

# TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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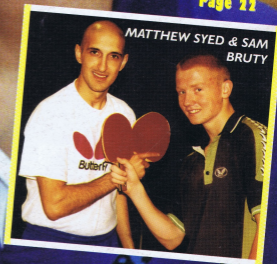
No.280 OCT. 2001



**NICOLA  
DEATON WINS  
HOME  
COUNTRIES  
TITLE**

Pages 12 & 13

**MATTHEW  
SYED  
COACHES AT  
SOUTH WEST  
PREMIER  
CLUB  
WEEKEND**  
Page 22



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# TABLE TENNIS NEWS & TTN EXTRA

The Official Magazine of the  
English Table Tennis Association

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**Publisher**  
English Table Tennis Association  
Queensbury House,  
Havelock Road, Hastings,  
East Sussex TN34 1HF  
Telephone: 01424 722525  
Fax: 01424 422103  
email Events:  
vanda.jones@talk21.com  
email Administration:  
admin@ettahq.freeserve.co.uk  
Web Site: www.etta.co.uk

**Editor & Photographer**  
John F.A. Wood  
26 Rosevale Gardens, Luxulyan, Bodmin,  
Cornwall PL30 5EP  
Telephone/Fax: 01726 852282  
Mobile: 07786 444878  
email: johnwood@macace.co.uk

**Editor of TTN Extra**  
Ken Muhr  
ETTA Headquarters, Hastings

**Advertisements**  
Richard Yule  
ETTA Headquarters, Hastings

**Subscription & Distribution**  
Robert Sinclair  
ETTA Headquarters, Hastings

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

# HEATRAE HOT JOB FOR JON

**JON COCKBURN (27) has been appointed Product Manager with Heatrae Sadia Heating, the leading UK manufacturer of water heating equipment based in Norwich.**

Jon was previously Marketing Services Manager with Heatrae Sadia, which he joined in 1998. Prior to this he was responsible for marketing for Samplex Quality Sampling Systems in North Walsham.

Cockburn, who lives in Norwich, has a BA (hons) degree in European Business from Anglia Polytechnic University and recently sat his Chartered Institute of Marketing examination. He is a fluent German speaker and, as part of his four-year degree course, studied for a year at the School of Economics in Berlin and worked for a year in the Marketing Department of Bosch Power Tools in Stuttgart.

He is a former Norfolk County Table Tennis Champion and was British Polytechnics Champion in 1992. He is currently Captain of the County table tennis team and a member of the British League



**JON  
COCKBURN**

Division 1 North team, Norwich  
Todd Foxwood.

## STARS LAUNCH 2002 GAMES TICKETS

THE race is on to get the best ticket in the house, or should that be stadia? Sport stars Roy Keane, Denise Lewis, Tanni Grey-Thompson, Denis Tueart and Shaun Goater launched the XVII Commonwealth Games ticket sales programme at the Manchester Velodrome on the 1st

October 2001.

This is a unique chance to experience the largest multi-sport event the UK has ever held. Application forms are now available from any Asda store, or call the ticket hotline 0870 1662 2002, or log on to [www.commonwealthgames.com](http://www.commonwealthgames.com), for one of the 750,000 tickets available for the 174 events that will take place between 25th July and 4th August next year. To ensure your chance to be included in the lottery for the most popular events, application forms have to be completed and returned by 15th November 2001.

Half the tickets will be priced at £10 or less, making the event the affordable games. Ticket prices start from £5 for sporting events and from £21 for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. There will be no booking fees or postage and handling charges on any tickets.

Any members who have difficulty in obtaining an application form can contact the ETTA office in Hastings 01424 722525.

## HEART FELT THANKS

Readers may be aware that ETTA Eastern Regional Development Officer Mike Watts is seriously ill. However, he wishes to give his heart felt thanks to everybody who has telephoned, written letters, sent cards, visited him or otherwise expressed their goodwill. It means a great deal and he is most grateful to you all.

# WOODY'S World

THIS ISSUE of Table Tennis News sees the return of 'European & World News' report, on pages 20 and 21. It has been re-published at the request of several readers of this magazine. Hope you like it.

October's issue also sees the first article, in a regular series, by Ron Fosker, 'The Fosker Report', on page 19. This month's subject is 'Postponements'.

Ron Fosker has been Press Officer of the Braintree League for 28 years and its chairman for the past 12. He was the inaugural winner last season of the ETTA's Press Officer of the Year award.

Table Tennis News also welcomes this year's 'Press Officer of the Year', Steve Kerns, to the magazine team, see page 6.

Steve who is also an Essex boy, and has been writing the Essex County Notes for the past few years, will be writing the British League column, from this issue onwards, see page 10 and 11.

Cover girl Nicola Deaton flew the flag for England, by winning the Home Countries International Womens Singles crown in the Isle of Man, see John Woodford's report, pages 12 and 13.

*John Wood*

# TABLE TENNIS on TV

Event	Date of Transmission	Time of Transmission	Channel
Japan Open	09.10.01	21.00	Sky Sports 3 Digital
Japan Open	10.10.01	02.30	Sky Sports 1 Digital
Japan Open	10.10.01	17.00	Sky Sports 3 Digital
Japan Open	11.10.01	14.00	Sky Sports 2 Digital
Japan Open	11.10.01	18.30	Sky Sports Extra
German Open	31.10.01	17.00	Sky Sports 2 Digital
German Open	31.10.01	20.00	Sky Sports 2 Digital
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
French Open	11.11.01	10.00	Sky Sports 2 Digital
French Open	11.11.01	18.00	Sky Sports 3 Digital
French Open	11.11.01	23.00	Sky Sports 3 Digital
French Open	12.11.01	11.00	Sky Sports 2 Digital
French Open	12.11.01	14.00	Sky Sports 2 Digital
French Open	13.11.01	16.30	Sky Sports 3 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

**PLEASE NOTE  
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# A HEALTHY BOOST FOR THE ETTA TEAM COMPETITIONS



Alan Ransome OBE, Chairman of the ETTA

**THE British League, County Championships and National Leagues have all shown a worthwhile overall increase in their participation for the new season. The British league has increased from 60 teams last season to 72, a 20% increase with nine full divisions and three clubs waiting to fill any vacancy. Altogether 7 teams have dropped out from last season and 19 new teams have entered for the first time or re-entered the competition.**

The County Championships, currently the biggest of the ETTA competitions, has increased its participation from 225 teams last season up to 240 teams. This is largely due to the formation of two new divisions, a Cadet section which has attracted 10 teams, and a Veterans over 60 section which has commenced with 8 teams.

The Women's British league has improved its participation with an extra 5 teams, increasing from 24 to 29 (17%). The Junior British League is now taking place on a mammoth 37 tables with an increase of 19% from 62 to 74 teams. The Veterans British League has remained stable at 48 teams playing on 24 tables which is the maximum size possible in the venues that are currently being used. Mike Lewis, the Vice Chairman responsible for this section of the British League, is hoping to find additional facilities so that this section too can take extra teams for next season.

The biggest increase, however, is being shown in the National Cadet leagues. The National Junior League with 170 teams participating last year has already recorded further entries with more expected before the final cut off date. The National Cadet league which was started last year with 51 teams now has 12 venues, four more than last year, with 86 teams participating, an improvement of 68%! The new venues are being established at Chesham (Bucks), Progress in London and Ledbury (Herts.)

Much of this increase can be credited to the work of the ETTA Development programme which is



## TEACHING & TRAINING AWARDS

Chairman of the ETTA ALAN RANSOME is pictured presenting the Premier Club of the Year-Excellence award, to TERRY GADSBY (left) and CHRIS NEWTON on behalf of Uxbridge TTC

encouraging more participation and, in particular, to the formation of Premier Clubs. A great deal of the credit for the increase also goes to the competition organisers: Keith Ponting and his committee for the British League, Andy Seward, Les Smith and their team for the County Championships, Mike and Christine Lewis, Gill Smith and their many assistants in the Women's Junior and Veterans British Leagues, Mike Payne and Graham Rogerson for the National Junior and Cadet Leagues. Plus, of course, the many venue organisers throughout the country and the teams of referees and umpires who support all of these events.

## NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR FACILITIES

As a result of a consultation exercise, we have received some further information on how the New Opportunities Fund is likely to distribute the £750million of Lottery money earmarked mainly for sport on school sites over the next three years. In England the money is to be distributed through the 150 Local Education Authorities who will all receive a provisional allocation of funding based on the pupil population within their territory and weighted in favour of areas of deprivation. Every local authority will receive significant funding, but the inner cities will receive more

than the leafy suburbs.

Each Local Education Authority will be required to prepare a plan on how it intends to spend the funding, which is to be mainly allocated to building new or improving facilities on school sites. Each programme is required to have community involvement which gives an ideal opportunity for table tennis clubs. There is also the possibility of a maximum 20% revenue funding.

The New Opportunities Fund is planning to present its criteria at a series of regional seminars in January and local authorities will be required to submit their plans within the first half of next year. There will undoubtedly be new facilities being built throughout the country that will be suitable for table tennis. Premier Clubs who are hoping to expand or move to new facilities should liaise very closely with their Regional Development Officers whose role it will be to present opportunities to the appropriate Local Education Authority. Clubs who are interested should contact their RDO for details.

## ETTA FACILITIES STRATEGY

The main thrust of the ETTA Facilities Strategy is a detailed mapping exercise identifying where clubs are in need of new facilities or require assistance with the upgrading of their facilities throughout the country. Paul Baker, the ETTA

Facilities Officer, has circulated all County Associations and local leagues secretaries, all National Councillors, Regional Chairmen and Premier Clubs with details of the provisional listings which are being compiled on a local authority by local authority basis, requesting the recipients to check their local information and ensure its accuracy. The mapping exercise is close to being completed so any groups who have not checked their details should contact either their RDO or Paul Baker immediately to have their information included. To date more than 1000 clubs across the country are identified and more are being added every week. The exercise should not just show current requirements but should include details of what is needed to meet projected future demand. Once the planning exercise has been completed around the end of October, it will be published in November and distributed to all Sport England regions, the Youth Sports Trust, the New Opportunities Fund, the Sport England Lottery Unit, all Local Education Authorities and local authority Leisure Sports Development Departments, plus ETTA Counties, Leagues and Premier Clubs.

Local authorities and Sport England will use this information as part of the consultation process when deciding the allocation of Lottery and other public funding and local authorities will use it as a guide when producing their local leisure strategies and, therefore, it is vital that requirements throughout the country are included in this document. Paul Baker can be contacted at: paul@glynswood.freesevice.co.uk or mobile: 07778 518799

## TEACHING & TRAINING AWARDS

The Teaching & Training Department presented another successful conference at Lilleshall from 7th to 9th September with courses for coaches, umpires and



**FEMALE COACH OF THE YEAR**  
**SUE HAYES of the Cippenham TTC, receives her award from former England star PAUL DAY**

**MERIT AWARD**  
**MARK PALMER receives his award from PAUL DAY**



referees, people with disabilities, development officers, girls and women's seminar. The keynote speech was delivered by Richard Yule who gave an excellent presentation on the ETTA's Vision for the Future.

With many of the awards sponsored by Paul Day, the former English International player and coach and now Managing Director of the family firm, Turner's Hauliers of Soham, the following presentations were made:

Young coach of the Year - Michael Auchterlonie, Berkshire, for his contribution to grass roots coaching in the Berkshire area, in particular the introduction to table tennis in Reading and Wokingham schools area and with the Kingfisher Club

Tutor Coach of the Year - John Standing, London, the ETTA Regional coaching Chairman for London who has organised many courses in the London area with excellent feedback.

Female Coach of the Year - Sue Hayes of the Cippenham Club in Slough is an important member of the team of coaches at the club that has produced several players on the current ETTA junior and cadet ranking lists.

Male Coach of the Year - Les Jones, Cheshire, who although being restricted by illness has been the

inspiration for many young players on the Wirral where he runs numerous coaching sessions and has involved many schools.

The Contribution to Coaching Award - Roy Pugh, Kent, who has been involved in table tennis coaching for approximately 30 years. He is both a coach of players and a tutor coach. Roy started in Medway but has worked in Thanet for the last 18 years.

Volunteers of the Year Award - Len and Julie Pilfold, London, who have been organising table tennis in the London area in all its forms since the 1950's. In particular their most notable achievement is the running of the London Junior Table Tennis Scheme where up to 120 novice and intermediate players attended 8 tournaments in London each season. Last year with the help of 10 London clubs the programme was extended to 48 tournaments, 40 local competitions and 8 area finals with some 450 children participating.

Table Tennis Development Officer of the Year - Tony Mooney, Stowmarket. The Chairman of the Stowmarket Club and League who has been its Development Officer since 1993 and has been involved in a successful Lottery bid to improve

the facilities at the Stowupland High School, which is now the Suffolk County Table Tennis Centre.

Merit Award - Mark Palmer, Essex. Age 19 Mark has been a member of the National Disabled Squad since the age of 13, and a former European silver medalist in the team event. He has been heavily involved in the planning and development of the ETTA Premier Club ability and co-tutor on the courses for disability awareness training.

Services to Press supported by The Random House Group - Dennis Millman, Northampton, who has been the Northants County Press Officer for 28 years and for more than 30 years for the Kettering League, writing mainly for the Kettering Evening Telegraph and the Northants Notes for Table Tennis News.

Press Officer of the Year supported by The Random House Group - Steve Kerns, Chelmsford, Press officer of the Chelmsford & District Table Tennis League for 10 years and for Essex County for 8 years. Steve writes for the East Anglian Daily Times, the Essex Chronicle, Essex Courier, Table Tennis News and produces the local league magazine, Scimitar 2, as well as producing the Chelmsford League website.

Premier Club of the Year - Excellence - Uxbridge TTC, Staffordshire - Terry Gadsby and Chris Newton. The club operates from the local Uxbridge Community Centre and runs many activities from club nights to advanced coaching for national players. The club established 6 school based table tennis clubs in the Burton area and has raised nearly £20,000 for development programmes over the past 15 months.

Premier Club of the Year - Advanced - Oakbank Table Tennis Club - David Roberts and Sally Shutt. The club operates from a specialist sports college in the Keighley area and includes senior coach, Hans Soova, within its organisation. Oakbank is a model of a specialist sports college local table tennis club.

Premier Club of the Year - Participation - St. Helens Junior TTC, Lancashire - Bryan Wearden, Club Chairman. The club which was set up in July 2000 with only 4 members has grown to 34 junior members operating one afternoon and four evenings per week and entering teams in several local competitions.

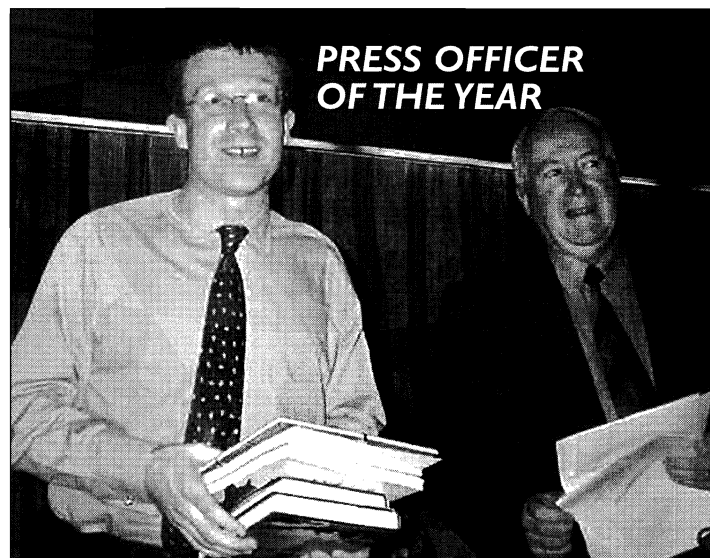
Premier Club of the Year - Introduction - Langdon Community TTC, London - Steve Tatam. The club has expanded from 1 coaching session per week to three and has entered teams in the Ilford League.

A.K. Vint ETTA Staff Award - Jon Kaufman, Regional Development Officer for London who has played an important part in assisting the revival of table tennis in our capital city.

In particular Jon has made great progress in helping local clubs to take advantage of the opportunities available within the ETTA Premier Club programme, and expand the sport within their catchment area.

I would like to add my congratulations to all of the winners mentioned above and to all the people who have contributed to their success. This is an indication of the enormous amount of work that is going on at local level day in, day out around the country upon which the Association relies for its future growth.

*Alan Ransome  
 Chairman*



**PRESS OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD** was presented by **BRIAN HALLIDAY (right), ETTA Vice Chairman, Public Relations,** to **STEVE KERNS**

# POSTBAG

## SOUNDS FAMILIAR

AT AN ETTA National Council Meeting one of the Councillors asked which other sports have been asked to alter their Rules as much as Table Tennis. Suggestions included Badminton, Bowls and Cricket.

However in Athletics Weekly magazine it states that the IMF (the Athletics World governing body) wishes to alter the Rules for Field Event Athletics events to make them more exciting for television. Sounds familiar.

Whereas Field-event competitors who reach the last eight in a major Athletics Championships currently get six attempts under the revised proposals they will now only get four attempts. This will shorten the duration of competitions and supposedly make the events easier to cover on TV as well as more exciting. The competitors themselves are apparently not keen on the proposal; which again has a familiar sound about it.

However the article makes another good point ie. TV coverage invariably only shows the "highlights" and not the whole Field event competition so it is irrelevant whether the Competitors have six or four attempts.

From this point of view surely it is irrelevant whether a Table Tennis match is played up to 11 points or 21 points - the number of great viewing points will be the same. In the 11-Up system there might be more "critical" points but this can't guarantee that the number of crowd-pleasing points will actually be any higher.

*Steve Kerns  
National Councillor Essex TTA*

## APPALLED

I AM writing with regard to the ETTA Grand Prix Finals which were held on the 9th and 10th June at the Potters Leisure Resort, Hopton on Sea.

Myself, and others in attendance, were appalled by the way the tournament was organised and conducted by the ETTA officials.

The first problem was the venue. It seems ridiculous to stage such an event at the most easterly point in England. This was only convenient for a minority of the players, and led to other problems throughout the event. Competitors were invited from all over the UK, as far afield as Devon, Wales and Scotland. The Grand Prix Finals in recent years have been held in Bath which is much more central, but a venue in the Wolverhampton or Birmingham area would have been just as acceptable.

Because of the travelling distances involved, none of the various categories of play contained the full

contingent of 16 players. Some events had as little as 7 competitors. There is no incentive for any finalist to attend if he or she has no chance of finishing in the top six (the positions which carry a financial prize). This is because there is no actual prize for winning the tournament on the day. It's obviously asking a bit much to expect players to travel all that distance with petrol costs, accommodation costs, not to mention entry fees, and not have any chance of winning anything!

The location of the tournament also led to some players pulling out of events after their prize money was assured. Once a player is in a position where they can't be caught and can't improve their position, what is the point of continuing play? Who can blame someone for wanting to get away early when they have a 300 mile car journey in front of them?

The whole situation was made worse by the tournament officials. The original times of the events on Sunday were put back an hour so that the officials could have breakfast. Anyone not at the event on Saturday was unaware of this and consequently people were turning up at 8:15am for events which had been put back from 9:00am to 10:00am without their knowledge. In the afternoon, events were put back a further hour so that the officials could have lunch. This meant some events not starting until 5:00pm instead of 3:00pm. Surely it would have been sensible for the officials to either have had food brought in to them, or for them to have taken their meal on a rota basis so that the tournament could continue without interruption.

Officials were also inconsistent with their decisions. On the Saturday, at the quarter final stage of one of the banded events, two players were called for having bats which did not conform to the correct standards. Although neither player's opponent had objected, and had no problem with the offending racket being used, the players were made to borrow bats in order to be allowed to play in the quarter final. It is not surprising that both players lost!

I am not objecting to players not being allowed to use illegal bats, providing that all players have their bats checked. This was not the case, and there were many players present using bats which did not conform to regulations. Their bats were not checked and they were therefore able to use them throughout the weekend. In a situation on Sunday, a player's bat was referred to the head referee as not being legal. After some discussion, the player was told that

*continued on page 8*

# COURTSIDE

by John Woodford

• **UNFORTUNATELY**, I find myself as the only journalist covering table tennis nationally on a more or less full-time basis apart that is from three rounds of golf a week, weather permitting. Most professional writers frequently find themselves in "no-mans-land" trying to put both sides of an argument and still remain neutral.

• **TO STAY** neutral is not often possible. Over the years I have been labelled a "Alan Ransome man", a "John Prean man" and many other names caused by the fact that we journalists have to try and see that justice has to be seen to be done.

• **MOST** regrettably, but some say predictably, Dale Barham has stepped well out of line. He has been told by Soren Ahlen that he cannot appear again at Nottingham until November 1, and then only if he has behaved himself until then. Without revealing full details, he took a disobedience line on the recent China trip with other young English players. There was a dispute with the coach in charge Denis Neale, who is an inspiring coach but is not likely to win a post in the Diplomatic Corps.

• **SUPREMELY** talented players such as Adam Robertson, an academic scholar, have great difficulties trying to keep up with their studies and make progress at table tennis. Only fifteen months ago, Adam won a silver medal at the the European Youth Championships. This time he exited in Round 1, but he did reach the semi-finals of the doubles with a Portuguese player.

• **POSSESSING** a backhand kill that many players might die for, Adam is trying to strike a fine balance between a career outside table tennis and trying to reach the standard of say Gareth Herbert - winning Grand Prix tournaments at least.

• **GRADUALLY** more of our players, English and Welsh are playing in the second division of the Bundesliga. Carl Prean is of course, a permanent figure on the German scene - he defeated Gareth Herbert 3-2 on 11 points recently.

• **CARL** has Terry Young in his German team whilst Gareth and Adam Robertson are team mates in the Altenburg club. Carl beating Gareth was no surprise for me - Carl's vast experience against comparative newcomers is bound to continue for some time yet.

• **THE UPROAR** at the British League AGM in Sheffield sixteen months ago over whether the majority of teams below the Premier wanted to play on four weekends now seems justified because there are 18 extra teams in this season. Competitions supremo Keith Ponting may wish to comment on my theory that the ETTA got it wrong; they were aiming too high, perhaps.

• **THE OUTCOME** now is that the vast majority of British League players (apart from the Premier) did not want 14 matches on 14 Sundays - they are fairly happy with the alternative of four weekends.

• **PUBLICITY** for the clubs and teams is however hit badly. County and local press officers often had 14 league matches to report through the season, now, apart from the Premier, they have just four weekends. Newspapers love live action - now that action is cut back, the situation becomes much more difficult.

• **MATTHEW SYED**, after doing reasonably well in the General Election at Wokingham for the Labour Party, could just possibly enter the House of Commons as soon as a vacancy occurs in a constituency with a strong ethnic vote. This could happen sooner rather than later in a Midlands seat election.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR continued

he could use the bat for his next game, but would have to change it should he win. So was his bat legal or illegal?

If it was legal, why would he have to change it? If it was illegal, why was he allowed to play his next game with it? The condition of a bat does not change noticeably after just one match!

There was another example of inconsistency on Sunday. Some players had got a scratch entry into the women's singles, but there was one space left. When a player came forward and asked to enter, she was told that she could not enter because the head referee was not prepared to 'shuffle the draw around again'. A re-shuffle wasn't even necessary as she could have made a straight swap for the player who had just withdrawn. This inconsistency was made worse by rudeness of the head referee, who on several occasions, ordered money from players without any hint of politeness.

It was very disappointing that an ETTA event of such stature should turn out to be such a fiasco, but in effort to ensure that next year's event is better I would ask the ETTA to consider the following points:

- That the venue should be central to the UK, and not be right out on a limb.
- That prizes be awarded to winners of the various Grand Prix events in the same way as a normal Grand Prix. This would be over and above the monetary

prizes which are awarded to the top six

- That tournament officials take their meals on a rota basis so that play is not interrupted.

- That all bats being used during the tournament are checked for legality before any play commences. If this is not feasible, then no bats should be checked unless there is an objection from a competitor

- That all officials ensure that their decisions are consistent throughout the tournament

*A Grand Prix regular player  
(Name & address supplied)*

**Editor's Note:** Harvey Webb, the National Events Manager, answered several of the writers criticisms in last month's issue of TTN, when he replied to Mike Wilkins' letter "Grand Prix Gripes". Where he stated that this season there will not be a Grand Prix Finals weekend, the points accumulated from the Grand Prix series will determine the overall winners.

### LONG-SUFFERING

OVER the past several months I have been reading the comments on the 11-up system in Table Tennis News. One of the impressions I have received is that the commentators who favoured the introduction of the 11-up system all appeared to have little or no

concern about the feelings of the backbone players in the local leagues who do not play in the more esoteric competitions but still form the vast majority of registered players. The comments are at worst dismissive and at best patronising. As one of these players (I play in Division 2 in Reading) the best analogy I can give of the attitude of the ITTF to the grassroots players is that it is very similar to Bernard Matthews and the Christmas turkeys: no-one consults the turkeys, no-one cares whether or not they like Christmas - but Christmas wouldn't be the same without them!

Perhaps I am old fashioned. Perhaps Reading is an old fashioned league: it is however one of the eight largest in England. I have discussed the 11-up system with many of the local players and haven't found a single one in favour of the change. I have been told of two local players who are in favour, and they are both veterans. Only another 370 to convince! I don't think that many of our smaller clubs have facilities for TV cameras and masses of spectators and their players are used to enjoying their 'crisis points' only in the company of their teammates and the opposition. No need for change there, then.

