

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

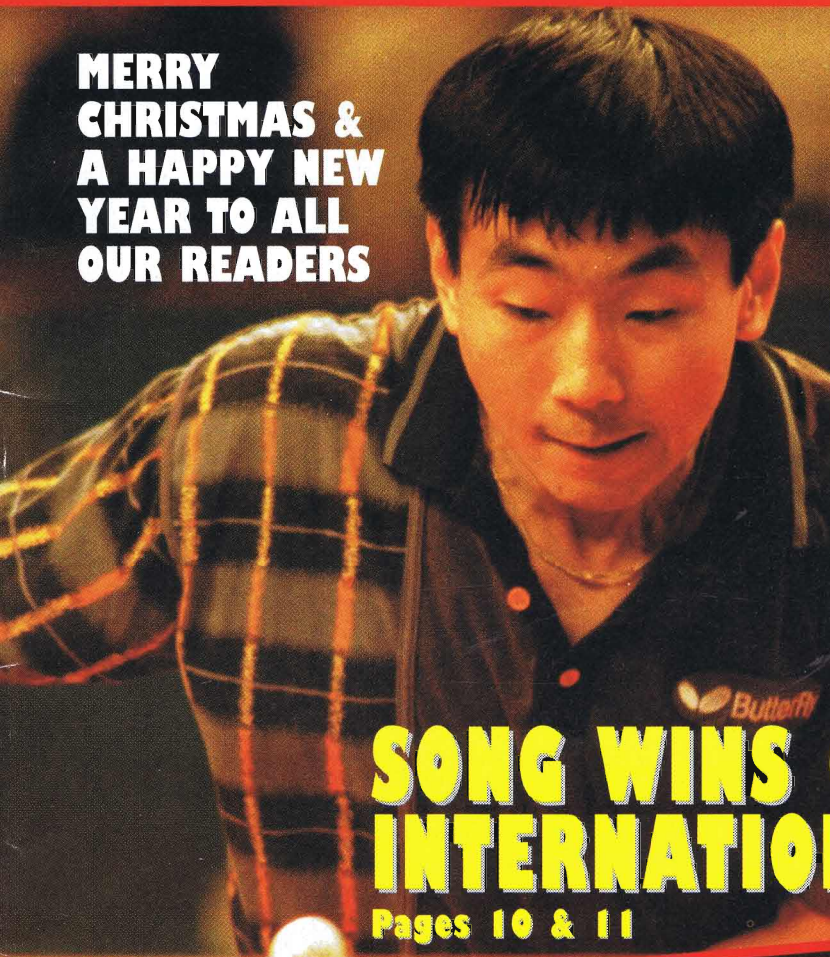
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No.289

DECEMBER 2002



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS &
A HAPPY NEW
YEAR TO ALL
OUR READERS**



SONG WINS OCEAN INTERNATIONAL

Pages 10 & 11



STOP PRESS

**NICOLA DEATON
& ALEX PERRY
ANNOUNCE THEIR
ENGAGEMENT**
Page 4

**GRAIG BRYANT
AWARDED
THE CLARE
PENGELLY
TROPHY AT
GRAND PRIX**
Pages 18 & 19





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Junior/Cadet National League 2002-2003



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support the above companies who are in
turn supporting table tennis.

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'Results' and much more.

FRONT COVER MAIN PHOTOGRAPH
Ocean International Mens Singles winner LIU SONG
picture by John Wood



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thank the following
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NEIL & SARAH

TWO of the Grand Prix Tournaments familiar faces, Neil Charles of Middlesex and Sarah Davison of Suffolk, were married in August with the help of a few old friends. Neil's best man was Middlesex County player Tom Cutler whilst Sarah was assisted by former Essex Junior Karen Mason.

The couple were joined at the service by friends, former Commonwealth Champion Skylet Andrew and Grand Prix regulars Clive Carthy and Rebecca Hurrell. The evening was more like a Table Tennis night out with many old faces from Essex County Table Tennis and the Grand Prix Circuit. A great day was had by all and we wish them all the best for the future.

THE PING PONG DIAMOND

OF ALL THE magnificent jewels in Elizabeth Taylor's vast collection the 'Ping Pong' diamond must rate as one of the smallest at one eighth of a carat.

Richard Burton had promised that if Elizabeth could take ten points from him during one of their frequent games of table tennis at their home in Gstaad, he would buy her the perfect diamond.

In Elizabeth's words, "That's not the sort of thing a woman walks away from. So I not only got those ten points, I beat him. He lost. I won. Time to go shopping!"

Richard was determined that although the diamond was to be perfect it was also to be very small!



NEIL & SARAH CHARLES

A NEW TABLE TENNIS SPONSOR

OCEAN INTERNATIONAL sponsored the recent Sussex Open Butterfly Grand Prix.

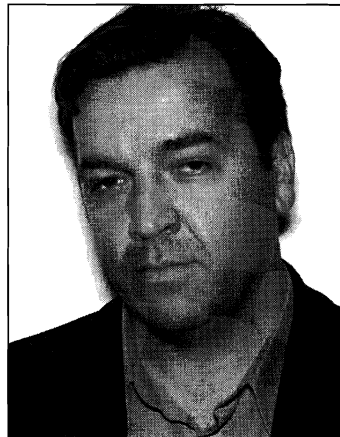
Paul Andrews a former table tennis player, who retains a vast enthusiasm for the sport, is the Managing Director of Ocean International, an independent TV Production Company based in Brighton.

Paul has a long standing ambition to enhance the image of table tennis.

BABY BOY FOR SARAH

SARAH PENGELLY-JONES one of the organisers, alongside her father Brian and sister Rachel, of the Clare Pengelly Memorial Open in Paignton, gave birth to Corey Thomas Jones.

Sarah's bouncing boy weighed in at 7lb 10oz, and was born on the 19th



PAUL ANDREWS

October, just two weeks after the tournament

CHERRY BLOOR

ALAN, SUE, DAVID and TRUDIE wish to sincerely thank everyone for their kindness and support, following the tragic loss of our dearly loved daughter and sister.

STOP PRESS

THE engagement of 5 times England National Champion Nicola Deaton and former National Champion and England No.3 Alex Perry, was announced at the Western Open Grand Prix in Bath, on December 1st.

The happy couple who at present own separate houses in Nottingham, are planning to marry after they have completed their studies at the University of Nottingham.

Nicola and Alex were Mixed Doubles National Champions in Bath in 1999, as well as singles and doubles champions.

WOODY'S World

DECEMBER'S issue of TTN sees the email poll on England's greatest coach, page 17, continue for another edition to give everyone a chance to record their choice.

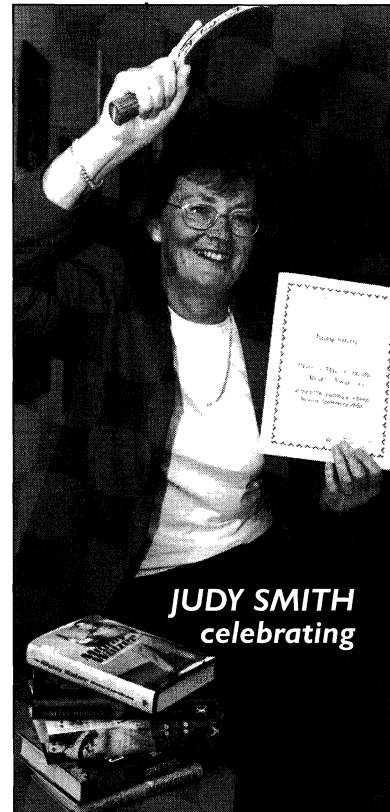
I wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers.

John Wood

PRESS OFFICER OF THE YEAR

JUDY SMITH as briefly mentioned in TTN last issue, has been presented with the ETTA/Random House Press Officer of the Year award.

A special presentation was arranged for Judy to receive the Press Officer of the Year Award from Pat Maxwell, President of the Weston-Super-Mare DTTA at Worle School, Weston-Super-Mare. As a prize Judy Smith won \$500 worth of books of her own choosing, plus special first editions for the presentation, all provided by Random House Limited. The highly acclaimed author and journalist Howard Jacobson, whose table tennis novel *The Mighty Walzer* (published by Random House Imprints), based on his own experience playing table tennis in Manchester in the 1950s, was a member of the judging panel.



PLEASE NOTE

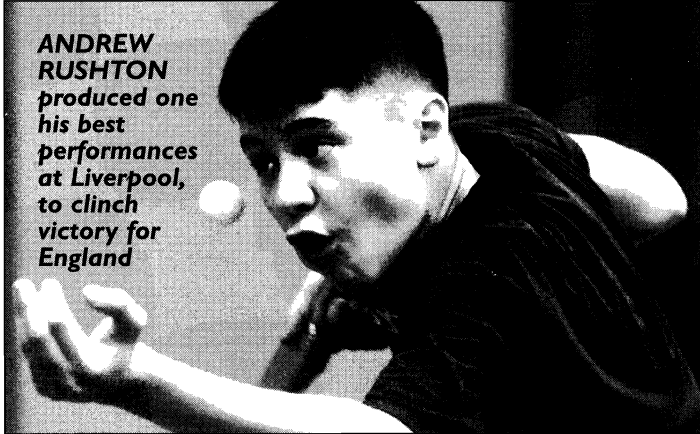
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TABLE TENNIS for KIDS



Alan Ransome OBE,
Chairman of the ETTA



ANDREW RUSHTON produced one of his best performances at Liverpool, to clinch victory for England

THE ETTA is embarking on a programme initially aimed at London to help kids from deprived areas of the inner city to improve their opportunities and lifestyle through playing table tennis. This programme is being launched as a result of initiatives from Matthew Syed and Alan Sherwood, the retired London businessman and former international who supported the Commonwealth Masters at Wembley in May.

The idea is to attract donations from business and individuals in the City who wish to invest some of their resources back into inner cities. Already two benefactors with donations of £5,000 each have come forward. The ETTA is investigating establishing a Charity to be able to maximise the tax relief provision from donations such as these.

It is intended that in due course this project will be rolled out throughout England having established successful pilots in the London Region. A Committee has been formed under the Chairmanship of Alan Sherwood, including the ETTA Treasurer, Barry Granger, London Chairman, Michael Close, London RDO, Jon Kaufman and Matthew Syed to pursue this programme and five pilot projects through the ETTA Premier Club programme have already been earmarked for support, as follows:

1. Langdon Sports College
Langdon Table Tennis Club
Contact: Steve Tatam
2. Ernest Bevin Sports College
York Gardens Table Tennis Club
Contact: Tom Draper

3. Southfields Sports College
Southfields Elite Table Tennis Club
Contact: Gideon Ashison
4. Compton Sports College
Wembley & Harrow TTL/ London Progress TTC
Contacts: Michael Close & Jon Kaufman
5. The Edgware School
Wembley & Harrow TTL/ London Progress TTC
Contacts: Michael Close & Jon Kaufman

VICTORY IN LIVERPOOL

The England Men's team produced one of their best performances for some time to defeat a very useful Israel team in Liverpool on 12th November.

England were unlucky to lose the previous European League match in Portsmouth to Norway by 3 sets to 1, losing two matches by extremely narrow margins. This time the ball ran in England's favour as Gareth Herbert and Terry Young both won extremely close matches to put England two ahead, only for Andrew Rushton to produce one of his best performances to clinch the fixture 3 - 0.

The match was organised in conjunction with Liverpool City Council who have been very supportive of table tennis in the city in addition to sponsoring this match against Israel. Liverpool supported the Butterfly Grand Prix event in August of this year in the city. Thanks in particular go to Dick Johnson of the City Council who is working very closely with the

Liverpool League to support these events.

WILTSHIRE'S GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Jose and I were very pleased to have the opportunity to represent the Association at the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the Wiltshire Table Tennis Association on Saturday, 16 November in Devizes. The whole evening was extremely well done. In particular the West Wilts League Chairman, John Ford, delivered a personality based resume of the activities of the County Association over the half century. The evening was very well attended with members from both current and former eras turning out in abundance. Evenings like this show just how much history there can be in a county association.

The guest of honour was Aubrey Simons, the famous international player of the 1950's who was a member of the Swaythling Cup winning team with Johnny Leach in 1953.

Congratulations to Ken Satchell, Sue Stone, John Ford and all the Wiltshire Committee who helped to organise the evening.

EURO BID

The ETTA have entered into discussions with Birmingham City Council and the National Indoor Arena, the venue of the 1994 European championships, with a view to presenting a bid to the European Table Tennis Union to stage the Championships in 2007.

We had an initial meeting with the Birmingham representatives at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester in August and this has been followed up with further discussions by the Chief Executive, Richard Yule, and Marketing Committee member from Birmingham, Richard Habgood with Brian Stocks who has returned to Birmingham after a period as Head of Sport with the Commonwealth Games in Manchester. Brian Stocks was one of the people in charge of the NIA when we hosted the Championships in 1994. I have had discussions with Richard Caldicott,

Head of UK Sport, the Lottery funding body for international events and have initiated the process required for the application for funding.

The main stumbling block, as it was in 1994, is the raising of the necessary funds to ensure that the Championships, from an ETTA perspective, runs at the least break even. In '94 we were able to obtain very significant financial support from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, from Sport England as well as Birmingham City Council. The Marketing Committee will ensure that similar funding is in place for 2007 prior to submitting a bid.

LONDON TO BID

The ETTA is one of the sports governing bodies heavily backing the British Olympic Association's bid to stage the Olympic Games in 2012 in London. In previous years we supported the Manchester bids for 1996 and 2000 which were not successful, but as part of that support we were able to hold events such as the English Open in Manchester and the contacts that we developed with Manchester helped greatly with the financing and hosting of the Olympic Qualification, World Championships and World Veterans Championships in Manchester 1996, 1997 and 1998.

The reason that the BOA have selected London as the host city this time is that the informed opinion within the IOC is that the only British city which has a realistic chance of gaining enough votes is London, as the provincial cities do not have the same attraction to the IOC members who in the final analysis carry the votes. As the table tennis representative on the National Olympic Committee, I have been very supportive of the BOA Executive Committee's efforts in trying to persuade the Government and the City of London to lend their invaluable support to the bid. The BOA made a presentation for governing body representatives in London on Thursday, 21 November and the Association was represented by Brian Halliday, Vice Chairman, Michael Close, London chairman, and Jon Kaufman, RDO London, and we gave full support to the Bid at the

meeting, which in turn received unanimous support from all the governing bodies represented.

Even provided that the Government gives the support and the Bid goes ahead, it will not be easy for London to succeed as there is tough opposition from several cities including Paris and Berlin. With the 2008 Games in Beijing there is a chance that the Games will come back to Europe in 2012 and, therefore, hopefully a strong London bid must be in the running.

If London is successful, then there is no doubt that table tennis will benefit enormously both from the funding that the Government inject to maximise the medal potential and the support given to developing programmes throughout the country to maximise the effect of the Games. The role of the Association is, therefore, to become fully involved in this process to ensure that we are able to take full advantage of the benefits to the sport of the Games and to our local table tennis communities from the opportunities afforded to us.

HIGH PERFORMANCE COACHING INITIATIVE

The Selection and Teaching & Training Departments have combined to establish a course to assist talented coaches with potential to work with the National Teams, to improve their knowledge and performance. The first of the courses for the elite group is being held at Lilleshall on 15/16 December under the leadership of Peter Charters, Steen Hansen and Peter Hirst. It is intended that coaches who are selected for this programme from the candidates below, will work closely with the England coaches and squads with the intention of helping them to reach a standard so that they can be selected as captains for England teams.

The initial invitations are as follows:

MEN

1. Andrew Eden
2. Mike Isherwood
3. Gideon Ashison
4. Matthew Stanforth
5. Paul Davison
6. Peter Thompson
7. Stephen Hirst
8. John Hilton
9. Daniel Horner
10. Ziad Mathoor
11. Lawrence Shahlaei
12. Clive Carthy

WOMEN

1. Sally Shutt
2. Helen Lower
3. Nicola Deaton
4. Basse Kaffo
5. Suzanne Airy
6. Andrea Holt

MISLEADING STATEMENTS

I am concerned to read that word being circulated that the ETTA are in a perilous financial position. This is entirely incorrect.

The ETTA budget for this year is expected to be near break even with a strong possibility of a small surplus. It has not been my priority to build up the financial resources of the Association (as it was for the previous Chairman), but more to invest in the development, progress of the sport and in programmes that help our members to improve the sport in their local area. The financial management of the Association is very strong in that we have an excellent Treasurer, Barry Granger, who uses his professional accountancy and auditing skills to keep a very close eye on the Association's finances. (Barry works for a well known firm of accountants in the City of London) Brian Skinner, the Finance Officer in Hastings, is doing an outstanding job for the ETTA, whilst Richard Yule as Chief Executive is responsible to Sport England as the accountable officer who uses his experience with the Sports Council north of the border to handle all of these matters. We have a very strong financial management team. I also play a part within this team using my thirty years plus of significant business management although my role, rather than being control, is one of ensuring that the Association achieves best value from its expenditure and is able to bring in significant financial support from various government and commercial bodies to support our programmes. Over the last decade more than £10 million has been invested by outside bodies in our sport from approaches that I have instigated.

With National Sport organisations, the ETTA has a reputation for being one of the best governing bodies to embrace and take advantage of government initiatives and opportunities. Of the three sports selected for the Focus Sport programme in the early 90's, we were the only one to take full advantage of it and gain the benefits and as a result we were able to establish the Regional Development Officer network which effectively doubled our annual Exchequer grant

from approximately £200,000 to more than £400,000. More recently we appear near the top of the list of sports to benefit from the National Lottery Awards for All programme with close to £2 million being invested in local table tennis projects since its launch. The ETTA has taken a strong lead with the Awards for All programme and maximised the benefits to the advantage of our members.

There is no doubt that the turbulence with the National Lottery and in Sport England over the last four or five years has caused significant difficulties for governing bodies and I am aware of at least four governing bodies of a similar size to table tennis who are in serious financial difficulties and who have been or are in Sport England's so called intensive care unit. However, I am pleased to be able to advise the membership that the Association is not one of these and that the ETTA's finances are very well managed and very stable.

Being one of the highest funded governing bodies by Sport England their audit team pay regular visits to Hastings to ensure that our house in order and on each and every occasion over the last ten years when these audits have taken place, we have received a more than satisfactory clean bill of health from the audit team.

In addition, the Association's books are audited by Spain Brothers, the Association's auditors, who provide their report to the Annual General Meeting each year.

2002 ANOTHER YEAR OF PROGRESS

As we move towards Christmas and the New Year, it is good to reflect on the high points of the past year. The biggest by far from a table tennis perspective was our involvement in the COMMONWEALTH GAMES in Manchester in which we won three Gold Medals and one Bronze. The sport undoubtedly gained kudos and publicity from the excellent setting for the table tennis competition in Manchester and the extensive television coverage that was shown by BBC in this country and by a raft of host broadcasters throughout the world.

Another development this year has been the emergence of a very talented and strong cadet team for England including Paul Drinkhall and Darius Knight who won the Boys Doubles at the Junior Open Championships in China and won several important singles events in

international competitions throughout Europe. It is not just that we have two excellent players in Paul and Darius, it is the fact that they are part of a group of six or seven players who show tremendous promise and this bodes extremely well for the future of English table tennis.

Our development programmes have continued to move ahead a pace. Although the fruits of the labour have still to come to fruition, probably the biggest impact will be the effect of the work that our Development Department have achieved with the New Opportunities for P.E. and sports programmes. This was the biggest initiative in terms of facilities development for sport for many years. Two hundred table tennis Information Packs were distributed to education authorities and seminars and these have been well received to such a degree that table tennis has been included in a large number of applications from local authorities who are charged with spending the £500million on school sports facilities in England.

Paul Baker, our Facilities Officer, has been in close contact with many of the authorities advising them on the right facilities for table tennis and forging links with local associations and Premier Clubs. In addition new facilities have been completed or are under construction in Welwyn (Hertfordshire), Tunbridge Wells (Kent), Richmondshire (North Yorkshire) Gazeley (Suffolk), Sheffield, Wolverhampton, Chesterfield, Cramlington (Northumberland) and Lichfield (Staffs). Also table tennis is included in the England Institute of Sport in Sheffield which is due to be completed in the summer 2003 and, subject to finalising arrangements with Sport England, will house the National training Centre from that time.

The Development Department has also made progress with assisting many of our Premier Clubs and organisers with applications for Awards of All grants which are assisting table tennis at the grass like never before.

As the year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our members and staff who have contributed to the progress that has been achieved over the last twelve months and to wish you all a VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS and prosperous and successful NEW YEAR.

*Alan Ransome
ETTA Chairman*

POSTBAG

SHOCKED

I REMAIN shocked by the barrage of insults that were contained in Richard Scruton's letter (TTN November) before seven words and phrases were taken out by this magazine's Editorial Board, where the libel alarm bells were ringing.

I have worked with Scruton around the world at tournaments. He is an excellent referee. Why he finds it necessary to attack a fellow vice-president of the ETTA in such a manner is a mystery.

Perhaps he sees me as representing and supporting the ETTA establishment, whereas he has been known as a member of the "opposition".

Briefly, answering his views on the Commonwealth Games in Manchester that differ from mine.

On the medal count, fans witnessed eight medals being presented to Team England, so in media terms, counting them as three is nonsense.

My views of the late evening England matches - I am now told, more than a month after, that we were in the hands of the BBC who wished to cover play live on their evening digital service the evening play for evening home viewers. This should have been made known earlier to the media and the public. I met several fans with day tickets to watch other sports who did not wish to be leaving Sport City near midnight with huge crowds from the main stadium.

On the vital question of the umpires decision on Canada v Wales - on many occasions around this planet (even at tournaments where Scruton has been officiating) I have seen umpires call a 'let' on dodgy points - edge or net balls or balls arriving outside or near the doubles centre line. The post-row conference with Alan Ransome, Colin Clemett and Scruton took no action against Huang because it was a "friendly Games" I assume that allows serious cheating allegations to be ignored.

I did not accuse or even imply that the Welsh pair cheated. Speaking much later to Adam Robertson in Belfast, I accept their story that they believed the service to be good, but on or very near the line.

Senior officials and the media need to work together not slag each other off, even when they disagree. We are all allowed to express our opinions within the laws of slander and libel.

John Woodford
Eastbourne, Sussex.
(Also read *Courtside*)

ELECTION 2003

THE TIME is very near when the membership of the ETTA via the local leagues and counties will have their first chance to vote in an election since 1991 for the post of your national bodies Chairman.

The decision regarding the future of Table Tennis in England lies in your

hands. I and my team are ready to work with you to implement the changes necessary to rekindle the sport we love from its present doldrums, so in the future we have a game which our children and grandchildren want to play and be a part of.

Be assured that none of us see the way ahead as easy and I will not and cannot promise you a "quick-fix" but with a fresh approach and vigour from a new, strong, dedicated, determined and experienced team who will not deviate from making the necessary changes, however difficult, to re-profile and restructure the ETTA for the future ahead.

We have many problems to resolve not least our present dire financial position, continued decline in membership, our international teams at a very low level in the world arena, virtually no sponsorship or media coverage and the feeling that all is not well with our sport.

I shall be sending out an election manifesto in the next few weeks highlighting not only these and other problems we all face but giving details about the changes necessary to get our sport moving again. If you wish to receive a copy please contact me.

It is very important that I get a large majority at the election, as this will enable us all to work for the same goals and means that all personal differences can be put aside for the future good of our sport.

I am not a politician but a Table Tennis person who is prepared to dedicate as much time as necessary to help in ensuring that our sport is given the right emphasis and focus by the ETTA for good of all.

Let us hope that TTN will allow this and further publications to be included from my supporters and me so a true picture of our sports status can be factually reviewed in a friendly and constructive way without spin.

I cannot emphasize enough that the decision about our sport is in your hands and it is critical that all members have a say by ensuring a large turnout of votes. At the last election in 1991 only 333 votes were valid, 62 votes were disallowed and 73 votes were not cast.

May this season go well for you, and let us all look forward to a new beginning in 2003.

Alex Murdoch
Letchworth, Hertfordshire

BEING THE BEST?

THE response to my short article "Savaged by a dead sheep" and others recalled my time as Chairman of the ETTA. Support was widespread, all felt that we should do a lot better. There was general agreement that our current programme based on a document called "Being the Best" (published 1997 has failed, our poor international results cited

continued on page 8

COURTSIDE

by John Woodford

- **JOURNALISTS** expect readers of newspapers and magazines to criticise their words. In some under-developed countries writers are thrown out of that country, imprisoned or worse if their written or spoken views upset governments.
- **FORTUNATELY**, here in Britain we have freedom of speech, which allows people who wish to express themselves against the written word, but within the laws of libel.
- **NEWSPAPERS** of course, are armed with insurance against claims of libel and deformation of character. Small magazines often cannot afford those insurance premiums so they have to carefully avoid publishing dangerous material, in particular, personal abuse.
- **THAT** is why in last month's Postbag, Richard Scruton's attack on me had to have most of the personal abuse taken out before publication. Each one of us is entitled to our opinion and the right to have those opinions published in TTN provided spiteful personal attacks are not included.
- **READERS** of the Telegraph who follow table tennis probably wonder why some of my pieces are so short. The reason is course that my average length of words is 140-160, but the sub-editors have the task of cutting down the words to fit the Sports Round-Up column. In theory, I have a regular column intended to appear on Tuesday; if it is taken out I re-file for Wednesday and Thursday, changing the words and the story.
- **SHOULD** there be a conflict story, for example Ryan Owen overturning referees tables, then my copy is given a spot outside the round-up. Sad, but people like to read about other people's downfalls.
- **SNOOKER** is one of our main rivals when we fight for space in newspapers at national, county and local levels. It is not my favourite sport or even in the frame amongst competing sports. I was therefore amused to see on television (where its viewing figures have fallen) that a spectator was ejected from the Preston Guildhall tournament for snoring loudly during play.
- **TORY** leader Iain Duncan Smith is the latest celebrity to be pictured playing "ping-pong" in the national press. A story four-columns wide appeared recently in the Daily Mail by Quentin Letts reporting on the top Tory touring Britain.
- **DUCIE** High School, Manchester was the venue where the table tennis took place. His opponent was Siful Khan, 14, who said that his opponent knew all about spin, but, the teenager was not certain which party he represented.
- **NATIONAL** newspaper journalists and their sub-editors just cannot resist using "ping-pong". I suppose it just something we have to live with.
- **NOW** I know why most of our professional staff based at Hastings live outside the town - according to Daily Telegraph columnist Adam Nicholson "Hastings is a tatty, broken and poor town with 2,000 drug addicts."
- **WHEN** visiting the ETTA office, arriving by rail, I have often wondered why the gents toilet is fitted with ultra-violet bulbs - because in ultra-violet light you cannot see your veins. Apparently addicts trace their veins in biro on their skin before entering the ultra-violet zone.
- **APOLOGIES** are due to anyone who stayed at the Midland 5 Star Hotel in Manchester for The Games, and thought that my questions on who picked up the tab (November 'Courtside') for top ITTF Officers and the ETTA Chairman and his wife, was out of order. With the ETTA Chairmanship election impending it is important to record the answer - our Chairman paid well over £2000 for the accommodation out of his his own personal pocket.

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

PRESS RELEASE

ALAN RANSOME, O.B.E. Chairman of the English Table Tennis Association lodged his consent to be nominated to continue in office for a further two year term when the electoral proceedings opened on 1st December. Deputy Chairman, Tony Chatwin and Treasurer, Barry Granger, followed suit and confirmed their willingness to continue as a team for the next term that begins after the Annual General Meeting in June 2003.

"We have a very strong case to put before our members for endorsement for a further term and have the full backing of the Management Committee and of our own individual County Associations."

The current team is being challenged for office by three members of the Veterans Society in the elections that are scheduled to take place in the Spring of next year.

Alan Ransome elaborated, "In association with our many partners, including Sport England, we are steadily increasing both the popularity and the participation in table tennis throughout the country. The comprehensive programme of activities that we established over the last decade is building a momentum and is creating a healthy and successful future for the sport. Our programme has included the staging of the European Championships in Birmingham in 1994, the World Championships and the World Veterans Championships in Manchester in 1997 and 1998, and full participation in the Commonwealth Games in Manchester 2002 which were very successful from a table tennis perspective with three Gold and one Bronze medal towards the England total, as well as the sport being given extensive television coverage.

