

# TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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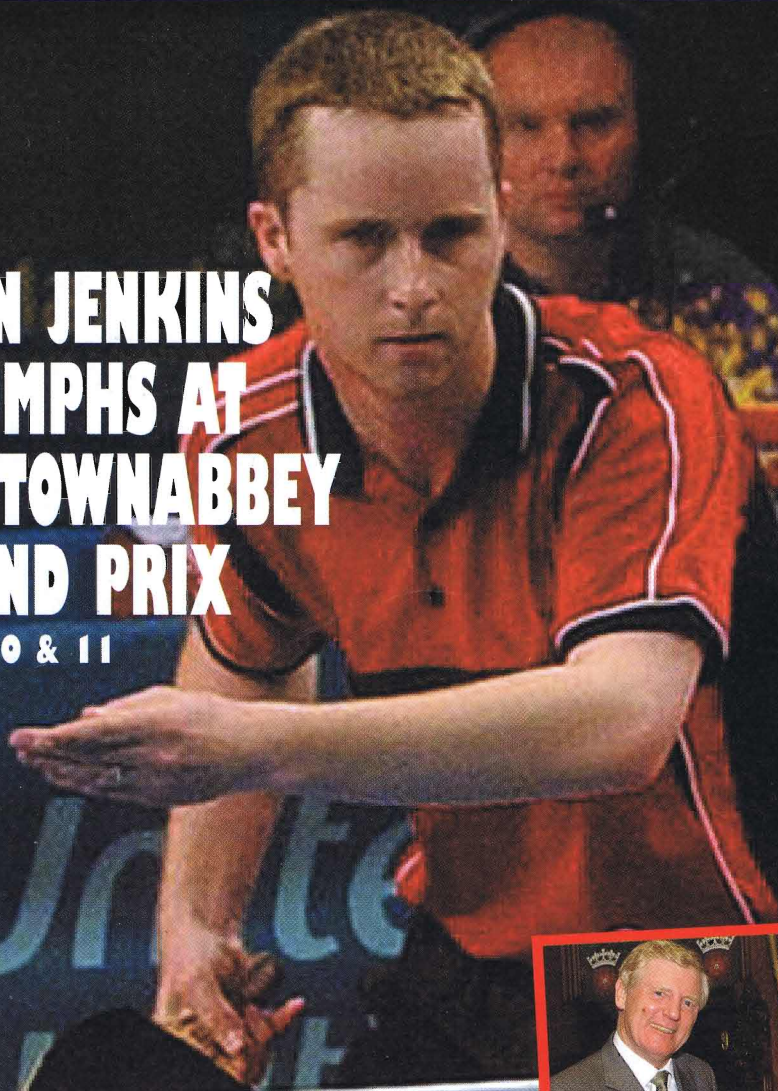
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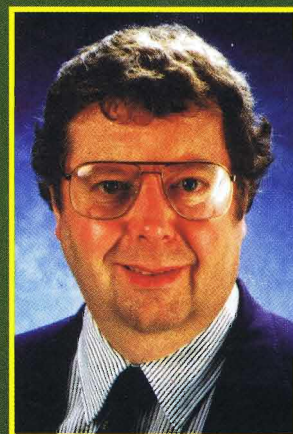
## RYAN JENKINS TRIUMPHS AT NEWTOWN ABBEY GRAND PRIX

Pages 10 & 11

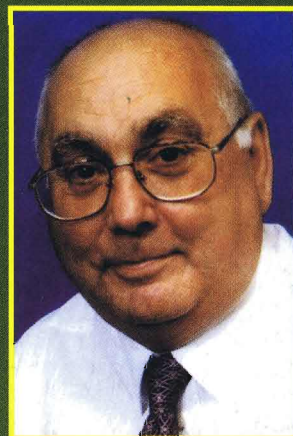


## IRIS MOSS WINS QUEEN'S JUBILEE AWARD

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ALAN RANSOME OBE



ALEX MURDOCH

## ETTA CHAIRMAN ELECTION SPECIAL

Pages 12 to 14

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

# IRIS MOSS WINS QUEEN'S JUBILEE AWARD

**MIDDLESEX'S IRIS MOSS, 83, was one of 12 Queen's Jubilee Award winners at an Awards Ceremony held by the London Federation of Sport and Recreation, in the Strangers Dining Room of the House of Commons on Thursday, 28th November.**

The Queen's Jubilee Award is the top Award of a series, which includes Bronze Awards for 10 years service, Silver for 20 years service and Gold for 30 years service.

The 12 Queen's Jubilee Award winners come from 12 different aspects of sport in London, and between them had amassed over 600 years of voluntary service.

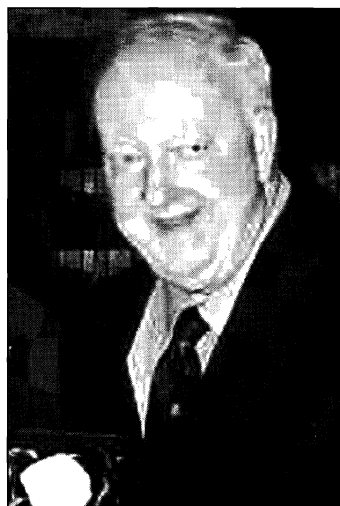
The citation for Iris Moss was: 'For voluntary services to Table Tennis for 56 years in Greater London'. Among other responsibilities, she has been: Club Secretary & Civil Service TT League Committee member Middlesex TT Association – Executive



**Pictured above (by Ted Sepple, for Sport England), from left to right, Alan Keen MP (hosting the event), Lord Brian Davies (presenting the awards), Iris Moss, and Don Palmer (Chairman of the Federation).**

Committee Member, Secretary & Treasurer (for 53 years!) and Table Tennis News County Notes Correspondent  
ETTA Vice President and Treasurer  
London Regional Committee Treasurer  
English Paraplegics Sports Association. An organiser, including of umpires, at Paraplegics national & international championships  
Organiser, including of umpires, at 1948 and 1954 World Championships  
This award follows a special Lifetime of Service Award to wheelchair sport and table tennis, which she received from the British Wheelchair Sport Foundation last year, for the years of service (now 45) she has given to disabled sport since first becoming involved at Stoke Mandeville in 1957.

**JOHN VINCENT**  
Plymouth coach John Vincent, who earlier this year won the ETTA's, 'Contribution to Coaching Award', has been awarded 'Life Long Service to Sport', for over 25 years coaching and assisting children, at the Plymouth Sport Personality of the Year Awards 2002, supported by the



**JOHN VINCENT**

Evening Herald and Plymouth Advisory Sports Council.

## PRIZES NEEDED

The ETTA are looking for prizes for the raffle at the National Championships in Sheffield at the end of the month. If anyone would like to donate prizes, these would be most appreciated. Anyone interested could contact Robert Sinclair at the ETTA office.

## SHOWDOWN

PLAYING sport poses obvious difficulties for the blind and partially sighted people, but this has not prevented the growth of international competitions where participants display astonishing skills. Teenagers at the Kenyan Games for the Blind and Partially Sighted play 'Showdown', a fast-paced cross between table tennis and pool, with the ball (containing a bell) ricocheting off the sides and the table top until a player scores a goal in the holes at either end.

# WOODY'S World

WELCOME to the first edition of 2003, which is an election special, with both candidates, the present Chairman of the ETTA Alan Ransome and the challenger Alex Murdoch, being interviewed by Brian Halliday, on pages 12 to 14.

This January/February issue of TTN is also a bumper edition of 'Postbag', starting on page 7.

I must apologise for the late arrival TTN, this is mostly due to the fact that since our move back to Charlestown, we have had to have our cottage rewired. The electricians arrived a week late, then the power was constantly being switched-off, making it impossible to work. A Computer without electricity is like a table tennis bat without a ball.

*John Wood*

The table was constructed by teachers in Mombasa who found instructions for the game in a book.

The first prize at the tournament was a bucket, which might not sound much, but in Kenya the blind aren't considered as people who can contribute much. So to be able to take something home to their families is a big thing.

## COLOURED & STRIPED BALLS

IN the current edition of Table Tennis Illustrated there is an article by Michael J.Scott, on proposals for coloured balls to be patterned and striped, to be introduced into our game. Not another change in the rules I hear you groan!

Because of the introduction of the 11up scoring system, visibility of the ball is now much more important than it was under the old scoring system of 21up.

Multi-coloured balls with a pattern it is argued, will allow spectators as well as players the opportunity to readily detect the relative degree of spin and make the game more understandable.

Your comments would be most welcome - plus your designs.

## NATIONALS

WILL Matthew Syed regain his national mens singles title at Sheffield on Sunday 2nd March, which he lost last year? Be there.

# PLEASE NOTE

**THE NEW ADDRESS & TELEPHONE NUMBER OF JOHN WOOD**

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# CADET GOLD IN PORTUGUESE OPEN



Alan Ransome OBE,  
Chairman of the ETTA

**THE ENGLAND Junior and Cadet squads enjoyed their most successful international open tournament to date at the Portuguese Youth Championships in Tavira in December.**

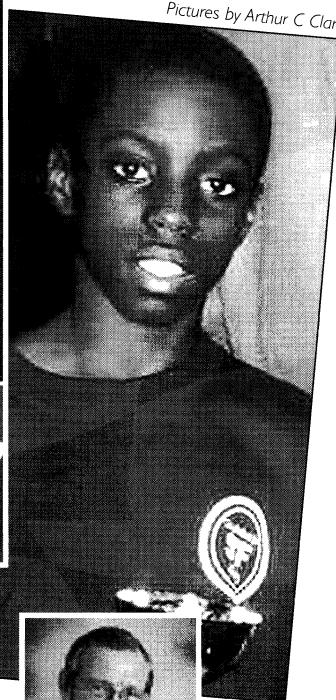
Darius Knight and Paul Drinkhall won the Cadet Boys (under 15) team event defeating France 3-0, Portugal B 3-1, Norway 3-1, Germany 3-1 and, in the final, Portugal A 3-2. The Cadet girls team of Abigail Embling and Joanna Parker won the silver medal, whilst the Junior girls team of Georgina Walker and Kate Steward won the bronze in their event. These are the best set of results that we have received in a major youth championship for several years.

The boys who won the Cadet team, Paul Drinkhall and Darius Knight, are currently in China for over a month with the ETTA's Chinese born coach, Lui Jai Yi. The boys will be training in Xia Men before finishing their stay with a competition in Beijing.



**PAUL DRINKHALL (left) who partnered DARIUS KNIGHT (below) to win the Boys Cadet Team Gold at the Portuguese Open in December**

*Pictures by Arthur C Clark*



**RICHARD CABORN, MP  
the Minister  
for Sport**

## MORE FUNDING FOR CENTRES

Table tennis has been included as one of 16 sports to benefit from an allocation of funds from Her Majesty's Treasury specifically to promote the capital funding of sports clubs in England. This funding from the Capital Modernisation fund, and the DCMS is to be awarded in three equal amounts over the next three years. Although the majority of the fund has been allocated to four sports, football, tennis, rugby union and cricket, table tennis has been invited to submit local schemes to bid for the funding.

