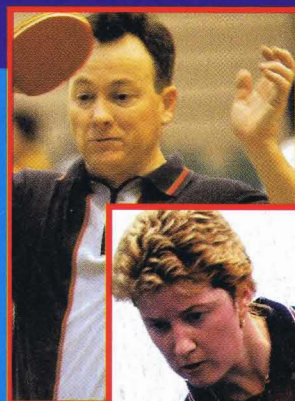


# TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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No.292

APRIL 2003



ALAN COOKE &  
ANDREA HOLT  
NEW NATIONAL  
CHAMPIONS  
PAGES 12 to 16

**PROGRESS**  
**5 IN A ROW**  
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**WORLD No.1  
TIMO BOLL  
LEADS CHALLENGE AT  
GLITTERING NEW BBC EVENT  
AT THE CRUCIBLE  
9th AUGUST** Page 10



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## TABLE TENNIS NEWS & TTN EXTRA

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**FRONT COVER MAIN PHOTOGRAPH**  
**TIMO BOLL**  
picture by kind permission of Table Tennis Illustrated

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

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

# ALAN DINES OUT ON A DOUBLE AWARD

**WINNER of the Wokingham and Bracknell Times Award for Service to Sport and the Community at the Wokingham District Sports Council awards ceremony. Alan Dines of OLOP IMPACT coaching received the Reading Sports Council Coach Loyalty Award in recognition of his 50 years of service to table tennis.**

Alan still plays table tennis at the highest level in the local leagues and is head coach at the Our Lady of Peace Table Tennis Club in Earley, where cadet and junior coaching takes place every Sunday from 10am until noon.

For more details on how to get involved, call John Cunningham on (0118) 966 5907.

Pictured above right: Alan Dines (centre) receives his award from Reading Evening Post sports editor Dave Wright and Russian minister for sport Lyusja Kuzmina.

Alan was the instigator of I.M.P.A.C.T. (the Institute of Match Play and Coaching Techniques) who in the mid 1970's organised under 14 team competitions at Reading with strong representation from all over the country. The photograph (right), published in Table Tennis News, October 1974, shows the promotion agreement being signed by Ted Dexter (seated), the former England cricket captain, with Gavin Gordon (left), both directors of the competition sponsors Starmaster Sports Limited, and Alan Dines (right), I.M.P.A.C.T. Executive Technical Director.



## AYLESBURY CALLING

The Aylesbury League Committee who were delighted to see a reference to their 75th anniversary

season in Table Tennis News Extra for November, will be running a Reunion Evening for past and present players of the League to reminisce with team mates and opponents alike. It is to be held at the Aylesbury Sports Club in Wendover Road on Friday April 25th.

'Familiar faces' are also welcome at the Annual Supper Quiz to be held in Haddenham on Saturday evening 10th May

Details will be posted on the League website: <http://www.adttl.clubtt.co.uk> or you can contact Brian Whitehead for further information on 01442 822 226..

## All TT Players with a Disability

Please accept my sincerest apologies. I mistakenly forgot to delete a

## WOODY'S World

CONGRATULATIONS to our two new National Champions, Alan Cooke and Andrea Holt, who have both won the title for the fourth time, see pages 12 to 16.

This issue's cover story is the fantastic news of a glittering BBC event at The Crucible in Sheffield, on 9th August, see Matthew Syed's report on page 10.

'Grass Roots' this edition tells the story of three men who had a dream come true.

These three men now run the highly successful Mursley, Swanbourne & Little Horwood TT Club, see page 25.

*John Wood*

sentence from my letter to players regarding the BTTAD Nationals this year, at Grantham 31st May-1st June.

The cost of the entry fee to the National Championships is £20. The BTTAD membership subscription is NOT INCLUDED in this fee and can either be paid in addition to the entry fee or at some future date prior to the start of the tournament.

For some reason, I forgot to delete the last sentence on the section involving entry and as a result the letter is misleading. The BTTAD could not afford to run the tournament if the entry fee was £20 and this included membership. The National Committee had decided that the National Championships entry fee was not an ideal way to collect membership fees.

I realise that the entry fee has increased from last year but as yet our entry fees are the only form of financial funding that we have to cover the costs of the championships - eg, the main being the hire of venue, cost of medals, accommodation costs and travelling expenses for the umpires and officials who run the tournament. Last year, the tournament cost in excess of £2500. This year, I am operating on a much lower budget and with the intention of maintaining the high standards set over previous years. The BTTAD National Committee felt that it was essential that the entry fee was increased to cover costs.

I regret the inconvenience and confusion that I have caused and apologise for my mistake.

*Best wishes.*

*Peter Taylor,*

*Vice-Chairman BTTAD*

## PLEASE NOTE

THE NEW ADDRESS & TELEPHONE NUMBER OF JOHN WOOD

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mobile & email remain the same

# RICHARD CABORN THE MINISTER OF SPORT AT SHEFFIELD



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

**RICHARD CABORN, THE Minister of Sport, was one of our principal guests together with Councillor Marjorie Barker, the Mayor of Sheffield, for the finals of the National Championships which took place at the Ponds Forge International Centre in Sheffield on 2nd March, supported by Sheffield City Council.**

The Minister witnessed an excellent contest in the Men's Singles final in which Alan Cooke used all his experience to narrowly defeat the holder, Andrew Baggaley in the deciding game. The match itself was a "classic" enjoyed by the entire capacity crowd at the excellent Ponds Forge setting. Mr. Caborn was thrilled by the match and went away firm in his belief of how good table tennis can be from a spectator perspective. The Women's final was also an interesting match in which the defensive skills of Andrea Holt were too strong for Helen Lower.

The National Championships took



**RICHARD CABORN MP, The minister of Sport, is welcomed to the National Championships at The Ponds Forge International Centre in Sheffield by ETTA Chairman ALAN RANSOME**

on a different format for 2003, the event being extended to three days which allowed a far better presentation, particularly on the middle day where only 12 tables

were used rather than 18. Overall this gave a much better impression of the sport and its National Championships.

The presence of the Minister of

Sport for an extended period gave me the opportunity of a very useful discussion with him on the future direction of British sport. There is no doubt that the policies and programmes currently promoted by the ETTA are in tune with those of the Government, and in particular with regard to facilities and development programmes. The Government is making a major investment in specialist sports colleges and where we are able to persuade the colleges to feature table tennis as one of their focus sports, the benefits to the sport in the locality can be significant. Mr. Caborn told me that currently the Government has approved in the region of 200 specialist sports colleges so far and this figure will expand to 400 over the next two to three years.

Many of our leagues and clubs throughout the country are suffering through the lack of facilities and recruitment and this programme can help to solve both problems. There are already several examples throughout the country of specialist sports colleges adopting table tennis. One of the first was Oakbank in Keighley where Hans Soova and Sally Shutt are involved with a very wide table tennis programme. Another is



**ALAN  
COOKE**

## TABLE TENNIS ON TV World Championships in Paris

The provisional times of the coverage are as follows:

21 May	4.30 - 6.00 pm
22 May	1.30 - 2.15 pm and 4.30 - 5.15 pm and 5.15 - 6.00 pm
23 May	4.30 - 6.00 pm
24 May	5.30 - 7.00 pm
25 May	4.30 - 5.30 pm



## FROM THE CHAIR - 2

in Northolt in Middlesex where Jason Sugrue and the Progress Club are closely involved. On Tyneside the specialist sports college in Ashington is linked with the Cramlington Club and have employed Michael Marsden as a full time coach. Others with significant input into table tennis are located at Wood Green in Walsall, Angley in Kent, Barking Abbey in London, Failsforth in Oldham, Langdon in London and Oldfield Girls School in Bath.

Possibly the best example is the Northfield specialist sports college in Stockton who have Steve Burge as one of the teaching staff and Jane Durham as a full time coach. The programme at Northfield is divided into four sections: Firstly, table tennis on the curriculum for the whole school where 1,000 youngsters play table tennis within curriculum time. Between 25 and 30 hours of curriculum time is allocated to the sport each week.

The second feature is the so called "outreach" work where seven primary schools in Billingham which are feeder schools to Northfield College have the benefit of a weekly visit for two hours from Jane Durham. The third element is the after school club which operates five nights a week between 3.30 and 5.00 pm and is targeted primarily at the 11 - 14 year olds. Also included in the after school club is a session for the primary school youngsters on Mondays and Tuesdays and for an elite squad on Thursdays.

The local league, Stockton & District, has been able to benefit very significantly from the college and currently 22 out of the 24 teams that participate in the league use the college for their home fixtures. The college itself has its own club and the main club in Stockton, Kiora, have moved from their premises in North Stockton into the school following the loss of their facility.

Altogether the college has 17 tables across three halls and, therefore, are able to accommodate the league matches, practice and coaching each night of the week. The college also host many table tennis events at weekends, including the Northern Region cadet and Junior National Leagues, County trials, local and County closed tournaments, English Schools events, Regional Training days and joint sessions with the Ormesby Club which operates in Middlesbrough across the other side of the River Tees. The charges levied by the college to the club are extremely generous and, therefore, almost all income generated can be put back into the club and into the sport.

Richard Caborn is strongly in favour of further development along the specialist sports college route with the provision of specialist facilities effectively making the colleges the centre of sporting activity, not just for the school, but also for the community. Another important point with regard to the colleges is that their attitude towards partnership with sports clubs is completely different to that of schools in the past in that to receive a renewal and therefore funding to continue as a specialist college, the school have to demonstrate that they are involving the community in their activities, so that the link between the Northfield school, the Stockton League, the Kiora and Ormesby clubs are a very good example of this. It clearly helps table tennis in Stockton to flourish and at the same time it helped Northfield with its application for further funding and an extension of its specialist sports college status.

Specialist sports colleges are likely to be established in the vast majority of areas throughout the country within the next two years if they are not already in place, and where table tennis can demonstrate that it can be an active and worthwhile partner, the benefits to the sport in terms of providing facilities for the current activity as well as the introduction of new players is obvious.

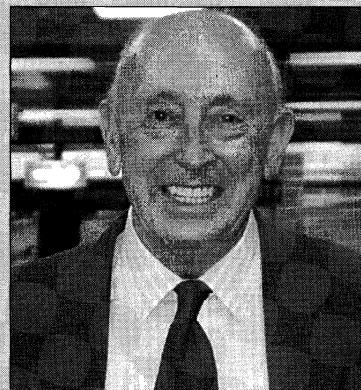
The ETTA Development Department work very closely with the Youth Sport Trust who have delegated responsibility from the Department of Educational Skills to develop the programme. We obtain advance information on schools that are being considered for specialist sports college status, which enables us to arrange an approach to these schools to include table tennis in their plans.

This approach needs to be in co-operation with, and with the full involvement of, the local league in the area and our premier clubs. These approaches however can only really be beneficial where there are local table tennis volunteers who are ready to support the initiative and work together with the specialist sport colleges on a plan that can develop the sport both in the college and the community. The ETTA Premier Clubs Programme links extremely well with the specialist sports colleges and, in the eyes of the Youth Sport Trust and Sport England, provide a creditable and ready-made sports development plan that links the community to the sports college philosophy.

*Alan Ransome, O.B.E.  
ETTA Chairman*

# OBITUARY

## ARTHUR E. UPTON



IT is with great sadness that I have to report the death of Arthur E. Upton in the early hours of 26th February 2003. Arthur died in a local hospital as a result of a severe heart attack after a long period of poor health and leaves behind his devoted wife "Lil". His record of achievement in the area of Table Tennis administration is momentous and unlikely to ever be surpassed, a list of his main areas of contribution reads as follows: Played in the Liverpool & District Table Tennis League 1945 to 1969 before suffering a massive heart attack, which brought to an end his playing career. Chairman Liverpool & D.T.T.L. 1958 to 1998. Member Lancashire T.T.A. Executive Committee 1962 to 1964.

Chairman Lancashire County T.T.A. 1964 to 2000  
Chairman Lancashire & Cheshire T.T.L. 1964 to 2000  
E.T.T.A. Disciplinary Committee Chairman 1968 to 2000  
National Councillor for Lancashire from 1968 to 2000.  
Member of E.T.T.A. Management Committee 1973 to 1978.

E.T.T.A. Vice President from 1978 to 1981.  
E.T.T.A. Honorary Life Member 1981 to 2003.  
President Liverpool League 1992 to 2003. Stamp Award of Merit (L&DTTL) 1969

L&DTTL Honorary life member 1997 to 2003.  
Awarded Life Membership Lancashire T.T.A. 2003.

As a result of his lifetime of service to the sport Arthur was universally accepted as the person to consult if there was a problem to solve or if advice was needed, his attention to detail was legendary, as many an unwary minutes secretary will testify. I can do little better in summing up the man than to quote from a Scroll of Honour that was presented to Arthur in May 1998 when he retired as Chairman of Liverpool League, after a period of forty years in that office:

"To recognise his dedicated service for more than 50 years, first as a player and following as an administrator in local league, adding leadership of the County Association and later encompassing thirty years of unstinting commitment at the national level.

Over this period of time Arthur has endeared himself to all those with whom he has associated and he commands the utmost respect for his deep knowledge and understanding of the principles behind the English Table Tennis Association.

He is honoured for his support of the truth, his encouragement of effort, his tenacity in pursuit of the ideal, his tolerance and patience when dealing with sensitive issues and his diplomacy over all."

I along with his many friends will miss him greatly.  
*Stan Clarke, Chairman Lancashire County T.T.A.*

# POSTBAG

## GUIDING LIGHTS

ON the assumption that readers are fed up with the back biting and other negatives in this column could I please be permitted to change the tenor of the letters page by introducing some positive comments on our sport.

I am constantly surprised to read of matters such as dwindling numbers playing table tennis, lack of interest by youngsters, contraction and extinction of clubs and leagues. This is in my opinion down to an attitude of mind. Negative prophecies are generally self fulfilling.

Our club has been going since 1948. It's President is a founder member who still takes an interest in the club. From very modest beginnings we have progressed to running 10 senior sides, a number of junior sides and overall have the best part of 80 members. We have numerous representative players in various categories.

Over the years I have seen many clubs and some leagues fold and have been told repeatedly that it is impossible to get young people interested in the game.

Generally I think clubs and leagues fold because they have one guiding light and when that light goes the club and league collapses.

Youngsters are only not interested in table tennis because table tennis is not interested in them.

What we have found suits us is a club structure run by table tennis enthusiasts who are also successful outside of table tennis e.g. our Club Chairman is a professionally qualified local businessman; Secretary an ex-Bank Manager; Junior Treasurer retired Finance Director of a bank; Auditor - a Chartered Accountant. Head Coach is a Sales Director. Committee members include a successful owner of a Graphic Design Business and a Professor. In other words people who have a wide range of skills and strong views, tempered for the good of the whole. If any position becomes vacant it is a temporary inconvenience only because there is plenty of talent to fill any gap and does not seriously challenge the continuance of the club.

Most of the players have added responsibilities for the club e.g. officers, coaches, team captains, Newsletter producers etc. This

breeds a sense of belonging. Most playing members attend the A.G.M. This is not surprising because that is where the ranking list is hammered out and decided and one soon recognises the need to defend one's corner!

We probably have as many juniors as we can reasonably deal with. Older members are supportive of the youngsters starting out and not surprisingly there is mutual respect.

Junior coaching members are treated as adults with as few rules as possible: in fact breaking the main rule means instant and permanent disbarment from the club - so no-one breaks it!

The club is very friendly and generally we are all appreciative of each other.

Obviously, our world is not perfect and we are only human. Over the past 25 years there have been a couple of major disagreements which resulted in a number of members departing to form other clubs (unfortunately both initiatives failed) but we were pleased to welcome back the second batch who left. Both instances were some years ago. We often hold different views but follow the consensus.

Our junior development is unlikely to fail in the foreseeable future because we have half a dozen qualified coaches and encourage our members to become qualified. We also have a number of helpers. The prime objectives are to get youngsters interested in the sport and find their own level of contentment be it social or competitive play. I suppose our only current perceived failing is that we do not feel we are doing enough for junior girls or ladies table tennis, although we probably have more female members than most clubs. We have excellent premises and equipment. None of this happened by accident incidentally.

We have Premier Club Advanced Status. We applied for this for selfish motives I have to admit, but only on the assumption that it will benefit our club; we shall see.

I suppose our success, such as it is, is built on mutual support and respect. We are not perfect but if every other club had used us as a role model the question of "dwindling numbers" would not have

*continued on page 8*

# COURTSIDE

by John Woodford

• **MATTHEW SYED** is the most talented person I have ever met. He is bound to make a success in life whether he wins a seat in the House of Commons, or he continues to blossom as a feature national sports-writer.

• **HIS** latest drive is to become an entrepreneur, sponsor and promoter of a special one-day tournament to be held at The Crucible, Sheffield on Friday, August 8 with BBC television in attendance.

• **THE** Continental Masters is the title of the tournament. The aim is to attract around eight players from four continents including Asia.

• **NATURALLY**, Matthew would like to stay as the England No.1 for as long as possible. It may sound absurd but table tennis players can sometimes preserve their high ranking by NOT playing in events, or even regain a top spot because another player loses some matches.

\*\*\*\*

• **ALL** Press Officers, amateur or professional journalists should take note that the very worst day to file copy for daily or evening newspapers is Friday.

• **THIS** is because the major week-end sports take more than their fair share of space, especially of course, the major sports - soccer, cricket, racing, rugby. The best time to win space in the national press is Tuesdays through to Fridays.

• **FRIDAY** is the "no-go" filing day. This was proved recently when, against the advice of the professional journalists, Hastings was commanded to issue a press release containing four "hard" stories - the Deaton pull-out, the Syed injury, the Sibley rise to the senior squad and the teams for Courmeyer, on Friday March 7th.

• **THIS** idiotic move infuriated Richard Eaton (Times, Guardian, Independent). His fury was conveyed to ETTA chair Alan Ransome. The result was no space at all in the national press that weekend.

• **WE**, Richard Eaton and myself pleaded for the stories to be delayed until after the weekend, when the easier mid-week situation was available.

• **THREE** of the stories - Deaton, Sibley, European teams appeared on Tuesday, March 11 in my Tuesday column in the Telegraph, with more stories to follow mid-week.

• **TABLE TENNIS** will continue to be marginalised by the media if any more crass decisions as described here are allowed to happen again against the advice of the national journalists.



*The above views expressed by John Woodford, are not necessarily the views of Table Tennis News or the English Table Tennis Association.*



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR continued

continued from page 7

arisen in English Table Tennis based on our experiences. This is not meant to be an ego trip but a sharing of ideas.

If one had to have a vision of success for English Table Tennis I suppose my analogy would be a National Grid formed by a series of groups of guiding lights!

*David Humble*

*Chairman, Mossford TT Club*

### CASE FOR THE DEFENCE

NOW that the Election for Chairman is well in under way I wonder whether a sea change is called for in the style of Table Tennis that we play?

Yes, this has to do with coaching! After watching the recent England vs Romania match at Cheltenham Town Hall there was only one defensive player on view and you can guess who that player was?

I watched Matthew many times at the Gloucester Leisure Centre during his formative years and you could always guarantee that the biggest

audiences were attracted by him.

Although the hard bat had been superseded by the sponge bat for many years, Matthew did not hesitate to stick his neck out and put himself in the firing line to face the enormous barrage of bullet like shots that were fired at him. How he did this remains something of a mystery to me as the common belief of coaches throughout the world seems to be that if you take one step back from the table you are a dead duck.

Not so with Matthew! It seems to me that Matthew has incorporated all that is best in Table Tennis into his game and revives memories long since gone of the great defensive players of the past when the hard bat ruled.

Yet he has done this in face of an enormous speeding up of the game. Quite astonishing when you think about it.

You get all the rallies that spectators want to see followed quite often by the counter attack which will often leave his opponent flat footed as such attacks are often unexpected.

I can tell you that the spectators at Cheltenham loved it and I don't

doubt that to many of them Table Tennis was something new.

So where do the coaches come in in all of this? Can you tell me one coach who could tell Matthew how to get back the bludgeoning shots that come his way? I don't think Matthew knows himself because it is an instinctive thing. Anticipation must come into it, but the point I wish to make is that the game has been taken from the coaches and handed back to the player. He is doing what he thinks best in the circumstances and when in those circumstances he beats a player of the calibre of Constantin Cioti, the young Romanian, former European youth champion, then we must pay some attention to Matthew's style of play.

Now I don't expect that coaches will go mad and transfer en-block to the defensive game because there is more shots in Table Tennis than the defensive chop to learn, but surely we must have a few young players who are prepared to put their head on the block and try to emulate Matthew?

The biggest problem for the defensive player is to KNOW when to

counter attack, but if he succeeds, as Matthew often does, then you have a cocktail of pure excitement.

Since the advent of the sponge bat we have had a number of champions who incorporated defence in some part of their game. From Gloucestershire in our National Championships we have had Brian Merrett (59/60) and Ian Harrison (60/61). Among the ladies we have had Anne Haydon (Member of European Championship winning team (1958), Jill Hammersley (Parker) (Winner of European Singles 1976). Another great exponent of the defensive game was Lisa Lomas, and guess who is currently top of the Junior Girls? Surrey's Joanna Parker! Well! Well! Well!

*Stan Johnstone*

*(Life Member) Cheltenham TTA*

### 21up VOTE?

I UNDERSTAND the ETTA's National Council have proposed that all references to 21up be deleted from the Rules of the Game, which will be voted on at the ETTA's Annual General Meeting.

The problem should this proposal be approved, being that some leagues would be likely to disaffiliate, with anyone playing in a non-affiliated league being unable to play in an affiliated one.

The ETTA may be reckoning on the odd player dropping out, but do they realise that these days teams have squads of players playing in several leagues some of which are 11up and some 21up. So if they couldn't play both formats, or were to simply throw in the towel, it wouldn't necessarily be a case of losing one registration fee but several, in my case seven! In addition to which some of the teams I play for might not be able to carry on if I were to drop out, because they are already having difficulty fulfilling fixtures as a consequence of which I frequently find myself playing when I don't really want to.

Frankly, I can't think of any other business which would want to alienate it's customers and lose income. With should the ETTA insist upon going down this path, splitting table tennis into two camps, they're only having themselves to blame should someone set up a rival organisation say the 'ETTU' (English Table Tennis Union) to promote the 21up game, which would then be competing with the ETTA for any handouts/grants around.

*Michael Bunting*

## WIN £100 A NIGHT AND ENJOY TOP CLASS COMPETITION

The **BATTS (HARLOW) SUPER LEAGUE** changes to a **SINGLES LEAGUE** for season 2003/2004.

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# WORLD No.1 TIMO BOLL AT GLITTERING NEW BBC EVENT AT THE CRUCIBLE

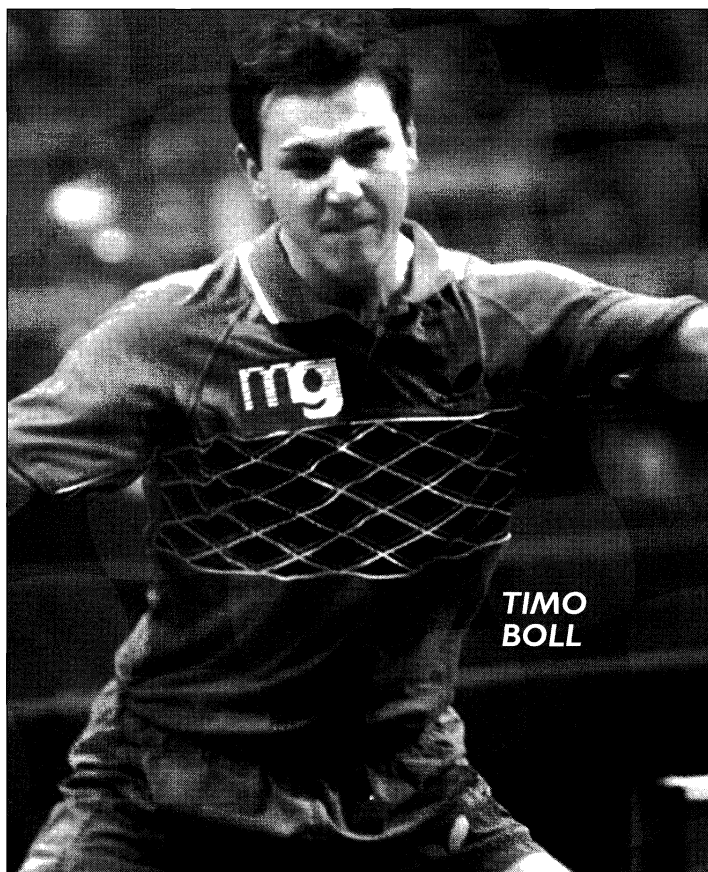
**AUGUST 9th is the date for the most intriguing and innovative event to come to this country for years – The Continental Masters. It will be the first opportunity for many to witness the youngster who is sending shock waves across planet table tennis – Germany's world number one, Timo Boll. And the ETTA is proud to announce that this will also be the first time that table tennis has been staged at the prestigious Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, home of the world snooker championships.**

At just 22, and with an irresistible combination of aggression and fluency, Boll is viewed as being the first of a new breed of player. Not since Jan-Ove Waldner first whizzed into view in the early eighties has someone had the capacity to evoke such awe among his fellow professionals. Watching him demolish the field at this year's Pongus Cup in Copenhagen, Jean-Michel Saive remarked: "Nobody should be able to react as fast as Boll can. He is not human, he is a machine."

But the German will not have it all his own way. First he will have to cope with the most intimidating venue in sport. "The atmosphere at The Crucible is completely unique", Stephen Hendry, the snooker legend, said. "It can do strange things to players. I love the sense of drama; I wish I could wrap it up and take it home with me."

The proximity of the audience to the action and the steeply banked seating is the key to understanding why Sheffield's premier theatre is capable of inducing such fear in the minds of seasoned professionals.

Boll will also have to contend with a sensational field. China will send a top player, but characteristically the CTTA does not want to announce which one until after the World Championships in Paris, no doubt waiting to see which one is most



likely to trouble the young German.

In addition, the event will showcase the best talent from the continents, including Segun Toriola, the brilliant long-distance looper from Africa who shockingly triumphed in last year's Commonwealth Games. Matthew Syed, with his spectacular brand of defence, will head the English challenge, and another British player will join him via a special pre-event qualification competition. The Continental Masters takes place exactly one year before the 2004 Olympic Games and the geographical diversity of the field was specifically chosen in order to mirror that in Athens. The world of table tennis will be hard pressed to find a more dazzling curtain raiser.

Following the tremendous success

of last year's Commonwealth Masters at Wembley, the BBC will once again be sending a full production team in order to broadcast the event on Grandstand. This is yet another priceless opportunity to portray our great sport in the best possible light.

Between the semi-finals and final there will be a special opportunity to witness our world class youngsters, including Darius Knight and Paul Drinkhall, in a Super Kids Challenge. Anyone who has seen these youngsters in action will not be surprised to hear that this is likely to be every bit as scintillating as the main event.

Many other exciting ideas are being formulated to ensure that this is the most unforgettable event of recent years. Richard Yule and Harvey Webb

– both with vast experience of major events – will be assisted in the promotion and organisation of the event by our very own number one, Matthew Syed. Those fortunate enough to have attended last year's Wembley event will have some idea of what to expect – except that this promises to be bigger and better.

But here is a warning. The Crucible has a capacity of just 980 seats. With the Continental Masters being publicised across the region, it is crucial that Table Tennis News readers book early to ensure that genuine table tennis fans make up a large proportion of the live audience. This could be an event that changes the face of English table tennis – make sure you don't miss it.

Because of the gladiatorial configuration of The Crucible, those seated at the sides of the auditorium will not have an entirely unrestricted view of the playing area. "It will be like the venues of the 1950's," said Brian Halliday. "Back then, Richard Bergmann would disappear from view when he retreated to the barriers." In reflection of this, the prices of such seats are offered at a reduced rate.