The TV companies want to slow up the game, to make it more 'viewer friendly'. How about banning fast glues

and gluing-up every set? What about thinner sponge and rubber? Ah, but we have a few problems with this: do I hear mutinous murmurs of 'big business, massive investment, large stocks'? I remember when the red/black change came in. Reading adopted it almost immediately - because it made sense and levelled the playing field. However it was years before the change was made mandatory throughout the country (big business, massive stocks, etc).

Though now recognised as an unnecessary waste of time and money, introducing the 40mm ball simultaneously across the entire table tennis nation made a lot of sense. Even we old reactionaries could accept that it didn't make sense for Fred Bloggs to play in Reading on Monday with a 38mm ball, and on Tuesday in Bracknell with a 40mm ball. But for the life of me I cannot see any reason for forcing Reading's Division 6 players to play an 11-up system. If tennis players can cope with three or more different tie-break systems I'm certain that top table tennis players can cope with two scoring systems. I believe table tennis players to be equally as intelligent as tennis players.

*Robin A Lockwood*

*Chairman Reading & District TTA*

**Editor's Note:** As you are probably now aware Robin the ETTA AGM in July voted to allow local leagues to opt out of the new 11up scoring system, if they wished to. Personally I have every sympathy with your letter, because as a long pimped defensive style player I have still as yet not quite overcome the banning of Grass Spezial, due to injury last season I have not yet mastered playing with the new 40mm ball, and although I welcome the change to the 11 up scoring system, I have as yet not acclimatised myself to the game being over before its started.

### JACK RANDALL

MAY I say how deeply saddened I was to hear of the recent passing away of Jack Randall, one of the most talented umpires in the sport. Jack had an exhaustive knowledge of the rules and enforced them with the quiet authority and humanity that was his hallmark.

His unobtrusive and unaffected friendliness was a pleasure to encounter in the regular, if brief, conversations we shared as I progressed from aspiring youngster to senior international. My only regret is that I did not take the chance to express my admiration and gratitude whilst he still lived.

*Matthew Syed  
Richmond, Surrey*



## ETTA E-MAIL ADDRESSES

### Headquarters Staff

Richard Yule, Chief Executive	richardyule.etta@talk21.com
Robert Sinclair, General Secretary	robertsinclair.etta@talk21.com
Doreen Nightingale, Administrative Officer	admin@ettahq.freemove.co.uk
Sheila King, Development Secretary	sheilaking.etta@talk21.com
Susie Foley, Secretary to Chief Executive & General Secretary	susiefoley.etta@talk21.com
Vanda Jones, National Events Administrator	vanda.jones@talk21.com
Judy Rogers, National Development Officer for People with Disabilities	judyrogers.etta@talk21.com
Harvey Webb, National Events Manager	vanda.jones@talk21.com
Vicki Hyder-Smith, Teaching & Training Administrator	teachandtrain.etta@talk21.com
Brian Skinner, Finance Officer	brianskinner.etta@talk21.com
Ken Muhr, Information Officer	kenmuhr.etta@talk21.com
Diccon Gray, Director of Development	dicc.gray.etta@talk21.com
Brian Spicer, Commercial Manager	brianspicer.etta@talk21.com

### Outside Headquarters

#### RDOs

Wesley Bush-Harris South & South East	wes@etta.freemove.co.uk	Business wes@etta.freemove.co.uk
Martin Ireland North West	m.ireland@etta-nw.co.uk	m.ireland@etta-nw.co.uk
Chris Newton Midlands	chrisnewton@etta6214.freemove.co.uk	cjnnewton@etta75.freemove.co.uk
Mark Smith Northern & Yorkshire	cft-jsmith5@supanet.com	t_tboy1@hotmail.com
Jon Kaufman Greater London		jonk@ufman.fsnet.co.uk
Philip Irwin-Brown South West		philip_irwin-brown@bathnes.gov.uk

### Teaching and Training

Jill Parker, Nat. Coaching Manager	jparkeretta@cablenet.co.uk
Peter Hirst, Dir. of Teaching and Training	pahirst@aol.com
Paul Baker, Facilities Officer	

### National Training Centre

Soren Ahlen, Performance Director	soren@ahlen.fsnet.co.uk
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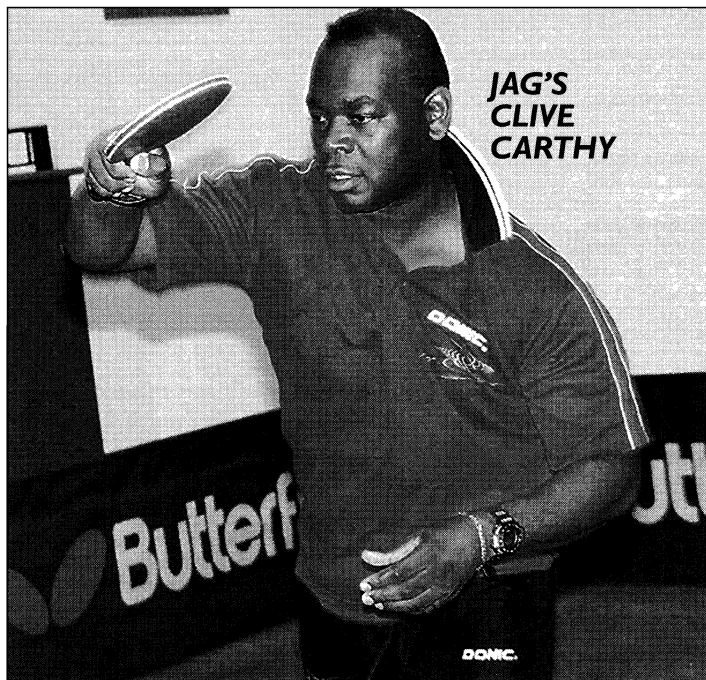
# PROGRESS IN HUNT FOR THREE TITLES

**WITH 19 new teams joining the League (playing in nine full divisions of eight teams) the future of the British League looks assured. The four weekend-format of matches (for divisions one to three) seems to have the approval of most players but there is a definite down-side as well. Failure to register players on time, failure by players to purchase Licences, playing out of order or turning up short are compounded over the course of a weekend and as with last season the first round of matches have brought more than their fair share of administrative problems. Worst affected are divisions are 2 (North), 3 (South) and 3 (South & West) and the teams in these divisions may well be surprised when they take a look at the League tables, Steve Kerns.**

The modest Jon Kaufman, the driving force behind the thriving Progress Club probably won't admit it but his teams have realistic chances of winning three divisions - the Premier, division One (South) and division Two (South).

Progress remain the team to beat in the Premier division and a 5-9 defeat for Darlington against JAGS won't have done their chances any harm !. JAGS' Clive Carthy and Abdul Wuraola both stayed undefeated and both got the better of John Hilton in the process. Progress hammered a strong OLOP side 12-2 with Robert Pountney scoring for the losers beating Jason Sugrue. Progress's subsequent 9-5 win over JAGS represents a great effort from the JAGS side but it also shows Progress's strength in depth as they were without Andrew Eden. Clive Carthy made his mark by beating Cris Sladden. BATTs Peniel have made a solid start to the season with 9-5 wins over Byng Hall I and Wellow House. John Holland sailed though both matches unbeaten. The Barnet versus OLOP clash was a thriller and for an undefeated Linda March it represented a tremendous success including five set wins against Robert Pountney and Michael Auchterlonie and a spectacular 3-0 win against Justin Goodall. Pountney earned OLOP their draw downing Dobromir Tokov 11-7 in the fifth in the fourteenth match.

For the statistically-minded division



1 (South) seven draws out of sixteen matches tells its own story and it is no surprise that no one team stayed undefeated. Promoted Progress II top the table with seven points out of eight, their only blip coming against third-placed Cippenham. This match was neck-and-neck all the way with Progress's big-hitting James Sprackling taking his two singles and the more laid-back Wesley Bush-Harris earning his side a point with a four-set win over Henry Medellin. Horsham I join Barnet on six points after drawing twice against Barnet II and DML Plymouth. Barnet's Maurice Greenberg was undefeated as was Horsham's Peter Bartram when their teams clashed. Horsham excelled as they beat PSP Westinsure 7-1 with Andy Walker judged the Man-of-the-match on this occasion. Promoted Northampton II did well to draw with Barnet II - Steve Munson doing well to beat both Dave Harding and Umesh Dealwish. However they could make little impact against Progress; succumbing 7-1 - Ryan Keates showed up well with a win over Sprackling.

The early leaders in division 1

(North) are Seasiders and Derwent (both with seven points out of eight). Seasiders were held to a draw by Darlington II with Kevin Dolder seeing off Eddie Smith and David Godbold whilst Lewis Rosenthal hit back for Darlington getting the better of John Rankin and Darren Howarth. Derwent met their match against Ormesby who raced into a 3-1 lead. Bryn Drinkhall started the ball rolling beating Mark Smith and Matthew Stanforth excelled getting the better of Richard Smith at 12-10 in the fifth. Mark Smith hit back defeating Keith Rodger and Richard Smith added a win over Drinkhall as Derwent edged back into the match. Andrew Horsfield made no mistake against Stanforth to earn his team a point.

There were plenty of shocks at the Fellows Cranleigh Club in division 2 (South) where rather remarkably 13 of the 16 matches finished 4-4 or 5-3. De Vere NETTS stayed undefeated with narrow 5-3 wins over Horsham II, Byng Hall II and Ashford I and an emphatic 8-0 win over an admittedly under strength Hastings side. Fellows Cranleigh and Progress III both with seven points out of eight look to

have the all-round strength to maintain their challenges. Progress showed the extent of their ambitions rescuing a 1-4 deficit to draw against Cranleigh with their no 2 and 3 players Taju Agunbiade and Milosz Sawcak looking particularly strong. Cranleigh with Welsh star Ryan Owen and Gary Tandler at No' 1 and 2 have an obvious advantage although they didn't have it all their own way with Owen a victim of some inspired play by Horsham's Graham Carter and Gary Tandler beaten by the ageless Henry Buist. Carter made his mark with further top-draw wins against Progress no. 1 Tim O'Leary and NETTS' top player Steve Dettmar. KCD Stiga impressed with their 5-3 success against Hastings with Keith Childs leading the way with excellent wins over Paul Barry and Nick Standen.

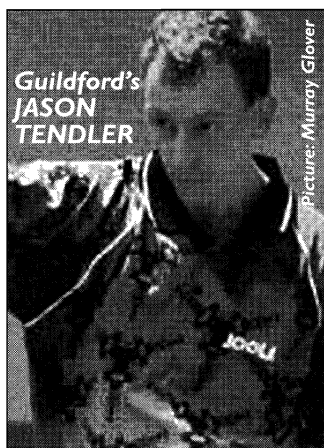
Darlington III paid a heavy price in division 2 (North) by playing Michael Marsden and Tony Wilson out of order in all four of their matches. That they still managed four points out of eight gives you an idea of how well they played. Halton Croda top the table with a full complement of 8 points - their 6-2 wins over Wellow House II and Potteries looking particularly solid. Chris Ford took both his singles against Wellow House - a 13-11 fifth-set opening success against Jason Ramage followed by a 3-0 win over Garry Knights. Halton raced into a 6-0 lead against second-placed Potteries before Tony Jeynes with a win over Malcolm McEvoy and David Savage with a win over Peter Flint restored some respectability to proceedings.

Oxford Fire Place Centre top division 3 (South) which was hosted by the NETTS Club after winning all four of their matches. Progress IV's will be a tough nut to crack but playing Vidal Graham (their no. 8 ranked player) in their fourth team has left them heavily penalised as other players effectively played out of order. Their two wins on the Saturday achieved with Graham playing were subsequently amended. Oxford were impressive throughout and their only seemingly close result - a 5-3 win over Cippenham II hides the fact that they led 5-0 at one stage. Karl Bushell was undefeated and Andrew and Ian Packford and Glen Freeman pressed home that advantage - Ian Packford's 3-0 win over ETTA Facilities Officer Paul



Baker looking particularly impressive. Progress with a team comprising Paul Jablon and Taiwo Adedayo (and presumably not Vidal Graham!) could still be the ones to push Oxford hardest. BATT'S Peniel II set a record of sorts on the Sunday (certainly one that can only ever be equalled!) by fielding a team of four girls. Grace Brown fared best beating Progress's John O'Leary.

Grove and Bedford Modern are tied at the top of a very strong division 3 (Midlands) with seven points out of eight. Grove's Nupur Santra won't lose many at this level but he was outplayed 3-0 by Elgre's Alex Green as Elgre raced into a 4-1 lead. Cadet Harry Shahlei heroically got the better of Green 3-1 to edge Grove back into the match, Bradley Evans beat Peter Furneaux 3-1 and Ashley Nicholls completed the ultimate comeback with a 3-2 win over Adam



Ellis. Bedford Modern with Simon Rockall at no. 1 cannot be discounted and he duly won his singles. However it wasn't enough as Rotherham Scorpions held them to a draw - Shaun Bibby, Ben Barlow, Steve Crosby and Alan Dunn

completing a fine all-round team effort all winning once.

Guildford look the team to beat in division 3 (South & West) and with players of the calibre of Majur Majithia, Terry Haley and Jason Tendler signed on they wouldn't be out of place in the first division. In the event neither Haley or Majithia played, Tendler only played one day (and lost to Progress V's Ayub Zuberi) but Guildford still scored a maximum eight points. The 6-2 win over Progress was a perfect demonstration of strength in depth - Tendler's loss to Zuberi countered as Graham Watts overcame him. They also beat EBS-Northampton II (bolstered by the inclusion of Simon Pryke and Andy Doshier) 5-3. Michael Hill got the better of both Doshier and Toby Wright. Northampton finished the weekend in second place having benefited from that fact that OLOP were victims of playing out-of-order. Andy Doshier made his mark with a win over Hari Gehlot and Mark Purcell got the better of Graham Outrim.

Oakbank with a maximum 8 points out of 8, and 29 games out of a possible 32 look the clear favourites in division 3 (North) - their 8-0 wins over Grove II, Darlington IV and Dewsbury II a marked contrast to their intense tussle against Seasiders II. In this match Cadet Shaun Marples showed real maturity as he beat the canny Brian Allison 3-0 and he went on to beat Neil Powell as well. Stephen Denny could not find a way through Allison's defence and it was left to Neil Marples to seal his side's win as he made no mistake in beating Gareth Wiles.

For further and fuller reports on the British League visit the ETTA Web-Site: [www.etta.co.uk](http://www.etta.co.uk)

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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	-
<b>DIVISION ONE NORTH</b>							
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	-
<b>DIVISION ONE SOUTH</b>							
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
<b>DIVISION TWO NORTH</b>							
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	-
<b>DIVISION TWO SOUTH</b>							
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
<b>DIVISION THREE NORTH</b>							
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
<b>DIVISION THREE MIDLANDS</b>							
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
<b>DIVISION THREE SOUTH</b>							
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	-
<b>DIVISION THREE SOUTH &amp; WEST</b>							
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

# WALKER & RUMGAY TROUBLE ENGLAND-BUT DEATON FLYS THE FLAG

**ENGLAND and Scotland were the two strongest teams in a magnificent venue, the Isle of Man National Sports Centre on the outskirts of Douglas. There were some major upsets on all three days, but England lifted the team event ending with two 9-1 wins over Wales and Scotland, writes John Woodford.**

Wales did not have an encouraging weekend. Their top man Ryan Jenkins did not appear owing to a 'flu' bug and a bad back; Adam Robertson played bravely through

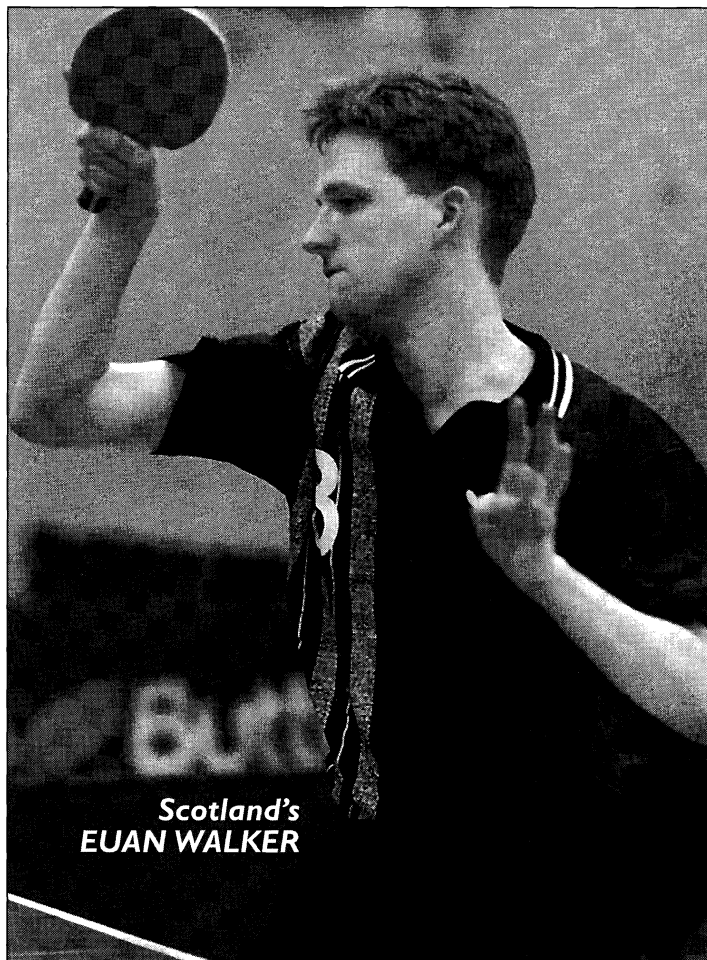
with a shoulder injury that needed ice-packs.

The Welsh girls were led by Bethan Daunton, accompanied by Jenny Weiss, but they went down to England following an inspiring win by Nicola Deaton over Bethan -3, 7, 9, 11.

Helen Lower stopped Jenny Weiss 5, 6, 6.

## **MASSIVE SHOCK**

The last two matches in the womens section were conceded by Wales, reminding spectators of the fiasco in



**Scotland's  
EUAN WALKER**

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Osaka when the Welsh Ladies were pulled out of their match against England, after a huge amount of controversy. England Men finished off Scotland 4-1 to win the trophy once again, but with a massive shock when Scottish Junior Gavin Rungay defeated Gareth Herbert -8, 7, 8, 6.

Gavin was turned down for a grant by the Lottery a few weeks ago on the grounds of insufficient progress.

Guernsey are the new nation in this event. They had hopes of beating the Isle of Man, but they failed. However, their star player was Kay Chivers - she defeated sisters Claire and Nicola Bentley.

Jersey failed to send of team to the Isle of Man and they are now in a very awkward position of exclusion for the future because the name of the tournament has been changed to

**Writes JOHN  
WOODFORD  
on the  
Isle of Man**

the 'Six Nations Tournament.'

This means that there is no way that it will be seven - the only way back for Jersey would be if a nation dropped out - next venue in 2002 is Ireland.

Moving to the individual events - no doubles - Nicky Deaton was in top form to lift the Womens title. She beat the holder for the second time in two days - Bethan Daunton - in the semi-finals 8, 12, 6.

Katy Parker on this occasion



England's star of the Isle man **NICOLA DEATON**

impressed me. She almost, reached the final having match points against Helen Lower before losing out at 11 in the fifth.

## CONFUSED

On match point against her, Helen hit a ball, according to most spectators, six inches off. She raised a finger for an edge ball - the umpire was confused and gave the point to Helen who went on to win, but was hammered 8, 6, 4 by Nicola in the final.

The consolation is that Katy now seems to be working towards securing the No.3 position in the womens squad.

In the Mens quarters, Scottish fans were looking for another shock win by Gavin Rungay, but this time he went under 8, 9, 11 to Adam Robertson, who was still suffering with his shoulder strain.

This left the four Mens semi-finalists as Herbert vs Robertson and Walker vs Andrew Rushton who had a great week-end and seems to be securing his place in the England Men's elite squad and he has just signed for a new club in Germany.

Gareth, not playing at his best, defeated the injured Robertson 7, -7, 7, 9, and Euan Walker, aged 29, managed to reach the final 9, 8, -10, 7 against Rushton who now seems to be keeping ice-cool, a huge asset.

## THE BIGGEST SURPRISE

Then came the biggest surprise of the weekend when Euan Walker gained revenge for his defeat at Liverpool by attacking hard against "Herbie" to win the title 7, 7, 10. Gareth found himself trying to counter-hit in vain and suddenly his usually "wicked" services seemed to

have little effect on the tall Scotsman who is moving back to Scotland.

• **ORGANISATION:** The Isle of Man TTA led by chair Maggie Mulhern did overall an excellent job in a super eight table venue that could have taken 16 tables easily; The timing of the events proved a nightmare for referee Ken Armson MBE - 11 points made many games shorter leaving gaps in the play that were not needed. There were no drinks for the players on the tables, a result of no main sponsor, but there were a lot of local people helping out and the result was a very successful tournament.

### TEAM RESULTS:

England 10, Isle of Man 0  
 Scotland 8, Guernsey 2  
 England 10, Guernsey 0  
 Ireland 7, Wales 3  
 Wales 10, Isle of Man 0  
 Scotland 7, Ireland 3  
 England 10, Ireland 0  
 Isle of Man 7, Guernsey 3  
 Scotland 4, Wales 6  
 England 9, Scotland 1  
 Wales 10, Guernsey 0  
 Ireland 10, Isle of Man 0  
 England 9, Wales 1  
 Scotland 10, Isle of Man 0  
 Ireland 10, Guernsey 0

### INDIVIDUAL RESULTS:

**MENS SINGLES: Q/F:** E.WALKER (SCO) bt. S.Jenkins 11,5,10; G.Herbert (ENG) bt. S.Crawford (SCO) 13,6,6; A.Robertson (WAL) bt. G.Rungay (SCO) 8,9,11; A.Rushton (ENG) bt. T.Young (ENG) 11,9,8. **S/F:** WALKER bt. Rushton 9,8,-10,7; Herbert bt. Robertson 7,-7,7,9. **Final:** WALKER bt. Herbert 7,7,10.  
**WOMENS SINGLES: Q/F:** N.DEATON (ENG) bt. J.Weiss (WAL) 6,7,-11,6; H.Lower (ENG) bt. L.Mountjoy (IRL) 6,5,7; K.Parker (ENG) bt. B.Lane -10,1,5,3; B.Daunton (WAL) bt. C.Bentley (SCO) 3,9,7. **S/F:** DEATON bt. Daunton 8,12,6; Lower bt. Parker 10,-9,8,-5,11. **Final:** DEATON bt. Lower 8,6,4.

## COMMONWEALTH GAMES

# 2002

# THE RIGHT FOOD TO ENSURE PEAK PERFORMANCE

**TABLE TENNIS** players will be at the centre of a massive catering operation at next years **Commonwealth Games in Manchester.** Everyone has to eat and when the **5000** athletes arrive from **72** nations what they eat and when they eat becomes a huge **24** hour operation, writes **Jim Beckley.**

The Games Village just two miles south of the city will have its own restaurant capable of seating 1800 people and producing 2000 meals per hour. Put another way 14,000 meals will have to be prepared each day - enough to keep the average family going for 5 years!

With athletes from all corners of the globe, dietary needs have to be carefully considered and a selection of up to ten main dishes will be offered at every meal.

Figures just revealed by the Games organisers show that the caterers will have provided 300,000 meals by the time the Games are completed. The shopping list will include 70,000 litres of milk, 500,000 apples and peaches, 10,000 melons, 1840 kgs of lettuce, 11,600 kgs of mushrooms, 365 kgs of raisins and 25,000 kgs of cheese.

Talk about feeding the 5000! It is anticipated that each athlete will consume 4.8 litres of liquid a day - so a million 600ml bottles of water are needed.

Carbohydrates are important in any athletes intake and to cope with that the organisers have ordered 20,000 kgs of rice and 10,000 kgs of pasta to be served. To balance the protein meat including 17,500 kgs of lamb, 75,000 kgs of beef and 68,000 kgs of poultry will also be part of the everyday meals.

Over 30km of aluminium foil will be needed in the kitchens not forgetting 3.5 million napkins.

All this responsibility is taken on by David Payne, the Commonwealth Games Catering Manager. David chosen because of his understanding of athletes needs told Table Tennis News: "Its crucial that athletes receive the right foods at the right time to ensure peak performance. All dishes will carry nutritional information to help athletes select the right foods for them and symbols for different food types will be used to help non-English speaking competitors make the right choice."

# HERBERT & DEATON LIVERPOOL HITS

THE Liverpool Tennis Centre at Wavertree again made an excellent venue for the opening of the Grand Prix season as the Liverpool Table Tennis League celebrated its 75th anniversary as it became the first league to organise and stage a Grand Prix Open Major, writes John Woodford.

With a record 230 players on 24 tables, the action never stopped for around twelve hours on each day with experienced campaigners galore on the control table like Ken Armson, Stan Clarke, Arthur Upton, Mick Strode, Don Davies, Keith Williams and Dave Evans.

Matthew Syed was unable to defend his title - he was earning megabucks in Japan - so his place as No.1 seed was taken by England fans favourite man-of-the-moment Gareth Herbert, who not only won the title but in-doing-so put the heat on Syed for the number one spot.

Gareth did not have an easy ride at Liverpool at least in the late stages. Bradley Billington snatched the second and fourth games from the ace server from Slough, but Brad could only manage seven points in the fifth in the semi-finals.