Our national and open tournaments, County Championships, British and National Leagues are all showing an increase in entries, whilst at grass roots more people of all ages are playing the sport than at any time in the recent past.

The most ambitious and wide ranging Development Programme that has ever been established throughout England is in place. It takes full advantage of the Sport England and local authority programmes and is proving enormously beneficial to our sport. There are many more dedicated clubs and facilities with an estimated £7million invested in twenty new build or major refurbished table tennis clubs throughout England. By providing places to play and a strong support team of professional Regional Development Officers, we have encouraged local enthusiasts in turn to take on the responsibility for the development and promotion of the sport in their own area which is vital to the future success of the sport. Much of this has been powered with close to £2 million of Awards for All National Lottery Funding which has been invested in approximately 500 local schemes, most of which have been initiated and nurtured by our Development Department.

Another positive benefit for the sport has been the emergence of the most talented group of young players to appear on the English scene for many years. Such is the potential of the leading two youngsters, Paul Drinkhall and Darius Knight, that they have been enjoying substantial national publicity for their victories throughout Europe and China. However, the main benefit is that there are not just two exceptional players but a crop of youngsters who are emerging as a result of our National Team programme based in Nottingham that has been running for the last five years."

Alan Ransome concludes, "We have both a proven track record of progress and achievement and this is combined with the knowledge, expertise, experience, and enthusiasm plus the strongest possible commitment to drive the sport forward. Our Manifesto for Progress will be published in the New Year and in it we will expand our plans to move the sport to the next level."

LETTERS *continued from page 7*

again and again. Some felt, however, that had not been constructive enough and I was challenged to pinpoint the areas where complete change was required.

This is not easy within the space limitations of this Magazine. My main plank would be to abandon the present theory and practice of having all our eggs in one basket, that of the "Academy" at the Watersports Centre in Nottingham. I favour a number of centres of excellence all over the country. I dislike the idea of residential establishments, particularly taking very young children from the parental home. This is also expensive and wasteful.

I cannot know funding will be available in the near future. This is widely expected to be reduced, because of our poor results and status in the table tennis world. Whatever sums are granted to us should be allocated to the centres of excellence in equal measure once the costs of running our international teams are met. I would look for a return to the volunteer principle, having found no evidence that paid staff will do a better job. I favour some payments, within what is available, for established international players and coaches. Help should be available for promising young players of the highest level or potential, so that they can play without being a burden to their parents. Each centre would work in harmony and friendship with the local associations and counties in the area as well as top clubs and talented players and coaches. In this way the table tennis scene would gain immeasurably and no longer would one central scheme pounce vulture-like on the best young players and so weaken local associations. Sometimes such players did not get better and some have been lost to the sport altogether as a result of such failures.

I see no merit in the present system of overseas "designer label" coaches paid twice as much as was Don Parker, who enjoyed twice the success. That other sports have embarked on similar follies in no way absolves us from guilt.

I see no merit either in sending 12 year olds to China and many other places until they have run out of opposition in this country, for instance against 17 year olds and seniors, whom they can meet at smaller cost. Such travel is expensive and ultimately exhausting for children.

I would attack the culture of waste and unsound financial management, which sadly has also plunged the ETTA into unacceptable losses.

The mistakes of recent years cannot be corrected or wished away overnight, but a return to sound principles which have brought success both here and abroad would bring noticeable changes within a short time. A complete change of direction is needed in the production and running of our national teams, if these are to return to former medal winning glories and perhaps beyond.

John Prean
ETTA Chairman 1986-91

CHAIRMANSHIP

I HAVE been following the debate on the future chairmanship of the ETTA with interest and I have pondered on the outcome. This is not least because my

good friend and fellow VETTS committee member, Alex Murdoch, has put his name into the hat for election. I am not ashamed to tell you that he invited me to stand as his 'running mate', a position which, after careful consideration, I decided against. There were several reasons for this but my main thought was that, with the divisions within the sport, I was not prepared to join the battle. Perhaps what I write below emphasises this.

I have read how John Prean saved the ETTA and produced a handsome profit during his tenure as Chairman and this has to be commended. However, my recollection at that time was the decimation of the coaching and development of the sport at ground roots level. This, I feel, led to a decline in the numbers joining our sport which is the lifeblood of the ETTA. I have also read that, under the chairmanship of Alan Ransome, the Association is now losing money and not producing the players at international level to generate an interest in the game of table tennis. However, Alan, to his credit, has brought the senior and veterans world championships to the UK during his chairmanship as well as getting table tennis into the Commonwealth Games.

It can be seen that, under the chairmanship of both the previous occupants, there have been good points and bad points. However, I do not wish to start another debate or argument over the points that I have raised above. They are solely my own thoughts. What needs to happen, regardless of who the next chairman may be, is for all the bickering and back-biting to stop. It is not doing our sport any good at all and must also be off-putting for any likely sponsors. Now is the time for all table tennis players to look to the future and make a serious choice as to who is the best person to make the necessary changes to re-invigorate our sport.

In my view the following is required:
(i) A strong management committee prepared to take necessary risks. (e.g. bring in 11up across the board)
(ii) A reduction in the number and size of the ETTA sub-committees. (by amalgamation etc.)
(iii) Set targets for headquarters staff and let them go out and achieve them.
(iv) Encourage the coaching and development teams at local league level and make it easier for younger members to achieve goals and be rewarded in some way.

I know that it will be a long and hard road to lift table tennis from the slump that it has found itself in. Most leagues are made up of veteran players who do not like change but change there must be if table tennis is to survive. Let us all start pulling together for the sake of the sport. Stop the in-fighting, incorporate change and bring about a resurgence of the game we all love. I know that I have concentrated on the veteran game through VETTS but, if Alex is elected, he knows that he can count on me to assist him in any capacity.

Peter Bradley
VETTS Southern
Representative



CHINA ON SONG AT OCEAN INTERNATIONAL EXTRAVAGANZA

WITH a prize kitty at £3,000 and £1,000 to the winner of the Mens Singles, the Sussex Open Grand Prix made a fighting recovery thanks to Brighton based company Ocean International Communications, at Christ's Hospital School Sports Centre, Horsham on 9/10th November, writes John Woodford.

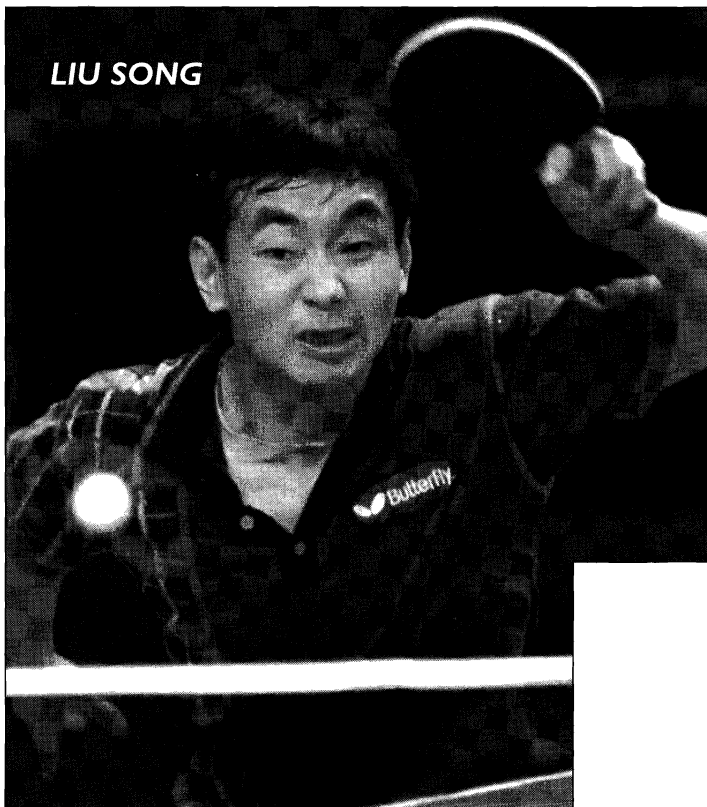
This was the 67th running of the Sussex Open, supremely organised by the Hastings TTA for all those years. Two months or so before the event at Horsham, the 2002 tournament was "dead in the water", but excellent work by ETTA professional staff headed by Brian Spicer led to the revival and of course, the icing on the Sussex cake was the sponsorship from Ocean International Communications, via their managing director Paul Andrews who is a member of the Hollingbury club at Brighton.

The bumper prize bag led to a huge entry of 270 - 70 entries were returned because only 200 players could be accommodated on the 18 tables. The minimum number of tables for the GP circuit is now 18.

The number of Chinese players who have left their homeland and now play and/or coach around the world is still steadily increasing. At Horsham we saw around ten Chinese including four attached to the Welsh national squad.

Also attracted to Horsham was the former world cup holder and world No.4 Andrzej Grubba from Poland. He was narrowly beaten in Round 3 of the Mens Singles by the Chinese player Lei Kou who is resident at the Grove club in Market Drayton.

The mens singles top prize of £1,000 was won by the Argentine No.1 Liu Song with his 7, 7, 4, victory over the England squad coach Alan Cooke, who earlier, had taken out his fellow England coach Bradley Billington and Terry Young, who lifted himself to the second-best win of his his career to eliminate the top



seed world No.43 Chen Weixing the Austrian No.2 with a score of 5, 6, 6. This remarkable scoreline by Young earned the Maidenhead professional a last-minute place in the England team against Israel at Liverpool, where England won 3-0.

England had three men in the semi-finals, Herbert, Young and Cooke. Gareth who was the second seed

**Words by
JOHN WOODFORD
and
KEN MUHR
in Horsham**

**Pictures by
JOHN WOOD**

ALL CHINESE WOMEN'S FINAL

Chinese women also dominated the singles. Xu Jie from the Welsh national squad attachment defeated top seed Zhao Shuang (Shropshire) in the final 10, 6, 8.

The British women semi-finalists were Naomi Owen (Wales) who was beaten 7,6,5, by Jie Xu and Louise Durrant (Nottingham) went under 2, 7, 5, to Zhao.

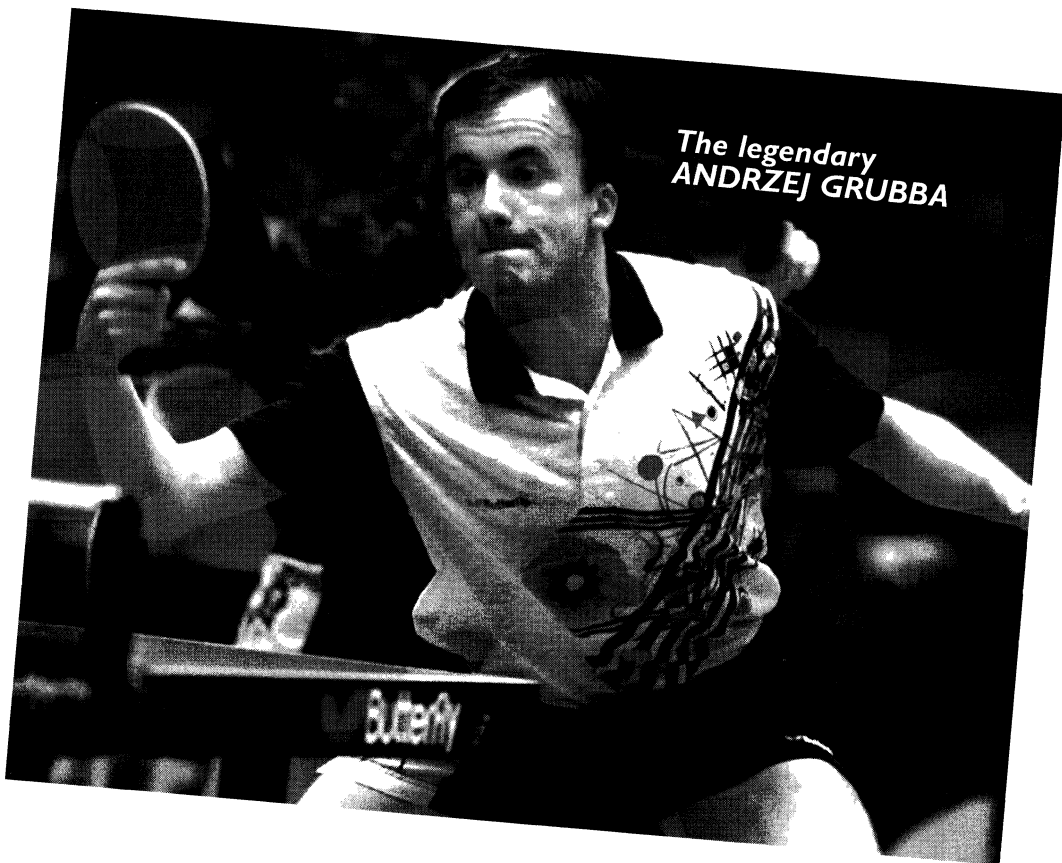
SHOCKS

Amongst the shocks - Gary Tendler defeated Lesek Kucharski (Poland) and Lauren Spink defeated Natalie Bawden.



after stopping the young Chinese Lei Kou was taken out by the winner Liu Song -12, 10, 7, 9.

THE prize presentations were made by JAMES BOND. Not quite - but the trophies and cash prizes were given out by Douglas James as James Bond 007 - a professional look-alike of Pierce Brosnan, pictured here. Most of the young girls present were swooning.



The legendary
ANDRZEJ GRUBBA

GRUBBA WINS VETERANS

THE VETERANS womens singles was won by Judy Morley, whilst Andrzej Grubba (aged 44) won



ROSE RAINTON

the veterans mens singles with a number of 'exhibition' long-distance returns against both Kucharski and earlier against Steve Hall from Wales, writes Ken Muhr.

They may have gone out earlier than expected in the open singles, but the former top world ranked Polish stars of the 1980's, Andrzej Grubba and Leszek Kucharski, provided the most entertaining final of the Ocean International Sussex Open Butterfly Grand Prix, played at Christ's Hospital School Sports Centre, Horsham on Sunday – but unfortunately most of the spectators had gone home!

They met in the veteran's men's singles final, Grubba, the former world no.3 and 1988 World Cup winner beating the 1986 European men's singles silver medallist, Kucharski, 11-9, 12-10 in a match replete with long attacking rallies, ending with particularly crowd pleasing points, Grubba jumping in the audience to balloon return Kucharski smashes. About his loss in the open singles to 14 year old Chinese Kou Lei (he is 15 on 20th

November!), Grubba said, "I was happy with how I played. I thought he deserved to win."

ROSE RAINTON SUSSEX'S ONLY WINNER - TAKES WOMENS BAND 1

There were winners from all over Britain of banded singles events in the first day.

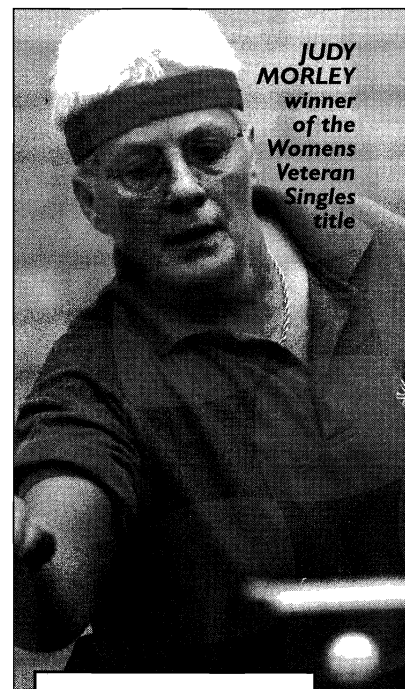
Despite losing to Kents Angie Bristow in the groups, Rose Rainton from Bexhill, ended up the home county's only event winner when she defeated 16 year old Gemma Chapman (Buckinghamshire) - 8, 8, -6, 6, 4, in the womens band 1 singles final. In the semi-finals, Rainton had put out her Sussex colleague Sally Weston, after a hard -8, -10, -10, -9, 6, fight.

In the mens band one singles quarter-finals, Sussex county player and England veteran no.4, Nigel Eckersley, 50, made a fantastic comeback from 3-7 down in the fifth game to overcome Jerome Jonah (Surrey) 11, -8, 114, -7, 9, but then the former international and national veteran champion from Uckfield had to scratch to Clive Carthy (Essex), owing to exhaustion and a tennis elbow injury having become inflamed. Carthy, also a former England veteran champion, lost in turn, -9, -10, -7, in the final to Abdul Wuraola (Surrey), the University of

the South Bank University student who was firing powerful drives on both wings.

Many youngsters were represented in finals. The unseeded 16 year old Shaun Marples from Chesterfield, Derbyshire, ranked No.12 junior in England, was the surprise winner of the mens band 2 singles, overcoming Tomas Svensson (Middlesex), seeded No.8, 9, -6, 9, 10. The mens band 3 was taken 4, 5, 8 by 17 year old Mark Daniels (Wales) over Kenny Lindsay (Scotland), 15, despite the latter producing two spectacular backhand loops towards the end of their clash. Lindsay had put out 13 year old Bradley Evans (Nottinghamshire) in the semi-finals. The talented 12 year old Scot, Craig Howieson, did well to reach both the band 4 and band 5 mens singles finals, but was unfortunate to lose to William Cooney (Devon), 17, and Anthony Whelan (Cheshire), respectively. Hard hitting 14 year old Kent girl, Jodie Stringer, had a good run in the womens band 3 singles, before falling 7, -3, -6, -7, in the final to Jennie Whealy (Essex), a former high ranked England (and Peniel) junior, who demonstrated good touch and spin.

One of the best domestic open tournaments I have attended for several years, and I look forward to more like it.



JUDY MORLEY
winner of the
Womens
Veteran
Singles
title



JUNIOR BRITISH LEAGUE

A CRUNCH MATCH

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



TEAM OF THE WEEKEND: GROVE 'A' BOYS (l.to r.) KOU LEI, BRADLEY EVANS, HARRY SHAHLAEI and Captain REES EVANS. Pictured centre background is Sportspark Duty Manager SHAUN MEALE, who presented the trophies. (Missing from the photograph is TIM YARNELL)

ORMESBY 3 GROVE 3 was the result from the outstanding match of the 180 played when the Junior British League convened at Sportspark within the University of East Anglia at Norwich for the commencement of the tenth season of this vast competition.

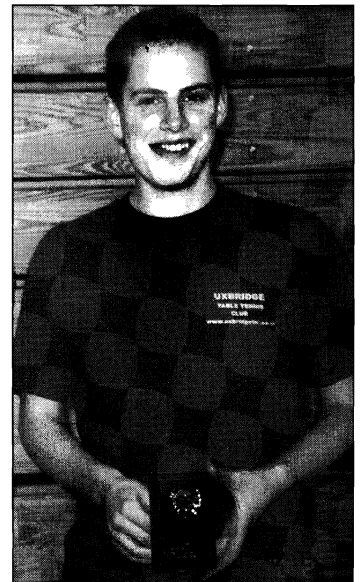
The eagerly awaited debut at this level of Kou Lei, Groves 14 years of age temporary import from Beijing, did not disappoint and Lei disposed of Craig Bryant and Bryn Drinkall, England's number 2 and 3 juniors in this crunch match, 3 straight, the same as he had done to his previous 8 opponents throughout the week end. Bradley Evans won Groves third set and Bryant, Bryn Drinkall and brother Paul one each for

**Words by
BRIAN LAMERTON
Pictures by
PATRICA MOSNEY**

Ormesby, the same team who together with Martyn Clarke had been Premier division champions last season. Tim Yarnell who took Bryant to deuce in the fifth and Harry Shahlaei completed Grove's squad whilst Ormesby played unchanged throughout. Away from the top two Idsall's Chris Gregory with 8 wins from 10 starts produced the best individual record whilst his team mate Adam Bleakley and the Welsh player Liam Thomas (Colley Hyundai) had the pleasure of joining Lei in defeating Bryant, the top ranked player on view. Eastpoint, from Ireland, have a struggle on their hands to retain their premier

status, the 5 wins by Chinese player Na Ning being the total of their winning contributions.

Scotland, whose one point dropped was the result of sets conceded in their final



BOY OF THE WEEKEND: WILLIAM COONEY (Uxbridge)

match as they rushed to get back across the border have a team whose dummy rankings should see them comfortable within the premier division; hopefully transport times from the West Midlands in February will be kinder and allow David Atkins, Nicol Craig and Kenny Lindsay the time needed to clinch

promotion for Division 1. Atkins was unbeaten from 9 played whilst Craig administered the only defeat on Cippenham's David Hayes.

Uxbridge with Richard Wesley and William Cooney recording maximums added to 7 from Ryan Hutchinson were far too strong for the rest in Boys division 2A and would appear only have to turn up next time to clinch a promotion spot whilst top of Division 2B would appear to rest between Southfields Elite and Grove 'CB' In the drawn match between the two Evan Sharp won twice for Southfields, with Paul Moore together with Groves Ashley Nicholls, Gavin Evans and Robert Morris all winning one.

Christopher Lewis, who shared the Southfields No. 3 position with Dorian Robinson was unlucky to miss out on this occasion taking both Morris and Evans to close fifth games; David Owen was the Grove player rested for this match. Grove's other dropped point was against Wirral Premier Boys for whom Aaron Beech won twice. Moore heads the individual averages with Northants Eagles Dannel Pang sharing second place with Sharp and Nicholls.

With Rotherham Scorpions and Darlington "B" occupying the top 5 individual average positions in Boys

from an opening two defeats to draw 3 on the trot who knows what they might do next time round. Spicer Boys lost to St. Andrews and drew with Draycott and Long Eaton whilst D & L E's other dropped points were to St Andrews and Club Mid-Cheshire. Top individual performances came from Devess Shete (Spicers) and Gary Wilson of St Andrews who both returned 10 from 10. Top match in Boys division 4B where 3 teams remain unbeaten was that between Grove "D" and Formby which not surprisingly ended at 3 sets all; three times Formby took the lead only to be hauled back each time, Thomas Bray winning two and David Pattison one for Formby and the Grove trio Miles Evans (the third brother playing in the competition), Sam Clarke and Wing-Yung Chan one each. Top individual in this division with a maximum was Andrew Mudie from Cliffedale Chandlers.

Such is the strength of Grove at this level that despite losing Georgina Walker to International duty they were able to rest their Chinese star Zhao Shuang from two of their matches and still defeat each of their 5 opponents by the identical score of 5-1 to lead Girls premier division with Nicola White unbeaten from 8, Zhao from 6, Naomi Owen weighing in with 7 and Kelly Sibley 4. Ever-present Abigail Embling (Peniel) was beaten only by Zhao (in 4).

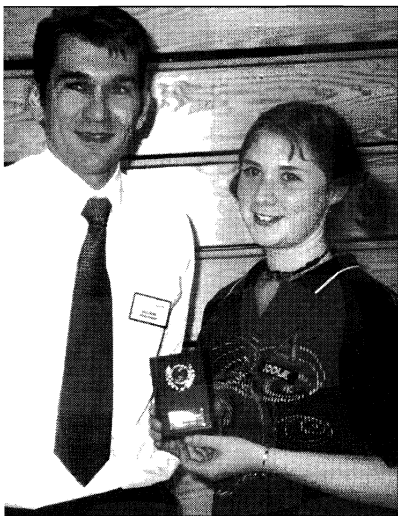
In Girls division 1, reduced to 5 teams due to the unavoidable late absence of Woolwell Foxes, half of the matches were drawn; leaders Darlington drawing with both Grove and Cippenham who drew with each other. Darlington's Claire Wilson was defeated only by Emily Tucker (Cippenham) whose own single defeat was at the hands of Irish girl Sabrina Conway.

There is little to separate the top three in Girls division 2 with N.E.T.T.S. Chelmsford drawing with The Weald who also drew with Draycott & Long Eaton, NETTS Sara Wang with 9 wins, Sarah Bayliss of D. & L.E. and the Weald pair of Gina Rogers and Anusha Seneviratne with 8 each, all from 10. The leading players.

After an opening 4-2 win against Spicer Girls Division 3 girls leaders Hilton Girls crushed each of their remaining 4 opponents 5-1; Louise Proctor and Jessica Hall both winning 7 from 8 and Sally Duncliffe with 6 and Helen Crawford with 4 making vital contributions. Hall lost her opening match, 11-9 in the fifth, to Spicer's Lisa Shadbolt and Proctor's winning run was halted by Samantha Purchase (Woodfield) 11-8 in the fifth.

Grove "A" were nominated Boys team of the week-end, Draycott & Long Eaton (Stacey Beastall, Sarah Bayliss & Emma Vickers) the Girls, William Cooney ((Uxbridge) the Boy of the week-end and Judith Bamford (Woodfield) the Girl.

Notwithstanding the long journeys which most of us had to face and the inability to erect all 36 courts in one hall (apart from Aldersley who can?) UEA's Sportspark was arguably the best venue yet with super facilities, willing helpers (including those from the Norwich league), first class catering and, for the lucky some, on-site accommodation - an excellent start for new organiser Ken Eliot.

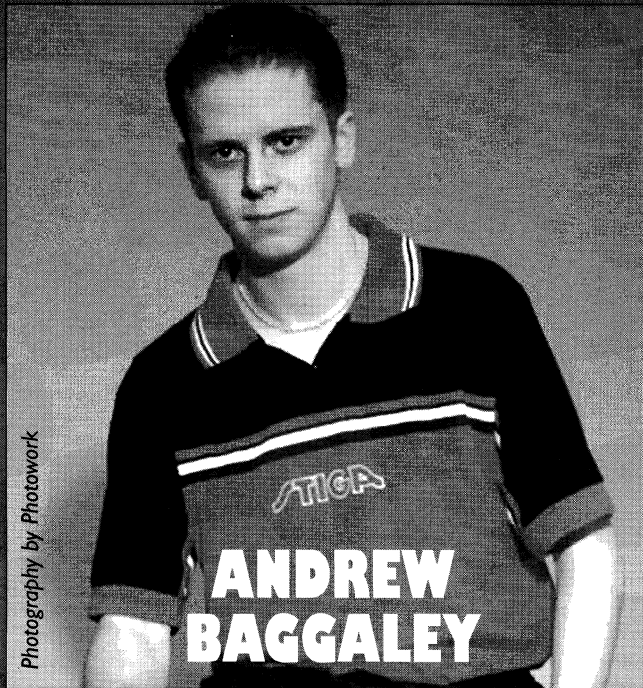


GIRL OF THE WEEKEND:
JUDITH BAMFORD (Woodfield)
pictured with Sportspark's Duty
Manager **SHAUN MEALE**.

division 3A it was perhaps not surprising that the match between these was drawn, Ben Barlow of Rotherham in maintaining his 100% record and Darlington's Simon Donnelly each winning twice. Darlington's one defeat was in their opening match against Ashford Challoner for whom Shaun Robertson and Chris Sabouri were unbeaten. Matthew Thomas, Marc Arnstrong and Adam Kelly who took top place in Division 3B for Ellenborough produced a mixed bag, defeating their nearest rivals J.A.G.S. 5-1 but dropping points to Mossford and bottom of the table Byng Hall. Byng's Will Harrington who from those ever present shared the divisions top individual average won twice against the leaders.