## TICKET PRICES

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# LONDON PROGRESS MAKE IT FIVE IN A ROW



**Members of the London Progress club pictured celebrating their great achievement**



**THE AMAZING roller coaster ride of London Progress Table Tennis Club continued at the weekend when they captured their fifth consecutive British League title, and in so doing equalled the British record set by Grove Table Tennis Club in the 1990's.**

This feat is particularly staggering when it is remembered that the club has only been in existence for thirteen years, the first five of them as a local league club. Spurred on by the vision of the club's co-founder, Mr Buxton Williams, and driven forward by an impressive international team of coaches, players and administrators, the club has established itself as the undisputed leader of British club table tennis.

What has been the secret of success for London Progress, and how does

the club differ from all the other successful clubs in the country? Progress would be the first to admit that they sought to learn from the great achievements in British club table tennis. Unashamedly, the club set out as its aim to become 'the Grove of the South'. They looked at the massive achievements and ambitions of the Shropshire club under the brilliant leadership of Ian Marshall, and the highly successful Ormsby Club in Cleveland, and then set out to emulate these successes.

But as the Progress club began to develop, it soon became apparent that something rather special and a touch unique was being created. London already boasted a number of very successful clubs, Reg Rockall's Edison and the Enfield based Ellenborough being two of the more illustrious. St Brides in Central

London and Fellows Cranleigh in the East London borough of Newham also had great histories. What Progress began to do was to fuse the playing excellence of the Grove, Ormsby and Cranleigh, with the grass roots policies of Reg Rockall's Edison and the London Junior Table Tennis Scheme, and the professionally run junior programmes at Cippenham, thereby creating what might be considered Britain's first truly community based table tennis club. It became a club that was permanently open to the local community while at the same time fostering ambitions of excellence. It was genuinely developing into a club for the whole of North West London.

A full ten years before 'social inclusion' became the latest government policy, London Progress

Table Tennis Club was tearing down the barriers that for so long has held back British Sport. Colour or creed, privilege or deprivation; all social distinctions began to melt away in the Progress table tennis arena. International players knocked along side complete beginners and they still do! Oxbridge graduates contributed no more or less than the students from the local schools. A wonderful cross fertilisation of cultures and outlooks created an atmosphere where everyone was valued and everyone was welcome.

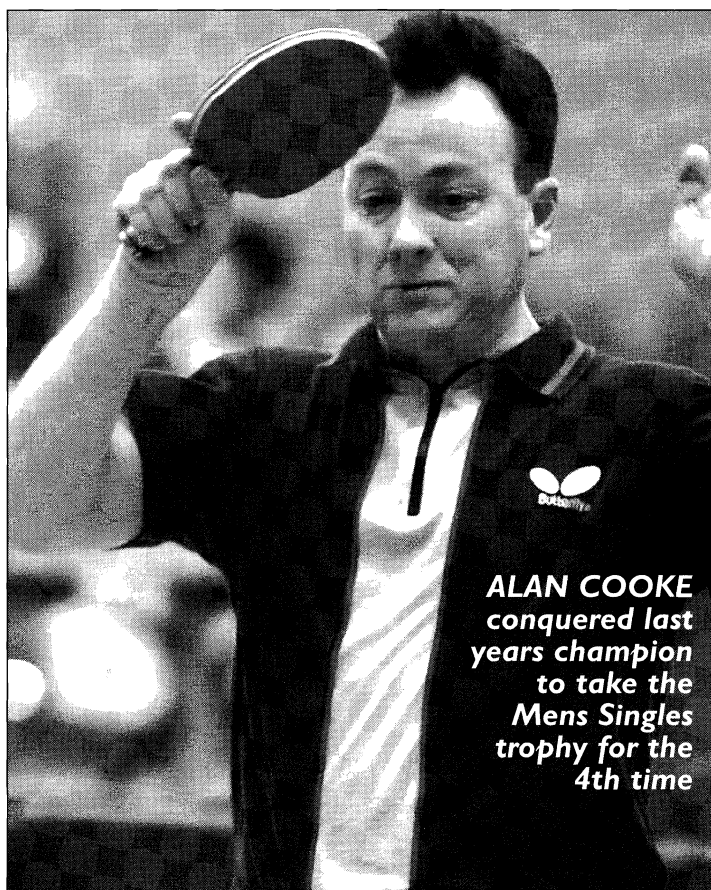
London was rapidly becoming a global city and London Progress was becoming a true ambassador of that city. Quite a few in the old table tennis networks struggled to come to grips with this new table tennis phenomena, especially in the less cosmopolitan provinces, but they could not ignore five successive Ormsby Cup wins, five Willmot Cup wins, five British League titles and a near clean sweep in the British League divisions, including two National Cadet titles and a Women's British League title. Love or hate London Progress and its "barmy army", you certainly could not ignore them.

Five British League titles under their belts and nothing has really changed.

London Progress are still teaching the local school kids to play and love ping, only the club now has six major feeder schools and three London venues instead of the original one. London Progress are still open to the local community only now the local community has become the whole of London rather than just a couple of West London boroughs. And of course, London Progress continue to do what they do so well; win local, regional and national trophies.

The club is rapidly transforming itself into a London-wide table tennis academy with a team of professional coaches and ambitious plans to equal those of the top European clubs. The club still has a long way to go to match the best in Europe but based on the first thirteen years you wouldn't want to bet against them.

# COOKE & HOLT TAKE THE GLORY AT SHEFFIELD



**ALAN COOKE**  
conquered last  
years champion  
to take the  
Mens Singles  
trophy for the  
4th time

**WHO** would have forecast that Alan Cooke and Andrea Holt would win the national titles, both for the fourth time? The Nottingham grapevine said that Alan was playing well in the practice sessions and beating the other squad men, writes John Woodford.

It is not encouraging for the future when three coaches Cooke, Bradley Billington and Andrea Holt can create havoc amongst the young players. Examples - Billington defeated Andrew Wilkinson in Round 3 and then Alex Perry 4-2 in the quarters.

Cooke steamed past Peter Cleminson in Round 3, Andrew Eden

in the quarters and Billington in the semis, before almost losing to Andrew Baggaley in the final.

One young player to emerge with real credit was Baggaley, as the holder. Inexplicably, he led 6-3 against Cooke in a thrilling final but Cooke somehow piled on the top-spin to win 11-8, a victory achieved perhaps, by sheer experience.

Since returning from Sheffield, within the space of 36 hours I received five telephone calls all asking "Whatever happened to so-and-so?"

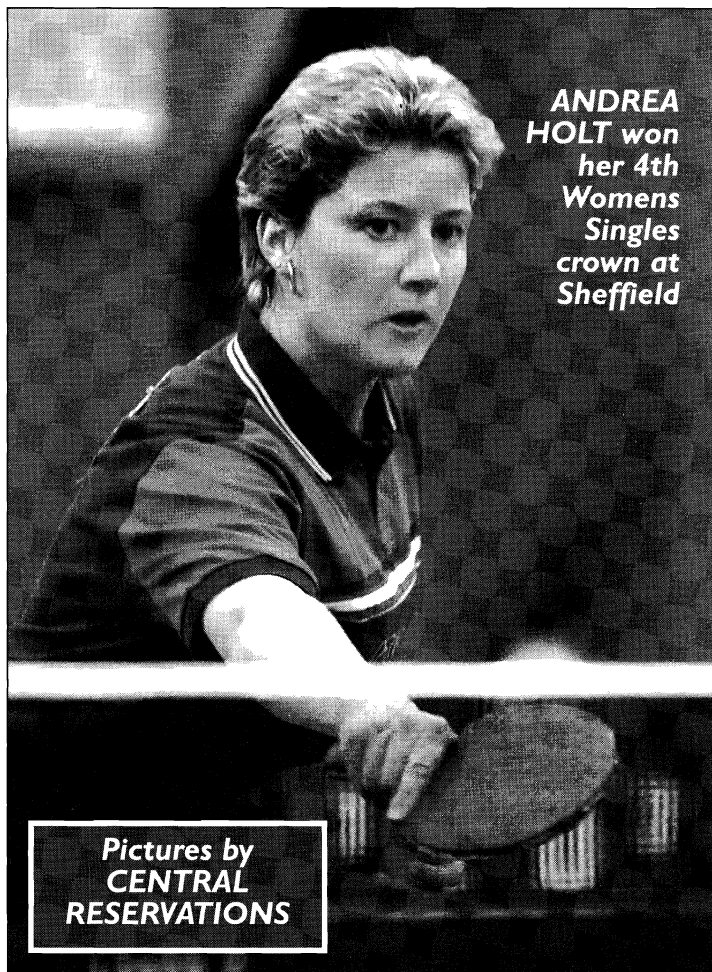
Well, answering a couple of questions - Gareth Herbert took an early shower after losing -5, -5, -9, -8 to Terry Young who was Baggaley's semi-final victim.

Matthew Syed, the top seed, pulled

out at a late hour with damage to his playing wrist tendons. Later, he received cortisone injections at the UK Medical Centre in London.

Would he have beaten Cooke? We will never know, but Matthew Syed has never lost to Alan Cooke. Matthew when reading this will be pleased to know that this fact has been duly recorded!

Three players we have not seen a



**ANDREA HOLT** won her 4th Womens Singles crown at Sheffield

Pictures by  
**CENTRAL  
RESERVATIONS**



lot of in recent months reached the quarters - Andrew Eden, Jon Taylor and Darren Blake. Only Eden reached the quarters.

A small of piece of encouraging news - two juniors - Greg Baker (Warwickshire) and Bradley Evans (Nottingham) reached the last sixteen - they clashed with Baker winning 9-6, 14, 5, 6 but then lost to Baggaley 7,2,4,5.

## BIGGEST SHOCK

The major surprise in the womens singles was the defeat in Round 2 of Nicola Deaton by Lyndsey Thornton (Lancashire) -6, 14, 11, 4, 7. Nicola is of course engaged in two senses - one to Alex Perry and two to her studies at Nottingham University.

The glamorous Miss Thornton is more talented at table tennis than Anna Kornikova at lawn tennis, with a solid attacking game liberally laced with top-spin and nothing to lose. So, when Thornton defeated Deaton, the buzz around the hall - 500 fans on finals day - was could she beat the amalgam of attack and defence at the

witnessed by a strong supporter of table tennis, non other than the Minister of Sport, Richard Caborn, MP.

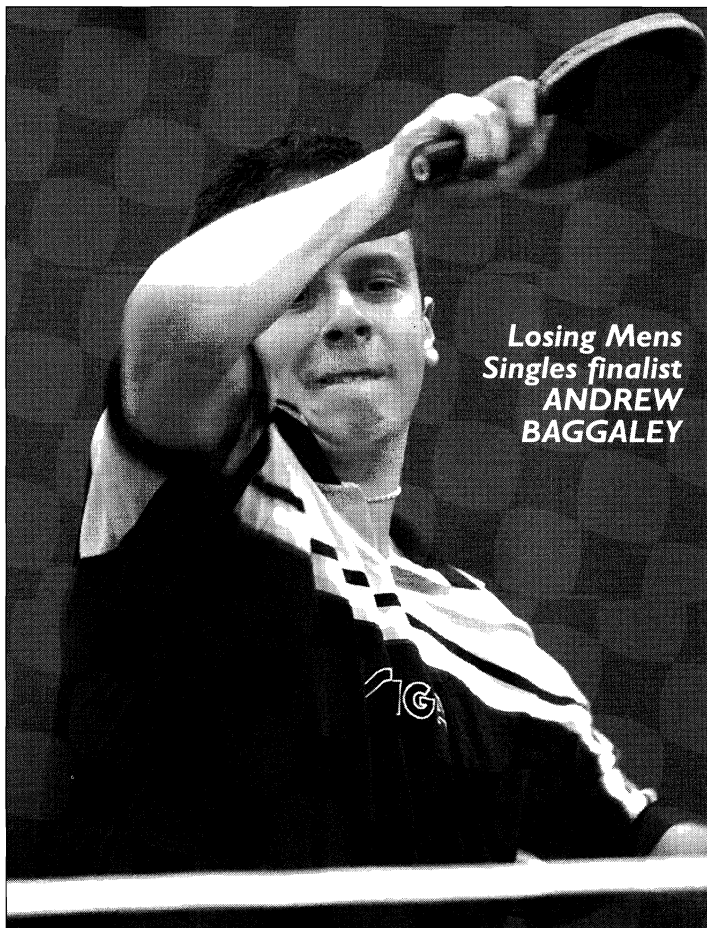
The womens singles line-up for the quarters was - Thornton v Holt, Owolabi v J. Parker, Lower v Embling and Walker v Clarke. Katy Parker had pulled out earlier to rest, leaving some to wonder if she will ever return.

Joanna Parker, the Surrey defender did extremely well I thought to heave out Kubrat Owolabi 7, 6, 9, 10, but then she lost 2, 8 6,6 to the experience of Andrea Holt.

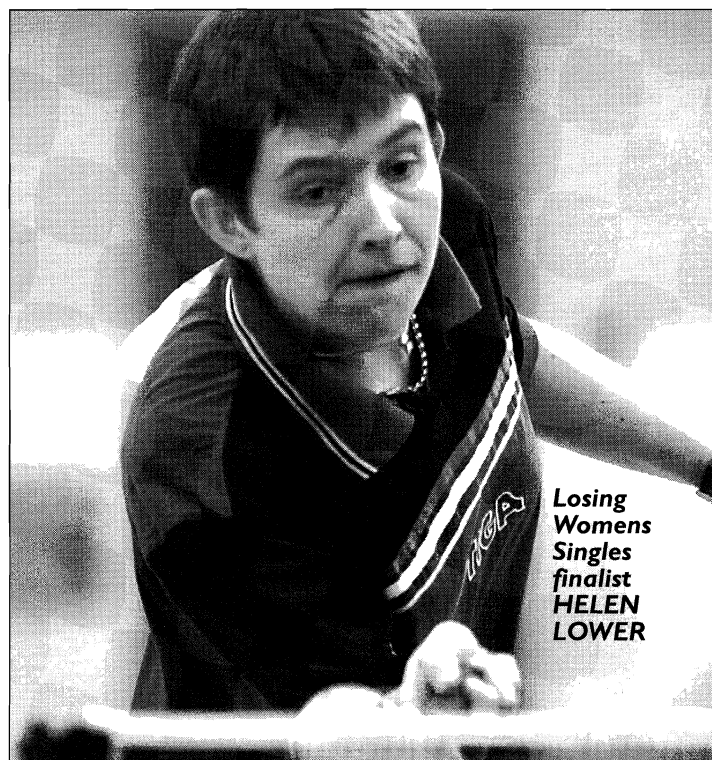
Nicky Deaton and Kubrat were consoled by winning the womens doubles over Joanna Parker and Abigail Embling the England No.5 junior from Essex who also seems to be one to watch for the future.

The mens doubles final was won by Perry and Young -7, 7, -8, 6, 5 against the surprise finalists Andrew Rushton: and Bryn Drinkhall, both of whom are on the way up, in the fast lane.

More confirmation of progress



**Losing Mens Singles finalist ANDREW BAGGALEY**



**Losing Womens Singles finalist HELEN LOWER**

disposal of Miss Holt ?

The answer was "no", as the two Lancashire lasses battled staunchly but Holt after losing the first -6, overcame mid-game nerves to win 14, 11, 4, 7.

The stage seemed set for the Wolverhampton battler Helen Lower to win the title after trying for a long time, but Holt was determined to show the, England camp that she should have been picked for the Commonwealth Games, as she defeated Lower 11, 4, 7, 9 in the final

came in the Under-21 mens singles when Rushton defeated Bryn Drinkhall 7 in the fifth, in the final. Georgina Walker (Notts) also showed progress when she hammered Miss Parker 7,3,3 in the Under-21 girls final.

Andrew Rushton had a great tournament. Another success came his way when partnered by Kubrat Owolabi they reached the mixed doubles final, losing to the top seeds Perry and Lower who won the gold medals 7, -9, 9, 9.



**LYNDSEY THORNTON who defeated Nicola Deaton in Round 2 of the Womens Singles**

Words by  
**JOHN WOODFORD  
& KEN MUHR**

## EXCELLENT VENUE

Ponds Forge International Sports Centre is well-suited to the English National Championships and I believe it will be staged again there next year. Whether it would fit the bill for an English Open is another question. Umpires seldom get a mention - so here is the list according to the programme - Ken Armson MBE, Atkinson, Clarke, Mackey, Moran, Newman, Rhodes, Rimmer, Scruton (G), Sherratt, Strode, Taylor, Ward, Watkins, Watts and Welch.

## RED CARD

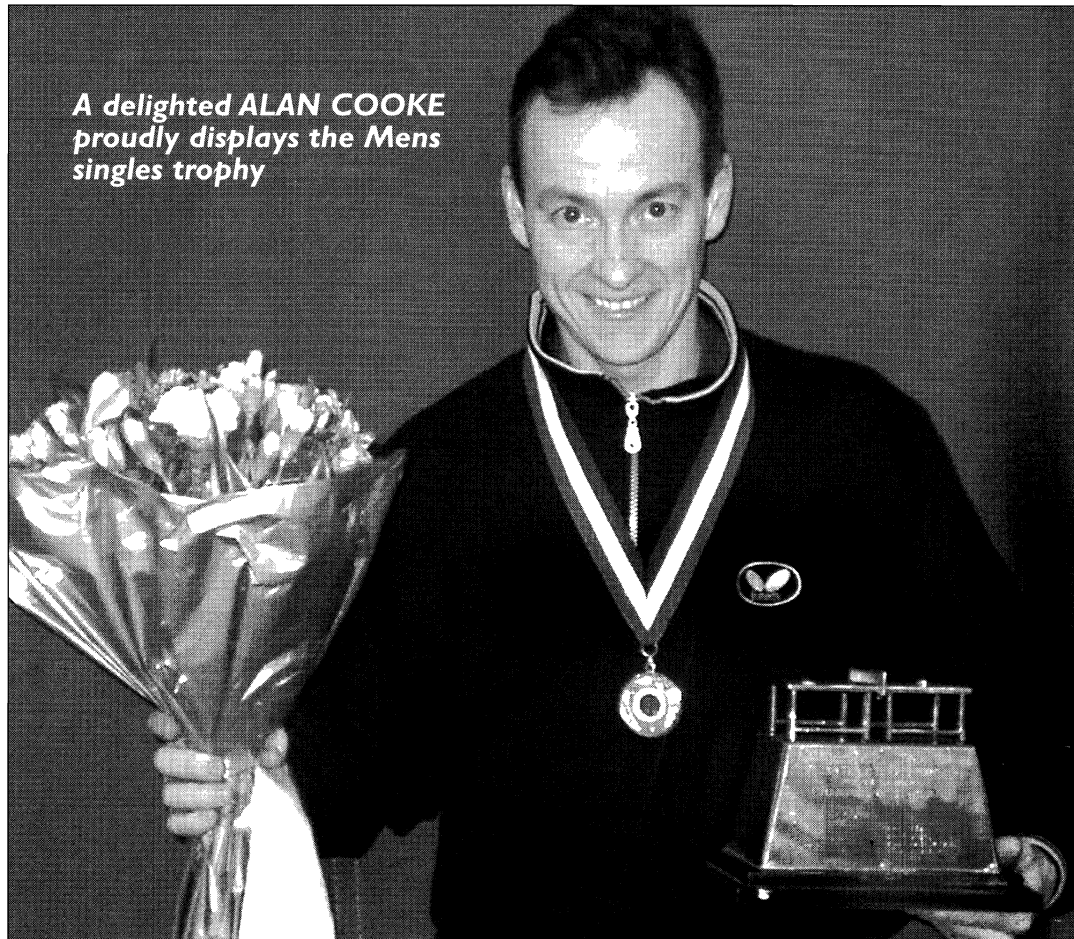
Brian Watkins is my favourite umpire. He is a strict and fair adjudicator who does not hesitate to stamp on bad behaviour. His red card in the semi-finals of the Under-21 event against Paul Drinkhall was on the final point (12-10) to his brother Bryn after a number of transgressions. That gave us space in the Daily Telegraph on the Saturday, space we would not have been given but for the red card.

# ENGLISH NATIONALS ANOTHER VIEW

**OLD-TIMERS** Cooke and Holt 4 times national champions! So I got both singles winners wrong I had predicted Andrew Baggaley and Nicola Deaton to retain their titles but I will argue that my thinking was not so way out, writes Ken Muhr.

A lean 5th seeded Alan Cooke had obviously trained hard to the extent of looking a trifle gaunt and was the dark horse for the event. In Sheffield, he came over as the man to back and I wavered massively but just about kept faithful to my Baggaley (4th seed) tip. As it happened, the mens singles final, watched by 550 and the most entertaining since Syed beat Douglas in Bath, 1998, with Cooke employing his full repertoire of topspin attack, containing counter-hitting and blocking, and some spectacular lobbing against Baggaley's controlled drives, could have gone either way. After narrowly losing the first game, Cooke unleashed a stream of backhand and forehand loops to Baggaley's backhand, to comfortably take the next two games and look on top. But then in the fourth game Cooke seemed to make a tactical error in trying to slug it out, allowing Baggaley's greater weight of shot to bear decisively in this game and then the next. It was touch and go in the sixth game, but at 8 all (and 3 games to 2 down) Cooke won a long, crucial lob-return-of-smash, then loop-to-loop rally, and then the next two points to level the games. And then from 3-6 down in the deciding game, he won six consecutive points, which set him up for victory, 9-11, 11-6, 11-8, 5-11, 8-11, 11-8, 11-8.

Up to the final, the personable Andrew Baggaley had looked less impressive than last year. In the semi-finals, Terry Young, in the second game, had exposed his (relative) vulnerability to speed and power, before Baggaley used his superior close to the table touch and positional play to close Young down and finish the match with more positive attack of his own. 20 year old Andrew was much better in the final and apparently had the perfect game with which to foil Cooke, having equal control and greater power, and requiring fewer attacking shots to win a point (e.g. he won



*A delighted ALAN COOKE proudly displays the Mens singles trophy*

## **Presentation pictures by CHRIS NEWTON**

several quick points with backhand loop down the line and forehand loop-the-loop, off-the bounce crosscourt). However, the older Cooke (at nearly 37, the oldest ever mens singles winner) seemed to have the slicker stroke production, versatility and footwork, building up points with a continuous flow of quality shots. Cooke of course has been, at his peak, a world top 30 player in an era when England and European standards were much higher, while Baggaley, currently world ranked 191, has more to come, but there are those who feel the Milton Keynes player needs to sharpen/streamline his technique and recovery (particularly after his forehand loop) if he is to fulfil his

undoubted potential to achieve a similar sort of level.

The wrist injured scratchee, Matthew Syed, who had been (no.1) seeded to meet Cooke in the quarter-finals and whose 4 times champion record Cooke now equals, said, I have immense admiration for Cookie, for 15 years after he first won the title coming off the coaches bench to win the title again.

Gareth Herbert, the mens singles 2nd seed, and Alex Perry, the 3rd seed, both fell at the quarter-finals stage. Herbert, who in 2001 looked set to make a world class breakthrough, was swept away 11-5, 11-5, 11-9, 11-8 by Terry Young. Whereas Young employed controlled aggression, Herbert started erratically, and although his accuracy improved in the second two games it was not enough to stop the determined Young, who had only just survived against Darren Blake (Surrey), 8-11, 11-9, 11-7, 13-11, 5-11,

6-11, 11-9. After his victory over Herbert, Young, who is currently not training at the National Training Centre in Nottingham, said, I wanted to show everyone what I can do. He certainly showed me in the programme I had said that, Despite the closest of clashes in the past, he (Gareth) should beat his powerful Berkshire and England colleague, Terry Young, seeded 6th!

Perry, the 1999 national champion and current British Universities champion, started well against former England international Bradley Billington, taking the first two games with sharp angled hitting, but then he began just missing the angles while Billington grew in confidence and power to come through 6-11, 7-11, 11-4, 11-8, 11-8, 11-8. However, in the semi-finals, Billington fell in straight games to his Chesterfield colleague, Cooke, who was a little too consistent for him.

Once Nicola Deaton was out, it was



fairly predictable that Andrea Holt, 32, a one time high world ranked player, would win the womens singles (through ultimately meeting and beating Helen Lower). What I absolutely had not even imagined was that the left-handed 22 year old former England junior champion, Lindsey Thornton would oust the 26 year old, 5 times champion Deaton, 12-10, 10-12, 11-7, 12-10, 11-9 in a second round clash. Apparently Thornton, as an exceptionally promising junior, had once before beaten Deaton and knew she had a chance. The key to Thornton's success was that she more than matched the champ, probably the fastest English woman, for speed and power. But Deaton did not lose without a tremendous rearguard fight, saving 5 consecutive match points from 4-10 in the 5th game with high tossed serves and brave all-out attack. However, on the last (6th) match point, Deaton attacked less positively and Thornton counter-attacked to claim a sensational victory. Purely hypothetical I know, but I still think that had Deaton survived this encounter, then she could still have got fired up enough to defeat Holt in the quarters and gone on to claim her 6th title! As it was, Holt ended Thornton's run, but not before her fellow Lancastrian had presented, in the first 3 games, her toughest challenge of the tournament (6-11, 16-14, 13-11, 11-4, 11-7).

Rarely having to find her top form, Holt regained the title she last held in 1995 she was also champion in 1991 and 1993 with an easier than anticipated 13-11, 11-4, 11-7, 11-9 win over, Helen Lower, also 32, in the final. Her defence was generally too consistent for Lower, and she was only seriously threatened twice: at 9-10 down in the first game she won a long defensive rally, retrieving from all corners of the court, eventually taking that game 13-11: and in the fourth game, when Lower's forehand loop appeared to have found the target, Holt came back from 2-7 down to win 9 consecutive points for the game.

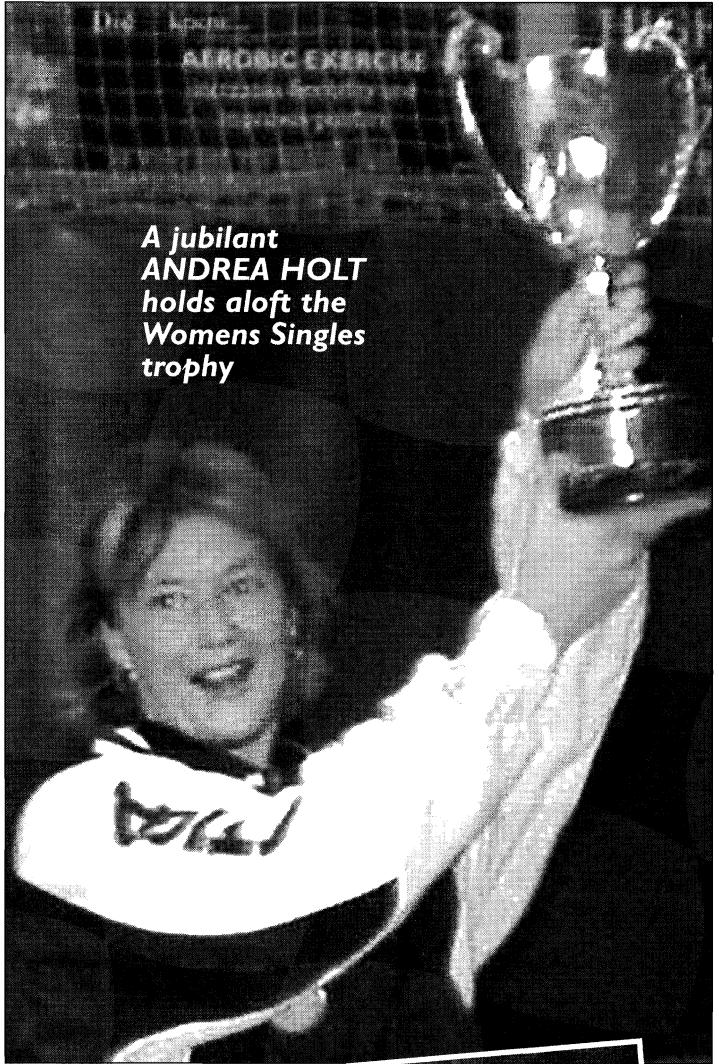
She had proved too experienced at the same type of all-round defensive game as her 15 year old semi-final opponent, Joanna Parker (who had done well to conquer former All African champion Kubrat Owolabi in the quarters), with scores of 11-2, 11-8, 11-6, 11-6, while Lower (whose path was arguably eased by the withdrawal of Katy Parker) had outgunned 17 year old Georgina Walker, 11-6, 11-7, 8-11, 11-8, 11-6. However, as in the men, the standard in the later rounds has dropped in recent years, but the new cohort of

young England players may not be held at bay for much longer.