In the bottom half of the draw Euan Walker and Marco Essomba scattered their opponents although Walker lost the first two games before he overcame (probably) the next Scottish champion, Gavin Rumgay. Walker came through gallantly winning the last three games 14, 7, 6.

The main shock in that bottom half was a great local victory for Paul Hutchings, aged 39 - a Liverpool 'lad'



GARETH HERBERT  
& NICOLA DEATON

- who defeated the unpredictable Eddie Smith (Durham) 6,-9, 8, 11. But it was Marco Essomba who stopped Hutchings 6, 8, 8. to reach the semi-finals.

There was more drama in the mens' singles final. Herbert, whose new German club - Altenburg (with Adam Robertson), lost the first two games - 4, -8 to Walker, but Gareth remained as calm as Sven Goran Eriksson watching England, combining his best topspin with great services to win the final three games 10, 6, 6, as it was Walker's turn to run out of steam.

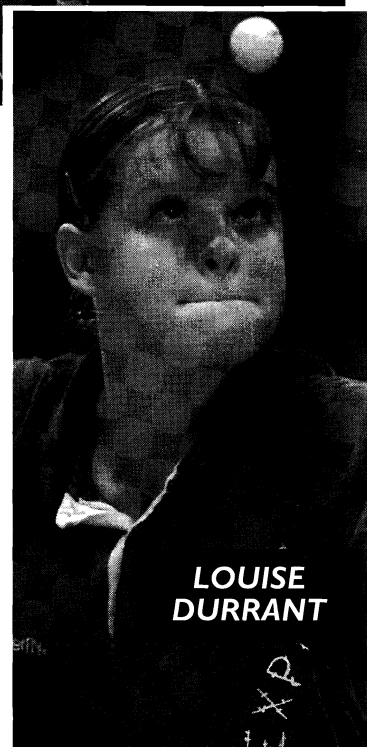
## UNDISPUTED No.1 LADY

What more can we say about our national champion Nicola Deaton? She is our undisputed No.1 who now

devotes her time to attending Nottingham University following her A-level successes, but mercifully, she will be able to get time off to play table tennis.

Louise Durrant (Nottingham) now seems to be making progress after travelling to India and Japan almost without playing due to her hand-nerve injury. In Round 2, she conjured up the biggest shock of the day and her career-best show when she took out Barbara Kiss -11, 5, 10, -5, 10 in Round 2. Durrant moved to beat Michele Cohen 7,8,7 and then another promising show to take the third game from Nicky Deaton before the champion survived 4, 6, -6, 9 to reach the final.

Helen Lower is retaining her standard as the England No.2 with a semi-final success 8, -5, 8, 9 against Kubrat Owlolabi, who plays steadily

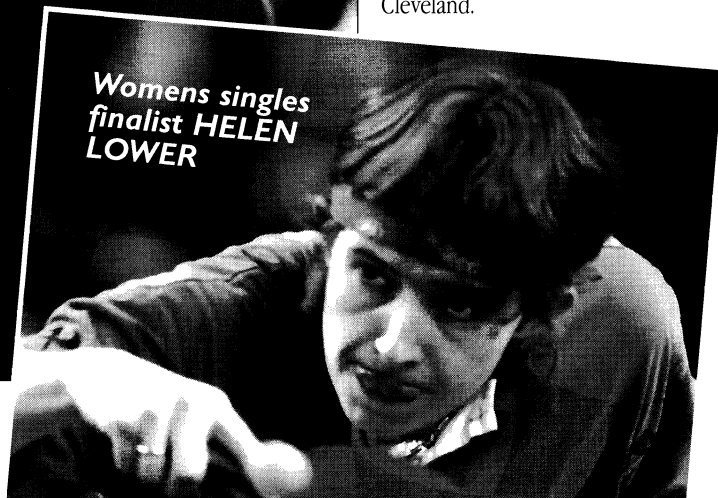


LOUISE  
DURRANT

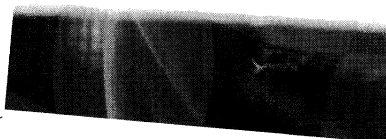




**BRADLEY BILLINGTON**  
losing Mens singles semi-finalist



**Womens singles finalist HELEN LOWER**



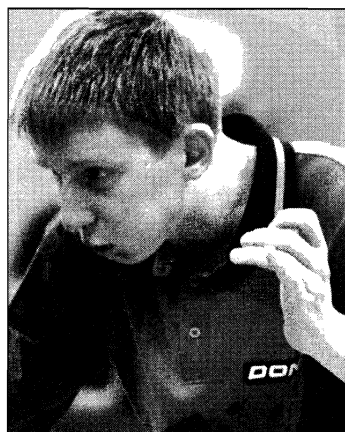
had put out 2nd seeds Helen Lower (Staffordshire) and Michele Cohen (Wiltshire) 11-5, 9-11, 11-7, 11-6 in the semi-finals.

Another shock was junior Gemma Chapman's (Buckinghamshire) 11-3, 11-8, 7-11, 11-8 win over the Welsh No.1 seed Siwan Davies to lift the under 21 womens singles, while local



**GEMMA CHAPMAN**

junior Daniel Horner from the Wirral did well to reach the mens under 21 singles final, where he fell 7-11, 11-13, 8-11 to the rising young Scottish star, Gavin Runggay, now ranked 2 senior in his country. Likewise the organiser of the championships, Keith Williams from Prescot, Merseyside had a good run from an unseeded position in the veteran mens singles before losing 8-11, 6-11, 9-11 to former European mens singles champion John Hilton from Manchester, and Chester's Sue Burgess reached the veteran womens singles final where she was beaten 13-11, 11-7, 11-4 by Jane Durham of Cleveland.



**Top picture is JOHN HILTON winner of the Mens Veterans title, whilst above is rising Scottish star GAVIN RUMGGAY**

## RESULTS

**Mens singles:** Gareth Herbert (Berks) bt Bradley Billington (Derbys) 11-9, 5-11, 11-7, 15-17, 11-7. Euan Walker (Scotland) bt Marco Essomba (Surrey) 11-4, 5-11, 11-7, 7-11, 17-15.

Final: Gareth Herbert (Berks) bt Euan Walker (Scotland) 4-11, 8-11, 12-10, 11-6, 11-6.

**Womens singles:** Nicola Deaton (Derbys) bt Louise Durrant (Notts) 11-4, 11-6, 6-11, 11-9. Helen Lower (Staffs) bt Kubrat Owolabi (Middx) 11-8, 5-11, 11-8, 11-9.

Final: Nicola Deaton (Derbys) bt Helen Lower (Staffs) 11-13, 11-8, 10-12, 11-6, 12-10

**Mens doubles:** Gareth Herbert (Berks)/Neil Charles (Middx) bt Euan Walker/Stewart Crawford (Scotland) 11-5, 7-11, 11-4, 11-6.

**Womens doubles:** Nicola Deaton (Derbys)/Kubrat Owolabi (Middx) bt Barbara Kiss (Herts)/Lindsey Thornton (Lancs) 3-11, 11-8, 10-12, 11-5, 11-6.

**Mens under 21 singles:** Gavin Runggay (Scotland) bt Daniel Horner (Cheshire) 11-7, 13-11, 11-8.

**Womens under 21 singles:** Gemma Chapman (Bucks) bt Siwan Davies (Wales) 11-3, 11-8, 7-11, 11-8.

**Veteran mens singles:** John Hilton (Lancs) bt Keith Williams (Lancs) bt 11-8, 11-6, 11-9.

**Veteran womens singles:** Jane Durham (Cleveland) bt Sue Burgess (Cheshire) 13-11, 11-7, 11-4.

**Mens band 1 singles:** Michael James (Yorks) bt Kevin Dolder (Lancs) 11-6, 11-8, 11-9.

**Mens band 2 singles:** Craig Bryant (Devon) bt Andrew Horsfield (Yorks) 8-11, 11-7, 8-11, 12-10, 11-5.

**Mens band 3 singles:** Nick Baxter (Scotland) bt Liam Thomas (Wales) bt 11-8, 11-13, 11-7, 11-6.

**Mens band 4 singles:** Martyn Clarke (Cleveland) bt Shaun Bibby (Yorks) 12-10, 13-11, 12-10.

**Mens band 5 singles:** Sani Clair (Staffs) bt Shaun Bibby (Yorks) 11-6, 8-11, 5-11, 11-5, 11-3.

**Mens band 6 singles:** Andy Henry (Derbys) bt Sani Clair (Staffs) 11-13, 11-8, 11-5, 15-17, 11-9.

**Womens band 1 singles:** Andrea Glover (Ireland) bt Clare Newns (Cheshire) 11-5, 6-11, 5-11, 11-8, 11-5.

**Womens band 2 singles:** Gillian Edwards (Scotland) bt Jenny Harrison (Essex) 11-7, 8-11, 11-3, 11-8.

**Womens band 3 singles:** Kim Barnard (Lancs) bt Lauren Springthorpe (Lincs) 11-5, 11-9, 12-14, 14-16, 14-12. .

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF TIME LIMITS

In 1936 teams for the Swathing Cup were drawn into two groups with the winner in each group going through to the final. Hungary had won the cup 9 times in the previous 10 years and was considered almost invincible. They were led by the three Musketeers Barna, Szababos and Bellak. In the first match they were due to play Rumania, and as this was the first time the Rumanians had entered a team the Hungarians expected an easy win and so rested Barna and Bellak, writes Henry Buist.

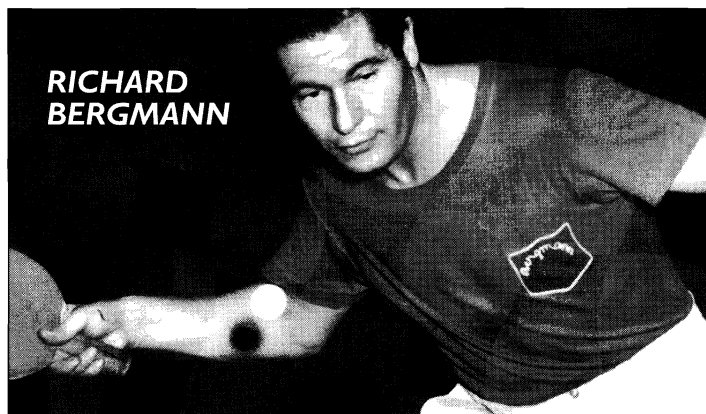
Some time after the match had started the two of them walked into the hall to be told that the score was 4-0. "Jolly good show! keep it up chaps" they said (loosely translated from the Hungarian). "No we are losing 4-0" said one of the Hungarians. There was nothing they could do and had to watch as Hungary lost the match 5-0. A result which shocked everyone.

In those days there was no specification laid down for the speed of the table (as there is today) so they varied from place to place, and those in Prague were particularly slow.

The Rumanians were a team of relentless plodders, with great determination, but rarely, if ever, hit a ball. This tactic, aided by the slow tables, enabled them to reach the last game in the group undefeated. This meant that they had won the group because all other teams had lost at least two matches. In the last match they were due to play Poland.

## TWO HOUR POINT

The Polish number one was Alex Ehrlich who was one of the top players in the world and reached 3 world finals during the thirties. He was 6 foot 2 inches tall and was described as eccentric, charming and comic. During the war he survived the horrors of a Nazi concentration camp and became a world class player again after the war when he emigrated to France. So he was clearly a man of great grit and



RICHARD BERGMANN

determination.

In the opening game Ehrlich was due to play Farcas Paneth and had decided to play the Rumanian at his own game and refused to hit a ball. So the two players just pushed the ball over the net. The spectators were amused at first, then collapsed into great mirth and, finally, left the hall booing and whistling, but returned from time to time to see how it was progressing.

Paneth just chopped everything with dour determination. Ehrlich, on the other hand, seemed to be enjoying himself. He joked with the spectators played some shots with his other hand and would return some shots back high trying to tempt his opponent to hit the ball. At one stage they even appeared to argue during the point. Paneth had said that he could keep the ball in play all day and Ehrlich replied that he could keep it in play forever.

The officials were at a loss to know what to do and were reported to have had a meeting at the courtside.

Finally, after about 2 hours and 5 minutes of play, Paneth pushed the ball into the net and the crowd let out a roar. In the next point Ehrlich's second shot hit the net and trickled over. The first point had lasted 2 hours and 5 minutes and the next one about 4 seconds. After this Paneth tried to hid a few shots but did not have much of a clue and Ehrlich was able to use his quite negligible attack to win the match within 20 minutes.

This episode had so demoralised

the Rumanian team that Poland won the match 5-0.

## MORE LONG MATCHES

In the final Rumania lost to Austria 5-4 in another long drawn out match. One report says it took 6 hours and another 11 hours. One of the matches between Richard Bergmann of Austria (later to become an English citizen and win 4 world singles titles) and Valdone took 3 hours.

In the singles, that year, the match between Haguener of France (another player to figure after the war) and Marinu of Rumania went on for 7 hours. The committee threatened to disqualify both players if the game did not finish within 20 minutes. So the two team captains agreed to draw lots with the result that Marinu went through only to lose very easily in the next round to Schiff of Poland.

## NO ACTION

After the tournament the Executive Committee of the ITTF had a stormy meeting trying to decide what to do about pushing play and finger spin serves (which were introduced that year by the Americans). Eventually they put off making a decision until the following year in order to gain more information.

As a consequence when the next World Championships were held, in 1937, the existing rules still applied. But in order to avoid the happenings

of the previous year, and to ensure the championships finished on time, the Jury were given the power to disqualify both players if the match lasted for more than one hour in a best of three, and one and three quarter hours in a best of five. This led to a rather unfortunate incident.

## WORLD CHAMPION DISQUALIFIED

The ladies singles had been won the previous year by the colourful American Ruth Aarons. In 1937 she reached the final and had to play Trude Pritzi of Austria (another world class player after the war), a defensive player with virtually no attack. Ruth was unable to penetrate the other girl's defence so resorted to pushing herself. With the score at one game all and 19-16 in favour of Pritzi the hour and three quarters was up. The match was stopped and the Jury decided to disqualify both players and declared the title vacant for that year.

Quite understandably the Americans were very upset and resigned from the ITTF. As a result Ruth never played in the world championships again and regarded herself as the undefeated world champion. She took up show business and toured Britain with her table tennis show giving exhibitions using illuminated balls. Later she appeared on the same bill as Frank Sinatra and even sang duets with him. Eventually she became a successful business woman and managed a number of show business personalities.

## TIME LIMIT RULES

After the 1937 championships the net was lowered from 6.75" to 6", finger spin serves were banned and the time limit rule was introduced. This restricted a single game to 20 minutes and led to some very bizarre score lines. Ron Etheridge of Kent (3 times world veterans champion) once won a match 15-16, 1-0, 2-1.

Eventually the time limit rule gave way to the expedite rule, which is still with us today.

# TABLE TENNIS NEWS EXTRA

Issue no. 280 Oct 2001

## Editorial

I start with **apologies**. The **delay in publication** of this edition was almost entirely down to me – simply too much to do.

Table tennis is a haven of relative liberalism and inclusivity in this troubled world, but we are part of the whole and the **atrocities of 11<sup>th</sup> September** in New York and Washington made me feel sick. However, we **must not blame by association** all people who may appear Muslim, Arab or Asian for what happened, just as it is wrong for Muslims to vent their anger on Americans and Britons abroad for the perceived injustices perpetuated by their governments.

While Jon Kaufman of London Progress and Keith Wilson of Darlington tell me that **games up to 11** have definitely made British League matches more exciting, Gareth Herbert puts his recent poorish form partly down to the new system and there are still misgivings in the local leagues. Matches do not necessarily finish quicker, what with more breaks between games and players having to fight to win every point.

The most important next major event to be held in England is the **Commonwealth Games in Manchester from 25 July – 4 August 2002**, with table tennis taking part for the first time. The Games Information Line is: 0845 241 2002 (local rate charged). For people with a hearing impairment, minicom (text phone): 0161 240 2112. E-mail: [info@manchester2002.co.uk](mailto:info@manchester2002.co.uk) Website (which includes table tennis specific pages):

[www.commonwealthgames.com](http://www.commonwealthgames.com)

They are still looking for volunteers.

Inside is a long report on the successful **Teaching & Training Conference** at Lilleshall, including large parts on coaching. **As a coach, it sometimes seems a hopeless task to raise playing standards in England.** The **lack of the 'commitment to winning and winners'** (former sports minister Kate Hoey) or a culture of investment in sport (Dr Jack Cunningham in his review of Lottery

funding of elite athletes) goes across sports, but **table tennis has a particular problem**. Great for a laugh, but seen as 'non cred' as a serious sport by sporting children (and their parents).

This was confirmed for me by two experiences, while I was on summer holiday in Scotland. First, when the owners of the big house I was staying at heard that I was a table tennis coach, they asked me to give a lesson to their 12-13 year old son and his boarding school friend. These were sporty kids (into 'status' sports like rugby, cricket, tennis, golf) but it amazed me just how quickly they picked up table tennis. Of course they wouldn't seriously consider pursuing it, but it made me appreciate how rarely I coach the highest talent.

Next I met up with my old friend Dave Fairholm as he finished taking a tennis class. Dave told me that although he had only the basic coaching qualifications in football and tennis and the highest qualification in table tennis, his football and tennis sessions were always better attended and he was more appreciated, and he wished he had in table tennis some of the talents who came to these other classes.

Of course this is nothing new but it does seem to be getting worse. Parents frequently view table tennis as an occasional recreational activity only, not a regular commitment, and seem more inclined than ever before to lecture on how their offspring does have a brain and must concentrate on schoolwork, because 'you have got to put school first, haven't you?'. Don't they know that with dedication and good time keeping, it is possible to do well both at school and at sport (they can positively help other), but that success does not come pain free and involves considerable mental toughness and sacrifice?! And how do they imagine that youngsters in other countries and in other sports – who also have schoolwork – succeed? The number of juniors nowadays who stop/miss training because they are 'tired', have a 'head ache', or their 'leg hurts' (the wimps!!) also appears to be growing – but real athletes always feel

tired and you can't only train when you feel good. (I am not suggesting carrying on with legitimate health problems though.)

Naturally, taking table tennis seriously and the implications of this, is not for everyone (there is an important place for fun play) but why are so few prepared to give it a go? I think one problem is that in so few clubs is there a **hard training culture** – the Ormesby Club in the North East is a rare exception – that few gifted young athletes (or their parents) know what it is all about. They don't perceive any challenge, any value, in the image of table tennis they have or coaching sessions they do see. So the difficult thing, but what we must do, is build up a hard training culture for the higher level: what is going on at the national training centre, in more PremierClubs and in the new regional squad sessions, as well as in other pockets that have kept up standards, is the right start.

This will help address the **vexed question of whether talented youngsters should even be encouraged to pursue table tennis** as opposed to other more monied or higher profile sports. Provided that the table tennis experience and challenge is at least as good and fulfilling as in these other sports (if not better) and the athlete makes a free choice, I do not see why not, because the vast majority will not get into big money in any sport and intrinsic motivation is more powerful than external reward. The key thing is that the training, competition and environment must be good in table tennis, and if sporty kids can get something better elsewhere then that is where they should go.

Although the **Nottingham Academy** is now setting an example of what a hard training culture is about, I have been **concerned that some squad members appear to have been avoiding putting themselves (and their ranking points) on the line through not entering enough major domestic tournaments**, or appropriate events within tournaments (e.g. under 21 singles in Butterfly Grand Prix). Future champions need this

competitive experience so as to learn to be able to win when they are expected to win, and thereby gain mental toughness while at the same time providing opportunities to other players competing against them. This all helps to raise overall standards. Ducking competition in the long run does them no good and gives credence to those who complain about 'them' (at the National Centre) and 'us' (everyone else).

Of course, **when they do enter competitions they will sometimes lose** (as Louise Durrant and Georgina Walker did at the Women's British League) – while you are training hard you cannot expect to be at a peak all of the time – but far from being sneered at, their participation should be applauded. I also very much **welcome the decision that World Class Performance funded juniors will enter at least 3 out of the 5 Select tournaments**, though they voluntarily should want to have played in these.

On the same subject, I feel that **much more needs to be done to encourage young people, leading players and women into coaching**, to provide enthusiastic, up to date role models, leaders and motivators for boys and girls to follow. There is a place for late middle-aged and above, male coaches like myself, but we should not be so much in the majority! And although parents can be 'over the top', there is a lot in Sports Minister **Richard Caborn's plans to turn thousands of parents into sports coaches**. Many table tennis parents have become coaches.

All in table tennis will be sorry to know of the **serious illness of Mike Watts**, who has had so many roles in the sport, and to wish him well.

**Ken Muhr**

#### **MUHR'S MEMO: Information Officer Messages from Ken Muhr**

It has been a relatively quiet month media wise, with only **John Woodford** keeping the table tennis flag flying on a regular basis with his **Daily Telegraph and Press Association** output. We are most grateful to him of course, but I did find his insistence that Gareth Herbert was the new England men's no.1 a bit bizarre: the ranking list is taken from

the whole period and not at a particular moment in time (immediately after the Liverpool Butterfly Grand Prix) when Gareth may have been leading on points! This detracts from exposure to be gained when after several years Matthew Syed is finally dethroned.

**Matthew Syed** as a writer wrote only one feature for **The Times** (7<sup>th</sup> September) with a self-explanatory title, "Even in Japan, football is the new religion". Although it had little table tennis content, it was wise – "We should think twice before craving the adulation reserved for footballers" – and well written.

12-year-old Norwich girl **Lauren Spink** achieved the best national media exposure for table tennis, when she came runner-up (11-18 years) in a **Daily Express** feature 'Tomorrow's People (4.9.'01), which included a colour photograph of her serving. She also appeared on **national television**, while a rival, Gemma Yarnley (Kent), the national under 12 champion, was also on regional TV. The other main bit of table tennis publicity was the **Daily Telegraph** news (8.9.'01) that **Howard Jacobson's table tennis novel 'The Mighty Walzer' is to be filmed next year** (see 'Famous People' feature).

There was a small feature on 11 year old **Darius Knight in the black newspaper, 'The Voice'**, and the contents page of the Autumn British Journal of Teaching Physical Education shows a full colour, nearly full page photo of a black youngster playing a forehand. Black coach Steve Heyliger sent me a Nottingham Evening Post article and big photograph showing him with primary school youngsters he had taken for their Dunlop Skills Awards. Finally, I think it was the Guardian who gave the world shattering news that table tennis mixed doubles is not to be added to the next Olympics!

The **ETTA Press Officer of the Year Awards** are mentioned both in Alan Ransome's 'From the Chair' report and the Teaching & Training Conference report elsewhere. However, I would like to add my congratulations both to the **winner Steve Kerns** and to **Dennis Millman (Services Award)**, both of whom write comprehensive county notes for TTN Extra among their very wide ranging press duties – and Dennis (in

poor health recently) has been doing it for over 30 years! I must also acknowledge the **generosity of the support of The Random House Group**, which, taking the books presented on the evening itself and those to be chosen later as prizes by Steve and Dennis, must amount to books to the value of nearly £800!

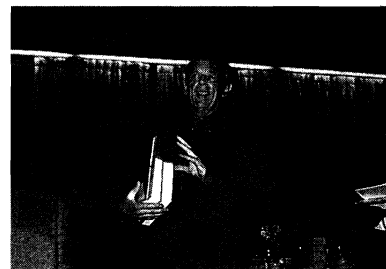
Unless Gareth or other top players produce startlingly good form, the **events before the Manchester Commonwealth Games 2002 (a major media focus) will probably provide fairly mean media pickings for table tennis**. We might be able to gain exposure for our youngsters, but I think we are going to have to plug other angles, such as **health & table tennis, glamour and famous people who play, and special groups** who participate (women, ethnic, disabled, elderly) to get much coverage. **Any comments or suggestions?**

#### **Southern Counties Cadet County Championships**

The above inaugural event is being organised by Peter Baldwin with Miles Ross, Ron Eglin and Andy Seward, at Westergate School Sports Centre, Fontwell, near Chichester, Sussex, on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, starting 10am.



*AK Vint ETTA Staff Award (Jon Kaufman (London))*



*Services to Press & Publicity Award (supported by Random House Group): Dennis Millman*



## Cheshire by Alan Blears

Although no titles were won it was a good weekend for Cheshire players in the Liverpool Grand Prix Major. Daniel Horner showed his undoubted ability when he reached the final of the U21 event before going down 11-7, 13-11, 11-8 to the rising young Scottish star, Gavin Rumgay, now no. 2 in his country.

Immediate backing for Daniel came from England's new Performance Director, Soren Ahlen, who added him to the England squad for the Home Countries Junior/Cadet International at Widnes.

Clare Newns is still able to challenge the best and showed all her skills by reaching the final of the Women's Band one where she lost to Ireland's Andrea Glover in one of the tightest matches of the tournament 11-5, 6-11, 5-11, 11-8, 11-5.

Clare Langford, in her first year as a junior, also had a good tournament with probably her best win being against 10<sup>th</sup> ranked junior girl Gemma Chapman. Of the veterans, Sue Burgess, one of the most travelled of all vets, put highly-ranked Jane Durham of Cleveland under pressure, losing 13-11, 11-7, 11-4.

Finally, Annabelle Sorrentino, who has just made the difficult move from the junior to the senior ranks, was delighted with her efforts. Among others she had wins against Gillian Edwards and Rebecca Fisher to boost her ranking by nearly 500 points.