The aims of the programme are to create a sustainable and financially viable sports club infrastructure in England that links

with schools and provides appropriated support and pathways for identifying and developing talented individuals as well as meeting the needs of the local communities. The programme is also intended to increase club membership amongst young people and support the development of quality assured junior sections. The attracting of club members from women, ethnic groups and people with disabilities is also encouraged. All of this falls totally in line with the ETTA's Premier Club programme. I am, therefore, optimistic that a number of table tennis clubs throughout the country will be able to obtain significant funding for building new and expanding their club premises.

Further information can be obtained from Paul Baker via the ETTA office in Hastings.

the introduction of table tennis into schools and the links between the schools and our club and league network.

There is no doubt that the ETTA's Development programmes, including Premier Club, are absolutely in line with the policy of the government in tackling the fitness and health of children at school and with the Government's inclusion and community policies. We also discussed the World Class programme and the recent successes of our leading youngsters, both in Europe and China, as well as the English Institute of Sport facility in Sheffield which has table tennis as one of its main designated sports. Richard Caborn is the MP for Sheffield and the EIS building falls within his constituency. We expressed our full support for the BOA's plans to bring the Olympic Games to London in 2012.

## RICHARD SCRUTON SELECTED FOR ATHENS

Richard Scruton, who was selected by the ETTA to be the Referee at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester and for several English Open events, has been awarded the most prestigious refereeing appointment in the sport, to be Referee at the Olympic Games in Athens in 2004. Congratulations Richard!

In addition to his roles in England, Richard has significant international experience, in particular with the European Youth championships where he has been effectively the resident Referee in recent years.

## NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The English National Championships will take place in Sheffield on 28 February, 1 and 2 March with a new format with the intention of improving the look of the Championships and providing better

## MEETING WITH THE MINISTER

THE CHIEF Executive, Richard Yule, the Commercial Manager, Brian Spicer, and myself attended the Department of Media, Culture and Sport on Tuesday 14 January for a meeting with Richard Caborn, M.P. the Minister of Sport.

Amongst matters discussed were the ETTA's Development programmes where we are working very closely with Sport England with



viewing for spectators. The event has been extended to three days. On Saturday, 1st March play will be on only 12 tables at the Ponds Forge Centre and this will allow extensive seating to be used in the main hall. With 18 tables in the past spectator accommodation was severely limited. On Sunday play will take place for the majority of the day on just two tables with show court seating for spectators.

The Championships are being supported by Sheffield City Council. Further information can be obtained from the Tournament Director, Richard Yule at the ETTA office in Hastings.



**JOHN REED (left) pictured above when he received the Northern Region Sports Award from Steve Overt**

retiring Chairman for 25 years and Barrow Table Tennis Centre.

The highlight of the evening was a fun exhibition by Brian Keene, John Hilton, Phil Bowen and Terry Young, including fancy dress outfits and frying pan bats that produced lots of laughter and fun for the 200 plus people who attended.

John Reed is very well known throughout schools table tennis for his Millom School table tennis club which was a major feature in English Schools events for two decades. In his capacity as Chairman of the Barrow League, John was the driving

force behind the establishment of the popular Barrow centre which was established almost ten years ago with assistance from the Foundation for Sports and the Arts, Sport England, Barrow Council and the ETTA.

The evening was attended by many special guests including John and Margaret Arnold, President of the ESTTA, Clarice Rose the National Councillor for Cumbria, and Colin Davison, Chairman and National Councillor for Cleveland and Northern Region Chairman. Diccon Gray the ETTA Director of Development who was introduced to

table tennis by John Reed at the Millom School and represented Millom in ESTTA and ETTA competitions for several years, played a key role in the arrangements for the evening.

## EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ITALY

The European Championships to be held in Courmayeur, Italy, from 25 March until 6 April, are being covered by EuroSport. The championships are divided into two sections with the finals of the Women's Team event scheduled for 31 March and the Men's for 1 April. The individual events – quarter finals and semi-finals will be covered on 5 April and the finals on 6 April.

Ticket prices vary from 10 Euros per day during the team event to 60 Euros for the last three days. Further information and ticket application forms can be obtained from Robert Sinclair at the ETTA office in Hastings.

## MIKE WATT'S AWARD

Hilda Watts, the wife of the late Mike Watts, and her family in memory of Mike's involvement in table tennis have presented two trophies to the Association. Mike Watts made a lifelong contribution to table tennis at the highest level, as both a volunteer at national and local level and as a valued member of the ETTA staff. Mike was also a pioneer in the establishment of the VETTS Society.

The Mike Watts Achievement Awards will be presented to the boy and girl who have made the greatest improvement in the rating list points between 1st August and 31st July in each season. The award recipients must be eligible to play for England at junior level and unless special circumstances applied, no youngster in the top five at the end of the season would be considered.

The winners for the season 2001/2002 are: Girl -: CLARE WILSON of Durham, who achieved a rise of 1375 points and rose from 60 to 26 on the list. Boy: - ALEX GREEN of Lincolnshire with an improvement of 1275 points and from 44 to 15th on the list.

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

# TABLE TENNIS ON TV

## European Championships in Italy

**TV coverage on Eurosport is planned for:**

<b>31 March</b>	<b>3.30 - 6.00 pm</b>
<b>1 April</b>	<b>3.00 - 5.30 pm</b>
<b>5 April</b>	<b>7.30 - 9.30 pm</b>
<b>6 April</b>	<b>11.00 am - 12.00 noon</b>
<b>7 April</b>	<b>3.00 - 5.00 pm</b>

**TV coverage on Eurosport is also planned for:**

## World Championships in Paris

**The provisional times of the coverage are as follows:**

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

# POSTBAG

## 65% FOR 21up

HAVING retained 21up for the 2001/2 season, every Newbury & District registered member was given the opportunity to vote for the retention of 21up or switch to 11up for the 2002/3 season.

Over 80% responded and resulted in 65% voting for 21up, 21% in favour of 11up and 14% advising that they had no preference.

This season the Newbury League have an increase of three additional teams, though two of these are via our junior coaching set up, which is now showing real benefits.

For the record, unless 11up is made mandatory, Newbury will again give all registered players the opportunity to vote for their preference prior to the 2003/4 season.

*Bruce McKenzie*  
General Secretary,  
Newbury & District TTA

## NOT TRUE

PETER BRADLEY, whom I do not know, refers to "the decimation of the coaching and development at ground level, in my time as chairman, whilst sitting very firmly on the fence in the current contest for the ETTA Chairmanship. At least I have made my views known, having decided that a place on the fence is not for me.

It is not clear how events of 1987 have any relevance in this matter. However all decisions in respect of the coaching scheme were taken by management which was unanimous in the recommendations to the sport's National Council in which of 40 or more people present only four voted against our proposals. Alan Ransome was a member of both bodies and he fully supported the decisions at that time.

In business such decisions might be made by one man, but in a democratic body like the ETTA the chairman has no such powers. To attribute to me the sole "blame" for things some did not like is simplistic as well as foolish. However, it suited the purpose of a few people to make me the scapegoat. The purpose of raising such matters some 15 years later escapes me.

No mention is made of the any constructive things that were done in order to improve the coaching scheme of the time, the people that were brought in part-time or as volunteers. It is sad, of course, that Peter advances theories which are not only wrong but unfair to the excellent people on my team. We left the coaching department in better shape, not the reverse. At top level we achieved very strong results in respect of our National Teams.

I do support Peter's wish for a united sport, but it takes two to tango, let alone in step to avoid treading on each other's

toes. At election times candidates will advance their claims, both real and imagined, and point to each other's shortcomings. That is how democracy works.

After that, the sport should unite in order to overcome our undoubted problems, the main one perhaps the drift of members out of the Association, so weakening the local leagues, which I continue to see as the base and bedrock of the ETTA.

It is one of the failures of the present administration that the sport is so divided. The ability to take criticism was lost long ago. Too many good people have been kicked out of office where they did a good job.

The battle faced by minor sports (which is what we are now) is relentless and success will not be achieved by a sport that is split right down the middle. That is why many advocate change and a new chairman who can unite the sport.

*John Prean*

*ETTA Chairman, 1986-91*  
**Brian Halliday (Vice chairman, Public Relations) comments on John Prean's letter:**

"John Prean was good enough to send me a copy of the above letter prior to publication. The reason he did so was because of his personal misconceptions regarding perceived censorship. Wrong again John, but we won't travel over this particular minefield yet again.

I seem to be in a unique position at this time in that I serve on committees under both Alex and Alan. My personal views will not influence my role as guardian of fair play. The magazine must be fair to both camps, and I feel it is part of my job to ensure that any mis-information contained in correspondence should be challenged in order that the electorate can make up their minds as to facts.

Chairmen are usually made the scapegoats for policy decisions and Peter Bradley's point about the decimation of the coaching scheme under John Prean bears examination. There is a school of thought that considers it led the way to indifferent international results which have taken many years to rectify.

There seems to be a constant harping on, by a disenchanted minority, about a divided sport which is nonsense. Of course all sports have ongoing problems, and in our own area it is National Council that are facing up to them. National Council are the parliament of our sport. They set the agenda. They give the sport the impetus to go forward. To imply that they have condoned division is ridiculous. If, as Mr Prean suggests, there is division, then he may be well advised to examine his own conscience."

## TOTAL IMAGE

I AM constantly reading in TT News, and elsewhere, the Prean v Ransome

*continued on page 8*

# COURTSIDE

by John Woodford

• **THE** imminent election of the three principal officers of the ETTA - there is one thought uppermost in my mind - that the vast majority of our 260 local leagues cast their votes, because that is where the balance of power lies.

• **COUNTIES** have only one vote. Most of the leagues have four votes as the requirement applying to most leagues is upwards of 31 teams. Bristol, the largest league in England has six votes, the tiny leagues two votes but all the rest four votes.

• **THIS MEANS** that virtually all the power is with the four vote leagues. Abstentions or failure to vote could be crucial. There is no way, I am going to forecast the election result. But, after such a long time without a challenge, a contest is a healthy sign. After the election I shall of course be commenting and I have no doubt the TTN Postbag will be full of readers letters.

• **GETTING** sponsorship these days for any sport, anywhere is extremely difficult. Every sport needs professional marketing staff whose full-time occupation is finding potential sponsors. The ETTA Commercial Manager Brian Spicer is the man at the sharp end. We can only wish him success in 2003.

• **WE** all miss the English Open. Fans in England are starved of seeing world-class players. I am assured that every effort is being made to win a sponsor for the English Open.

• **VIEWING** the World Pro-Tour finals in Stockholm in December, I counted 34 sponsors and supporting companies. The main sponsors were Donic and the Swedish TTA main supporters Bingo-Lotto.

• **SWEDEN** are now facing the end of the Waldner-Persson era. The two former world champions are now watching from the public seating. What they see is that (at last) Germany have produced a world-class player in Timo Boll, but so far, Sweden have not got a world-class team.

• **FINANCIALLY**, Sweden are struggling to balance their books and get fans to attend events. Now that Waldner and Persson are almost out, that task is even harder. The hundreds in Stockholm at the world finals would have been doubled had Waldner been playing instead of spectating due to injury.

• **STAR** players moving into politics - Matthew Syed now has three others heading in that direction - Deng Yaping aiming to be possibly the Minister for Sport in China ; Wang Nan is also studying politics and at a regional level in Belgium Philippe Saive is prominent and hoping to move into the national political scene.

• **DIARY DATE** reminders: The 2004 World team championships will be in Doha, Qatar, always assuming there is no war in the Middle East. The 2008 World Championships will be in Beijing.