Alex Perry and Terry Young, the 2001 Commonwealth champions, took the mens doubles, 7-11, 11-7, 8-11, 11-6, 11-5, against teenagers Andrew Rushton and Bryn Drinkhall (who had put out Manchester Commonwealth Games gold medallists Baggaley and Herbert 2-11, 14-12, 9-11, 12-10, 12-10 in the semis), having the experience to handle the pressure better. Nicola Deaton got some consolation for losing her singles crown, by winning with her new partner, Kubrat Owolabi the womens doubles, beating junior girls Abigail Embling and Joanna Parker, 11-5, 12-10, 11-9. Richard Caborn, the Minister for Sport, and Councillor Marjorie Barker, Lord Mayor of Sheffield, presented the prizes for these singles and doubles events.

Earlier, Alex Perry and Helen Lower had retained their national mixed doubles title when they beat Andrew Rushton and Kubrat Owolabi, 11-7, 9-11, 11-9, 11-9. It is the third time they have won this event. In the semi-finals they had put out Mathew Kenny and Natalie Bawden, the surprise 11-9, 2-11, 11-9, 6-11, 11-7 conquerors of 4th seeds Bradley Billington and Louise Durrant in the quarter-finals. Rushton and Owolabi, had defeated 2nd seeds Gareth Herbert and Lindsey Thornton in straight games to reach the final.

*continued on page 16*



**A jubilant ANDREA HOLT holds aloft the Womens Singles trophy**



**Mens Doubles Winners TERRY YOUNG & ALEX PERRY with the Mayor of Sheffield Councillor MARJORIE BARKER**

## SENIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - 3

17 year old Georgina Walker, the England no.2 junior, retained her national under 21 womens singles title, hitting through the defence of top seed and England junior champion, Joanna Parker. She has now lifted the title three times. In the semi-finals, Walker had put out the talented 14 year old, Kelly Sibley, also in straight games, while Parker had similarly defeated last years losing finalist, the 2001 champion, Louise Durrant.

Despite suffering from flu, the fast and determined Andrew Rushton, 19, regained the under 21 mens singles title he last held in 2001, coming back from 2 games down to defeat Bryn Drinkhall 6-11 7-11, 11-9, 11-6, 11-7. The biggest shock was the first round loss of local second seed Mathew Kenny to Shaun Marples (Chesterfield), who in turn fell 9-11, 4-11 11-7, 7-11, to 13 year old super kid Paul Drinkhall, the 8th seed. A superb hard-hitting semi-final between the Drinkhall brothers ended in controversy, when after Bryn had saved 3 match points at 7-10 down in the fifth game and then actually led by a match point, the umpire gave a red card against his brother Paul for swearing, thereby awarding a point to Bryn to give him the match.

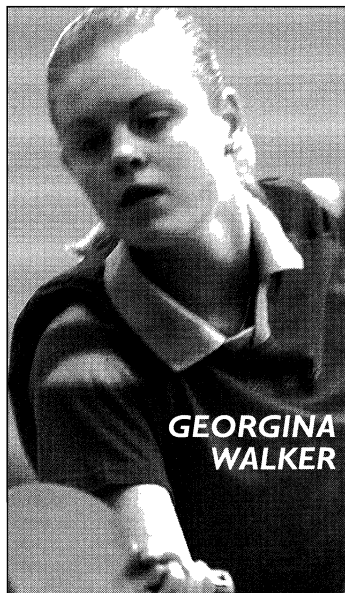
6th seed Dave Harding was the surprise winner of the veteran mens singles, scrapping through 12-10 in the deciding game against the defensive favourite, former European champion, John Hilton, in the final Harding had a tough path, with very close 5 game wins against 2001

champion, Clive Carthy, in the quarter-finals and John Rankin in the semi-finals. Judy Morley reversed last seasons veteran womens singles result when she beat the holder Jane Durham 11-8, 6-11, 11-9, 9-11, 11-5.

Ponds Forge is a good venue and it is hoped that we will return there for many years.

### Finals results:

Mens singles quarter-finals: Alan Cooke (Derbys) bt Andrew Eden (Lancs) 3-11, 11-4, 11-9, 11-7, 11-7.  
Bradley Billington (Derbys) bt Alex Perry (Devon) 6-11, 7-11, 11-4, 11-8, 11-8, 11-8.  
Andrew Baggaley (Bucks) bt Greg Baker (Warwicks) 11-7, 11-2, 11-4, 11-5.  
Terry Young (Berks) bt Gareth Herbert (Berks) 11-5, 11-5, 11-9, 11-8.  
Semi-finals: Alan Cooke (Derbys) bt Bradley Billington (Derbys) 11-5, 11-6, 11-



7, 13-11.

Andrew Baggaley (Bucks) bt Terry Young (Berks) 11-7,13-15, 11-7,11-4, 11-4.

Final: Alan Cooke (Derbys) bt Andrew Baggaley (Bucks) 9-11, 11-6, 11-8, 5-11, 8-11, 11-8, 11-8.

Womens singles quarter-finals: Andrea Holt (Lancs) bt Lindsey Thornton (Lancs) 6-11, 16-14, 13-11, 11-4, 11-7.

joanna Parker (Surrey) bt Kubrat Owolabi (Middx) 11-7, 11-6, 11-9, 12-10.

Helen Lower (Staffs) bt Abigail Embling (Essex) 11-6, 11-8, 11-8, 11-5.

Georgina Walker (Notts) bt Sally Clark (Yorks) 11-3, 11-8, 11-7, 11-7

Semi-finals: Andrea Holt (Lancs) bt Joanna Parker (Surrey) 11-2, 11-8, 11-6, 11-6.

Helen Lower (Staffs) bt Georgina Walker (Notts) 11-6, 11-7, 8-11, 11-8, 11-6.

Final: Andrea Holt (Lancs) bt Helen Lower (Staffs) 13-11, 11-4, 11-7, 11-9.

Under 21 mens singles: Andrew Rushton (Lancs) bt Bryn Drinkhall (Cleve) 6-11, 7-11, 11-9, 11-6, 11-7.

Under 21 womens singles: Georgina Walker (Notts) bt Joanna Parker (Surrey) 11-7, 11-3, 11-3.

Veteran mens singles: David Harding (Surrey) bt John Hilton (Ches) 9-11, 11-4, 11-4, 3-11, 12-10.

Veteran womens singles: Judy Morley (Gloucs) bt Jane Durham (Cleve) 11-8, 6-11,11-9, 9-11, 11-5.

Mens doubles: Alex Perry (Devon)/Terry Young (Berks) bt Bryn Drinkhall (Cleve)/Andrew Rushton (Lancs) 9-11, 11-7, 8-11, 11-6, 11-5.

Womens doubles: Nicola Deaton (Derbys)/Kubrat Owolabi (Notts) bt Abigail Embling (Essex)/Joanna Parker (Surrey) 11-5, 12-10, 11-9.

Mixed doubles: Alex Perry (Devon)/Helen Lower (Staffs) beat Andrew Rushton (Lancs)/Kubrat Owolabi (Middx) 11-7, 9-11, 11-9, 11-9.



Pictured above are Womens Doubles winners: NICOLA DEATON & KUBRAT OWOLABI, being presented with their trophies by The Minister for Sport RICHARD CABORN MP, and ETTA Chairman ALAN RANSOME

## STOP PRESS News in Brief

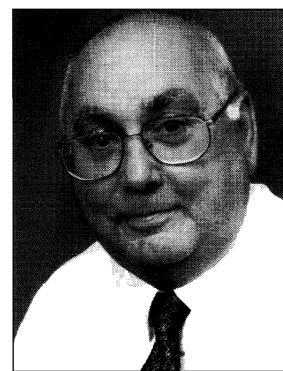
### • SENSATIONAL BAGGALEY EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS SCALP

England No.2 Andrew Baggaley, from Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, pulled off his best ever win in sensationally putting out the No.5 seed and 2000 European champion, Peter Karlsson (Sweden), in the second round of the men's singles at the European Championships, in Courmayeur, Italy.

After his immense win over Karlsson, Baggaley was unable to reproduce that form and went down to Austrian, Konstantin Lengerov, the European No. 53, 0-11, 10-12, 6-11, 8-11, in the third round.

After Gareth Herbert's first round success over the world No.48 Tomasz Krzeszewski of Poland, the 22 year old from Slough, Berkshire, will have been disappointed to have fallen, 15-13, 7-11, 9-11, 11-4, 9-11, 6-11, to the 1998 European youth champion, Constantin Cioti of Romania, ranked 120 in the world.

### • ALEX MURDOCH WINS ELECTION



Alex Murdoch has been elected as Chairman of the ETTA.

The transfer of power will be at the ETTA AGM on the 28th June 2003.

Alex's team of Mike Johns for Deputy Chairman and Martin Clark for Treasurer were also elected.



# TABLE TENNIS NEWS EXTRA

Issue no. 292 April 2003

## Editorial

For sometime I have **highlighted key words** in my editorial to make reading and understanding easier, but from the March edition, our secretary Lindsay has done the same through the **whole of Extra**. Please advise us if you think that this improves legibility and comprehension. You may feel that this makes no difference, or that emboldening key words throughout the text actually detracts from presentation. Indeed, the words and phrases that Lindsay has emphasised through highlighting, may not be the same ones as contributors would have emphasised. So if you have any views, please let us know.

I can appreciate **readers' frustration** at receiving their copy of **TTN Extra so late** (and apologise for this). I share the frustration: my preview of the Senior National Championships in my Jan/Feb editorial was written before I saw the draw, but most people probably did not have the opportunity to read it until well after the event. And the war to overthrow the Saddam Hussein regime in Iraq was probably nearly over, before my March editorial predicting its start was read.

[Fortunately the **war**, still continuing in pockets as I write, does appear to have been relatively short, and anger by potentially many Arabs and Muslims (no lovers of Saddam Hussein) in this country has not boiled over, mainly, I suspect, because their misgivings were shared by so many other people, including by the Christian Church. So with Saddam overthrown and relatively few of the oilfields fired (oil prices have not shot up), there can be positive outcomes for the Iraqi people and for the world. However, thousands of innocent Iraqis have been killed and injured and their country devastated, so how far future troubles and resentment in Iraq can be prevented must depend on the speed/strength of gaining law and order, the reconstruction and the establishment of an Iraqi democracy. Anyway, as I had hoped and expected, there has, to my knowledge, been **no spilling over of bad feeling in table tennis**.]

From troubles in the world I turn to the **threat of hard times for (some) sports** at home. With Lottery ticket sales continuing to decline, the new chairman of **Lottery Sports Fund**

distributor Sport England, Patrick Carter, has extended the **freeze** on spending, already in existence for three months, for a further six months (The Mail, 11 March). Meanwhile, as Simon Hart in the Sunday Telegraph points out (2<sup>nd</sup> March), **Exchequer funding for sport has been frozen at £35 million per annum** for the last five years (while funding for the arts has increased massively).

Hart says that the **number of sports** which **receive Treasury and Lottery funding is to be slashed** from 60 to as few as 18 as part of a radical cost-cutting exercise. The lion's share of the money is likely to go to the 'Big Four' – football, rugby union, cricket and tennis. Kate Hoey (Telegraph, 22 March) notes that, 'In the recent allocation of £60 million available over the next three years to enhance community sports facilities, those four sports were allocated £9.4 million each leaving just £12 million for all the others'. (Regarding some sports organisations not being able to gain **sponsorship**, she adds ruefully, '**you need money to attract money**'.) Hart names boxing, squash, lacrosse and volleyball as at risk (of losing funding) since they all missed out on the above money. Former Chairman of Sport England, Trevor Brooking, interviewed in The Times (18 March), is fiercely critical of the non-investment in sport over 20 years, saying that there was evidence from Australia that 'increased spending resulted in better performances'.

We in **table tennis are hopeful of being deemed a significant or priority sport for Lottery and exchequer funding**, but it should be recognised that the uncertainty, combined with not knowing the outcome and implications of the election for senior ETTA officers (stop press: the Alex Murdoch team won), is **stressful**, both for ETTA mainstream and performance staff, and for performance players.

Regarding performance, **Australian rugby union star David Campese** told a UK Sport and BBC Sport 'Summit' in March that **British athletes need to adopt a tougher winning mentality** if they are to achieve real sporting excellence. Questioned whether it was more important to take part or win, he asserted that winning was the only option. The Australian attitude to

winning gives them the competitive edge. It seems to me that our top athletes need both the right support and the right attitude to capitalise on it.

One young English table tennis player who does seem to have the right attitude is 14 year old **Kelly Sibley**, who in February **played fantastically at the Safir's International Tournament in Sweden**, to win the under 14 singles, reach the semi-final of the under 15s, and best of all, reach the quarter-final of the under 20 women's singles. Also worthy of note, **Georgina Walker** was a Safir's World Junior Circuit (played at the same venue) girls' singles quarter-finalist.

**Top athletes can be very good examples to others**, as can be seen by the findings of research on Sport England's Sporting Champions scheme, which showed that participating sports stars had influenced youngsters to play sport more regularly and/or to take up a new sport. No real surprise there, and in table tennis the involvement of top players like Nicola Deaton, Des Douglas, Matthew Syed and Alan Cooke in developmental & promotional programmes has had a very beneficial influence.

Increasing participation in table tennis is important, and it is pleasing to learn from Birmingham University MBA student, **Che Ziancheng**, a former Chinese national junior champion now based in Japan, that **table tennis is booming in Japan**, partly owing, he thinks, to the influence of a recent influx of Chinese and European ideas and techniques.

I have always thought that **coaching** is a (the?) **major tool for increasing participation** by young people in table tennis, but currently as a coach with a good (if fairly remote) venue, plenty of willing helpers (coaches and practice partners) but relatively few pupils, I feel like I am running a 'pub with no beer'. It is at times demoralising, and makes me appreciate even more those coaches who have soldiered on in the 'bad times' (of few or unmotivated pupils and/or an inappropriate facility), in the hope/sure knowledge that things do get better. '**Stickability**' is a **vital attribute for a coach**.

However, **for coaching to really succeed**, you need to have all **three essential ingredients**: (chiefly) the **right coach(es)**, the **right venue**, and **pupils!** Sometimes, as I have in the

past experienced, one coach has to handle 20 or 30 kids in some grotty little venue. Sometimes there is enormous enthusiasm from youngsters, the hall is great, but the coach is hopeless or non-existent. But if **all the ingredients can come together, like at the Cippenham club, table tennis can just take off!** Still, to attract the players before the sessions gather the critical mass to maintain their own buzz and momentum, the coach may have to do more **promotional and development work**, and that is where I am at. Meanwhile, while I am hoping to develop my 'own' pupils, I am delighted to welcome 'outsiders'!

Ideally, **grass roots coaching should be linked to/grounded in a club**, with the opportunity for appropriate practice, competition (and playing career development) and socialising in a decent facility and environment, which is what the ETTA PremierClub programme is about.

I don't necessarily agree with the **arguments against 11-up**, but to redress the balance from my previous editorial I will list those put by **Michael Bunting** in the latest **Bromley Newsletter**: introduced for wrong reasons (benefit of media & spectators, not players); changes tempo of game (from 'middle distance' to 'sprint'); lose ebb & flow of 21-up); not enough time to get used to funny bats or unorthodox styles; better players cannot risk giving lesser lights 'a game'; changing server & receiver every two points in doubles is confusing; and it is likely to cause more to give up the game than it will bring in. I still think people should change with the times!

I was very sorry to learn of the **death of the gentleman of table tennis, Arthur Upton**. From when I first attended National Council in the 1970s, and at countless AGMs, Arthur came across to me as a dignified, courteous, balanced man of sound judgement, and when I last saw him a couple of years ago was still actively helping at the Liverpool Open GP.

Finally, **congratulations to London Progress** for winning the **British League Premier Division for the fifth consecutive season**. It is difficult to see who can stop them winning again next season. And well done **Essex** for **winning the Premier Division of the County Championships**.

Stop press! **Great wins for Andrew Baggaley at European Championships!**

**Ken Muhr**  
**ETTA Information Officer**

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## **GROWING UP IN TABLE TENNIS** **By Ken Muhr**

*While flicking through old 'Table Tennis' magazines, I see I wrote a follow-up to my letter published in the December 1981 edition (and re-published in the March 2003 Table Tennis News Extra) on parents in table tennis, in the February 1982 edition:*

On re-reading my rather lengthy letter (**If You Can't Lend a Hand, Table Tennis December**), I wish to make further comment.

Let me make it absolutely clear that of course I recognise the vitally important contribution – which is undervalued and under-utilised – that parents make to table tennis. **Few juniors succeed to the top in our sport without strong, unwavering parental support, which is given even in adversity.** Some parents, although they are keen, may not have the necessary time, means or knowledge to really help their children, but their moral support and encouragement is the most important thing.

**Many other parents, through anti-table tennis feelings, higher priorities or indifference, do not give encouragement and, although this may test resolve and willpower, in practice their children are up against the odds.** I think the worse situation is **where parents have inconsistent, ambiguous, hot-and-cold attitudes to table tennis so that their children don't know where they stand.**

My comments in my earlier letter were not directed at a particular parent, nor at all parents. However, any parent at fault in at least one of the ways I outlined should take notice: **if you can bring yourself to admit that you may be wrong then you can do something about it.**

At the risk of further upsetting some people, I shall raise just one more issue on which I feel strongly. It is that parents can, albeit unwittingly, **foster selfish and anti-social attitudes in their progeny – and I do not just mean ill manners, bad temper and coarse language.** What I am thinking of is those parents who encourage their youngsters to do only what suits them, what helps them play better and what advances their table tennis careers, **so that concepts such as honesty, loyalty, sociability and co-operation have little relevance.**

An example is where parents **expect better players to practise with their children**, but when their children have improved will **discourage or not allow them to practise with lesser players.** People and teams the parents consider they don't need anymore can be discarded. Another example is **where parents seem to legitimise cheating**

**by trying to intimidate umpires (usually children) into accepting that the ball did or did not hit the net or the edge, or into changing the score to their child's favour.**

Most people would accept that, in order to improve, young, aspiring stars **must have a high standard of practice and competition and must take advantage of the opportunities available to them** – but not at the expense of failing to become decent, rounded human beings.

Some coaches, officials and players (myself included) are also at times a bad influence on junior players. And, undoubtedly, **a few coaches, organisers and team secretaries put unfair and excessive pressures, obligations and demands on youngsters which can stifle and inhibit their progress.** However, children see their parents as the most important examples of how 'normal' adults behave, and, probably subconsciously, **model most of their own behaviour on them.** So when parents set a 'good' example, as is normally the case, then this is very beneficial, but a 'bad' example has unfortunate consequences. **Children will do what their parents do, not what they say.** They will become not the kind of people parents want, but the kind of people the parents are.

I hope I don't appear condescending to parents and damning of table tennis. **After all, the table tennis scene is a microcosm of life and the points I have raised are universally applicable.** For the record, I believe that most people (parents included!) in the sport are **very friendly, good natured, unselfish, unpretentious and well intentioned.** If I didn't believe that I would not be involved.

## **AVOIDING PAYING VAT WHEN YOU LET SPORTS FACILITIES** **By Ken Muhr**

The following information may be useful for those who **let sports facilities** and I apologise that I have forgotten the document's reference:

### **1. The basic VAT position**

If you let facilities for **playing any sport** or for taking part in any **physical recreation** your supply is normally **standard-rated**. But, if the let is for **over 24 hours** or is for a **series of sessions** your supply may be **exempt**. Please see **paragraphs 3 and 4** for more details. If you are a **sports club** or a **non-profit making body** you should read **Notice 701/45 Sport**.



## 2. What is a sports facility?

Premises are sports facilities **if they are designed or adapted for playing any sport or taking part in any physical recreation**, such as swimming pools, football pitches, dance studios and skating rinks. **Each court or pitch** (or lane in the case of a bowling alley, curling rink or swimming pool) is a **separate sports facility**.

## 3. Lets for over 24 hours

If you make a **single let of sports and physical recreation facilities** for a continuous period of **over 24 hours** to the same person your **supply is exempt**, unless you have **opted to tax**. However, the person to whom you let the facilities **must have exclusive control of them** throughout the letting period.

## 4. Lets for a series of sessions

If you let out **sports and physical recreation facilities** for a series of sessions your **supply is exempt** (unless you have **opted to tax**) when you meet **all** the following conditions:

### Step Condition

1. The series consists of **10 or more** sessions.
2. Each session is for the **same sport or activity**.
3. Each session is in the **same place**, although a **different pitch, court or lane, or different number of pitches, courts or lanes** is acceptable.
4. The **interval** between each session is **at least 1 day but not more than 14 days**. The **duration** of the sessions may be **varied**, however there is no exception for **intervals greater than 14 days** through the closure of the facility for any reason.
5. The series is **to be paid for as a whole** and there is written evidence to the fact. This must include evidence that **payment is to be made in full** whether or not the **right to use the facility for any specific session is actually exercised**. Provision for a **refund** given by the provider in the event of the unforeseen **non-availability of their facility** would not affect this condition.
6. The facilities are **let out to a school, club, association or an organisation representing affiliated clubs**

**or constituent associations**, such as a local league.

7. The person to whom the facilities are let **has exclusive use of them** during the sessions.

### SWEDISH TABLE TENNIS SCHOOL WITH MIKAEL APPELGREN AND ALF KNUTSSON

By Alf Knutsson

I am a Swedish, former first league player and coach for 28 years. Former world class player Mikael Appelgren and myself have arranged **three open Table Tennis Training Camps every year since 1998**. This year: **June 14-18, June 23-27 and August 9-12 in Balsta**, 50km north west of Stockholm.

Since there seems to be great interest in these camps from all over the world, we would like to provide **ITTF associations** with information and invite all those interested to participate.

We are aware that many associations **arrange their own camps** and we have, of course, no intention of **"competing" or interfering** with such camps. We just want to offer camps where some of the **training ideas and techniques** behind the success of Mikael Appelgren and Jan-Owe Waldner are presented. Mikael Appelgren will be coaching **8 hours per day** (5 days) in the two June camps and one day in August.

**Players:** We accept players up to **international "junior top class"** (who will play in the first group with around 10 players), but also **medium strong players** and those with **little experience**. Age 10-80 – 1 coach per 10 players – all players will be trained by Appelgren.

**Coaches:** One may also participate as **assistant coach** and thereby receive some **trainer/coach education**. Assistant coaches will work side by side with the coaches, get 3 hours of table tennis theory by Appelgren and pay the same fee as participating players: **Euro 245** including food/accommodation (**Euro 205** for the August camp). We also offer a booklet, **"0-11"** (75 pages), where hundreds of **technique details** are presented. This booklet is also available for non-participants. If interested – and for details, please have a look at our website: [www.welcome.to/ttcamps](http://www.welcome.to/ttcamps) or e-mail [appelgren\\_topspin@swipnet.se](mailto:appelgren_topspin@swipnet.se)

**Mikael Appelgren** won four World Championships and nine European Championships (three individual).

**Alf Knutsson** taught Appelgren and the best player of all time, Jan-Owe Waldner, basic table tennis technique.



*From one of the training camps 2002: Gerolstein, Germany*

### ENGLISH SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION 'Getting into Schools' Table Tennis'

The English Schools' Table Tennis Association is pleased to announce the publication of the first activity packs in the series **'Getting into Schools' Table Tennis'**.

The launch of these packs will take place under the auspices of the **National Council for School Sport (NCSS)** at the Conference for Specialist Sports Colleges to be held at the **International Centre, Telford** on 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> March 2003.

These packs are designed to support the **development of table tennis at grass roots level** in primary and secondary schools throughout the country.

**'Making the Best Use of Space and Equipment'** is packed with material to photocopy and ideas to increase the enjoyment and participation of young people in table tennis. **What! No Tables? This is the pack for you!!**

**'Enhancing Your Competitions'** gives ideas for increasing participation in all types of events.

These publications are jointly funded by **Jarvis Sports** and **Sportsmatch**. **Jarvis Sports** is the sole sponsor of the ESTTA Team, Individual and International events. **Sportsmatch** is a business sponsorship incentive scheme for grass roots sport that is administered by the **Institute of Sports Sponsorship** on behalf of the Government and Sport England.

**Contact:** John Arnold, President – ESTTA, 17 Cyprus Mount, St. John's, Wakefield, WF1 2RJ. Telephone/Fax: 01924 372597. E-mail: [jarnold@portables1.ngfl.gov.uk](mailto:jarnold@portables1.ngfl.gov.uk)

## FAMOUS PEOPLE WHO PLAYED TABLE TENNIS by Ken Muhr

Well, not really famous but interesting: as an alumni of the **University of Otago, New Zealand**, my mother receives their magazine, from the February edition of which I have extracted the following item.

Dr Najibullah Lafraie, a former Mujahideen freedom fighter in Afghanistan who became an **Afghani MP and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in Kabul** in the first half of the 1990s, has become an **Otago Political Studies Teaching Fellow**, but the significant thing from TT's point of view is that he 'plays and enjoys competitive table tennis'!

### YUGOSLAVIAN PLAYER LOOKING FOR A CLUB

My name is Aleksandar Janjic, I'm a table tennis player from Yugoslavia. Since the table tennis season is almost over, and players are planning their new engagements, I would like to know if there are any clubs who are interested in engaging a foreign player of my profile.

### Curriculum Vitae (shortened)

**Name:** Aleksandar Janjic

**Date of birth:** 28. 08. 1982.

**Place of birth:** Smederevska Palanka

**Education:**

1989-1997 Primary school

1997-2001 High School for Dental Technicians

**Career:** (Editor's note - he gives a lot of detail, but basically he has played for leading Belgrade and other clubs in the Yugoslav National League, being amongst the top 10 players in the league, and has represented his country several times at junior/youth level (in nation's top 3 juniors) in international events.)

Contact me at the **YTTA** ([yfta@net.yu](mailto:yfta@net.yu)) or on my personal e-mail: [spurgiti77@hotmail.com](mailto:spurgiti77@hotmail.com)

Thank you, Aleksandar Janjic.

### PREJUDICE IN TABLE TENNIS

*We like to think that we are inclusive and equitable in table tennis but this has not always been the case, particularly it seems, in the USA in the 1930s. Tim Boggan, USA TT historian, wrote an article on the subject in the USA Table Tennis Magazine, September/October 2000, in which he mentions prejudice against class and race (e.g. against Black and Jewish) in table tennis, and also how people looked down on 'sissy' Ping Pong but*

*the more wealthy Ping Pong fraternity looked down on the down market Table Tennis! However, racial prejudice was the worst aspect, an example of which is quoted from Tim's article below:-*

Many of today's table tennis players have little idea of the commonplace prejudices that early hardbat players in the U.S. had to face.

No surprise, of course, as Yoshio Fushimi tells us, what happened when "For the first time, Black players entered a Parker Brothers APPA Championship played in 1933 at a prominent Chicago Hotel:

*"...The Palmer House in those days did not accept Black guests. Six members of the Savoy Ping Pong Club from the south-side of Chicago were stopped at the main lobby by a security person. After negotiating with the hotel management, I (Fushimi) was assigned to escort them via freight elevator to the playing area and each of them was matched against the six seeded players and eliminated in the first round."*

### TABLE TENNIS RECOGNISED FOR WORK ON RACIAL EQUALITY IN SPORT

The English Table Tennis Association, Sport England, Youth Sports Trust and Activate UK are the latest organisations to achieve the **Preliminary Level of the Sporting Equals' Achieving Racial Equality: A Standard for Sport**. They were assessed by a panel consisting of representatives from **Sport England and Sporting Equals**, as well as representatives from other national governing bodies of sport.

Cecil Edey, **Assistant Director of Liverpool City Council** and the **Chair of the Assessment Panel**, said: "These organisations have provided the required evidence that shows they are working towards tackling racism and achieving racial equality."