Annabelle also played in the Home Countries Schools International at U18 level where, representing England 'B', she and Lancashire's Hannah Roberts took the team bronze medal.

## Derbyshire by Colin Deaton

There can be no denying that the title of "Mr Table Tennis" in Derbyshire belongs to the Derbyshire Secretary, Les Allwood. Recently the dedicated Les was awarded the English Table Tennis Association's Leslie Forrest Memorial Award.

Not only does Les oversee all the County's paperwork, he enthusiastically gets involved in our game as a qualified County Umpire and then plays in Division Two of the Derby & District League. On examining his proven record of

# COUNTY NOTES

A LOOK AROUND  
THE COUNTRY  
ISSUE NO. 280  
OCTOBER 2001

achievements one notes that he has been Secretary of the County League since 1977, combining this job with that of County Treasurer. One of his personal passions is to administer and oversee the National County Championships for Derbyshire at both senior and junior level, and on one weekend's schedule of matches he umpired 42 matches.

Looking to the future, the modest Les hopes to promote Derbyshire to be the best and to continue doing so for at least another decade. We in our County are proud of librarian Les and one thing is for sure, we would be in a mess without him.

The new 11 up ruling has been met in Derbyshire with mixed feelings. Derby are to play 21, Chesterfield 11 and Matlock 11.

Membership throughout the County Leagues is roughly the same as last years but with all the development structure in place we are looking for an increase.

Chesterfield's 15-year-old, William Cooney, received a sponsorship from local hotel, Ringwood Hall, and after only two year in our game, the talented junior has established himself in the County Junior team.

Staveley, who operate from the Staveley Middlecroft Leisure Centre, were awarded the East Midlands Club of the Year and were proudly presented with a framed certificate. Their membership boasts some real enthusiasm and weekly classes are eing organised under the direction of Sandra Deaton.

The Derbyshire Senior team, relegated last season, are hoping to include Alan Cooke and Nicola Deaton in the squad and their availability may well determine the outcome of Derbyshire's fortunes.

Matlock, under the leadership of Tony Gregory, appear to be getting more youngsters coming through. They too have weekly coaching sessions and have recruited Tony Pacitto, a well-known southern area coach, to conduct the sessions. Tony has recently moved to Derbyshire and now lives in Shirland. He has produced some good players in the past, notably Joanna Parker, the former number one England cadet player.

Derby continue to feature most of the area's junior coaching sessions at Mackworth Tertiary College. This is an ideal venue but the cost of storage at this venue leaves a lot to be desired.

Finally, Lea Green at Matlock is the venue once again for the weekly advanced coaching sessions under the jurisdiction of ETTA four-star coach Derrick Marples. Derrick is our County Chairman and brings in young players from the surrounding areas in an effort to boost the playing standard.

## Devonshire by John Vincent

The new season is now upon us and the county looks forward to having a senior and junior team in the Premier Divisions of the County Championships.

Congratulations to Craig Bryant who was selected to play for England Juniors in the "Home International" competition which England won. Craig had a good weekend winning all his team event matches but one and that was against Gavin Rumgay (Scotland's no. 1). In the individual event he again lost to Gavin 8-11 in the 5<sup>th</sup> set in the semi-final.

The Pat Archdale Trophy given to the highest-ranked junior in the South West region in the May 2001 ranking list has been won by Craig Bryant. Kate Steward (Somerset) received this award for the previous year (a one year only trophy).

## DML/Plymouth

With top players Paul Whiting and Mike Short on holiday, the British League Division 1 South team of Gregory Bridgett, Marketa Myskova and Kevin Buddell did well in London to record 3 x 4-4 draws and one defeat 3-5. Gregory won 6 out of 8, Marketa 5 out of 8 and Kevin 4 out of 8. It was

a pity Craig Bryant was not available due to international duty.

### **Pre-season Tournament in Torbay**

The South Devon and Torbay Table Tennis League staged their 10<sup>th</sup> pre-season tournament at Torbay Boys' Grammar School on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

This year they added a junior event on the Saturday and 15 competitors played out a round robin event in the morning, afternoon where Simon Poyner emerged a close winner. Good performances came from Darren Reed, Naomi Wilson, Paul Christie, Sam Bruty and also Helen Parton, who won the intermediate event.

Sunday saw 55 people compete in 9 groups, with competitors coming from all over Wales and the West Country. After the groups were completed in the morning and players then competed in one of the three banded events and a drawn doubles, with Neil Page emerging as the main event winner.

With the new scoring system, up to 11, it meant a reasonable finish time, with organisers Peter Nicholson and Dennis Gibbs home in time on Saturday to watch England beat Germany!

Junior event winner: Simon Poyner; Main event semi-final: Neil Page bt Mark Bellingham 11-8, 10-12, 11-7, 11-5; Tom Williams bt Jacob Kodicek 11-8, 11-6, 11-5! Main event final: Neil Page bt Tom Williams 11-2, 11-4, 11-9; Intermediate Final: Steve Pelczyk bt Kevin Nicholls 8-11, 11-7, 11-7, 11-6; Consolation Final: Dave Nicholls bt Derek Mothersele 8-11, 11-9, 11-8, 7-11, 11-4; Drawn Doubles Final: Ian Bellingham/Sam Bruty bt Paul Davey/Mike Hurley 11-13, 11-9, 13-11, 11-5

### **Essex by Steve Kerns**

Essex table tennis continues to take advantage of the Lottery grants available under the Awards For All programme with the Baddow Village Club in Chelmsford, Havering Table Tennis Club in Romford and the Clacton League all having received sizeable awards.

The Baddow Village Club is the only club in Chelmsford with Premier Club

status and they were delighted with their award of £2,511. They unselfishly plan to use this money to equip a new centre at the Cathedral School with the aim being to provide coaching to all juniors in the Chelmsford League. The coaching will be led by ETTA qualified coaches Adrian Pitt and Neil Gooday. As the League's Junior Competition attracted 35 newcomers last year this facility should enjoy excellent usage.

The Clacton League's Lottery award of £4,706 was masterminded by League Development Officer Martin East and he hopes that some of the funds will be available to send people on ETTA Coaching Courses. The League plan to buy four new tables, a robot and starter bats to upgrade the existing coaching activities at the Colbayns School in Clacton. An official presentation is expected early season.

The Romford League's Coaching Club (Havering TTC) celebrated their first birthday with the excellent news that they will be receiving an amount of £2,400 over the next year from the Jack Petchey Foundation to be paid to them at a rate of £200 per month. This money comes courtesy of the local businessman by the same name who is keen to encourage young people to play sports. The club are able to decide amongst themselves how they wish to spend this money, which comes a year after they celebrated being awarded £5,000 by the Lottery. They utilise the school facilities at the Coopers Company & Coborn School in Upminster who are themselves hoping to obtain 'Sports Academy' status. Romford League Chairman Paul Morris, Lesley Radford, League Treasurer Eric Reynolds and League Development Officer Colin Sherrin worked in conjunction with ETTA London Regional Development Officer Jon Kaufman to make it all happen. With 20-25 youngsters attending every week it looks as if they are here to stay. The club has already ventured further afield and they are keen supporters of another Kaufman initiative – the London Junior Table Tennis Ranking Scheme.

The NETTS Club at Gosfield was delighted to be awarded ETTA Premier Club 'Excellence Level' status. Their club is run by Eastern Regional Coaching Chairman Peter

Abbott with Paul Davison as Head Coach and Jon Hill and Graham Farmer assisting. Paul's dad Brian has taken on the role of Development Officer. Paul (last year's ETTA Young Coach of the Year) has already assembled a strong squad of players including Essex juniors Matt Staines, Lee Daines, Becky Metson, Leanne Bentley, Alice Barnett, Alistair and Tom Hill, and leading Suffolk juniors Kelly and Ashley Skeggs, Phil Hartley, Michael Richman and Hanif and Firoz Jetha. The extensive coaching activities are going to be extended to Gosfield School and other Braintree League juniors. NETTS hosted a 2-a-side Senior League last year in conjunction with the Braintree League, which attracted many of the area's better players with Neil Charles, Steve Dettmar and Sarah Davison topping the bill. Last year the club also hosted two National Junior League weekends and this year they have agreed to stage the first round of Senior British League matches in Division 3 South.

### **Gloucestershire by Alf Peppard**

Writing September's report was indeed hard enough, and now this is being written over the August Bank Holiday weekend, long before the majority of table tennis main flow players have even thought about the new season, does not simplify matters one iota, my sole consolation is that other subscribers must be in the same possible predicament as me – so at least here goes.

Dave Harvey, Cheltenham's 199 ETTA winning veteran player, is doing sterling work these days in taking some of the top class county juniors around and about – in August this year he took Harry Shahalei, Mike Harvey, Dominic Wynn-Sands and Tom Burdett on a tour of Belgium, which involved Harry Shahalei winning the Under 12s Ostende International Open, and Michael Harvey and Harry S, being winners in the U12s team event – in which neither dropped a singles match or doubles in all rounds played.

In the Wenduine Open Harry – ran out as winner in the U12s and Mike Harvey came s/finalist. Dave Harvey was runner-up in the veterans event.

In the National Rankings list the above cadets/juniors have the following rankings.

In the under 12 boys' Harry Shahlaei is no. 4, and Michael Harvey is ranked at no. 7, cadet boys rankings': Harry is at no. 10 and Michael is at no. 25.

In the junior boys ranking Dominic Wynn-Sands tops the list at no. 40, closely followed by H. Shahlaei at 60 and Michael Harvey at 187 and Tom Burdett at 241. These National Rankings do show a marked improvement in our county juniors, and on this subject I must thank Doreen Nightingale for consistently sending me the ranking list every month.

#### **CTTC – Lottery Award for Cheltenham Table Tennis Club**

Members of Cheltenham Table Tennis Club have been this month celebrating the news that they have received a grant of £4,500 from the National Lotteries Awards for All Programme.

The grant will allow the club to purchase 12 new table tennis tables and develop and create new coaches at the club, the club will also be able to provide top level coaching to members of the local community and those established players within the club.

The Chairman of the club, Nick Davidson, and his helpers Dave Green (Secretary) and Chris White (Treasurer) said: "We are thrilled to get this award – this indeed is a large sum of money for a club like ours and it will allow us to help many local people and continue to develop the sport of table tennis"

All indeed have worked extremely hard upon this project (and I suspect others as well), now that they have the money it's time for the real hard work to commence.

The Cheltenham Table Tennis Club is open to anyone interested in the sport and the club will be officially opened on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2001 by the former 11 times English National Champion, Desmond Douglas.

#### **Gloucestershire County Matches for 2001/2**

The senior team, having won the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division last season, are now upgraded to Division 1B for this season.

I understand that to cut down upon travelling expenses, all of their matches will be played under the block match system.

Gloucestershire therefore play Cornwall on 8/12/01 at Cornwall; Wiltshire on 12/01/02 in Wiltshire; Glamorgan on 09/03/02 in Hampshire; Hertfordshire on 09/03/02 in Hampshire

Advance notice of this season's Cotswold 3 Star Junior

#### **All cadets and juniors your attention please**

The venue: Cheltenham Recreation Centre, Tommy Taylors Lane, Cheltenham.

Date: 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> January 2002

Last date for receipt of entry forms (now available), Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2001  
8 events overall

#### **Middlesex by Iris Moss**

2001 is proving to be a very sad year for table tennis in Middlesex. I have already reported on the loss of Margaret Cherry (North Middlesex), Reg Boorer (West Middlesex) and Bill Brown (Willesden & District). Willesden then lost two more of their stalwarts with the death of Bernard "Jimmy" Mann, who was one of their Vice-Presidents and an indefatigable worker for the League for many years. Jimmy was also the Secretary of one of the oldest of the Willesden clubs, Lyndhurst, which he ran for as long as even I can remember. The other Willesden loss was another of their Vice-Presidents, George Rutherford. Although I cannot remember ever meeting George he was connected to Willesden for very many years, and in fact was present at the inaugural meeting of the Middlesex Table Tennis Association in July 1946 and served on the Executive Committee representing Willesden.

And then came the unkindest cut of all. The death of Jack Randall leaves so many gaps that I don't know where to start. Jack wore so many 'hats' over the years; although not the Secretary of the Gunnersbury Triangle Club, he seemed to be to be regularly employed

at the Club doing various jobs; he was, of course, Deputy Chairman of the West Middlesex League, a job he took on when as Chairman of Acton & District he oversaw the amalgamation of his League and North Acton League and the formation of the new combined League; he came onto the Middlesex Executive Committee in 1977 and in fact was re-elected onto the Committee at the AGM at the beginning of July. His main job was to recruit and examine county umpires, a job at which he was well qualified, having umpired at national and international level for so long. As if table tennis did not keep him occupied, he also acted as Secretary to the Residents Association of his block of flats, umpired snooker (at which he was a qualified referee) and in his "spare" time attended a Music Appreciation Society. I cannot say when I personally met Jack. All I can say is that I knew him before 1966 when the European Championships were played at Wembley (I was deputy umpires controller) and when he came to London from Portsmouth, we worked in the same division of the Department of Health, he on the scientific side, and me on the administrative side. Judging by the number of people at his cremation he is going to be widely as well as sadly missed. Table tennis was well represented and it was particularly gratifying to me to see the ETTA represented by Rob Sinclair. How we are going to replace him I cannot imagine; I can only hope that someone will see this report and realise how much we need to fill the gaps caused by his – and other – deaths.

I hope that my next report will be on a somewhat happier note but at the moment I can only see the sad side of my task.

#### **Northants by Dennis Millman**

Finance is on the upgrade in Wellingborough, where the local league has obtained a three-year sponsorship deal worth £1,500 from the Rushden based motor accessories company C.T. Autoparts, which also has a branch in Kettering.

The agreement will encompass both league and tournament, with all publications, publicity, correspondence

and scorecards carrying the sponsor's name and logo, while the main brand products will be featured in the divisional titles – Motaquip Premier Division, Apec Braking Division One, Comma Oils Division Two and NGK Plugs Division Three.

Wellingborough Vice-Chairman and Northants Chairman and National Councillor, Ken Marchant, is to be congratulated on his initiative, while it is hoped that C.T. Autoparts will be suitably rewarded for their enterprise.

With information on the new season still in short supply it is worth looking back on the one main tournament from last season not yet covered in these notes and yet again the Kettering event, superbly organised by Phil Slade, came up trumps and on this occasion the main finals lived up to the highest expectations.

In the men's singles Richard Elliott regained the crown from Ryan Keates, when after a tremendous encounter he eased through 18, -17, 19. However even this was surpassed by a classic veterans' final in which the impeccable defence of four times winner Gordon Shaw just failed to counter the scintillating attacking play of Chris Gibbons, who came from behind to win -18, 16, 19.

Shaw gained revenge when he and Geoff Atkinson gained a convincing win in the corresponding doubles, and in an all Higham Band final Elliott and Keates narrowly got the better of Brown and Mark Nannery in the mens' doubles.

The 'Hard Bat' singles continues to maintain its popularity – even more so now that it is completed before the other senior events begin. On this occasion it confirmed that technique and natural ability are more valuable than the tools of the trade, for after Elliott had beaten three times former champion Alan Ashberry, hard bat specialist Reg Bentley, the talented Gibbons and Lee O'Boyle, who had taken the Wellingborough title at Elliott's expense, he went on to get the better of Keates in the final to become only one of three title holders to retain their crowns from 24 events.

Clem Little reigned supreme in the ladies section, beating holder Helen Watts in three ends to take the singles, partnering her victim to take the doubles and finally teaming up with Gerald Finney to add the mixed.

Robert Williams also had a successful day taking the junior singles against Michael Clarke and then joining his vanquished opponent to add the doubles. However, the accolade of 'Player of the Tournament' went to 12-year-old Liam Regan who gained some outstanding victories as he won three of the five finals in which he participated.

Other players to visit the winners' rostrum included Mark Nannery (twice), Alan Ashberry, Sam Piranty, Liam Ennis, Jason Ollin, Harry Hurst, Chris Robertson, Henry Arthur, Alan Tyler and Ray Clarke.

Now they and the remaining participants in more than 340 matches can look forward to this year's event due to take place at Lodge Park Sports Centre, Corby, on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

#### **Northumberland by Pauline Long**

The Northumbria Summer League season is now in its final week at the time of writing (mid-August), but some matches are still outstanding, and this could have some effect on the final positions of the four divisions.

However, it is known that North Shields YMCA 'A' has regained the Division 1 title from St. Gabriel's. The other certainties are that Cramlington Stingers are the Division 3 winners, with DSS 'A' as runners-up. DSS 'B' are the Division 4 champions, with Ouston CC 'B' in second place. North Fire and Cramlington Codgers are fighting it out for the Division 2 title, while Washington 'B' is currently occupying second place to the Division 1 champions.

The Winter League season was due to commence on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September. At the time of writing we are still without a sponsor for both the League and the three county teams, so hopefully someone will feel able to offer their services by the time the new season gets under way.

At a special meeting following the AGM, the Northumbria League club representatives voted by a surprisingly large majority to adopt the '11 up' rule in all divisions from the commencement of the winter season. This will, of course, be second nature and an obvious progression for the top tournament players and anyone

involved with the three county teams. However, anyone in the lower divisions, especially those who have been playing for years and who have no chance of reaching this level, may prove more resistant to this change. I sincerely hope we do not see a mass exodus by established players from the sport.

Best wishes to all teams for a successful season.

#### **Oxfordshire by Avril Haynes**

##### **Oxford League**

Once again there will be only four divisions in the season commencing 1<sup>st</sup> October and one division of 10 in the development league.

#### **County Rankings as at September 2001**

##### **Senior Men**

1. Karl Bushell
2. Gary Pickford
3. Ian Packford
4. Jeremy Flint
5. Andrew Flint
6. Eddie Herrity
7. Andy Packford
8. George Pullin
9. Richard Taylor
10. Neil Hurford

##### **Senior Women**

1. Janet Brown
2. Tamar Seymour
3. Mary Darling
4. Maggie Beahan
5. Jackie Burgess
6. Sue Gokgor
7. Anne Borrowdale
8. Sally Chambers
9. Tanya Lillington
10. Wendy Chapple

##### **Junior Boys**

1. John Camilleri
2. Greg Boone
3. Sam Harrison
4. Sam Clarke
5. Lewis Cox
6. Simon Nolan
7. Jordan Weaver
8. Graham Pike
9. Yusef Salehi
10. James Cunane

##### **Junior Girls**

1. Joanne O'Donovan

2. Laurel Christer
3. Laura Gubbins
4. Lauren East
5. Nicola Hughes
6. Emily Baskerville

#### **Veteran Men**

1. Karl Bushell
2. Eddie Herryty
3. Nat Richardson
4. George Pullin
5. Neil Hurford
6. Alf Davis
7. Chris Lansley
8. Nigel Taylor
9. Adrian Noke
10. Gerry Collins

#### **Veteran Women**

1. Janet Brown
2. Mary Darling
3. Maggie Beahan
4. Jan Curtis
5. Sue Gokgor
6. Anne Borrowdale
7. Wendy Chapple
8. Amanda Rose

#### **Sussex by John Woodford**

Dave Berriman, one of the most experienced administrators and a very active coach, has been chosen as the new national councillor for Sussex.

The 50-year-old from Brighton, previously an RDO until the cut-backs replaces Carol Beames, who was elevated to the corridors of power (ETTA Man Com) in August, when it became clear that Man Com must not be over weighted with males.

Throughout the country the shortage of umpires is causing mounting concern, nowhere more than in Sussex, where Doreen Nightingale, the County Umpires Chair, has indicated that with nine umpires within the county, some not entirely active, it is doubtful if all the events on the calendar can be covered. Players will have to do more umpiring themselves – they are getting accustomed to it at the Grand Prix tournaments.

Again, I mention my surprise to find here in Eastbourne in the county lawn tennis championships, up to the finals players have to do the umpiring, deciding on dubious line-calls amongst themselves! I am told this creates very few problems.

Sussex has two main targets coming up in the county championships – after only losing by one point last season in the senior premier, Ritchie Venner and Adrian Moore will be boosted by the availability of Nigel Eckersley, the Grand Prix circuit champion whose fighting ability is second to none.

The second target is the veterans premier title where Eckersley will head the cast supported by the top-spin ace Peter Bartram with Terry Haley at no. 3 – it will need a strong side to beat those three.

Rarely have I heard of a county-class player capable of winning open tournaments volunteering to be a league secretary – Rose Rainton, the 1998 Sussex Open Champion, is the new Secretary of the Hastings TTA.

A new venue in south west Sussex has been chosen for the Sussex Inter-league championships in early January – organiser Ron Eglin has come up with Six Villages Centre at Fontwell – near the racecourse.

The winners of the four invitation events at the back-end of last season were: Ritchie Venner won the Seaman Cup for the ninth time after a titanic struggle in the final against Adrian Moore; Sally Weston on her home tables at Horsham gained a revenge win over Rose Rainton to win the Nicholls Cup; the junior event winners were Luke Bridge (Bradley Cup) and Gina Rogers taking the Rymill Cup, stopping Sammy Simpson in the final after being 16-19 down.

#### **Worcestershire by Martin Clark**

##### **Season 2001/2 Rankings**

##### **Senior Men**

1. Steve Horton
2. Julian Wooton
3. Lewis Sicket
4. Lee Horton
5. David Rogers
6. Zia Khan
7. Mark Brookes
8. Ray Dixon
9. Ken Walton
10. Roy Norton

##### **Senior Women**

1. Jill Harris
2. Sandra Roden
3. Janet Dunning

4. Kate Hughes
5. Sarah Thatcher
6. Joanne Hill
7. Carrie Bewley
8. Janet Hunt
9. Alison Westwood
10. Stephanie Price

##### **Veteran Men**

1. Ray Dixon
2. Ken Walton
3. Roy Norton
4. Eric Hardman
5. Nick Mytton
6. Mervyn Wood
7. Chris Maiden
8. Mike Meredith
9. Martin Clark
10. Bryan Belcher

##### **Veteran Women**

1. Janet Dunning
2. Janet Hunt
3. Helen Pogmore
4. Lynda Reid
5. Dot Macfarlane
6. Wendy Baggot
7. Berly Shammon

The county is split equally over the decision to stay at 21 up or change to 11 up. Given the option, which many consider to be a mistake, Evesham, Malvern and Worcester have voted to change to the new ITTF scoring system, whilst Bromsgrove, Dudley and Kidderminster have voted to stay as before. This would appear to be of concern to those players who play in more than one league and will have to cope with both systems simultaneously.

Early signs are that a number of teams may be switching leagues, particularly those with grass roots players playing from a more social standing than that of a higher competitive nature.

#### **Obituary - Ron Price**

It is sad to report the sudden and tragic passing of Ron Price earlier this summer. Ron played in the Birmingham League in the 1950s and 1960s for Ariel, however, it was as a coach and mentor to boys and girls at Catshill Youth Club that he will be best remembered for. He soon became well known for his expertise, dedication, reliability and patience with, on occasions some volatile

youngsters. Many local players benefited from his coaching, some of who have achieved high standing at county level. A gentleman in all aspects, Ron earned the respect of all those around him. He retired from coaching quite recently and left a void that has been impossible to fill.

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### **Multiball and Women's Training by Rowden Fullen, the Yorkshireman coaching in Sweden**

When working with girls/women in a multiball situation it is vital that the exercises are relevant to the women's game. There is little value in feeding primarily heavy topspin when your player will more often than not face a fast, flatter drive ball in competition. Even when women do face spin there is usually a higher level of speed than rotation. The difference is quite evident when some of the top women play against the men in Europe – they have great difficulty in controlling the spin element.

Women must be able to cope with speed even if they don't use it themselves, so a fair amount of multiball time should be spent on fast play. It is also wise to structure exercises so that they aid development in other areas, especially movement: for instance, if you work in series of five balls, backhand corner, middle backhand corner, forehand corner, backhand corner, you develop a number of different aspects – you improve and develop movement to the middle (one-step short or trunk movement), long to the forehand (one-step long or cross step), and long back to the backhand (again, one-step long or cross step); you help eliminate problems in the crossover, the body area; by encouraging your player to use the forehand from the middle, you develop better overall control of the table for the next ball.

Whether the player moves with attacking or control footwork and also the type of stroke she plays, will give some indications of how her style should develop.

Once the player has progressed beyond and mastered the basics, some topspin multiball can be introduced. At a more advanced level she will have to deal with topspin, and this is a

good time to start girls on another important aspect of the women's game, variation. If they are to reach a high level girls must look at different ways to handle spin.

-hitting through topspin at an early timing point, or forcing the ball on the block, the object being to return the ball with more speed than it came and a flatter trajectory;

returning with a later timed topspin or roll, the intention being to pressure the opponent with a long, low, kicking and often slower ball;

using the full range of blocking strokes, sidespin, soft block, chop block, the aim being to return the opponent's spin or change it, often incorporating also a change of pace and length.

Of course it is also vital that girls learn to be positive and open up early in their table tennis career – to this end backspin multiball should be introduced even in the early stages. One difficulty here is that girls, especially at a younger age, seem to have more problems than boys in assessing length. Backspin multiball will usually work much better initially if you play to one spot, rather than changing length. It is also best to start with relatively light spin to allow your pupil to feel the ball.

As your player's competence level grows you can vary spin and length much more, introducing more advanced balls, the short drop-shot, or the half-long ball with the second bounce on the end line or just off the table. The player will of course be looking to use differing options:

- dropping the short ball back short (using early timing), flicking or pushing long and fast;
- looping slow or fast depending on the incoming length and spin;
- driving back hard;
- rolling back a nothing ball, long and low;
- pushing back fast and long, early-timed with or without spin;
- pushing late with extreme spin.

