Division	
29th-2nd	ITTF Pro Tour Farum Danish Open	Denmark

DECEMBER

1st-2nd	Western Open Major	
	Butterfly Grand Prix	Bath
1st-2nd	City of Liverpool Cadet/Junior 3 Star	
2nd	Cirencester U10/U12 1 Star	
8th	County Championships (4) Cadet, Junior, Senior & Veteran	
9th	British League (7) Premier Division	
9th	Leach & Hammersley Cups R1	
9th	Stiga (Hyndburn) GP 3 Star	
14th-16th	Portuguese Youth Championships	Vila Nova de Gala
15th	National Junior League (2)	
15th-16th	British League Weekend (2)	
16th	National Cadet League (2)	
16th	Cippenham Junior 3 Star	
18th	Women's European League	
	England vs Netherlands	
20th	Mens European League	
	England vs Slovakia	
22nd	Wilmott Cup/Rose Bowl R2	
22nd	Chesham High School U13/14/15	
23rd	Bribar Knutsford U12/Cadet 2 Star Open	
29th	Carter/Gainsford/Ormesby Cups R1	
	Bromfield Trophy	
29th	Bribar Mid-Cheshire Junior 2 Star Open - Knutsford	
30th	Bribar Mid-Cheshire Senior 2 Star Open - Knutsford	

TABLE TENNIS NEWS COPY DATES

ISSUE

SEPTEMBER 2001
OCTOBER 2001
NOVEMBER 2001
DECEMBER 2001
JAN./FEB.2002
MARCH 2002
APRIL 2002
MAY/JUNE 2002

COPY DATES

1st AUGUST 2001
1st SEPTEMBER 2001
1st OCTOBER 2001
1st NOVEMBER 2001
1st JANUARY 2002
1st FEBRUARY 2002
1st MARCH 2002
1st MAY 2002

THE ETTA WEBSITE

www.etta.co.uk