Tessa Sanderson, the **Vice-Chair of Sport England**, said: "Sport England expects all sports to put policies, procedures and plans in place to tackle racism and promote racial equality. Congratulations to these latest organisations which have achieved the preliminary level."

**Sporting Equals** is a project within the **CRE** funded by the **Commission and Sport England** with a clear objective to promote racial equality in sport. The project has developed the **Racial Equality Charter for Sport** – a public commitment to racial equality which sports can sign – and **Achieving Racial Equality: A Standard for Sport** – a framework of good practice with objectives and targets. Organisations working on the **Standard** are expected to provide evidence that they are meeting the objectives, and the

evidence is assessed by the **Standard Assessment Panel**. Any sport can submit evidence, but **Sporting Equals** only provides intensive support to those governing bodies identified in the funding agreement with **Sport England**.

For more information on **Sporting Equals**, contact Caroline Whiteley Tel. 0113 389 3636 or [cwhiteley@cre.gov.uk](mailto:cwhiteley@cre.gov.uk), or Judy Rogers, ETTA National Equity Officer, Tel. 01424 722525.

**Peter Hirst's advocacy of self-learning and subconscious (coaching) strategies for learning made me think of a course I attended 6 years ago, which I reported on in the North Region Coaching Newsletter:**

### NCF ADVANCED WORKSHOP UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM, 7 & 8 June 1997

**A QUESTION OF STYLE** tutored  
by Tom Fawcett  
Report by Ken Muhr

The pre-publicity said that 'This workshop examines **coaching styles and additional tools to bring out the best in your performers**. It is a highly practical workshop which will help coaches to use effective questioning to **increase awareness** and encourage performers to **take a greater responsibility for their own learning**.'

The pre-course study pack outlined the **traditional, directive coaching styles**: because people have an amazing capacity to learn from imitation, '**Show and Copy**' can be an effective coaching method if players are presented with appropriate images to model; '**Tell and Do**', where the control of and responsibility for learning lies mainly with the coach, can also be successful. The main problems with these methods are that they can **fail to encourage self-learning and therefore longer term improvement**; new skills can break down under stress because they are not automatic (leading to a reversion to earlier automatic but less efficient skills); **dependency on the coach** (for direction and motivation) rather than player autonomy and internal motivation can be ingrained; and **too much analysis and attention to errors and poor technique** (rather than on successes) may undermine competitive confidence and motivation. There is a paradox that many coaches assume a great deal of the responsibility and control in coaching, but then must necessarily send players out to perform on their own. **Should we not be developing in the players their ability to act, and make decisions in fluctuating circumstances, alone?**



So Bernie Morris and myself, plus perhaps 8 people from other sports, attended the workshop intent on finding out about an alternative to 'Show and Copy' and 'Tell and Do', and testing the hypothesis that, 'Questions which raise the awareness and focus the attention of the performer on what they notice most in their current experience will improve performance'. Could asking effective questions ('Guided Discovery', Mosston 1981) instead of instructing, really lead to improvements in motivation and performance? A lot happened in the course, but I for one ended up convinced!

The workshop, led by sports psychologist Tom Fawcett, was itself an active learning experience, with plenty of discussion and feedback – you would have had to have been there yourself to have gained awareness and understanding. I still have not sorted it all out in my own mind, so I won't begin to describe everything that went on! However, the underlying philosophy – athletes gaining autonomy/empowerment/personal responsibility for their game through self learning/learning from experience/self awareness and understanding, with the coach as a guide or facilitator – is very similar to that put over through such educationalists/social psychologists as Carl Rogers during my teacher and health education training in the 1970's and 1980's. A concrete message from the workshop is that whereas we (as participants) remember only 10% of what we are told after 3 months, if we hear, see and do (experience) it, we remember 65% (c/f Maxims and Aphorisms). And if we do it with awareness, we (feel we) own it.

What sort of questions should coaches ask? Effective questions broadly use **What, When, Where, How Much**, starting broad and then narrowing to increase/sharpen the focus. They should run with the interest of the performer. The intention is to **deepen the awareness of the player and gain richer feedback from him/her**. The **GROW model of questioning sequence** was discussed (and demonstrated to work) whereby G stands for **Goal**, R for **Reality**, O for **Options** and W for **Will**.

The kind of questions are a guide to a coaching session and can be elaborated on. A session would start with questions surrounding **Goal Setting**, e.g. What is the goal of this session? What do you want to achieve by it? Then during the session questions can be asked to establish the **Reality** of the present situation, e.g. What is happening now? (**What, When, Where, How Much**.) What results did that produce? The next stage is to ask

questions investigating **Options** and (creative) alternatives, e.g. What options do you have? What else could you do? Finally there are questions to prompt decisions on what the player **Will** do and the implications of that, e.g. What are you going to do? When are you going to do it? What support will you need? It seems to me that this sort of sequence of questions could be run over a whole session, but also in small bits of it.

There was quite a lot of discussion on Gallwey's (1974) radical coaching book on 'The Inner Game of Tennis'. From hearing players talking (and occasionally shouting) to themselves and surmising that this conversation is constantly going on in their heads and only occasionally becomes audible, Gallwey developed the idea that in each player's mind there are two selves: 'Self 1' is the **conscious, verbalising, interfering, instructing, scolding, judgmental, distrustful 'teller' of 'Self 2', the physical, unconscious, automatic, naturally talented 'doer'**. So Self 2, the body, is extremely competent and has enormous potential: left alone from the interference of Self 1, performance improves significantly. The problem is that Self 1, hungry for information and instruction, mistrusts Self 2 to perform. Therefore to improve performance, Self 1 must be quietened. The course discussed how the mind, **Self 1 could be locked – 'parked' – into some highly focussed activity or imagery requiring acute concentration** (e.g. contact point on the ball, timing, etc) through being fed specific questions or triggers, so as to minimise interference (distractions) in performance. I believe that this is a significant insight and works – **performance (by Self 2) does improve** – whereas us coaches too often destructively feel Self 1 with excessive information! However, Gallwey did say that there is a **constructive role for Self 1, in goal setting and keeping updated on the higher levels of the game**.

**Rating scales** are themselves useful tools to **deepen selective attention and awareness** (e.g. of spin, speed, smoothness, sensory perception), and **sharpen the tuning** (e.g. of timing points, and contact point and touch on ball), which I think I will use more in the future.

For the most part tutor Tom Fawcett kept true to the **questioning, empowering style he was facilitating awareness of**, except when he deliberately interfered, with unhelpful advice, in the team exercises above! My thanks to him for leading a **stimulating course**, and to my fellow participants who shared their thoughts and experiences, co-operated and mixed well and were good company.

Food for thought, but is only one albeit valuable coaching style, and I shall use it alongside the others.

## THE INNER GAME OF TABLE TENNIS

Using concepts for table tennis coaching from Gallwey's 'Inner Game of Tennis' is in fact not at all new, being picked up in the 1970's, as described by then ETTA national coach David Fairholm in a long **Table Tennis News** article in April 1982.

Dave outlined his **process of self review and reflection** in the early 1970's on being posed a problem expressed by a middle aged lady pupil in Newark: "I love table tennis, especially when you're coaching, you're so explicit, so precise, so articulate. Every little detail is covered from head to toe. The trouble is, when I concentrate on my bat angle I forget about my feet. I'm conscious about bending my knees, then missing the ball. I position my feet the correct distance apart, but not my elbow from my body, then it all goes wrong. I must be a bad student."

Dave recognised that he had absolutely confused her: 'She had been told more than was necessary, more than she could take in. She was being taught **'blackboard table tennis'** all mind and theory, and too much at that...she would have fared far better without formal tuition.' So Dave began a **search for an answer to overloading players, taking from fellow national coaches**: Peter Simpson – mental imagery and action reply of stroke production or sequences and then shadow play before performing the task with a ball; Peter Hirst - keeping it simple, to make it idiot proof, for both coaches and pupils; and Donald Parker – the reference book **'Acquiring Ball Skill'**, which stated that we are not capable of learning more than three things at one time.

However, for Dave, 'The completion came, the final piece in the form of a TV transmission titled **'The Inner Game of Tennis'**, the theory seemed to connect all the incidentals together, a complete way of teaching, not *the* way, *a* way.' He then read the book. The meat of Dave's article describes how he put IG (the inner game) into practice – 'basically we're teaching two things, **one is concentration, the other is the uniting of self one and self two**'. To read that readers should obtain Dave's original article, but below is republished Dave's description (slightly edited) of the IG framework (which can be compared to mine/KM's in the **Question of Style** article):-

## 'What is the Inner Game?'

Although we may not be aware, **two games take place every time we go to the table.** An outer game played with our external opponent; with its external goals, including physical skills and instructions which are somehow easier to remember than to execute. But there is an inner game as well; it takes place in the mind and is played against such elusive opponents as **nervousness, self-doubt and lapse of concentration.**

As we know, when we are playing well we don't worry how and when we are going to play the next ball, concentration becomes effortless and our conscious self doesn't interfere – the mind is quiet. **So just to simplify things, consider the mind as self 1 and self 2 the body.**

**The basic aim of the IG is to unite self one with self two.** The mind (self one\*) then if united would simply have the job of observing the outer game, this being the application of tactics and the tactical situation. Self two\*\* (the body) is simply left to perform the task.

**The IG helps us build up concentration, an essential ingredient to sport and everyday life.** When we ask ourselves or one another to concentrate, what are we really saying? Concentration is the awareness of *now*, nothing more, nothing less. To put this into perspective, during a table tennis match we're (often) so busy thinking about the point we've just won or lost, or fear we might lose, wondering whether our loop will be as good or as bad as our last (that we don't concentrate on the 'now'). **Possibly 'now' is the last thing on our minds.**

## What is the Inner Game used for?

**The IG basically simplifies learning;** we are natural learners and we all have a ball game potential. The IG helps us achieve that potential in a child like fashion. It will amplify the usage of our three senses connected with table tennis, Sound, Sight and Touch.

**The IG will teach us concentration, erase bad habits, it will help us to learn and relearn in a more spontaneous relaxed manner.** As children we use a similar method to the IG when first learning to walk and talk, before the self-conscious habits of learning had a chance to disruptively settle in.

...The coach describes nothing as good, bad, right or wrong: praise and criticism are evaded, the ego mind isn't knocked over or erected, **he simply observes the situation for what it is.** *Let* is a key word, our player must let it all happen and let the body learn: **'have confidence in thyself'**...conscious efforts will only cause tenseness and

hesitant play...you don't doubt or question yourself

**Self One** is the mind, the teller, the critic, the judge and the jury. Very egotistic, full of praise, and acting so normally breaks up concentration. He doesn't trust self two at all, he is continually assessing every move the body makes ad more often than not is likely to stunt any rhythmic pattern that may have developed.

**Self Two** is the body, the real expert; along with his senses, can perform almost anything within reason...the computer mechanisms in the body ill inform you exactly where every component is, in relation with one another. There are thousands of marvellous natural wonders the body is capable of without any help or interference from the mind. The body is the doer, unthinking and spontaneous, a natural corrector of errors, capable of additions, subtractions, adjustments purely by observation, if relaxed and allowed.'

Dave finished his article by asserting that coaches cannot afford to take anything for granted, must research and try out all methods, and adopt the method that suits the player.

## 'COMPETITION PLANNING' by Rowden Fullen, the Yorkshireman coaching in Sweden .

By planning beforehand you will often have a **more stable performance.** Use physical, technical, tactical and mental resources to best effect. Also have a reserve plan in case of unexpected problems.

**Phase 1** -- Preparation.  
Reserve plan for preparation.

**Phase 2** -- Warming up.  
Reserve plan for warming up.

(a) Physically.  
(b) Mentally/focusing.

**Phase 3** -- Execution.  
Reserve plan for execution.

**Phase 4** -- Evaluation.

1) **Preparation** is based on **routines used before which have proved to work well** -- use a checklist, have all equipment with you, sleep early the night before, get up in good time, eat well (know what and when), take food and drink with you, know the programme, how you will travel etc. **Relax and focus on the positive** (but don't focus strongly on the tournament too early).

2) **Warm up** in a **positive manner and learn to banish negative thinking and mind pictures of the wrong kind.** This will mean that you will have a bigger concentration capacity to direct towards more relevant factors and that the body is less stressed. Warm up in

three stages, **physical, mental and focusing** (means that you are in a state where you feel sure in yourself and sure about what you have to do). Have your concentration directed towards the tournament so that you have the right arousal level and the right thoughts and feelings.

**Physical** -- General and specific warm-ups -- so that the body is ready for the demands of the tournament.

**Mental** -- Positive self-suggestion and visualization -- carry on the inner dialogue, how well you have trained, what good form you are in etc.

## PHYSICAL

Free and easy, relaxed, balanced, strong, energetic, light and flexible.

## MENTAL

Controlled, sure, calm, clear, concentrated, focused.

**Adjustment of tension levels** -- To psyche yourself up use the inner dialogue – **'I am ready, prepared to succeed, I shall give everything'**. To sink the tension levels, use slow, deep breathing, visualize your best performances, see yourself moving easily and playing in a relaxed fashion. Remind yourself that you have played well before and can again. Try to concentrate on the **maximum release of ability** -- focus on this and believe that nothing can distract you.

3) **Execution** -- To maintain concentration levels for a long time it pays to **break up the tournament into small parts** and also to be very much aware that the levels will be very different in differing phases of the competition. Concentration is particularly important when you start to tire. Often in fact you will have less anxiety (and tests have proved this) when you **direct your concentration away from the problem at hand to something else.**

Strong focus on technique and how you will carry out different movements is usually **counter-productive and negative in a competitive situation.** Technique should be automated, conditioned, so you are **'switched off'**. Endeavour to concentrate on this **'passive'** mode and let the body take over, it knows best. Try to have the right **'feeling'**. When problems arise avoid wasting energy in being **irritated.** Don't worry over factors that you can't control. Control your **own actions and thoughts.** Too often we concern ourselves over much with what the opponent is doing and how good he or she is!



### Ability/skill during competition --

Focus on skill proficiency goals. Results are a product of how well **you perform the different parts of the whole match**. You also need of course the desire, the will to win. It's often a good idea to have **more than one reserve plan** -- you should for example know what you will do in differing situations and avoid having to make off-the-cuff decisions during competition, or last minute changes. Think of the various things that could come up to distract you and visualize how you would go about solving these. In this way you **build up reserve plans to deal with the actual situation when it arises**. The aim is to **take control over your surroundings** so that you are not caught out in the situation of having to improvise at the last minute.

4) **Evaluation** -- See bad results in a positive light; you have the opportunity to learn and progress -- without adversity few get to the top, **adversity tempers the mind and makes you stronger**. Ask yourself -- 'What went well? What could go better?' Often you may want to change your training plan after a big tournament. But always test new things for a reasonable time and give them a fair chance to work. Don't follow plans slavishly, **there must always be room for manoeuvre**.

### Competition Planning – Time Scale.

#### The week before the tournament

How are you training and what are you thinking about during the last week before the competition? How long ago did you start to prepare and how are you doing this?

#### Tournament day

How do you feel? What are you saying to yourself when you begin with physical and mental warm-ups? How strong is your feeling of control? How sure are you of yourself, what are you concentrating on, are you happy and alive? What is your anxiety level? Are your feelings changing as the day moves on?

#### Performance phase

What are you concentrating on? Are you having inner dialogue -- key words, reminders? What is the result? Are you controlling the tension level -- does it need to be higher or lower? Can you relax without losing tension and arousal levels?

#### During breaks/pauses

What are you thinking of, what are you doing? Are you changing anything?

### Afterwards

Understand which factors lead to weak and strong performance, it is important that you recognize them for the future. Every individual training/competitive session takes you nearer to your goal.

Experts say it takes between **1/3 years** to develop a training plan which gives **stable performance at a high level**. As a goal have a competition plan to achieve automatic actions which relieve you of the need for conscious thought. The central theme of any **mental programme** is that it must be **regular, systematic and goal-oriented**. The best time to start a programme is just before a new season and let it grow with the season (the least suitable is mid-season or just before a big competition; if you must start mid-season, work at strengthening areas where you are already good). Just the same as in technical areas a **mental programme should be automated before use in competition**. It is also vital that you view the mental programme as being **both on-going and an integral part of your whole training set-up**.

*Do other coaches have views on this? Please let us have them. KM, Ed.*

### **ETTA NATIONAL COACHING SCHEME Sussex Level 2 Coach Education Course**

Dates/Time: 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> May 2003 (10am to 5pm).

Assessment: Choice of Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2003 and Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2003 (7pm to 9.30pm at Generation Fareham 2 Table Tennis Club).

Venue: Six Villages Centre, Westergate, East Sussex. Tea and coffee may be available BUT bring your own packed lunch.

Cost: £100 (This includes registration fee, assessment fee, certificate and badge on successfully passing the course). Please make cheques payable to ETTA Ltd.

Tutor: Dave Berriman  
Assessor: Charlie Childs

Clothing: The course is part practical so please come prepared to play; tracksuit and training shoes are suitable.

Closing Date: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2003

For an application form or more information, please contact Michelle Holton on 01424 431222 or e-mail [teachandtrain.etta@talk21.com](mailto:teachandtrain.etta@talk21.com)

### **COACHES WORKSHOP**

John Standing, ETTA Coaching Chairman, London Region is holding the following workshop:

Graham Spicers Table Tennis Club  
15 Dukes Avenue  
New Malden  
Surrey  
KT3 4HL

Date: Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2003 commencing at 10am and finishing at 4.30pm.

Cost: £2.50 which may be paid on the day.

The main theme of the workshop will be Level 2 Revisited and is open to all coaches, players and helpers who are interested in increasing their table tennis knowledge.

Please contact John Standing by telephone on 01689 829882 or e-mail [j.standing@ntlworld.com](mailto:j.standing@ntlworld.com) for more information or to confirm your attendance.

**Table Tennis is not the only racket sport to have controversy over changing the scoring system as can be seen in the press release below:**

### **BADMINTON VOTES TO REINTRODUCE 'TRADITIONAL' SCORING**

22/03/2003: Badminton's scoring system is set to return to its **'traditional'** system following a vote at the **International Badminton Federation's Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)**, held in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, earlier today.

**The Badminton Association of England (BA of E)** led the campaign for the EGM, dissatisfied with the manner in which a decision to change the scoring system was taken following the **2002 IBF Annual General Meeting** last May.

**The BA of E** claimed that **IBF Council** did not act as directed by the AGM when it chose a scoring system option that had not been proposed to the AGM, and was concerned that the new scoring system (**3 x 15 in men's singles and men's doubles; 3 x 11 points in women's singles, women's doubles and mixed doubles**) was perceived as discriminatory to women.

Today at the EGM, which was chaired by **IBF Vice-President Tom Bacher**, the delegates resolved that **IBF Council had indeed not acted as the AGM requested** and so the scoring change made at the 2002 AGM was annulled.

There was a second proposal from the **Badminton Association of England** in which they pushed for a change to a **best of 5 games to 9 points system across all events**. However, the BA of E announced that, to ensure full support for the future scoring system to be used, they would not press for a vote, and their resolution then received no seconder.

Therefore the official badminton scoring system will revert to the **'traditional' system namely best 3 x 15 in all events**, except women's singles, which will be played under a **3 x 11 format**.

The new system will come into effect from **15 April 2003**, with dispensation on request to IBF being available to certain organisers to vary this date.

### **NEW UK SPORT REPORT SHOWS THAT ATHLETES REMAIN AT RISK FROM CONTAMINATED SUPPLEMENTS**

**Athletes who take dietary supplements run the risk of failing a drugs test** according to a report published by UK Sport. This is one of a number of conclusions published in the **'Nandrolone Progress Report'**, written by a panel of experts and presented to UK Sport.

The report draws on research conducted over the last two years which has confirmed earlier findings of **banned substances not listed on the labels of some supplements**. For example, **94 out of 634 samples** from non-hormonal dietary supplements tested last year in Cologne were found to contain **prohibited anabolic-androgenic steroids not listed on the label**. In addition, the **Austrian Federal Ministry for Social Security and Public Welfare** carried out similar tests on **54 supplements**. It found that **22%** contain banned substances.

In all cases, athletes taking the contaminated supplements would provide a positive sample if tested for drugs under **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** rules.

UK Sport reports states that: "Competitors are again strongly advised that using dietary supplements carries the **potential risk of unknowingly ingesting a banned substance**. We therefore recommend UK Sport to encourage more manufacturers and suppliers of sports supplements to strive to eliminate problem substances, and to label their products clearly to **enable sport participants to avoid substances banned by the IOC**."

UK Sport has traditionally taken a strong line on the use of supplements and, according to Chief Executive Richard Callicott, this situation seems

unlikely to change in the foreseeable future:

"With the **potential risks of contamination or poor labelling** associated with supplements highlighted in this report. UK Sport feels it is right to advise athletes to be extremely cautious about the use of any supplements. **Athletes taking supplements are doing so at their own risk and personal responsibility**. I am delighted to see that this message seems to be getting through, as the number of nandrolone findings in relation to total drug tests has fallen significantly since the peak in 1999."

Michele Verroken, Director of Drug-Free Sport at UK Sport, added:

"Athletes should look at suitable alternatives to taking supplements, the **main one of course being to eat a balanced and healthy diet**. We also encourage all sports to enlist the help of qualified nutritional experts to discuss with athletes what they should be eating and drinking to **perform at the optimum level in their given discipline**."

The report goes on to examine other issues that have arisen regarding nandrolone. These include the recent changes to the **IOC/WADA banned substance list** which specified for the first time the **level of nandrolone in a sample which would lead to a penalty for a doping violation**.

### **NOTES:-**

**UK Sport** is the agency charged by the Government with responsibility for **creating a strategy for developing high performance sport in the UK**. UK Sport's purpose is to lead the UK to sporting excellence by supporting: **winning athletes; world class events; and ethically fair and drug free sport**.

**The Nandrolone Review Group** was established by UK Sport in August 1999, in response to the **increase in the number of athletes testing positive for nandrolone**. The Group, chaired by Professor Vivien James, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry Pathology at the University of London, published its first report in January 2000.

In the year ended April 2002, **8 of the 6,009 tests** conducted by UK Sport as part of the **UK's anti-doping programme** showed positive nandrolone findings (**0.13% of the total**).

The **'Nandrolone Progress Report'** is available to download via UK Sport's website – [www.uk sport.gov.uk](http://www.uk sport.gov.uk). For a hard copy, please contact the press office.

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

The website for the **American Killerspin table tennis brand**, producing equipment, apparel and media products, has previously been mentioned in relation to invitation tournaments involving top international players. However, under **Spin Info**, it also has a lot of useful information on health & social benefits of playing table tennis, and on the inclusiveness of participation: a lifetime sport, with the slogan, **'Table Tennis: Anybody, Anytime, Anywhere.'** The music got on my nerves though, but you could turn it off.

**EXETER 1 STAR JUNIOR OPEN TOURNAMENT held at Bridge Club, West Exe Technology College, Hatherleigh Road, Exeter, on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2003**

### **Results:-**

#### **Boys Under 11**

Joseph Seal beat James Quinn 11-6, 9-11, 11-2, 11-6

#### **Boys Under 14**

Matthew Trevorran beat Aaron Denman 11-4, 11-9, 12-10

#### **Boys Under 17**

James Whitehorn beat David Woodacre 11-9, 11-8, 11-2

#### **Girls Under 11**

Martha Travis – winner – winning all matches

#### **Round Robin**

Laura McLeod – runner-up - losing only to Martha

#### **Girls Under 14**

Joy Whitehorn beat Yaina Andrew 11-6, 11-8, 11-6

#### **Girls Under 17**

Helen Parton beat Joy Whitehorn 8-11, 7-11, 11-5, 11-9, 11-9

**CIRENCESTER 1 STAR U15/U18 held at Deer Park TTC, Cirencester on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2003**

### **Results:-**

#### **Under 15 Boys**

Michael Gibbs (Ha) beat Connor Shipp (Ha) 11, -5, 11, 8

#### **Consolation**

James Broad (Co) beat Alex Banks (Av) 8, -12, 10, 9

#### **Under 18 Boys**

1<sup>st</sup> David Woodacre (Ha) and 2<sup>nd</sup> Michael Gibbs (Ha) – Group

#### **Consolation**

1<sup>st</sup> Andrew Broad (Co) and 2<sup>nd</sup> Billy Edwards (Ha) – Group

**WELSH CLOSED  
CHAMPIONSHIP 2003  
- Champions retain titles**

Both Adam Robertson and Bethan Daunton retained their **Welsh Singles titles** at the **Welsh Closed Championship** played at the **Welsh Institute of Sport, Cardiff, on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**.

Adam Robertson (Wrexham) beat former titleholder Ryan Jenkins in four games. Robertson was in charge throughout. Jenkins made a spirited fight back in game three to win it **14-12** and opened strongly in game four, but Robertson won that game and took the title **3-1**.

In the **Ladies' Singles**, Bethan Daunton of Pontypridd was the clear winner. She beat Siwan Davies of Wrexham in a one sided final.

**Results:-**

**Men's Singles Final:** Adam Robertson beat Ryan Jenkins 11-6, 11-9, 12-14, 11-9

**Ladies' Singles Final:** Bethan Daunton beat Siwan Davies 11-2, 11-2, 11-4

**SCOTTISH NATIONAL  
CHAMPIONSHIPS held at  
Inverclyde on 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> March**

**Results:-**

**Men's Singles:** Gavin Rumgay beat Stuart Crawford

**Women's Singles:** Nicola Bentley beat Claire Bentley

**BRITISH UNIVERSITIES SPORTS  
ASSOCIATION INDIVIDUALS  
TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT  
held at Warwick University on  
Saturday/Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> February  
By Mike Payne**

**Over 140 students from 24 universities** entered this annual tournament. The seeding predicted a straight fight for the medals between **Nottingham and South Bank** and because of the strength of both, the 5 finals had to be played in series.

Top men's seed was Alex Perry (Nottingham) followed by Marco Essomba (Middlesex), Gergely Urban, Abdul Wuraola and Jerome Jonah of South Bank with the 6<sup>th</sup> position filled by Niall Cameron (Edinburgh). At 7 was Che Xiancheng (Birmingham) who many predicted would be a threat to all the top names. He met Perry in the 4<sup>th</sup> round and although **losing 1-3**, caused a lot of trouble with drives way outside Perry's forehand reach. The match of this event was the semi-final between Essomba and Cameron with the former

edging ahead **11-9** in the 5<sup>th</sup>.

The final 4 in the **Women's event** were Nicola Deaton (Nottingham), Hurey Anmetoglu (Warwick), and Dorotty Nagy and Barbara Kiss of South Bank. Bosedo Kaffo (South Bank) was 3<sup>rd</sup> seed but withdrew with injury. In the final, Deaton beat Kiss **10,6 and 9**.

In the **Men's Doubles**, Urban and Wuraola (South Bank) beat the second seeds Stephen Bailey and Danny Welsh (Teesside).

In the **Mixed**, Wuraola/Kiss beat Urban/Nagy in the first semi and Perry/Deaton beat Simon Rudland/Amy Wright (Birmingham) in the second, going on to win the final **9, 9, and -7, 7**.

In the **Women's Doubles** it was a victory for South Bank's Kiss and Nagy over Deaton and Michelle Berg.