This type of varied response multiball will help develop girls' tactics to deal with defence players, hit hard, drop short, loop slow.

It is also of value with women players that you work with mixed speed/spin multiball – two or three backspin balls, one or two flat or topspin. This becomes very like a

game situation where the opponent opens sometimes hard, sometimes with spin.

A logical step forward from the basic multiball is to extend the exercise to the next one or two balls played. An obvious example would be for the coach to feed backspin to the girl's backhand. She opens, the coach blocks or counters back to the backhand – the player then drives or kills. This puts the multiball into an exact game scenario – girl opens up, ball driven or blocked back, girl counterhits. This type of multiball has a number of important advantages. It helps the player to understand the different stance and technique requirements again alternative backspin or drive/block strokes lower centre of gravity, use legs, drop racquet, play up and forward; come in, keep racquet up, play through the ball.

It helps the player to realise the difference between the drive return, faster but more predictable and not so spinny, and the block, slower with at times much return spin and unpredictable bounce.

The next stage is to return your pupil's opening ball to varying table areas – she opens with the backhand, you counter to body or forehand, she opens with forehand, you counter body or backhand. This sort of exercise has the value of opening up other areas to assess your player. If she opens with the backhand, where is she weakest/strongest - against the fast return, backhand, forehand or body? Equally, you must look at the same when she opens with the forehand.

When working with opening at a more advanced level, the trainer should be concentrating more on change of spin and change of length – push with heavy spin, float, drop short in a variety of sequences. In this way your player will learn to watch the racquet and the ball and to recognise spin and lack of spin. She will also come to an understanding of when it is best to roll. Spin slow or fast and when to flat hit or drive, and to develop an appreciation of the importance of a lower centre of gravity in spin play, when opening against chop.

Equally, there should be exercises involving quick changes of length and speed/spin at higher levels – short push to forehand, player drops back short or flicks, fast drive wide to backhand,

player counters, long push to forehand with heavy backspin, player loops. As you work more individually with your player you should look to devise your own exercises, based on her needs and her own style.

Another area where it is of value to use many balls is in the serve and receive training and development of third and fourth balls. For example, your player serves short, or half long backspin, you push fast and long to the corners (early timed), sometimes backspin, sometimes float, she opens. Variations in your return can be short drop back, early timed or late timed heavy spin push short or long. Another exercise could involve you serving short and the player pushing long - you loop, she kills through the spin on an early timing point (a technique we could work more on in Europe), or soft blocks taking the pace off the ball.

Working one-to-one in this manner is ideal for teaching and understanding which spin remains on the third or fourth ball, why this is so, and how you can take advantage of it. From the start, of course, you should be aware when your opponent serves which way the ball is spinning; without knowing this it's hard to be positive! A number of alternatives are open to you; play with the spin or against it, add to it, take away from it, use it (let the ball just kick back from your racquet or play to the axis, the dead spot on the ball and return the spin to the server). The end result and how many strokes the spin remains on the ball can be very different if one or both players use pimples or anti on one side.

If you work in a scientific manner with multiball, it can be a very potent weapon in the development of your player. It will indeed have an impact on many diverse areas - footwork, easier recognition of spin and float, development of touch, and better assessment of which stroke is appropriate.

### **Coaching Courses in Midlands Region**

**Level 2 Coach Education** - Wolverhampton - 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> Nov, tutor Sandra Roden, 10am - 5pm

**Table Tennis Development Officer Silver** - Lilleshall - 8<sup>th</sup> Dec - tutors Chris Newton and Martin Ireland - 10am - 5pm

**Table Tennis For All** - Wolverhampton - 17<sup>th</sup> Feb - tutor Judy Rogers - 10am - 3pm

For further details and an application form for any of the above courses please contact Chris Newton on 01782 236930 or 07904 115138.

For details of other courses please contact your Regional Development Officer.

### **Coaching Courses**

#### **North West**

20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> October 2001: Teacher/Sport Leader & Level 2 - Northwich - Gail McCulloch (01606 331255)

20<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> October 2001: Teacher/Sport Leader & Level 2 - Manchester - Jennine Sutton (0161 2323113)

4<sup>th</sup> December 2001: Top Up Module - Bolton - Pauline Sluski (01204 392641)

9<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> February 2002: Teacher/Sport Leader & Level 2 - Manchester - Jennine Sutton (0161 2323113)

#### **Southern**

17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> November 2001: Level 2 - Reading - Sue Hayes (01753 573669)

#### **South West**

Teacher/Sport Leader & Level 2 - North Dorset - Nick Cowell (01258 473237) + upgrade

Teacher/Sport Leader & Level 2 - N. Somerset Philip Irwin-Brown (01225 396420) + upgrade

Teacher/Sport Leader & Level 2 - Plymouth - Philip Irwin-Brown (01225 396420) + upgrade

#### **Local League Feedback on Scoring System**

**by Carl Stebbing, Lancaster & Morecambe TTL Secretary**

Like a lot of leagues during the summer, we experimented with the 11-up scoring system using two player teams, which encouraged the league to adopt it for the normal three player teams. I thought you might be interested in the early season feedback.

It does appear to level things up and it becomes quite interesting (positive)

A number of matches are not finishing any earlier than when playing 21 up which puzzled us until we examined it a bit closer and found that games that were going to the 5 players were taking up to 1 minute breaks at the end of the games 1 - 4 = 4 minutes non-playing! I played in one of these matches, which had a finish time of 10.45pm (no change there).

In one of our divisions which includes a lot of youngsters an innovation that is proving popular is: points are awarded for games won and non sets i.e. a set of 5 games results in a 3-2 win for the player A over player B. Player A received 3pts with Player B receiving 2pts. An actual example of a recent match - under the traditional points for sets Team X were 3-1 up in sets over Team Y but the match score stood at 9pts each. Team X went on to win the match by 26 points to 15 (prev. 8-2 in sets) but the Team Y players were pleased with their return of 15 points, which they claim was more reflective of their contribution. There was something to play for on every game.

#### **How to Recover from Defeat By Neasa MacErlean**

These bits of advice, taken from an article in The Observer 29.07.01, may have some relevance to table tennis:

1. Understand that losing plays a major part in everyone's life. If you see loss as a personal blow, you make yourself a permanent victim. Far better to see each loss as a lesson, which you should master before leaving it behind. Tennis star Tim Henman is a first-rate loser, able to process his disappointment very quickly, recognise his technical failings, revise his game plan and emerge smiling.
2. Don't be tempted to wallow in your grief.
3. Vent your frustration (in private) so you have allowed your negative feelings to express themselves, before moving on.
4. Get the viewpoints of other people.
5. Leave (the table) with the best grace possible. Avoid blaming others. Always expecting justice and

fairness will make you unhappy – because it is unrealistic.

6. Recognise that great achievements often follow enormous blows.

### **Holy Orders for a Stress-Free Life**

The following ‘Ten Commandments’ given to clerics at a conference in Skipton, North Yorkshire on how to cope with pressure (Times, 26<sup>th</sup> April), may be appropriate for table tennis volunteers:

1. Thou shalt not try to be all things to all people.
2. Thou shalt not be perfect or even try.
3. Thou shalt leave undone things that ought to be done.
4. Thou shalt not spread thyself too thin.
5. Thou shalt learn to say no.
6. Thou shalt schedule time for thyself and thy supportive network.
7. Thou shalt switch off and do nothing regularly.
8. Thou shalt be boring, inelegant, untidy and unattractive at times.
9. Thou shalt not feel guilty.
10. Thou shalt not be thine own worst enemy.

### **Oldest Competitive Player in Britain?**

John Woodford in the Brighton Argus of 23<sup>rd</sup> August, highlighted 87-year-old Dennis Clare as being Britain’s oldest table tennis player competing at veteran international level, following his bronze medal men’s over 80s doubles winning performance in the last European Veterans Championships in Denmark. Moving from Manchester in 1937, Dennis has been playing in the Worthing League ever since.

I remember the late Percy Hyde played in the Milton Keynes League up to the age of 90! Are there any veterans still competing at something approaching this great age?

### **Desmond Douglas, Gardener**

Des Douglas, former 11 times national champion, is not the only great retired black athlete who is a keen gardener.

Olympic gold medallist sprinter Linford Christie revealed in a BBC2 programme, “A Splash of Colour”, his passion for gardening. He knows the Latin names for nearly all of his plants and one of the biggest problems facing him in his retirement is pondweed!

### **ESTTA Volunteers**

The English Schools Table Tennis Association has volunteer vacancies for secretaries for County and District Schools Association, or to help run competitions at local, district, county and regional level. Contact Geoff Gardiner, Hon. General Secretary, ESTTA, 36 Froom Street, Chorley, Lancs PR6 0AN, tel: 01257 264873 for further information.

### **Disabled Rules**

**by Judy Rogers**

### **National Development Officer for People with Disabilities**

There appears to be some confusion regarding the application of rules when disabled players are competing at local league level so I thought it would be appropriate to clarify the situation.

The ETTA, as you are probably aware, normally follows the rules as set by the ITTF. However, there are two major differences in the rules that apply to wheelchair users only. Currently leagues/counties may or may not adopt the rules.

The rules relate to the service in singles where the rules state:

“a let shall be called if in service the ball:

- leaves the table by either of the receiver’s sidelines (on one or more bounces)
- on bouncing on the receiver’s side returns in the direction of the net or
- comes to rest on the receiver’s side of the playing surface

However, if the receiver strikes the ball before it crosses a sideline or takes a second bounce of the playing surface the service shall be considered good and no let shall be called.”

This rule only applies to wheelchair users and DOES NOT apply during

doubles play when normal service rules apply.

The other rule relates to doubles play when the players do not have to alternately hit the ball but may take consecutive hits – this again only applies to wheelchair users – and is necessary due to the health and safety implications of trying to play alternate hits with one or both players in a wheelchair.

The confusion appears to be over the service rule where some players feel it is wrong to serve short to a wheelchair user – this is not the case; it is not against the rules neither is it morally wrong. The object of competitive play is to win – in order to achieve a result players will identify an opponent’s weakness and then exploit it.

Some players also feel that to be allowed to consecutive hit during doubles gives the wheelchair user/s a clear advantage – this again is not the case. If one pair is a weaker player consecutive hitting allows the opposition to direct the ball away from the better player.

I hope this clarifies the situation and encourages more leagues to make provision within their rules to accommodate more disabled players.

If anyone has any queries please do not hesitate to contact me on tel. 01424 722525, e-mail: [judyrogers.etta@talk21.com](mailto:judyrogers.etta@talk21.com)

### **Peruvian Girl looking for an English University and Table Tennis Club**

Guadalupe Gomez-Sanchez Cardenas is a 17-year-old (born 02.08.84) Peruvian girl wishing to study computer/system engineering (ideally on an interchange scholarship) at an English university whilst continuing to train at table tennis.

She clearly has reached quite a high standard, first at juniors and this season in seniors, gaining a bronze, silver and a gold medal at the Latin American championships in Chile and coming third (bronze medal) in the Ecuador-Bolivia championships.

If anyone can give her advice on a university and nearby club where she could train, please contact her c/o Manual Arrisueno, 563 Santa Catalina La Victoria, Lima, Peru, tel: 472 7332/944 1259, email: [lupegs84@hotmail.com](mailto:lupegs84@hotmail.com)



## Famous People Who Played Table Tennis

Clive Beerling, the Match & Press Secretary of the Isle of Thanet TTA, a keen follower of county cricket, came across 6 cricketers who also play table tennis while he was looking through the 2001 Cricketer Who's Who Annual. Two have already been mentioned in TTN Extra, namely: Devon Malcolm, Leicester & England fast bowler, and Chris Read, Nottinghamshire & England wicket keeper. The 4 others are: David Fulton, Kent opening batsman, who says he was a top 10 England junior (*and I think now is the Sports Editor of Medway Today – ed.*); Barry Leadbeater, former Yorkshire opening batsman and now on the first class umpires list; Keith Newell, Glamorgan opening batsman; and Nottinghamshire batsman Usman Afzaal.

Further evidence that England squad footballers under Sven Goran Erikson play table tennis between football training and matches comes from Gareth Southgate's website (quoted in the Daily Mail): "In the evening, some of the lads will go for a stroll, play table tennis or table football."

The names mean nothing to me, but Sunday Magazine of The News of the World, reported that Andy Nyman played table tennis with Ross from Friends during the filming of Uprising (about the Jewish uprising in the Warsaw ghettos during the Second World War). Talking about films, there was good news in the Daily Telegraph (Nigel Reynolds, 8<sup>th</sup> September) with the confirmation that Leslee Udwin, producer of the hugely successful British film East is East set among Asian immigrants in the Midlands, has bought the rights of Howard Jacobson's Jewish table tennis novel set in 1950's Manchester, The Mighty Walzer. She has put together a £4.5 million budget, hopes to attract Maureen Lipman, and plans to shoot next year. Lipman called the novel her favourite book of the year: "How Jacobson managed to make table tennis – the only game I ever came near to excelling at – come alive is still a mystery to me."

An obituary in The Times (29<sup>th</sup> May) for Professor A.G. Walker, the former Liverpool Chair of Pure Mathematics

(he had also held positions with Imperial College, London, and Sheffield University) credited him with putting the 'big bang' theory onto a sound foundation, and also with being outstanding as a table tennis player, wryly noting that "some proficiency at the game was sometimes said to be a necessary qualification for employment as a lecturer in Liverpool!"

Mike Watts (who sadly is very ill) had sent me an Eastern Daily Press newspaper cutting (13<sup>th</sup> April) on table tennis playing teacher Andy King from Sheringham, who was infamous for a moment, when his friend, Richard Deeley, on Chris Tarrant's ITV quiz show 'Who wants to be a Millionaire?' phoned him seeking his help in winning £64,000. Mr King, playing in a table tennis match at the time, had to give his opinion on, "In which sport are goose feathers an important component of the equipment?" Alternatives were: badminton, darts, fly fishing or archery. Pressed, Andy said that he didn't think it was darts, but thought it might be archery. He very soon realised the right answer was badminton, but suffered the agony of not knowing whether his friend had followed his incorrect advice. The next day he discovered that his friend also thought the answer was archery and had plumped for that. Fortunately he was still happy with having won £32,000!

## TABLE TENNIS 2000: TECHNIQUE WITH VLADIMIR SAMSONOV by PROFESSOR RADIVOJ HUDETZ. Reviewed by Ken Muhr

This A5, 264 page book, produced in association with equipment company TIBHAR, is well organised (contents pages at the back) and very thorough and systematic on the areas it covers: a theoretical analysis on the underlying principles of table tennis, a detailed analysis of the equipment and its qualities, and most of all a comprehensive analysis of almost all the techniques of table tennis, including grip and footwork, as well stroke production. The latter part is backed up with good strip/sequential photographs of top European man Vladimir Samsonov (Belarus) and

Austrian Kostadin Lengerov demonstrating strokes, as well as diagrams, 'kinograms', and 'contourgrams' of players reinforcing technical points.

Prof. Hudetz also spends some time on different styles of coaching/'methods of training', and his analysis of mistakes regarding each stroke, and of mistakes in general, could be particularly helpful to coaches. In fact he is so systematic, so thorough, in this text that he covers almost all technical possibilities, so that every coach should find parts to agree with!

There are also fascinating details. For example, in his introductory pages, he asserts that in a kill the ball can fly at up to 140 km per hour and the speed of the arm with a racket can travel from 60 to 70 km/h. In heavy spin (i.e. 'loop') shots the ball can rotate at up to 170 times a second (i.e. more than 10,000 times a minute, which is more than I thought). A bat touches a ball only one thousandth of a second during a stroke. Table tennis is a type of sport that burdens heart function a great deal (presumably at the higher levels). At the end of the book, Prof. Hudetz mentions the benefits of 'bilateral practice' – the phenomenon by which skills learned or improved by practising with the non-dominating hand can be transferred to the other hand without additional practice.

However, the very thoroughness of the book leads to a rather detached, scientific, academic dryness, which is partly exacerbated by occasionally heavy, confusing English, caused no doubt both by the author being Croatian and the topic being so technical, though overall the English is very good. He also uses some different terms than we in England are used to such as; attack 'without spin' when we might say 'flat' attack; 'feign' or 'false' spin when we might say 'dummy' spin; or 'empty' spin serve when we might say 'float' spin serve. Just occasionally, I disagree with him technically: for example, Prof. Hudetz says backhand 'loop' or topspin should be taught at top of the bounce/trajectory timing, whereas I think the contact should normally be before or just after the peak of the bounce, which Prof. Hudetz agrees is appropriate for more advanced play.

Although he does say that success in table tennis is based on selecting 'the right stroke at the right moment' and that technique and tactics are closely related, he devotes relatively small space to tactics, 'reading' the game and decision-making (or to giving 'drills'). However, to be fair, the title of the book is 'Technique' and in this component of table tennis he is pretty good. It is not a book for beginners though – too complex, too serious - but as a reference book for more advanced players or for coaches, who can draw from sections the bits they want, it is highly recommended. One of the best books of its kind I have read, but we do so badly need a good fun, exciting book about the real competitive game of table tennis aimed at the learner/improver player!

Copies of Table Tennis 2000: Technique With Vladimir Samsonov by Prof. Radivoj Hudetz are available for £15-99 from Table Tennis Direct, PO Box 174, Deal, Kent CT14 7GD, Tel. 01304 369996.

**Interview with Les Jones, Wirral Table Tennis Club Premier Club – Excellence (North West Region)**

A lifetime's dedication to the sport he loves has seen Les Jones rewarded by being named the English Table Tennis Association coach of the year.

The 66-year-old from Wallasey should have picked up his award at the ETTA National Awards Dinner at Lilleshall in September, only for ill health to keep him away. Now recuperating at home, Les typically passed the credit for the honour onto the people who work with him.

Les said "Obviously I am very pleased to receive this award, but I accept it on behalf of the Wirral, where there are a lot of people working hard for the sport.

This reflects their input and involvement as much as it does mine and I want them all to know that".

Les has helped many local players go on to regional, national and international honours, such as Danny Horner and Annabelle Sorrentino.

**Q. How did you get involved in table tennis?**

A. At 16 I started playing against friends and workmates while working for the Wirral Gas Board, going on to play league table tennis on the Wirral. We played during lunch hours and so on. We had an international player who worked with us for a while and he gave us some coaching. I enjoyed it from the off and wanted to play league table tennis so I got into it that way.

**Q. What made you decide on your present post?**

A. When I was 40 I was asked by Cliff Swindles if I would help out on the coaching side. He was a true gentleman and produced some very good players, but he was ready to start passing things on. I was pleased to help him and learned a lot from him that I still use today.

**Q. What has been your greatest success?**

A. Results wise winning the County Junior Premier Division, but the success of the players has mainly been down to themselves. The talent has got to be there in the first place – you don't make champions, you just help them along the way to develop to their full potential.

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

A. The satisfaction of having the support of parents, players and coaches in Wirral who have helped us to deliver an all round programme for our players.

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

A. I think it is important not to make your mind up on a player's potential straight away. A less talented boy or girl may go on to achieve more than a gifted one through sheer dedication and hard work. It is great to see someone who has struggled with table tennis go

on and apply themselves and maybe play in the lower divisions of the local league. That gives me a lot of satisfaction.

It's just as rewarding to see someone go on to a very high level, like Danny and Annabelle. They are both very talented, but never shirked the hard work, which is why they have done so well.

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

A. 20-30 hours.

**Q. What changes would you like to see?**

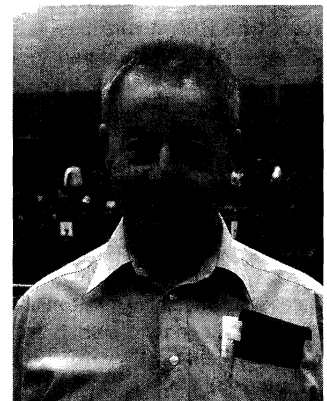
A. More finance and support for grass roots table tennis.

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

A. I have two, Desmond Douglas for his great attitude on and off the table, and Andrew Eden for his support and work with children.

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

A. To enjoy all aspects of the sport – it's not a war. We are seeing a lot of talented players in the Wirral and they are getting the chance to play the game much younger. I think parents like the attitude we have where we want the children to win, but not at all costs.



*Les Jones*

**ETTA NATIONAL TEACHING & TRAINING CONFERENCE 2001: 'Let's Make It Better'. Report by Ken Muhr**

There were so many different strands to this conference, attended by around 100 delegates at Lilleshall National Sports Centre over the long weekend of 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> September, that as much as I can I am going to use contributions of participants to help compile this report. After the Friday evening meal we adjourned to the lecture theatre, and the newly elected **Vice-Chairman for Teaching & Training, Karen Tonge, welcomed delegates** and introduced us to the conference and the evening's lectures. First 'flew' on **ETTA Chief Executive and Scottish Legend, Richard Yule**, in Superman style to give the **keynote address, 'The Vision'**. He was powerful, short and sharp.

He kicked off by quoting the famous West Indian philosopher and cricket writer CLR James: "He who only cricket knows, knows not cricket at all". I would interpret this as meaning that you have got to be able to see a sport in its wider social, cultural and political context to be able to understand it. Richard noted the Government's agenda: Dr John Cunningham, the cabinet enforcer, has announced a 5 year review of Sport England and Richard Caborn, the new Sports Minister, is concerned with decentralisation, equity issues and social deprivation. Over recent years, in America, with old community structures breaking down there had been a fantastic decline in tenpin bowling, while in Britain, despite the number of full-time professionals and facilities, the membership of governing bodies of sport was dropping.

However, a period of transition and change presents opportunities, and table tennis met the Government's agenda bang on. Richard described just how big table tennis is in world terms – the world's biggest racket sport – and the increases in world TV coverage of TT, although it has declined terrestrially. Yet in England there has been a big drop in membership from the 1980s, particularly owing to the loss of facilities.

Peter Drucker has said regarding 'making it happen', you need to do something new. Looking at different models of the most successful table tennis nations in recent years, China and Sweden, they were both community driven and owned their own clubs. The club is clearly the model for the future. Following on from the ETTA having RDOs, a Facilities Officer and a Facilities Strategy through becoming one of the Sports Council's First Focus Sports in the 1990s, the ETTA embarked on one of the most comprehensive development programmes in the history of the sport, which secured in the community £20 million of new facilities.

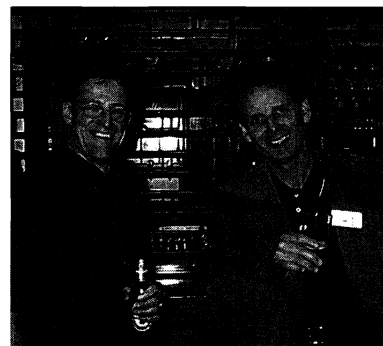
We now are concentrating our efforts on PremierClubs, so that players can always find tables up week in, week out and have clear pathways and sustainable activities. In PremierClub we are ahead of the Government and its agenda. Taking just 67 PremierClubs it was found that they had 11,000 members (in size almost a third of the membership of the ETTA), yet clearly most of these players were not affiliated to the ETTA, so alternative forms of calculating ETTA membership must be found. The Teaching and Training Department have an important role because we need more coaches, volunteers and umpires. But we need more control over our own assets, which mainly points to club development being the key.

The **ETTA's Commercial Manager Brian Spicer** followed up with a detailed **presentation on 'Ideas for Sponsorship'**, with the theme 'Winners, Winners, Winners!' He began by reiterating the great credentials of table tennis, as well as given his own credentials working for the Wrigley Company Ltd, and for the ETTA in a voluntary capacity. He reminded us of our major sponsors of the past (mainly financial institutions like Norwich Union Insurance, Leeds Permanent Building Society and The Woolwich), and described a sponsor's aims and needs, particularly in terms of publicity. Brian then outlined the potential new sponsors he is working with, what deals he has secured and benefit packages ('affinity marketing') he has gained for members.

Brian then gave us a Vision for the year 2012: Olympic medals achieved by English players for Britain in the light of the Olympics possibly being awarded to east London! Some of our present squad of very young (pre-teenagers and 13 year olds) highly talented players, will by then have also won European and World Championship medals, and will become household names.

He explained some of his activity in gaining venue and cash sponsorship from local authorities for our events programme, and why database information on the ETTA membership was important to help him secure sponsorship. He gave as an example of the benefits package and menu of opportunities he might offer a potential major sponsor, a letter drafted to Bill Gates of Microsoft, which also included detailed information on number and profile of table tennis participants in the UK and (more broadly) worldwide. At the beginning of Brian's presentation, he had asked the audience to scribble down potential sponsorship leads. He wound up with collecting these in, and has over 40 to work on.

Personally I felt that having two major presentations, albeit both important and enthusiastically delivered, on the Friday evening was just a bit too much, but delegates seemed happy enough 'and then adjourned to socialising in the bar.



*Martin Ireland (RDO, North West) and Richard Yule (Chief Executive) enjoy a drink*

On the first full day of the conference, I flitted between various courses. I paid several visits to the **Level 4 Coaches Course, led by Director of Teacher & Training, Peter Hirst,**

**with Tim Holder, Sport Psychologist, Soren Ahlen, Performance Director and Bradley Billington, National Coach.**

There was plenty of opportunity for questioning and discussion, although the acoustics were not very good. Most participants were very satisfied with the course, including John Vincent who said it was a 'fabulous weekend', but I should acknowledge that one or two felt disappointed that in their opinion there was not enough on new ideas or advanced techniques. However, I think that the majority review is reflected in **John Vincent's report:**

"This was the most informative set of workshops that I have ever attended. We covered a needs analysis – to isolate skills/attributes of elite level players.