Boys division 4A is the closest run of all and anything can happen; with bottom of the pile Club MidCheshire recovering

PLAYER PROFILE



Photography by Photowork

**ANDREW
BAGGAILEY**

Favourite:

Book: Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry.
I read this at school and was much impressed

Film: Stand by Me

Vice: My messy bedroom, my mum's always on to me to tidy up

Food: Chicken with Pasta or Rice

Holiday destination: The Caribbean

Alternative career: Singer & Musician

Celebrity to have a date with: Holly Valance

Way to pass time: Listening to music

Group/Song/Piece of Music: INXS

Childhood memory: Aged 4, playing table tennis in the back garden with my mother

Table tennis hero: No actual table tennis hero, I think they're all great, but my all-time sporting hero would be Pete Sampras

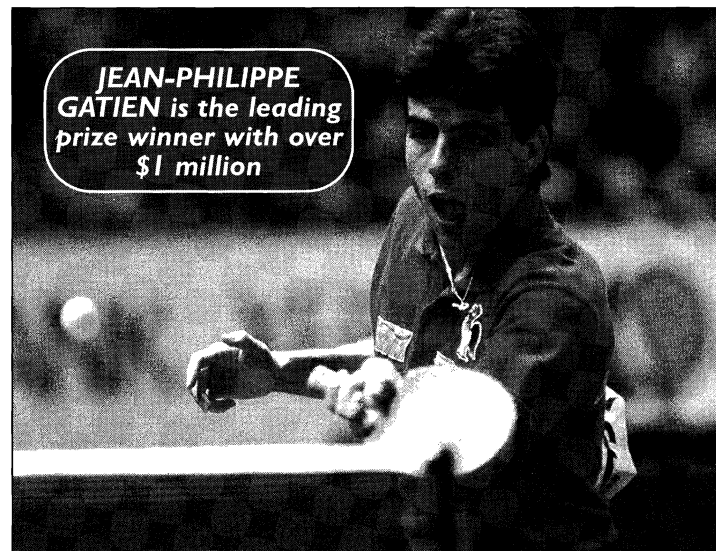
Ambitions:

Short term: The next Olympics in Athens
Long term: To win a really big title, World, European or Olympics

EATING McDONALDS WITH CHOPSTICKS

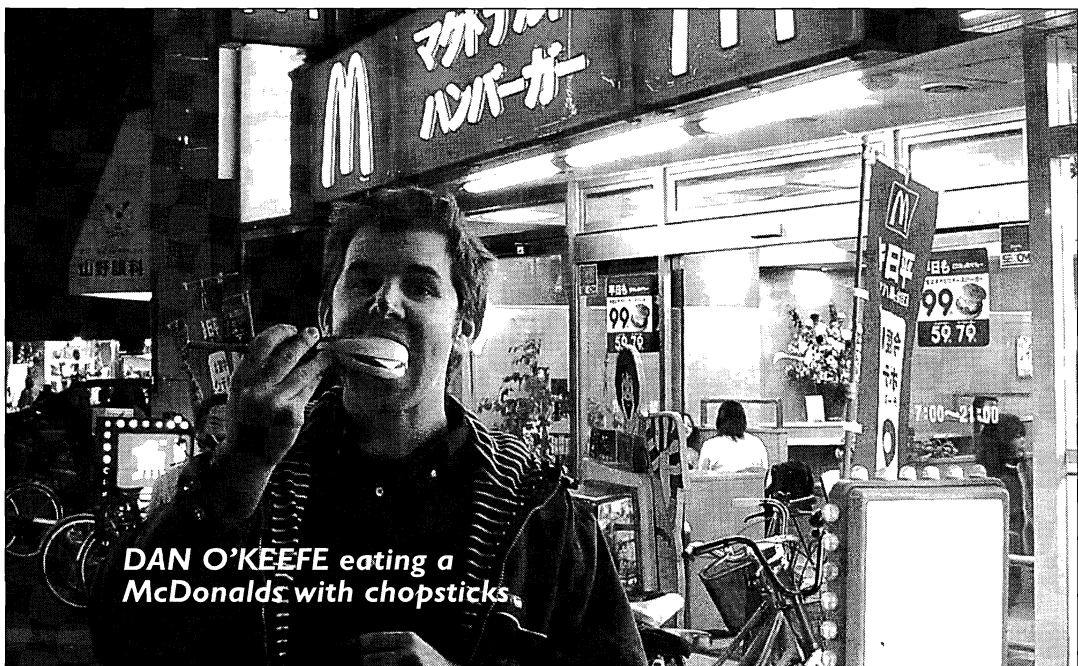
WHEN YOU LIVE a long way from your native land, you have to make certain sacrifices and accommodate certain local customs. Par for the course really, and, in the event, doing as the Romans do is usually a large part of what makes life overseas such an alluring experience. No-one in their right mind would attempt to forgo the pleasures of a Spanish siesta or a Thai massage simply because it's not the done thing at home. Living in Japan however, is an entirely different kettle of (uncooked) fish. For the Ex-Pat to survive in sunny old Nippon, not only must they learn a mind-boggling array of new customs and traditions, they must first unlearn their old ones, for Western lifestyles and Japanese society are surely the twain that shall never meet.

Life in a country where one can urinate freely in the streets but can not blow one's nose publicly can certainly take some getting used to. Its not that the Japanese make life difficult for their foreign guests, quite the opposite, its just that being on their own for so long has allowed them to develop a variety of social structure that is so self-sustaining it can operate quite efficiently while remaining blissfully free from the constraints of such "Western"



JEAN-PHILIPPE GATIEN is the leading prize winner with over \$1 million

MILLION DOLLAR CIRCUIT Baffles AUSTRALIAN JOURNALIST DAN O'KEEFE



DAN O'KEEFE eating a McDonalds with chopsticks.

dependencies as logic, reason and accountability.

Where else in the world could one man decide that he was going to launch a series of sporting events and draw the world's top players simply because he thought that they might like to visit his country. In the

case of table tennis, that is pretty much what happened when Mr Yukawa San, a local doyen of the kimono trade, decided to design, sponsor and promote the ¥100 million Super Circuit played annually across 8 cities in Japan.

Whether its for the prize money or the chance to eat McDonald's with chopsticks, many of the world's top players regularly appear on the circuit making it a highlight of the international playing calendar. Unfortunately for Yukawa San, Japanese companies are too busy chopping zeros off the bottom of their corporate earnings statements to help sponsor such a fine event and he has to shoulder the burden more-or-less by himself. At ¥100 million a year, he's lucky it's a labour of love.

I've never been one to pass-up an opportunity to see top-class sport so when July rolled around and the weather warmed up, off I went to the summer round of this year's Super Circuit in Osaka. I should mention that while Yukawa San is a wiz with a

sewing machine, he's not much of a publicist so the only directions I had were some hastily scrawled train times and a mud-map from the station. Not that this was overly unusual however as, having lived in Japan for several years and attended a variety of sporting events at a equally wide variety of venues, all I have learned to expect is the unexpected.

The venue for the day's play was a sort of elongated, semi-cylindrical steel shed, not entirely dissimilar the kind of World War Two aircraft hanger that always seemed to pop up in old Saturday afternoon matinees. A little more grass and the odd cow and Kitatsumi in south-western Osaka could easily have been mistaken for Dover or Dunkirk circa 1944. I half-expected to walk in and see Lee Marvin or David Niven addressing the troops one last time before sending them off for the Big Push. "Righto you chaps, lets ping-pong the Bosch and win one for Blighty!"

The playing enclosure was in the

middle of the hanger, er, shed, ringed by a small fence and flanked by eight foot high bleachers on the left and right. On the day I went, a crowd of about 40 locals was on hand to watch the action and cheer on their heroes. Curiously, virtually the entire crowd had congregated at the southern end of one of the stands and sat check-by-jowl despite the abundance of space around them.

Given the fact that aircraft hangers take on all the thermal properties of a microwave oven in the heat of the Japanese summer, this odd seating arrangement seemed initially like just another rather excessive display of Japanese sheep mentality but turned out to be a somewhat inspired piece of spectatorship.

As play got underway, it became obvious that a disproportionate number of points were being won by whichever player occupied the southern (or "crowd") end. In one game featuring Hidetoshi Masuda and Jean-Michel Saive, fully 75% of points were won by the player at the southern end of the table.

The trend continued through the next few matches but no-one in the crowd, nor any of the players paid it any mind. A co-incidence perhaps but it wouldn't surprise me if early-arriving fans had seen a window open somewhere and used a bit of local knowledge to deduce that the northern fellow would be hitting into the wind all day.

While the action on the table might have been first-rate, the atmosphere in the remainder of the arena was hardly what one would call electric. Famed Japanese politeness meant that spectator responses were somewhat muted. Good play was recognised with four short claps, as was good sportsmanship, tenacity or sublime skill. Mistakes, time wasting or poor play received no clap. That's it! No cheering, heckling, booing, yahoing or other such carry-on. Four claps good, no claps bad.

Nature abhors a vacuum however and sensing that they might be a little light-on for non-sporting sounds, the organisers rushed out and grabbed a whole slew of music to keep the punters awake in the down-time between points and matches. Having lost the bidding war for the rights to "Cotton-eye Joe" and "Baby Elephant Walk" they had to settle for a somewhat obscure Van Halen number and a rather snazzy hip-hop piece entitled "The Ping-Pong Rap" ("hey there now everybody come on, lets get together and play ping-pong" - superb stuff) to keep the sounds of silence at bay.

A quick glance at the crowd gave

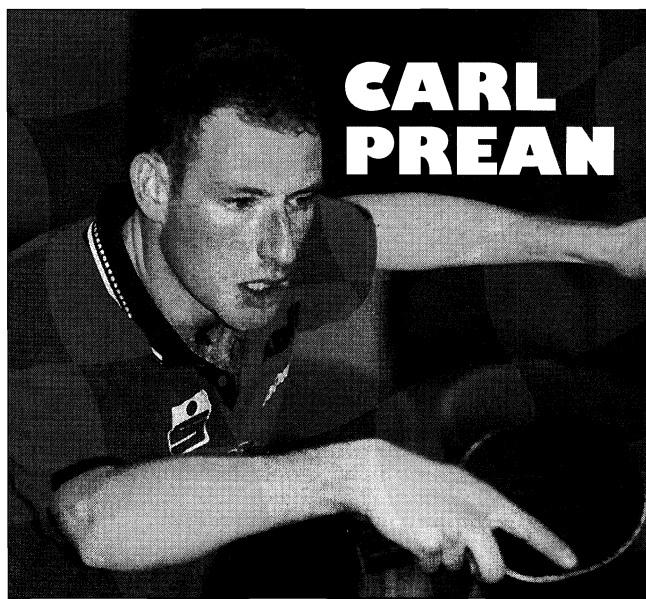
another telling insight into the psyche of the local punters. Osaka prefecture is home to over 8 million people and only about 40 of them had bothered to get off their futons and come down for a look. With 100 million Yen in prize money up for grabs and some of the world's best exponents of Table Tennis on show, only 0.0005% of the population managed to get it together to show up.

Back in my native Australia, a cast of thousands will turn up to the opening of an envelope provided you call it "sport". It's all about being there and seeing the action for yourself. And there's the rub. Its not that the table tennis isn't first rate, its just that, if you get to know Japanese people to any great degree, you will find that, while they love the idea of hosting World Class sporting events, they don't really like actually going to them. In fact, attending sporting events ranks well below shopping, driving and flower arrangement on the list of most popular pastimes in Japan.

Even the football world cup, one of the largest sporting events in the world, was not enough to prize the locals from their chairs. Despite the fact that tickets for matches in Japan were five times over-subscribed when they initially went on sale, many of the stadiums had empty seats even as people were off-loading unwanted tickets for free prior to games. For visiting European fans who had forked out big money for tickets, it certainly was a bizarre situation.

This aversion to attending sporting events explains why Japan's sporting facilities are about on par with those of East Timor. Despite the fact that it has a government addicted to building large, unnecessary pieces of infrastructure, this country of 125 million people does not have a single stadium, of any description, capable of holding more than 70,000 people. Even lowly North Korea has a pair of stadia capable of holding more than 100,000 at a time.

Seating for 100,000 might be a little excessive for the Super Circuit at the moment with a little promotion and some judicious marketing, we could well see the numbers top 100 in the near future. So if you're casting around for a new holiday destination this year and fancy taking-in some absolutely first-rate table tennis, head east until you reach the land where kids tote Vuitton bags and the adults wear "Hello Kitty". But hurry, seats are limited...



John Woodford has taken the rare opportunity of a face-to-face interview-cum-chat with Carl Prean

APART from table tennis enthusiasts living on the Isle of Wight, very few people have a chance to meet Carl as he now spends most of his time living in Dusseldorf, playing for his club called 'Muller' (the name of the leader) at Munscheid, near Bochum.

He has now played for around seven clubs in Germany over the years. Now, he could be looking for another one next season.

He said when I interviewed him at a county championships match (Sussex v Isle of Wight) at Horsham, "I have been put into the top team in the top division of the Bundesliga, but I have spent too much time on the bench. I have played in several lower division matches, but I would like to play in more top matches. Perhaps this will happen later in this season. I hope so anyway."

Germany is still awash with Chinese players. In Carl's team is Fan Chang Mao and Chen Hong Yu both of whom played for China some years ago, plus the world No.66 Evgueni Chtchetinine (Belarus) and No.122 Michael Zoogling from Sweden. Being the reserve for those four leaves Carl in something of a vacuum. Carl is now 35, an age when many players drop out of our sport. But, watching him play against Sussex the Island man is still a professional to be reckoned with at almost any level.

His future inside or outside table tennis is an unknown factor. Obviously, he has made an excellent living playing in Germany, as did Des Douglas some years ago.

No doubt, his earnings have been wisely invested, so when he returns home he will be comfortable in financial terms.

His other passion in sport is watching Hampshire play county cricket, but as they did not do so well in the campaign just finished Carl did not watch many matches - but there is a new interest coming up for Hampshire - Shane Warne, the world's top off-spinner is returning to Hampshire, certainly boosting their chances of success.

The Carl Prean Table Tennis Centre on the Island is a successful venture. He coaches there when he is at home. I was impressed by two of his team at Horsham in particular Alex Rorke who was narrowly beaten by Sussex 'young-veteran' Terry Haley.

One reason he does not wish to play competitively in England, Carl told me is poor playing conditions. Having watched a lot of table tennis on the continent and further afield, I find that a trifle surprising - playing conditions here are usually reasonable, some very good, some below par, but Carl has been playing in Germany where conditions and venues are so good, that is why he finds conditions in England below par. My prediction is that Carl will find yet another German club next season - his dedication and professionalism is so well known in Germany - after that he, just may, return home.

Footnote: Sussex won the match 8-2, no prizes for guessing who was the comfortable winner of the two.

THE UMPIRES and Referees are the unsung heroes of our sport. Every major tournament needs them. Perhaps we all take them for granted, so this month, to rectify the situation, we turn the spotlight on one of our leading referees. Richard Scruton has built on his reputation as one of the fairest and most impartial of referees, so much so that his services are now in demand throughout the world, writes Brian Halliday.

I spoke to Richard at the recent Commonwealth Games.

BRIAN HALLIDAY: How do you think the Championships have gone so far?

RICHARD SCRUTON: I think in many aspects it has been good for the sport. Behind the scenes we have had to learn that we are part of the Games for the first time and therefore we have no overall control. It has been somewhat of a learning curve.

BH: The ITTF regulations still apply?

RS: Yes, but we have to be extremely careful in respect of the clothing regulations and what can and cannot be advertised. Also with equipment we have to follow the games regulations, and I know that the report to be produced after the games will help Melbourne in four

IN DEMAND

years time.

BH: How did you start out on the road to becoming a referee? How did you get involved in table tennis in the first place?

RS: My first recollection was playing in my uncle's outhouse in Harrogate. I remember picking up a bat, but I cannot remember what age I was. By the time I was 11 or 12 I played at school, and then entered the Harrogate Closed at 12 or 13. I was a bit of an organiser even then and at 16 I was on the Harrogate committee. I organised their "Closed" Championships when I was 18, it just went on from there.

BH: Not many people start on the organisation path so early.

RS: I am not sure as to what created that spark, not only to be playing but to be involved in the organisation.

BH: How did the process of becoming a referee start? Did you go through the umpires system? How did it happen?

RS: I organised the Harrogate Closed in 1972 and we did not have a referee. It so happened that the top seed arrived late and I scratched him. He appealed and I was overruled by 5 votes to 3, although the Chairman and the Secretary backed me. From that day on the "Closed" always had a referee. I then decided to qualify as an umpire and by the time I was 25, had umpired at three Welsh Opens, and umpired three men's singles finals of the highest quality which included Liang, Lieck, and Douglas. They were really the peak of my umpiring career at that time. In 1977 I was invited to help out with a pre Worlds event with John Wright, and just prior to this I had refereed the Yorkshire and Cleveland Closed tournaments. In later years I decided I would have to retire from umpiring if I was to climb the ladder to become a referee.

BH: You mentioned John Wright. Was he an influence?

RS: A major influence. There were others. I first assisted John at Oxford, and I picked up many of his skills. I learnt a great deal from him.

BH: From my experience when we talk about an important tournament, yours is usually the first name that comes onto the list. You are now well known internationally. Where do these invitations to referee abroad come from?

RS: The ITTF introduced a referees qualification in 1991. Tony Chatwin, Doug Young, and I went to Brussels to take the exam which comprised written and practical parts. Colin Clemett asked me to go to Barcelona to referee the World Team Cup, which was a test event for the 1992 Olympics, so that was my first experience outside the UK. It was some years before further opportunities arose to referee abroad, however I have been very lucky in recent years. It has now become ITTF policy that for top open tournaments, it is essential that an International Referee is appointed.

BH: Do all the top table tennis countries have an International referee?

RS: There are now over 100 IRs, some more experienced than others. I had been fortunate in that in the 1980s I had worked with some of the best around. I think that

stood me in very good stead for the future. In those days the English Junior Opens were very competitive - and I refereed seven of them!

BH: You must have had some interesting experiences. Any political difficulties?

RS: Not too many political, more to do with regulation changes. The English Junior Open at Bridlington in 1994 was not easy, as our "glue" regulations were somewhat different to the rest of Europe. We did not allow gluing to take place on the day and there were extremely strong objections from the foreign players. We reached an impasse and it was very difficult to resolve, however with major help from Don Parker we did manage to carry on with the Championships, and so avoided an embarrassing international incident.

BH: After you make a decision, is there a right of appeal?

RS: Yes, an appeal may go to a jury, but not on a question of interpretation of laws or regulations. I can make a decision on an interpretation by an umpire and my decision is final. If I make a decision, for example, a matter of tournament conduct not covered within the Laws or regulations, then there is a right of appeal to the Management Committee of the competition. In

ITTF juries the referee does not vote, in ETTU the referee does. I try to think ahead to ensure that the decision I had made was seen to be the right one

BH: I remember playing in the World Vets in Baltimore when the computer deleted all the winners and put the losers through! Has anything similar happened to you?

RS: Not quite like that. I remember the first English Open we held at Kettering and making the draw in advance for Press purposes. Then 50 players did not turn up and we had to do a quick re-draw. These instances are few and far between as PRO TOUR events become more and more professional.

BH: Any funny experiences?

RS: In the European Youth in Italy two umpires from Bosnia were officiating when one called "Time Out", so he could go to the toilet! I also remember refereeing in Johannesburg in a disabled event, which was to qualify for the Paralympics, where I had major problems with the Iranian delegation over their transgressions - illegal coaching etc. They apologised and I thought the matter finished, however on the final day they presented me with a clock, which in fact is still in my kitchen at home. I thought that was the end of it, but on my recent trip to Russia when I told my assistant, an Israeli guy, about the clock he said "Careful Richard, if its from Iran, its either watching you, or one day its going to go 'boom' ". Possibly one of the most difficult instances was at the English Closed in 1984 when one of our top players conceded a game. The umpire did not realise what was happening as the players did not play the fourth game, and went straight to the fifth game. Clearly against the laws. The top player went on

to win but it was an extremely difficult situation to resolve for Doug Young and I as the umpire had allowed an unprecedented incident to develop. I have also had to disqualify players on a couple of occasions, but incidents that require such drastic action are rare.

BH: Any problems with parents and/or coaches?

RS: I always try to be calm. I try to make decisions that are seen to be fair by all parties, then you gain everyone's confidence. Yes there can be difficult parents and coaches, and perhaps there are some that never alter their temperament or behaviour, but that's true in all areas of life. You just have to take them one by one. Never prejudice situations, or prejudice people's character and nature. I try to keep people cool and calm and discuss situations in that manner.

BH: You obviously love the job. What are the rewards? How do you keep stimulated by it all?

RS: I do it because I enjoy it. The moment that I think I cannot do it to the highest standard I will retire. Hopefully I can carry on for a few more years yet. I have been fortunate in travelling to other countries, where in the ordinary course of events I might not have gone. I have met so many people world-wide and we keep in touch. Also there is the respect I receive, for example at the European Youth Championships in Moscow recently I was treated exceptionally well. They recognised that I was there to help them and they treated me as their leader. I always try to put on a good show and hope that the competitors are aware that they will get a fair deal from me.

BH: Now for a tricky one Richard. There was a time when you stood as candidate for the Chairmanship of the ETTA. If such an opportunity arose, would you consider standing again? Have you any ambitions to go in any other direction in the sport?

RS: No ambitions to be Chairman of the ETTA. I know there are people who would be excellent in the job when one day there is a succession. Maybe I could be utilised more because, apart from Alan Ransome and Colin Clemett, I have more world-wide connections than anyone else in the sport. I have been Chairman of the Umpires and Referees Committee for 8 of the last 11 years, and have served on that committee for 24 years. Ambition after refereeing? Well I would like to pursue an ITTF or ETTU committee role, maybe as an adviser to umpires or youth committees. At the moment I would like to stay an active referee at international level.

BH: Interests outside table tennis?

RS: I am a very keen fruit and vegetable gardener. My garden at home is full of fruit trees. That is my main interest from May to October. Oh yes and cricket. I am connected to two clubs and I just love the game. I have been very fortunate in joining the Umpires and Referees committee when I was 25. By being introduced to officials such as George White, Colin Clemett, John Wright, and Geoff James it was a fast track to expertise. It was an apprenticeship second to none and I will always be grateful for that time so well spent.

BH: Thank you for your time.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION LTD

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Sheila King (Development Secretary) ETTA, Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1HF. Tel: 01424 722525 Fax: 01424 422103. E-mail: sheilaking.etta@talk21.com Closing date: Monday January 6th 2003

TABLE TENNIS NEWS EXTRA

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Editorial

We are going into **election season** with challengers for the positions of ETTA Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Treasurer, and a clean fight anticipated. As a neutral civil servant, I could not possibly express a view on this election, but a political campaign reminds of the 18th century radical politician, John Wilkes, who in response to a Middlesex elector's exclamation, 'Vote for you, Sir! I would sooner vote for the Devil!' asked, 'But in case your friend should not stand?'

These are **uncertain times for the national structure of sport**, both in **organisation and funding**, and we **do not yet know the implications for table tennis**. The outgoing Chief Executive of Sport England, David Moffett, has criticised the 'blazer brigade', bureaucracy and a stubborn resistance to change within British sport. His reorganisation of Sport England, which has had exchequer funding frozen at £35m, was to cut staff and decentralise. However, the CCPR and Sebastian (Lord) Coe believe that sports governing bodies should be given greater autonomy in the funding of their own sports. With Lottery income dropping by 15% (meaning a cut of £7m for sports' performance programmes next year) and a projected further cut of £21m over 3 years available to support World Class Performance Programmes, the government has said that there will be no cut in the investment in elite athletes running up to the Athens Olympics, but there apparently is no such guarantee for potential stars – in whom we (table tennis) have our big hopes.

The November TTN was a bit of a coaching issue, and this TTN Extra editorial focuses on **coaching issues**. I enjoyed **Brian Halliday's article on English Coaches Past & Present**, and find the **poll on who is the greatest English coach difficult to judge** because of the many variables. If we judge by **personal experience**, then many different coaches may have helped us at various stages in our development. For example, **John Cornwell** in Cambridgeshire and **Laurie Landry** once I got on the national tournament circuit spring personally to mind, and at coaching rallies **Harry Venner** impressed me. As I moved from playing to myself coaching (whilst still a teenager), I was influenced by **Peter Hirst** and **Jack Carrington**, and indirectly by **Alan Ransome** through the powerful loops of the Ormesby players. I am not going to say who I think has been the greatest coach over the years – when I think about it there are still many good coaches operating.

As I write I have just received a report on the **Institute of Sport's World Class Coaching Conference** at The Belfry in Warwickshire. **Chris Carmichael**, coach to Tour de France champion Lance

Armstrong, said, "**Being a coach means many things, but most importantly it means being a leader. The task of a leader is to take his people and himself from where they are to where they have not been.** You must learn to motivate and inspire your athletes. You must teach them respect. You must coach and lead them so they learn to trust their community and they will learn to trust society. If you coach all this, and they learn that good things happen when they invest in themselves, you will not only develop a great athlete, but also a great person".

He also said, "**Every coach must have a philosophy. Mine is simple: honour the sport.** Yourself, the athletes and winning, everything – the Olympics, World Championships, Commonwealth Games – only exist because of the sport." Another strong message that came out of the conference, which I wish that everybody in table tennis coaching would heed, is the **need to work together towards shared objectives**.

In my opinion, one **big weakness in English TT coaching at the improver and higher level is a lack of a strong squad structure** (although there are excellent examples which defy the rule). Apart from there being in total too few players and active coaches, this can also be down to the **misguided 'self-interest' of some players and their parents obsessed with the notion that they must always play with people better than themselves**, and to the **paranoia of some coaches about holding on to their pupils** (not letting them go elsewhere and risking having them 'poached') and **so discouraging them from attending other sessions**. Youngsters may be happy enough playing in groups when they are the weaker players, but once they become the better players they often don't want to continue because the standard is supposedly not good enough. So as the best player drops out, then the next best (now the best!) follows, and soon the squad is very weak and depleted. The net effect of this is that fewer players train in (fewer) squads, squad standards are lower, and many talented youngsters are not getting enough quality training

Of course some players can beneficially follow the **individual or private coaching** route, but unless this is in addition to group coaching/training they can miss out on the **benefits of playing in a squad**: a range of different styles and standards to practice with, which helps adaptation and development: potential exposure to a wider range of coaching styles and ideas (not always the same coach); more potential for self as opposed to directed learning; camaraderie and a sense of common identity, being prepared to help and support each other for the overall good; being 'in the system'. Conversely, problems with always

being coached individually by a player-coach can be: being exposed only to the same ideas and ball-feed (as opposed to variety); possibly learning only to react to the more severe shots of a player-coach as opposed to having sometimes to generate stronger shots against weaker or more awkward opponents; greater potential for too tense/close a relationship with the coach; becoming too self-centred.

Take the vaccination analogy: individuals may think they are better off not taking the risk from inoculation, but the population as a whole is much better off/healthier through collective immunity. Likewise, although individuals may think they are better off with private or no coaching, it does not take a genius to realise that **if the squad system was much stronger in this country, collectively numbers and general standards in table tennis would be far more healthy**.

But for the squad system to work properly, coaches, clubs and associations need to work collaboratively and pool their resources in the best interests of the players. There needs to be an understanding and trust that if a player goes to an 'outside' session, then that player is not going to be 'lost' to the coach or club he has come from – unless all parties agree that 'moving on' is in the best interest of the player. Holding back players for the coach's reflected glory cannot be justified, but neither can be poaching.

And finally, it is true as a generalisation that **a rising star should try to play with players at least as good or better than himself, but this is not possible or even desirable within a squad all of the time**. However, it is wrong to expect the developing player to spend more than a token amount of time with substantially weaker players.

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**PLYMOUTH LEAGUE
CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY,
2003 by Ken Muhr (from
information provided by John
Vincent)**

On 30th May, 2003, at the Holiday Inn, Cliff Road, The Hoe, Plymouth, the Plymouth and District Table Tennis League will be celebrating its Centennial anniversary with a dinner and presentation evening. Almost 100 years ago, a Mr R.W.J. Norsworthy took the initiative to convene a meeting at the Plymouth YMCA, which resulted in the formation of the Three Towns & District Table Tennis League, to evolve into the Plymouth League. Sunderland may object, but the claim is that of still existing leagues, Plymouth is the oldest in the country. We reprint below an article published in the (Plymouth) Evening Herald of 24th September 2002 (feature writer Chris Robinson), based around a letter and old photograph coaching officer John Vincent sent to the Herald:

“City had the first ping pong league”

From Plympton John Vincent writes:
“Some time ago you kindly put an article in the Evening Herald, stating that I was looking for evidence for the English Table Tennis Association showing that the Table Tennis league was first formed in Plymouth in 1903.”
“The response was first class with evidence provided by Barry Davis, Pam Anson, Keith Massey and Laurie Harrison, that convinced Alan Ransome, Chairman of the ETTA, and his committee that the league was established in 1903 making it the oldest league in the country.”

“The Western Daily Mercury (later merged into the Herald) was the newspaper that reported the match results,” says John, who adds, “I would like to thank all those people who contacted me for their help.”