**Results:-**

**Mixed Doubles**

SFs Perry/Deaton (Nottingham) bt Rudland/Wright (Birmingham) 3, 6, 6  
Wuraola/Kiss (South Bank) bt Urban/Nagy (South Bank) 7, 7, -7, 7  
Final Perry/Deaton bt Wuraola/Kiss 9, 9, -7, 7

**Women's Doubles**

SF Kiss/Nagy (South Bank) bt Debbie Flint/Anmetoglu (Warwick) 5, 9, -9, 3  
Deaton/Berg (Nottingham) bt Arti Krishna/Aparna Srinivasan (Cambridge) 9, 10, 10  
Final Kiss/Nagy bt Deaton/Berg -6, 6, 9, 8

**Men's Doubles**

SF Urban/Wuraola (South Bank) bt Cameron/Glyn Eggar (Edinburgh) 5, 13, -8, 10  
Bailey/Welsh (Teesside) bt Matthieu Barbet/Keith Lesser (Sheffield) -7, -8, 6, 9, 9  
Final Urban/Wuraola bt Bailey/Welsh 4, 9, 6

**Women's Singles**

SF Deaton (Nottingham) bt Anmetoglu (Warwick) 9, 6, 5  
Kiss (South Bank) bt Nagy (South Bank) 8, 9, -9, 4  
Final Deaton bt Kiss 10, 6, 9

**Men's Singles**

SF Perry (Nottingham) bt Wuraola (South Bank) 6, 5, 2  
Essomba (Middlesex) bt Cameron (Edinburgh) -12, 2, 7, -12, 9  
Final Perry bt Essomba 3, 8, 2

**CITY OF DERBY JUNIOR 4 STAR  
SELECT held at Moorways Sports  
Centre, Derby, on 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> March 2003  
By Mike Payne**

**The entry was at 243**, the same as last year, but the pattern of entries was different. More players entered more events and the effect of the change in the age limits certainly pushed the number of games up on the Saturday.

With some foresight, **Derby** had already dropped the plate events on the Saturday and, after considering a number of schedules and looking at the effect of **'last in first out'**, decided to put only 1 through in the **Cadet Grade 1 events**.

In all the other **10 events**, whether groups of 3 or 4, then 2 went through to the first round.

The schedule was also altered to put the **junior and cadet finals** on in the afternoon before a larger audience.

In the **Cadet Boys**, 7 of the 8 seeds reached the quarter-finals and Paul Drinkhall (S2) beat Darius Knight (S1) **7, 8, -4, 8** in the final.

In the **Cadet Girls**, Kelly Sibley withdrawing left the top half to Jordyn Layfield who then lost to Sarra Wang (S3) in the final **8, 10, 7**.

At **Under 13**, Dorian Robinson (Surrey) and Paul Johnson (Lincolnshire) had good runs through to the semis but Paul Drinkhall beat the former in the semi and the latter in the final.

In the **Girls**, Sarra Wang beat Emma Vickers in the final.

In the **Under 11 Boys**, David McBeath (Hants) beat Adam Draper (Wales) and in the **Girls**, Mary Fuller (Yorkshire) beat Charlotte Airey (Lincolnshire).

In the **Junior Girls**, top seed Joanna Parker beat the number 2 seed and last year's winner, Abigail Embling, **13-11** in the fifth in the final.

The **Boys' final** was a re-run of last season between Peter Cleminson against Bryn Drinkhall, 'although this time Peter came out the winner. Bryn won the first game and the match seasawed until Peter took the fifth to clinch the cup and prize money.

**The Derby Association** is appreciative of the financial help given by the **City of Derby** and by **Jarvis Sports**, and to all the **Association members** who worked hard to support the **Tournament Organiser** Tony Young and **Referee** Tim Harris.

**Results:-**

**Saturday**

**Under 11 Boys**

David McBeath bt Adam Draper 8, -8, 9, 7

**Under 11 Girls**

Mary Fuller bt Charlotte Airey 9, 8, 9

**Under 13 Boys**

Paul Drinkhall beat Paul Johnson 8, 5, 7

**Under 13 Girls**

Sarra Wang beat Emma Vickers 3, 8, 6

**Cadet Boys Grade 1**

Lee Barnes beat Peter Gascoyne 7, 8, 6

**Cadet Girls Grade 1**

Hayley Parker beat Sally Smith 8, 6, 10



### **Cadet Boys Open**

Paul Drinkhall beat Darius Knight 7, 8, -4, 8

### **Cadet Girls Open**

Sarra Wang beat Jordyn Layfield 8, 10, 7

### **Sunday**

#### **Junior Boys Grade 1**

Ben Barlow beat Chris Lewis -9, 6, 6, -11, 7

#### **Junior Girls Grade 1**

Sarah Perks beat Bethany Rees -4, 5, 8, -8, 7

#### **Junior Boys Open**

Peter Cleminson beat Bryn Drinkhall -9, 6, 10, -10, 5

#### **Junior Girls Open**

Joanna Parker beat Abigail Embling 6, 7, -6, -9, 11

### **THE MOST SUCCESSFUL NORTH HERTS (ASHE CONSTRUCTION LTD) BANDED 2 STAR OPEN TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT yet was staged at the Hitchin Boys' School Sports Centre, Hitchin, on 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> March 2003**

**By Di Jermyn**

**Among a record entry of 107 players** was England no. 8, Barbara Kiss of Hertfordshire, England veteran woman no. 4, Sandra Harper of Biggleswade, and Euan Liddle, the Scottish no. 7. Other notable **local league players** competing were Mick Harper (Biggleswade), Jimmy Walsh (Stevenage), Lindsey Dare (Baldock) and Val Murdoch (Letchworth). **Local juniors** James and Abigail Moore (Royston), Jon Marlow (Letchworth) and Mark Grosvenor (Hitchin) also took part.

**The local league duo** of Mick and Sandra Harper were triumphant in the two **Veteran Singles events**, with Lindsey Dare as runner-up in the **Veteran Women's**. Sandra was also runner-up to Barbara Kiss in the **Women's Open Singles**.

In the **Men's Open Singles**, Ritchie Venner of Sussex beat well-known veteran Roy Norton of Worcestershire in an exciting match, after Norton had tasted victory over Robert Hansell (Bucks) in a thrilling semi-final match, **11-7, 5-11, 11-7, 6-11, 11-7**. Was seven his lucky number? Norton (60) stated, "It's a long time since I've played in a Open Singles final!"

**The North Herts Table Tennis Association** would like to thank **Ashe Construction Ltd** for their valued and continued support of this event and the **Hitchin Boys' Sports Centre staff** for their help and support in staging what was a very successful weekend.

### **Results:-**

#### **Men's Singles**

Ritchie Venner (Sx) beat Roy Norton (Wo) 11-4, 11-5, 11-4

#### **Women's Singles**

Barbara Kiss (He) beat Sarah Horsnell (Mi) 11-6, 11-1, 6-11, 11-1

#### **Men Band 1**

Jimmy Walsh (Mi) beat James Sprackling (Mi) 11-9, 11-8, 10-12, 11-3

#### **Men Band 2**

Adam Laws (Sy) beat Tony Isaacs (St) 11-9, 11-5, 11-8

#### **Men Band 3**

Dannel Pang (Np) beat Mark Purcell (Bu) 11-6, 11-8, 11-7

#### **Men Band 4**

Hamish Yeung (Bd) beat James Whitehorn (Do) 11-5, 11-8, 11-13, 6-11, 11-7

#### **Men Band 5**

Rory Scott (Sx) beat Kevin Haste (Sy) 11-5, 14-12, 11-5

#### **Men Band 6**

Steve Fagan (Sy) beat Adam Kelly (Mi) 11-6, 11-8, 11-3

#### **Women Band 1**

One group of 5 - Winner: Lauren Spink (Nk) Runner-up: Sarah Horsnell (Mi)

#### **Women Band 2**

Anusha Seneviratne (K) beat Lindsey Dare (He) 11-5, 11-9, 11-13, 12-10

#### **Women Band 3**

Sarah Hudson (Bd) beat Jane Easley (St) 11-8, 12-10, 12-10

#### **Under 18 Boys**

Devesh Shete (Sy) beat Christopher Bush (Sy) 11-6, 7-11, 11-8, 13-11

#### **Veteran Men**

Mick Harper (Ca) beat Steve Davis (Sy) 7-11, 9-11, 12-10, 11-8, 11-6

#### **Veteran Women**

Sandra Harper (Bd) beat Lindsey Dare (He) 11-1, 11-9, 11-8



*Pictured above (from left) are Sandra Harper, Barbara Kiss, John Jermyn, Ritchie Venner and Roy Norton*

### **NATIONAL JUNIOR/CADET TRIALS held on 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> February 2003**

Gemma Chapman (Berkshire) was the surprise winner of the **junior girls' singles** at the **National Junior/Cadet Trials** held at **Stratford Upon Avon**. Her most significant result was in beating the three times winner of this event and former national junior

champion, Kate Steward (Somerset), **11-4, 11-5, 11-8**, in the semi-finals, though in fairness to Kate it should be pointed out that she has been in the process of changing her rubbers and game.

### **Results:-**

**Junior girls' singles from quarter-finals:** Kate Steward (So) bt Kendall Smith (Wo) 11-5, 12-10, 11-7. Gemma Chapman (Bk) bt Sarra Wang (E) 11-2, 11-3, 11-7. Gemma Yarnley (K) bt Kelly Skeggs (E) 11-3, 11-8, 11-7. Emily Tucker (Bu) bt Amanda Bell ((Y) 11-9, 11-8, 11-9.

**Semi-finals:** Gemma Chapman (Bk) bt Kate Steward (So) 11-4, 11-5, 11-8. Gemma Yarnley (K) bt Emily Tucker (Bu) 10-12, 11-4, 10-12, 11-9, 12-10.

**Final:** Gemma Chapman (Bk) bt Gemma Yarnley (K) 11-2, 11-5, 11-4.

**Junior boys' singles from quarter-finals:** Simon Nutch (Y) bt Robert Lemon (Sy) 6-11, 10-12, 12-10, 11-7, 11-7. Daniel Horner (Ch) bt David Meads (Du) 11-4, 11-6, 7-11, 11-3. Shaun Marples (Dy) bt Dannel Pang (Np) 8-11, 11-7, 7-11, 12-10, 11-5. Stephen Denny (Y) bt Adam Bleakley (La) 11-8, 11-8, 14-16, 7-11, 12-10.

**Semi-finals:** Daniel Horner (Ch) bt Simon Nutch (Y) 11-5, 11-13, 11-8, 5-11, 11-9. Stephen Denny (Y) bt Shaun Marples (Dy) 11-9, 10-12, 14-16, 12-10, 11-2.

**Final:** Daniel Horner (Ch) bt Stephen Denny (Y) 7-11; 11-4, 11-4, 11-7..

**Cadet girls' singles from quarter-finals:** Gemma Yarnley (K) bt Rebecca Tweedy (Bk) 12-10, 11-6, 11-6. Sarra Wang (E) bt Susie Steeples (Li) 11-2, 11-3, 11-6. Anusha Seneviratne (K) bt Melanie Farquhar (Bk) 11-5, 12-10, 11-4. Sarah Perks (Ng) bt Sophie Byron (Ch) 3-11, 7-11, 11-2, 11-6, 11-8.

**Semi-finals:** Sarra Wang (E) bt Gemma Yarnley (K) 6-11, 6-11, 11-8, 11-9, 11-3. Sarah Perks (Ng) bt Anusha Seneviratne (K) 11-7, 9-11, 12-10, 7-11, 11-8.

**Final:** Sarra Wang (E) bt Sarah Perks (Ng) 12-10, 11-5, 11-2.

**Cadet boys' singles from quarter-finals:** Gavin Evans (Ng) bt Samuel Cannon (Mi) 11-7, 11-5, 9-11, 11-9. Myles Evans (Ng) bt Ben Barlow (YS) 9-11, 11-4, 6-11, 11-6, 11-5. David Meads (Du) bt Daniel Reed (Cv) 11-7, 11-7, 11-7. David Hayes (Bu) bt Chris Lewis (Sy) 11-9, 11-8, 11-8.

**Semi-finals:** Gavin Evans (Ng) bt Myles Evans (Ng) 5-11, 11-4, 11-6, 10-12, 11-4. David Hayes (Bu) bt David Meads (Du) 3-11, 11-9, 11-8, 12-14, 11-5.

**Final:** Gavin Evans (Ng) bt David Hayes (Bu) 5-11, 11-8, 11-2, 11-6.

## COUNTY NOTES

### - A look around the Country

Issue no. 292  
April 2003

#### BERKSHIRE by John Cunningham

##### Reading Closed Championships

In the **Men's Singles** Geoff Civil fought his way into a semi-final meeting with Hari Gehlot following victories over Barry Morten in Round 1 and Lee Calcutt in the quarter-final after a terrific battle **11-7, 10-12, 11-7, 10-12, 11-9**. In that semi-final however, Hari proved just too strong as the no. 1 seed made it to the final **12-10, 11-6, 11-6**. In the other half of the draw Steve Murgatroyd reached the semi-finals after defeating Pete Bradley **11-6, 11-5, 11-13, 11-9** and then ousting Graham Outrim **11-8, 13-11, 10-12, 11-7**. Bob Davis emerged the winner of a high quality group involving Tim Heaps and Ramesh Gehlot, Davis beating Heaps in a thrilling encounter **9-11, 11-7, 6-11, 13-11, 12-10** before going on to defeat Ramesh **11-5, 11-4, 7-11, 11-2**. In the semi-final Bob Davis proved too strong for Murgatroyd as he ran out a comfortable **11-5, 11-4, 11-8 winner**.

In the final Bob Davis got off to a brilliant start against Hari Gehlot, racing **5-1 ahead**, and although Hari rallied late on, Bob closed out the first game **11-6**. In the next an inspired Bob took the first point, but Hari then began to show his class, pulling **7-2 ahead** and winning the **11-4**. In the next Bob again got off to a flier, pulling **3-0 ahead**, only for Hari to quickly level at **4-all**. From then on it was nip and tuck before Hari finally took the lead at **9-8** and grabbed the last 2 points to take the game **11-8**. The 4<sup>th</sup> game saw Hari taking the early initiative and at **4-0 up** the match looked to be heading his way. However Bob wasn't quite finished yet and drew level at **4-all**. A poor shot from Davis allowed Hari to take a **9-8 lead**, but Bob held his nerve to take it to **10-all**. A good Hari service gave him an **11-10 lead** and in the next point another heavily spun forehand forced Bob's return off the end of the table to give Hari a third consecutive **Men's Singles title**.

In the **Women's event** Lisa Bosley knocked out the no. 1 seed and holder Mary Allan in a tense semi-final **7-11,**

**11-7, 11-8, 13-11** to meet Sharon Mitchell in the final. Sharon's pimpled rubber had Lisa in trouble in the first and Sharon won that game **11-5**. The second game was closer. A rushed forehand gave Sharon a **7-5 advantage**, but Lisa fought back to level and eventually took the lead at **11-10**. Another rushed forehand saw Sharon level at **11-all** and it was she who took the next 2 points for a **2-0 lead**.

Sharon's rubber continued to cause Lisa problems, but gradually Sharon started to miss a few forehand kills and Lisa hung on in to take the game **11-7**. In the next Lisa was now playing much better and in her usual determined manner raced **3-1 ahead** and then **8-4 ahead** before a double service error allowed Sharon back into it at **8-all**. A superb forehand drive saw Sharon **10-9 ahead**, but Lisa again hung on grimly to level at **10-all**. A good length chop forced Lisa into another error and Sharon made no mistake with this second opportunity to clinch the match **13-11**.

Thanks to Brian Latham and Charlie Goddard who organised the event at Cripsham T.T.C.

##### Results:-

###### Men's Singles Final

Hari Gehlot beat Bob Davis 6-11, 11-4, 11-8, 12-10

###### Ladies Singles Final

Sharon Mitchell beat Lisa Bosley 11-5, 13-11, 7-11, 13-11

###### Men's Doubles Final

Bob Davis and David Streak beat Hari and Ramesh Gehlot 9-11, 8-11, 11-9, 14-12, 11-5

###### Ladies' Doubles Final

Carole Chard and Sharon Mitchell beat Mary Allan and Wendy Porter 11-8, 11-3, 11-5

###### Mixed Doubles Final

Hari Gehlot and Mary Allan beat Graham Outrim and Sharon Mitchell 11-2, 11-8, 7-11, 11-9

###### Veteran Singles Final

Tim Heaps beat David Streak 11-8, 11-7, 13-11

###### Senior Veteran Singles Final

Graham Outrim beat David Streak 15-13, 12-14, 12-10, 5-11

###### U21 Singles Winner

Ben Gates beat Lee Calcutt 9-11, 11-8, 4-11, 11-9, 11-8

###### U18 Boys' Singles

Ben Gates beat Stephen Ayres 11-2, 11-4, 11-4

###### U15 Boys' Singles

Abhay Gehlot beat Stephen Ayres 9-11, 11-9, 7-11, 12-10, 11-7

###### U13 Boys' Singles

Stephen Ayres beat Ben Davis 6-11, 6-11, 11-7, 11-7, 13-11

###### U18 Boys' Doubles

Tom Maynard and Ben Davis beat Stephen Ayres and Adam Van den Durgen 11-4, 7-11, 11-5, 11-5

###### Division 1 Restricted Singles

Bob Davis beat Steve Murgatroyd 8-11, 11-8, 11-4, 11-2

###### Division 2 Singles

Tim Heaps beat Geoff Civil 12-10, 11-5, 11-6

###### Youth Division Singles

Abhay Gehlot beat Kuldeep Gehlot 11-9, 18-16, 11-13, 29-27

###### Reading Chronicle Trophy Winner

Bob Davis



*Pictured above are Lisa Bosley, Ladies R-U and Stephen Ayres, Boys' Champion*

#### CHESHIRE by Alan Blears

Many readers will, via "Cheshire Chat", be familiar with the success of the county team in winning the **Senior Division 2A** of the **County Championships**. The team is guaranteed promotion to the **first division** next season. Congratulations to Danny Horner, Ray Jackson, Ken Connor, Neil Powell, Clàre Newns and Katy Ingham. Danny, Clare and Katy were all unbeaten. Isn't that great?

The junior second team, too, had a great second day in **Division 2A**, winning all their matches. Overall they finished second to **Durham** on games difference, despite beating them **6-4**. All the team of Aaron Beech, Gavin Lloyd, Jon Taylor, Clare Langford and Hayley Parker **won at least 50% of their matches**, with Hayley – who is still a cadet – being unbeaten. Wow!!

At the other end of the age spectrum, i.e. those approaching middle age, the **veterans** had a great weekend in the **Northern Masters at Blackpool**. Doreen Schofield was winner of the **Over 60 Ladies' Singles**, runner-up in the **doubles** with Olwen Burroughs, and semi-finalist in the **Over 50 Singles**. Husband Derek took the **Over 70 Men's Singles**, and with Stockport team-mate Vince Hankey was runner-up in the **doubles** to Terry Donlon, also Stockport, and his partner Geoff Brook.

John Hilton's infectious enthusiasm for the game matches his skill and he defied the years by winning the **Over 40 section**. John also finished as runner-up in the **veterans' section** of

the **English Nationals in Sheffield**, losing **12-10** in the fifth to Dave Harding in the final.

Entries for the **Cheshire Schools Individuals** were as always affected by the fact that many children attend schools in the **Merseyside and Greater Manchester educational areas**. However, Ian Willsdon organised an enjoyable competition, the highlight of which was the **Boys' Under 16 event**, won by George Yardley from Mark Platt.

#### Winners:-

**Boys Under 11:** Jamie Pollard  
**Girls Under 13:** Fiona Dennett  
**Boys Under 16:** George Yardley  
**Boys Under 13:** Paul Kershaw  
**Girls Under 16:** Liz Dennett  
**Boys Under 19:** Rob Wylie

#### **CORNWALL by John Wood**

This season's **Cornwall Table Tennis Association's annual championships** saw Jeremy Williams return to his old scintillating form, beating heir apparent to his crown Adrian Noott in the **Men's Singles final**, at the **Tregorrick Park Table Tennis Centre in St. Austell**.

Williams from Falmouth won his **11<sup>th</sup> Men's Singles title** beating Noott, **6-11, 11-5, 9-11, 11-6, 14-12**, in one of the best and most exciting attacking finals seen in recent years.

Williams doesn't hold the record yet, as St. Ives' John Bassett is out in front with **13 victories**, but Williams has time on his side.

The **Men's Doubles** saw Williams pick up his second trophy when he paired up with Peoples Palace's Roger Jacobs, beating St. Austell's Gary Hall and Adrian Noott, **5-11, 9-11, 11-6, 11-5, 11-9**.

Noott, however, did win a trophy when he partnered Shirley Luckhurst from Metherell, to win the **Mixed Doubles finals**, beating Gary Hall and Crafhole's Elaine Lewis, **11-7, 11-5, 12-10**.

Michelle Turner, of Harris Mill, is this year's **Women's Singles champion** following her close battle with Shirley Luckhurst, finally overpowering the Metherell lady's super defence, **9-11, 5-11, 11-7, 11-3, 12-10**.

Turner also won a second title when she paired up with St. Austell's Kate Alken to take the **Women's Doubles trophy**, beating Elaine Lewis and Shirley Luckhurst, **11-8, 9-11, 12-10, 12-10**.

The **Under 21 Open Singles' winner** was Nick Smale from Launceston, who defeated Turner **11-5, 11-4, 11-6**.

This season's **Veterans Over 40 and 55 champions** are Falmouth's Steve Lobb who beat Gary Hall **4-11, 11-5,**

**11-4, 11-5**, and Peoples Palace's Bob House who out-defended Dennis Williams of Falmouth **11-3, 11-9, 11-2**, respectively.

Harris Mill's Lisa Reed defended her **Junior Girls crown** beating Amy Burton of Cape Cornwall, **11-7, 11-3, 9-11, 8-11, 11-8**, whilst the **Junior Boys' title** went to Peoples Palace's Adam Tatlow who won a titanic battle with Launceston's Nick Smale, **11-6, 11-7, 5-11, 9-11, 11-9**.

Undoubtedly the rising stars of these championships were 9 year-old Martha Travis from Harris Mill and Matthew Trevorror of St. Ives. Martha not only won the **Under 12 Girls trophy** winning a round-robin group, but also the **Girls Under 15 crown** where she beat Harris Mill's Georgina Credland **11-9, 11-5, 9-11, 11-7**, whilst Matthew did similar by winning both the **Boys Under 12 and Under 15**, beating Patrick Davies of Launceston in the **Under 12, 11-3, 11-7, 11-4**, and Peoples Palace's Richard Harris in the **Under 15, 12-10, 11-7, 11-6**.

The **Junior Doubles title** went to James Broad of St. Austell and Daniel Putt, who beat Adam Tatlow of Peoples Palace and Andrew Broad of St. Austell, **11-8, 11-5, 11-9**.

Adam Tatlow won his second trophy when he partnered Jonathan Randall in a **3-0 victory** over Nick Smale and Neil Phillips in the **Junior Team event**.

The **Consolation Singles title** was won by David MacManus, who defeated Steve Hunt **11-3, 12-10, 14-12**, to complete a wonderful weekend's table tennis.

#### **CUMBRIA by Gordon Brown**

Seven of the eight titles at **Cumbria Schools Individual Championships** went to the **Barrow area** and six of them to the **Crawfords**.

Jonathan Crawford, a 15-year-old pupil at **Dowdales School, Dalton-in-Furness**, won the **Under 16s and Under 19s**, beating Mark Fox (**Dallam School, Milnthorpe**) **11-3, 11-3, 13-11**, and Mark Ashburn (**Dallam**) in four sets respectively.

Jonathan's brother Scott took the **Under 13s**, beating Adam Fox (**Dallam**) and **Under 11s** against Matthew Bruce (**Askam**).

Their sister Helen won the **Under 13 Girls** against Jane New (**Dowdales**) **7-11, 11-4, 11-9, 14-12**, and the **Under 16s** against Kayleigh Bryant (**St. Bernards**).

The **Under 19 Girls** was collected by **Dallam's** Helen Murgatroyd over Bryant in straight sets.

Emma Smith (**Askam**) was taken to five sets before overcoming schoolmate Sam Cooper in the **Girls' Under 11 final**.

Cumbria will have one player per event in the **Jarvis National Individual Championships in Stoke-on-Trent**. Jonathan Crawford will be in the **Under 16s** and Mark Ashburn, whom he beat in the **Under 19s**, will go through in that age group.

Scott Crawford will be in the **Under 11s**, but Adam Fox, the player he beat in the **Under 13s**, will be the **Under 13 representative**.

Helen Crawford will be in the **Under 13s**, but although she also won the **Under 16s**, the runner-up Kayleigh Bryant will play at **Stoke** in that age group.

Cumbria's other representatives at the **nationals** will be Emma Smith (**Askam**) in the **Under 11 Girls** and Helen Murgatroyd (**Dallam**) in the **Under 19 Girls**.

#### **DEVONSHIRE by John Vincent**

##### **Juniors**

Our first team of Craig Bryant, Chris Brown, Shaun Gibbs, Helen Parton and Sally Smith finished their season on a high beating **Buckinghamshire II 9-1, Glamorgan II 8-2 and Middlesex 8-2** to become **Division 1B** champions and so gaining promotion to the **Premier Division** next season. The boys won all their games whilst Helen won 4 and Sally 3. Captain Shaun Gibbs has led by example recording **14 wins out of 14 games**.

Our second team are champions of **Division 3C** winning all their matches, so they will be looking forward to competing in **Division 2B** next season.

##### **Carter Cup**

The **Plymouth junior team** of Chris Brown, Jacob Kodicek and Darren Reed beat **Crawley 6-0 and Slough 5-2** in **Okehampton** on **15<sup>th</sup> March** to qualify for the finals in **Liverpool**. Chris Brown was in devastating form winning all his matches.

##### **National Junior League – Plymouth**

Round 3 has been completed. The final round will be on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March** in **Plymouth**.

##### **Devon Schools Team Event Champions**

**Under 11 Boys:** Yealmpstone Farm Plymouth

**Under 13 Boys:** Exmouth C.C.

**Under 16 Boys:** Ivybridge Sports College

**Under 19 Boys:** Bideford College

**Under 11 Girls:** St. Peters R.C. – Plymouth



**Under 13 Girls:** Exmouth C.C.  
**Under 16 Girls:** Exmouth C.C.  
**Under 19 Girls:** None

All the teams except **Ivybridge Boys** qualified for the **regional finals** at **Cheltenham**, but none were strong enough to reach the **nationals**.

#### **Devon Schools Individual Champions**

**Under 11 Boys:** Elliot Goss  
**Under 13 Boys:** Chris Smith  
**Under 16 Boys:** Sam Bruty  
**Under 19 Boys:** Chris Brown  
**Under 11 Girls:** Vicky Smith  
**Under 13 Girls:** Lisa Wherrett  
**Under 16 Girls:** Lisa Radford  
**Under 19 Girls:** Helen Parton

#### **Junior British League**

After his accident it was good to see Craig Bryant, **Devon's no. 1 senior and junior**, have a tremendous victory over Kou Lei whilst playing for **Ormsby** in the **Premier Division**.

In **Division 1, Devon Aces** comprising Chris Brown, Jacob Kodicek and Darren Reed, finished in fourth place.

#### **Seniors JAGS - Dulwich**

The team of Craig Bryant, Paul Whiting, Mike Short and James Whiteman gained their first win in the **British League Premier Division** when they defeated **Wellow House School 10-4** in **Plymouth**.

The next match away to **JAGS - Essex** saw our team get another good result with a **7-7 draw**, which takes **DML** off the bottom of the **Premier League** for the first time this season. Paul Whiting won 2, Mike Short, Marketa Myskova and Kevin Buddall 1 each, plus we took **both doubles**.

#### **ESSEX by Steve Kerns**

#### **76<sup>th</sup> Southend Closed**

With **19 events** to be contested, some preliminary events had to be held in the week running up to the tournament. County no. 1 Cris Sladden was predictably in a class of his own and took the **Men's Singles** at a canter. Former England no. 2 Stuart Gibbs fought his way through to the **Men's Singles final** beating county no. 1 junior Keiran Lally **21-19** in the third in a thrilling semi-final to avenge his defeat at the same stage last season. Youth was to the fore in the other half of the draw as well as the fast-improving Tony Halling fought his way through to the semi-final before losing to Sladden. Despite trying as hard as he could in the final, there was no fairy-

tale ending for Gibbs as a razor-sharp Sladden cruised to a **21-10, 21-8 victory**.

Grand Prix regular Cathy Eakin excelled to take four titles, beating Linda Murray in the **Ladies' Singles** and **Veterans' Ladies' Singles finals**; joining forces with Linda to take the **Ladies' Doubles** and pairing up with Ray Sutton to secure a superb **16-21, 21-18, 21-17 victory** in the **Mixed Doubles** against Cris Sladden and Anne Lane.