Next we did a practical designed to show what happens if you do not use all your table tennis services, i.e. vision, touch and hearing. The gadgets used were goggles with restricted vision, tunnel vision, eye covers, vision switched off before a stroke and after a stroke. For touch, gloves were used, e.g. wicket keepers, bats, mittens, fingerless and for hearing, earmuffs.

The message? Use all your senses, you have seen what happens if you don't. Predict where the ball is when necessary.

Peter Hirst dealt with Hicks Law as it relates to table tennis:

Response in table tennis = reaction time + movement time.

To improve responses we can shorten the movement time OR negate the need for reaction time by accurate prediction or anticipation.

What else did I learn?

1. How in table tennis to make the unpredictable predictable by using: tactical exposure, exposing weaknesses in opponents and reaching what is coming accurately.
2. Good advice was given by Bradley Billington and Soren Ahlen, on service and receive.
3. Isolating visual clues.
4. Planning for maximum benefit and making good choices to gain maximum advantage.
5. Establishing tactics.
6. The importance of taking an early ball, having a good attitude and also having a good technique.

My thanks to Peter, Soren, Tim Holder and Bradley for a very enjoyable weekend."

Alongside the level 4 course on the Saturday was run an all-comers **Personal Performance Day led by National Coach Jai Yi Liu.** Jai was a little bemused, faced with league standard players of all ages and styles and having never coached this type of player before – in China he worked only with elite players! However, he is a willing and amiable guy, and seemed to be coping well in giving the players a good session. Although I did not get a report from the participant I asked, I think the players will have been happy with the day.

I spent some time in **The Women and Girls in Table Tennis Workshop led by National Development Officer Judy Rogers with National Champion Nicola Deaton.** I arrived when Judy had asked the group to look at negatives keeping women and girls out of table tennis, and Nicola, looking the real star (and I mean that nicely!) was in full sway giving her strongly held opinions – considered unfeminine, unfashionable, unattractive clothing etc. We went into smaller discussion groups, with Alan Ransome later joining Josie in my (and Nicola's) one. The impression I got was a buzz as plethora of ideas came flooding out. I have no room for Judy's detailed notes on the proceedings and will leave it to **Sandra Deaton** to give the flavour:

"The unfortunate non-appearance of the Sport England representative Tessa Sanderson did not in any way deter the enthusiasm of the small number of delegates that had registered to attend the conference seminars on Women and Girls in Table Tennis. The ETTA representative Judy Rogers ably stepped into the co-ordinators role and what followed was one of the most interesting and productive days. Throughout the day the periodical attendance of the RDOs served to help motivate the discussions and bring in new and fresh approaches.

However, it was unanimously voiced that the star of the whole proceedings was our very own senior no.1 lady player, Nicola Deaton, who freely gave her time throughout the day, relating her own experiences, commitments and strong opinions on the WAY FORWARD. Her presence

served as a continual inspiration, leading on to the ultimate decision that what is needed is a national constructive campaign to encourage and motivate women and girls to take up the game of table tennis.

There can be no denying that all those in attendance left believing it can be done."

When I arrived in the **International Umpires Course, Colin Clemett (Richard Scruton** was the co-tutor) was discussing possible simplified wording of the change in the service law to be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2002. Expecting a dry discourse, I was pleasantly surprised how much I enjoyed listening and following the logic behind the proposed re-wording. I was also interested to learn of the possibility of the height of the throw-up being raised from 16cm to 30cm. Participant **Margot Fraser reports** on the course (note that I also had a report from Pat Archdale):

#### **Workshop for National and International Umpires**

"A wealth of experience in this workshop led by Richard Scruton and Colin Clemett. There were 10 subjects on the agenda and if anybody thought it may be hard to fill the day the 21 umpires present ensured that discussion never stopped.

Topics included equipment and clothing, working with an assistant umpire, 11-up, the new service law, international team matches, misbehaviour, presentation, disabled play, foreign trips, and the referee.

Discussions ranged from what the tape on a racket is covering up to who pins on numbers that have come loose during the day! We felt that we would like to have to work more often with an assistant umpire and recommended that we work in pairs at national championships. On behaviour it was generally felt that English umpires are too lenient in their use of yellow and red cards.....we were somewhat disturbed to hear that some of our juniors had been faulted at the recent European Youth Championships for bad services that were presumably both being faulted here, again, too much leniency on our part?

Overall a very informative day. If a similar workshop is arranged in the

future I would certainly recommend it to those umpires who did not attend as an opportunity for airing views and exchanging ideas.”

The hero (or heroine) of the weekend was **ETTA Vice-Chairman Carol Beames who facilitated the TTDO's Gold Award Course** (held over the whole weekend and viewed as 'pilot') at very short notice. My **Vice - Chairman for Public Relations, Brian Halliday** and myself twice attended to talk about table tennis and the media, and Brian also commented on mock press releases the delegates had produced. Carol seemed to be doing an excellent job in chairing sessions and inviting discussion, with participants active in making contributions. It was fortuitous perhaps, that many ETTA professional staff were at the conference and able to make presentations on the course, or in the case of Richard Yule, to be present during several sessions. Press Officer of the Year **Steve Kerns** has given me an amazing 4 and a half pages of tightly typed **notes** on the TTDO Gold Award course, of which I can only quote a tiny fraction:

**“Why do we need a Gold Award Course?** ...as the Silver Award Course had been very thorough...it was hoped that those people attending might be able to collaborate to provide some guidelines and ground rules to take TT development a stage further...The participants identified ..problems in carrying out their duties.

**Sponsorship: Brian Spicer** went through some of the materials he uses to obtain sponsorship...Any club or league who can arrange a major sponsorship contract for the ETTA would have 10% of the funds raised ploughed back into their local league or club...Brian gave a list of bullet points that a Development Officer should adhere to before visiting a potential sponsor.

**What does a Development Officer need?** [There were many suggestions.] Wesley Bush-Harris (RDO) – “Enthusiasm and ability to enthuse”.

**Getting the Community Involved:** Most people present were able to offer examples of how they had succeeded in forming worthwhile partnerships with local schools and the community.

**Paul Baker's Presentation – Facility Development:**...no right or wrong way of developing table tennis – both leagues and clubs...could be equally successful...a third round of National Lottery Funding was being made available and from October a massive amount of £750m would be given to schools in Great Britain to further sports and community projects. Of this figure £580m would be for England. There would therefore be major opportunities for table tennis Clubs who can forge links with schools.

**Brian Halliday & Ken Muhr – Table Tennis and the Media:** ....Brian and Ken went through some Do's and Don'ts of being a Press Officer.

**Qualities of a Good Development Officer:** Wesley Bush-Harris, Chris Newton and Mark Smith led discussions and came up with a list (of qualities)...General discussion...many concerns over the role of the counties in developing the sport...concerns that semi-professionals might not be as good at the job as the full-time (ETTA) staff.

**What is going on in the individual regions?** Carol Beames listed the (Premier) Clubs that exist in everyone's regions...(cluster) choice can cross county boundaries...Alan Woolvern and Brian Davison both saw problems where a player was asked to leave one level of (Premier) Club and join a higher level...Richard Yule – The ETTA are very keen to move towards a system of 'One Member – One Fee'.

**Brian Halliday & Ken Muhr on Press & Publicity Exercise:** Brian went through the pieces of work submitted and passed comments...Ken Muhr and Brian Halliday then finished by giving a few more tips for dealing with the media...take advantage of topical issues e.g. health & table tennis.”

I think the Saturday evening **Awards Presentation Dinner**, attended by nearly 100 people, is one of the best things about the conference and a great innovation by Peter Hirst. After an excellent meal with plentiful supplies of wine, **former England Team Manager Don Parker, in a short, amusing address** gave a few stories about 3 of the top players he had managed, Paul Day, Carl Prean and

Des Douglas, plus a little on ETTA Chairman Alan Ransome. Don is now working for the Commonwealth Games and he concluded by saying that 15,000 volunteers are required for Manchester 2002 and they have so far got 10,000 so there are still opportunities for people to come forward.



*Volunteers of the Year, Len & Julie Pilfold, with Paul Day*



*PremierClub of the Year (Advanced): Oakbank TTC (Yorkshire)*

The butt of some of Don's humour, **Paul Day, was there to present Edinburgh Crystal glass decanters**, supplied by courtesy of the kind **sponsorship** of his company **Turners of Soham Ltd**, to all **coaching and volunteer award winners**, and he gave a little speech to say how pleased he was to be there and able to put something back into table tennis and wishing us well for the future. **Karen Tonge acted as MC** throughout the evening, and gave small citations for the winners: **Brian Halliday presented the Press Officer Awards** (valuable books provided through the **generous support of The Random House Group**, publishers), and said a little about the winners, while **Alan Ransome presented** the framed certificates to the **PremierClub**

**Award winners.** Alan says a bit about all the winners in his 'From the Chair' column, so I shall merely list them below:



*PremierClub of the Year (Introduction) Steve Tatum, Langdon Community TTC (London)*

Young Coach of the Year: Michael Auchterlonies (Berkshire); Tutor Coach of the Year: John Standing (London); Female Coach of the Year: Sue Hayes (Berkshire); Male Coach of the Year: Les Jones (Cheshire); Contribution to Coaching: Roy Pugh (Kent); Volunteers of the Year: Len & Julie Pilfold (London); Table Tennis Development Officer of the Year: Tony Mooney (Suffolk); Merit Award: Mark Palmer (Essex); Services to Press & Publicity Award (Supported by The Random House Group): Dennis Millman (Northamptonshire); Press Officer of the Year (supported by The Random House Group): Steve Kerns (Essex); PremierClub of the Year (Excellence): Uxbridge TTC (Staffordshire); PremierClub of the Year (Advanced): Oakbank TTC (Yorkshire); PremierClub of the Year (Participation): St Helens Junior TTC (Lancashire); PremierClub of the Year (Introduction): Langdon Community TTC (London); A K Vint ETTA Staff Award: Jon Kaufman (London).

I should perhaps add that other contenders for awards were also presented with certificates, namely: Graham Trimming, Allen Roper and Michael Auchterlonie (Press Officers); Baddow Village TTC (PremierClub Participation Level regional winner); Ramgarhia TTC (PremierClub Participation Level regional winner, national runner-up); Cippenham TTC (PremierClub Excellence Level national runner-up); Ormesby TTC

(PremierClub Excellence Level, third nationally).

**National Coach Bradley Billington led an Open Coaches Workshop** on the Sunday, which focussed on **Practising For Optimal Performance**. No-one provided a report, but Brad tells me he looked at a lot of perception and anticipation variables, covering a process from regular to irregular in terms of spin (particularly services and receives, and then strokes in the rally), speed, height, direction, bounce etc. He asked questions like, 'how early in the player's development can you teach anticipation?' with the answer, 'very early, but setting exercises according to their level of play'. He says his session was well received.

We were all very shocked and saddened that **Judy Rogers** had to be called urgently away whilst in the middle of tutoring with **Mark Palmer** the **Disability Awareness Training Level 1 & 2**, owing to her father suddenly suffering a brain haemorrhage. Unfortunately he was to pass away and our thoughts were very much with her. However, Mark Palmer ably kept the course going but by the time I attended there was only one delegate left (Julie Pilfold) for the practical, wheelchair playing session. Mark got Julie to sit in a chair when she played him, to experience something of the sensation of being a wheelchair player, and she appeared to learn quickly. As well as the obvious advantage of playing an angled ball, I learned that a good tactic is to throw a backspin ball high up so that it lands just over the net or bounces back! I will leave **Julie Pilfold** to report:

"I'm very pleased to have been on this course as it has given me more of an insight into disability play. One of the things to watch is to make it safe and it has given me more confidence. Having sat on a chair and played, I realise how difficult it is and how much thought has to be given to placing and spin on the ball. Mixing with all the others and hearing all the comments they made has increased my awareness on all facets."

The final course I looked into was the **Level 1 Umpires course led by Colin Clemett**. Colin was dealing with practical questions associated with

umpiring. He would have no objection to junior umpires wearing baseball caps designating their status, although the gathering felt youngsters would not want the term 'junior' on any badge or clothing! I am sure that participants found Colin's session useful, but shall leave it to **Pat Archdale** to provide a report:

"After welcoming umpires Colin Clemett led a discussion on the need for more umpires and how to make the activity more pleasant. A discussion on things which worried many umpires, and problems of demands on umpires followed.

Colin emphasised the need to see that playing conditions were as good as possible and the need to keep the court tidy. Player's behaviour was discussed and it was emphasised that umpires are in control. They have the power to award penalty points, and to call a let if behaviour is not satisfactory. New umpires are warned that they will quickly establish this personal reputation – you can get away with anything or "watch it", any dubious behaviour and you're faulted."

Many new umpires gain experience at junior matches, and then it is ritual to support coaches by insisting on correct services, also to establish a habit of acceptable behaviour.

The 2002 service was discussed and how this will mean altering yet again the required actions.

Over enthusiastic parents and coaches can also cause trouble, and may need to be warned."

Overall it was another very successful conference. However, with so many courses running the conference was rather 'bitty' and at times did not seem to be operating as a 'whole'. This might call for more overall themes and plenary sessions next time, though others might differ in their thoughts from me. Peter Hirst was overall responsible for organising the Conference and thanks should go to him, plus to Karen Tonge, the new Vice-Chairman for Teaching & Training, and all the other people and departments who contributed. Behind the scenes the immense efforts of people like Jill Parker, Vicki Hyder-Smith and Judy Rogers must be acknowledged.

# NICOLA DEATON'S HOPES & ASPIRATIONS, FOR HERSELF AND TABLE TENNIS

**THE 24 year old 4 times national women's champion has just given some strongly held views on perceived negatives keeping women and girls out of table tennis, such as the sport not being seen as cool or fashionable and the 'unisex' clothing being unattractive to them, at the Women & Girls Workshop of the Teaching & Training Conference. And now, Saturday 8th September, following lunch at Lilleshall National Sports Centre, I am to interview Nicola Deaton, at a spare table by the exit of the dining room, writes Ken Muhr.**

Nicola has something of the stature, poise and controlled alertiveness of a ballerina or young gymnast. Well presented in clothing and demeanour, she is also attractive, confident, opinionated, polite but assertive, articulate. She speaks fast but quietly and engagingly conveys an air of passion and belief in what she says – honesty, not flannel. What she says is what she feels.

The table tennis event of Commonwealth Games in Manchester 2002, provides her major goal. "That is what I am training for now. It is difficult to say what I would like to achieve. Obviously I would like to 'peak', and if I put in good training beforehand and I did peak and I got a good draw, I could be looking at getting a medal. I am just hoping to do as well as possible."

What is the importance of the Games for the future of English table tennis? "Absolutely huge. A wonderful opportunity if it is marketed right and we can get some medals. I think it is an opportunity to get table tennis on the map in England. I am really, really pleased that it is here and glad to be part of it."

There should be good TV coverage? "Hopefully, fingers crossed. I think TV is an absolutely crucial thing for the Games to get interest generated. We should get some good hours."

About her 'other life', Nicola is about to go to the University of



Nottingham to study Psychology and I congratulate her on her A'Level result (an 'A' grade). "It is quite a big change for me. I haven't really known anything else outside of table tennis. To go to Nottingham University, which is a really good university, and to do Psychology, I can't help but feel a little apprehensive about." Nicola sounds both surprised and interested that my brother did a PhD at Nottingham.

How might Nicola develop (from) her Psychology studies? "My passion is within Clinical Psychology. Loads of people assume it is in Sports Psychology. It's not. I am not that fascinated with Sports Psychology. Long term what do I see myself doing? I am not quite sure. I am quite open-minded about being the eternal student! I would like to think I could do the academic route and do a Masters degree etc."

Doing well academically must have given her confidence? "I had an unconditional place at Nottingham

University before I knew my (A'Level) results but to me the (Psychology) result was not irrelevant. I needed the self confidence to know before going to university that, a) I was up to it and, b) that I was capable of doing something outside of table tennis, though in the back of mind I knew I knew the stuff anyway. It was quite strange really, because all I had ever known was table tennis, and I never, ever looked at my watch. I was always very passionate about it, never clocked in or clocked out. So when I thought about diversifying from it, I thought, 'what shall I do?!' And then I did two A'Levels in English and Biology and although I enjoyed that, I did not think I enjoyed them enough to do them at degree level. So when I did Psychology I was clutching at straws, but I think I was very lucky that I found something that I really am into. It is the only thing I can honestly see myself studying for 3 years."

How is Nicola going to marry playing table tennis and studying? "I think it's got to be good time management. My life has got to be very finely balanced. Along with that I am going to do a bit of coaching as well, so I have got fingers in different pies. My priority has got to be my playing this year and with the (National Training) Centre being based in Nottingham as well, I think it is quite practical going to university and then training at Home Pierrepont, so I am very lucky the way things are accessible. I think with good organisation things will work out okay. With it being the first year of university – only the second year (onwards) counts as part of my degree – the plan is to do the bare necessity this year, and then do more work in the 2nd and 3rd years."

Nicola is still young and could carry on playing at a high level a few years longer. Had she thought about ambitions beyond the Commonwealth Games? "I have been playing quite intensely since I was about 8, so I have been playing a long time already. I haven't really thought about anything after the Commonwealth Games – that is my main focus. But I won't give up my domestic place in table tennis without a fight."

Whether or not she carries on playing longer term, will she keep involved in the game one way or another? "The thing is, I come from a family who almost could be defined as being obsessed with the game! So I think not to have any 'hands on' in the game would be an impossibility! Now my parents have retired they have got more interest in table tennis than ever before. So I would always like to think that I have got some kind of input. With regards to what area that would be in, I am not sure. But I think there will always be a part of me involved in table tennis. I would hate to think it would not be in my life at all, as I genuinely have got a lot out of it."

*continued on page 18*

“Alan Cooke is probably the one who has helped the most”



**NICOLA DEATON is pictured above with ALAN COOKE after being presented with their Mixed Doubles winners medals at the English National Championships in Sheffield, earlier this year.**

Nicola has strong opinions on what we should be doing to promote table tennis, and particularly to encourage more women and girls to play. “It is something close to my heart. I would like to see more women coach, lots more women and girls to play, because I think it is a nice sport for women to play.” She did not think that it was isolated aspects of table tennis specifically that could be sold to women but an amalgamation of all the positive factors. With days like the Women and Girls workshop and good people leading, “we could get more and more interest. I would like to have a bigger input with regards to the promotional side as possible. I think I can really help with that side of things and hopefully encourage other people to come into the game.”

Although she did not think it was down to isolated factors that encouraged or discouraged women, had she not been quite strong on the clothing side? “That is one side that could definitely be improved. I have thought about bringing out my own clothing range. I think the fact that the clothing is unisex is a negative.” Women in table tennis were not gender neutral. Being attractive is important to them. “Clothing could be a part of it that could be better. I think it needs to be comfortable, within reason ‘correct’, but I think it could be a lot better, more attractive. I would like to promote that, but it all comes down to finance, things like that. But it is definitely something that could be addressed.”

What part of her table tennis would Nicola like to be remembered for? People leaving the dining room

area now and I am fighting to hear Nicola above the din. ETTA Chief Executive Richard Yule passes our table and exclaims “Nicola, you look fantastic!” just as she gets into full verbal flight, so she starts again, with touching honesty: “When I look back in 20 years time, I would like to think that, overall, me and my field of table tennis are a role model, not for my ability and my performance, because a lot of people have been better than me, but as far as I presented and behaved myself - the overall package of me. As a 10 year old my ambition was to get an OBE and win the European Championships. I don’t think I will realise that. I am pleased with what I have achieved so far but I just hope that there is more of me to come to make the game become bigger and better.”

Finally, who has helped Nicola in her career? “The people who stand out are my mum and my dad. My dad was an absolute mentor, and my mother’s support as far as my education was concerned, at the same time as running a business. As far as coaching is concerned, I have had a number of coaches. Alan Cooke is probably the one who has helped the most, and he is the one I go to now. Chiefly, the support of my family. Everything I have done, I have had the help of my family there.”

Nicola returns to the Women & Girls Workshop. She is right about herself and more. More than an excellent role model, she is a gift to public relations and the promotion of table tennis, and we ought to use her more. Real star quality.

# BOOK REVIEW

## HISTORY OF U.S. TABLE TENNIS

Vol 1: 1928-1939 by Tim Boggan. Reviewed by Ken Muhr

**FOR any table tennis enthusiast (not just an American) with an interest in the culture of his sport, this is an absolutely fascinating book. The great issues, debates, themes and personalities of the day are carefully and lovingly chronicled – just how did Tim manage to amass all of this material!**

With 375 packed pages and 215 photographs to scan, I can only touch a part of the book that demanded my attention. This was the Ping Pong versus Table Tennis debate, the origins of which Tim kicks off with in his introduction. It had great pertinence to the development of the sport in the USA in the late 20’s and early 30’s, as Tim deals with in his first few chapters. A quote from Ping Pong and later Table Tennis champion Marcus ‘Mark’ Schussheim (who in 1936 changed his surname to ‘Matthews’) explains part of the problem:

“Parker Bros... owned and copyrighted the name Ping-Pong (they bought the American rights from English firm John Jaques and Son). This meant nobody was allowed to manufacture Ping-Pong balls, racquets or tables and call it Ping-Pong other than Parker Bros... [In 1928 they formed the American Ping-Pong Association (APPA)]... (they) started a campaign to develop and publicize the game... began by opening a beautiful Ping-Pong Club in New York and invited very prominent citizens to become members... mainly interested in developing the sport so they could sell lots of equipment... did a fantastic job of putting the game on the map.”

So effectively Parker Bros, a limited company, claimed a monopoly on Ping-Pong, and players generally had no say or control over the APPA or destiny of their sport. In 1931 members of the Metropolitan PPA voted to leave it, to form a New York Table Tennis Association (NYTTA). In 1932 ITTF Chairman Ivor Montagu advised the ‘outlaw’ NYTTA to form themselves into a provisional national governing body of the sport in U.S., and the ITTF withdrew its recognition from the APPA. Tim Boggan outlines the process by which the ‘poor man’s’ but more democratic, inclusive sport of Table Tennis gained ascendancy over the richer Ping-Pong and APPA, symbolically culminating in the NYTTA and other newer ‘outlaw’ table tennis associations coming together to form the (to be ITTF recognised) United States Table Tennis Association in 1933, ‘dedicated to amateur play’. The USTTA was soon joined by other table tennis associations and in 1934, Coleman Clark, a distinguished Ping-Pong champion, resigned as Vice-President of the APPA and became the USTTA Executive Secretary.

However, although he had backed the ‘winning horse’, Mark Matthews (Marcus Schussheim) was later to write how the decline of Parker Bros and the APPA was in his opinion a ‘terrible mistake’. Ping-Pong had been well organised and the Parker Bros ‘had spent money on publicity, advertising and running beautiful tournaments at exclusive hotels (such as the Waldorf Astoria)’. Tournament officials and many celebrity guests were all in formal attire. All this changed with the much more poorly financed new (Table Tennis) association. How different the sport in America might have been if it had followed the Ping-Pong route?

So many other interesting facts in this book: the range of bat surfaces, grips and playing styles; fingerspin and knuckle-ball serves, and that when playing doubles in the early 30’s Jimmy Jacobson and George T. Bacon signalled to each other what sidespin they were going to put on the serve (not a new practice then!); mainly a white and Jewish sport, but exhibitions in black communities enthusiastically received; Hollywood glamour and film stars such as Ginger Rogers playing; the sports own stars and characters, including vignettes on Americans such as Ruth Aarons (America’s only world singles champion looked like something of a film star herself), Sol Schiff and Jimmy McClure, and legends such as Victor Barna. And this small selection only from the first quarter!

However, written in Tim’s unique, ornate style, so full of detail and without a reference index, plentiful enough subheadings, or discreetly organised themes, it is a somewhat difficult read and to find one’s way around. The book will be incomprehensible and intelligible to those without a good knowledge and deep interest in table tennis. Aimed at a very particular and discerning audience then, and for these it is highly recommended.

It is available from Tees Sport (Freephone: 0800 4584141, standard: 01642 217844/249000) or from Tim Boggan (cheque/postal order for US\$50), 12 Lake Avenue, Merrick, New York 11566, USA.



# POSTPONEMENTS

**LIKE any other sport, table tennis needs a backbone of rules and regulations to ensure it runs smoothly. And as in any other sport, getting everybody to agree what those rules and regulations should be is an impossible task. That is why AGMs go on such a long time, and management committee meetings probably longer, writes Ron Fosker.**

TTN plans to publish a series of articles during the season looking at the various thorny issues that occupy those happy hours between the minutes of the last meeting and any other business. With the help of a random selection of league handbooks borrowed from the ETTA, I will look at the approaches taken by different leagues and find out why some work better than others.

To start with, postponements and rearrangements, perhaps the most widely discussed item in any league.

It would be hard to find a league management committee that hasn't had postponements and rearrangements on its agenda at some point, indeed probably several points, over the last few years. If anything is likely to engender heated debate, this is the topic.