“The league was known as the Three Towns League and the sport was known as Ping Pong. It has now been officially established that the Plymouth League is the oldest in the country, followed, four years later, by Sunderland in 1907.”

“A Centenary Dinner is being held next May and details can be obtained from Laurie Harrison, the League Secretary on Plymouth 779747.”

Thanks John and thanks for the picture too, captioned Table Tennis in the Early 1900s. The writing on the picture itself reveals that this is a study of Sherwell Ping Pong Club 1900-01. Can anyone add any further information, or any names of the players?

**SEVENTY FIVE NOT OUT! THE
HISTORY OF THE LIVERPOOL
AND DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS
LEAGUE 1926-2001 by A.J. Harris.
Reviewed by Ken Muhr**

The publicity material for Tony Harris's book says:

“This is definitely NOT your ‘usual’ League History Book attempt! With over a hundred photographs of local players and international stars, this book paints a vivid picture of the development of T.T. in Liverpool, the north west and nationally. From the birth of ‘ping pong’ in the 1880’s, the formation of the Table Tennis Association and the Liverpool League in the 1920’s and through every decade to the present day, this book contains a wealth of information and will appeal to table tennis enthusiasts of all ages.”
It is a very attractive book, with 42 high quality, glossy, A4 sized pages, with the first half of the text presenting an easy to follow story (helpful sub-headings and short paragraphs) of the Liverpool League, mainly in chronological order, but interlaced with sub-themes such as ‘Origins of Table Tennis’, ‘Birth of the ... League’, ‘Mr. L.E. Forrest’, ‘The Three (Hungarian) Musketeers’, ‘Sponge’, and ‘Stars of the 50’s (60’s/70’s/80’s/90’s)’ etc. There are separate chapters on ‘The Liverpool Closed Championships’ and ‘The Merseyside Open’, and short biographies on stars who have played in the Merseyside and Liverpool internationals, including on life member Peter Rumjahn, who writes the foreword.

There is also lots of detail on cups and competitions, officials and players through the life of the league. I particularly like the attention to individuals (often with photos), which makes this book very personal. Because the book is very well laid out and not too fat, the lack of an index is no problem.

It is not for me to query any local detail and I am sure the history is closely researched, but the origins part may (inadvertently) give the impression that ‘Ping Pong’ was the name mostly used in the early years, whereas I believe that table tennis was always the predominant term, in this country at least. It is also a pity that the Hon. Ivor Montagu’s surname, is several times incorrectly quoted as ‘Montague’.

Anyway, these will be trivialities as far as anyone interested in Liverpool table tennis is concerned, and the substance of the text together with the clarity of the photographs (I saw Arthur Upton and Ken Armonson in several!) means that this labour of love is a great

buy for £10. To order, contact the author, Tony Harris, tel. 01744 730644 e-mail. tony@harris316.fsnet.co.uk or the league website. www.liverpooltt.freeserve.co.uk

**Jack Schofield reviewed the Korean
‘D-Gate Co’ ping pong game arcade
in The Guardian**

Few of the people who played Pong, the first successful commercial arcade game, could have imagined being able to use real bats to smash back the virtual ball. But that’s what Korea’s D-Gate Co brought to the show: “a body-feeling ping-pong game” where the controller is a real table tennis bat. You can continue to swipe at thin air, as usual, but the bat has a built-in compression spring and an infrared transmitter that sends signals back to sensors on the console. Two arcade cabinets side by side can share the same electronics, allowing two people to play against one another via the images on the two screens. It’s physically less demanding than DDR (Dance Dance Revolution) arcade games, not as silly as virtual fishing, and could appeal to the billions who take their ping pong very seriously indeed.

Road Tennis by Peter Forrest

No celebrities in this, and not even table tennis, but I think TT people would be intrigued by this:-

On a satellite channel called BEN (free to view, I presume!), I came across a video of a sport called Road Tennis.

This is simply a cross between lawn and table tennis. It’s played on an outdoor hard court I estimated at 8 x 4 metres, with a solid net about half again as tall as a table tennis net. Difficult to see the exact equipment - the video was pretty basic - but the bats look rather like a superior version of those wooden beach-ball bats, and the ball could have been a very worn tennis ball - probably a bit smaller, though.

The rules (apart from being free to run on the court!) seem identical to table tennis, including the bounced serve. Scoring is identical to the old TT system.

The particular match I saw was a final from the late 90s, and was from the Caribbean - possibly Jamaica. An enthusiastic crowd of 200 or 300 were watching a close and exciting game. Obviously the crucial thing is to keep the ball down, so the standard shot is deeply sliced, with variation of speed, length, and direction. If the ball gets up too high, then in comes the kill shot.

The game often has to be played at a stoop, but is still elegant and fun to watch. Not a sport for anyone with dodgy knees, though.

How To Prevent Wastage of Young Table Tennis Talent by Les Bridges

Good and Bad that is the story of development activity in the Bridgewater area (a town of some 30,000).

Good is that there are 300/400 school age children playing each week – based on 13 primary schools and 6 senior schools and clubs with youth sections. Good is they feed a supply of young players into the Chilton Premier Club.

Bad is the tremendous wastage. The Chilton Club aims to produce tournament standard juniors and many young players fall by the wayside. We run ranking events, U10 local tournament categories, and Somerset Schools Association does its once a year individual and team competitions.

This is not enough! We need more national and regional interest in primary school age children. Concentrating on U15's and U18's to the exclusion of younger players is not good. At these sorts of ages the good ones (usually from table tennis families) are on their way, or some may have settled for the local league! Among that 300/400 there may be a potential world-class performer who simply is not going to be motivated by what we offer. My grandson, aged 8, is just starting his football season in an U9 team. Sooner or later a scout will watch them (don't tell the local coaches to organise it. We are busy with those 19 junior clubs).

A NARROW ESCAPE FROM THE TOWER!

A tongue-in-cheek article by Dave Hewitt

Some readers may have seen the BBC series earlier this year entitled Queen and Country, screened as part of the build up to the Jubilee celebrations. Keen eyed fans of both table tennis and the monarchy may have raised their eyebrows a little at footage of an interesting exchange between HM and others – details later – on why she might take up the game.

Let me fill you in a little. Before I do so, let me also say that it involves Andrew Eden, well known as a successful former England international and accomplished coach but not widely regarded as an international diplomat. Not even as a local diplomat, come to that. In fact, an all round disaster zone on matters diplomatic. Bulls, china shops, that sort of thing – you get the picture. If you're one of those people that can't take excruciating embarrassing scenes a la Alan Partridge, look away now.

This is the context. For my sins, I was the Great Britain team manager of 13 players at the 2000 Sydney

Paralympics. A fantastic experience and an honour. Hard work, mind. Disability or no disability, 13 emotionally charged egos taking part in the biggest event of their lives take their toll on the best of us – and that's before you have to deal with the coaches working alongside you. Especially if one of them is Andrew.

Twenty three hour flights carried real risks of an 'air incident' and premature put downs in somewhere like Azerbaijan so it was touch and go whether to have him bound, gagged and tranquillised. As it turned out, he slept, much to the relief of the other 350 passengers on board.

Sure, he was great on the table and was the first to remind us all and any of our Australian hosts that happened to be passing, that he was – the words are seared into my memory - 'unbelievably good'. Some of our wheelchair players had become immune to his exhortations to move their feet, if he deemed them a little slow in practice. Not his idea of sick humour at all, but more to do with speaking his mind, even if what he said wasn't entirely what he meant. It's just that, in this case, the mouth goes into gear before the brain.

We got through receptions with the British Consulate OK- incident free. It was a close shave with the former minister of sport, Kate Hoey, who visited one of our practice sessions. I like to console myself in thinking that she appreciated his quirky wit. 'So what do you do, then?' - as if it's an everyday conversation down the pub – as well as helpfully pointing out that one of the swallows flying around the hall had just 's*** on his bat.'

But let's fast forward to February 2001. Because of the success of the British Paralympic Team, like our Olympic counterparts, we had all been invited to a reception at Buckingham Palace to be hosted by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. It's hardly an invite you turn down, whatever your views on the monarchy, so I decided that I was going to drink deep at the well and enjoy the whole experience.

It's a bizarre feeling turning up at the Palace gates on a cold dark night with just a five by four-inch invite in your hot hand. Even more bizarre when the bobby on the gate says 'straight through there' and directs you under that balcony so familiar to millions as the place from where the Royals wave at their massing subjects. No searches or questioning or checks over the intercom. Just go straight ahead! All I could hear were my footsteps crunching across royal gravel.

The middle of the Palace is hollow. By that I mean there's a large courtyard. We were at the back of the complex, what I was later informed was the older part. A red carpeted ramp had

been erected for the benefit of wheelchair users and I arrived just as things were getting underway. Plenty of canapés and free drink on silver trays delivered by servants in frock coats. Huge portraits and works of art everywhere. Gold plate relief and a carpet that's mowed not hoovered. Having said all this, the mood was one of relaxed, understated, elegance.

Five minutes after I'd got my first nerve-calming gin and tonic, Mr Eden burst in, loud as ever.

'Where are they then?'

'Well, Princess Anne is just behind you talking to the equestrians...no, don't interrupt, she'll probably find her way over here in time?'

'Where's the Queen then? How long's she going to be?'

'I don't know, now just shut up and get on with your drink.'

I hadn't seen him since we got off the plane four months earlier but the dialogue between us had the same ring as if it was only five minutes ago.

About half an hour later, I found myself amongst some of our players, two of them, Jamie Rawson and Stef Trofan, proudly displaying their Silver Paralympic Medals. Andrew and a couple of others joined us. There was much good-humoured reminiscence. First out of the traps was the Duke of Edinburgh. He just sort of emerged from what looked like a fake door in some panelling at the end of the panelled room we were standing in. Right behind him was HM The Queen being chaperoned by Helen Potter, the Great Britain Chef de Mission. Helen caught my eye and the Queen accompanied by a retinue of ladies in waiting and various camera crews joined us.

I was introduced. I introduced the players. Now if you've ever met the Queen, it's true what they say, you're never stuck for conversation because she controls it. And its informed stuff, let me tell you. None of your superficial 'haven't you done ever so well stuff'. I was impressed not just at her understanding of the Paralympic movement (was it because she was well briefed?) but more by the way in which her conversation was oblivious to the tired old topic of disability and instead more concerned with sporting excellence and the success of a proud national team.

By this point, there were cameras in your face and microphones up your nostrils – a documentary was being made in anticipation of the 2002 Golden Jubilee. It was all going wonderfully well. We were putting table tennis and for us, more importantly, disabled table tennis on the map, with one of the greatest icons of the 20th century. But then things took a turn for the worse.

'Your Majesty, this is Andrew Eden – he was one of the coaches to the table tennis team.'

This was one conversation the Queen wasn't going to control, try as she might.

'Do you play, then?' says Andrew. The Queen responded to the effect that they used to play when she was a lot younger 'but the game is so fast now'.

A slight feeling of unease was creeping in. What was he going to say next?

'You probably need some coaching, your anticipation might not be too good. I'll coach you, if you like?'

Well, the lad's got some bottle, you might say. True, but did he need to slap a comforting hand onto the Queen's shoulder at the same time? And on camera!

By now, beads of sweat were forming on my brow, accompanied by a feeling of nausea and dizziness. I rocked back in horror, just missing some massive antique Chinese vase probably worth millions. The colour had completely drained from Helen's face. There was a lot of shoe shuffling amongst our company. I don't know about you but I was genetically programmed with certain 'dos' and 'don'ts' in this life. Nobody actually told me them but somehow, I just got to know. Things like 'don't cross your knife and fork'... 'never put a camp fire out with your face' and 'don't ever touch the Queen'. I never thought I'd ever need the latter but in the event, I did and it was a piece of advice that served me well. Not so Andrew Eden. He was probably found under a rock and escaped these established norms of etiquette.

There was a huge collective sigh when the Queen laughed off what I have now interpreted for purposes of my continued sanity and emotional health as 'his quaint northern charm'. We stood there stunned, speechless, gobsmacked.

It was the talking point for the rest of the evening and for months to come. He tells me that later on, he got round to a having a bit of a natter with Princess Anne about his love of horse racing and why does she 'have to shoot all them pheasants' but thankfully I wasn't there.

So we move on a year. I'm at home one night and the phone rings. This is around March this year and my mother tells me that there are a series of programmes coming up about the Queen and the Golden Jubilee. Not that this would normally interest me as I'm

quite passive about the monarchy as an institution and it's not a debate that especially interests me. She goes on to say that she's sure she's seen me on the telly, with my back to the camera, right next to a big vase and about four feet from the Queen. 'There's some folk in wheelchairs and I think that ginger haired lad's on it as well.'

I kept a look out and later that same evening, caught the same trailer my mother had described, which turned out to be for a programme to be broadcast the following week, to which I duly tuned in. Sure enough, the whole incident was played out for the nation's entertainment, followed by an interview with the great man himself, saying what a down to earth lady the Queen is and how his dad always made him stand up during her speech on Christmas Day.

Has he set table tennis back years or has he done us all a favour? One thing's for sure, this game needs characters and he is certainly one of them.

The Evans' Family Move to Nottinghamshire: Setting the Record Straight by Linda Evans

I am writing to express my disappointment at the National Under 10/11/12's article in last month's TT News. I realise that the article was probably written under time pressure (Darius Knight and Lauren Springthorpe names incorrect in the photograph captions), so perhaps this also accounts for the following: -

For the second time, Gavin Evans' name has been followed by reasons why his family have apparently moved to Nottingham. Give him some credit; there are many adjectives that can be used to describe him instead of bringing the rest of his family in to it.

As far as I am aware, nobody from the TT News has asked us why we moved and since it seems to be interesting enough to publish incorrectly twice, I think I should have the right to give the facts (as if interviewed):

- 1) Would you move to a new house over 150 miles away to be near to a table tennis academy that you have been told only had guaranteed funding for 18 months? *No, I may look stupid, but I do have a brain and a lot of common sense (outside the kitchen!)*
- 2) Would you move hundreds of miles away from your close friends and family just for table tennis? *We love table tennis, but our friends and family are more important.*

Although I sometimes feel that I would move to the other side of the earth to get away from table tennis.

- 3) Do you have any links to Nottingham? *Yes, family, a couple of friends (more now, of course), a couple of my largest clients are based in the Midlands.*
- 4) How did you cope with four children and both of you working full-time down South? *It was very hard. Life's too short to spend it working, being under a lot of pressure and never having enough quality time with your children.*
- 5) Did the size of your mortgage and endowment policy (you were seen on BBC's "Your Money Programme") have anything to do with you moving up the country? *Yes*
- 6) Would you favour Bradley over Myles, Gavin or Scott? *No, we try to be fair to all our children. They mean the world to us, whether they are ranked 1 or 1001 in England.*
- 7) Did you realise that when you moved, there would be nothing in the way of table tennis coaching for Myles and Gavin? *Yes, but since TT wasn't the reason for moving we had no option. We miss Cippenham Table Tennis Club and Ken Phillips, who always had time for our children and was doing an excellent job with them.*
- 8) Did the fact that, after the foot and mouth crisis, two people of Rhys' grade in London were required to transfer to Nottingham to deal with the extra work created, have anything to do with your move? *Yes, the opportunity to transfer out of London on the same salary doesn't occur very often.*
- 9) Why has this statement upset you so much? *When we took the decision to move, we stated quite clearly that we would not be moving just because of Bradley's table tennis. This was a move for the whole family, for a better quality of life, a chance for me to reduce my workload and never should it be said*

that we moved to Nottingham because of Bradley. If things didn't work out in certain areas, Bradley should never feel that we only moved because of him.

- 10) Do you see a lot of Bradley? Since Bradley has been at the Academy he has been to China twice, Slovakia, Sweden, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, etc. He is very happy there and at school. He wouldn't have time to be homesick, even if he wanted to be. Like I'm sure the other parents find, it is difficult enough to have them at home long enough to get their teeth checked or their hair cut.
- 11) Are you happy, having made the move? Yes, the children are at excellent schools, they are happy. Rhys' job is more interesting. I am no longer working until 2 o'clock in the morning. We have a lovely house. The countryside is beautiful, the fishing's good and sad, as it may seem, I love haystacks!

Any regrets? I have more time to worry about other people's misconceptions and judgements, but at least I have the time to reply.

COACH COURSES RUNNING

Area: South, **Name of Organiser:** Keith Childs, **Level:** 2, **Date:** Dec/Jan, **Area:** TBA, **Tel:** 01329 282648

Area: North West, **Name of Organiser:** Martin Ireland, **Level:** 1, **Date:** 23 Jan 03, **Area:** TBA, **Tel:** 07973 411559

Area: Yorkshire, **Name of Organiser:** Alan Lowe, **Level:** 2, **Date:** February, **Area:** TBA, **Tel:** 0114 2888798/0114 2223082

Area: Yorkshire, **Name of Organiser:** Alan Lowe, **Level:** 2, **Date:** April/May, **Area:** TBA, **Tel:** 0114 2888798/0114 2223082

Area: London, **Name of Organiser:** John Standing, **Level:** 2, **Date:** 4/5 Jan 03, **Area:** South Bank Uni, **Tel:** 01689 829882

Area: London, **Name of Organiser:** John Standing, **Levels:** 1/2, **Date:** 12/19 Jan 03, **Area:** Central Foundation School, **Tel:** 01689 829882

TRAINING DATES

Training dates: 4/5 January, South Bank University, London

Workshops: Disability Awareness, Coaches course Level 1& 2, Table Tennis Development Officer (Silver Award), ETTA Umpire.

Training dates: 8/9 February 2003, Stowupland High School, Eastern region

Workshops: Disability Awareness, Coaches course Level 1& 2, Table Tennis Development Officer (Silver Award), Tournament Organiser Award Course, ETTA Umpire

Training dates: 23 February 2003, Holme Pierrepont, East Midlands/West Midlands

Workshops: Disability Awareness, Coaches course Level 1, Table Tennis Development Officer (Silver Award), Tournament Organiser Award Course, ETTA Umpire

Contact: Chris Newton M. 07904 115138.

Training dates: 4/5 January 2003 and 8/9 February 2003, via Michelle Holton, Teaching & Training Administrator, ETTA, 3rd Floor, Queensbury House ...etc. Tel. 01424 431222.

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AMENDMENT – City of Liverpool

Butterfly GP Results

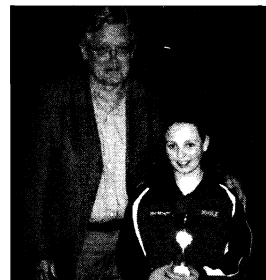
In the November issue, Bradley Billington's final (winning) scores were given against Ryan Jenkins, but not his semi-final result against Gergely Urban (Hungary). For the record, Brad won 11-8, 11-8, 13-11. Talking about Brad gives me (KM) the opportunity to

correct a sub-heading from his Sept/Oct Eurokids article, which should have read 'Gluing' not 'Giving'! Did anyone notice?!

ESSEX 4 STAR SELECT (a Jarvis sponsored Grand Prix event) – 28/29 Sept, Harlow Sports Centre, by Alan Shepherd. Photos: Arthur C Clark

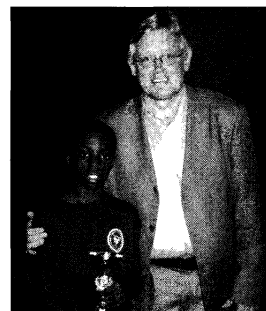
Although I was personally dissatisfied with the comparatively low number of entries to our tournament, we were, in fact oversubscribed, and were turning people away at the end. It does look as if we will have to find a bigger venue!

Play got under way with the Under 13 competition, all boys groups having predictable winners except one in which the seeded Christopher Doran (Northants) had to be content with qualifying as a runner-up behind the unknown local player Oscar Selfridge, who beat him 6, -5, 7, -7, 10. Only 12 girls entered the Under 13 Girls, which was very disappointing, although the knockout part of this event saw the usual very close final fought out between Lauren Springthorpe (Lincolnshire) and Sarra Wang (Essex) yet again won by Lauren, 9, 8, 11.



Lauren Springthorpe, the winner of the Under 13 Girls' Singles with Steen Hansen.

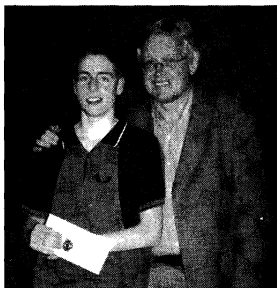
In the Boys' knockout Doran improved to reach the quarter-final, where he lost to Chris Lewis (Surrey). Meanwhile young Mr. Selfridge lost out to another Surrey player, Wing -Yung Chan. The top semi-final was an all Surrey affair, Darius Knight defeating Chris Lewis. The second semi-final was an all Evans family affair, with Gavin beating Myles. There was no fairy tale ending, however, with Darius coming out on top against Gavin in the final.



Darius Knight, the winner of the Under 13 Boys' Singles

We were delighted to welcome a group of five young players from the Swedish club Safir over for the weekend, together with their coaches. We believe that they had a great time and enjoyed the tournament, so much that they promised to come again in 2003.

There were exactly 80 entries for the Under 15 Boys, and the groups contained some highly rated players. There were no upsets and all of the probable qualifiers did so. The first big match of the knockout section came in round one, when the no. 4 seed Martin Jatko of Sweden met the new Essex star, the 13 year-old Vytas Rybakas, once of Lithuania and now of Chelmsford. A tremendous battle ended with victory for Vytas 11, 7, -10, -8, 6. Another titanic struggle was the meeting of Andrew Wilson (Cleveland) with Mark Simpson (Durham) which Andrew won -12, 7, 11, -10, 9. Another member of the Swedish party, Pontius Petterson, dummy rated at no. 6, then defeated Wilson, only to fall to Darius Knight at the quarter-final stage. The same round saw the departure of Rybakas in a tough match with Bradley Evans while the other winners were Tim Yarnall and Paul Drinkhall. Both semi-finals were desperate encounters with Yarnall overcoming Bradley 9, -8, 9, -9, 12 and Darius Knight beating Drinkhall 8, 8, -4, -6, 10. The final was an even closer contest where Tim beat Darius -9, 14, 8, -3, 7 and it could so easily have gone the other way.



Tim Yarnall, the winner of the Under 15 Boys' Singles

The Under 15 Girls' Singles event boasted only 36 entrants and the groups produced no surprise qualifiers. In the competition proper the semi-finalists were Kelly Sibley (Warks), Gemma Yarnley (Kent), Sarra Wang (Essex) and Lauren Springthorpe (Lincs). It was the last named who took the title upsetting the higher-rated Kelly Sibley quite convincingly 8, 7, 3.

For some reason the Under 18 Girls' event only attracted 32 entries, of which three girls unfortunately had to withdraw, leaving 29 of them to face the starter's pistol. Round One saw an outstanding performance from Sarah Perks (Notts) who ousted the much higher ranked Emma Weil (Essex) over five very tough games. Two more matches which went the distance came

in the quarter-finals when Naomi Wilson (Somerset) just got past Kelly Sibley -7, 3, -9, 6, 8 and Abigail Embling (Essex) beat the previous day's double winner, Lauren Springthorpe 4, -11, 9, -9, 6.



Abigail Embling, the winner of the Under 18 Girls' Singles with Nicky Jarvis

Joanna Parker, as befits the no. 1 seed, won her way through to the final, albeit not without dropping games to Sarah Brown (Essex) and Naomi Wilson. Karen Shepherd (Cheshire) saw off the challenge of Sarah Perks before falling to Abigail who then went on to claim the coveted scalp of Joanna in a tremendous final, which went to the Essex girl by -5, 7, -6, 8, 7.

The major event of the tournament was obviously the Under 18 Boys' Singles, which had 96 entries. An early match of some significance occurred in Boys Group 6, where Paul Drinkhall (Cleveland) had great difficulty in repelling the challenge of Vytas Rybakas with scores of -8, 4, -9, 11, 7. Unfortunately for Vytas he also lost a close contest against Darren Reed (Devon) who won 8, -10, 7, 10 so Drinkhall and Reed went into the competition proper.

In Group 10 there was a triple tie between Chris Hansell (Bucks), Daniel Reed (Cleveland) and Kevin Haste (Surrey), and even though Chris beat Daniel 8, 9, -9, -9, 11 it was Daniel and Kevin who qualified on games count-back. The unlucky player in Group 14 was Matthew Thomas (Middlesex) who lost -9, 9, -9, 11, -13 to Evan Sharp (Surrey).

The luck of the draw produced a Round One meeting between two of the Swedish party, who also happened to be brothers, Erik and Pontius Petterson!! Erik (who does not appear to have a dummy ranking although Pontius has been given 2,275 points) won this one, before losing in spectacular fashion to Adam Bleakley (Lancs) 9, -15, -8, 8, -7.

Paul Moore (Surrey) who flits in and out of the ranking list in a rather confusing fashion, had three big wins (which carried him into the quarter-finals) over Matthew Staines (Essex) by -8, 4, 6, -10, 3, Daniel Reed (Cleveland) by -3, 7, 7, 6 and best of

all over Simon Noutch (Yorks) by -8, 9, -6, 9, 5.

In the third quarter Adam Bleakley, after his epic battle with the Swedish visitor, had the utmost difficulty in seeing off Bradley Evans (Bucks) by scores of -11, 9, -11, 12, 6, but ultimately fell to Peter Cleminson (Essex) who booked his place in the semi-finals without the loss of a game. His opponent turned out to be Bryn Drinkhall (Cleveland) who had also had a fairly untroubled passage.

Meanwhile, Craig Bryant (Devon), the no. 1 seed had progressed to a quarter-final against Darius Knight (Surrey). Marc Armstrong (Middlesex) had recorded a very good win over the best Swede Martin Jatko 9, -6, -15, 6, 3 but then fell to Darius in four games a round later. At this point Darius had a really fine victory over Craig -8, 3, 8, 8 to reach the semi-final stage.

Tim Yarnall (Northants) progressed in untroubled fashion to the quarter-finals where he went out to Paul Drinkhall in a match which could have gone either way, and which Tim probably should have won, but ended up losing 9, -10, 5, -6, 9.

Bryn Drinkhall then brought the tournament to its conclusion in sensational fashion. Firstly he won a brilliant match against Peter Cleminson by scores of -10, 11, -8, 9, 4 and he finally took the title from surprise finalist (brother Paul!!) by scores of -6, -11, 8, 9, 10. This match looked for all the world as if it was going to go, in true storybook fashion to the young pretender, but perhaps Bryn just knew his brother's game too well. Certainly it couldn't have been closer, and both brothers are to be congratulated for putting on a terrific show.



Paul Drinkhall, r/u, Bryn Drinkhall, the winner of the Under 18 Boys' Singles

I would like to thank Jarvis Sports for their sponsorship and in particular my old friend Nicky Jarvis, the umpires who travelled many miles to give their services (and to unravel the mysteries of the new service law!!). Finally I would like to thank the players who came from all parts of England to make this tournament the success that I believe it was.

Detailed results:-

Under 13 Boys' Singles

Darius Knight (Surrey) beat Gavin Evans (Bucks) 7, 4, 6.

Under 13 Girls' Singles

Lauren Springthorpe (Lincs) beat Sarra Wang (Essex) 9, 8, 11.

Under 15 Boys' Singles

Tim Yarnall (Northants) beat Darius Knight (Surrey) -9, 14, 8, -3, 7.

Under 15 Boys' Consolation Singles

Edward Brown (Essex) beat Marc De Wind (Durham) 4, 9, -10, -8, 4.

Under 15 Girls' Singles

Lauren Springthorpe (Lincs) beat Kelly Sibley (Warks) 8, 7, 3.

Under 15 Girls' Consolation Singles

Helen Crawford (Cumbria) beat Natalie Heard (Essex) -11, -4, 8, 10, 6.

Under 18 Boys' Singles

Semi-Finals

Paul Drinkhall (Cleveland) beat Darius Knight (Surrey) 7, 3, -7, 6.

Bryn Drinkhall (Cleveland) beat Peter Cleminson (Essex) -10, 11, -8, 9, 4.

Final

Bryn Drinkhall beat Paul Drinkhall -6, -11, 8, 9, 10.

Under 18 Boys' Banded Singles

Erik Pettersoon (Sweden) beat Hamish Yeung (Beds) 9, 10, 7.