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



# RESPONSE TO ALAN RANSOME STANDS AGAIN

**THE CHALLENGERS to the top positions of the ETTA at this year's elections namely, Alex Murdoch (Chairman), Mike Johns (Deputy Chairman) and Martin Clark (Treasurer) look forward to the forthcoming campaign and hope that it will be fought on the issues with all parties bringing to the attention of the membership the real status of the ETTA in a frank and open way.**

We also have the full backing of our individual Associations and many others beside.

We are proud to be members of the ever growing and financially sound Veterans English Table Tennis Society along with Alan, Barry and Tony's wife and some 800 plus more members. The part VETTS takes in Table Tennis throughout England under the Chairmanship of Alex and Martin's control of the finances is unquestioned.

What is the future of our funding from Sport England, which Alan impresses upon us as being a major factor in his so called success criteria and what were our medals achievements in the comparable Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships during his time in office?

No one denies that more people are participating in our Open Tournaments and Grand Prix's. Thanks must be given to Mike Johns, for the Grand Prix circuit was his brainchild when he was ETTA National Events Manager.

If more people are playing our sport than at any time in the recent past and £9m has been invested, why does the ETTA's own published figures show a decline in affiliated membership from 41000 in 1996 to 30000 in 2002? Alan I am sure will quote the statistics from the Premier Club reports but we are comparing regular grass roots players who are affiliated to the ETTA through their Leagues and Counties, which shows a true and factual comparison.

We are proud of the successes of our new home grown talent and hope that in the near future these players and others will get England back into the European and World Elite from our present lowest ever level since the late 1920's, which so far has taken 5 years and Millions of Pounds of funding.

If we had been in office for nearly 12 years and stated that "We have both a proven track record of progress and achievement", but had continued financial losses, massive costly increases in bureaucracy, lowest level of international performance, declining membership, limited media exposure and insignificant sponsorship, it would have to be said with "tongue in cheek" or from some spin doctors not from our heart.

The ETTA does many good things but our motivation and criticism stems from a firm belief that there is a better way forward for the sport we love. This has to come from a New Team for the ETTA with new radical policies, fundamental changes in strategy and direction whose intent is to work on behalf of the membership in an open and up front way.

It is your National Body, you elect the Officers and Management Team and the ETTA will be, when we are elected, run on behalf and for all it's members.

Our manifesto will be circulated in January and should you require a copy please contact.

Alex Murdoch by  
Phone. 01462-671191  
Fax. 01462-480310 or  
Email Alex@harwoodltd.co.uk

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*continued from page 7*

confrontation and frankly I am getting rather bored with it.

Table Tennis suffers with something much broader than who is Chairman of the ETTA, it suffers with an inferiority complex. The sport is looked upon by the overall public as a recreational activity and what we badly need is someone who can promote the TOTAL image. I believe that person to be Matthew Syed.

Matthew has wonderful administration skills and practical ability. Apart from being our most productive player for years, he is able to present the sport at the highest level. Matthew was able to organise the highly successful Wembley event, at which I was present, and I, like everybody there, thoroughly enjoyed it. Table Tennis can be a major player in the spectator arena, if it is promoted well and sufficient funds can be raised.

We all know that we must try and keep our younger, talented players who many, when they reach the age when money counts, go and try other avenues. Surely, as the World's fourth largest economy, we can find the necessary finance to keep them in the sport. Several of the poorer European countries produce players, male and female, who stay in Table Tennis and become International Class. I know that money in these other countries is not such an important issue as the UK, but I, like many other people, want to see England at the top as we were in the hard bat era.

*Brian Theaker  
Christchurch, Dorset*

## FACTS ARE SACRED

"COMMENT" is free, but facts are sacred" wrote the editor of the then Manchester Guardian, C.P.Scott - who, incidentally edited the paper for 57 years!

May I be permitted, therefore, to draw readers' attentions to some errors in the "Courtside" feature, written by John Woodford.

In the November, 2002 issue of TTN he wrote "The World team championships due to be held 2004 in Doha, Qatar, have been moved backwards from the end of April to March 1st." Shouldn't this be brought forwards?

Then in the December edition in his interview with John Prean, Mr Woodford refers to Shane Warne as "the world's top off-spinner". I had fondly imagined that Shane Warne was, and is, a leg-spinner! Ask Mike Gatting!

And a real howler in his December "Courtside" column he refers to "claims of libel and defamation"! Shouldn't this be defamation?

Shall we put these errors down to the word-processor?

"If you don't like the message, shoot the messenger" should apply to some of the scribes in TTN.

I do not wish to become embroiled in the forthcoming elections, but I get the impression from reading some articles in the magazine that the sport has never been in a healthier state. Is this really the case? Development Officers are in abundance, lottery and other grants vastly outweigh affiliations and so on, but is membership increasing, I ask?

I prefer a quote favoured by a previous chairman, well known for his literary

talents - "The Titanic's going down, let's talk about re-arranging the deckchairs."

Cynical? Yes! (The definition of a cynic is a person who smells flowers and looks for a coffin).

*David Lomas  
Croydon, Surrey*

## MISLEADING STATEMENTS

DESPITE various statements that the ETTA's policy was to be unbiased in the run up to the election you failed to include my press release in the last issue and also the ETTA information office only emailed Alan's information to the press.

I brought these matters to the attention of Richard Yule, which he agreed was wrong, and my press release was sent out separately which was ok but the impact and exposure was lost and I consider that certain members of the present management have used their positions unfairly to push my opponents claim for re-election.

This, added to the continued misleading information about the status of the ETTA, only confirms my belief and many others that it is "A time for a change" in the Management, organization, strategies, emphasis and attitude of our national body.

TTN is meant to be the member's magazine but continues to be the political and propaganda arm of the present Management with misleading statements and articles, let me comment on just two instances.

The statement from Alan about his financial priorities and strategies differs from those in his last election manifesto when he stated, "My policy would be to run a balanced budget and maintain the value of the reserves".

His policy has failed, we have lost over £200,000 and our useable reserves have declined from £420,000 to £180,000.

Last years audited accounts show a loss of £51,900 and the year before a loss of £4312 and this year the Treasurer has budgeted for a loss of £3573.

The issues at stake are the ETTA's substantial losses and massive decline in reserves, which have occurred during his long term in office and his response, does nothing to alleviate or address these concerns.

### 2002 ANOTHER YEAR OF PROGRESS

It is good news that we have up and coming players, lets hope that this will materialise into success at the next Junior World and European Championships, it is sorely needed. I am concerned about the apparent lack of focus on our senior players who are needed to complement and support our juniors in the years ahead.

No mention is made of our progress in 2002 to stop the decline in our membership, which has decreased from 50,000 to 30,000 players over the last decade.

I have, as mentioned earlier, been limited to space and this letter should not be regarded as an election address but a small response to the last issue. I expect TTN will include further coverage from my opponent so I will be behind on exposure once again.

Copies of our manifesto will have been circulated before this issue, so you will at

*continued on page 14*

# JENKINS SKILL & SUPPORT PAYS OFF

**RYAN JENKINS, the Welsh winner of ten British Grand Prix tournaments is on course to establish new records if he can win two of the remaining five events ending at Cheltenham, writes John Woodford.**

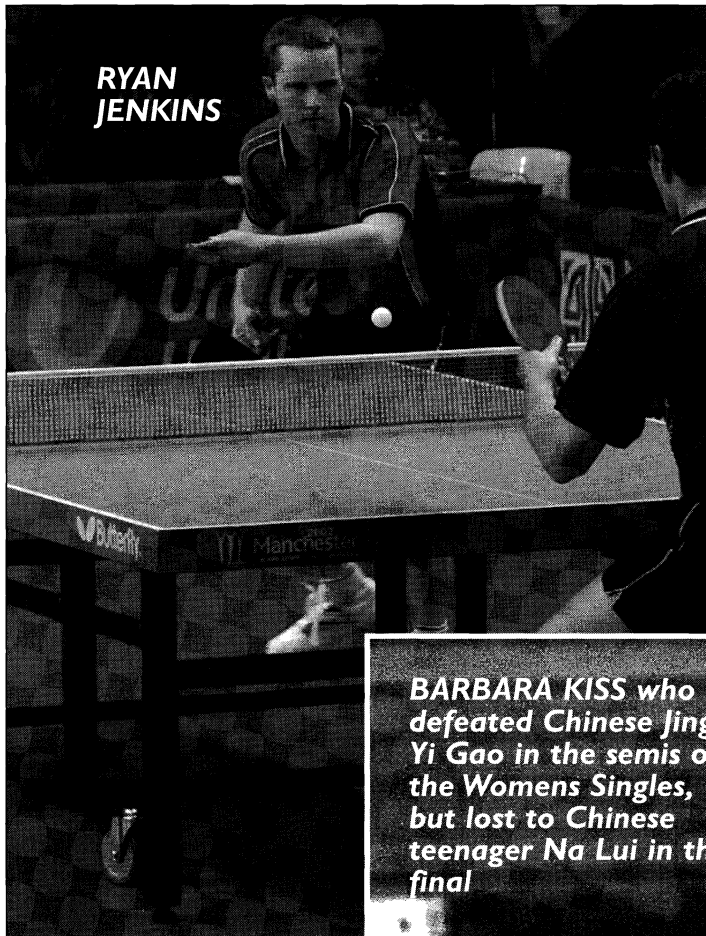
After winning in Belfast on January 4 with a final round victory 8, 6, 7 over Gavin Rungay he said "I have to fit in twenty weekend matches for my German club. I am hoping to win a couple more on this circuit before the end of the season."

England's high-ranked players who cannot afford to play in the British Grand Prix tournaments may be aware that on occasions Ryan has spent nights in airport lounges in order to play on the circuit, where his regular appearances have earned him a substantial cash reward.

The Jenkins-Rungay final saw the Welsh player confirm his class - his ability to absorb all-out attackers by standing a pace or two back according to the speed of the shot and then counter-hitting with quality top-spin. However, Gavin Rungay is making steady progress - he was victorious in the final of the Under-21's, winning, 7, 8, 6 over the Dublin based Chinese Na Ning who played well but did not possess the class shown by Jenkins.

Chinese and French players were prominent in Belfast. Jason Sugrue, the Irish No.1 disappointed himself and his supporters when he went down 15, 5, 10 to Frenchman Thierry Tran in the quarters. Jason said "I seem to get winning leads and then losing in the late stages of my matches."

Another surprise was the defeat of the Scottish No.2 Stewart Crawford -



he lost 9, 8, -9, 9 to Clive Carthy (Essex), that was the shock of the whole tournament.