Contributors to the discussion are likely to fall into two camps, the hawks and the doves. The hawks want to ban all postponements; the doves think captains should sort it out for themselves. Most league rules end up having a bit of a hawk and a bit of a dove in them. Exactly which position to occupy between those two distant points is a matter of taste, and of endless debate.

To be fair, extreme hawks are pretty rare if not extinct. No league, in my random search of a selection of handbooks, said categorically: thou shalt not postpone in any circumstance. Some got pretty close, evoking acts of god or an outbreak of the bubonic plague but there was usually a reference to 'exceptional circumstances' tucked away in there somewhere.

Eastbourne and Hastings, for instance, both refer to extreme weather or loss of premises. West

Essex goes even further and makes it clear that illness will not be considered a good reason (although it doesn't specifically mention the bubonic plague).

Maidstone doesn't have a reference to illness but general secretary Evelyn Skates said it was only considered a valid reason if it affected the whole team.

They had become hawks a few years ago when the laissez-faire system had resulted in a massive backlog of matches.

She said: "The situation had become a nightmare. Captains were postponing to ensure they got their best teams out against the other good teams in the division and that meant all the important matches were being crammed in at the end of the season or not played at all. We decided we had to do something about it.

That led to the 'exceptional

circumstances' rule. Six foot of snow qualifies, but very little else.

"We have found that players are happy with the change. They know where they stand. Some players who play in other leagues that have the more relaxed rule say they prefer it our way. No one has even brought it up at the AGM since we changed it."

However, the doves, or a modicum of dovishness, were in the majority in the random sample. There were references to 'mutual agreement of captains' and instructions to keep the fixtures/records secretary informed and a number of leagues had caveats that required postponed matches to be played within a certain time. Stamford and Rutland only allowed two postponements, after which the team was penalised three points.

Sunderland is one of the leagues that allows captains to rearrange by mutual consent. General secretary David Bissett explained: "Most teams want to play the matches and play them with full teams. They are happy to help each other out. A number of our players play in other leagues where there are clashing fixtures so it makes sense to allow them to try to fit everything in.

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# ENGLAND WOMENS TEAM LOSE 3-1 TO HOLLAND

## WOMENS EUROPEAN LEAGUE

**WITHOUT their number 1 Nicola Deaton who has just started (Nottingham) university, and faced in every set by a player world ranked above them, England suffered an unsurprising 3-1 European Womens League 1st Division away loss at Maastricht, Holland, on 25th September 2001.**

The Dutch No.1 Melisa Muller was too strong for 16 year old England Junior No.1 Katy Parker (Preston, Lancashire) and England Senior No.2 Helen Lower (Wolverhampton, Staffordshire), but the 31 year old Lower recorded a good win in 5 games, 6-11, 9-11, 11-5, 11-8, 11-3, over the higher world ranked Diana Bakker (NED). And Louise Durrant (Worksop, Nottinghamshire), the 17 years old National Under 21 champion, put up a good fight before succumbing 14-16, 11-7, 6-11, 7-11 to Floor Tebbe (NED).

While England builds for the future by fielding younger players, the team will continue to be burdened by defeat in the short term.

*Results:* England 1, Holland 3

(English names first).

Katy Parker lost to Melisa Muller 8-11, 9-11, 5-11.

Helen Lower beat Diana Bakker 6-11, 9-11, 11-5, 11-8, 11-3.

Loise Durrant lost to Floor Tebbe 14-16, 11-7, 6-11, 7-11.

Helen Lower lost to Melisa Muller 6-11, 6-11, 8-11.

## ENGLAND MENS TEAM vs SPAIN

England Performance Director Soren Ahlen has announced the following selection for England Mens European League 1st Division match at home

to Spain, at the North Bridge Leisure Centre, Halifax on Tuesday evening, 9th October start 7pm:

Gareth Herbert (Berkshire), Alex Perry (Devon), Terry Young (Berkshire). NPC, Soren Ahlen.

The Spanish team will be chosen from: He Zhi Wen, Carlos Machado, Dani Torres, Alfredo Carneros. The former Chinese He Zhi Wen, ranked 39 in the world, is a formidable opponent, but the other players are of a similar standard to the English, so the match could be a close one.

## WEAKENED ENGLAND MEN LOSE EUROPEAN MATCH TO SLOVAKIA

**AN England Mens team weakened by the unavailability of Matthew Syed (returning from Japan), Alex Perry (family concerns) and Andrew Baggaley (injured) suffered a 3-0 European League away loss to Slovakia at Nitra, last month.**

Terry Young (Berkshire) not unexpectedly fell to the higher world ranked Jaromir Truska, but he made it a close fight with 8-11, 9-11, 11-8, 8-11 scores. The shock was when Gareth Herbert (Berkshire), who has been on top form in recent months, went down over 5 games, 11-9, 8-11, 8-11, 11-7, 8-11, to the relatively unknown Lubomir Pistej, but the Slovakian youngster is a recent European Youth mixed doubles gold medallist and team silver medallist. Andrew Rushton (Lancashire) did well to provide strong opposition to Peter Sereda before losing 9-11, 8-11, 11-9, 9-11 in his European league debut.

At full strength England would have expected to beat Slovakia so the result is a little disappointing, but they will have another opportunity to meet the Slovaks at home.

*Results:* Slovakia beat England 3-0 (Slovakian names first):

Jamomir Truksa bt Terry Young 11-8, 11-9, 8-11, 11-8.

Lubomir Pistej bt Gareth Herbert 9-11, 11-8, 11-8, 7-11, 11-8

Peter Sereda bt Andrew Rushton 11-9, 11-8, 9-11, 11-9



**MIHAELA  
STEFF**

*EUROPE'S leading lady MIHAELA STEFF of Romania, who took 3rd place in China, now sits in 4th spot on the World Rankings*

## THE DONGTAI 5th WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

**ZHANG YINING added her second world title of the year to her growing collection in Wuhu, China in August, when she overcame North Korea's Kim Hyon Hui in straight games to add the Women's World Cup crown to the ITTF Pro Tour Grand Finals title won in January.**

A month earlier she had experienced a surprise exit at the quarter-final stage of the U.S. Open losing to Germany's Olga Nemes in five games whilst in the EuroAsia Challenge held prior to the Dongtai 5th Women's World Cup she had suffered reverses at the hands of both Mihaela Steff and Tamara Boros. The defeat of reigning champion, Li Ju, in the quarter-finals by the supremely talented Mihaela Steff and the withdrawal of Wang Nan in the group stage, as a result of an ankle injury, meant that the only player carrying the flag of China into the semi-finals was Zhang Yining. Undaunted, she responded to the

occasion beating Steff in straight games before giving North Korea's Kim Hyon Hui a severe lesson in the final to win the title without the loss of a single game.

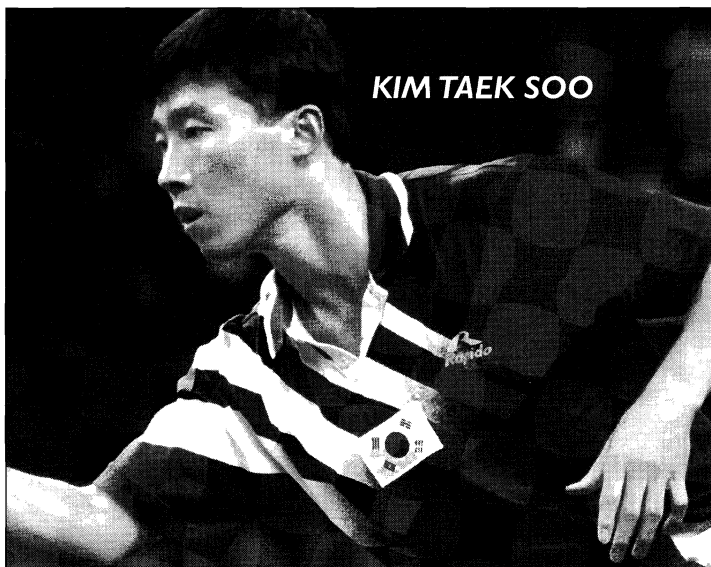
### EUROPE'S CHALLENGE

Romania's talented Mihaela Steff proved to be the most successful European player on duty finishing the tournament in a highly creditable third place. Steff emerged victorious from the group that included her continental colleagues Tamara Boros and Krisztina Toth plus the semi-finalist from the Sydney Olympic Games, Jing Jun Hong. Steff showed her class to beat all three and thus underlined the fact that she is now a player of the highest order, beating Li Ju in four games before losing to the champion elect, Zhang Yining, in straight games.

Third place for the Romanian was gained with victory over the experienced Ni Xia Lian in three hard fought games with Steff demonstrating that she is becoming adept at coping with different styles.

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# JACQUES ROGGE LIKES ATTACKING



KIM TAEK SOO

## KIM GETS HIS TITLE

SEOUL, Korea, 18 September 2001.

THE Korean Kim Taek Soo who has so often been close to triumph, went all the way at the SMK Korea Open.

Kim won the final in Mens singles beating his compatriot Lee Chul Seung.

Though Kim won 4-0, it wasn't a cakewalk. Lee put pressure on him and had his chance, but Lee's game wasn't as brilliant as it was earlier in the tournament.

With the title Kim gets 15,000 US Dollars. Lee (No. 42 on the World Ranking) had to settle with 7500 USD but he can look forward to making a big move on the ranking after beating Kong Linghui (No. 3) and Oh Sang Eun (No. 21).

SMK Korea Open has been a tremendous success for Korean table tennis. In the Mens singles Korea had 5 players in the quarter-finals, in the Womens singles Ryu Ji Hye made it to the final where she lost to Wang Nan of China.

Kim Taek Soo also made it to the semi-final in Mens doubles together with Oh Sang Eun and in the Womens doubles Korea had two pairs in the semi-finals.

Mens doubles winners: Kong Linghui/Liu Guoliang (CHN)  
Womens doubles winners: Li Jia/Gao Xi (CHN)

### 1st WITH THE NEW 11up

SMK Korea Open was the first Pro Tour event where each game went only to 11 points (instead of 21). Apparently it disturbed the favourites. In the early rounds a lot of the top players lost to lower ranked players.

Playing only to 11 the tension is

there all the time. The change in the counting system is the 2nd of 3 big changes in table tennis. The new bigger (and slower) ball came last October to create longer rallies and to make the game easier to follow for spectators.

Now the 11 point games make each and every point more important and on 1st September 2002 the service rule will be changed, so that the server may not be able to hide the ball behind the body or the arm when the ball is struck (this makes it impossible for the receiver to see which kind of spin the server puts on the ball).

With these three changes table tennis is ready for the new century.

## STOP PRESS

Kobe, Japan, 24 September 2001.

The ITTF Pro Tour Japan Open was another Korean success after an excellent Korea Open the previous week. At the Japan Open Korea had players in all 4 finals. One of them was surprisingly the defensive No. 76 on the World Ranking Joo Se Hyuk (KOR) who met Chiang Peng-Lung (TPE) in the Mens singles final. Joo reached the final taking out MA Lin (CHN), Werner Schlager (AUT) and Christophe Legout (FRA) but against Chiang Peng-Lung he was simply run over. Joo only got 4, 3, 7 and 6 points and he was never any threat to Chiang.

Though Ma Lin of China missed out against Joo in the semi final in Mens singles he got his Japanese title in Mens doubles together with the young Wang Hao.

The two Chinese in the final defeated the Korean pair Kim Taek Soo/Oh Sang Eun.

At a meeting on Friday between the IOC President Jacques Rogge and the ITTF President Adham Sharara, the IOC President revealed that he likes to be aggressive at the table tennis table.

"Of course I played table tennis like millions of people did, not competitive but for fun. Actually I played quite a lot and I really enjoyed it, especially as an attacking player," Rogge said.

"The problem was that the more offensive I played the less points I got.

"Having been a player yourself and then later having watched the best players in the World you really learn to have a lot of respect for them. They are great athletes physically and technically and to be at the top you need intelligence at the table. I admire them."

Being a Belgian Mr. Rogge of course has paid special attention to Jean-Michel Saive, former No.1 on the World Ranking and still in the top 10.

Jean-Michel Saive has done a lot for the sport in Belgium and so has Vladimir Samsonov (BLR) and Zoran Primorac (CRO), says the IOC President revealing good knowledge of the Belgian club Charleroi and

its title wins over the last years with the 3 mentioned players.

Asked if he would accept a challenge at the table from the ITTF President Adham Sharara the IOC President says: "I might but then I would only want photos taken while I am serving so that nobody would see how my game is."

Mr. Adham Sharara and the executive director of the ITTF Jordi Serra paid a visit to the IOC to have the opportunity to welcome Jacques Rogge in office and they gifted him the book Table Tennis Legends (by Zdenko Uzorinac) that was issued this year to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the ITTF. Adham Sharara and Jordi Serra also had the opportunity to discuss with Mr. Rogge the future of the Olympic Games in general and table tennis in particular.

Before his election Jacques Rogge had said that he wanted to reduce the size of the Olympics.

"But I have no intention of excluding any athletes or any federations. We want to have a look at all the surroundings for each and every athlete competing at the Olympics, 18 other persons (non athletes) have accreditation. This is what we want to do something about," says Mr. Jacques Rogge.

## ITTF PRO TOUR

FOLLOWING the USA Open tournament Belgium's Jean-Michel Saive leads the Mens Singles with 630.5 points, with World No.1 Wang Liqin of China in second place on 484 points. China's Ma Wenge is in third spot with 456.5.

The Womens list is led by Austria's Liu Jia with 486 points, whilst closely on her heels in second place is China's Guo Yan on 480 and in 3rd is Japan's Umemura Aya with 480.

## WORLD TOP TEN

SEPTEMBER 2001

### MEN

1	(1)	2274	WANG Liqin	CHN
2	(2)	2128	LIU Guozheng	CHN
3	(3)	2090	KONG Linghui	CHN
4	(4)	2084	MA Lin	CHN
5	(5)	2033	CHIANG Peng-Lung	TPE
6	(6)	2022	SAMSONOV Vladimir	BLR
7	(7)	1988	PRIMORAC Zoran	CRO
8	(8)	1974	SCHLAGER Werner	AUT
9	(9)	1968	SAIVE Jean-Michel	BEL
10	(10)	1954	KIM TaekSoo	KOR
58	(58)	1441	SYED Matthew	ENG
121	(122)	1162	HERBERT Gareth	ENG

### WOMEN

1	(1)	2275	WANG Nan	CHN
2	(2)	2142	ZHANG Yining	CHN
3	(3)	2032	LI Ju	CHN
4	(5)	2031	STEFF Mihaela	ROM
5	(5)	1968	BOROS Tamara	CRO
6	(4)	1954	SUN Jin	CHN
7	(7)	1915	CHEN Jing	TPE
8	(8)	1898	YANG Ying	CHN
9	(15)	1885	KIM Hyon Hui	PRK
10	(10)	1873	LI Nan	CHN
155	(161)	1088	LOWER Helen	ENG
160	(164)	1073	DEATON Nicola	ENG

# MATT SYED COACHES IN OKEHAMPTON

**THE South West Premier Club Weekend was held at the new Riverside Table Tennis Centre, on the 15th and 16th September 2001, writes John Wood.**

Matthew Syed was the star of the this weekend, 'Building for the Future', which was designed to benefit Premier Clubs, and was an ideal opportunity to learn new ideas and to network with counterparts across the South West Region.

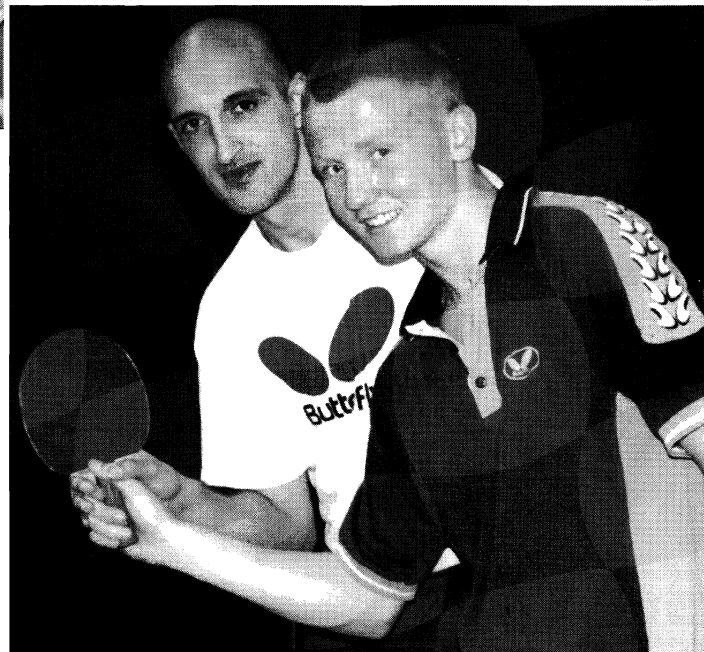
The Riverside Table Tennis Centre, Okehampton, Devon, was officially opened earlier this year.

The network of Premier Clubs in the South West is growing from strength to strength, with many of the clubs securing funding and putting together realistic 'action plans' to enable their continued and accelerated development.

The schedule for the weekend was: Saturday: 'Sponsorship in Sport and Sportsmatch' - a talk by John Coyne MD Hire Association Europe. 'Bat



**Pictured above are players and coaches that attended the Regional Junior and Cadet Training Day on the Sunday. Whilst (right) is England's No. 1 player and ace defender, Matthew Syed, showing Plymouth's up and coming defender, 14 year old Sam Bruty, how to perform the forehand chop.**



Skills' - a demonstration by Pete Austin. 'Sports Psychology' - a

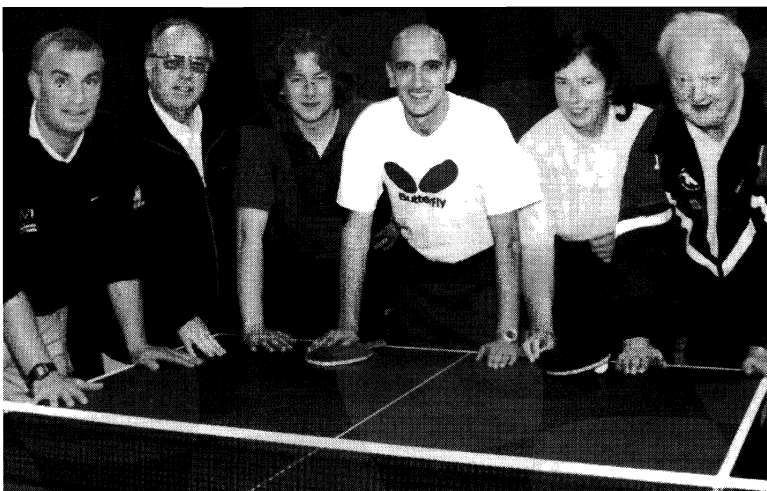
presentation by Ian Munday B.A.N.E.S Sport and Leisure Manager. Followed by a Coaching and Activities session.

Sunday: 'Regional Training Day' - run by Graham Slack as head coach and

**Pictured left are the Organisers of the Weekend with Matthew Syed, whilst below Diccon Gray, the ETTA Director of Development, addresses the Premier Club Action Workshop.**

Matthew Syed as a World Class feeding partner, plus assistance from coaches Andrew Syed (Matthew's brother), John Vincent, Dennis Gibbs, Valerie Clack and Neville Reed, plus 'Mental Training for Table Tennis' by Kate Triscott. 'Premier Club Action Workshop' - run by Diccon Gray, the ETTA Director of Development.

The weekend was rounded off with a joint competition between all delegates.



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# COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS LEAGUE TABLES by Leslie Smith

Final Tables for Season 2000/2001

## SENIORS

PREMIER	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yorkshire	7	6	1	0	54	16	13
Sussex	7	6	0	1	53	17	12
Middlesex	7	4	1	2	46	24	9
Kent	7	4	1	2	39	31	9
Devonshire	7	3	0	4	29	41	6
Surrey	7	2	1	4	32	38	5
Derbyshire	7	1	0	6	12	58	2
Hertfordshire	7	0	0	7	15	55	0

## DIVISION 1A

Leicestershire	7	6	1	0	55	15	13
Lancashire	7	6	1	0	51	19	13
Northumberland	7	3	2	2	37	33	8
South Yorkshire	7	4	0	3	31	39	8
Nottinghamshire	7	2	1	4	37	33	5
Worcestershire	7	1	3	3	32	38	5
Suffolk	7	1	2	4	26	44	4
Norfolk	7	0	0	7	11	59	0

## DIVISION 1B

Essex	7	6	0	1	48	22	12
Glamorgan	7	4	1	2	40	30	9
Middlesex 2nd	7	4	0	3	35	35	8
Wiltshire	7	3	2	2	38	32	8
Berkshire	7	3	1	3	33	37	7
Hampshire	7	2	1	4	26	44	5
Isle of Wight	7	0	3	4	24	46	3
Kent 2nd	7	1	0	6	26	44	2

## DIVISION 2A

Yorkshire 2nd	7	6	1	0	59	11	13
Cleveland	7	5	2	0	45	25	12
Cheshire	7	4	0	3	38	32	8
Warwickshire 1st	7	3	2	2	34	36	8
Leicestershire 2nd	7	3	1	3	33	37	7
Lancashire 2nd	7	2	1	4	27	43	5
Warwickshire 2nd	7	1	0	6	23	47	2
Cumbria	7	0	1	6	21	49	1

## DIVISION 2B

Cornwall 1st	7	7	0	0	58	12	14
Worcestershire 2nds	7	5	1	1	47	23	11
Avon	7	4	0	3	31	39	8
Devonshire 2nd	7	4	0	3	30	40	8
Glamorgan 2nd	7	3	1	3	35	35	7
Somerset	7	1	1	5	28	42	3
Herefordshire	7	1	1	5	20	50	3
Cornwall 2nd	7	1	0	6	31	39	2

## DIVISION 2C

Essex 2nd	7	7	0	0	48	22	14
Bedfordshire	7	3	3	1	39	31	9
Hertfordshire 2nd	7	3	2	2	34	36	8
Lincolnshire	7	3	1	3	37	33	7
Cambridgeshire	7	2	2	3	35	35	7
Northamptonshire	7	2	1	2	35	35	6
Suffolk 2nd	7	2	1	4	34	36	5
Norfolk 2nd	7	0	0	7	18	52	0

## DIVISION 2D

Gloucestershire	6	6	0	0	45	15	12
Sussex 2nd	6	3	2	1	34	26	8
Buckinghamshire	6	3	1	2	37	23	7
Kent 3rd	6	3	0	3	33	27	6
Oxfordshire	6	2	1	3	26	34	5
Surrey 2nd	6	1	2	3	25	35	4
Berkshire 2nd	6	0	0	6	10	50	0

## JUNIORS

### PREMIER DIVISION

Surrey	7	6	1	0	45	25	13
Buckinghamshire	7	4	3	0	45	25	11
Glamorgan	7	4	1	2	40	30	9
Cheshire	7	4	1	2	39	31	9
Yorkshire	7	2	2	3	38	32	6
Warwickshire	7	2	2	3	33	37	6
Kent	7	1	0	6	17	53	2
Middlesex	7	0	0	7	23	47	0

### DIVISION 1A

Essex	7	7	0	0	53	17	14
Lancashire	7	6	0	1	48	22	12
Yorkshire 2nd	7	4	1	2	35	35	9
Nottinghamshire	7	4	0	3	37	33	8
Cumbria	7	2	1	4	34	36	5
South Yorkshire	7	1	2	4	28	42	4
Derbyshire	7	1	1	5	23	47	3
Suffolk	7	0	1	6	22	48	1

### DIVISION 1B

Devonshire	7	7	0	0	59	11	14
Dorset	7	5	1	1	39	31	11
Glamorgan 2nd	7	5	0	2	44	26	10
Buckingham 2nd	7	4	1	2	42	28	9
Berkshire	7	2	1	4	26	44	5
Worcestershire	7	1	2	4	24	46	4

Avon	7	1	1	5	30	40	3
Hampshire	7	0	0	7	16	54	0

## DIVISION 2A

Lincolnshire	7	7	0	0	53	17	14
Cleveland	7	5	0	2	41	29	10
Cheshire 2nd	7	4	0	3	36	34	8
Norfolk	7	4	0	3	35	35	8
Lancashire 2nd	7	3	1	3	30	40	7
Essex 2nd	7	2	0	5	31	39	4
Warwickshire 2nd	7	2	0	5	30	40	4
Huntingdonshire	7	0	1	6	24	46	1

## DIVISION 2B

Gwent	7	6	1	0	56	14	14
Sussex	7	6	0	1	54	16	12
Surrey 2nd	7	4	1	2	32	38	9
Kent 2nd	7	4	0	3	40	30	8
Middlesex 2nd	7	2	3	2	30	40	7
Surrey 3rd	7	2	0	5	29	41	4
Gloucestershire	7	0	2	5	18	52	2
Essex 3rd	7	0	1	6	21	49	1

## DIVISION 3A

Hertfordshire	7	7	0	0	54	16	14
Bedfordshire	7	5	0	2	42	28	10
Suffolk 2	7	5	0	2	42	28	10
Leicestershire	7	4	0	3	39	31	8
Hunt'gd'nshire 2nd	7	4	0	3	32	38	8
Norfolk 2nd	7	2	0	5	29	41	4
Cambridgeshire	7	1	0	6	27	43	2
Bedfordshire 2nd	7	0	0	7	15	55	0