Under 18 Boys' Consolation Singles

William Harrington (Kent) beat Vytas Rybakas (Essex) -4, -8, 11, 8, 4.

Under 18 Girls' Singles

Abigail Embling (Essex) beat Joanna Parker (Surrey) -5, 7, -6, 8, 9.

Under 18 Girls' Banded Singles

Sarah Perks (Notts) beat Sarah Hubbard (Kent) 8, 7, 10.

Under 18 Girls' Consolation Singles

Gemma Heard (Essex) beat Melanie Farquhar (Berks) -7, 10, 6, 10.

CIRENCESTER 1 STAR U13 / U15 TOURNAMENT held at Deer Park Table Tennis Centre, Cirencester, on 3rd November

Detailed results:-

Girls' Under 13

Hannah Bradford (Dv) beat Vicky Smith (Dv)

Girls' Under 15

Final Group Winner: Claire Howe (So)
Runner-up: Carley Roper (So)

Boys' Under 13

Final Group Winner: Matt Ware (Dv)
Runner-up: William Maybanks (He)
3rd: Chris Smith (Dv)

Boys' Under 15

Final Group Winner: Simon Poyner (Dv)
Runner-up: William Maybanks (He)
3rd: Andrew Banks (Av)

CIPPENHAM CADET 2 STAR OPEN (15.9.02)

Home players only just failed to secure a win double at the Cippenham Cadet 2 Star Open Championships on 15th September. While Melanie Farquhar was successful in winning the Girls' Singles, David Hayes lost out 11-8 in the fifth game of the Boys' Singles final to Chris Lewis.

Prior to the final, Hayes, who was top seed but suffering from an injured finger, had been untroubled. He won all his matches leading up to the final three-straight including a 7, 4 and 4 semi-final win over Dorian Robinson. Hayes, however, paid the penalty for losing the second game of the final 14-12 but won the first and fourth games.

Ashley Shaw had his best tournament to date, getting through the bottom quarter to meet Chris Lewis in the semi-final. Shaw beat Matthew Tucker, Daniel Ives and Alim Hirji after progressing through his group in second place. Other Cippenham players to make it thought the groups were Prabdeep Panesar, Andrew Linz and Matthew Tucker.

Melanie Farquhar was only seeded third to win the girls' event but nevertheless came through the bottom half of the draw to beat Cippenham team-mate Sylvana Bielec in the semi-final and top seed Nikki Pilgrim in the final. Both matches were close-run affairs, Farquhar finally succeeding at 11-7 in the fifth in the semi and 11-9 in the fifth in the final.

The other two Cippenham girls to make it through the groups met in the first round when Caroline Linz got the better of Catherine Hayes.

An entry of 95 players, a good turnout for an early season event, kept the nine tables busy all day. The event was organised by Sue Hayes and refereed by Mick Strode.

Results:

BS: Chris Lewis (Sy) beat David Hayes (Bu) -6, 12, 9, -6, 8

GS: Melanie Farquhar (Bk) beat Nikki Pilgrim (Wa) -2, 7, 10, -8, 9

BCons: Mark Perkins (Do) beat Yasir Mauthoor (E) -9, -9, 7, 10, 8

GCons: Amy Taylor (Bu) beat Sade Ademakinwa (E) 8, 8, 9

CIPPENHAM 2 STAR OPEN (20.10.02)

Top seeds Ritchie Venner and Michele Cohen fully justified their rankings by winning the main titles at the Cippenham 2 Star Open Championships on 20th October. The entry of 100 players was the largest yet for a senior tournament at Cippenham and drew players from all over the south of England, the Midlands and Wales.

Venner was in a class of his own in the Men's Singles, dropping only one game in his defence of the title he also won in 2001. That was in Round 1 when Daniel Cannon took the third game. After that small blemish Venner dispatched David Crowley, Neil Cartwright and Sam Cannon all three-straight before showing how to deal with the unusual long-pimpled style of Steve Hall in the final. The Sussex man beat the Welshman 11-4, 11-4, 11-8.

Second seed Hall had reached the final by winning his group and then dealing with the competition provided by Ian Packford, Geoff Grange, Ghana international Eric Hammond and fellow Welshman Neil Wright.

Sam Cannon, from Essex, a scratch entry on the day, was the surprise package of the tournament. He reached the semi-final, taking advantage of the vacant fourth seed position even though he came only second in his group. There he lost an 11-8 fifth game epic with Geoff Grange. Cannon then came through a preliminary round match before beating Mark Jackson, the Cippenham player who had ousted fourth seed Hari Gehlot in the groups. Cannon then collected the scalps of Roland McLellan and Graham Outrim before succumbing to Venner in the semis. Outrim, himself, had a good day, beating Ian Packford in the group and then fifth seed Stephen Munson in the last sixteen.

The last remaining Cippenham member in the competition was Kimber Choda, who was runner-up in his group but then had a great win over seventh seed Ramesh Balla before losing to Wright in the quarters. Other Cippenham members who won their groups were Mark Banks, Mark Jackson, James Milton and tournament organizer Paul Baker.

Michele Cohen (Wiltshire) came from 2-1 down in her group match to beat Gail Davey 11-7 in the fifth, but otherwise was hardly troubled, dropping only the first game to junior Sarah Hall on her way to the title. In the final she beat defending champion Rose Rainton 11-7, 11-5, 11-7. The semi-finalists were Sarah Horsnell, who ended the run of Cippenham's 13-year Melanie Farquhar 11-9 in the fifth in

the quarters, and Gail Davey, who added to her previous good form by defeating Anusha Seneviratne in the quarters.

Some of the closest matches took place in the consolation events, and three involved Cippenham's Marc Armstrong who won the Men's Consolation. His run of close matches started with an 11-9 fifth game success over Earl Sweeney. Then followed a relatively easy four-game victory over Dannel Pang before 11-8 in the fifth in the semi against Ramesh Gehlot and an epic 12-10 fifth game clincher in the final against Gavin West.

Organizer Paul Baker and referee Graham Trimming ensured that, even with the big entry, the tournament finished exactly on schedule.

Results:-

MS: Ritchie Venner (Sx) beat Steve Hall (WAL) 4, 4, 8

WS: Michele Cohen (Wi) beat Rose Rainton (Sx) 7, 5, 7

MCons: Marc Armstrong (Mi) beat Gavin West (E) -8, -9, 6, 7, 10

WCons: Sharon Mitchell (Bk) beat Marianne Willsher (Gs) 8, 7, 12



Ritchie Venner and Michele Cohen, winners of the main titles at the Cippenham 2 Star Open Championships

EAST MIDLANDS JUNIOR 4 STAR SELECT by Steve Welch 26th & 27th October 2002

The third East Midlands 4 Star Junior Select held at Grantham Meres Leisure Centre over the weekend of 26th & 27th October had its biggest entry ever with 247 players.

The Junior Boys' title went to the number one seed Kou Lei, the Shropshire based player from China, who lost only one set in the event. His toughest game came when he played Cleveland's Paul Drinkhall who took him to four sets 7, 7, -8, 4. Paul's brother Bryn Drinkhall played Kou Lei in the final after beating number two seed Craig Bryant in a closely contested semi final 9, 10, -9, 7. Kou Lei took the final in three sets but Bryn made him fight all the way and was unlucky to lose the second set. The final score was 7, 9, 8 to Kou Lei.

Shuang Zhao, seeded three, won the Junior Girls' title beating the number two seed, Emelie Jonsson of Sweden 8, 8, 9 in the final. In the quarter-finals Shaung Zhao won in three sets 5, 2, 4 against Sandra Saarinen also from Sweden, while in the semi-final she beat Nottinghamshire's Georgina Walker, who knocked out the number one seed Joanna Parker from Surrey, 7, 5, 8. Emelie Jonsson reached the final by beating local girl Lauren Springthorpe 7, 6, 6 and Abigail Embling of Essex -8, 8, 7, 8.

Cadet Boys was won by Tim Yarnall from Northamptonshire. Tim, the number one seed, made the final beating Cleveland's Daniel Reed 9, 9, 12 in the quarter-final and in the semi-final beating Bradley Evans 7, 8, 7. Darius Knight reached the final against Tim after a momentous battle against Paul Drinkhall, managing to come out on top 8, -3, 6, 7. The final went with the seedings and Tim came through an easy winner 9, 6, 7.

Darius Knight made up for his disappointment in the Cadets by claiming the Under 13 Boys' title. Darius played Gavin Evans from Buckinghamshire in the final and won 5, 11, -8, 8.

Local Grantham girl Lauren Springthorpe gained a double triumph by winning both the Under 13 Girls and Cadet Girls' events.

In the under 13s Emma Vickers from Derbyshire almost caused an upset when playing her best ever table tennis took Lauren to five sets, Lauren managing to cling on and win after being two sets to one down. The final score was 10, -11, -12, 6, 5 in favour of Lauren. In the final Lauren beat Essex's Sarra Wang in three straight 3, 9, 10.

The Cadet Girls' final went against the seedings when Lauren, seeded two, overcame the number one seed, Kelly Sibley from Warwickshire, three straight 3, 9, 10. Lauren had had two hard five set games to reach the final defeating Nottinghamshire's Sarah Perks 8, -11, -8, 7, 9 in the quarter-finals and Sweden's Jenny Mellstrom 10, -11, -12, 6, 5 in the semi finals.

The Under 11 Girls was an especially nervous final for the Assistant Organiser John Mapletoft who could hardly bear to watch his granddaughter Hannah Brewin as she played for the title. Grantham girl Hannah Brewin took the title beating Yorkshire's Mary Fuller 10, -7, 15, 6 and was immediately congratulated by a beaming granddad.

In the Under 11 Boys Gavin Evans from Buckinghamshire beat Surrey's Zane Smythe 7, 11, 10.

Results:-

Under 17 Boys

Semi-Finals

Kou Lei (Sp) beat Peter Cleminson (E) 7, 7, 6

Bryn Drinkall (Cv) beat Graig Bryant (Dv) 9, 10, -9, 7

Final

Kou Lei beat Bryn Drinkhall 7, 9, 8

Under 17 Girls

Semi-Finals

Shuang Zhao (Sp) beat Georgina Walker (Ng) 7, 5, 8

Emelie Jonsson (SW) beat Abigail Embling (E) -8, 8, 7, 8

Final

Shaung Zhao beat Emelie Jonsson 8, 8, 9

Under 17 Boys' Plate

Semi-Finals

Dannel Pang (Np) beat David Hayes (Bu) 11, -11, 10, -6, 9

Paul Dewhurst (E) beat Philip Robinson (Du) 6, 5, 9

Final

Dannel Pang beat Paul Dewhurst 8, 10, 7

Under 17 Girls' Plate

Semi-Finals

Jodie Stringer (K) beat Sarah Bayliss (Dy) 6, 7, -7, 5

Gemma Heard (E) beat Jessica Hall (La) 9, 9, -8, 7

Final

Gemma Heard beat Jodie Stringer 3, 5, 4

Under 17 Boys' Band 1

Semi-Finals

Evan Sharp (Sy) beat Will Harrington (K) -8, -12, 9, 11, 6

Chris Lewis (Sy) beat Andrew Mudie (Li) 10, 7, -8, -9, 6

Final

Chris Lewis beat Evan Sharp 9, -6, 9, -6, 7

Under 17 Girls' Band 1

Semi-Finals

Stella Davis (Gs) beat Jodie Stringer (K) 3, 8, -7, -6, 5

Stephanie Donnelly (Cv) beat Gemma Heard (E) 3, 10, 9

Final

Stephanie Donnelly beat Stella Davis 7, 8, -7, 8

Cadet Boys

Semi-Finals

Tim Yarnall (Np) beat Bradley Evans (Bu) 7, 8, 7

Darius Knight (Sy) beat Paul Drinkhall (Cv) 8, -3, 6, 7

Final

Tim Yarnall beat Darius Knight 9, 6, 7

Cadet Girls

Semi-Finals

Kelly Sibley (Wa) beat Heather Shutt (Y) -9, 6, 8, 12

Lauren Springthorpe (Li) beat Jenny Mellstrom (SW) 10, -11, -12, 6, 5

Final

Lauren Springthorpe beat Kelly Sibley 3, 9, 10

Cadet Boys' Plate

Semi-Finals

Stephen Denman (Sx) beat Chris Parker (Y) -10, 9, 7, 4

Tim Mitchell (Dy) beat Adam Feargrieve (Ng) -5, -2, 8, 7, 9

Final

Tim Mitchell beat Stephen Denman 8, -7, 9, 8

Cadet Girls' Plate

Semi-Finals

Emma Vickers (Dy) beat Caroline McNeil (Ch) 8, 3, 5

Rachel Jamieson (E) beat Felicity Love (E) 7, 5, 8

Final

Rachel Jamieson beat Emma Vickers -7, -10, 10, 3, 6

Cadet Boys' Band 1

Semi-Finals

Dorian Robinson (Sy) beat Lee Barnes (Sk) 8, 5, -10, 8

Chris Lewis (Sy) beat Peter Gascoyne (Ng) 5, 8, 2

Final

Chris Lewis beat Dorian Robinson 9, 10, -6, 6

Cadet Girls' Band 1

Semi-Finals

Sophie Byron (Ch) beat Rachel Pilgrim (Wa) 7, 8, 7

Susie Steeples (Li) beat Nikki Pilgrim (Wa)

Final

Sophie Byron beat Susie Steeples 7, 11, -8, -5, 8

Under 13 Boys

Semi-Finals

Darius Knight (Sy) beat Damien Nicholls (Sp) 1, 6, -12, 3

Gavin Evans (Bu) beat Paul Johnson (Li) 7, 9, 12

Final

Darius Knight beat Gavin Evans 5, 11, -8, 8

Under 13 Girls

Semi-Finals

Lauren Springthorpe (Li) beat Emma Vickers (Dy) 10, -11, -12, 6, 5

Sarra Wang (E) beat Rachel Pilgrim (Wa) 10, 8, 0

Final

Lauren Springthorpe beat Sarra Wang 3, 9, 10

Under 11 Boys

Semi-Finals

Gavin Evans (Bu) beat Scott Crawford (Ch) 10, 8, 3

Zane Smythe beat Oscar Selfridge (E) 11, 9, -11, 9

Gavin Evans beat Zane Smythe 7, 11, 10

Under 11 Girls

Semi-Finals

Mary Fuller (Y) beat Charlotte Airey (Li) 3, 6, 8

Hannah Brewin (Li) beat Stephanie Mitchell (Bu) 8, -11, 6, 9

Final

Hannah Brewin beat Mary Fuller 10, -7, 15, 6

STOCKTON ON TEES JUNIOR 4

STAR SELECT

16/17 November 2002

by Alan Ransome

The Chinese players representing the Grove Club of Market Drayton dominated the main singles events at the Stockton on Tees Junior Select Table Tennis Championships.

The Boys' Singles was won comprehensively by Kou Lei without the loss of a single game. In the semi-final he beat Ormesby's promising cadet player, Paul Drinkhall, and in the final, one of Ormesby's leading juniors, Craig Bryant. Paul did well to come from the 8th seeded position to beat his brother Bryn to reach the semi-final, whilst Craig Bryant, seeded second, won through to the final without the loss of a game.

The Girls' Singles was won by Shuang Zhao, who beat one of England's leading junior players, Georgina Walker, by three games to one in the final.

In the Cadet Boys' Team event, Darlington A won the title with David Meads and Gavin Evans beating the London based Southfield Elites Club by three sets to two.

The competition was supported by Stockton Sports Development, a division of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Education, Leisure & Cultural Services Department. Councillor Mrs Ann Cains, the Deputy Mayor of Stockton-on-Tees, presented the prizes to the winners of the junior events.

Singles results:-

Under 12 Boys' Singles

Final

Darius Knight (Sy) beat Paul Drinkhall (Cv) 4, 7, -6, 8

Under 12 Girls Singles

Final

Lauren Springthorpe (Li) beat Rebecca Russell (SCO) 8, 7, 7

Cadet Boys' Singles

Semi-Finals

Tim Yarnall (Np) beat Bradley Evans (Bu) -13, 10, 7, -8, 7

Darius Knight (Sy) beat Daniel Rees (E) -6, -10, 5, 3, 7

Final

Darius Knight beat Tim Yarnall -1, 9, 7, 9

Cadet Girls' Singles

Semi-Finals

Kelly Sibley (Wa) beat Lauren Spink (Nk) 9, 7, 6

Lauren Springthorpe (Li) beat Heather Shutt (Y) 9, -11, -7, 5, 9

Final

Kelly Sibley beat Lauren Springthorpe 5, -12, 5, 9

Grade 1 Boys' Singles

Final

Gavin Evans (Bu) beat Paul Dewhurst (E) 4, 6, 7

Grade 1 Girls' Singles

Final

Sarah Perks (Ng) beat Stephanie Donnelly (Cv) 4, 9, -8, -6, 10

Junior Boys' Singles

Semi-Finals

Kou Lei (CHN) beat Paul Drinkhall (Cv) 5, 7, 7

Craig Bryant (Dv) beat Glen Baker (St) 5, 9, -8, 7

Final

Kou Lei beat Craig Bryant 7, 2, 5

Junior Girls' Singles

Semi-Finals

Zhao Shuang (CHN) beat Karen Shepherd (Ch) 6, 6, 9

Georgina Walker (Ng) beat Kelly Sibley (Wa) -5, 10, 8, 6

Final

Zhao Shuang beat Georgina Walker -6, 7, 8, 6

Team results:-

Cadet Boys' Team

Final

Darlington A beat Southfields Elite 3-2

David Meads lost Chris Lewis 3, -12, -8, -2

Gavin Evans beat Dorian Robinson 5, 9, 7

Meads & Evans beat Lewis & Robinson 7, 4, -11, -5, 15

David Meads lost Dorian Robinson 7, -18, -8, 10, -9

Gavin Evans beat Chris Lewis -4, 6, 5, 6

Cadet Girls' Team

Final

Wright Hassall beat Scotland A 3-0

Kelly Sibley beat Jenny Galloway 4, 8, 6

Lauren Spink beat Rebecca Russell 9, 8, 3

Spink & Sibley beat Galloway & Russell 11, 9, 9

Junior Boys' Team

Final

Ormesby A beat Grove 3-2

Bryn Drinkhall lost Kou Lei -8, 9, -6, -5

Craig Bryant beat Bradley Evans 9, 10, 12

Drinkhall & Bryant beat Kou Lei & Evans -9, 9, -4, 11, 10

Craig Bryant lost Kou Lei -6, -11, 9, -8

Bryn Drinkhall beat Bradley Evans -8, 8, 7, 6

Junior Girls' Team

Final

Grove beat Wirrall 3-1

Heather Shutt lost Karen Shepherd -9, -12, 7, 4, -6

Zhao Shuang beat Liz Dennett 1, 1, 7

Zhao & Shutt beat Shepherd & Dennett 10, 8, 3

Zhao Shuang beat Karen Shepherd 7, -9, 4, 7



From left: Alan Ransome, Chairman ETTA; Kou Lei, junior boys' singles winner; Councillor Mrs Ann Cains, Deputy Mayor; Craig Bryant, r-u; Colin Davison, Chairman, Cleveland/Stockton TTA



From left: Colin Davison; Georgina Walker, junior girls' singles r-u; Councillor Mrs Ann Cains; Shuang Zhao, winner; Alan Ransome.

**2002 MANCHESTER
COMMONWEALTH GAMES
25 July – 4 August**

Finals Results Summary (for the record):-

Men's Team Final

England (ENG) beat Nigeria (NGR)

3-0

Matt Syed (ENG) beat Monday Merotohun (NGR) 3-1 (11-1, 7-11, 11-4, 11-2)

Gareth Herbert (ENG) beat Segun Moses Toriola (NGR) 3-1 (11-3, 11-8, 4-11, 11-5)

Alex Perry (ENG) beat Nosiru Kazeem (NGR) 3-1 (11-8, 9-11, 11-5, 11-8)

Women's Team Final

Singapore (SIN) beat Australia (AUS) 3-0

Jia Wei Li (SIN) beat Jian Fang Lay (AUS) 3-0 (11-2, 11-6, 11-5)

Jun Hong Jing (SIN) beat Miao Miao (AUS) 3-1 (10-12, 11-6, 11-5, 11-8)

Xue Ling Zhang (SIN) beat Tammy Gough (AUS) 3-1 (11-7, 11-6, 6-11, 11-4)

Men's Singles

Quarter-Finals

Johnny Huang (CAN) beat Zhang Tai Yong (SIN) 6, 7, 7, 10

Chetan Baboor (IND) beat Gareth Herbert (ENG) 11, 8, 6, -4, 8

Segun Toriola (NGR) beat Alex Perry (ENG) 6, 10, 3, -9, 11

Duan Yong Jun (SIN) beat Matthew Syed (ENG) 8, -5, -6, 7, 3, 5

Semi-Finals

Johnny Huang (CAN) beat Chetan Baboor (IND) 4, 12, -8, 7, 9

Segun Toriola (NGR) beat Duan Yong Jun (SIN) 6, 7, -6, -7, 8, 9

Final

Segun Toriola (NGR) beat Johnny Huang (CAN) -3, 9, -6, 7, 10, 9

Women's Singles

Quarter-Finals

Li Jia Wei (SIN) beat Karen Li (NZL) 8, 9, 4, 8

Tan Paey Fern (SIN) beat Geng Lijuan (CAN) 8, 9, -3, 9, -3, 17

Li Chunli (NZL) beat Zhang Xue Ling (SIN) 8, 5, -11, 8, 9

Jing Jun Hong (SIN) beat Miao Miao (AUS) -9, -6, 8, 7, 5, -8, 6

Semi-Finals

Li Jia Wei (SIN) beat Tan Paey Fern (SIN) 8, 5, 6, -7, -9, 5

Li Chunli (NZL) beat Jing Jun Hong (SIN) 4, -7, 5, 7, 8

Final

Li Chunli (NZL) beat Li Jia Wei (SIN) 6, 9, -5, 5, 8

Men's Doubles

Andrew Baggaley/Gareth Herbert (ENG) beat Raman Subramanian/Chetan Baboor (IND) -5, 11, 9, -11, 8

Adam Robertson/Ryan Jenkins (WAL) beat Duan Yong Jun/Zhang Tai Yong (SIN) -5, 5, 10, -5, 8

Andrew Baggaley/Gareth Herbert (ENG) beat Adam Robertson/Ryan Jenkins (WAL) 9, -11, -8, 9, 15

Andrew Baggaley/Gareth Herbert (ENG) beat Adam Robertson/Ryan Jenkins (WAL) 9, -11, -8, 9, 15

Andrew Baggaley/Gareth Herbert (ENG) beat Adam Robertson/Ryan Jenkins (WAL) 9, -11, -8, 9, 15

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Andrew Baggaley/Gareth Herbert (ENG) beat Adam Robertson/Ryan Jenkins (WAL) 9, -11, -8, 9, 15

Andrew Baggaley/Gareth Herbert (ENG) beat Adam Robertson/Ryan Jenkins (WAL) 9, -11, -8, 9, 15

COUNTY NOTES

**A look around the
Country**

**Issue no. 289
December 2002**

BERKSHIRE by John Cunningham

Reading Junior Masters

Lisa Bosley took the Junior Masters title after one of the most competitive tournaments for many seasons.

The Berkshire county player was a deserved winner after taking on the best of the Reading Youth League cadets and juniors before a thrilling final win over Stephen Ayers.

Bosley, vastly experienced at this level, won the first two 11-7, 11-4 and it looked as though it was all over.

But Ayres lifted his game and forced the very best out of Bosley. Play swung one way and then the other with Ayres just having the edge, winning 11-8, 11-9 to square the match at 2-2.

In the decider it was Bosley who took early control to lead 5-1 ends. Ayres fought back and closed the gap to just one point, only for the experience and power of Bosley enabling her to take four vital points to win the decider and the Reading Jubilee Masters Junior title of 2002.

In yet another great contest, this for third and fourth spot, Abhay Gehlot just got the better of Tim Berger by a 13-11, 11-8, 7-11, 12-10 scoreline, thus gaining some consolation for his narrow semi-final defeat.



Lisa Bosley (back left) the 2002 Reading Junior Masters Champion. Also in picture (back row) Tim Berger (4th), Jason Elliott (centre), Ujwal Gehlot, Kuldeep Gehlot and Abhay Gehlot (3rd). (front) Ben Davis, Stephen Ayres (T-U) and Chris Elliott.

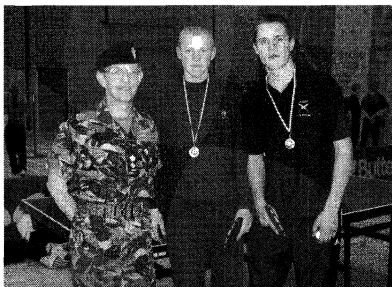
**"Table Tennis Takes Centre Stage at
Army Hobby and Sports Fayre"**

Around 350 apprentice tradesmen from Junior Company attended the Hobby and Sports Fayre to sample around 32

activities so that they could make an informed choice when selecting sports and hobbies when they move to Senior Company.

Table tennis took centre stage with most of those present having a go in a 5 up winners stay on. Two of the current Senior Company apprentice tradesmen, Lepl Jake Ball and Craig Curtis, were on hand to assist the juniors and received medals from the Commanding Officers at the Army Technical Foundation College, Arbourfield, for their players in table tennis. Lieutenant Colonel D A McAvoy, pictured with the two apprentices was himself an apprentice at the college for the early part of his training.

The event was organised by Keith Fuller, the head of the Technical Studies Department, and the table tennis by OLOP. Impact Co-ordinator, John Cunningham, the college's table tennis organiser. The equipment used was supplied by OLOP TTC. and Tees Sport.



Lieutenant Colonel D A McAvoy with Craig Curtis, silver medal and Lepl Jake Ball, gold medal.

CHESHIRE by Alan Blears

It has been a successful start to the tournament season for Cheshire's veterans. Doreen Schofield won the O60 ladies' section in both the VETTS N. E. Masters and the Midlands Masters, while husband Derek followed an O70 runners-up spot in the N. E. event with victory in the Midlands.

Doreen also represented England in the VETTS home international in Largs, where as well as contributing to the England team success she also won the O60 title and the O60 doubles with Margaret Dignum.

Another Cheshire veteran, John Hilton, enjoyed a great weekend in the VETTS Midlands Masters, beating among others the Swiss Herbert Neubauer on his way to victory in both the O50 and O40 events.

Cheshire Trials

There was a good entry for the county junior/cadet trials in Northwich. The standard was high, especially in the cadet girls where Rachel Baker, who is

nationally ranked 16 at U13 level, finished in eighth position.

Cadet girls: (1) Hayley Parker (2) Jordyn Layfield (3) Sophie Byron (4) Fiona Dennett (5) Emma Kelly (6) Amy Walker (7) Lynsey Pich (8) Rachel Baker.

Cadet boys: (1) Jonathon Taylor (2) Richard Barker (3) Adam Slater (4) Ajai Singh (5) Mitchell Barker (6) Michael Horobin (7) Neil Baker.

Junior girls: (1) Karen Shepherd (2) Elizabeth Dennett (3) Hayley Parker (4) Jordyn Layfield (5) Ashley Layfield (6) Sophie Byron (7) Fiona Dennett (8) Lynsey Pich (9) Adele Reynolds.

Junior boys: (top eight only)
(1) Tom Page (2) Neil Powell (3) Aaron Beech (4) Gavin Lloyd (5) Jonathon Taylor (6) Danny Russell (7) Mark Davies (8) Richard Barker.

Essex Junior 4 Star

The only results which have reached me are those of Karen Shepherd and Caroline Hallows, who were semi-finalists in the junior girls and U13 girls respectively.

Stiga Hyndburn Junior Grand Prix

Again it is the girls who make the news, with Sophie Byron and Caroline Hallows notching up the best wins of their careers against a highly-ranked junior, while the exciting Stockport 11 year old, Emma Kelly, made her tournament breakthrough with a victory over the national U13 no. 8.

Stockport League

Following the lead of some other local leagues Stockport has a multi-table venue for its league matches, which has enabled many more youngsters to join the league. Most clubs have opted to take advantage of the facilities, although inevitably there are still some who prefer their one-table venues with 11pm finishes.