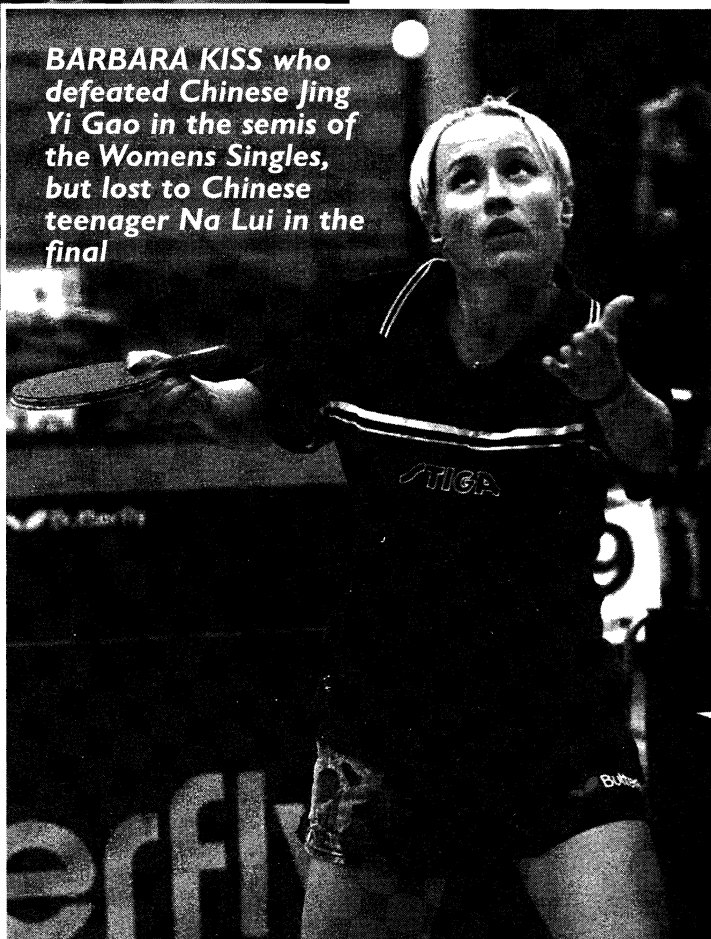
Na Liu, the Chinese teenager living in Belfast won the Under-21 womens event and retained the womens singles crown with a reasonably comfortable 5, 10, 9 victory over Barbara Kiss, who was looking for her second grand prix victory.

The losing womens singles semi-finalists were Tara Fusco (Dublin) losing to Na Liu and popular Jing Yi Gao falling in five to Barbara Kiss.

Two comments on the Belfast Chinese ladies - some said Na Liu would have done well playing in the mens events and what a superb Irish accent attained by Jing who looks after Chinese players and other Chinese outside the sport in Ulster.

The tournament ran smoothly with Mick Strode and Harvey Webb over from the mainland. The Ulstermen who did so much to help the grand prix run smoothly were Gilbert Graham (the chairman) Alan Strong (director of coaching), Malcolm Guy (secretary), Alex Parke, (treasurer, transport) and tournament organiser Vincent O'Regan.

The Ulster stalwart who appeared to do more umpiring than the others



**BARBARA KISS** who defeated Chinese Jing Yi Gao in the semis of the Womens Singles, but lost to Chinese teenager Na Lui in the final



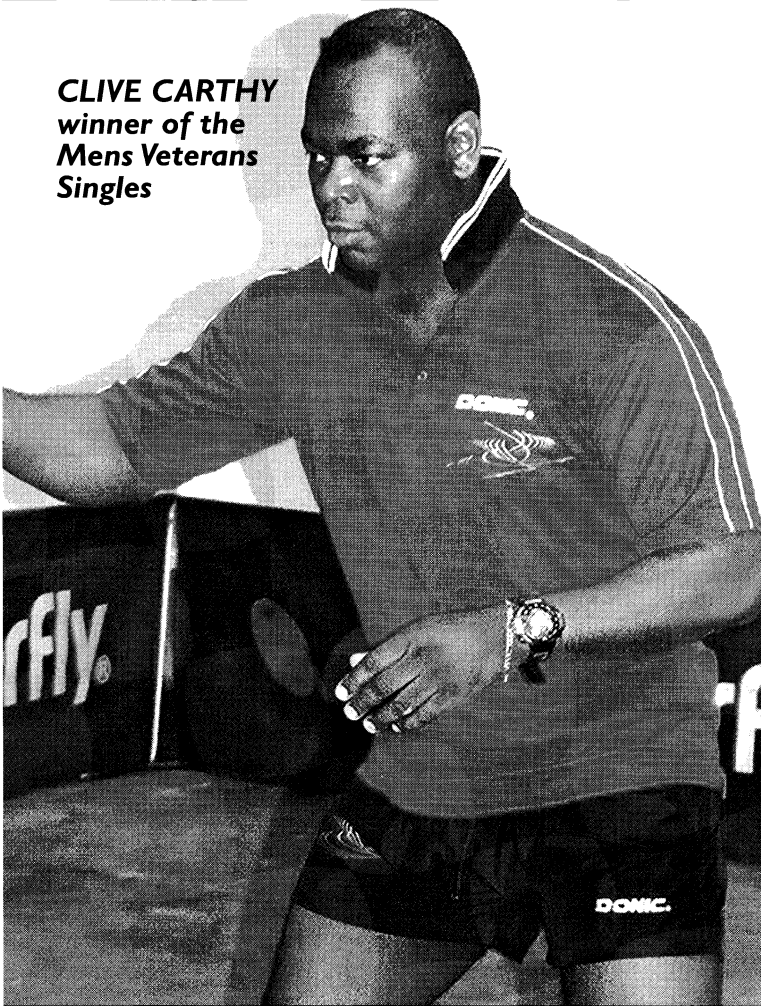
Words by  
**JOHN WOODFORD**  
of  
**The Daily Telegraph**  
in Belfast

Pictures by  
**U at the Game**  
and  
**JOHN WOOD**



## AN ETTA BUTTERFLY EVENT

### CLIVE CARTHY winner of the Mens Veterans Singles



was Billie McCormick - he umpired around 40 matches.

This tournament is juggling with dates for 2004. The early January date is a non-starter. It needs a better entry from England in numbers and it really needs to run on Saturday and Sunday, not Friday which seems to rule out a number of players who work on that day.

#### Finals results:

**Open men's singles** (from semi-finals): Ryan Jenkins (Wales) bt Thierry Tran (France) 4-11, 11-7, 11-8, 12-10. Gavin Rungay (Scotland) bt Christophe Chausse (France) 7-11, 11-4, 6-11, 11-2, 11-5. Final: Ryan Jenkins (Wales) bt Gavin Rungay (Scotland) 11-8, 11-6 11-7.  
**Open women's singles** (from semi-finals): Na Liu (Ireland) bt Tara Fusco (Ireland) 11-4, 11-7, 11-4. Barbara Kiss (Hertfordshire) bt Jing Yi Gao (Ireland) 12-10, 11-8 7-11, 5-11, 11-5. Final: Na Liu (Ireland) bt Barbara Kiss (Hertfordshire) 11-5, 12-10, 11-9.  
**Men's band 1 singles:** Na Ning (Ireland) bt Christophe Chausse (France) 11-7, 11-8, 11-4.  
**Men's band 2 singles:** James Sprackling (Middlesex) bt Norman Nabney (Ireland) 3-11, 12-10, 7-11, 11-7, 11-4.

**Men's band 3 singles:** Kenny Lindsay (Scotland) bt Ashley Nicholls (Shropshire) 7-11, 11-9, 13-11, 9-11, 11-6.

**Men's band 4 singles:** Phillip Wallace (Ireland) bt Peter Graham (Ireland) 7-11, 11-3, 7-11, 11-8, 11-6.

**Men's band 5 singles:** Ray Jordan (Kent) bt Philip Doherty (Ireland) 11-9, 11-13, 8-11, 11-8, 11-7.

**Men's band 6 singles:** Rory Scott (Ireland) bt Josh Cooper (Ireland) 11-7, 9-11, 11-9, 11-7.

**Women's band 1 singles:** Jing Yi Gao (Ireland) bt Laura Rungay (Scotland) 11-4, 11-6, 11-6.

**Women's band 2 singles:** Winner - Laura Rungay (Scotland), runner-up - Sabrina Conway (Ireland).

**Women's band 3 singles:** Sabrina Conway (Ireland) bt Rebecca Russell (Scotland) 11-9, 11-7, 13-11.

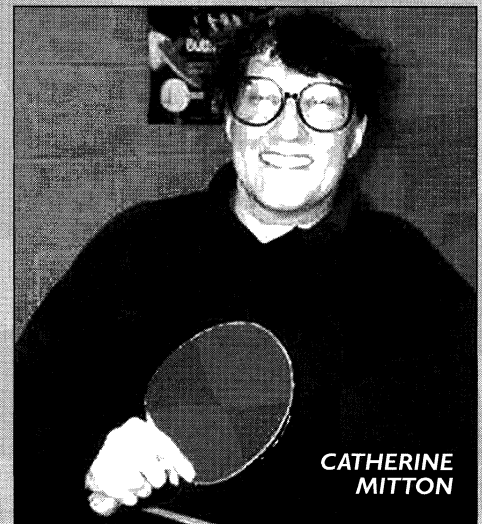
**Under 21 men's singles:** Gavin Rungay (Scotland) bt Na Ning (Ireland) 11-7, 11-8, 11-6.

**Under 21 women's singles:** Na Liu (Ireland) bt Gillian Edwards (Scotland) 11-6, 11-3, 11-4.

**Veteran men's singles:** Clive Carthy (Essex) bt Keiran Burke (Ireland) 11-7, 9-11, 8-11, 11-3, 11-8.

## CATHY MITTON

### CATHERINE MITTON BRITISH WORLD CHAMPION AND A VERY NICE LADY



**I HAD arranged to meet Catherine Mitton at the excellent Dewsbury Table Tennis Centre where she was playing a league match and arrived just in time to see her recover from 4-9 down in the fifth to beat Yorkshire County Chairman Bevan Walker 12-10.**

I became aware of Catherine through a work colleague who like Catherine is a member of the Polio Fellowship and I began looking at her career when her name cropped up as a medallist at the Manchester Commonwealth Games.

The Polio Fellowship was where Catherine first played table tennis standing up which she continued to do for as long as her condition allowed her to. Catherine also tried a number of other sports but quickly found out that she excelled at Table Tennis.

It was about 12 years ago that it was suggested to her that she should try playing in a wheelchair and after an element of adjustment Catherine has become one of the top wheelchair players in her class in the world.

The Profile System has classified disabled sportspeople who participate in organised sport in this country. It is a classification system that caters for all people with disabilities and covers a wide range of competitive and recreational sports.

As you will appreciate disabled people will not all fit exactly into one profile or another but competitors are assessed by qualified physiotherapists who ultimately decide which class a person should compete in.

The British Sports Association for the Disabled developed the Profile system in this country several years ago (now called Disability Sport England). Sport specific groupings were for BSAD competitions only

and, originally there were only three wheelchair groups but this has been amended to fit in more with the International Classification System.

The International Classification System now works along similar lines to the Profile System where functionality determines who competes in each class and, in Table Tennis there are five wheelchair classes, five standing classes and a (standing) class for those with learning difficulties.

Of the five classes, Class one is for the most severely disabled with Class five being the least disabled. Catherine is a Class two player with the terminology for this class being "Elbow extension is sufficient and hand movements are well coordinated but without normal power. All trunk movements are secured by holding wheelchair or thigh with hand or by holding the back of the chair with bent elbow."