#### **Selected results included:**

**Men's Singles:** Cris Sladden beat Stuart Gibbs 21-10, 21-8

**Ladies' Singles:** Cathy Eakin beat Linda Murray 23-21, 21-14

**Men's Doubles:** Stuart Gibbs/Steve Edwards beat Keiran Lally/Tony Halling 21-13, 21-13

**Ladies' Doubles:** Cathy Eakin/Linda Murray beat Anne Lane/Tina Penn Gillam 14-21, 21-6, 21-13

**Mixed Doubles:** Cathy Eakin/Ray Sutton beat Cris Sladden/Anne Lane 16-21, 21-18, 21-17

**Veterans' Men's Singles:** Ray Murray beat Hamish Innes 20-22, 21-17, 21-18

**Veterans' Ladies' Singles:** Cathy Eakin beat Linda Murray 21-18, 21-15

**Premier Division Restricted Singles:** Hamish Innes beat Kevin Read 11-6, 8-11, 11-1, 11-3

**Division 1 Restricted Singles:** Steve Edwards beat John Lott 21-12, 21-16

**Division 2 Restricted Singles:** Les Taylor beat Eddie Hodson 7-21, 21-18, 21-16

**Over 60s' Singles:** Peter Ballrad beat Ray Murray 21-11, 21-9

**Veterans' Men's Doubles:** Keith Philips/Steve Woodley beat Stuart Gibbs/John Lott 16-21, 21-14, 22-20

#### **HAMPSHIRE by Jeremy Wilson**

**Bournemouth** were victorious in the **Hampshire Inter-town Championships** this season.

Played on a block format, captain Howard Davies drafted in several top players for the decisive round of matches against **Southampton and Aldershot** to secure the title.

The squad of Brian Burn, Eric Buckley, Brian Garroway, Mark Butler and Neil Cartwright comfortably won those matches **9-1**, with Burn, Buckley and Garroway finishing the season undefeated.

**Former Hampshire champion** Victor Imiseev led the way for runners-up **Southampton**, winning eight of his nine matches, while student Michael Yin also performed well to finish with the same individual record.

In the **County Team Championships**, the Hampshire senior squad are struggling to regain their

place in **Division 1** after following up wins against **Berkshire II and Oxfordshire with a draw against a Carl Preen-inspired Isle of Wight**.

The other county teams are generally having a difficult season with the **juniors in Division 1B** still waiting for their first win and the **veteran teams** also having a tough time.

In the **Southampton Table Tennis League**, Charlie Childs' **Generation II team** are looking hot favourites to finally take the **Premier Division title** away.

At the time of writing, the squad of Imiseev, Miki Sinanan and county champion Graham Toole have built up what looks to be an unassailable lead.

#### **NORFOLK by Ray Hogg**

**County Championships** time again for the **56<sup>th</sup> happening** and possibly the last. An entry of **24 seniors of which only 20 arrived - 3 ladies only** and 1 for the ladies' veterans, so for the first time no **Ladies' Doubles**. The bright spot was that **55 juniors** entered and all turned up. Just as well the **schools' competition** was on at the same time with **75 entrants**, otherwise the magnificent **Sportspark Hall** would have looked very empty with **20 players on 18 tables**. With Dennis and Margaret Calver absent from the **admin table** for the first time in **30 years**, volunteers came from all parts of the county to help in the running, so did the usual "barrack room lawyers"!

#### **Results:-**

##### **Seniors**

**Men's Singles:** Ian Maclaine

**Ladies' Singles:** Mary Sawyer

**Veterans' Singles:** Trevor Bunn

**Men's Doubles:** Ian Maclaine and Mark Wortley

**Mixed Doubles:** Russell King and Mary Sawyer. Victor Ludorum shared Ian Maclaine and Mary Sawyer

##### **Juniors**

**Girls Under 13:** Amy Ajeto

**Girls Under 15:** Kerry King

**Girls Under 18:** Gabrielle Pinnock

**Boys Under 13:** Chris Durrant

**Boys Under 15:** Sam Shaw

**Boys Under 18:** Andrew Gale

**Girls' Doubles:** Rachel Tooke and Hayley Jessop

**Boys' Doubles:** Martyn Cook and Andrew Gale

**Mixed Doubles:** Sam Shaw and Rachel Tooke. Victor Ludorum and Sam Shaw.

##### **Special Awards**

**Girl:** Imogen Robinson

**Boy:** Jonathon Gale

##### **Schools**

**Girls Under 11:** Laura Bridges

**Girls Under 13:** Amy Ajeto

**Girls Under 16:** Kerry King  
**Girls Under 19:** Rachel Tooke  
**Boys Under 11:** Ben Briggs  
**Boys Under 13:** Oliver Barton-Wood  
**Boys Under 16:** Martyn Cook  
**Boys Under 19:** Stephen Shaw

#### **NORTHAMPTONSHIRE by Dennis Millman**

After disappointment last year, the **Wellingborough League Tournament**, now sponsored by **CT Autoparts**, proved highly successful when staged at **Dr. Martens Sports & Exhibition Hall, Nene Park**.

A quality entry for the **Men's Singles** produced a final between two of the county's top players – David Gatiss and Richard Elliott. This turned out to be a **fast and furious affair** with both players leading in turn, until Gatiss levelled the match at two games all. After some tense moments Gatiss established a **9-6 lead** in the decider only for Elliott to claw back the advantage, but Gatiss wasn't to be denied taking the match-winning points and the title.

Muriel Cox proved much too consistent in the **ladies' event**, retaining her title with comparative ease, extended only by the popular County Secretary, Denise Barnett, while at **veteran level** against Christine Howell, Mrs Cox again came out on top. It was her eighth consecutive **veterans' title**, but it was the beaten finalists who combined to take the **Ladies' Doubles**.

After making sure of the **Veteran Men's Singles**, Steve Silk teamed up with Mark Nannery for the first time to add the **Men's Doubles** with the beaten finalists gaining some consolation when they made no mistake in the **Veterans' Doubles**.

Gordon Shaw celebrated his arrival in the **Over 50 ranks** by winning the **Gwil Evans Memorial Trophy** in that age category, also adding the **doubles** in tandem with Alan Shouler, who had to be satisfied as runner-up in the **Consolation Singles**.

In the **Hard Bat competition**, specialist Alan Ashberry again had Richard Elliott as his final opponent, but after trailing by two games, Ashberry fought back to take the title.

This year the **junior events** were closely contested with Keith Lucas successful in the **Rod Marchant Memorial Trophy for Under 18 Boys**, while Sam Piranty, after some breathtaking performances in the **Men's Singles**, took the **Trevor Mumford Memorial Trophy for Under 15s** with Shane Bicknell taking the honours at **Under 13 level**.

Lucas and Piranty were also winners in the corresponding **doubles**, partnered

by David Gibbons and Matt Horrocks respectively.

Piranty was the most prolific winner overall, also ending in pole position in the **Division 1 Handicap** and the **Mystery Doubles** where Dame Fortune paired him with Albert Luck.

Additional winners on the day were Damian Carr in the **18-23 Singles**, Maurice Jones in the **Over 60 Singles**, while the remaining **handicap events** were won by Luke Hughes (**Premier**), Mary Hearn (**Division 2**) and Richard Kingston (**Division 3**).

Dickson Pang produced a superb performance to take first place in the **Northants Junior Top 12 for Boys**, when he beat all eleven of his opponents. So marked was his superiority that his closest call came against Aron Chan, **347 places** below him on the county ranking list. Chan took the first end **11-4**, Pang then reversed the score line and with all rubbers to be settled in the best of three ends, Pang took the decider **11-8**.

Robert Williams and Martyn Hancox fought out the battle for second place with Hancox easing through **12-10, 9-11, 11-9**.

#### **Final Placings:-**

1. Dickson Pang, 2. Martyn Hancox, 3. Robert Williams, 4. Keith Lucas, 5. Sam Piranty, 6. David Gibbons, 7. Ben Starmer, 8. Steve Broughton, 9. Alex Dickson, 10. Michael George, 11. Aron Chan, 12. Matthew Carter.

It was an **all Northampton** contest in the corresponding **Top 8 for Girls** with Katie Mansfield including the higher ranked Sarah Hollis among her seven victims as she took the title. However the best game of the evening came when Melissa Price fought back from two games down to beat Katy Armstrong **9-11, 9-11, 14-12, 11-9, 11-9**.

#### **Final Placings:-**

1. Katie Mansfield, 2. Sarah Hollis, 3. Melissa Price, 4. Shonah Keeling, 5. Katy Armstrong, 6. Sophie Hancox, 7. Beth Walter, 8. Danielle Prenderville.

It was a **double success** for the **veterans** in their latest **County Championship matches**. The **Firsts** got the better of **Leicestershire Seconds** with Gary Webb unbeaten in **both singles and doubles**. Chris Gibbons, Steve Silk and Clem Little all won once in a **6-3 victory**.

Only the **Men's Doubles** was lost when the **Seconds** proved too strong for their Notts counterparts. Two wins each from Mike Hawes, Ian Sclater and Michael Edwards, while in addition to

her winning **singles**, Muriel Cox joined Hawes to add a **doubles**.

#### **NORTHUMBERLAND by Pauline Long**

The **Northumbria League men's veterans' representative side** of Malcolm Lusk, Geoff Salter and John Williamson have qualified for the next stage of the **Alec Brook Trophy national team competition**. They won both their group matches at **Silksworth CC against Hallam (Sheffield) 5-4** – John won the decider – and **Sunderland 5-1**.

The following weekend, the same three players representing **Thompson's Insurance in Division 2 of the British League**, travelled to **Doncaster Dome** for the **two-stage promotion finals**. They missed out on the title to **Cippenham** by just one set, but as runners-up they will still be playing in **Division 1** when the League resumes in **November**. All the players have been quoted as greatly looking forward to the challenge of the tougher matches which will face them next season.

At the other end of the age scale, the **two divisions of the Northumberland Schools League** have also completed their fixtures, with eight teams contesting each division. **Ashington 'A'** won **Division A** without dropping a set, while **John Spence 'A'** lost only two in winning the **Division B title**.

It was intended to hold play-offs for **positions 1 to '16 at John Spence Community High School on March 7**, and while the matches were in progress to hold a meeting to form the **Northumberland Schools Association**.

The **Northumbria League season**, which was due to end during the week commencing March 31, is rapidly reaching a more keenly-fought run-in than usual. Next season, it is expected that the top eight teams in the **Premier Division** will form a new **"Superleague"** and the remaining four plus the top eight in **Division 1** will form the new **First Division**, and so on down to **Division 4**. The number of teams in the other divisions – **at present a maximum of twelve** – will be adjusted according to how many teams apply to join the league for the season.

The **Team Handicap Knockout Cup** was still at the **second round stage**, mainly due to the fact that because of the number of teams which had applied to join the league, **no free weeks** were able to be set aside for this competition. Some home venues were only available on the one evening, and scheduled league matches had to take priority. **Hopefully, the competition will be finished before Easter!**

## Northumberland Closed Tournament By Aubrey Drapkin

The Northumberland Closed was held at the Sporting Club of Cramlington on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2003 and attracted a larger entry than has been the case in recent years.

A pleasing feature was the increase in the number of junior players taking part.

The Open Singles produced the major shock of the day when both of the top two seeds were beaten by Dave Robson who claimed the title. Smith, partnered by Dave Godbold, retained the doubles title whilst the Women's Singles was won by Lynne Herrington.

The veterans' title went to Malcolm Lusk with the handicap event being won by Dave Godbold.

David Graham was successful in the Junior Singles and his young club mate Adam McCormack retained the Cadet Singles title.

There were also three banded events in which the winners were Steve Penman (Band 1), Alan Hedley (Band 2), and Gavin Thompson (Band 3).

### Results:-

**Open Singles:** Dave Robson beat Michael Marsden 4, -9, -10, 5, 2

**Doubles:** Eddie Smith/Dave Godbold beat Marsden/Malcolm Lusk 6, -8, 6, 8

**Women's Singles:** Lynne Herrington beat Pauline Jackson 9, 2, 3

**Veterans' Singles:** Malcolm Lusk beat Geoff Salter 6, -7, 2, 8

**Junior Singles:** David Graham beat Fan Cheng 1, 3, 4

**Cadet Singles:** Adam McCormack beat Carl Hemsley 5, 4, 4

**Handicap Singles:** Godbold (-) beat Salter (6) 21-16, 21-17

**Band 1 Singles:** Steve Penman beat Neil Herrington 9, -5, -9, 10, 8

**Band 2 Singles:** Alan Hedley beat Jagannathan Doriaswamy 2, 9, 3

**Band 3 Singles:** Gavin Thompson beat McCormack 9, 8, 7

## SHROPSHIRE by Terry Ridgway

### Telford League

Idsall A still dominate the top division as the only unbeaten side, the combination of leading juniors Andrew Gradwell and Joe Hurdley with the experience of Chris Tarr and Paul Fisher proving too much for the established division one teams. Battling for runners-up spot are the previous champions Albrighton A and Albrighton B. Leading the averages for the fifth season running is county no. 1 Tony Ackroyd with 36/39 followed by top county veteran Malcolm Langford with 31/39, although Idsall's Paul Fisher has an

unbeaten record (choosing to only play against the top sides!). Lilleshall A head the second division and look favourites to replace Bridgnorth C in the top league. Fighting for second place are Owens TV, Mathesons and Albrighton C. Abbey C, D and E head the third division in a three way fight.

### Shrewsbury League

Pontesbury A still lead by twenty points and recently achieved a 6-4 win over rivals Cricket A (who tasted defeat for the first time in two and a half years!). Cricket B are making it a three horse race (but if the Shrewsbury Chronicle is to be believed Pontesbury A had it all wrapped up by Christmas!!) Darrell Corfield, brother Paul, Nigel Holding, Rob Mansfield and Rod France lead the individual averages. Shrewsbury's closed tournament was won by Paul Corfield (Men's Singles), Rob Mansfield (Vets' Singles) and Jane Bevan (Ladies' Singles) in a well organised and well supported competition.

The veterans' sides have gone to the wire in Division 4C as both teams are equal third approaching the last series of games and have an outside chance of promotion. The A side visit Wiltshire 2nds and the B side entertains Dorset 3rds with both county teams needing big wins to give them any chance.

Finally, congratulations to Bridgnorth's Damien Nicholls on his selection for the ETTA academy in the Under 15 section, a county star of the future!

### SUFFOLK by Andrew Doshier

As reports haven't been as plentiful this season, I will summarise the season.

A big congratulations to Stowmarket Table Tennis Club who have won the Premier Club of the Year Award at participation level for England. In recent years the club has acquired dedicated facilities on a school site and developed very strong school links using a professional coach. A key feature of the club's success has been the communication with members including regular newsletters and a club website.

On the development front a number of new coaches are coming through and are currently being assessed – most of these volunteers are based in Bury St Edmunds, Stowmarket and Ipswich.

In September the Britannia Club hosted the third Top 12 event and saw a third different winner in Andrew Warner. He lifted the title with a three set victory over outgoing champion Richard Hutchinson, who had earlier beaten him in the group stage.

In the Ipswich League, Britannia Eagles are far from certain of winning the title for a fourth consecutive time, as Claydon A have added Gary Young to the already strong line up of Michael Wright and Barry Thain, while St Margarates A are always thereabouts. Unfortunately Andrew Warner will be out for a number of weeks due to injury, which could cost Rosary Red their title chance.

In the Bury League, Lawshall are now second to leaders Bury Vikings and are nine points behind with a game in hand. Felsham, though with both the Gray brothers and Paul Cicchelli signed on, could have a say depending on how much they play in the final matches.

The Suffolk Closed Championships took place in early December for veterans and juniors and in January for seniors.

The Junior Boys' Singles saw Lee Barnes win both the Boys' Singles and Under 15s without I understand the loss of a game.

Rachael Stephens took both the Girls and the Under 15s' Singles.

Chelsea Bennett won the Under 13s' Singles with Aimee Maskall runner-up. Young Aimee in fact led Bennett two sets to love in the semi-final of the girls' event proper before finally going down and gained a lot of experience and respect for her performance. Stephens played a thriller against Bennett in the girls' final and after leading 2-0 finally emerged a 12-10 winner in the fifth. The same two players played in the Under 15 Girls' final as well with Stephens again winning 3-2.

Last year Andrew Gross came from two down to beat Barnes in the boys' final. This year Barnes was in no mood to lose again and apart from a close first set at 9 won the next two fairly comfortably. Barnes' final victim in the Under 15 Boys' Singles was Aaron Self. Barnes teamed up with Gross for a tough 3-1 win in the doubles over Sam Walker and Ryan Collins.

In the veterans' event there were plenty of entries and it was Ian Brown who showed his class by winning both the Over 40s and 50s' Singles events. His final victim in the Over 50s' event was Barry Thain, a player he played and beat three times during the day. In the Over 40s' Singles his final victim was Nigel Hodder who had beaten him earlier in the semis of the Open Singles (up to 11). Hodder though was beaten in this final by last year's Suffolk Senior Restricted champion defender John Tallent 11-7 in the decider.

Fred Dove though featured in possibly the game of the weekend. In the Over 40s' semi-final against Brown, not long after knee surgery, he



hobbled through this match and had a huge lead in the decider before Brown dug in to **win 19**.

In the **restricted**, Simon Ball won with a convincing score line over Phil Sinclair.

In the **doubles**, number one seeds Hodder and Brown were beaten by team mates Tallant and Ball in the semis, who then fell at the final hurdle to Andrew Holmes and Ken Lewis.

In the **Suffolk Senior Closed Championships** it was an emotional time for two time champion Richard Hutchinson, as there was doubt about him playing after his father Paul Hutchinson suffered a stroke.

Hutchinson though showed great stamina on the day and came through with **2-0 wins** over Paul Cicchelli and the author of this article respectively in the semis and final for his third title, and was justly rewarded with newspaper coverage showing a photo with his father.

Rebecca Sparkes won another **Women's Singles title** with a final victory over Vicky Gray in straight sets, but earlier in the day against the same player in the **Open Singles (11 up)** was **0-2 and match point down**, before literally coming back from the dead in what was perhaps the game of the day. Michael Wright beat Hutchinson in the **Open Singles** and got through to the semis before going down to Sparkes' senior. She went down though in straight games in the final to Hodder.

In the **Men's Doubles**, Fred Dove teamed up with Andrew Warner to beat Hutchinson and Gary Bloomfield. He also won the **mixed** with Claire Emmerson over Hutchinson and Rebecca Sparkes. For his endeavours, Dove added the **restricted** to his tally with a final win over Gary Bloomfield. Bloomfield though won a title by beating Kevin Holland in the **Under 21 Singles**.

In the **Women's Doubles**, Vicky Gray and Sonja Talbot took the title in a round robin event which saw Aimee Sparkes and Claire Emmerson finish runners-up.

**The Britannia Top 16 invitation event** was held on **9<sup>th</sup> February**. It certainly proved to be Cambridgeshire's Martin Gray's day as he won all of his matches and finished with a final victory over last year's champion David Gatiss **4-2**.

Along the way there were some fantastic group and play off matches. Among the group seeding upsets were Steve Kerns' excellent **3-1 win** over Andy Wignall and Ryan Keats' **3-1 win** over Dave Cole. For the second year running, Cicchelli beat Wignall in the quarters and Kerns beat county team mate Cole also at this stage. In one of

the final play off positions, Cole avenged his earlier defeat by Keats **3-2**.

### **SUSSEX by John Woodford**

Adrian Moore, 37, the Sussex no. 2 who lives in Kent, is the new **county champion**.

Moore, who won the title seven times between 1981 and 1994, powered past the top seed Ritchie Venner (Hastings) in a tense final **11-4, 8-11, 4-11, 11-3, 11-9** at **Fontwell** in the **All-Sussex Senior Championships**.

Venner, who failed to win the gold medal, trying for his ninth title for the second time, said after his defeat **"Adrian played attacking table tennis in his usual swashbuckling style. The playing conditions at Fontwell are excellent and I shall be back again next year"**.

Moore's ten-year absence from the tournament is mainly due to **his dislike of the playing conditions at previous venues**, but he was happy at Fontwell.

The **four top seeds** reached the semi-finals – Venner knocked out Nigel Eckersley (England no. 4 veteran) and Moore stormed past top-spinner Peter Bartram. It was Eckersley who defeated the holder Mayur Majithia from Crawley.

Rose Rainton cruised to her seventh Sussex crown winning her gold medal **11-4, 11-5, 11-9** against Sarah Stedman (Arundel) who possesses one of the best service actions in Sussex.

Venner's consolation was winning the **Men's Doubles title** with Majithia against Bartram and Andy Walker, both from Worthing.

Peter Bartram landed the **Veterans' Singles title** with a **3-1 victory** over the Crawley defender Barrie Gilbert, whilst a former **Sussex senior champion** John Clarke took the **Over 50s' title**, also against Gilbert.

Gary Wilson, 17 from Worthing in his final season as a junior, retained his **Boys' Singles title** overpowering in the final his Worthing team-mate Daniel Bulmer. Wilson and Bulmer won the **Boys' Doubles** and Wilson completed the triple by winning the **Mixed Doubles** with Samantha Stepney of Chichester.

Stacey Furnival (Hastings) is the new **Sussex girls champion** in the **Under 18 age group**. After a slow start she swept past Alison Woodland (Worthing) **-10, 10, 4, 5**.

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

I have now received the full 5,662 word copy of **The New Yorker** (Feb.17 & 24) **article on table tennis by Nancy Franklin entitled: Back to the Basement. Ping-Pong: It's a whole new ball game**. She speaks of her love of and gives her reflections on table tennis, past and present, mentioning many of the American stars of the past, like Dick Miles, Marty Reisman and Ruth Aarons. In passing, while commenting on the publication party for Jerome Charyn's book 'Sizzling Chops & Devlish Spins' at the Manhattan TT Club, she informs that editor and writer Harold Evans (who plays regularly with Reisman in the basement of his apartment) had edited the 1959 book by Lancashire & England international Ken Stanley, 'Table Tennis: A New Approach', a fact I did not know!

Even **John Woodford**, who provides our only regular national newspaper coverage, got just a **small report** on the **National Championships** in early March in **The Daily Telegraph**. There was an even smaller report in *The Times* and results in *The Independent*, but **nothing**, I think for the first time, in *my* newspaper, **The Guardian!** Very disappointing, and I would encourage the several Guardian reading table tennis enthusiasts I know to tell them what you think, particularly as that 'liberal' newspaper does cover some much smaller or more 'obscure (and elite?) sports! Up to the European Championships, which I will report on in the next edition, there have not been many big stories, but John Woodford did achieve publication of several small snippets on the **ETTA election**.

**Matthew Syed** continues to have **features** published in **The Times**, including on 6<sup>th</sup> March on racism in football. But of much greater significance to table tennis was his **two thirds page article** (with three photos: a large one of table tennis action at Edgeware School where Jon Kaufman is coaching; plus one with Matthew, Terry Young and fan; and one with Gideon Ashison and Darius Knight) of 27 March on **Table Tennis for Kids**, the project funded to help London youngsters play and planning to expand into deprived neighbourhoods. The article presses just the right buttons. As I said in a letter to *The Times*, **'Table Tennis, as the Prime Minister recognises, is an excellent vehicle for social inclusion and raising self esteem'**.

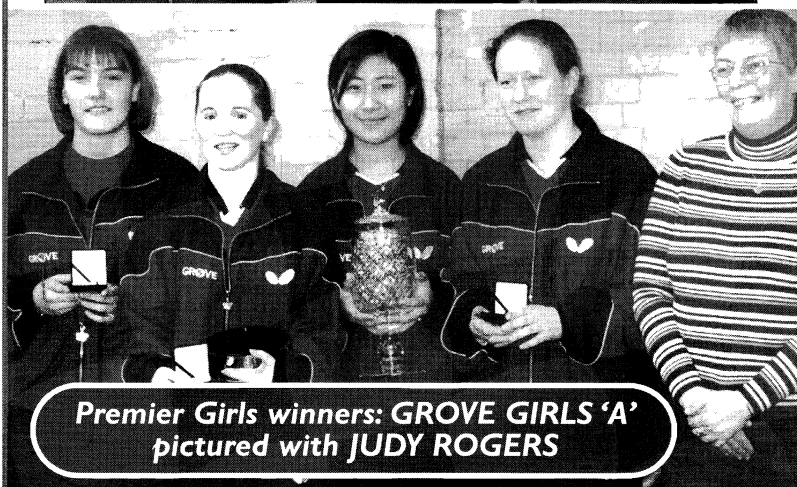
# JUNIOR BRITISH LEAGUE

# THE GROVE "TAKE-AWAY"

PREMIER - TOP HALF	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grove Boys "A"	10	8	2	0	44	16	18
Ormesby "A"	10	7	3	0	44	16	17
Idsall	10	6	1	3	41	19	13
London Progress "A"	10	3	0	7	22	38	6
Colley Hyundai "A"	10	3	0	7	24	36	6
Eastpoint	10	0	0	10	5	55	0
BOYS DIVISION 1							
Darlington Boys "A"	10	5	4	1	36	24	14
Scotland "A"	10	4	3	3	35	25	11
Cippenham "A"	10	5	1	4	28	32	11
Devon Aces	10	4	2	4	31	29	10
Team Peniel "A"	10	3	2	5	23	37	8
Irish Boys	10	2	2	6	27	33	6
BOYS DIVISION 2A							
Uxbridge	10	8	2	0	47	13	18
Scotland "B"	10	5	2	3	33	27	15
Colley Hyundai "B"	10	4	2	4	27	33	10
Bedford Modern	10	4	2	4	31	29	10
Retford	10	2	1	7	21	39	5
Hilton TTC	10	2	1	7	21	39	5
BOYS DIVISION 2B							
Grove Boys "B"	10	8	2	0	42	18	18
Southfields Elite	10	6	3	1	41	19	15
Wirral Premier Boys	10	5	2	3	32	28	12
Northants Eagles	10	3	0	7	21	39	6
North Mundham	10	2	1	7	22	38	5
London Progress "B"	10	2	0	8	22	38	4
BOYS DIVISION 3A							
Rotherham Scorpions	10	9	1	0	46	14	19
Ashford Challoner	10	6	1	3	38	22	13
Grove Boys "C"	10	6	0	4	38	22	12
Darlington Boys "B"	10	4	3	3	37	23	11
Stowmarket Stingrays	10	1	2	7	17	43	4
Seasiders	10	0	1	9	4	56	1
BOYS DIVISION 3B							
J.A.G.S. Juniors	10	6	2	2	38	22	14
Ellenborough Boys	10	4	4	2	31	29	12
Ormesby "B"	10	4	4	2	33	27	12
De Vere N.E.T.T.S.	10	4	1	5	31	29	9
Mossford	10	2	3	5	23	37	7
Byogl Hall Boys	10	2	2	6	24	36	6
BOYS DIVISION 4A							
Spicer Boys	10	7	1	2	39	21	15
Cheltenham	10	5	2	3	33	27	12
Draycott & Long Eaton	10	3	5	2	32	28	11
St Andrews	10	2	5	3	29	31	9
Team Peniel "B"	10	3	1	6	21	39	7
Club Mid-Cheshire Boys	10	1	4	5	26	34	6
BOYS DIVISION 4B							
Formby	10	6	4	0	40	20	16
Grove Boys "D"	10	5	5	0	41	19	15
Cliffdale Chandlers	10	4	5	1	36	24	13
Hull	10	3	2	5	28	32	8
Truro Tigers	10	1	3	6	22	38	5
St John's A.L.S.A.A.	10	1	1	8	13	47	3
GIRLS PREMIER							
Grove Girls "A"	10	10	0	0	52	8	20
Team Peniel "A"	10	8	0	2	37	23	16
Cippenham Girls "A"	10	5	1	4	35	25	11
Wirral Premier Girls	10	3	1	6	25	35	7
Scotland Girls	10	1	1	8	18	42	3
Seasiders Girls	10	1	1	8	13	47	3
GIRLS DIVISION 1							
Grove Girls "B"	8	5	3	0	31	17	13
Darlington Girls "A"	8	5	2	1	33	15	12
Team Peniel "B"	8	3	1	4	19	29	7
Cippenham Girls "B"	8	1	4	3	21	27	6
Irish Girls	8	0	2	6	16	32	2
Woolwell Foxes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GIRLS DIVISION 2							
N.E.T.T.S. Chelmsford Gir	10	9	1	0	47	13	19
Draycott & Long Eaton	10	5	2	3	33	27	12
The Weald TTC	10	3	4	3	29	31	10
Byng Hall Girls	10	2	4	4	26	34	8
N.A.L.G.O. (Nuneaton)	10	2	4	4	26	34	8
Cippenham Girls "C"	10	0	3	7	19	41	3
GIRLS DIVISION 3							
Hilton Girls	10	10	0	0	48	12	20
Woodfield	10	6	2	2	36	24	14
Club Mid-Cheshire	10	6	1	3	34	26	13
Rotherham Scorpions Girls	10	2	2	6	26	34	6
Darlington Girls "B"	10	1	2	7	17	43	4
Spicer Girls	10	0	3	7	19	41	3



Premier Boys winners: GROVE BOYS 'A'



Premier Girls winners: GROVE GIRLS 'A' pictured with JUDY ROGERS

IT WAS very much a Grove "take-away" as this season's competition was concluded at RAF Cosford in Shropshire; not only did the club from nearby Market Drayton do the double

Pictures by  
PATRICIA MOSNEY

(boys and girls) at premier division level they also won boys division 2B and girls division 1 - and all on Ian Marshall's birthday, writes Brian Lamerton.