DERBYSHIRE by Colin Deaton

Derbyshire Cadets got off to a flying start in the Cadet Division of the National County Championships. Their three wins from the three games they played means that if this form can be maintained, Derbyshire could be divisional champions. They were represented by Daniel Palmer, Daniel Lawrian, Chris Daffin, Tim Mitchell, Emily O'Sullivan and Kathryn Arrowsmith.

Determined not to be outshone, our juniors also had a triumphant opening in their first matches of the season. They had Shaun Marples, William Cooney and Adam Frost in their side

with Emma Vickers and Sarah Bayliss representing the girls. Their tally of successes reads: beat Lincolnshire 10-0, beat Cleveland 7-3, beat Warwickshire 9-1 and finally defeated Yorkshire 7-3.

This start for Derbyshire at both cadet and junior level is an excellent one and, whilst it must be seen as a solid overall team performance under the professional guidance of team manager, Neil Timperley Houghton, it is difficult to single out any individual player.

However, the win by Emily O'Sullivan in the cadet match over the England ranked number 40, Susie Steeples, was an eye opener.

Our senior side will be only too pleased to jump on the successful bandwagon.

The Derby League continues to hold its own in membership.

County Secretary Les Allwood is now the Derby League Secretary amongst his many roles and their policy with youngsters continues to flourish. They have a strong squad of juniors who regularly play in the open tournament circuit. This is essential for their development.

Young Emma Vickers is without question the pride and joy of the Derby League. She was outstanding in the recently held East Midlands Junior Four Star event. Under the watchful eye of her mum, county number one senior player, and dad, an active qualified coach, this young Derby whiz kid may well be destined for some top honours in the game.

An interesting development in Derby is that a local school in the Chaddesden area (Lees Brook) has commenced a pre-school club under the watchful eye of enthusiast Glyn Saunt. This is a step that will improve the area's growth in our game.

Over in Burton the League this season has expanded by two teams, which is the first increase for a number of years.

The League has a set of new officers under the Chairmanship of Wilf Rhodes with the Secretary Liz Merrick and Treasurer Danny Sullivan.

Area livewire Tony Gregory reports that the Matlock League this year has got off to a good start. Coaching classes for juniors remain popular and assisting the Matlock League with these youngsters is the widely travelled, qualified coach Tony Pacito. Tony lives locally and loves to spend a lot of time coaching young players.

A big honour was received by our County Chairman, Derrick Marples, recently. Derrick received an invitation from His Royal Highness Prince Nawafbin Fahd of Saudi Arabia to attend a reception at Lancaster House, London, on 30th October. The Derbyshire coach has conducted a party of players on behalf of the English

Table Tennis Association to Saudi Arabia each year. This trip has apparently been most popular and has been centred around intermediate and early twenty-year old players who were selected.

Nicola Deaton also received an honour in connection with her United Kingdom sporting achievements to meet the Prime Minister and Mrs Blair. Along with Alan Ransome she attended a dinner at Downing Street, Whitehall, London. The five times National Senior English Champion has now won 13 senior national titles and this invitation is perhaps seen as a fitting reward for her achievements.

Staveley Middlecroft Leisure Centre is the venue for the annual Derbyshire Closed Championships. Play will be on twelve tables and will be organised by Lesley Allwood.

At County Committee level there has been a re-shuffle. Sandra Deaton has been elected onto the E.T.T.A. Management Committee as the Vice Chairman (Marketing), thus relinquishing her position as National Councillor. I have now been elected as the National Councillor to Derbyshire and I am to represent the views of the Derbyshire Table Tennis Association.

How good it was to see Michael Isherwood back in Chesterfield. Isherwood is now residing and working in the Chesterfield area and still plays table tennis in the French National League. Two years ago Michael won the National Grand Prix Championships. We hope to see him playing in Derbyshire soon because we feel that he was on the verge of breaking through to the top bracket in England when he went abroad to play and train in Spain. Regrettably it was a situation of so near but yet so far.

DEVONSHIRE by John Vincent

Devon Junior Seconds

They made a good start to their season with a fine 9-1 victory over Hereford in Bromyard in Division 3C of the County Championships. Jacob Kodicek, Daniel Mayhew, Lisa Radford and Sally Smith all recorded maximum wins plus Darren Reed's victory over Joe Davies after losing a 5 setter with Greg Price.

British Junior League

Devon Aces had a good first weekend in Norwich finishing third out of six teams in Division 1. Chris Brown won 7 out of his 10 games, Jacob Kodicek 5 and Darren Reed 4. All these boys play for Inter-City in Division 1 of the Beacon Electrical Plymouth and District TT League.

DML/Plymouth

The team knew that playing in the National Premier Division would be tough, but they were glad to take up the challenge to bring top class table tennis to Plymouth. In their last two home matches they lost to:

1. Wellow House, Notts, by 10 games to 4. Paul Whiting 2, Marketa Myskova 1, plus a Whiting/Short doubles.
2. JAGS, Dulwich, 11-3 with James Whiteman defeating Lawrence Trumpauskas and Paul Whiting and Mike Short both beating Tom Cutler.

DML are missing the services of their number 1 Craig Bryant, nationally ranked 15 in the Senior Men, now that he has gone to college in Grantham.

Training in Nottingham

Congratulations to Darren Reed who received an invitation and has now recently attended an England training camp. His county colleagues and supporters wish him well.

County Junior Weekend results:

Devon (2) beat Avon 9-1
Devon (2) beat Devon (4) 10-0
Devon (3) drew with Avon 5-5
Devon (3) beat Devon (4) 7-3

The very strong Devon Seconds have now played 3 matches, won 3, for 28 against 2, points 6.

Beacon Electrical Plymouth Schools League

The League has started its fifth season with 12 teams and the current placings are as follows:-

Tamarside 'A', Ivybridge 'A', Yealmpstone Farm, Coombe Dean, Ivybridge 'B', Ivybridge 'D', Stoke Damerel, Ivybridge 'C', Tamarside 'C', Tamarside 'B', Egguckland 'B', Egguckland 'A'

ESSEX by Steve Kerns

Ticket to Ride

Alan Shepherd reports from the Essex Junior scene where the County third team fielded a side of newcomers to play their division 3 (D) matches at Crippenham :

"First opponents were Sussex II, all old hands at this level of play and the difference showed as only Romford Cadet Billy Childs was able to display

anything like his true form in both of his singles. Becky Metson scored a superb win over the top Sussex girl Stacey Furnival, and Alistair Hill (Chelmsford) played far better in his second singles before succumbing 12-10 in the deciding end, and on that basis the 7-3 defeat was not too disappointing. In the next match against Middlesex II the team stormed into a 4-0 lead and it really looked as if we were going to run away with this match. Billy Childs won his third consecutive match in straight games, beating the Middlesex no. 1 Anthony Johnson, and Daniel Stander (Romford) made a really impressive debut beating the dangerous Yan Xue 8,9,4. Rachel Ariya did well to beat Megan Sparrey 3-1 and a determined Alistair Hill just prevailed 12-10 in the deciding leg against Michael Malde. From a seemingly unassailable position things became a little frantic from here with only wins for Becky over Megan Sparrey and then superbly for Rachel over Jodie Sparrey being achieved. Still we had done enough to win 6-4.

Our last match was a bit of an anti-climax resulting in a 7-3 victory for Wiltshire. We won both our matches against the Wiltshire second string girl but apart from that we only had a superb win for Daniel Stander over David Hodges to show for our efforts. Daniel also impressed against Andrew Hodges only going down over five ends."

We can work it out

Clacton League Press Officer Tony Oswick advises that there will be a different format to their League this year.

"The League will be divided up into three divisions with two sub-divisions in each. The League programme will be run in two halves with promotion and relegation from the sub-divisions after Christmas, and play-offs to decide the divisional champions and runners-up.

In addition to the usual Closed Championships, Handicap Singles and Junior Combination Tournament, the League will be introducing a new Top Team Tournament giving players plenty to look forward to on the local front. The League also remain firm supporters of the Essex Inter-League Competition with two junior sides, two veteran teams and one super veterans side taking part.

On the table it is hard to see the first division title ending up anywhere than in the Brotherhood Club. Champions for the last four years, they have added top county junior Keiran Lally to their line-up and a team of Lally, John Andrews, Alan Burgess, John Stubbings and Dave Binns are

collectively several notches stronger than their rivals.

Walton A represented by Kevin James, Jon Batchford, Gary Young and Terry Kirby look their likeliest challengers.

Off the table Shirley Rowlen, League Secretary for 26 years (and a past recipient of the county's Corti-Woodcock Award) as well as some time Minutes Secretary, Tournament Secretary, Social Secretary and County Representative, is taking a well-earned rest and in recognition of her unstinting service she is being made a League Vice-President. Well-known local player Angela Barrett replaces her as Secretary.

Another of the League's loyal servants, Pete White, has been awarded the ETTA Maurice Goldstein Merit Award. Pete, who has been a player and organiser in the League for over 20 years, has gone about his business in an unassuming but enthusiastic way for as long as anyone can remember and it is delightful to see him honoured in this way."

HEREFORDSHIRE by Harry Jutle

COUNTY TABLE TENNIS RESULTS on Saturday 19th October

Veteran Division 3C

Hereford 1st played their second fixture away against Gloucester 2nd resulting in an exciting 5-4 win! This was a complete turnaround from a 1-8 defeat last year, and gives a great boost for the team to stay up in the higher division, after winning promotion. Norman Merchant and Helen Green were the stars of the day winning all 4 of their matches (Helen easily and Norman battling it out to 5th game deciders in both: 7-10 down in the one to eventually win it 20-18!). Gordon Stables also turned a previous defeat to a win in the 4th for the 5-4 result.

Scores: Norman Merchant 11-5, 11-6, 5-11, 11-13, 11-9 and 8-11, 11-9, 7-11, 20-18, 11-8. Helen Green 11-3, 11-3, 11-5. Helen and Norman in mixed doubles 11-4, 5-11, 11-6, 11-7. Gordon Stables 11-5, 13-11, 4-11, 11-7 and 3-11, 8-11, 8-11. Gordon and Harry in men's doubles 15-17, 7-11, 11-13. Harry Jutle 7-11, 7-11, 14-12, 4-11 and 5-11, 7-11, 8-11.

Senior Division 2B

Hereford played their second fixture away against Avon resulting in a 2-8 defeat. Mark Owen won the 2, one in the 4th. Andy Castle forced both into the 4th, and John Hunt one. Carol Milnes and Margaret Shock found the

opposition too strong, although Carol did force one to deuce.

Scores: Mark Owen 11-7, 14-12, 11-13, 11-4 and 11-4, 11-3, 11-4. Andy Castle 11-8, 9-11, 7-11, 7-11 and 3-11, 11-5, 4-11, 7-11. John Hunt 6-11, 11-7, 8-11, 7-11 and 4-11, 4-11, 4-11. Carol Milnes 7-11, 10-12, 6-11 and 3-11, 6-11, 8-11. Margaret Shock 4-11, 3-11, 3-11 and 4-11, 9-11, 6-11.

Junior Division 3C

Hereford played their first fixture home against Devon 2nd resulting in a 1-9 defeat. Greg Price had to play to his best ability for the single win in the 5th set. The result does not reflect the tough match with 5 going into the 5th set, 3 into 4th and 4 to deuce.

Scores: Greg Price 9-11, 7-11, 11-4, 11-5, 11-6 and 6-11, 6-11, 7-11. Nikki Segust 11-8, 11-9, 8-11, 8-11, 9-11 and 10-12, 11-6, 10-12, 11-7, 3-11. Alistair Dawson 6-11, 5-11, 11-6, 11-6, 9-11 and 12-14, 11-6, 9-11, 6-11. Joe Davies 8-11, 5-11, 11-8, 3-11 and 9-11, 3-11, 11-13. Jessica Davies 11-7, 6-11, 6-11, 7-11 and 6-11, 9-11, 12-14.

Veteran Division 4C

Hereford 3rd played away against Shropshire 2nd resulting in a 0-9 loss. Mike Wheatley, Mike Morgan and Mike Belfield played better in the latter part of the match taking a game into the 4th each. Linda Batson found her counterpart a bit too strong.

Scores: Mike Wheatley 4-11, 8-11, 9-11 and 11-13, 3-11, 13-11, 8-11. Mike Morgan 3-11, 6-11, 7-11 and 11-6, 9-11, 8-11, 4-11. Mike Belfield 0-11, 6-11, 2-11 and 7-11, 14-12, 6-11, 4-11. Linda Batson 0-11, 4-11, 2-11. Linda and Mike Belfield in mixed doubles 5-11, 12-14, 7-11. Wheatley and Morgan in men's doubles 7-11, 5-11, 9-11.

ISLE OF WIGHT by John Prean

Our first two county matches produced depressing results. We lost 7-3 to Oxford without Carl and then 8-2 to Sussex II with Carl! In the first match we lost a couple that went into the 5th game and were lost narrowly at that stage after being ahead at match points. In the latter match we were chanceless, only Carl's two making contact with the right side of the score sheet and Alex Rorke's 5 game defeat against Terry Haley adding a short moment of respectability.

For Oxford Karl Bushell and Samantha Marling were well ahead of our players. Both were technically very good.

Just as we were contemplating a 100% record (defeat in every match) a rather better performance gave us a 6-4 win against Surrey II after being 4-3 down. We ended 3 down in the ladies' matches, but 5-1 up in the men's where Danny and Carl won 2 each and Jill Fothergill that vital ladies' match. Jo Hurt (14) made her home debut, but will need another season to compete on level terms. She did hit some excellent winners on both wings, but will need to work hard on the bread and butter part of the game.

Lucy Pointer is rumoured to be planning a comeback after her disappointments in the "academy" at Nottingham, but she has not been playing for some months. Time will tell.

Our membership numbers are again down, this time from 34 to 29 teams, who are playing in 3 divisions. One recalls 7 divisions of which at least 6 had the full 12 teams. Allowing for natural wastage in terms of young players who depart every season to go to university, as one third of pupils is reported as doing, these are still worrying trends. It hardly supports the view expressed nationally that the Commonwealth Championships would give a boost to the sport. The only reaction I have heard locally is that little was seen on TV and that two medals out of 28 on offer were not the "success" claimed elsewhere.

We have, however, decided not to lie down in the face of impending death caused by shrinking numbers and have at last gone all out to bring new people into the sport. When I took on the post of coaching officer over a year ago, I saw only one young chap with his coach. Today each of our sessions on Monday and Fridays is full to overflowing and 11 tables are in action instead of 6.

This season I was able to hand over the post to Carl, at any rate when not in Germany, and I was re-christened "Coaching Administration Officer" in addition to various other duties which have fallen into my lap.

I shall not regard any of this as a success till a fair number of the newcomers join the local league and our numbers start moving up again. One cannot regard people as members of the table tennis fraternity till they take the first steps on the ladder into the local league and until the best move up to inter-town and county matches, I cannot help worrying that the ladder has become rather rickety. The local leagues with their late evenings repel rather than attract the young, and county matches no longer have the prestige they once had. A recent report of the division in which our county plays indicated 3 matches in a few hours and catering arrangements which

consisted of a note that there was a Tesco nearby. With British League matches similarly rushed and detached from the local scene and therefore interest, I wonder what sort of menu we are putting before our prospective players and whether indigestion is the result rather than a good and memorable meal.

In short, I wonder whether our product is good enough and whether the people we are attracting will stay with us, let alone address the dreadful shortage of volunteers from which we all suffer and which is holding us back.

NORFOLK by Ray Hogg

Just looking through the county handbook, I noticed the numbers of veterans teams against the other categories. Along with those behind the scenes running committees and cc., and the success of the VETTS, we would be in a right mess if they withdrew their labour.

Talking of veterans, I regret to report that Norfolk have withdrawn the 2nd veterans team as having been through the ranking list and only having one definite yes from the men and also no lady. Mary Sawyer had run this team for years but no more – if the players who now have no county matches wish to enter again they will have to organise it themselves. The delights of Mexico are preferred to Wolverhampton.

All our ranking lists will have to be sorted out for next season to include only those who are really interested and exclude those who just like to see their name there.

Ray Gale has aged since taking over the juniors – lots of problems as to be expected but he got full teams out including some new faces. No wins in the seven matches but a lot was learned about the players for the future. He was very impressed with the Chinese playing for Northants. Next season our second team will be entered in the cadet section.

I hear that to increase interest in their local championships Dereham League are making no charge to enter. Norwich have done away with ladies and mixed doubles and made it open doubles only. Be interesting to see if these things help.

I believe Norwich Todd Foxwood still have a team in the British League but locally there is no publicity that it exists, let alone who plays for us and results.

I still follow the progress of our wonder girl Lauren Spink having had the pleasure of showing her how to hold a bat some years ago when even I could beat her. Pity she is too good to play for the county but I fully understand why.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE by Dennis Millman

Table tennis enthusiasts far and wide will be saddened to hear of the death of Bryan Bond, who for fifty years was an active and successful player both at county level and in the Northampton League – most notably representing UTC.

He first came into prominence in 1953 when he won the Northants men's doubles with Colin Hogg – a feat they were to repeat on eight occasions.

He became men's singles champion in 1954-55 and also took the mixed doubles four times.

In Northampton he was the men's doubles titleholder on eleven occasions between 1954 and 1971, and was successful nine times in the mixed event.

His last appearance in a county final came in 2000 when he was a losing finalist in the over 50 doubles.

To commemorate their unprecedented achievement, Bryan Bond and his partner presented the County Association with a pair of majestic and identical trophies for future men's doubles winners, and though one of the game's true gentlemen has now passed on, his name and his deeds will long be remembered.

Northants rarely get the better of any Yorkshire side and when the Veteran 1sts pitted their skills against Yorkshire 3rds the outcome was no different. After a heavy defeat against Cheshire, Gordon Shaw was drafted into the county's ranks. His experience proved invaluable as he remained unbeaten in singles and doubles, but even with a contribution from Steve Silk, victory was denied.

Mike Hawes was the star performer when the Veteran 2nds visited Barnet to face Herts 6ths. The second of his singles wins clinched a much needed success after Pete Wingrove, Wingrove and Hawes, and Michael Edwards and Janet Wright had won to leave the match poised at four all.

Dannel Pang, Dickson Pang, Robert Williams, Katie Mansfield and Melissa Price formed the junior contingent that contested a first series of matches at Grantham. Norfolk, South Yorkshire, and Lancashire 2nds were beaten, but Durham again proved a major stumbling block, with only Dannel Pang able to get the better of the high ranking Andrew Leighton and David Meeds. Pang went on to win seven of his eight games – a commendable performance, almost equalled by Melissa Price whose six victims included the formidable Rachel Baldi.

The cadets made an initial trip into the unknown and emerged with flying colours despite a narrow defeat at the hands of Suffolk.

Northants got off to a fine start with an 8-2 success against Glamorgan with Sam Piranty, Aron Chan and Nick Howard all winning twice, while Carla Grady and Sophie Hancox added one singles each.

The Suffolk side was always likely to provide the stiffest opposition and so it proved. However it was a close call with all the Northants youngsters playing well under pressure, despite losing all three cliffhanger deciders that could have reversed the result.

Leicestershire, the final opponents, failed to stem the tide as Northants reeled off all ten games, with Matthew Carter, who had replaced Howard against Suffolk, joining the four regulars to complete a deserved whitewash.

Kettering's Sam Piranty at no.1 merits special attention for winning five of his six games against the strongest of the opposition, but all six players can be pleased with their contribution and can look forward to replacing the older juniors when they all leave their respective ranks.

The Wellingborough League duly got under way on the last day of September, but this time round there will be no fight to the death between Wellingborough O.G.'s and Westfield A, for at the eleventh hour Westfield withdrew, leaving the coast clear for the Grammarians to regain the title.

At Kettering two successive promotions have elevated the Veterans into Division 3 of the Midland League. Organiser Phil Slade, ever the opportunist, immediately entered a second side which made a winning start at Stafford, thanks again to an unbeaten Mike Hawes, plus contributions from Alan Ashberry and Slade himself.

NORTHUMBERLAND by Pauline Long

After the euphoria of winning the Division 1A title last season a combination of reality, excitement and eager anticipation was due to set in this time round for the promoted County Veterans' side when they were due to play their first ever series of Premier Division matches at Ashford during the weekend of 26th/27th October. Hopefully the team will have done well and made a good start to this season's campaign.

It was expected that the county would rely on the same four men as previously – "Benny" Robertson (work commitments permitting), Malcolm Lusk, Geoff Salter and Rob Dodds. However, Christine Robinson has now become eligible for selection as a veteran, and this means that Pauline Long's record of having played in every match since the team was formed in September 1985 has now come to an

end. As one door closes, however, another one will open in the form of more participation in "Masters" Tournaments, in particular over 50s and, for which she has recently become eligible, over 60s events, so she will not completely vanish from the table tennis scene!

The new season's veteran ranking lists are as follows:

Veteran Men

1, Ian "Benny" Robertson; 2, Malcolm Lusk; 3, Geoff Salter; 4, Rob Dodds; 5, Jimmy Scope; 6, Bob Atwell; 7, Rob Appleby; 8, John Donnelly; 9, Mark Kimberley.

Veteran Women

1, Christine Robinson; 2, Pauline Long; 3, Lily Aust.

In the recent Midland Masters Tournament at Stoke-on-Trent, Malcolm Lusk reached the semi-finals of the over 40s men's doubles event with a "scratch" partner, and also reached the quarter-finals of the over 40s men's singles.

Sunderland-based St. Gabriel's (Dave Robson, Tony Gelder and Neil Herrington) have taken an early lead in the Premier Division of the Northumbria League, having convincingly won their first three matches. Other early leaders are:

Division 1, North Fire 'A'; Division 2, Mortimer; Division 3, Cramlington Trojans; Division 4, North Shields YMCA 'G'.

By the time these notes appear in print, the festive season should be rapidly approaching, so on this assumption all good wishes are extended to players, officials and friends for the Christmas period, and best wishes to all for a happy (and hopefully peaceful) new year in 2003.

SHROPSHIRE by Terry Ridgway

Good start to the season for the county vetts sides, three wins out of four for the first team (9-0, 5-4, 8-1) losing 2-7 to Dorset 3rd and two out of three for the seconds (7-2 against Devon 4th, 9-0 against Hereford 3rd) losing 3-6 to Somerset 3rd; the only three unbeaten players so far are Rod France, Chris Tarr and Wendy Baggott. Tension builds for 1st v 2nd clash in December.

In the Telford League last season's champions, Albrighton A, have an unbeaten start but have been made to battle for each win, scraping through 6-4 on two occasions. Newly promoted Idsall A look impressive and will

surprise many of the established senior teams (they can also call on the former county champion Paul Fisher if they fall short of players!). Albrighton B and Industrial Bearings have games in hand and will soon be putting pressure on the top side. Division 2 sides Mathesons A, Lilleshall A and Bridgnorth D are setting the pace with unbeaten starts.

Shrewsbury's top side Cricket Club A have dropped early points with a 5-5 draw with Railways A but have still not lost a league match in 2 ½ years!

Rumour has it that the highly rated Oswestry based Nupur Santra may soon make his debut in the Shrewsbury Premier Division for one of the top sides but this is to be confirmed in the next few weeks!

SUSSEX by John Woodford

Carl Prean in the late summer of his career was the star and, of course, unbeaten player as the Sussex second team entertained the Isle of Wight at Horsham.

Carl, 35 had no problems winning his two against Peter Bartram and Andy Walker – it is fascinating to see players aged between 35 and 45 using their experience to combat the youngsters.

Two examples, Des Douglas was nearly tempted to enter the £3,000 Sussex Open Grand Prix at Horsham; Andrzej Grubba, the Polish former World Cup winner and world no. 4, did accept his invitation from Sussex – he was seeded no. 5 with Austrian-Chinese Chen Weixing as the top seed, unable to resist the invitation from the sponsors – Ocean International Communications of Brighton.

The Ocean Managing Director Paul Andrews flew to Magdeburg to the German Open to secure players – ending up with Chen and Grubba. Douglas and Grubba are now around the same age – 45!

More and more juniors are working on Saturdays, so why are tournament organisers still trying to run events on Saturdays? Possibly because venues are not available on Sundays. Saturdays are useless when forming teams for events like the National Junior League.

Peter Bartram (Worthing) is the man pulling up trees for Sussex in veterans events and the British League with almost continuous unbeaten performances. A close second, pulling up only slightly smaller trees is another "young" veteran Nick Standen from Hastings – he was unbeaten for Sussex against Middlesex in a recent county championships match that Sussex won 5-4.

WARWICKSHIRE by Caroline Williams

Local cadets doing well in Nationals

Leamington's strong Under 15 team of Edward and Charlotte Freeman and Stephanie Hawkins are in top form in the **ETTA National Cadet League Midlands Division**. They played 5 matches on the first day of this competition held in Wednesbury, winning all 30 games, placing them joint leaders with Staveley, both team's players having 100 per cent records. The Leamington trio won their matches 6-0 over Leckei, Tamworth Lions, Lichfield, Colebridge and Burntwood. The Birmingham A team of Paul Leck, Bill Hamilton and Tom Hearne did almost as well and so are one of 4 teams on maximum points. Birmingham B's less experienced quartet James Rickard, Tom Leck, Alan Caffery and Luke Nemeth won 2 out of 5 matches, as did the Colebridge trio of Scott Danter, James Brown and Olga Milkiewicz.

Junior choices

Three Birmingham, three Coventry and two Leamington players were selected to play in the **County Junior** championships to be held in Grantham in November. The Birmingham boys are Leigh Bradford, David Bissell and Peter Kirkham. Paul Nicholls and sisters Rachael and Nikki Pilgrim are the Coventry choices. Matthew Cooper is probably Eathorpe's first county player with Stephanie Hawkins the other Spa selection.

Midland news

Leamington played their first **Midland Junior League** match of the season at Radford Semele last week against Kidderminster. Despite a good performance from the Leamington trio they lost 7-3 though Matthew Cooper, Richard Grover and Edward Freeman all took one each.

Free Church Tournament

The first Lillington Free Church Tournament of the season was held in October in Leamington with yet again a large entry from around the country. Winning players came from Redditch, Nuneaton, Birmingham, Milton Keynes, Banbury, Evesham, Leamington and even from Wales. Results were as follows:

Seniors – winner Louis Siket; r-up Mark Jackson; consolation winner Derek Thompson, r-up Lee Morris.

Under 17 – winner Daniel Whitfield; r-up Robert Hatherley; consolation winner Avi Jethwa; r-up Adam Cooper.

Under 14 – winner Sasha Grokhotov; r-up Narinder Matharu; consolation winner Paul Leck; r-up Daniel Shurrock.

Under 12 – winner Daniel O’Connell; r-up Luke Hobbins; consolation winner Minesh Morjaria; r-up Phil Blowey.

Grade A - winner Louis Siket; r-up Mark Jackson; consolation winner Leigh Bradford; r-up Ken Baker.

Grade B – winner Robert Hatherley; r-up Daniel Whitfield; consolation winner Eddie Stafford; r-up Janice Rowan.

Grade C – winner Sasha Grokhotov; r-up Narinder Matharu; consolation winner Alex Boyd; r-up Adam Clarke.

Improvers – winner Paul Leck; r-up Alex Nicholl; consolation Ros Freeman; r-up Conor Boyd.

Beginners – winner Jonathan Mason; r-up Alan Caffrey; consolation winner Christian Miller; r-up Ricky Fell.

YORKSHIRE by Barry Snowden

White Rose Affairs Leeds League

Reigning Leeds League division one champions and the Leeds representatives in the British League, Bramley Ebenezer, have lost last season’s top two players, Shi Guang (ranked 42 in England) and Dr Richard Smith (ranked 95). Both have joined stronger leagues this term but Bramley have recruited well with New Zealand international Stephen Hirst signed up to play alongside Mark Lans and Joanne Roberts. The Bramley club are particularly excited about Hirst who is expected to be one of the top players ever to have played in the West Yorkshire League.

The youthful Bramley B team are expected to challenge their club mates for the title with Simon Noutch, an England junior international and last season’s Leeds and Bradford closed champion, supported by Notts county player Tom Hughes.

TASCUS, a major force in previous seasons in the Leeds League, have

sadly folded mainly due to the sudden retirement of highly ranked veteran Nick Davies and the departure of Alan Jones for personal reasons.