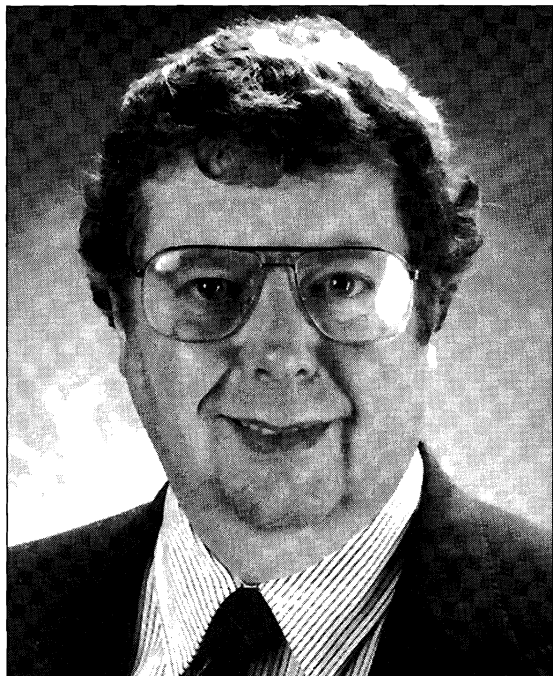
Catherine entered the national wheelchair competitions at Stoke Mandeville and soon became one of the top players in the country culminating in 1997 when she was asked to represent Great Britain in the European Championships in Stockholm (Sweden) from where she returned with a silver medal as she finished a creditable runner up in the combined Class 1-2 event, losing to Isabelle Layaye of France 21-13 21-16 in the final.

One of the interesting features of these games was that each player had to fork out £400 in order to pay their own way to represent their country in a major European event. Lottery money has now helped to ease this burden on international players.

Spurred on by this success Catherine was once more a silver lady in 1998 as she won three silver medals in the

*continued on page 29*

# ALAN RANSOME



**ALAN RANSOME**

## **Brian Halliday interviews both candidates for the forthcoming election for the position of ETTA Chairman**

**BRIAN HALLIDAY:** *How long have you been involved in Table Tennis, and how did it start for you?*

**ALAN RANSOME:** It all started when I was 10 playing at home. We took a holiday at Butlins and I received coaching from Johnny Leach's coaches in the News of the World scheme. I was selected as "Boy of the Week" and this led into local table tennis and forming my own club in a chicken hut in the garden. This became the Ormesby Club.

**BH:** *Can you tell me about your table tennis career? Any successes along the way?*

**AR:** I was very keen on cricket, football, and tennis, but along came table tennis and I dropped the other three. I eventually became a junior international, followed by senior international honours. Following a dispute between the team management with Denis Neale and Chester Barnes I played in the Commonwealth Championships in Singapore and again in Cardiff, followed by the World Championships in Japan. I became heavily involved in promoting the Ormesby Club and we became English Champions 10 times in a row. My favourite moment came when Ormesby won the European Cup in 1972 with Nicky Jarvis, Denis Neale, Trevor Taylor and myself as captain. I took much pride in coaching players such as Nicky and Carol Moore and several others who went from being local kids to play for

England.

I have always received a lot of support, first from my parents and then since 1977 from Jose. I have been fortunate throughout to attract a strong team to help at club, league and county level as well as within the ETTA. Without this support all the achievements would have been impossible.

**BH:** *When did you start to become involved in administration?*

**AR:** Very early on. I was Secretary of the Ormesby club at 13, and formed a summer league when I was 14. I was on the Middlesbrough League committee at 17 and a member of National Council at 19. I think the interest in administration came from my father who was the Secretary of the Middlesbrough Wednesday Football League and Middlesbrough Mid Week Cricket League. He used to run his own clubs in both sports and was a Referee (soccer) and an Umpire at cricket.

**BH:** *What positions have you held in the past, and what positions do you hold now?*

**AR:** Locally I was founder/secretary of Ormesby - now Chairman. I was Chairman of the Middlesbrough League for almost 20 years and am now President. I was founder secretary of the Cleveland Association in 1974 until 1991 and since then President. I was Regional Chairman in the North from 1973 until 1991. I relinquished all of these positions when I was elected as

Chairman of the ETTA in 1991. It was a big disappointment and a tough decision but I recognised that if I were to do a good job as ETTA Chairman, I would need to dedicate all of my table tennis time to the task. I have been Chairman of the Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation since 1993. The job became vacant and I was asked to stand. I took it on for two reasons, that I wanted to have table tennis included in the Commonwealth Games and wanted to ensure that the Commonwealth championships ran every two years. These have been achieved. Jose helps me a great deal in this role. I am one of the European representatives on the ITTF Board of Directors.

**BH:** *Do you have any business experience that would be of benefit to the ETTA?*

**AR:** I have been in business ever since I started work and, therefore, I am very used to managing people, finance, sales and marketing programmes, etc. Much of my business is in sport including table tennis and whilst the latter has the obvious restrictions, it does give me a great insight into the wider sports business world. Many of the skills that I have learned and developed in business are very useful to the Association as the problems that we face are often to do with running a business as well as running the sport. I am fortunate to have a strong team around me in Middlesbrough, several of whom have a table tennis background, and this gives me the opportunity to spend so much time away from the office on ETTA matters.

**BH:** *What contacts do you have that would be helpful to future progress of the Association?*

**AR:** I know most people who matter in sports administration in this country from the Minister down and I have numerous contacts at both national and regional level in Sport

England. I also know all of the key people in UK Sport, the CCPR, the British Olympic Association and the Commonwealth Games Federation. I am equally well known in international table tennis circles. I am good friends with ITTF President Adham Sharara, and his wife Mariann Domonkos who at one time practised at the Ormesby Club. I have close contacts with the President of the Swaythling Club, Di Scholer (formerly Rowe), who coached me at Butlins, and her husband, Ebby who I played against for Ormesby in the European Club Cup. I have a good working relationship with all the key people and when we have a problem or need some support, this is a big help.

**BH:** *What are your views on the Academy, and the current coaching structure?*

**AR:** I am of the strong opinion that if we are to compete successfully at international level we need to have an Academy, a central training venue with highly qualified coaches where our players can practice every day. China has gone down this route for many years and now many of our competitors in Europe have academies, helping their very talented players from a young age. It is almost impossible to become a world class player today unless you have the support of top coaches and practice locally where you can play several hours a day against players of the right standard. There are only a small number of places in England, other than at Nottingham, that can provide anything approaching this. It is the same throughout the whole of Europe today, that's why France, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Italy, Spain and several other countries have chosen the academy route.

To support the Academy we need to have a much better and more comprehensive network of coaching squads such as Peniel, Cippenham and Ormesby, throughout the country. We need more coaches of a high standard and creating this will be a priority if I am elected for a further term. So far as the grass roots are concerned, we have an excellent development programme in place and we need more coaches at local level to support and enhance it.

**BH:** *The membership has expressed the view that "grass roots" table tennis is of paramount importance. How do you intend to address their concerns?*

**AR:** First of all I agree that grass roots are of paramount importance and that is why we have invested so heavily in local development. There is much more local development now that there was a decade ago. But



# ALEX MURDOCH

it is a slow process. Many local leagues and clubs who adopted our approach to development and our programmes are reaping the benefits. We have spread our development culture into many areas, but there is much more to do. Our links with the Youth Sports Trust have ensured that table tennis in schools is increasing at a pace and we invite all leagues and clubs to play their part in linking with the schools in their areas to attract new members. Many benefits can accrue from this. In some areas it is possible to use the school facilities in the evenings and at weekends on a very reasonable basis. Our Premier Club programme encourages this and we would like more leagues and clubs to join. The best answer of all, however, is to have more specialist facilities. We have increased the number from approximately 10 to 50 over the last decade and I can see clearly that the opportunity is there for this to really gather pace over the next couple of years.

*BH: What plans do you have to increase participation in table tennis?*

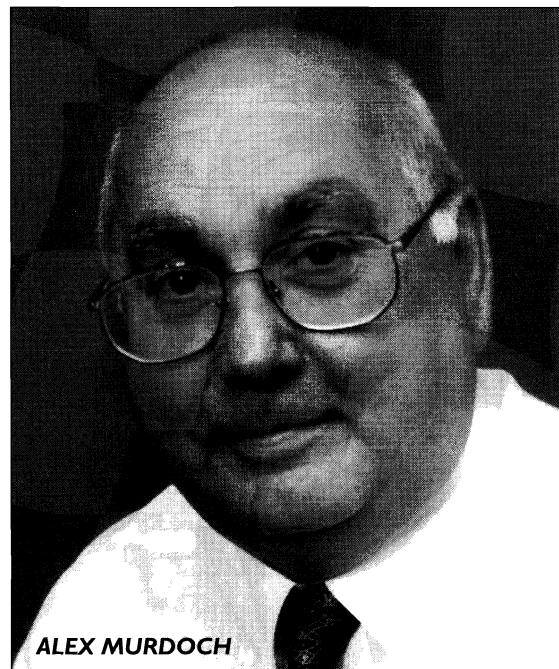
AR: Participation is already increasing but much more needs to be done. I would like to see more leagues and clubs who are ready to embrace development. The two growth areas are schools and over 35's, parents coming back to the sport right through to retired people. We have plans to create more publicity both through television coverage and national newspapers.

*BH: How would you answer the statement "it is time for change"?*

AR: Brian, I agree completely it is always time for change. I also believe it is very important to have the best and most effective team to manage the Association. There have been a lot of changes which have been well outside the control of the Etta. You know Youth Clubs, YMCA's, Works Clubs, Church Clubs have all but disappeared. We are helping our members to be able to cope with these changes, create new facilities as well as expanding and improving existing ones to take the place of the ones that have closed. Generally the new facilities are of a higher quality and this in itself helps to recruit more people. Although there has been a great deal of change over the last 11 years, no one recognises more than I do that there is a need for further change, for the better. We know what needs to be done and have the best team in place to embrace and deliver it. It is for the members to say whether they wish to give us the mandate to make those changes, but if they do, we will make sure they happen.

**"I have agreed to this interview and answer the list of questions you gave me despite the fact that I know you are a staunch supporter of my opponent at the election.**

**I agreed because we are both table tennis enthusiasts, members of VETTS, fellow committee members and despite the fact we disagree on policies for the future of our sport we both want to do our best for the membership."**



ALEX MURDOCH

*BRIAN HALLIDAY: How long have you been involved in Table Tennis, and how did you start.*

ALEX MURDOCH: I have been involved one way or the other with the sport for over 40 years and first started playing at a youth club. When I started an apprenticeship in 1960 I joined the company Sports and Social Club playing League Table Tennis, Football and Cricket for my company soon after.

*BH: Can you tell us about your table tennis career, any successes along the way?*

AM: My table tennis career has always been at grass roots level playing in local leagues and representative matches, although at the age of 47 I represented my county for the first time, which for me was a major achievement. When I was young I always wanted to play in goal as a professional footballer but as you can see a small man with glasses is limited in this field. Table Tennis is not like any other sport; size, shape, gender, age and disability do not preclude you from the enjoyment or participation.

My major Table Tennis success was meeting my wife Val at a table tennis match and together with our family we have played the sport whenever we can. Everyone who plays a sport looks at success based upon their ability and any judgement of success is what as individuals we believe is an achievement.

*BH: When did you start to become involved in administration?*

AM: Like many people in our sport later in life, although I played in a local league, family and work commitments gave very little time to help in administration. I was elected as a committee member at my local league AGM in 1987 and have been involved in administration in a committed way ever since.