## DIVISION 3B

Lincolnshire 2nd	6	5	1	0	45	15	11
Northamptonshire	6	5	1	0	39	21	11
Nottingham 2nd	6	4	0	2	44	16	8
Durham	6	3	0	3	38	22	6
Nottingham 3rd	6	2	0	4	28	32	4
Conway 1st	6	1	0	5	13	47	2
Sussex 2nd	6	0	0	6	3	57	0

## DIVISION 3C

Shropshire 1st	7	7	0	0	52	18	14
Devonshire 2nd	7	6	0	1	53	17	12
Cornwall 1st	7	4	0	3	46	24	8
Somerset	7	4	0	3	39	31	8
Herefordshire	7	2	1	4	24	46	5
Devonshire 3rd	7	2	0	5	23	47	4
Cornwall 2nd	7	1	1	5	21	49	3
Shropshire 2nd	7	1	0	6	22	48	2

## DIVISION 3D

Oxfordshire	7	7	0	0	58	12	14
Buckingham 3rd	7	6	0	1	54	16	12
Sussex 2nd	7	5	0	2	43	27	10
Wiltshire	7	2	2	3	31	39	6
Gwent 2nd	7	2	1	4	27	43	5
Kent 3rd	7	2	0	5	19	51	4
Northampton 2nd	7	1	1	5	27	43	3
Sussex 3rd	7	1	0	6	21	49	2

## VETERANS

PREMIER	P	W	L	F	A	Pts	
Kent	7	7	0	0	48	15	14
Essex	7	6	1	0	42	21	12
Surrey	7	5	2	0	39	24	10
Dorset	7	4	3	0	35	28	8
Cheshire	7	3	4	0	37	26	6
Lancashire	7	2	5	0	26	37	4
Middlesex	7	1	6	0	12	51	2
Leicestershire	7	0	7	0	13	50	0

## DIVISION 1A

Yorkshire 1st	7	6	1	0	44	19	12
Durham	7	5	2	0	36	27	10
Hertfordshire	7	5	2	0	32	31	10
Yorkshire 2nd	7	4	3	0	34	29	8
Northumberland	7	3	4	0	33	30	6
Oxfordshire	7	2	5	0	27	36	4
Norfolk	7	2	5	0	25	38	4
Cheshire 2nd	7	1	6	0	21	42	2

## DIVISION 1B

Sussex	7	6	1	0	38	25	12
Surrey 2nd	7	5	2	0	37	26	10
Kent 2nd	7	5	2	0	35	28	10
Avon	7	4	3	0	37	26	8
Hampshire	7	3	4	0	32	31	6
Hertfordshire 2nd	7	3	4	0	30	33	6
Berkshire	7	1	6	0	27	36	2
Wiltshire	7	1	6	0	16	47	2

## DIVISION 2A

Cambridgeshire	7	6	1	0	37	26	12
Warwickshire 1st	7	5	2	0	44	19	10
Lancashire 2nd	7	5	2	0	43	20	10
Bedfordshire	7	5	2	0	38	25	10
Essex 2nd	7	3	4	0	29	34	6
Yorkshire 3rd	7	3	4	0	27	36	6
Essex 3rd	7	1	6	0	18	45	2

Norfolk 2nd	7	0	7	0	16	47	0
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## DIVISION 2B

Buckinghamshire	7	7	0	0	47	16	14
Somerset	7	5	2	0	42	21	10
Dorset 2nd	7	4	3	0	36	27	8
Worcestershire 1st	7	4	3	0	36	27	8
Kent 4th	7	3	4	0	28	35	6
Kent 3rd	7	3	4	0	24	39	6
Devonshire	7	2	5	0	27	36	4
Worcestershire 2nd	7	0	7	0	12	51	0

## DIVISION 3A

Nottinghamshire	7	7	0	0	43	20	14
Cheshire 3rd	7	5	2	0	41	22	10
South Yorkshire	7	5	2	0	38	25	10
Staffordshire	7	4	3	0	33	30	8
Leicestershire 2nd	7	4	3	0	31	32	8
Yorkshire 4th	7	2	5	0	29	34	4
Northamptonshire	7	1	6</				

**THE new Cameo Combination blade makes its debut for this season, writes John Wood.**

It's unusual shape has been improved, as can be seen on the photograph (right). It's unique shape, first introduced for the 1999/2000 season, has been streamlined thus enhancing its balance and feel good factor.

Unlike previous Cameo Blades which are fast, allround or defensive, this one is aimed at the allround combination bat player.

The forehand side is the faster with a speed of 6 out of 10, whilst the backhand has a speed of 3.

The shape - following testing conducted in Sweden by Roden Fuller, the blade has been increased along the bottom edge and the radius at the top made larger, thus making the playing area larger.

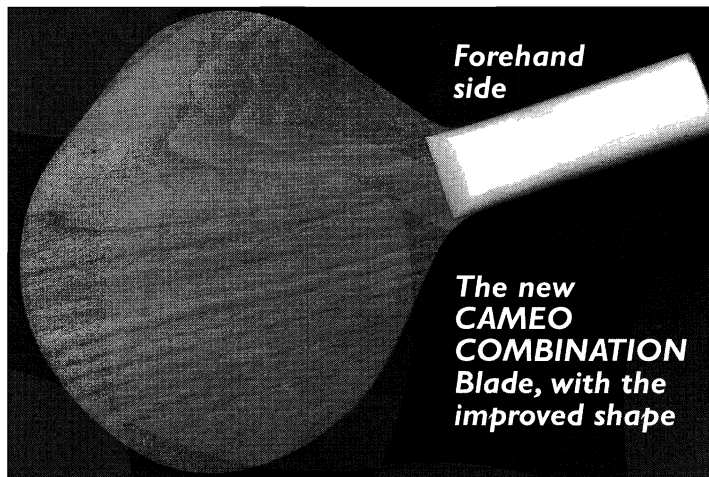
The handle - the single balsa side is a little fatter adding to the comfort, and has been cut square at the bottom, making twiddling easier.

The combination laminates - different woods have been used for both sides of the construction, and as with all Cameo blades there are two layers of varnish on each side.

The combination laminates - different woods have been used for both sides of the construction, and as with all Cameo blades there are two layers of varnish on each side.

The result was quite stunning with superb control and tremendous effect with float and wobble on the slower back hand, and control and speed on the forehand. I was able to

# CAMEO COMBINATION



set the ball up using my backhand and flat kill with the forehand. And the speed of the forehand was, for me, very fast, and easier to use than the previous design.

Further information can be obtained from Mark Bellamy, telephone: 01379 854604, or on the internet: mark@yltonline.co.uk

## Dr. NEUBAUER STRATEGY BLADE

THIS new blade from Hallmark, which is now available through most mail order table tennis companys, is a well balanced blade and feels good in the hand, and has a speed of 4 both sides .

It has been tested with three different rubber combinations, firstly

with the same rubbers as the previous test on on the Cameo Blade, which resulted in a very interesting bat which was very easy to play with. The backhand using the Dr. Neubauer Super Defence Ox gave brilliant control and effect, it gave more control on the forehand, but with less speed and penetration, but still an extremely effective tool against topspin.

Secondly I used the same blade with the same backhand, but I changed the forehand to 1.5mm Donic Anti spin A40, which has been especially designed to play with the new 40mm ball. (There is also a defensive version D40)

The effect of using these two rubbers together was amazing, with the Donic Anti having as much

awkwardness as the Dr. Neubauer Defence, but with subtle difference.

The Anti played with slow control but when required to attack, the ball whizzed with speed and dip. These two rubbers compliment one another and are a very interesting combination indeed.

## DONIC SLICE 40 & ANTI A40

THE third test was conducted by Cornwall's Chairman and County Coach, Bob House, using the new Donic Slice 40 1.2mm rubber and Donic Anti A40 1.5mm on the other. Bob's choice of blade for this coming season is Hallmark's Dr. Neubauer Strategy, so he tested out these two new rubbers on this blade.

The Donic Slice 40 is much quicker than a 'normal' defensive type rubber and could almost be compared to Vario and F5 Blues of the same thickness (1.2mm). Develops spin and chop with very little effort, and is probably more suited to the player who is not 'wristy' and who plays longer and more deliberate strokes.

It is very good for control with good touch when you are close to the table, and is excellent to block with. Very good also away from the table for counter attacking driven balls or looped balls, with enough speed to win the point, or put your opponent under pressure, with the speed of the return.

On first impressions it is a rubber more for the aggressive defender/allrounder, than an out and out defender, unless a very slow blade was used to get the full benefit of the spin this rubber produces.

It is at least a rubber for the defensive orientated player, rather than the out and out speed merchants with speed glue, whose rubbers have advanced out of all comparison, when compared with other playing styles.

## DONIC TWISTER 40

THIS new rubber, Donic Twister 40 was also tested out, and in my opinion, is not for the traditional defender, but would suit the allrounder/blocker, who relies on their backhand for control and opening up the game for a forehand kill. Very good for blocking, attacking and a deceptive amount of topspin can be achieved.

An option for the player who wishes to try something different to combat the big ball and gain a lot of variation with control. Players who are 'punchy' with their shots will be able to use this rubber with good effect.

# NORTH HERTS 2nd GRAND PRIX EVENT

**LAST SEASON saw North Herts (Ashe Construction Ltd) Band 2 Star Open Tournament, run their second 'Satellite' Grand Prix tournament at the Hitchin Boys School Sport Centre, in Hertfordshire, thus establishing themselves on the 'Satellite' Grand Prix circuit.**

This year's tournament was even more successful than the first one, running more events so that local players could enter several events, encouraging them to participate, as many of them had no ranking.

Some of the top players in the country were at Hitchin Boys' School for a this prestigious tournament, trying to get Grand Prix points for the national finals at Potters Leisure Resort, Hopton-on-Sea, at the end of last season. It was one of 15 nationwide Grand Prix events.

Significant victories were achieved by Letchworth's Lindsey Dare, ranked 137, who beat Sandra Harper, 100 places higher in the national rankings, to take the Womens veterans title, -9, 9, 10, 10.

Mark Purcell (Bucks) claimed some noble scalps on the way to the Mens singles final, beating two players many places above him in the English ranking list.



**JOHN JERMYN is pictured with some of the winners (l.to.r) MARK CRUSE-JUNGLING, LINDSEY DARE, SANDRA HARPER, MICK HARPER and JAMES DANCE**

Lindsey Dare's husband, Mark, won the Men's open singles, overcoming Purcell in the final 12, 8, 8.

This was outstanding as he has just started playing again and it was his first tournament for a number of years.

Sussex's Sara Coggan beat Bedfordshire's Val Murdoch in the Womens singles final 9, 6, 9.

The Mens Veteran final was won by Cambridgeshire's Mick Harper when he beat Trevor Campbell of Essex 3, 5-14, 9.

Organisers would like to thank referees John and Di Jermyn, Gerald Hammond and Peter Thulman.



# BRYAN MERRETT

## AN INDOMITABLE COMPETITOR

**FOLLOWING on from the obituary notice for Bryan Merrett in the September issue, TTN has received the following appreciation from Ron Crayden.**

### THE EMERGENCE OF A CHAMPION

BRYAN was born and raised in the county of Gloucestershire in the 1930's and became an unassuming grammar schoolboy with a passion for table tennis. At the tender age of 14 he happened to see a competitive match between two local teams and, there and then, he decided that this was a sport at which he might excel - needless to say, excel he did. In two years he emerged as Junior champion and one of England's brightest post-war prospects. In January 1952, he achieved a unique honour by being selected to play for England in two international matches, one Junior and one Senior, within the space of nine days. He impressed with a display of natural ability and total commitment.

To many, Bryan was looked upon as a useful defensive player but he was far more than that. He had a vicious chop on both wings and carefully placed the ball so as to maintain directional control and slow down his opponent. When this was achieved he was able to unleash devastating counter hits. These tactics made him an effective specialist at the time limit games. As a person he was quiet, unassuming and reserved individual, prepared to give his all for his team and country. I was privileged to be his Captain for several years and in major International matches he was an indomitable competitor. He raised the profile of table tennis by an amazing single-mindedness and actually scored victories over such great players E.Scholer and C.Freundorfer of Germany, G.Amouretti, M.Haguenauer, M.Lanskoy, and R.Roothoft of France, L.Foldi and J.Somogyi of Hungary, and I.Harrison and A.Simons of England.

I can remember talking with Bryan about the strokes needed to make a champion and asked what decided him to become essentially defensive. He replied, "First and foremost the most important ingredient has to be ball control and this can only be obtained by hours of practice." He qualified this by stating, "To be a



**BRYAN MERRETT (far right) congratulates an emotional Jill Hammersley on winning the European Womens Singles Gold Medal in Prague, in April 1976.**

team member of his club you had to be able to keep a rally going for at least 15 minutes without making a mistake. Fumbling impotence was looked upon as the gateway to defeat."

This remark reminded me strongly of a three-a-side Mens International match we played against Germany in Ludwigshaven, on our way to the European Championships in April 1960. From every viewpoint this was a fantastic match that lasted for approximately five hours with moments of boredom, excitement and tense drama. I put Bryan Merrett on first against Germany's arch defender D.Kohler and an astonishing time-limit duel ensued. To my knowledge and indeed possibly for the first time ever, this individual match was registered as a draw when time was called. The score in the third and final game was actually 0-0. Neither player made a single attacking stroke and yet they were mentally exhausted at the finish. Never could Bryan's iron will and unshakeable temperament have undergone a greater ordeal. It must be pointed out that both players gave their all and believed implicitly that defeat was something that happened elsewhere.

### PROUD MOMENTS

THE first English 'Closed' Championships were inaugurated in January 1960, and Bryan Merrett had the distinction of becoming the first home-born Mens Singles Champion when he upset the National Rankings by beating his colleague Ian Harrison in the final. In 1961 the World Championships were held in Peking,

China, and Bryan with some 50 international appearances behind him was an automatic selection. Playing in these championships was a wonderful experience and Bryan was rather unfortunate in that he fell in an early match and sustained a direct hernia. I was extremely lucky to get a truss for him and typical of his stoicism and resolution he pluckily played on and surmounted the handicap by getting some excellent results.

When his playing ability began to diminish his involvement with the sport still remained strong and he turned his attention to coaching. It was in the 1970's that he became National Coach and then, perhaps the most exacting of his contributions, he had the honour of being the non-playing Captain of England.

Those of us who knew Bryan will remember him as a player and a man who was unselfish, modest, quietly efficient, undaunted, and one who gave his all to the sport he loved. He will be sadly missed.

### STAN ROPER

**MAIDENHEAD'S 'Mr Table Tennis' has died, aged 80.**

Stan Roper was a founding member of the Maidenhead and District Table Tennis League, which he started in 1947, and was feared for his mighty backhand.

He was an active member of the committee until his retirement in 1998 when he was elected a life member - the only person of the association to achieve this distinction.

Mr Roper's niece, Mrs Diana Walker, said he was an active man who loved people and was never one to miss a good party.

"We had just been to a wedding and he was grumbling right up until he died because he hadn't been able to get to it," she said.

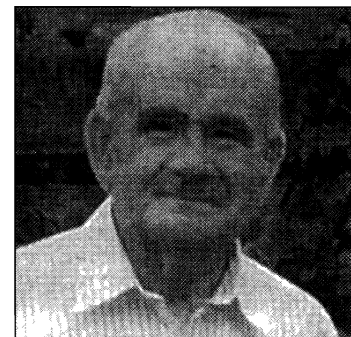
"One thing he'll be upset about is looking down on us as we're having a party and not being able to be there."

Mrs Walker's husband, Harold, said Mr Roper was a man of many interests.

"One of his main interests was astronomy. But he was also into cricket and used to play when he was younger," he said.

"He was a member of North Maidenhead Cricket Club for over 40 years and he not only played for them but he took on most of the official functions and no doubt did his turn behind the bar. But perhaps table tennis was his pride and joy."

The president of Maidenhead and



**DEATH OF A LEGEND 'Mr Table Tennis', Stan Roper**

District Table Tennis League, Barry Adkins, said Mr Roper would be sadly missed by many people.

"The death this week of Stan Roper is a great loss to local table tennis," he said.

"It is due to Stan's unflinching enthusiasm that the Altwood School Table Tennis Club which he founded, has produced many local league players over the years, some of whom have gone on to county and national fame."

Mr Roper never married but was a devoted family man and was never alone throughout his full life. His life was said to have been characterised by a line from the film Goodbye Mr Chips.

"There's a line in the film where the teacher, Mr Chips, says towards the end of his life: 'I have no children, yet I have hundreds of them, all boys'," Mr Walker said.

"Stan was like that. He had no children of his own but through his involvement in sports he had hundreds."

Isabel Walker (Great Niece)



# BOY WITH THE GOLDEN ARM

**IT is difficult to say what it is about a sportsman that tells us that they were rollover jackpot winners in the genetic lottery. But we know it when we see it. We routinely describe the likes of Glen Hoddle and Ronnie O'Sullivan as sporting geniuses, when we would not dream of applying that abel to other athletes who might have attained equal if not greater heights in the sporting arena, writes Matthew Syed.**

But what it is, Hung Kei Li, who celebrated his 10th birthday in June, has it. I first met him at the national table tennis training centre in Nottingham in February and was informed that he had recently arrived from Hong Kong and was training with our national youth team. Yet unlike the stocking-filler plastic toys I used to get for Christmas, this miniature package from Hong Kong is the genuine article.

Li (as he has come to be known, despite it being his surname) has a perfectly round face that breaks into a huge grin whenever he comes wtilin looping distance of a table tennis table. As soon as I watched him strike the ball I could discern, as clearly as if there had been a membership badge pinned to his shirt, that he was part of the exclusive inner circle of the megatalented.

Although barely able to see over he net, his rhythmic stroke-making and swift footwork convey the impression that he was ordained to play in the celestial book of ping-pong; that nature had created him for the express purpose of whacking around a small, white, celluloid sphere. The magnitude of his ability was proved beyond any doubt when, after a few weeks of observation, I decided to have a hit with him myself.

During a drinks break I called him over to my habitual corner table. Where the central barriers are moved back to cope with the spatial demands of my defensive style. I noticed (as, no doubt, as Li did too) that both the youth and senior teams, plus coaches, were gravitating towards us, lured by the prospect of watching the child prodigy cope with the alien proposition of my unusual chopping technique.

He sent in a serve. I replied with a



sliced backhand, but as I retreated the youngster feinted before performing an audacious and perfectly weighted drop shot. I heard gasps, followed by suppressed giggles, as I gaped at him, incredulous, while stranded at the back of the court.

The stroke oozed insolence and yet one could not feel anger. Li knew that the purpose of the exercise had been for him to attempt a top-spin, top-spinning a heavily backspun ball is the acid test of ping-ponging virility. But his sole concern had been to win the rally and, faced with a quantity of spin that he had never before encountered, he instinctively selected finesse over machismo.

But the best was still to come. Li was instructed to play a top-spin. I sent the ball fizzing towards him and then watched, intrigued, as his tiny frame shaped up to respond. Surely he would not be able to "lift it"? His slender legs started to bend and the bat angle opened up as he dropped his wrist. You could almost hear his youthful brain computing the intricate adjustments.

As he caressed the ball over the net with perfect timing, a feat many a muscle-bound adult could not have performed using all their might, I grasped at least a component of what

constitutes sporting genius: namely a repudiation of superfluous complexity, an intuitive economising of effort. But as if fate was trying to demonstrate its sense of balance, the route that Li had to take from Hong Kong to Nottingham was neither simple nor effortless.

He had been introduced to the game by his father, Tat Hoi, and even in the fertile table tennis pastures of the Far East, Li stood out immediately, coming third in a nationwide under-10 competition in China at the age of 7. But, because of his fathers desire to retain control of his son's career, the Hong Kong governing body started to bypass Li for selection. In broken English, Tat Hoi described how, in a state of desperation, he had surfed the Internet to find the e-mail address of the English Table Tennis Association's Performance Director to request an opportunity to bring Li over for a trial.

With no response forthcoming, they took the extraordinary step of flying to London "blind". After taking a train to Nottingham they arrived at the national training centre unannounced after an hour long walk—since neither of them spoke English, an uncomprehending taxi-driver had dropped them off a mile

and a half away.

After a surreal discourse, primarily composed of impassioned and improvised sign language, a bemused coaching staff agreed to assess the youngster. It didn't take long—Li was invited to join the training sessions. Father and son took a small room in a cheap hotel in order to begin the process of integration.

That was in late October last year. Now Li speaks fluent English and is attending a local school, Tat Hoi is planning to start a business and mother and daughter have flown over to join them in the accommodation they rent in a suburb adjacent to the training centre — a family united in its determination to see Li's talent fulfilled. An application for leave to remain has been filed with the Home Office and the family has been advised that Li's possession of a British national overseas passport should be enough to satisfy the International Table Tennis Federation regulations on eligibility. It could be a matter of weeks before he makes his debut for England.

After a decade in which English table tennis has searched in vain for a player with world-class potential, it is ironic that Li's arrival should coincide with the emergence of the three best young prospects we have seen in this country since Desmond Douglas.

Darius Knight, from London, Paul Drinkhall, from Middlesbrough, and, in particular, Gavin Evans, 8, from Bracknell, will provide the young maestro from Hong Kong with vigorous domestic competition. As a squad, they have the potential to conquer Europe. Li, however, remains the undisputed front-runner. Asked his ultimate ambition, he replied simply and without hesitation: "I want to be the best player in the world."

The brevity of the response did little justice to the sacrifices and setbacks that will inevitably impede that long and often lonely road to stardom. But no one who has witnessed the boy's talent would deny that the journey that started in Hong Kong might one day culminate at the top of a small, three tiered podium, emblazoned with the motif of five interconnecting rings.

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# MEMORIES of 2000/01

THESE THREE PHOTOGRAPHIC STORIES BRING MEMORIES OF THE PAST SEASON, INDICATING THE WIDE VARIETY OF INTERESTING ACTIVITIES THAT TABLE TENNIS PLAYERS PURSUE OFF THE TABLE.



Picture: Doug Marke

**MATTHEW SYED** spent part of his summer holidays campaigning for the Labour Party, in June, for the seat of Wokingham, standing against the successful candidate, John Redwood, the sitting M.P. for the Conservative Party.

Matthew is pictured above while assisting the candidate for the Reading East constituency of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

## WEDDING BELLS

**LAST** year two popular table tennis players, Claire Armitage and Jason Tendler, tied the knot.

The happy couple were married at the Great Fosters Hotel in Egham, Surrey. They met 6 years ago on a

Barclays Bank tour to Jersey and Guernsey.

Last year together they won the the Barclays Bank UK Championships, with Jason winning the Mens Singles title for the first time.

Claire has been a member of the Ashford (Middlesex) Table Tennis Club for the past 22 years, whilst Jason was a member of Fellows Cranleigh (East London) for 19 years, before joining Ashford TTC.

This season Jason is playing for Guildford in the British League.



Picture: David Pincott

**Former England International table tennis star MANDY SAINSBURY** is pictured above re-enacting that famous tennis pose, for The Echchinswell Village Calendar 2001.

The idea for the calendar grew out of a desperate need to raise funds for the Village Hall, which was in danger of closing.

So the ladies of Ecchinswell decided to offer a helping hand. Mandy is Miss July.

# CALENDAR

## OCTOBER

6th	Chesham High School Junior Graded 2 Star	Chesham, Bucks.
6th-7th	Stiga Blackpool Cadet/Junior 4 Star	
6th-7th	VETTS Midland Masters	Wolverhampton
7th	British League (3) Premier Division	
9th	European League England Men vs Spain	Halifax
13th	National Council	
13th	National Junior League (1)	
13th-14th	Sussex Open Butterfly Grand Prix	Hastings
13th-14th	Junior British League (1)	
14th	Grove Veterans 4 Star	
18th-21st	ITTF Pro Tour German Open	Bayreuth
20th	County Championships (2) Cadet, Junior, Senior & Veterans	
21st	British League (4) Premier Division	
21st	National Cadet League (1)	
21st	Chesham High School Junior Graded 2 Star	
25th-28th	ITTF Pro Tour French Open	
27th	Cippenham Senior 2 Star	
27th-28th	East Midland Cadet/Junior 2 Star	
27th-28th	Veterans Premier Weekend (1)	
28th	Grove Graded Senior 2 Star	
31st	European League England Women vs Poland	

## NOVEMBER

2nd-4th	Cadet Open Championships	Bratislava
3rd	County Championships (3) Cadet, Junior, Senior, Veteran	
3rd-4th	Junior Premier Weekend (1)	Cippenham
4th	British League (5) Premier Division	
4th	Stiga (Hyndburn) GP 3 Star	
8th-11th	Mens World Cup	
10th	Chandlers Cadet/Junior 1 Star	
10th-11th	Newcastle Open Butterfly Grand Prix	
10th-11th	South of England Cadet/Junior 3 Star	
11th	Grove Cadet 4 Star	
17th	Chesham High School Graded 2 Star	
17th-18th	Stockton-on-Tees Cadet/Junior 4 Star Select	
17th-18th	Schildkrot Veterans British League	

## TABLE TENNIS NEWS COPY DATES

ISSUE	COPY DATES
SEPTEMBER 2001	1st AUGUST 2001
OCTOBER 2001	1st SEPTEMBER 2001
NOVEMBER 2001	1st OCTOBER 2001
DECEMBER 2001	1st NOVEMBER 2001
JAN./FEB.2002	1st JANUARY 2002
MARCH 2002	1st FEBRUARY 2002
APRIL 2002	1st MARCH 2002
MAY/JUNE 2002	1st MAY 2002

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