Starting the second weekend on level terms with holders Ormesby the boys premier division was always going to the wire but it has to be said that the delayed return from a Chinese trip by Paul Drinkhall did put Ormesby at a big disadvantage. It

came to the final match between the two rivals, Ormesby needing to win, the draw good enough for Grove - but sensation, Grove went 2-0 down and a bigger sensation was that one of those two was the first defeat by an under 21 player since his arrival in this country for Kou Lie, beaten 4-11, 11-4, 2-11, 11-6, 11-8 by Craig Bryant. Bradley Evans and Kou Lie brought the score back to 2-all but then Bryant with his second five game victory, this time over Evans put Ormesby back in front. As well as reserve Daniel Reed had performed he could not better Tim Yarnell and so the famous club from the North East gave up their title to the famous club from Shropshire.

There was excitement too on the adjacent table in the top girls premier division match Grove v

Team Peniel. Peniel needed to win 6 love to take the title and this was already beyond them by the time that Zhao Shuang faced Abigail Embling - Zhao had yet to be beaten by any English female and yet suddenly she was two games down; but after rescuing the third game at "deuce" there was always going to be only one winner; but for the record Embling scored 45 points to 43 by Shuang. Nicola White (beaten only by Elizabeth Dennett from the Wirrall), Naomi Owen and Kelly Sibley completed the winners squad.

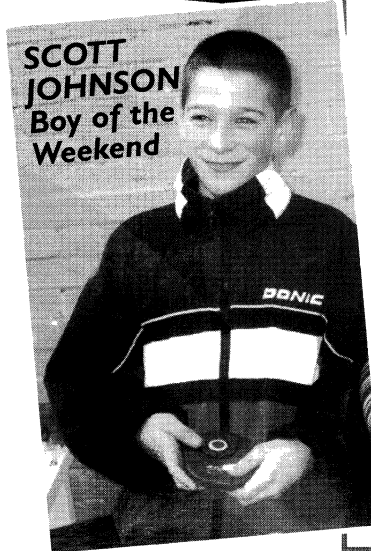
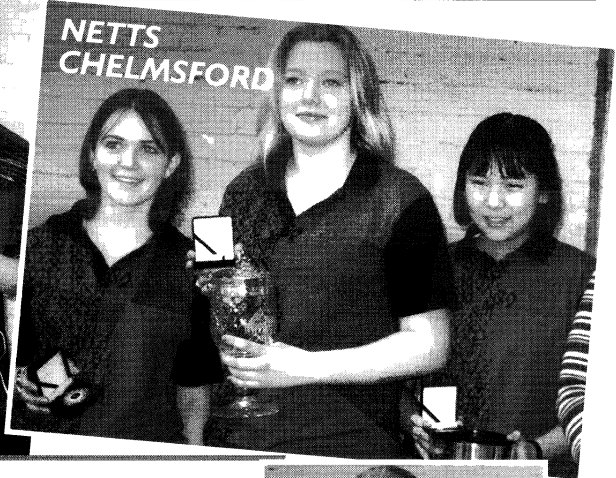
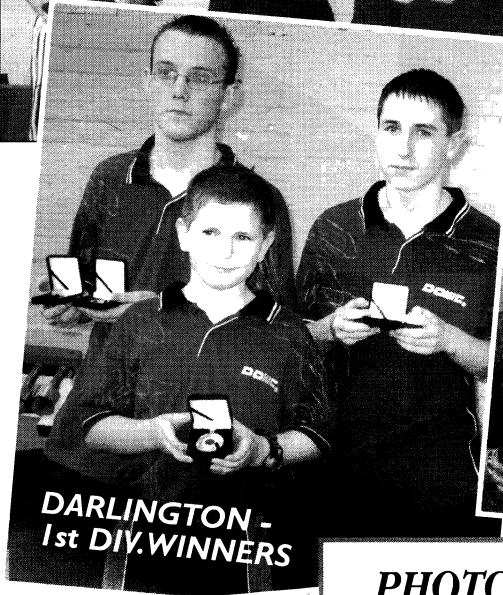
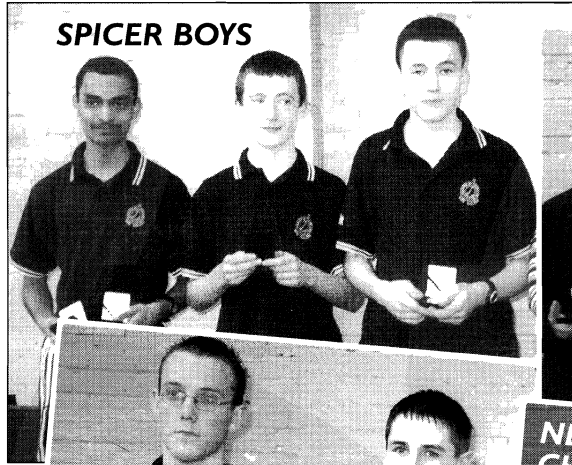
Although repeating their first half draw with Darlington, Scotland who went into this final week end with a 3 point lead but with a very much changed team allowed their opponents to overtake them at the head of boys division 1. David Atkins, 7 from 10, was Scotland's leading scorer whilst for the winners David Meads (9 from 10), Andrew Leighton (7) and Mark Simpson (3) played unchanged.

In girls division 1 Darlington had only to repeat the first half draw with Grove to take the title but Claire Wilson's brace was all that they could achieve allowing Grove to get home 4-2 and claim top spot. Heather Shutt, Sara Perks and Katie Lightowler Grove's team with Lightowler beaten only by Team Peniel's Rachael Jamieson.

Despite dropping points in drawn matches with both Bedford Modern and Colley Hyundai Uxbridge were in a class of their own in boys division 2A, the unbeaten William Cooney, Richard Wesley and Ryan Hutchinson doing most of the damage with support from David Preston; incidentally the Uxbridge lads with captain/manager Chris Newton did sterling work on both Friday and Sunday evenings in helping to set up and dismantle the arena. Grove "B" took boys division 2B as a result of a final match 4-2 win over their nearest rivals Southfields Elite, Ashley Nicholls who was 100% from ten starts, Robert Morris, Gavin Evans and David Owen their squad. Nicholls and Evans each had two siblings playing for other Grove teams in the competition.

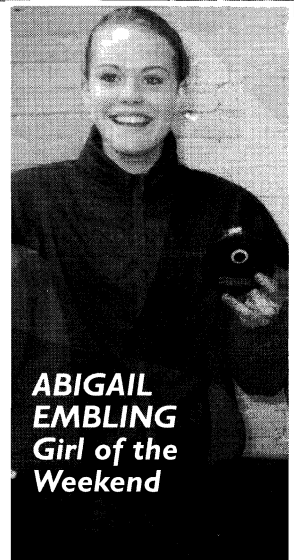
N.E.T.T.S. Chelmsford recorded 5 straight wins to head girls division 2 with a 7 point cushion, both Sarra Wang and Kelly Skeggs were ten times winners and Lianne Bentley with 7 wins was not far behind.

With Ben Barlow and Stephen Roberts both unbeaten, Barlow from both week ends, and good support from Daniel Hudson Rotherham Scorpions took boys division 3A by 6 points and will look forward to higher level competition next season. It was tighter in boys division 3B



## PHOTO CAPTIONS:

1. Premier Boys winners GROVE BOYS "A" - Kou Lei, Tim Yarnell, Bradley Evans.
2. Premier Girls winners GROVE GIRLS "A" - Kelly Sibley, Naomi Owen, Zhao Shuang, Nicola White.
3. Boys Division 4A winners SPICER BOYS - Devess Shete, Christopher Bush, Sebastian Cardel.
4. Boys Division 3B winners JAGS - Kevin Haste, David Langer, Hwan-Min Wong.
5. Boys Division 1 winners DARLINGTON - David Meads, Andrew Leighton, Mark Simpson.
6. Girls Division 2 winners NETTS CHELMSFORD - Kelly Skeggs, Leanne Bentley, Sara Wang.
7. Boy player of the weekend SCOTT JOHNSON of the Scotland Team
8. Girl player of the weekend ABIGAIL EMBLING of Team Peniel.



where winners J.A.G.S. Juniors could well lay claim to the most improved team overcoming nearest rivals Ellenborough by 5 sets to 1, reversing the first half score. Kevin Haste, David Langer and Hwan-Min Wong stepped up to receive the trophy

Girls division 3 Hilton Girls; Jessica Hall, Louise Proctor, Sally Duncliffe (celebrating her birthday) and Helen Crawford.

Boys division 4A; Spicer Boys; Devess Shete, Christopher Bush and Sebastian Carder.

Boys division 4B; Formby; Thomas Bray, Michael Dolman, Andrew

Hopwood and David Patteron. Cliffdale Chandlers Andrew Mudie was unbeaten through both week ends in this division.

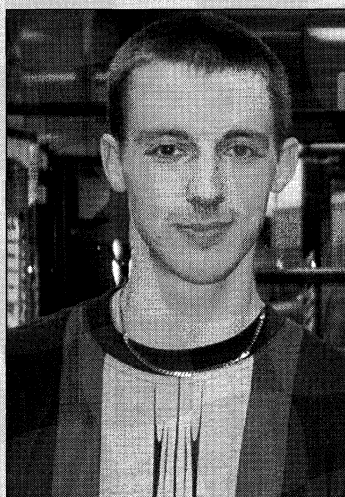
Teams of the weekend were Southfields Elite (Boys) and Rotherham Scorpions (Girls), Players of the week end Scott Johnson (Scotland) and Abigail Embling (Team Peniel). A fantastic venue, one of the few places where you can accommodate 36 tables in

one hall and there was still room for a refreshment area at one end; just like an aircraft hanger (well, it was really!) magnificent setting, easily accessible, pity therefore that apart from our Treasurer who worked tirelessly throughout the weekend as an umpire and a visit from a councillor of an adjoining county nobody else from the 50+ members of mancom and council paid us a visit.

# Schildkröt



# GREAT WEEK FOR NEWCOMERS AYO & HENRY



**BATTS Team Peniel's NEIL CHARLES came within a whisker of winning all three against Barnet**

**AS the season draws to a close it is traditional for teams to blood new players and this week's matches saw two players who were making their debuts at this level hit the headlines. Ayo Ademakinwa playing for BATTS Team Peniel I and ranked a lowly no. 207 nationally gave a performance miles above that level as he took two vital singles against Barnet whilst London Progress's Henry Medellin made a mockery of his national ranking of 176 as he scored a sensational win over Abdul Wuraola (ranked no. 31) in his side's 10-4 demolition of JAGS I.**

BATTS had a lot to thank Ademakinwa for in their narrow 8-6 victory over Barnet as there were numerous close calls with six games going to a deciding end. Peniel Captain John Holland was again undefeated and Neil Charles came within whisker of repeating that feat. Neil's three singles were made up of an excellent 11-8 in the fifth end victory over Gergely Urban, another tough five end success against Balint Puskas and a desperately close 9-11, 16-18, 11-9, 16-14, 11-13 defeat against Costas Papantoniou. Ayo Ademakinwa certainly made a difference with a stunning 3-1 victory over Nicky McKoy and a vital 12-10 in the deciding set

victory over Balint Puskas. He finally met his match against Papantoniou succumbing 12-10 in the deciding end. A quite sensational debut.

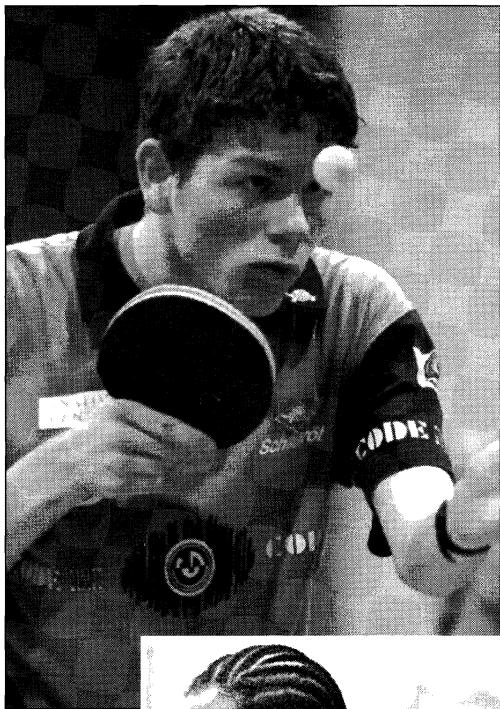
London Progress could afford the luxury of dropping Cris Sladden and still beating JAGS 10-4. With Marco Essomba stepping in and with the new Irish no. 1 Jason Sugrue at no. 2 on this occasion they really are in a class of their own. Jason and Marco both stayed undefeated although it was Jason (who has clearly benefited from his new Coaching role) who looked the sharper on this occasion. With an undefeated Taju Agunbiade also playing really well and beating both Clive Carthy and Lorestas Trumpauskas this was another very good all-round Progress team performance. As impressive as the performances were from these three established players arguably the best win of them all came in the last game as Henry Medellin scored his sensational 12-10 in the deciding end victory over Abdul Wuraola. Rumour has it that he was still smiling about it a week later when playing in Division One (South).

Team of the Season Seasiders have hit a rich vein of form and they have every intention of hanging on to the runners-up position. Their 11-3 victory over Wellow House saw Johnathan Taylor turn in another unbeaten performance and Kevin Dolder,

Paul Hutchings and John Rankin all win twice. A real case of strength in depth. It was Hutchings who took the Player-of-the-Match award for his 3-1 victory over Andy Wignall and his memorable 3-1 success against Chris Rogers. Wellow House's Andy Wignall was dreadfully unlucky to emerge without a win after going down 15-13 in the deciding end against John Rankin.

DML Plymouth's second win of the season, a handsome 10-4 victory over Darlington I does owe something to the fact that Darlington fielded a team comprising regular team-member Michael Marsden and three reserves. The three junior players they fielded - Kevin Wilson, Andrew Leighton and David Meades are all clearly highly promising players but whether a Club should blood three new players in the same match remains a matter of conjecture. The most established player in the Match Paul Whiting remained undefeated to share the Player of the Match Award with the fast improving Andrew Leighton, a very impressive 3-0 winner over Kevin Buddell. David Meades, the England no. 5 Cadet put up a fantastic show against Mike Short before succumbing 15-13 in a nail-biting fifth end. All in all a very impressive performance from the young Darlington team.





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PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
London Progress	13	13	0	0	140	42	26
BATTS Team Peniel	13	8	2	3	98	84	18
Seasiders	13	8	1	4	105	77	17
JAGS	13	5	3	5	86	96	13
Darlington	13	5	2	6	89	93	12
Barnet	13	5	1	7	81	101	11
DML Plymouth	13	2	1	10	67	115	5
Wellow House School	13	1	0	12	62	120	2
DIVISION ONE NORTH							
Derwent	8	7	0	1	45	19	14
Ormesby	9	6	1	2	46	26	13
Coventry Phoenix	9	5	1	3	43	29	11
Grantham IDS	8	5	1	2	37	27	11
Norwich Todd Foxwood	9	3	2	4	29	43	8
Dewsbury	8	0	2	6	22	42	2
Halton Croda	9	0	1	8	18	54	1
<i>Darlington II resigned</i>							
DIVISION ONE SOUTH							
Horsham	10	6	3	1	50	30	15
OLOP Impact	10	6	2	2	46	34	14
Byng Hall Farningham Print	10	6	1	3	49	31	13
Ellenborough	10	5	3	2	46	34	13
Cippenham	10	5	0	5	43	37	10
London Progress II	10	4	2	4	38	42	10
De Vere Netts	10	1	1	8	22	58	3
EBS-Orange Northampton	10	0	2	8	26	54	2
DIVISION TWO NORTH							
Grove	10	10	0	0	63	17	20
Humpty's Club	10	6	3	1	51	29	15
ELGRE Nottingham	10	5	3	2	47	33	13
Derwent II	10	5	1	4	47	33	11
Oakbank	10	2	5	3	41	39	9
Potteries	10	3	1	6	35	45	7
Uxbridge Burton	10	2	1	7	33	47	5
Clarks Wakefield	10	0	0	10	3	77	0
DIVISION TWO SOUTH							
PSP Westinsure	10	9	1	0	63	17	19
EBS-Orange North'pton II	10	3	5	2	39	41	11
Cippenham II	10	4	3	3	38	42	11
London Progress III	10	4	1	5	44	36	9
Horsham II	10	4	1	5	39	41	9
Guildford	10	4	1	5	38	42	9
Oxford Fireplace Centre	10	3	2	5	34	46	8
Hastings	9	1	2	7	25	55	4
DIVISION 3 MIDLANDS							
Wirral Premier	10	7	2	1	53	27	16
Bedford Modern	10	6	2	2	51	29	14
Kingshurst Bribar	10	6	1	3	49	31	13
Rotherham Scorpions	10	5	2	3	44	36	12
Birmingham University II	10	4	3	3	40	40	11
Woodfield	10	3	4	3	41	39	10
Grove III	10	0	3	7	21	59	3
Darlington IV	10	0	1	9	21	59	1
DIVISION 3 MIDLANDS & SOUTH							
Generation 2	10	7	2	1	59	21	16
Birmingham University	10	7	1	2	54	26	15
London Progress V	10	6	3	1	49	31	15
Guildford II	10	6	1	3	43	37	13
OLOP Impact II	10	5	0	5	42	38	10
Ashford II	10	2	2	6	30	50	6
Batts Team Peniel II	10	1	2	7	26	54	4
Grove II	10	0	1	9	17	63	1
DIVISION 3 NORTH							
Blackpool	10	9	1	0	63	17	19
Club Mid-Cheshire	10	8	0	2	59	21	16
Halton Croda II	10	6	2	2	49	31	14
Dewsbury II	10	5	1	4	43	37	11
Darlington III	10	5	3	2	47	33	13
Seasiders III	10	2	0	8	23	57	4
Isle of Man	10	0	2	8	17	63	2
Barrow	10	0	1	9	19	61	1
DIVISION THREE SOUTH							
Ashford	10	9	0	1	61	19	18
York Gardens	10	8	1	1	48	32	17
JAGS II	10	7	0	3	53	27	14
Guernsey	10	5	1	4	46	34	11
Horsham III	10	4	2	4	44	36	10
Byng Hall F.P. II	10	2	1	7	24	56	5
London Progress IV	10	1	1	8	24	56	3
Britannia H. Ipswich	10	1	0	9	20	60	2

# NEW NAME ?

**THE deadline for the submission of amendments to County Championship Regulations, to be considered at this years conference has now passed, and there have been a number of proposed changes submitted which should be of interest to all Counties, writes Stan Clarke.**

Apart from two proposals which seek to amend the areas of players eligibility there is a very interesting amendment submitted by Somerset which sets out to change the start/finish times of the championships in order to allow Counties more time to organise their affairs and give a chance for players to get into the swing of things before entering into the cut and thrust of County competitions, no bad thing in my view. In previous seasons we have had County matches scheduled as early as the second week in September, before many local leagues start their competitions, and giving little opportunity for Counties to hold meaningful trials in order to decide their playing strength for the coming season, so all considered this proposed amendment seems to me to be worthy of consideration, however as I have said in the past the decision is yours but to have a say in that decision making you must first ensure that your County is represented at the conference and I look forward to seeing you all then.

The final set of matches in the Senior and Junior Premier divisions will be played later this month at Grantham, but it looks certain that there will be a new name on the Senior trophy this season, I really

can't see any way that Yorkshire can now rescue their position, though I would not be surprised if they climb out of the relegation places as I understand that they are likely to field a stronger team for the last four games.

The Junior Premier division is all set up for a close finish, with Glamorgan sitting in second place just waiting for leaders Cheshire to slip up.

### Senior division 1

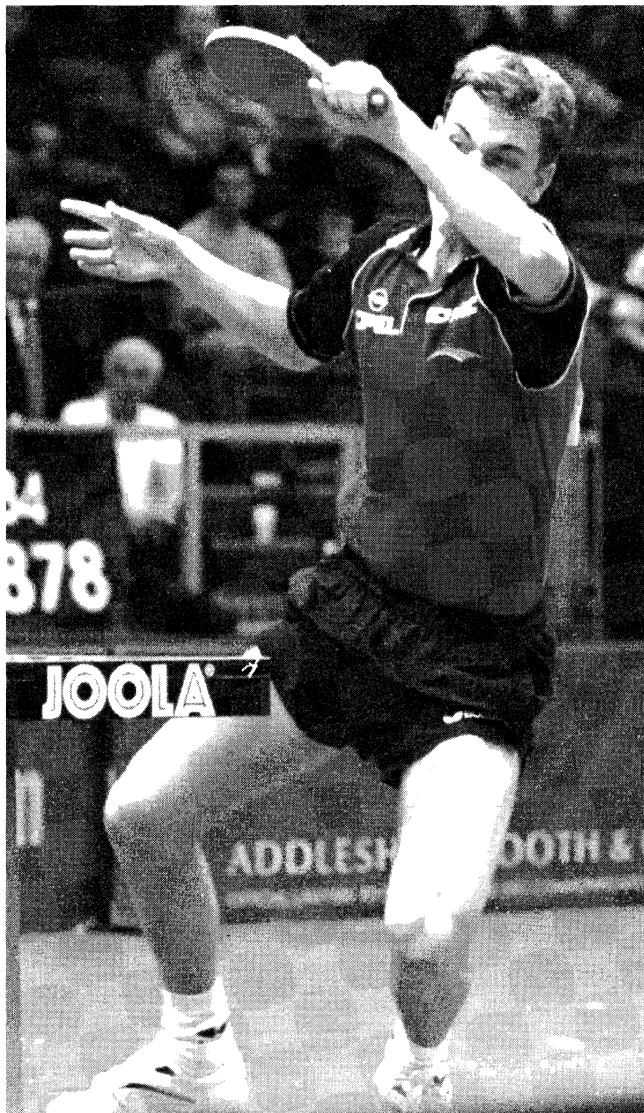
A also play their final set of matches on the same weekend as the two Premier divisions and Leicestershire will be looking to consolidate their position at the head of the table in the hope that they can return to the Premier division yet again, should they succeed they will be joined by Kent who are the winners of Senior Division 1 B.

Promoted to divisions 1A and 1 B respectively are Cheshire and Sussex 2nd who have each won their divisions, they will be joined by the eventual winners of divisions 2B and 2C who have still a number of matches to play.

Derbyshire and Devonshire will be promoted to the Junior Premier division as winners of divisions 1A and 1 B of the Junior event. In the other Junior divisions only Durham and Sussex 2nd are certain of promotion to the first division, the remaining four divisions still have unfulfilled fixtures to complete.

In the Veteran divisions Essex and Dorset will be promoted to the Premier division next season whilst of the other nine veteran divisions only Devonshire can be certain of promotion.