*BH: What positions have you held in the past?*

AM: Local league committee member, County regional rep, County match secretary, League development officer, VETTS Deputy Chairman, Coaching committee and Liaison officer for new sports centre.

*BH: What positions do you hold now?*

AM: Local league committee member and match secretary, VETTS Chairman, County Treasurer and Secretary, County National Councillor and Team Captain.

*BH: Do you have any business experience that would be of benefit to the ETTA?*

AM: I worked for many years both home and abroad for large USA based Semiconductor Companies covering Marketing, Design, Sales, Management and Administration. Involved in large contract negotiations with many multinational companies. Run with my wife Val an independent sales business via the Internet so I have a good working knowledge of finance, management and administration.

*BH: What are your views on the Academy, and the current coaching*

*structure?*

AM: Provided we have the manpower and financial resources to cover the needs of our potential stars and the membership as a whole an academy must help our sport. Over the years vast amounts of funding has been spent in this area and our international status has still declined. Our strategies and policies relating to this area must be reviewed to make any future academy or performance criteria work for and on behalf of our membership, with a much wider net to find potential young talent and support them.

I am personally not a believer in taking very young people away from their home in the pursuit of table tennis particularly when their future is determined by inconsistent funding.

I do not consider we use our homegrown coaches to the full extent of their capabilities or help to give a future role for our experienced senior players in support of our younger talent.

We must expand our base further in the recruitment of potential talent via a better regional system. Young people develop at different ages and we must not let them slip through the net because of age.

Many people have told me that they believe the costs incurred while going through the programme of becoming a coach is expensive and it needs reviewing.

I believe too much red tape and

*continued on page 14*

continued from page 13

money motivation applies to our coaching strategy, when the key issue is to get more people playing and to improve the level of our play. *BH: The membership has expressed the view that "grass roots" table tennis is of paramount importance. How do you intend to address their concerns?*

AM: I regard the Local League, County and Club structure as the backbone of Table Tennis this is where the grass roots of the sport start and without them the sport will dwindle even further.

I believe we send the administrators too much paperwork, we need to keep them informed but in a more positive and constructive way. The grass roots must feel they are part of the national body and working together in the goal of expanding and improving our sport.

Many grass roots members feel that the ETTA is a different world and they have been neglected. It is therefore important to improve communications with them. During my many visits across England I have been amazed at the enthusiasm and interest members have in all areas of table tennis. It is critical that we use this enthusiasm for helping each other. If a league, for example, comes up with a successful idea why don't we pass this message around via the net or your own magazine so others can be aware of the potential in their own leagues.

Without an increased focus on grass roots we will never improve our top level or international position, it is imperative that we expand our roots or the tree will never grow.

*BH: What plans do you have to increase participation in table tennis?*

AM: Closer links must be established between Leagues and Premier Clubs to increase our membership and awareness of our sport.

We must focus on schools and universities and support the organisations that represent them in a more practical and effective way.

Look back at some of the older methods for individuals finding table tennis, such as holiday camps and youth organisations.

Improved development and coaching strategies, which must not only get younger people starting but remaining in our sport. Generate interest, excitement and exposure of table tennis to bring back the many members who have left us.

Our image to the outside world needs improvement and in today's technological society the Internet is a key area to get us noticed. We need a plan to make our website look

better, more interesting, up to date and user friendly.

During my visit to leagues and counties I have raised the articles in the Times, which Matthew did about the club in London run by Gideon. I would say that over 90% of the members were not even aware of it and were interested in hearing more about the successes.

It is our responsibility to tell members about our real achievements and support them with new ideas, better communications and improved media exposure will generate interest in participation of our sport..

*BH: How would you answer the statement "it is time for a change"?*

AM: I do not believe in any democratic organisation or society that the incumbent management or ruling party can be focused on the problems facing them or the strategies to overcome them for 12 years.

It is a natural instinct to become stale and complacent, new blood and ideas are needed to revitalise interest and for all to look at what we are doing and take stock. Any challenge always brings out new ideas.

New people with different ideas are essential when any organisation is in decline, the ETTA is not just a national body of a great sport but a business and should be treated as such. If a football team or say BT are not performing you must change the leadership, review what you are doing from top to bottom and change things which you consider are better for the future. No one can guarantee that all these changes will be the right ones but history is on the side of those who implement "a time for a change".

Thanks Brian for the opportunity to answer your questions, which I have kept to a minimum due to space limitations, these are just typed out by me without notes so they will come out as a taped interview but less the banter I am sure we would have generated between us.

I have not answered them as a political campaign speech and little reference has been made about my concerns for the sport or my opponent, it comes from my heart and my love of table tennis, but the membership can be assured that when I am elected I will do ever thing in my power to work together with them in the best interest of table tennis, nothing will be hidden from them and I shall be available to listen, hear their views and not walk away from any difficult decisions which may have to be made in everyone's interest.

least have an opportunity to read about our ideas for the future of our sport and if you require a copy please contact me.

Our website [www.harwoodltd.co.uk](http://www.harwoodltd.co.uk) will be up and running and updated.

During all my discussions around the country it has been heartening and reassuring at the continued interest and enthusiasm that members have for Table Tennis, but it is important to note that after 12 years you have the chance, at last, to change the focus and strategies of the ETTA for the better. Who knows when the opportunity will come again? I urge the membership to make their decision in favour of Martin Clark, Mike Johns and me. The future of our great sport is in your hands.

I am sending with this letter a copy of our response to Alan's circular, which I hope will be included.

Alex Murdoch

Leitchworth, Herts

**Brian Halliday is Vice Chairman Public Relations. His Department includes responsibility for Table Tennis News and the Web Site. The following is a personal statement: There are a number of points in Alex's letter that require clarification.**

*It is just not true to imply that the magazine has political and propaganda and bias towards a particular candidate, in fact I have emphasised that a moderate and fair approach was to be the policy at this time. Sorry Alex you have the facts wrong. In the three issues before the current one, 36.5 column inches were given over to Mr Murdoch and his supporters, Mr Ransome had 9 column inches. (This has been checked independently). I expect that the Chairman's Notes will be quoted as 'propaganda', however similar magazines have a Chairman's Column where it is accepted that comment on the present and future is given. It is nothing to do with electioneering and everything to do with keeping the membership abreast of what is going on.*

*The reason that the Press Release was included was an attempt to address the balance between the candidates, even then the words allocated to Mr Murdoch and Mr Preen outweighed his opposition by two to one.*

*I was also concerned that a 'Press Release' from Alex had found its way onto the web site without my knowledge. I would have had no problem in sanctioning it, but it might have been polite to go through the proper channels and not the back door.*

*I am no financial expert, however I see no mention in Alex's letter of the millions of pounds that have been invested in our sport over the last decade, for the benefit of our members. Perhaps reference should be made to the Treasurer who clearly advised National Councillors at a recent meeting that there was no 'dire financial situation' for the Association, information that had misled both the members and the world at large to the sports detriment.*

*I have no problem with the quote about the decline in membership. All sports, apart from Soccer, are facing similar*

*problems. Alex conveniently fails to mention about the massive reduction in works team, youth clubs, etc which have had such a dramatic affect on sport. I played for many years in the London Business Houses League (all Financial Institutions, Government Departments, and Businesses). We had 21 mens divisions and 5 ladies divisions.*

*The league no longer exists. Examples such as this have caused the reduction which we are now to addressing with the ETTA's comprehensive development programme.*

*It seems easy for those that seek election to take every opportunity of rubbishing the management record. It is not so easy to tackle all the problems and find solutions that are to the benefit of the sport.*

## CONGRATULATIONS

I WOULD like to congratulate yourselves and Steve Kerns in particular for the improvement to the ETTA website's British League coverage.

You may remember a couple of years ago I complained about this in a letter to the magazine.

Since the beginning of last season Steve has posted a series of excellent reports covering all the divisions.

It is comprehensive, shows humour and understanding and I feel is an essential element to the ETTA's publicity.

In addition to press coverage, websites are the main way the mass of players will become informed about what has happened, and all efforts should be continued in this direction.

It would also be good to update the tables and lists of results QUICKER in the future.

Thanks to Keith Ponting, Steve and those who listened to my criticism and set this up.

Best wishes and Happy New Year  
Graham Carter  
Secretary, Horsham Table Tennis Club  
Press officer, Crawley & Horsham League

Sports editor, Crawley Observer

## SMILE & BE HAPPY

IT SADDENS me to keep reading in our magazine the continual bickering of some of our most "respected" administrators. It seems to me that they are not enjoying what they are doing. I have always thought as a volunteer that once I stopped enjoying what I was doing in my spare time I would pack it in. I consider myself as a grass roots person although I have been involved in T.T. for over forty years both as a player and administrator, representing Sussex over 70 times at veteran level and as an administrator at local and county level. I have been Chairman of Sussex for eight years. It is my experience that a smile and a willingness to see the other persons point of view can work wonders and allows everyone to at least agree to disagree. I have even had disagreements with my county colleague John Woodford our well known press guru but I am sure John would agree that we can still laugh about it and I count John as one of my T.T. friends. The game needs people with



a smile on their face at this difficult period in our history, I am sure that table tennis has a brighter future if we can get back to enjoying what we do. There are many wonderful volunteers out there working their socks off and enjoying it. Lets hope that some of our senior people can remember when they also were happy and perhaps they can rekindle that feeling that they must have once had.

Smile and be happy it should be fun, life is not a rehearsal, This is it, don't waste it.

Keith Jackson

Life Member S.C.T.T.A

Chairman S.C.T.T.A

## SUCCESS OR FAILURE ?

IT IS natural during any type of election to emphasise one's own performance, views, opinions and ideals, whilst criticising or undermining one's opponents. This type of spin can be clearly seen in political arenas and I suppose it would be naive to expect anything different in table tennis circles.

Having said that, I believe that TT News, being the media by which interested members can keep abreast of events should not only be impartial in election matters, but also seen to be impartial. It is quite clear that Alan Ransome in his address "From The Chair" has been allowed to use a page of his column to further his re-election opportunities. Furthermore, another page has been dedicated to his press release (that has also appeared on the ETTA web site), whilst Alex Murdoch's own initial press release, whilst available, appears to have been totally overlooked. Such clear bias cannot be allowed to pass without comment, if this kind of favouritism is apparent it makes one wonder how far in the "establishment" Alan's influence has penetrated. Full marks to Alan - who wouldn't take advantage of the situation when your tenure of office is under threat.

When Alex Murdoch invited me to become one of his "running mates", I was delighted to accept his offer to be nominated for the post of Treasurer. The continuing deficits in the ETTA accounts has to be of concern, I do not accept Alan's summary dismissal of the position by stating that his priorities have been in other areas. I will leave it to others to debate the success or failure in his development and progress of the sport, as he claims. However, in financial terms, the directors of ETTA Limited have a responsibility to the members to ensure that the Company remains solvent. Continuing deficits will, without question, drain the ETTA of its resources without which will result in it being unable to operate effectively.

Last years accounts, the first being presented to the members of the new incorporated body, showed an unprecedented deficit of £51,900. Only the transfer of the previously dedicated Building Reserve and the introduction of cash balances from the Regions into the Income & Expenditure Account Balance had enabled it to be shown as a cumulative surplus on the Balance Sheet at the year-end. As the voting

representative for my local league, I was asked to vote on the adoption of the accounts that were not accompanied with the notice of the AGM.