Junior and Cadet trials

The excellent Halifax Table Tennis Centre staged the county junior and cadet trials over the first weekend of October organised expertly once again by Richard Hudson of Leeds. The most successful event was the cadet boys which had a restricted entry of 48 boys.

Richard explained that he had to keep the event restricted to 48 in order to keep the event manageable and he was pleased to see an initial nomination of 21 players from home town Halifax. To be fair to all counties he obviously could not accommodate all 21 but as the event drew closer and players dropped out he was able to offer places to many of the Halifax contingent and one even on the day due to a no show.

The number of cadets’ nominations from Halifax is great testament to the hard work done by the Halifax coaches in particular development officer Alan Dickinson and Harry Thompson who do schools coaching during the day, and cadet and junior coaching on Thursday with a new six team beginners league on a Friday evening.

The league, which has been running for a few years now, has borne a number of local league players including former men’s singles champion Hassan Gerrard who started as a Halifax YMCA player in the beginners league.

The Halifax League development committee were probably the most disappointed group when a special general meeting of the league voted to retain the 21 up rule. It had been hoped to integrate the better players into league action when ready but with a different playing format this is proving to be more than difficult.

County Championships

The county championships have begun in a positive fashion for a number of Yorkshire teams, in particular the senior seconds and the veterans first team.

The senior seconds playing in Division 1a had victories against Essex 2nd 7-2, Nottingham 8-2 and Cambridge 8-2 dropping their only point of the weekend to the veteran packed Durham team.

Richard Smith lead the way with a perfect singles record from his 8 starts with Richard Lightowler only one set adrift. Nicola Smith chipped in with a 5/8 record while skipper Simon Pugh and Emily Dearing boasted 4/8 records.

With relegation not now an issue the team can look forward to the second

weekend and hopefully push for a high finish.

Due to retirements and ill health the veterans first team consisting of only three men, Northallerton based Keith Rodger, Malcolm Corking and new vet Steve Cooper, joined Bradford Fastbats ace Helen Shields in the long trek to Ashford for the first weekend of the Veterans Premier.

Against all the odds the team took all three matches, beating Northumberland 7-2, Sussex 5-4 and Middlesex 6-3.

Last season’s player of the Premier Division Rodger once more led the way with 5 wins from 6 but the White Rose county look to have unearthed a new star in Cooper who won 4 from 6 playing at no 3.

Hopefully the team will be strengthened for the second weekend in Cheshire in March and promise to give their remaining opponents a run for their money.

MUHR’S MEMO: Information Officer – Messages from Ken Muhr

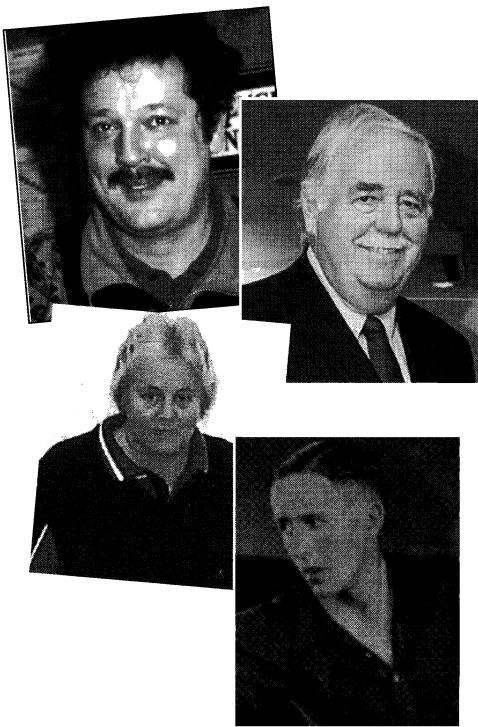
With a quiet month in the media and again lack of space, there will be **no substantive Muhr’s Memo this month**. However, I do have items useful to press officers for the next edition. Good that **Meridian TV** (as well as the sponsor’s own cameras) were at the **Ocean International Sussex Open Butterfly GP** on November 9th/10th (a great event, where Gareth Herbert delivered a treble-bluff flick against Kou Lei!) and there has been more coverage in the national and local press on the **ping pong tournaments** organised by Jon Kaufman at the art project in York Way, **Kings Cross**, London. Apart from John Woodford in the Daily Telegraph nationally and in the local press and radio, the **England men’s team** (Gareth Herbert, Terry Young and Andrew Rushton) did not get the publicity deserved for their **excellent 3-0** European League result over **Israel**, at Liverpool on 12th November. **Matthew Syed** penned a superb feature on Racism in Sport for The Times.

Ken Muhr

TTN EMAIL POLL - GIVE US YOUR VIEWS

WHO IS THE GREATEST COACH?

SECOND CHANCE
 Due to popular demand we have decided to extend this email poll, 'Who is the Greatest Coach', for another issue.



Last issue Brian Halliday reviewed how English coaches have shaped table tennis in this country. This raised the question who is, or was, the greatest English coach, who has succeeded most during the last 50 years?

You may think it is your own personal coach, or someone from the past, or possibly people coaching today like Alan Cooke, Nicky Jarvis, Carole Moore, Ken Phillips or Gideon Ashison.

Table Tennis News invites you to email us. All you need to do is type in the name of your choice, in the "Subject" box, and email us at: johnwood@macace.co.uk

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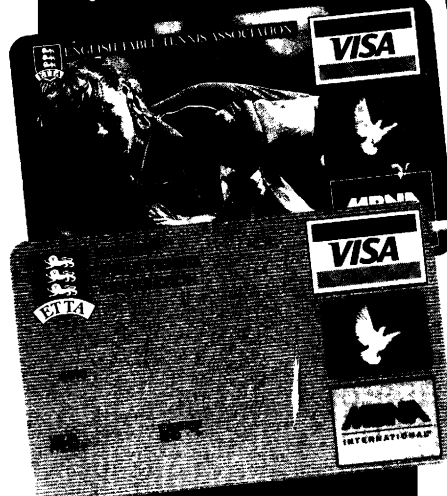
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JENKINS & MARCH TAKE THE HONOURS IN PAIGNTON

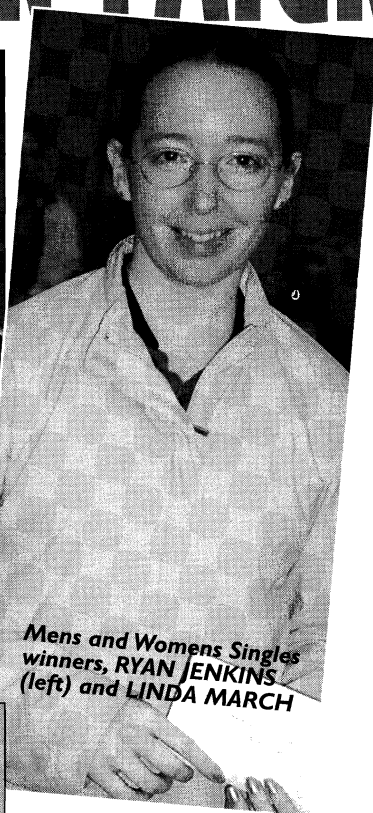
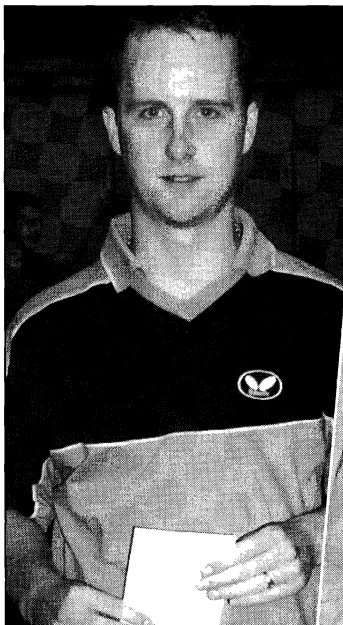
RYAN JENKINS, despite playing in twenty weekend matches in Germany found time to win five Grand Prix tournaments last season. He made a flying start at Paignton, beating Jason Sugrue in the mens singles final.

"I am going to try to win six tournament:s this season" said Ryan after stopping the Irish No.1, 7, 10, 9.

The Welsh ace was forced to defend against an onslaught of top-spin driving from Sugrue, stopped all his previous opponents in Paignton. Jenkins stood a pace back, almost becoming defensive as he countered with top-spin that eventually forced the London Progress player into the errors that Jenkins needed for victory.

PARALYMPIC GOLD MEDALLIST

Scanning the mens singles, Jenkins stopped Abdul Wuraola 3,10, 3 in the top quarter-final. Taj Agunbiade the Nigerian Paralympic gold medallist overcame Sussex No.1 Ritchie Venner. The third quarter saw Sugrue advance by taking out the



Mens and Womens Singles winners, RYAN JENKINS (left) and LINDA MARCH

**Words by JOHN WOODFORD
Pictures by JOHN WOOD
in Paignton**



talented Lithuanian Vytas Rybakas and in the last quarter Eric Hammond (Middlesex) put out local veteran hero Mike Short 10, 12, 4.

In the semi-finals Jenkins was too sharp for the Nigerian Agunbiade and Sugrue vanquished Hammond 7,6,6.

MARCH ON THE MOVE UP

Linda March, the Essex based accountant, still ranked No.8 on the England list will surely move up after winning the Womens Singles Crown, overpowering Marketa Myskova (Devon) in the final, -8, 9, 4, 9.

The Czech girl's defences claims many victims, but the March counter-hitting was the decisive factor when the Republican decided to attack, as indeed she can.

Lauren Spink (Norfolk) is making good progress, and on her 14th birthday she reached the semi-finals

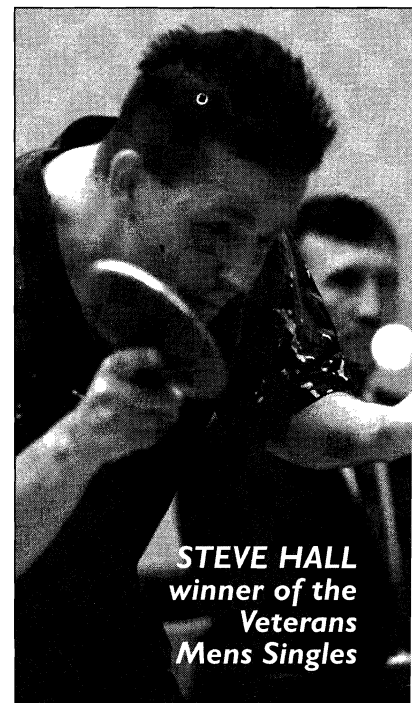
NAOMI WILSON, pictured left, who was awarded the Pat Archdale Trophy

of the womens singles, but she found Myskova too strong in the semi-finals.

In the second semi-final the loser was Wales's youngster Naomi Owen - she was eliminated 9, 1 -10, 2 by Mrs March.

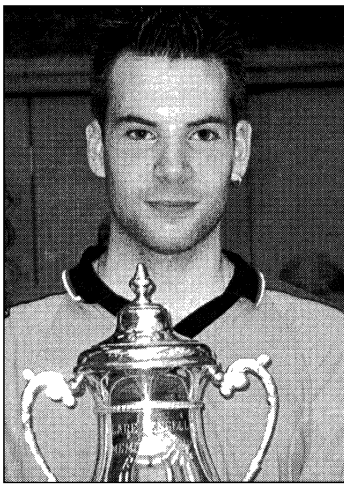
MORLEY & HALL TRIUMPH IN VETS'S

In the veterans events Gloucester's Judy Morley triumphed over Jenny Harrison at the last call, whilst Steve Hall's expert knowledge of pimples saw him home in the mens final against Dave Harvey.



STEVE HALL winner of the Veterans Mens Singles





CRAIG BRYANT winner of the Mens Under 21 Singles and receiver of the Clare Pengelly trophy - awarded to the Devon Junior who has achieved the most during the past year

LOCAL HERO

The Under-21 womens final was a clash of the future stars - Naomi Owen beat Laura Hall in all-Welsh final.

Local hero Craig Bryant clinched the Under-21 men's final against the young man who impressed me most Vytes Rybakas. Bryant, who I am told drove to Norwich after the tournament finished, unexpectedly lost in the mens singles in Round 2, losing to Hammond.

A quick scan of the banded events which finished at 10.30 pm on the Saturday - Jerome Jonah won Band 1 with a hard-fought victory over Gloucester's Darren Griffin 7, -11 -5, 9, 9. Neil Page (Wales) defeated Anthony Isaac (Somerset) in the Band 2 final.

In the womens band 1 Lauren Spink struck again beating Sarah Horsnell (Middlesex) 3-1, whilst in Band 2 Gemma Yarnley overpowered Lisa Radford (Devon) at 9 in the fifth game.

SUCCESS

This tournament is going from strength to strength, 160 players last season, 204 this time - perhaps 250 next year. But it does need a couple of players from the top end of the England Ranking list to provide the icing on the cake.

The organisers in Paignton do a great job, headed by Brian Pengelly (who was the runner-up in two events), his daughters Rachel and Sarah and the huge team working with them.

The prizes exceed all other GP events - holidays for two were the prizes for the bands! The Tournament is also top-of-the-tree for umpires - twelve in all, a brilliant effort by the blue coats - other forthcoming tournaments take note.

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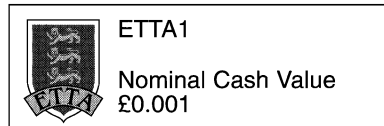
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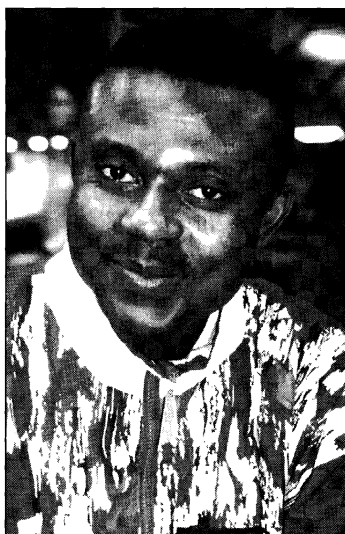
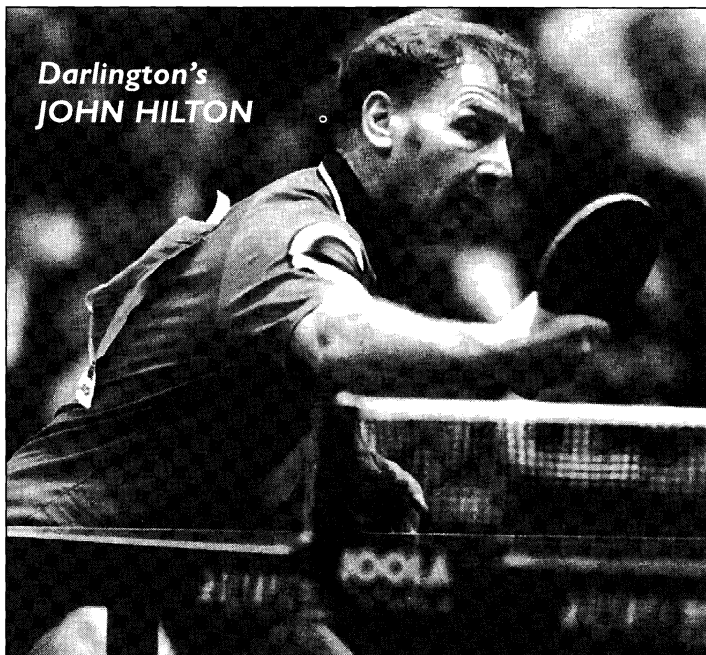
BEST PERFORMANCE OF THE SEASON

PREMIER DIVISION WEEK 5

LONDON PROGRESS I turned in their best performance of the season to hammer JAGS I 13-1 and the bad news for their opponents was that this result was achieved without their no. 1 player Marco Essomba who has only played once this season, writes Steve Kerns.

Progress rattled off the first ten games before Lorestan Trumpauskas put his team on the scoresheet with a 3-1 win over Tomek Gretschesell. Surprisingly no player was nominated for the Man of the Match Award which seems a little hard on Cris Sladden who disposed of Trumpauskas, Abdul Wuraola and then Clive Carthy all three straight. Jason Sugrue and Taju Agunbiade were also undefeated. Taju who has won 14 out of his 15 games has been quite outstanding so far and it is hard to believe that he was playing in division two (South) last year. Taju's most memorable victory here was his 3-2 (11-9 in the deciding set) win over Abdul Wuraola in game no. 13 where he retrieved a 2-0 deficit. One rather suspects that the JAGS players might have been half-expecting it at this stage!

Seasiders who seem to specialise in a close finish did it again, just coming out on top 8-6 against Wellow House. Seasiders started best charging into a 3-0 lead before Wellow House with the bit between their teeth pulled back to 4-4. Then in successive games Lee Neil got the better of Kevin Dolder 17-15 in the fifth end, Dave Gannon saw off Paul Hutchins 13-11 in the fifth and Mark Green beat John Rankin 11-7 in the decider. With everything to play for the doubles proved decisive and Seasiders took both sets. With Johnathan Taylor completing his maximum Seasiders stayed in the driving seat, giving Kevin Dolder the opportunity of facing Mark Green to secure the Seasiders success. A determined Kevin came out on top narrowly 9,7,11 to add to his excellent victory in the first game of the match where he saw off Chris Rogers 3-1. Johnathan Taylor remains



Jags ABDUL WURAOLA

undefeated after three matches and is clearly a stronger player than his current England ranking of no. 23 would indicate.

It looks increasingly as if the battle for second place is going to be between BATTs Team Peniel and Seasiders although Seasiders have the advantage at this stage as BATTs have still to face Progress. Peniel produced an excellent performance to record their third win of the

season with a well-earned 10-4 victory over Barnet. Peter Cleminson who did well against Darlington in his last match, surpassed himself here with excellent singles victories over Anthony Corbin (3-0) and Nicky McKoy (3-2), and then sensationally over Gergely Urban (3-1). John Holland was his usual reliable self taking his three singles and Chris Jamieson also showed up well beating both Corbin and Costas Papanioniou. There was never any question who deserved the Man-of-the-match Award and Cleminson quite rightly took the honours.

DML Plymouth without a point so far made the long trip to Darlington I where they were well beaten 13-1. They started promisingly enough with Craig Bryant marking his Premier division debut with an opening 3-1 singles win over Andrew Wilkinson. However as hard as Craig fought in his other two singles he was unable to live up to his England no. 16 billing and he missed out against Eddie Smith (3-0) and John Hilton (3-2). The enigmatic Michael Marsden put his below par performance against Peniel in the last round of matches firmly behind him, and produced easily his best British League performance of the season.

After beating both Mike Short and Kevin Buddell 3-0 he hit the jack-pot with a 11-9 in the fifth set victory over Paul Whiting, not bad for a player ranked no. 91 in England. Marsden deservedly took the Man of the Match Award.

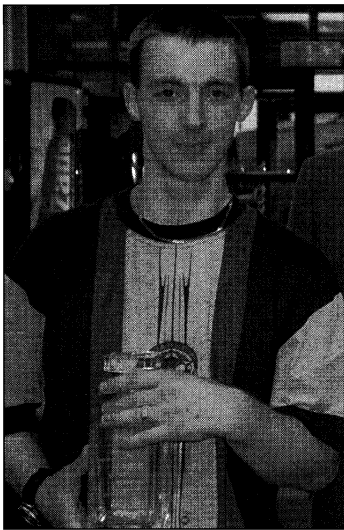
PREMIER DIVISION WEEK 4

GREAT DAY FOR THE JUNIORS

ON A DAY when Everton rookie Wayne Rooney secured more tabloid coverage in 10 minutes than many professional sportsmen achieve in a lifetime it was the two youngest players in the division who stole the show in the British League Premier division. Greg Baker won twice to lead Seasiders I to a 8-6 victory over Barnet I whilst Peter Cleminson's two victories enabled BATTs Team Peniel to shade the match 8-6 against Darlington. Both players were named Player of the Match for their efforts. Seasiders and Peniel are tied in second place on five points.

A full strength Seasiders team raced into a 3-0 lead against Barnet with Greg Baker's 12-10 in the fifth end victory over Gergely Urban in the second game being an obvious highlight for the home team. Nicky McKoy hit back by beating John Rankin 11-7 in the decider and Costas Papanioniou edged out Greg Baker 12-10 in the fifth, but any hopes of a Barnet revival were dashed when a battling Kevin Dolder just hung on to beat McKoy 17-15 in the final game. At 5-2 Seasiders were firmly in the driving seat and with the very impressive Johnathan Taylor completing his hat-trick with a 3-0 win over McKoy, followed by a 3-0 victory for Baker over Anthony Corbin Seasiders were able to secure their 8-6 victory.

BATTs Team Peniel surged into a 4-1 lead against Darlington with Peter Cleminson's superb five game win over John Hilton (where he rescued a 2-0 deficit into the bargain) being a real bonus. With Michael Marsden



BATTS Team Peniel's NEIL CHARLES

missing the services of Chris Rogers and Progress not fielding Marco Essomba. However with Jason Sugrue and Taju Agunbiade both taking their three singles without being extended to a fifth game the Progress victory was never really in doubt. Three of the Wellow House wins came at the expense of Progress reserve James Sprackling. His closest match was against the higher-ranked Craig Gascoyne where he led 2-1 before losing the last two matches agonisingly 14-12, 11-8. The Player-of-the-Match Award went to one of the losing side on this occasion, the inform Mark Green. He had an excellent afternoon, giving a great account of himself against Sugrue before losing 6,-5,-6,-9. scoring a superb 12,9,-12,9 win over Cris Sladden and rounding it off with a very well executed 7,7,7 win over the big-hitting Sprackling.

Lady luck just doesn't seem to be in DML Plymouth's court. They fought like Tigers against an inform JAGS side but still lost 11-3. Seven games went to a decider and they lost six of them, it cannot get much more disheartening than that! Tommy Cutler made his first appearance of the season for JAGS and wasn't quite at his best losing to both Mike Short (3-0) and Paul Whiting (3-1) whilst Plymouth's fast improving defender James Whiteman secured an absolute gem of a win - a stunning 12-10 in the fifth set victory over Lorestas Trumpauskas. The Player of the Match was shared between two of the fittest players in the division - Jerome Jonah and Abdul Wuraola who were both undefeated, both securing fifth game wins over the battling and no doubt ultimately exhausted James Whiteman.

proving no match for Joe Kennedy and Eddie Smith unable to contain John Holland, Darlington had to wait until game no. six for their next success. Andrew Wilkinson beat Neil Charles 3-1 to keep their hopes alive. John Hilton hit back by beating Joe Kennedy 11-9 in the decider, this time coming back from 2-0 down. Peter Cleminson scored his second success with a surprisingly convincing 3-0 victory over Marsden and John Holland completed his hat-trick of victories as he had to pull out all the stops to beat John Hilton 3-1. With the last two matches in progress Darlington needed to win both to secure a draw and although Andrew Wilkinson just managed to beat Cleminson 11-9 in the decider Marsden couldn't contain Neil Charles losing 3-1.

London Progress made it four wins out of four with a 9-5 victory over Wellow House. Neither team was at full strength with Wellow House

PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
London Progress	5	5	0	0	57	13	10
Batts Team Peniel	5	3	1	1	37	33	7
Seasiders	5	3	1	1	36	34	7
Darlington	5	3	0	2	45	25	6
JAGS	5	2	0	3	31	39	4
Barnet	5	2	0	3	30	40	4
Wellow House School	5	1	0	4	30	40	2
DML Plymouth	5	0	0	5	14	56	0
DIVISION ONE NORTH							
Derwent	4	3	0	1	21	11	6
Grantham IDS	4	2	2	0	21	11	6
Ormesby	4	2	1	1	21	11	5
Coventry Pheonix	4	2	1	1	19	13	5
Norwich Todd Foxwood	4	2	1	1	16	16	5
Darlington II	4	1	2	1	15	17	4
Dewsbury	4	0	1	3	10	22	1
Halton Croda	4	0	0	4	5	27	0
DIVISION ONE SOUTH							
OLOP IMPACT	4	3	1	0	21	11	7
Horsham	4	3	1	0	20	12	7
Cippenham	4	3	0	1	22	10	6
London Progress II	4	2	1	1	17	15	5
Ellenborough	4	2	0	2	17	15	4
Byng Hall Farningham Print	4	1	1	2	16	16	3
EBS-Orange Northampton	4	0	0	4	9	23	0
De Vere NETTS	4	0	0	4	6	26	0
DIVISION TWO NORTH							
Grove	4	4	0	0	25	7	8
Humpty's Club	4	3	1	0	22	10	7
ELGRE Nottingham	4	3	0	1	22	10	6
Uxbridge Burton	4	1	1	2	16	16	3
Potteries	4	1	1	2	14	18	3
Oakbank	4	0	3	1	14	18	3
Derwent II	4	1	0	3	13	19	2
Clarks Wakefield	4	0	0	4	2	30	0
DIVISION TWO SOUTH							
London Progress III	4	3	1	0	24	8	7
PSP Westinsure	4	3	1	0	22	10	7
Oxford Fireplace Centre	4	2	1	0	20	12	5
Cippenham II	4	2	1	1	15	17	5
EBS-Orange North'pton II	4	1	2	1	16	16	4
Horsham II	4	1	1	2	15	17	3
Hastings	4	0	1	3	9	23	1
Guildford	4	0	0	4	7	25	0
DIVISION THREE NORTH							
Halton Croda II	4	4	0	0	28	4	8
Blackpool	4	3	1	0	24	8	7
Club Mid-Cheshire	4	3	0	1	24	8	6
Dewsbury II	4	2	0	2	18	14	4
Darlington III	4	1	2	1	15	17	4
Isle of Man	4	0	2	2	8	24	2
Barrow	4	0	1	3	7	25	1
Seasiders II	4	0	0	4	4	28	0
DIVISION THREE MIDLANDS							
Wirral Premier	4	3	1	0	25	7	7
Woodfield	4	2	2	0	19	13	6
Kingfisher Bribar	4	2	1	1	18	14	5
Rotherham Scorpions	4	2	1	1	15	17	5
Bedford Modern	4	1	2	1	18	14	4
Birmingham University II	4	0	2	2	12	20	2
Grove III	4	0	2	2	11	21	2
Darlington IV	4	0	1	3	10	22	1
DIVISION THREE MIDLANDS & SOUTH							
Generation II	4	4	0	0	29	3	8
London Progress V	4	2	2	0	21	11	6
OLOP IMPACT II	4	3	0	1	18	14	6
Guildford II	4	2	0	2	16	16	4
Birmingham University	4	1	1	2	15	17	3
Ashford II	4	0	2	2	11	21	2
BATTS Team Peniel II	4	0	2	2	11	21	2
Grove II	4	0	1	3	78	25	1
DIVISION THREE SOUTH							
Ashford	4	4	0	0	24	8	8
JAGS II	4	3	0	1	24	8	6
Guernsey	4	2	1	1	18	14	5
York Gardens	4	2	1	1	15	17	5
Horsham III	4	1	2	1	16	16	4
Byng Hall Farningham P. II	4	1	1	2	12	20	3
London Progress IV	4	0	1	3	10	22	1
Britannia Hanbury FP Ipsw.	4	0	0	4	9	23	0

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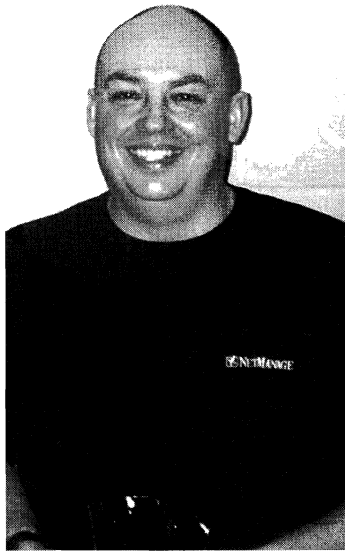
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DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

THE CHANGES to the County Championships regulations, particularly concerning eligibility of players, seems to be causing problems for a few Counties, but by and large I have been pleasantly surprised at the small number of problems so far reported. What does annoy me is that all Counties receive notice of proposed changes to regulations and have the opportunity to propose amendments to those proposals prior to the County Championship's Conference, they then have the right to send a representative to the conference and argue their case and cast their vote at the end of the discussion as they see fit, democracy in action, writes Stan Clarke.