# TABLE TENNIS AT THE CRUCIBLE



## THE CONTINENTAL MASTERS

9th AUGUST 2003

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# YASAKA 3 STAR BALLS



SENIORS																														
PREMIER	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts																							
Essex	3	3	0	0	25	5	6	Shropshire	7	3	2	2	37	29	8															
Glamorgan	3	2	0	1	16	14	4	South Yorkshire	7	1	3	3	33	33	5															
Sussex	3	1	1	1	15	15	3	Worcestershire	7	2	0	5	27	43	4															
Middlesex	3	1	1	1	15	15	3	Lancashire 2nd	7	1	1	5	21	46	3															
Surrey	3	1	1	1	12	18	3	Norfolk	7	1	0	6	19	50	2															
South Yorkshire	3	0	2	1	14	16	2	<b>DIVISION 2B</b>			Berkshire 1st	7	2	5	29	34	4													
Yorkshire	3	0	2	1	12	18	2	Buckingham 3rd	7	4	2	1	43	27	10	Hampshire	6	2	4	23	31	4								
Devonshire	3	0	1	2	11	19	1	Dorset	5	4	1	0	36	14	9	Buckinghamshire	7	2	5	17	46	4								
<b>DIVISION 1A</b>										Surrey 2nd	7	3	3	1	40	30	9	Avon	6	0	6	15	39	0						
Leicestershire	4	4	0	0	31	9	8	Somerset	6	3	2	1	34	26	8	<b>DIVISION 2A</b>			South Yorkshire	6	5	1	31	23	10					
Yorkshire 2nd	4	3	1	0	28	12	7	Oxfordshire	7	2	3	2	35	35	7	Warwickshire	6	4	2	35	19	8								
Lancashire	4	3	0	1	26	14	6	Kent 2nd	6	2	2	2	29	31	6	Essex 2nd	6	4	2	34	20	8								
Worcestershire	4	3	0	1	23	17	6	Surrey 3rd	7	1	0	6	18	52	2	Essex 3rd	6	3	3	27	27	6								
Essex 2nd	4	1	1	2	19	21	3	Berkshire	7	0	1	6	25	45	1	Worcestershire	6	2	4	25	29	4								
Nottinghamshire	4	0	1	3	12	28	1	<b>DIVISION 3A</b>			Bedfordshire	6	2	4	21	33	4													
Durham	4	0	1	3	11	29	1	Hertfordshire	3	3	0	0	26	4	6	Lancashire 2nd	6	1	5	16	38	2								
Cambridgeshire	4	0	0	4	10	30	0	Bedfordshire 1st	3	3	0	0	25	5	6	<i>Norfolk 2nd have withdrawn</i>														
<b>DIVISION 1B</b>										Suffolk	3	3	0	0	24	6	6	<b>DIVISION 2B</b>			Devonshire	7	7	0	43	20	14			
Kent 1st	7	6	1	0	50	20	13	Huntingdonshire	4	2	0	2	20	20	4	Kent 3rd	7	6	1	41	22	12								
Wiltshire	7	4	1	2	42	28	9	Norfolk 2nd	3	0	1	2	8	22	1	Wiltshire	7	4	3	35	28	8								
Middlesex 2nd	7	4	1	2	38	32	9	Bedfordshire 2nd	4	0	1	3	12	28	1	Somerset	7	4	3	31	32	8								
Glamorgan 2nd	7	3	2	2	38	32	8(144-132)	Cambridgeshire	4	0	0	4	5	35	0	Hertfordshire 2nd	6	2	4	30	24	4								
Berkshire	7	3	2	2	38	32	8(136-125)	<b>DIVISION 3B</b>			Buckingham 2nd	7	2	5	22	41	4	Berkshire 2nd	6	4	2	32	22	8						
Hertfordshire	7	2	1	4	26	44	5	Nottingham 2nd	3	3	0	0	24	6	6	Yorkshire 4th	6	4	2	32	22	8								
Gloucestershire	7	2	0	5	34	36	4	Durham 2nd	3	2	1	0	21	9	5	Cheshire 3rd	6	3	3	30	24	6								
Kent 2nd	7	0	0	7	14	56	0	Northampton 2nd	3	1	1	1	15	15	3	Northamptonshire	6	3	3	25	29	6								
<b>DIVISION 2A</b>										Conwy	3	1	0	2	13	17	2	<b>DIVISION 3A</b>			Clwyd	6	2	4	22	32	4			
Cheshire	7	7	0	0	55	15	14	Nottingham 3rd	2	1	0	1	7	13	2	Leicestershire 2nd	6	1	5	21	33	2								
Northumberland	7	6	0	1	53	17	12	Warwickshire 2nd	2	0	0	2	7	13	0	Staffordshire	6	0	6	18	36	0								
Cleveland	7	5	0	2	41	29	10	Northumberland 2nd	2	0	0	2	3	17	0	<b>DIVISION 3B</b>			Nottinghamshire	5	5	0	35	10	10					
Warwickshire 1st	7	4	0	3	39	31	8	Dewnshire 2nd	6	6	0	0	53	7	12	Kent 4th	5	4	1	33	12	8								
Derbyshire	7	2	1	4	32	38	5	Herefordshire	5	4	0	1	32	18	8	Essex 4th	3	3	0	19	8	6								
Cumbria	7	2	1	4	29	41	5	Dewnshire 3rd	6	2	2	2	28	32	6	Hertfordshire 3rd	5	2	3	18	27	4								
Warwickshire 2nd	7	1	0	6	18	52	2	Cornwall 1st	5	2	0	3	26	24	4	Yorkshire 5th	4	1	3	12	24	2								
Leicestershire 2nd	7	0	0	7	13	57	0	Avon	4	1	1	2	17	23	3	Middlesex 4th	4	0	4	11	25	0								
<b>DIVISION 2B</b>										Devonshire 4th	5	1	0	4	14	36	2	Norfolk 3rd	4	0	4	7	29	0						
Devonshire 2nd	6	5	1	0	42	18	11	Cornwall 2nd	5	0	1	4	10	40	1	<b>DIVISION 3C</b>			Surrey 3rd	6	6	0	42	12	12					
Avon	5	2	3	0	32	18	7	<b>DIVISION 3D</b>			Sussex 2nd	7	7	0	0	50	20	14	Sussex 2nd	6	5	1	40	14	10					
Herefordshire	6	2	2	2	26	34	6	Sussex 2nd	7	7	0	0	50	20	14	Berkshire 2nd	6	4	2	32	22	8								
Cornwall 1st	5	2	1	2	29	21	5	Gloucestershire	7	5	1	1	39	25	11	Middlesex 3rd	6	3	3	32	22	6								
Devonshire 3rd	5	1	1	3	18	32	3	Wiltshire	7	4	0	3	34	30	8	Herefordshire 1st	6	2	4	19	35	4								
Somerset	4	0	2	2	18	22	2	Gwent 2nd	7	3	1	3	34	33	7	Hampshire 4th	6	2	4	16	38	4								
Cornwall 2nd	5	1	0	4	15	35	2	Buckingham 4th	7	1	2	4	30	40	4	Gloucester 2nd	6	1	5	22	32	2								
<i>Worcestershire 2nd have Withdrawn</i>										Sussex 3rd	7	1	2	4	29	41	4	Oxfordshire 2nd	6	1	5	13	41	2						
<b>DIVISION 2C</b>										Essex 3rd	7	1	2	4	27	40	4	<b>DIVISION 3D</b>			Devonshire 2nd	6	6	0	37	17	12			
Suffolk 1st	4	3	1	0	30	10	7	Middlesex 2nd	7	2	0	5	28	42	4	Gloucestershire 1st	6	5	1	34	20	10								
Lincolnshire	4	3	1	0	28	12	7	<b>CADETS</b>			Essex 2nd	7	2	0	5	28	42	4	Berkshire 3rd	6	5	1	29	25	10					
Bedfordshire	5	3	0	2	29	21	6	<b>DIVISION 1A</b>			Surrey 1st	6	4	2	0	41	19	10	Glamorgan	6	3	3	31	23	6					
Hertfordshire 2nd	4	3	0	1	23	17	6	Durham	5	4	1	0	37	13	9	Surrey 4th	6	3	3	24	30	6								
Northamptonshire	4	1	1	2	19	21	3	Lancashire	5	3	2	0	28	22	8	Sussex 3rd	6	1	5	23	31	2								
Suffolk 2nd	4	0	1	3	11	29	1	Cleveland	5	1	3	1	24	26	5	Warwickshire 2nd	6	1	5	21	33	2								
Norfolk	5	0	0	5	10	40	0	South Yorkshire	5	1	2	2	22	28	4	Hampshire 3rd	6	0	6	17	37	0								
<b>DIVISION 2D</b>										Cheshire	5	1	1	3	20	30	3	<b>DIVISION 4A</b>			Lincolnshire	4	4	0	29	7	8			
Sussex 2nd	6	5	1	0	41	19	11	Yorkshire	5	0	1	4	19	31	1	Lincolnshire	4	4	0	29	7	8								
Buckinghamshire	6	3	2	1	37	23	8	<b>DIVISION 1B</b>			Derbyshire	5	5	0	0	41	9	10	Hertfordshire 4th	4	3	1	26	10	6					
Hampshire	6	2	3	1	36	24	7	Derbyshire	5	5	0	0	41	9	10	Northampton 2nd	5	2	3	20	25	4								
Isle of Wight	6	2	1	3	23	37	5	Lincolnshire	5	4	0	1	39	11	8	Hertfordshire 6th	5	2	3	17	28	4								
Surrey 2nd	6	2	0	4	28	32	4	Suffolk	5	3	0	2	27	23	6	Yorkshire 6th	4	1	3	15	21	2								
Oxfordshire	5	2	0	3	21	29	4	Northamptonshire	5	2	0	3	27	23	4	Nottingham 2nd	4	1	3	10	26	2								
Berkshire 2nd	5	0	1	4	14	36	1	Glamorgan	5	1	0	4	14	36	2	<i>Durham 2nd have withdrawn</i>														
<b>JUNIORS</b>										Leicestershire	5	0	0	5	2	48	0	<b>DIVISION 4B</b>			Cambridgeshire	3	3	0	22	5	6			
<b>PREMIER DIVISION</b>										<b>DIVISION 1C</b>			Surrey 1st	6	4	2	0	41	19	10	Bedfordshire 2nd	3	2	1	17	10	4			
Cheshire	3	3	0	0	25	5	6	Sussex 1st	6	3	3	0	38	22	9	Surrey 2nd	6	1	1	4	20	40	3							
Glamorgan	3	2	1	0	22	8	5	Gloucestershire	6	3	2	1	32	28	8	Berkshire 4th	3	2	1	15	12	4								
Yorkshire	3	1	2	0	19	11	4	Sussex 2nd	6	3	1	2	29	31	7	Hertfordshire 5th	3	2	1	15	12	4								
Lincolnshire	3	1	1	1	13	17	3	Somerset	6	1	3	2	29	31	5	Berkshire 3rd	3	2	1	15	12	4								
Essex	3	1	0	2	15	15	2	Surrey 2nd	6	1	1	4	20	40	3	Hertfordshire 7th	3	1	2	10	17	2								
Sussex	3	1	0	2	9	21	2	Berkshire	6	0	0	6	21	39	0	Huntingdonshire	2	0	2	5	13	0								
Buckinghamshire	3	0	1	2	9	21	1	<b>VETERANS</b>			Oxfordshire 3rd	3	0	3	6	21	0	<b>DIVISION 4C</b>			Wiltshire 2nd	6	6	0	39	15	12			
Surrey	3	0	1	2	8	22	1	<b>PREMIER</b>			P	W	L	F	A	Pts	Dorset 3rd	6	5	1	40	14	10							
<b>DIVISION 1A</b>										Cheshire	7	6	1	48	15	12	Yorkshire	7	5	2	39	24	10	Shropshire 1st	6	4	2	33	21	8
Derbyshire	7	7	0	0	57	13	14	Lancashire	7	4	3	35	28	8	Shropshire 2nd	6	4	2	33	21	8									
Nottinghamshire	7	5	1	1	52	18	11	Sussex	7	3	4	30	33	6	Somerset 3rd	6	2	4	22	32	4									
Yorkshire 2nd	7	4	2	1	47	23	10	Surrey	7	3	4	25	38	6	Devonshire 4th	6	2	4	19	35	4									
Cleveland	7	2	1	4	30	40	5	Northumberland	7	1	6	18	45	2	Dewnshire 5th	6	1	5	27	27	2									
Lancashire	7	2	1	4	27	43	5	Middlesex	7	1	6	16	47	2	Herefordshire 3rd	6	0	6	3	51	0									
Cumbria	7	1	2	4	24	46	4	<b>DIVISION 1A</b>			Essex	7	7	0	53	10	14	<b>DIVISION 4D</b>			Somerset 2nd	5	5	0	32	13	10			
Warwickshire	7	1	2	4	23	47	4	Essex	7	7	0	53	10	14	Cheshire 2nd	7	5	2	37	26	10	Devonshire 3rd	5	4	1	31	14	8		
Lincolnshire 2nd	7	1	1	5	20	50	3	Cheshire 2nd	7	5	2	37	26	10	Norfolk	7	5	2	35	28	10	Wiltshire 3rd	5	3	2	30	15	6		
<b>DIVISION 1B</b>										Norfolk	7	5	2	35	28	10	Yorkshire 2nd	7	3											

# SPORTING CHAMPIONS

## Sport England Prove That Athletes Can Influence Kids To Play Sport

New research released by Sport England shows that athletes can influence kids to play sport. After surveying children who had been

visited by an athlete on Sport England's Sporting Champions scheme, it was found that 38% of children tried another sport and 42% played more sport.

Sport England conducted this study as part of their evaluation of Sporting Champions. This initiative was

launched last year and has recruited 350 athletes from 60 different sports to take part in visits to schools and youth clubs. To date 360 visits have been made, reaching over 120,000 children.

Acting Chief Executive of Sport England, Roger Draper, said:

"It's extremely encouraging to see evidence that Sporting Champions has influenced young people to play sport. We want to see more kids enjoying opportunities in sport. It can improve their teamwork, self esteem and set them up to lead a healthier lifestyle."

The results were collated from a random sample of Sporting Champion visits which included children's responses at the time of the visit and also three months later, to assess if their participation in sport had increased or not. Out of 561 surveys, 42% of respondents indicated that they have started to play sport more regularly and 38% had taken up a new sport since the visit.

With increasing backing from famous sports stars such as Steve Redgrave, Alan Shearer, Mark Butcher, James Cracknell, Jason Leonard and Jonathan Edwards CBE, the scheme looks set to receive an overwhelming number of requests from schools and youth clubs.

### Notes:

The Sporting Champions scheme is based upon the value that sport can improve the quality of a person's life by providing a healthier lifestyle and that everyone should have the opportunity to enjoy it.

At a visit, the Sporting Champion shares his/her sporting experiences by either demonstrating their sport, holding a coaching session, making a presentation, participating in question and answer sessions and even showing their medals.

After a Sporting Champion has made a visit to a school or club, the relationship does not stop there. Youngsters can keep up with the performance of their sporting heroes by logging on to the Sporting Champions website. This will give them access to information on how to get involved in sport, tips and advice from their sporting heroes. The website address is: [www.sportingchampions.org.uk](http://www.sportingchampions.org.uk)

## ALAN COOKE & NICOLA DEATON 2003 SUMMER SCHOOL AT GRANTHAM COLLEGE



**Due to popular demand Britain's best and most up to date summer school offers two weeks in 2003.**

**1st WEEK- Monday August 4th to Friday August 8th  
AND/OR**

**2nd WEEK- Monday August 11th to Friday August 15th**

**Our staff:**  
**ALAN COOKE** former Commonwealth Champion, 4 times English Champion, current National Coach.  
**NICOLA DEATON** England No.1 & former National Champion, 5 times Commonwealth Gold medallist.  
**BRADLEY BILLINGTON** Current National Coach & former member of National Team.  
**ALEX PERRY** Current England International, former National Champion, and 3 times Commonwealth Team Gold medallist.  
**JOHN HILTON** former European Champion and National Coach.  
**MARK BAWDEN** Qualified Sports Psychologist to National Team.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**COST AND DATE:** 1st WEEK - August 4th to August 8th  
2nd WEEK - August 11th to August 15th. Participants £339.00 per week • Non-Participants £210.00 per week. Cost includes all accommodation and meals



**SPORT  
ENGLAND**  
LOTTERY FUNDED

# THREE MEN & A DREAM

**TABLE tennis players of all ages are getting into the swing of things at a new club.**

Mursley, Swanbourne and Little Horwood Table Tennis Club has been set up after Paul Hooley, Chiu Ng and Roger Jefcoate successfully applied for a grant from Help the Aged Millennium Awards which they saw publicised in an Buckingham & Winslow Advertiser article.

Mr Hooley said: "I am absolutely delighted with the success of our application.

"Table tennis has declined as a sport in recent years because there have not been the facilities for it. This has given us the opportunity to reverse the trend and hopefully to provide good playing opportunities for all ages and levels"

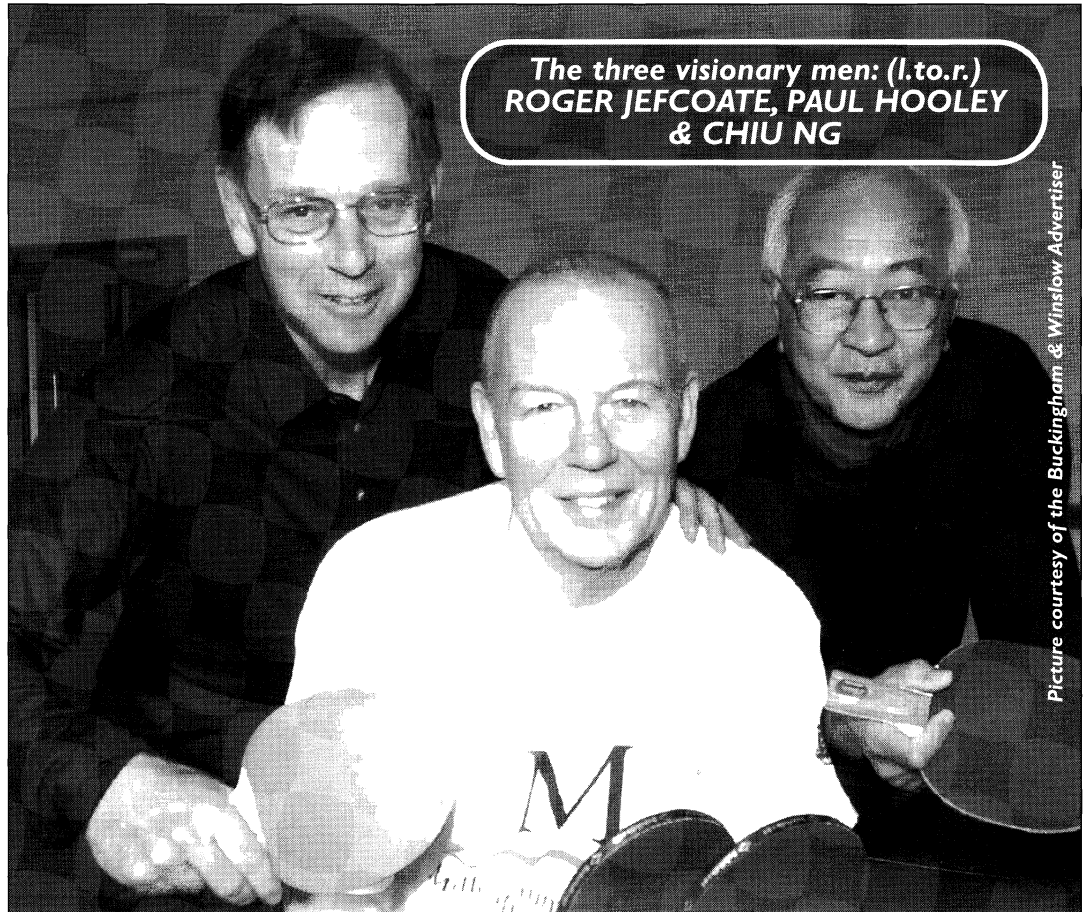
Three new tables, bats, balls and table dividers were bought with the £2,750 grant which now allows the club to hold separate sessions for juniors, adults and day sessions more suitable for the retired.

A spokesperson for Help the Aged, the body working with the Millennium Commission to distribute the awards, said: "The club is such a good project because it is about bringing the community together to enjoy a fun-filled activity."

Help the Aged has been given just more than £1million to fund about 600 awards around the country but applications for the money must be received by the middle of 2003.

The sessions will be 10am-noon on Tuesdays, and 6pm-7.30pm on Thursdays for juniors up to 16 years old. Adult sessions will run from 7.30pm-9.30pm on Thursdays.

All sessions will be held at Mursley Village Hall. Anyone interested can call Paul Hooley on 01296 728477. The following article published on the 11th January 2002, in the Advertiser and review kick-started



**Since the Mursley, Swanbourne & Little Horward Table Tennis Club opened in October last year, 85 players made up of both sexes have used the facilities including 21 juniors (aged 5 -12), teenagers and every other age group up to 70. The Club, which is run on an entirely voluntary basis, has become so popular and demand so high that a 4th new table has already been purchased from an excess of funds generated from the modest admission charges.**

**Many players are beginners, others have returned to the game after many years and at the top end the Club has attracted quality players who are already doing rather well in a local league. For many in the community table tennis has become an important part of their week.**

## What are the Citizens' Action Millennium Awards?

The Citizens' Action Millennium Awards (CAMA) are grants to enable older people to play an active part in their local communities, by helping them reach out and share their talents, experiences and enthusiasms.

the visionary trio into action:

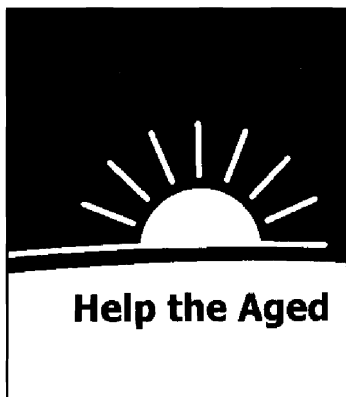
Helping you to help community **ENERGETIC** over 55s who would like to get a community-themed project off the ground could receive an award of up to **£10,000.**

Help the Aged are hoping that individuals or groups, who are retired or approaching retirement, can give some of their time and

experience to a project beneficial to the community.

There is a total of £1.2 million available for around 600 people to develop projects such as training youngsters in dying arts, developing a community newsletter, improving local greenspaces, setting up clubs or whatever a community needs.

If you are interested call the awards hotline on 0870 7703280 between 9.30am and 3.30pm, Monday to Friday or e-mail [cama@helptheaged.org.uk](mailto:cama@helptheaged.org.uk).







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*Steve Mills  
Managing Director*

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## **GRANT SOLDER SPORTS AGENCY presents the 10th GRANT SOLDER SUMMER SCHOOL 2003 at Barking, Essex Saturday 23rd August until Tuesday 26th August 2003 THE COUNTRY'S LEADING TABLE TENNIS COURSE**

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**COURSE DIRECTOR:  
NICKY JARVIS**

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



**COURSE COACH:  
DESMOND DOUGLAS**

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



**ENGLAND TABLE TENNIS  
PSYCHOLOGIST: MARK BAWDEN**

Current England Team Sports Psychologist, working with England's leading players.

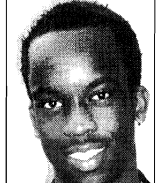
**COURSE COACH:  
ANDREW EDEN**

Professional TT Coach England International. Former: England No.1 Junior & Junior Champion. Commonwealth Games medallist.



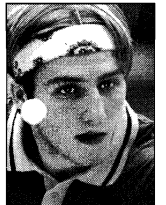
**COURSE COACH:  
GARETH HERBERT**

Gareth is a professional player. Playing in Austria and is a current member of the England team. Currently ranked No. 2 in England No.10, He won 2 gold medals in the Commonwealth's 2002 Games. Gareth is one of the leading servers in the World, and will be helping players on the course develop their serves.



**COURSE COACH:  
TERRY YOUNG**

Terry is a professional TT player, playing in the German Bundesliga, and is currently ranked No. 6 in England. He was a member of the Commonwealth Games 2002 Gold medal Team.



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# YOUNGSTERS FEEL BENEFIT OF CITY'S SPORTING GESTURE

**IT IS only eleven miles from Goldman Sachs to the Spur Road Estate in North London, but they may as well be on different planets. The one, a multi-billion pound investment bank providing limitless opportunities to the assured young people who populate its resplendent conference rooms and high-tech trading floors; the other, a series of high-rise council blocks where opportunity is stifled by economic deprivation. In recent months, however, the divide has been straddled by the unlikely of bridges: table tennis, writes Matthew Syed.**

The Edgware School, which provides for Spur Road residents, is in the grip of a new craze sweeping through the classrooms: the after-school table tennis club that runs every afternoon regularly has over fifty youngsters crammed into the assembly hall and adjoining dining room. The staff is thrilled by the club's success and regards it as an essential factor in its ambitious quest to improve educational attainment.

"Sport has a unique capacity to inspire young people," said Stephan Hastings, the Deputy Head. "There is no doubt that enhanced enthusiasm impacts upon studies". The staff faces an uphill battle, though. Of the current intake, a tenth of them refugees, 44% require means-tested free school meals, whilst the ethnic mix means that there are over 50 native languages. The youngsters are united, however, in their passion for table tennis.

Across town in the Atrium at Goldman Sachs, I prepared to confront Terry Young, a fellow England international, in an exhibition match. Table tennis is all the rage in the City, too, and over seventy financiers surrounded the playing area as we raised funds for Table Tennis for Kids (TTK), a project that is providing coaching, leadership courses and holiday

Table tennis is at the heart of a new initiative to help deprived schoolchildren. **Matthew Syed** sees the project in action

activities for clubs like Edgware. "We are delighted to support a top class challenge match to raise the awareness of TTK," said Michael Sherwood, a managing director at Goldman's. "Table tennis is a sport that can have real social impact and I know that many youngsters have already benefited from the project."

Brandon, a fifteen-year-old that I met at Edgware during a half term coaching course funded by TTK, would doubtless concur. "We all like playing the game, it's miles more fun than you think its going to be" he said. "I go to the club three afternoons a week and enjoy the competition with the other guys." As he showed me around the Estate, a sign proclaiming "NO BALL GAMES" caught my eye. "They put it up after someone kicked a ball through a window during a football match," Brandon explained. "We are not allowed to play here any more."

He led me across a gravel path leading to a crumbling high-rise block, scrawled with graffiti: his home. Inside, amid cigarette ends and discarded pizza boxes, we waited to take the lift up to the 9th floor flat that he shares with his mother. "I would like to go to university, but I don't think we can afford it," he said. "My ambition is to design cars." How, I wondered, do he and his friends fill their time after school? "Most of us play table tennis," he said. "Without that opportunity it would be very easy for some to end up hanging round the estate, causing trouble." After five minutes the lift had still to arrive.

TTK was founded after readers of The Times made spontaneous donations in response to a story

detailing the exploits of Gideon Ashison, a coach who had cultivated some of the nation's best youngsters from a garden shed in Wandsworth. The project, now incorporated as TTK Greenhouse Limited, is supporting a number of schemes, each staffed by a coach with a track record of success and with clear exit routes so that talented and enthusiastic players can graduate into club table tennis. At Edgware, for example, a growing proportion of the youngster's stay on for the evening sessions when the hall becomes the property of London Progress, the highly successful club led by the tireless Jon Kaufman, a former table tennis development officer who now teaches history at the school.

TTK is in the midst of plans to expand into deprived neighbourhoods across London. Whilst the money donated and pledged to the project exceeds £100,000, this pales when compared to the lack of adequate sports facilities in the capital's poorest neighbourhoods. Table tennis is an ideal tool with which to rectify the imbalance since it is possible to accommodate a large number of tables into a relatively small amount of space, providing sporting opportunities for many youngsters who could not otherwise afford to play.

The potential of TTK has been recognised by the Prime Minister who recently sent a letter of endorsement. "Increasing the number of sporting opportunities available to young people is important to me," he said. "The Government is putting more money into sport and PE within schools but

we cannot drive that cultural change alone. We need coaches, clubs and volunteers too. Table Tennis for Kids is a great way to harness those talented coaches and ensure they have the money, equipment and support they need to do even more for young people."

The committee overseeing the project, including myself and Alan Sherwood the retired businessman who financed the Commonwealth Masters event last May, has been fortunate to secure the backing of Michael de Giorgio, a successful entrepreneur who has devoted himself full-time to sports related charitable projects. He is managing both the strategic and day-to-day activity of TTK. The Times has generously agreed to become the project's official media partner.

Back at the Spur Road estate the lift finally arrived and Brandon took me up to the 9th floor. I peered through the long windows at the end of the dank corridor and was struck by a dazzling view across London. It was a clear and sun-lit day. Just below, perhaps a mile adrift, row upon row of mock-Tudor houses stretched into the distance. And away, at the very edge of the horizon, I thought for a brief moment that I caught a glimpse of the City. And I wished I could cry out to the businessmen there on behalf of Brandon, telling them how their donations are lifting the spirits and self-esteem of youngsters from some of the tougher communities in our capital.

TTK Greenhouse Limited is a non-profit making company limited by guarantee and can be contacted on 0207 2436280. Donations should be sent to our funding charity partners: Greenhouse Foundation (registered no. 1093929), 35 Park Town, Oxford, OX2 6SL. Please attach a letter stating that funds are for the benefit of TTK.

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# CALENDAR

<b>APRIL</b>		
12th	Alec Brook Trophy R2	
12th-13th	Cadet Masters	
12th-13th	Junior Regional Training	
12th-13th	ETTA Butterfly Grand Prix	Blackpool
	Blackpool Open	
19th	Cippenham Junior 2 Star Open	
19th-20th	Cadet Regional Training	
20th	British League (14) Premier Division	
26th	ESTTA Individual Championships	
26th-27th	ETTA Butterfly Grand Prix	
	Midland Open	Wolverhampton
26th-27th	Evoca Veteran 2 Star	
27th	National Cadet Regional Squad Team championships	
27th	Whitchurch Senior 2 Star Super 8	
<b>MAY</b>		
3rd	Chandlers 1 Star Cadet/Junior	
3rd	Hollington 1 Star Cadet/Junior	Hastings
4th	Hollington 1 Star Senior	Hastings
3rd-4th	Regional Training	
3rd-4th	Lancashire 3 Star Cadet/Junior	
10th	National Cadet League Finals	
10th	Alec Brook Trophy R3	
10th	Pat Archdale Cup R2	
10th	British League Conference	
10th-11th	Butterfly Grand Prix Cheltenham Open	
11th	Egerton 2 Star	
17th-18th	English National Cadet & Junior Championships	Kings Lynn
17th-18th	VETTS National Masters	Thornbury
19th-25th	Individual World Championships	Paris, France
24th-25th	National Team Finals	Knowsley
25th	Whitchurch Junior 2 Star	
31st/1st	Cippenham 1 Star Young Players Festival	
<b>JUNE</b>		
7th	County Championships Conference	
7th-8th	English National U10/11/12 Championships	
14th-15th	Regional Training	
15th	Egerton 2 Star Veteran	
15th	Cippenham 2 Star Veteran	
22nd	Whitchurch Junior 2 Star	
28th	ETTA AGM	Milton Keynes

## TABLE TENNIS NEWS COPY DATES

ISSUE	COPY DATES
SEPT/OCT 2002	1st AUGUST 2002
NOVEMBER 2002	1st OCTOBER 2002
DECEMBER 2002	1st NOVEMBER 2002
JAN./FEB.2003	1st JANUARY 2003
MARCH 2003	1st FEBRUARY 2003
APRIL 2003	1st MARCH 2003
MAY 2003	1st APRIL 2003
JUNE/JULY 2003	1st MAY 2003

# THE ETTA WEBSITE

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