Furthermore, a proxy form that should also have accompanied the notice was not included. As I was abroad prior to the release of the proxy, sent only 7 days before the meeting, I was prevented from exercising my prerogative.

I have no reason to question Barry Grainger's commitment or ability. I'm sure that he will have done his utmost to illustrate to the Chairman and the Management team the folly of incurring high running costs that is inevitable when little or no restriction is imposed on the creation of ever more new committees. The strength of any organisation stems not only from its management structure but also significantly from its financial base. We are ever getting closer to a desperate financial situation, but the continuing policy of ignoring the position is a dangerous strategy to follow. My limited knowledge of Brian Skinner, Finance Officer and Richard Yule, Chief Executive Officer, does make similar reading to that of Alan's, their dedication should not be undermined, but life at Hastings must be difficult administering the policies that in the long term will bring about the Association's demise.

As the election draws ever nearer, I'm sure that the members will be subjected to more of the spin I referred to above. May I ask through your columns that those appointed by their leagues and counties as well as the Management team, use their votes wisely, but above all use them, apathy gets none of us anywhere.

Martin Clark

Bromsgrove, Redditch League

General Secretary & Treasurer

### REPLY TO MARTIN CLARK'S LETTER (Financial aspects) by BARRY GRANGER, THE ETTA TREASURER:

*I am replying to Martin Clark's letter as briefly as possible for Table Tennis News, and a fuller comment will be posted on the election website alanransome.info*

*Firstly I think I should explain that the ETTA is a governing body for the sport of table tennis, NOT a company formed predominantly to make a profit, but to govern and invest in the future of the sport.*

*Martin has I feel looked at the accounts in isolation without considering what I have said above and with a view that the company trades in the accepted commercial sense. We are I agree a 'big business', with a turnover of over £1.5 million and as such have to bear that in mind and all the financial and other implications that has for the Association.*

*The directors and management committee members consider the finances of the company at every management meeting, with reports from me; and I consider this on an even more regular basis. Where at any point there are any concerns over the financial situation, current or future, we discuss what action we need to take and, just as important, the timing of that action. Martin I feel is implying that there is a blatant disregard for the Association's future, which is absolutely untrue. In fact, just the opposite with all*

*management members always looking for ways to reduce spending as well as staff at Hastings for that matter.*

*Having outlined the governing body's role and how management carefully monitor this on the financial side, I turn to Martin's comments of "continuing deficits", "draining of resources" and "solvency". Emotive words, used I am sure to alarm people, but which in truth have no foundation if you are aware of the care that I and the rest of the management team take in considering the Association's financial position. Coupled with Martin's erroneous comment that 'the new incorporated body showed an unprecedented deficit of £51,900', the financial side of his letter makes no allowance for the nature of the Association as shown by its objects. His comments appear to spell 'doom and gloom', which is totally false.*

*I will not try to convince you that everything is rosy - our need of commercial sponsorship, being actively sought by a commercial manager, is high, but we are far from, in Martin's words, "being unable to operate effectively" is again totally untrue as people with a working knowledge of the Association will attest. In addition, the loss he states of £51,900 was actually incurred in the six months to 30 September 2001, whilst we were still an unincorporated body. The result of the company (shown on page 4B of the accounts) was a deficit of £629 for the six months to 31 March 2002. Martin has looked at page 3 (!) of the accounts and took the figure for the whole twelve months. An explanation of the reasons for the loss over the year 2001/2 are explained in the website article. Needless to say, we were intent on making a profit in this financial year and I am pleased to be able to predict a profit not less than £10,000 for the current financial year. Martin's comments are obviously made with very little detailed knowledge of the Association's finances, are totally misleading and which need to be corrected.*

*Let's hope that he will make a lot more effort to understand the figures should he ever be elected Treasurer of our Association.*

## DETRIMENTAL

THE Executive Committee of this League have asked me to write to you concerning detrimental comments made by Andrew Doshier about Lowestoft players in the above publication. (November 2002 issue).

His statement that players do not attend Suffolk County Tournaments despite his generous offer to pick them up at a railway station and then transport them to the venue is not an offer that Mr Doshier has ever communicated to me nor can any other member of our Committee recall such an offer being made. We do feel very isolated in this part of the county where no County meetings ever occur and like our colleagues in Beccles we do wonder what the benefits of County membership are. We are aware of the Inter-Town matches and the National Junior League but why do none of your events and meetings take place in the North of the County? I

expect that your members do not like the travelling involved although it is alright for us to carry out these journeys. We would add that we find the statements in this article by Mr Doshier about his own performances quite laughable. Self praise is quite worthless and I am surprised that the magazine saw fit to publish such spurious comments.

In fact Mr Doshier would be better advised to send his competition material out much earlier, it is usually a last minute job in second hand envelopes and causes us to feel something of an afterthought. Perhaps he is too busy reporting his own activities!

One further point for you to consider is that should the ETTA make 11 up scoring compulsory we shall ask our members to withdraw from that body and I feel sure that our membership of the Suffolk TTA will end automatically at that point. We are indeed already fed up with Mr Ransome's extraordinary claims that the game is thriving under his leadership and wonder just what value he injects into the sport. Ever rising membership fees and a very limited service are very hard to justify.

Mr Doshier's comments re-inforce our view that many table tennis administrators are living in cloud cuckoo land.

Malcolm R. Vasey

General Sec. Lowestoft & District TTL

## 11 UP

FOLLOWING the overwhelming vote by the ITTF for 11-up, the ETTA decided to allow leagues the option of retaining 21-up and last season many leagues decided to do just that. All tournaments, county matches and British League events, however, were of course made 11-up and this proved highly successful.

Allowing this option for leagues has unfortunately produced a great deal of dissension and in many cases bitter argument between members which is hardly to the benefit of our sport.

There is a theory that it is the older players, the veterans, who oppose 11-up but this theory was well and truly demolished by the record entry for the recent World Veteran Championships held in Lucerne, in which more than 2700 entrants took part, the vast majority of whom did so at their own expense.

I understand that in Europe we are an almost infinitesimal minority not universally using the 11-up scoring system. Surely it is time for the ETTA to make 11-up mandatory. The present option discourages the better players from taking part in league play if their local league retains 21-up. The two scoring systems produce significantly different games which does not help if players have to constantly switch between the two.

Finally, there is little doubt that youngsters much prefer 11-up and the best way of increasing our falling numbers must be to encourage the younger element into leagues.

Ron Etheridge

Beckenham, Kent

## MISINFORMATION

I HAVE received copies of the recent correspondence and other material

continued on page 16

continued from page 15

pertaining to the national officer elections.

I congratulate Alan Ransome on the concise responses to the misinformation scurrilously reported in a magazine that is doing table tennis a disservice.

As someone who was closely involved until my retirement as Sport England's Regional Director some six years ago, and indeed my current close interest in the sport, I have come across few sports that can justifiably boast the excellent management team that the ETTA currently enjoys.

May I wish Alan and his team a very successful 2003, with the hope that the membership has the good sense to recognise his dedication and expertise of the current team when it comes to the vote.

*Cyril Villiers*

*President - Leeds Judean Club*

*President - Leeds League*

*Life Member - Yorkshire TTA*

*Vice President - English Schools*

*Chief Executive SportsAid (Yorkshire & Humberside)*

## JACK CARRINGTON

I AM writing to record my vote for the best coach ever as I do not have E-mail myself nor access to it.

Undoubtedly, I would vote for Jack Carrington:

He had inspirational charisma.

He related to all kinds and conditions of people.

He made it fun, while at the same time encouraging playing the game as a sport, with expertise relevant to his time. By insisting on correct dress, he gained respect to it too.

I would also like to comment on other aspects of coaching in November TTN.

Much of my coaching with the under 13s was done in our garage where each week there were 20+ children and one table. Therefore, watching perforce became part of the training (though they were unaware of it). It did produce good quality local league players, some county juniors and of course my own Hugh (now deceased), Paul & Sam.

While I don't agree that coaches need be nearer the age of their students, I do think they should be in outlook.

One strategy I found useful was to have frequent mini-competitions with the winning scores different e.g. 7, 13, or 17 etc. Thus they learnt to exert pressure to win from the very start of games (I'd found this extra effort had often been left too late).

I myself was very shy in youth. I lacked confidence. Yet I was not a good loser. I'd start off trying hard not to look silly and only ever aimed to reach a final. That is why I have so few winning trophies compared to runners-up. This fault (?) should be recognised and confidence assisted. But I wonder if this is a reason one plays better when not expected to win, and sometimes surprises themselves by winning.

I'm not travelling to tournaments anymore (I'm 83 and have always suffered travel sickness), though I still practise weekly and am a reserve league player. Best wishes,

*Dolly Harmer*

*Leighton Buzzard*

## KENSHOEN

AS YOU know, our company is running "Super Circuit" here in Japan with your famous table tennis player, Matthew Syed, a regular player in this event.

We are broadcasting all of matches of Super Circuit through Japanese Communication Satellite called SKY PerfecTV! and you can also watch same contents FREE through broadband internet. (Free of charge at the moment)

Our program is broadcast through internet by using of Peer to Peer system.

*Ikuya Sekine*

*Kenshoen company, Japan*

*Keith Jackson*

*Life Member & Chairman .S.C.T.T.A.*

## COLOUR PUZZLE

THE letter from Keith Lesser in the November issue - Colour Puzzle - allows discussion of the links between the player and organiser. A player enters a tournament and signs that he will abide by the conditions set out in the entry form.

He knows that he has to wear a number at all times when playing, that he must not have adverts on his clothing that are outside the regulations and is aware of the difference to clothing primary colours when using yellow or white balls. All these impact upon the organiser whose role is to stage a well run tournament without financial loss. A tournament usually needs a sponsor who likes to see his name brought to the fore and likes to be associated with a well run event. A sponsor or would be sponsor will have reservations over whether his money is being well spent when regulations are openly flouted. As an aside the sponsor would be appalled if, by staying to the end of a tournament, he saw the piles of rubbish left behind on both days.

Of course the player must expect some consistency across similar standard tournaments and the referee should advise both official and player if any relaxation from ITTF/ETTA regulations is permissible. The timing notice sent to all players before a tournament could be the vehicle for this advice.

And what of alcohol adverts? The ITF regulation states that there shall be no advertisements on players clothing for tobacco products, alcohol drinks or harmful drugs. As Colin Clemett recently remarked - why should anyone seriously consider advertising heroin or cocaine? Even before the November edition of TTN, BUSA had agreed to highlight this restriction at their tournament.

*Mike Payne*

*Allstree, Derbysire*

## 50 YEARS AGO

BRIAN HALLIDAY'S interesting article on coaches and his mention of Jack Carrington and Bobby Stevens cast my mind back some 50 years.

Jack Carrington was coaching in East London at the Albion Club. He was our only national coach and was well known through his involvement with Johnny Leach (was there ever a more stylish player?)

Bobby Stevens and myself provided very basic coaching to newcomers at the

St.Marks club, Walthamstow.

Eventually the club, from our clubroom under a railway arch, produced seven internationals: Bobby Stevens, Ivor Jones, Bobby Raybold, Peter Smith, Jean Page (McCree), Yvonne Baker and Shelagh Hession. Also there was a second string of county players, like Alan Payne - who was good enough to beat Harry Venner in an Open tournament, on one occasion.