Prior to last year's conference I warned, via this column, that there were a number of controversial proposals on the agenda and urged Counties to ensure that they were represented at conference to consider the proposed amendments, it must have had some effect as the attendance was the highest for some years, but guess what, the Counties that seem to have problems were amongst those that did not send a representative, and have not done so for many years, if ever. I know that it is difficult for some Counties to find a representative to attend a conference many miles away and which only lasts for a couple of hours, but I do strongly feel that if you are not prepared to take part in



Cambridgeshire's MICK HARPER (pictured above) who beat Worcester's Lewis Siket as his county took a 2-0 lead, thanks also to Dave Atkinson, before Worcester rallied to win 6-4

the decision making process, you should not be surprised if decisions are made that you do not approve of. **SENIOR DIVISION 1A**
The first weekend of four matches was held at the new Table Tennis Centre at the Woodfield club in Wolverhampton, a purpose built facility dedicated to Table Tennis which will, I am sure, prove a great asset for the game in the area. It is not without a few problems however, mainly the lighting in some small areas and a strange choice of colour

for the walls, which did produce some criticism from some of the players, but I feel sure that there are ways and means of overcoming these small problems. On the table the first round of matches produced draws between Essex 2 and Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire 2 and Durham, Worcestershire got off to a bright start with a 6/4 victory over Cambridge despite falling two sets behind when Dave Atkinson beat Steve Horton and Mick Harper beat Lewis Siket, but then the girls took over, two wins each from Jill Harris and Kate Hughes over Helen and Caroline Goatley quickly transformed the match in favour of the Midlanders, add on wins for Steve Horton against Mick Harper and a great win for Julian Wootton against the dangerous Dave Atkinson and you have a 6/4 victory for Worcestershire. The remaining match of the round was one that Lancashire would like to forget. They encountered a Leicestershire side that was bang on form right from the off, quickly running up a 5/0 lead before John Rankin beat Abraham Conteh to put the Lancastrians on the score sheet. The recovery did not last long and it was the eighth set before Kevin Dolder beat Chris Rogers for their only other success of the match. Man of the match was Dave Gannon who produced two exceptional sets when he first beat Kevin Dolder 10, -6, 9, -6, 8, then beat Louis Rosenthal 9, -6, 4, -8, 10, not bad for a "Vet". In the second round of matches Leicestershire continued their good form with a 7/3 defeat of Worcestershire Jill Harris and Kate Hughes beating Bettina Lehmann and Steve Horton beating Abraham Conteh for the home side. Cambridge, who are certainly going to struggle in this division, unless they can strengthen their squad, were on the wrong end of an eight to two thrashing from Essex 2, only Dave Atkinson and Martin Gray delaying the inevitable. Yorkshire 2 improved on their first round draw with an 8/2 thumping of Nottinghamshire, who clearly missed Lee Neal, who was on holiday, the only successes for Notts. coming when Craig Gascoyne beat Simon Pugh and Sarah Perks beat Nicola Smith. Lancashire bounced back to form in their match against Durham, the only resistance coming when Michael Marsden beat John Rankin in a 9/1 defeat. After a night of rest and

recuperation, the tears returned on the Sunday morning to recommence battle. Any hope that Leicestershire may have run out of steam was firmly disproved when the rampant Midland side quickly put Durham to the sword with an 8/2 drubbing, only the luckless Abraham Conteh dropping sets to Dave Robson and Michael Marsden. Worcestershire continued their good run of form and are clearly in no mood to repeat their experience of last season, when they escaped relegation by the skin of their teeth. In the last match they were ruthless against Essex 2, only Gary Tendler with a double and Lucy Wang with a win against Kate Hughes causing any problem to the host County. Yorkshire 2 continued on their merry way with a defeat of Cambridgeshire by 8 sets to 2, but not before Cambridge had again taken a two nil lead when Dave Atkinson beat Richard Lightowler and Mick Harper beat Simon Pugh but they were to be their only successes. Lancashire meanwhile took on Nottinghamshire and ran out winners at 7/3. The final round of matches for this weekend and the only question, who could stop Leicestershire? Certainly not Nottinghamshire who quickly succumbed 8/2, Yorkshire continued to press hard with a 7/3 defeat of Essex 2, whilst Worcestershire piled the agony on Durham with a 7/3 win against the North East team and Lancashire condemned Cambridgeshire to the wooden spoon position by beating them 8/2. At the end of this first round of matches Leicestershire are in top spot and favourites for promotion, with Yorkshire 2 in second place and Lancashire in third place. In the second round of matches to be played next year Yorkshire 2 have to play both Lancashire and Leicestershire and the results of these two matches will almost certainly decide the title. In the relegation dogfight Cambridge currently hold bottom place with Durham and Nottinghamshire only just above them at the moment it could go anyway between the three, but it is my belief that Nottingham will strengthen their side for the next weekend and it will be the two newcomers to the division who will be saying goodbye at the end of the season as they slide back into second division oblivion.

**YASAKA
3 STAR BALLS**

CALCIUM SUPPLEMENT BREAKTHROUGH

SUPERMARKET shelves are loaded with food supplements of all kinds for all ages these days. But even if we manage to swallow and chew our way through all the vitamins and minerals we are encouraged to buy most of us have no idea how much, if any, of what we are swallowing is actually doing us any good.

That's why 'Naturally First' has developed 'CMS Force' the first of a new generation of mineral supplements that your body can use to the last drop. Naturally First are launching CMS (Calcium, Magnesium and Sulphur) Force because calcium or rather the lack of calcium is a real concern for people of all ages.

What's different about CMS Force? First of all it's liquid! No pill swallowing, no chalky chewing! The fact is an average 4000mg tablet or capsule will contain no more than 1600mg of calcium and only around 48mg of that can be used by your body the rest is filler! CMS Force gives you 75mg of calcium all of which can and will be used by your body. It's a triple mineral because whilst calcium is the mineral everybody recognises both magnesium and sulphur are essential for maintenance of tendons, ligaments, muscles and brain functions. CMS Force is completely natural, it has no smell, it looks like water and it's tasteless. Best of all it starts working from the moment you put it in your mouth getting right where it needs to be in your body.

Naturally First's Carolyn Issitt says 'We can prove that if you take CMS Force regularly every day you will quickly replace the missing minerals in your diet and if you keep on taking CMS Force you will at least keep the right amount of calcium, magnesium and sulphur in your body all the time no matter how hard you work your body. The benefits of maintaining the right mineral levels, particularly calcium, in your body are definitely worth making CMS Force part of your daily routine.'

CMS Force has been available for the first time in the shops since the end of September.

The Role Of Calcium As A Vital Mineral

MINERALS are inorganic compounds needed for a wide variety of bodily functions. While minerals are found in many of the foods we eat, our diets often are imbalanced - lacking in the proper mineral intake we need. High-quality mineral supplements are one way to provide proper nutrition when our normal diets do not.

Calcium is called the "knitter" because it promotes healing (or "knitting") everywhere in the body. It is valuable for tone, power, strength, longevity, vitality and endurance, healing of wounds, counter-acting acids, and helping regulate metabolism.

According to a July 1999 article in *Vegetarian Times*, "(Calcium) regulates blood pressure, enzyme activity, muscle contraction and heartbeat; helps blood clot; controls the release of neurotransmitters (chemicals that send nerve impulses); and is believed to reduce symptoms of PMS and the risk of colon cancer. And a new study conducted at Purdue University in Indiana found that 1,000 milligrams (mg.) of calcium a day helped prevent weight gain and actually promoted weight loss in women aged 18 to 31."

Because it is used in almost every bodily function, calcium is one of the first elements to go out of balance when the diet is inadequate. Magnesium, boron and Vitamin D increase calcium absorption while sodium helps keep calcium in soluble form in the body. This is important because calcium must be water soluble to be useable.

It is believed that a lack of calcium may lead to a host of diseases and degenerative conditions. Research is now validating these beliefs including study's conducted by Purdue University, Vanderbilt University's Centre for Structural Biology, and The Mayo Clinic. Pure water-soluble calcium, however, may help to reverse symptoms and may help

reverse conditions caused by a deficiency of calcium like acidosis and osteoporosis.

Natural sources of calcium can be found in bran, cheese, raw milk, figs, prunes, dates, onions, vegetable greens, kidney and soybeans, lentils, molasses, and shellfish.

Keep in mind that carbonated drinks, like cola and other soft drinks, and refined sugar leach calcium from the body so it is important to replace calcium daily.

BODY'S FUEL

EVERY ATHLETE, from amateur to professional, knows the importance of good nutrition. It is the body's fuel - yet, as an issue, often misunderstood.

GNC (General Nutrition Centres) has launched a sports nutrition catalogue to find the supplement to suit each individual and here, its sports nutritionist Craig Copland offers six top-line facts you need to know:

1. It is important for athletes of all levels to give their best performance. Creatine and carbohydrate based supplements may be used to help increase muscular performance, cell volume and aid recovery.
2. Remaining hydrated during exercise is essential. Choose a hydration drink that can supply the body with the carbohydrates & electrolytes needed when pushing yourself to the limits. Alternatively, energy drinks are a convenient and fast way to deliver energy kicks before, during and post exercise.
3. Whether for weight gain or loss, a well-balanced nutrition programme is essential to aid body in recovery. GNC stock a wide range of protein and meal replacements to suit all sports and exercise programmes. As a tip, when you're on the run, carry a nutritional snack or drink to keep your programme on track.
4. Many people want to look their best and opt for a range of supplements that increase calorie burning and enhance their performance during their workouts. Thermogenic, weightloss and energy support products can help you

create the best body ever.

5. If you are competitive, you'll want to try to get ahead of your rivals. Try supplementing your diet with glutamine, which aids the immune system, speeds muscular recovery and is also used by the body to provide glucose during exhausting exercise.

6. It is important to remember that basic antioxidants and multivitamins are important to anyone taking part in regular exercise. Ideally we should get all our requirements from dietary sources but as many of us fall short of our optimum levels we should consider supplementation.

For information on sports nutrition and products visit www.gnc.co.uk or alternatively call 0845 601 3248 for details of your nearest store.

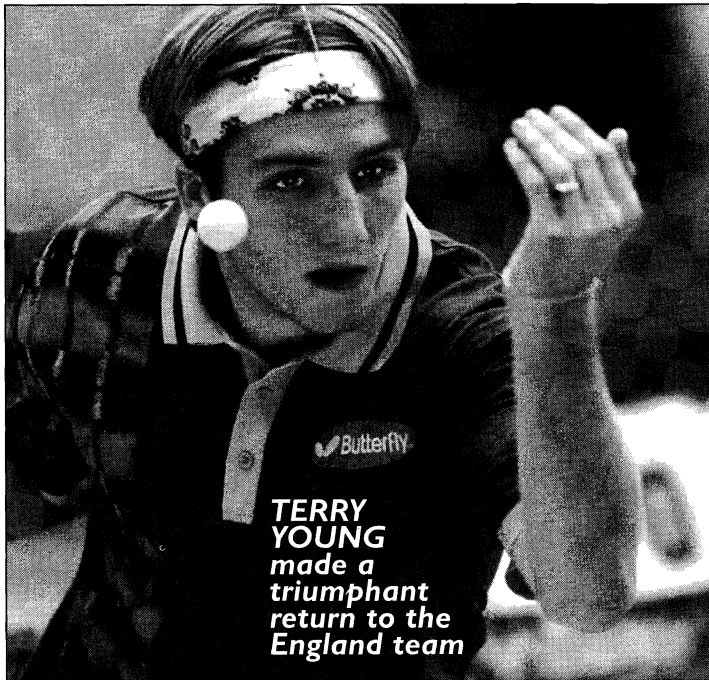
GERIMAX GINSENG EXTRACT

GERIMAX Ginseng Extract (Gerimax GGE) is an extremely pure, consistently high quality ginseng combined with important vitamins and minerals to guarantee intake of the recommended daily allowances of Vitamins A, C, D, E, B - complex, iron, zinc, iodine and others, some of which are only required in trace amounts.

Taken as a daily supplement Gerimax GGE offers proven benefits. Notably these include sharper mental powers and greater energy levels during times of stress, plus better overall body function for those under pressure. Backed by clinical studies, Gerimax GGE was developed by scientists in Denmark over a 20 year period and is now sold in 22 countries across 3 continents where it has come to be regarded as a market leader in delivering a boost to the system at times when both body and mind need extra help.

The superior Korean variety of ginseng, grown in small quantities by farmers dedicated to ensuring high grade crops, which is used in Gerimax GGE.

ENGLAND BACK ON TRACK



TERRY YOUNG made a triumphant return to the England team

ENGLAND men followed their 3-1 defeat at Portsmouth, with a much more encouraging 3-0 victory over a strong Israeli team at the excellent Greenbank Sports Centre, Liverpool, in November, writes John Woodford, in Liverpool.

This result and their win in Turkey should keep the team in the top half of the Division 1 table but there are two more matches to come before the European Championships take place in Courmeyer, Italy, from March 29.

The team for Liverpool was dogged by injuries, days before the match - the casualties were Alex Perry and Andrew Baggaley both with back injuries. A third back injury was being suffered by Matthew Syed, although he was due to play in Japan anyway he had to cancel that trip.

This left Gareth Herbert and a home debut for Andrew Rushton as the original selections. Alan Cooke, finalist at the Sussex Open GP, was left with the possibility of having to play himself. Fortunately, Terry Young was available to step in to the No.2 slot.

Israel fielded two strong players - their champion Gay Elensky and the experienced campaigner Yaniv Sharon. Their third man was reserve Ron Davidovich who was not quite up to the standard of his team-mates,

but Andrew Rushton impressed me on his home debut, crushing Davidovich 3, 1, 6.

That was the final game with the match ending sharply around 9pm. But the the 140-strong crowd did get their moneysworth in the two preceding matches.

At times, during the first 90 minutes it looked as they England might have trailed 0-2. Gareth Herbert lost the first two games -2, -7, but with the aid of some ace services and loose returns from his service bounced back to win 8, 9, 5.

The fans breathed easily again as Terry Young made a triumphant return to the England team. He won the first at 7 but silenced the crowd by losing the next two -3, -7. Following what appeared to be excellent advice from Alan Cooke, Young with some crafty serving and top-class counter-hitting eased home 9, 10, to give England their 2-0 lead, leaving Rushton to seal the match.

In a massive arena, almost new, that would take more than 18 tables, the small crowd was decimated by Liverpool FC in Basle in the Champions League on TV facing Basle in Switzerland.

So we were left with mainly Everton supporters. The Liverpool FC fans happier to sit at home or in the pubs and clubs watching the soccer.

WORLD TOP TEN

1st NOVEMBER 2002

MEN

1 (2)	2253	MA Lin
2 (1)	2165	WANG Liqin
3 (3)	2212	BOLL Timo
4 (4)	2119	SCHLAGER Werner
5 (6)	2110	KONG Linghui
6 (5)	2085	SAMSONOV Vladimir
7 (10)	2084	CHUAN Chih-Yuan
8 (7)	2040	KREANGA Kalinikos
9 (8)	2022	SAIVE Jean-Michel
10 (13)	1997	PRIMORAC Zoran
79 (75)	1429	SYED Matthew
141(145)	1193	HERBERT Gareth
164(154)	1155	PERRY Alex
195(179)	1061	BAGGALEY Andrew
261(252)	974	YOUNG Terry

WOMEN

1 (1)	2328	WANG Nan	CHN
2 (2)	2172	ZHANG Yining	CHN
3 (3)	2111	BOROS Tamara	CRO
4 (5)	2073	NIU Jianfeng	CHN
5 (4)	1982	LI Nan	CHN
6 (6)	1978	LIN Ling	HKG
7 (10)	1961	LI Jia Wei	SIN
8 (8)	1924	LI Ju	CHN
9 (11)	1899	TIE Yana	CHN
10 (16)	1894	LI Jia	ROM
200(196)	1051	DEATON Nicola	ENG
201(197)	1050	LOWER Helen	ENG
348(340)	791	PARKER Katy	ENG
416(387)	620	BAWDEN Natalie	ENG
453(420)	540	STEWART Kate	ENG

In his after-match speech ETTA chair Alan Ransome said: "I congratulate Liverpool on being included within the short list of British cities for consideration. We are delighted to bring international table tennis back to Liverpool to complement the highly successful City of Liverpool Grand Prix tournament which is organised by the Liverpool League and supported by Liverpool City Council which takes place each August."

MY COMMENTS:

The match was organised with the customary efficiency we have come to expect in Liverpool with a team of helpers headed by Liverpool League chair Don Davis, Ken Armson MBE and Mike Power.

For the ETTA, Harvey Webb and Dave Evans masterminded the arrangements for the match.

RESULTS

ENGLAND 3, ISRAEL 0
G. Herbert b G. Elensky -2, -7, 8, 9, 5.
T. Young b Y. Sharon 7, -3, -7, 9, 10
A. Rushton b R. Davidovich 3, 1, 6.

DRINKHALL & KNIGHT

PRESENTATION

Before the match at Liverpool, Paul Drinkhall and Darius Knight were presented by the ETTA chair Alan Ransome with the trophy - Most Improved Player of the Year - awarded (jointly) to the two 12-year olds.

Johnny Leach MBE - Most Improved Player of the Year Award

1. To the most improved player of the year representing England in International Competition in World Championships, Commonwealth Championships, European Championships etc.
2. Awarded jointly to Paul Drinkhall and Darius Knight.

Paul Drinkhall, 12 (16.1.90), the

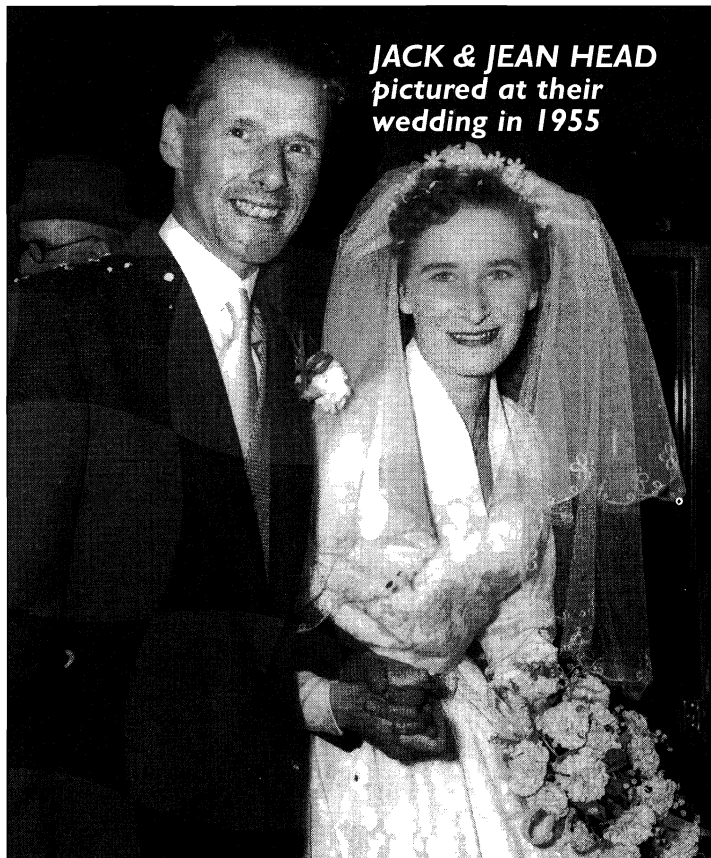
2001 national under 11 champion, 2002 national under 12 champion and National Cadet (under 14) Masters winner, from Selburn, Cleveland, is the older by just 5 weeks of the contestants of a challenge match to be played between the semi-finals and final of the Commonwealth Masters. In February he confirmed that he is one of the best players in his age group in Europe by winning the under 12 boys' singles of the strong Safirs International Tournament in Sweden. A member of the famous Ormesby Club in Middlesbrough, Paul plays an uninhibited attacking game with great forehand power and fast punchy backhand.

Darius Knight, 12 (22.2.90), the national under 12 No. 2 (to Paul Drinkhall, his opponent in the under 12 challenge), and a left-hander with good touch, spin and speed, has been likened to England's greatest player of the modern era, Desmond Douglas. He also excelled at the Safirs International Tournament in Sweden, in lifting the under 11 boys' singles, and at the Greater London Championships won the under 12, under 14 and under 17 singles, and lost in the under 21 singles final. From London SW11 Darius plays for the Southfields Elite Club in London.

STOP PRESS

WERNER SCHLAGER (AUT) sensationally beat the World Champion Wang Liqin (CHN) in the semi-finals of the Mens Singles at the ITTF Pro Tour Polish Open.

In the final Schlager lost to Ma Lin (CHN), but only after a good fight. Schlager lost 4-0 but all games were very close, with the luck on MA's side.



JACK & JEAN HEAD
pictured at their
wedding in 1955

JACK HEAD 1923 - 2002
A Table Tennis champion with
captivating qualities
by Ron Crayden

A DARK CLOUD cast its shadow over the table tennis fraternity on the 1st November, 2002, when Jack Head, a former International, sadly passed away from a heart attack.

Jack was born in the county of Surrey and although his name will mean little to most players of today, he raised the profile of table tennis in his own domain by an unwavering approach to the sport.

HALCYON DAYS

It was in the season before the second World War that I first came into contact with Jack Head. He was a pint-sized youngster playing for the A team of the Wimbledon YMCA, and although barely able to see over the net he had that indefinable something that was closely allied to a 'class act'. At that time we were opponents, but as the years went by we became firm friends. After the War, table tennis became a thriving sport and there was a noticeable improvement in the standard of play. The most prodigious team competition then, was the Wilmott Cup, and the South London team of Crayden, Head and Venner created history by winning this National Team Championship five years in succession.

It was in 1959 that a compromise on the standardisation of the racket took place and thick sponge was totally eliminated, leaving the Sandwich bat as the most acceptable item of equipment for play. Jack with his sensitivity of touch and unrestrained fluency found the Sandwich bat most suitable for his style, and his skill caused problems to his opponents

and he had many many moments of personal achievement. Record books are not always a true reflection of ability, but it would be remiss of me not to mention that Jack became a full English International and a Surrey first team representative on more than thirty occasions. For good measure he also won several 'Open' tournaments.

A NEW LIFE STYLE

In the fifties Jack became enamoured with Surrey's first lady; the attractive, talented and reticent Jean Winn. Jean herself was a top class player, a Corbillon Cup team International and winner of most of the 'Open' tournaments in the South of England. Jean and Jack were a charming couple who were respected by the stars and admired by the rank and file. For a few years they travelled a path dominated by the tiny white celluloid ball which led them to the ultimate in mixed doubles a life partnership. They married on the 10th September, 1955.

Business commitments and home responsibilities lessened their desire to meet the demanding effort required for top class competitive play. The birth of their daughter Susan also had a distinct bearing on their lifestyle. It is perhaps more than coincidence that today Susan has become a competent table tennis coach. In recent years both Jean and Jack developed into golfing enthusiasts, another ball game at which they both reached a high degree of proficiency. At the time of his death, Jack was an active 79 years of age and will be sorely missed by all those who knew him. Let us therefore spare a special thought for Jean, Susan and family to whom we offer our heartfelt condolences.

BOOK REVIEW



Picture by Ralph Baxter

Pictured above are (l. to r.) HOWARD JACOBSON, JEROME CHARYN & STEVEN BERKOFF at the book launch

Sizzling Chops & Devilish Spins

Jerome Charyn's meandering and enigmatic memoir, is the latest in a growing list of literary gems based upon table tennis. It follows hard on the heels of Howard Jacobson's celebrated *Mighty Walzer*, a dazzling novel set amidst the Manchester ping-pong league of the 1950's.

Charyn's is an intimate history of his life-long love affair with the sport, chronicling its esoteric evolution from the battle between sandpaper bats to the plethora of rubbers and glues that has turned modern professionals into alchemists. The early game was a methodical duel of geometry and stamina; contemporary table tennis is a frenzy of spin and speed.

The great schism occurred with the arrival of sponge. And fifty years on the sport continues to agonise over whether that development should be nullified by rule changes designed to recreate the bygone age. Veteran campaigners, including Jacobson, remain unequivocal in their condemnation of modern alchemy; they argue, with some justification, that it is precisely because of the ascendancy of technology that rallies have been shortened to the point of futility.

Charyn, however, is unusually balanced in his passion for table tennis in each of its incarnations. He captures the charm of the hard bat era such that even the most die-hard techno-freaks will feel pangs of nostalgia. And yet, now in his sixties, he derives sadistic pleasure in bamboozling young adversaries with his 'picot' (long pimples set upon soft sponge).

Not that his opponents are up to much. Charyn was never more than a local league player, and having moved from his native America to Paris, is, he says, ranked 11013th in France; which makes it even more remarkable that he has so exquisitely

characterised the unfathomable dimensions of the modern game.

The most compelling chapters tell of how Lawrence's table tennis club on Manhattan's Broadway, once a speakeasy owned by Legs Diamond and with bullet holes in the wall to prove it, became a Mecca for US ping-pong in the 1940's.

Its protagonists were more diverse than those of the *Lord of the Rings*; creatures of the night that gambled till the small hours, and, almost by accident, discovered that they had become world class exponents. No manuals or textbooks entered Lawrence's – you came with only your bat, your wits and your money and invariably departed bereft of the latter.

The player cleaning up was Marty Reisman, a bony teenager with a voluptuous style. Nicknamed the Needle, you can still see him competing each year in the Senior's event at the US Open. He continues to joust with his hard-nippled bat, an anachronism wielded as a memento of the fateful Bombay World Championships of 1952.

It was there that sponge made its first appearance in the hands of the unknown Japanese player, Hiroji Satoh. The Needle arrived as tournament favourite but was destroyed by Satoh's epoch making weapon. He vowed never to betray the sport by joining the mass exodus to sponge, and in so doing he has become a living symbol of ping-pong's great debate.

The ongoing controversy is not particularly helpful, perhaps, if you are concerned about the vitality of the sport. But lovers of the written word will find it a price worth paying should it continue to inspire works of the class of *Sizzling Chops*. And even more so should we ever be blessed by another like Jacobson's.

Matthew Syed

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CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2002

12th-15th	ITTF Pro Tour Finals	Stockholm, Sweden
12th-15th	ITTF Junior Circuit Finals	Stockholm, Sweden
14th	National Junior League (2)	
14th-15th	British League Weekend (2)	
15th	National cadet League (2)	
21st	Mid Cheshire Veteran 2 Star	
21st	Chesham High Sch. Junior 2 Star Graded	
21st	Wilmott Cup & Rose Bowl R2	
22nd	Mid Cheshire Senior 2 Star	
22nd	Whitchurch Junior 2 Star	
28th	Mid Cheshire 2 Star U12/U14	
28th	Chesham 2 Star U12/U14/U15	
28th	Carter, Ormesby & Gainsford Cups R1	
	Bromfield Trophy R1	
29th	Mid Cheshire Junior 2 Star	
30th	Chesham 2 Star Graded Junior Boys	

JANUARY 2003

2nd	Chesham 2 Star U13, U14, U16	
4th-5th	ETTA Butterfly Grand Prix Open	Newtownabbey
4th-5th	Cadet/Junior Regional Training	
5th	Stiga (Hyndburn) Cadet/Junior 3 Star	
11th	Stiga Blackpool 4 Star Cadet/Junior	
11th-12th	VETTS Western Masters	Hereford
11th-12th	Womens European League	
12th	Cippenham 1 Star U13/U15	
12th	British League (8) Premier Division	
12th	Whitchurch Senior 2 Star	
18th	County Championships (5)	
	Cadet, Junior, Senior & Veteran	
18th-19th	British League Weekend (3)	
19th	ESTTA Team Area Finals	
25th	Alex Brook Trophy R1	
25th-26th	Cheltenham 4 Star Cadet/junior	
25th-26th	Womens British League (2)	
26th	British League (9) Premier Division	
26th	Whitchurch Senior 2 Star Super 8	

FEBRUARY 2003

1st	County Championships (6)	
	Cadet, Junior, Senior & Veterans	
2nd	Leach, Hammersley & Carter Cups R2	
2nd	Bromfield Trophy R2	
2nd	British League (10) Premier Division	
2nd	Cippenham Veterans 2 Star Open	

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

www.etta.co.uk