My point is to the question of how much coaching success is due to creating a climate which motivates players (as we hope Premier clubs will do today) and how much is due to highly organised coaching?

I believe that the St.Marks players were not coached much at all, as they developed. They got good by watching and playing at Open tournaments and working very hard.

Bobby Stevens, Bobby Raybold, Yvonne and the others spent one hot August holiday playing all day at St.Marks and were still going strong when the rest of us arrived in the evening.

A lot of their success was based on an instinctive development of their own natural ability.

I coached Bobby Raybold for a few weeks when he first started. He blasted away with his very fast forehand - one on - three off! I said slow down use more topspin. One on - three off was the response. When it became three on and one off, I encouraged him to continue.

He became one of the most feared hitters in Essex - in time punching holes in the great Richard Bergmann, which few could do.

*Les Bridges*

*Bridgwater, Somerset*

## BARNET CENTRE FLUSH WITH SUCCESS

AN adapted 'Toilet Facility' was needed at the centre for which funding would be required from outside the normal revenue income. An application was made for £3,400, to 'Awards for All' and was granted in full. The facility is located to the right of the main entrance door (old clerical office).

Although we are very pleased with the successful outcome for us at Barnet, I think that publicity would be welcomed by the donors, and also it might be an encouragement to other venues or enterprises that any application stands a good chance of success.

Chris Budden, the Centre Chairman, has started a Youth Section which has its own funding. A dedicated coach, Gergely Urban, has been appointed and seems to be working wonders with the youngsters. He is also available for Adult coaching through the centre. 0208 4497845, after 7.30pm.

Doug Tomset, although suffering from the 'Ravages of Time', still manages to carry on in his same old fashioned way. Good for him!

*Ron Boucher*

*New Barnet, Herts.*



## STOP PRESS News in Brief

• **NICOLA DEATON and Alex Perry**, now happily engaged are now practicing hard as a mixed doubles (table Tennis) pair starting at Warwick University where they were top-seeded and won the British Universities mixed championship last month.

They are also getting into the groove for the English Championship at Sheffield's Ponds Forge Stadium, where again they will be top-seeded. Nicola will also be bidding for her sixth

womens singles English crown - the record is held on seven wins by Jill Parker from 1973 to 1981. Her daughter Katy is not far away, perhaps, from starting to chase her mother's record.

• **NICOLA DEATON** is once again England No.1, after three months at No.2, the 26 years old five times national champion, displaces 18 years old Katy Parker at the top of the new womens ranking list.

• **WENDY BURBUSH (nee Woodhead)**, England's only ever woman world mixed doubles champion, has died.

Wendy, who at five feet eleven inches tall, was an all round athlete skilled in tennis and basketball, Wendy, although a good table tennis player, was not in 1938 strong enough to make the England team. Yet with the famous Hungarian, Laszlo Bellak, she formed a winning mixed doubles combination at the World Championships in Wembley, initiating attack with her fine topspin, which Bellak followed up with kills. At 19 all in the fifth game of the final against the Czech title defenders, Bohumil Vana and Miss V.Votrubcova, it was Woodhead who hit two consecutive winners to lift the cup.



# TABLE TENNIS NEWS EXTRA

## Issue No. 290 January/February 2003

### Editorial

First we said **goodbye** with thanks to regional development officer **Philip Irwin-Brown**, who had done good work in the South West, and then, just before Christmas, to London dynamo and original thinker, **Jon Kaufman**, who, rather like Tony Benn leaving the House of Commons to return to real politics, left the employ of the ETTA so that he could get stuck into (London Progress) table tennis (as well as bravely returning to teaching). Not leaving but changing her job title is Hastings based **Judy Rogers**, now **ETTA National Equity Officer**. It was pleasing to learn from an ITTF Newsletter (World Junior Commission, Spring 2003) that our former Performance Director, **Soren Ahlen**, is making good progress as head coach for the new TT centre in Koping, a small city an hour's drive from Stockholm in his native Sweden:

"We have an unbelievable chance to build a sound and stable centre operation here in Koping. The city is 100% behind the centre and is ready to solve problems. Looking at the overall situation I have to say that a centre in Sweden is exactly what we wanted. We have started to rebuild step-by-step our national team programmes. There are several talented players in this country, and our goal now is to get them together as a group and start working hard".

On the voluntary side, congratulations to **Iris Moss**, presented in the House of Commons with the Queen's Jubilee Award 'For voluntary services to Table Tennis for 56 years in Greater London', and to Plymouth coach **John Vincent**, awarded 'Life Long Service to Local Sport', for over 25 years' coaching and assisting children, at the Plymouth Sport Personality of the Year Awards 2002.

Whilst thinking about personalities in table tennis, I often reflect on how little we know about them outside of the sport. 19 year old national champion, **Andrew Baggaley**, was the subject of the Player Profile in the December TTN, and what struck me was his choice of **favourite book**, **Mildred**

**Taylor's 'Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry'**, about the harsh experience of black people living in the American South during the 1930s' Depression: the hard lives and poverty, the deep racism and racial segregation, the strength of the family and value given by black people to education, the tragedies, etc. Mildred Taylor's own family had lived in Mississippi since slavery, and she informed by relatives own stories and histories in writing this deeply moving novel. To my shame, I confess that it was not until (1980) I read the notes supporting the book, that I appreciated with horror what the 'Strange Fruit' of Billie Holiday's great song were! ('Black bodies swingin' in the Southern breeze/Strange fruit hangin' from the poplar trees'.)

In a **National Championships (Sheffield, 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> March)** too close to call, I, in my personal capacity, with great uncertainty (and not yet having seen the draw determining who might meet and knockout who) put my money on **Andrew Baggaley and Nicola Deaton** to retain their titles. Although I have always appreciated his abilities, Baggaley's success last year took me by surprise. Who in England could you confidently back against Andrew? Will our only world star defender, **Matthew Syed**, still have the motivation and the variety to break up Baggaley's game? Can **Gareth Herbert**, with all of his spins, flair and deception, maintain the necessary consistency and pressure? Can **Alex Perry** (now studying at Nottingham University) apply enough sustained sharpness to force him off the table? Can **Alan Cooke**, despite all of his control, variety, physical fitness and experience, *win* enough points to beat him? But of course any one of the former champions, Syed, Perry and Cooke (said to be training hard and the dark horse for the championships) could do so again, and perhaps it is Herbert's turn to become Champ.

If **Nicola** has the desire, I believe she has the necessary toughness to be women's champion for the 6<sup>th</sup> time, even if she, like Alex Perry (congratulations on their engagement) is currently consumed with University

of Nottingham study. **Katie Parker** is the rising star, and although she has recently been ranked England no.1, she has not yet proved herself at home: it may be too soon for her to take the trophy this time. On the other hand she may demonstrate burning ambition and prove me wrong! For so long the nearly woman, has the time and best opportunity passed for the tenacious **Helen Lower**? Former champion **Andrea Holt**, who Nicola played so well to overcome last season, is a real danger and like Cooke, seems 'up' for taking the singles title one more time. Also, it would be wonderful for the English game if England youngsters, **Joanna Parker, Georgina Walker** or **Kate Steward** could make the necessary breakthrough. But I plump for Deaton. If not Deaton, it will be Holt, and then Katie Parker, depending on the draw.

**Sports are still nervously anticipating their future World Class funding for elite athletes**, in the light of declining Lottery ticket sales. Steve Cram, the former world mile and 1500 record holder, member of the sports Lottery panel (quoted in The Independent of 2<sup>nd</sup> December), favours funding only those sports that have "a realistic opportunity to yield success at world and Olympic level. We need to target where we can win medals in major championships. I really don't think we can continue to fund 40 sports. My view is that it's better to have 15 well-funded programmes that bear results, rather than 25-30 which have a little funding to little effect. Unfortunately, there are a lot applications – well researched applications that would previously have been suitable – which we are not going to be able to say yes to."

If he is right, and he reflects quite a widely held point of view, then the question for us is, will table tennis be amongst the chosen 15? Probably yes, but our position is weakened because we have no chance of medals *now* (and the ETTA never has argued that we would have, in the short term). With outstanding young talents like **Paul Drinkhall** and **Darius Knight**, we may well have **possibilities to win major medals in say 9/10 years' time**, but

will the Lottery keep faith with table tennis for that long?

Will the Lottery take into account the **degree of difficulty in winning medals between sports?** – In table tennis there are some 300 million regular players and 188 (ITTF) affiliated national associations with many countries apart from China taking the sport very seriously, whereas England/Britain tends to do best in sports and disciplines in which not many people or countries in the world compete, and often also disciplines/sports in which it may be possible for an athlete to reach a peak in say two years as opposed to say 15 years for table tennis. Might some sports be Lottery funded just because they are traditional or high status in England, despite having no realistic medal prospects? In other words, is there a level playing field in which broader, contextual factors will be taken into account, or are the gaining of medals all that counts? Of course the Lottery Sports Fund will have to make difficult decisions on World Class funding, and if table tennis continues to be supported (and we have a good case), other well deserving sports will feel aggrieved at being left out.

Regarding **sources of funding**, research commissioned by the Sports Sponsorship Advisory Service has found that **sports sponsorship is increasingly difficult for 'middle-ranking sports' to find**. Sponsors continue to be attracted to the top ten sports (only) and 'Many sports are unable to attract sponsors because they cannot get television coverage'. No surprise there! However, community based activity and women's sport provide opportunities for sponsorship.

In the light of evidence such as that 65% of children participate in less than two hours of PE per week (Sports Marketing Surveys), and that governments of impressive sporting nations like Australia and France spend respectively £2-73 and £5-65 per head on sport, whereas here the equivalent sum is a paltry 88p, there is **strong argument for more exchequer funding of sport**. Roger Draper, the new Chairman of Sport England, also believes that sport has to "present more robust evidence to the Government as to why it is helpful with issues such as health, social inclusiveness and crime prevention". However, sceptically I suspect that a bigger (sports funding) cake would still mean the richer sports getting the larger slice!

**Ken Muhr**

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

**E-mail:**  
**kenmuhr.etta@talk21.com**

### **Asian Table Tennis Union Website**

A new website [www.attu.org](http://www.attu.org) provides a lot of information on Asian table tennis structures and competition. If you click on photographs of top Asian players, it professes to offer their profiles, but so far only Korean and Taiwan player profiles are provided (nothing on Chinese or Japanese). However, this site is potentially a valuable resource.

### **Kenshoen Super Circuit, Japan, by Ikuya Sekine**

Our company is running the 'Kenshoen Super Circuit' here in Japan with your famous table tennis player, Matthew Syed, and other top world stars such as Vladimir Samsanov, Chiang Peng-Lung, Jean-Michel Saive, Kalinikos Kreanga, Jorg Roskopf, Jean-Philippe Gatien, Zoran Primorac, Kim Taek Soo, Jorgen Persson, and Koji Matsushita, etc.

We are broadcasting all matches of the Super Circuit through the Japanese Communication Satellite called SKY PerfecTV! and you can also watch the same contents FREE through broadband internet. (Free of charge at the moment.)

Our programme is broadcast through internet by using the 'Peer to Peer' system, although the pictures are not so good at the moment. Please publicise these facts in your country.

Please go to the website <http://www.sc-tabletennis.com/english/index.html> and to watch the action, click on the orange-coloured button of SKY PerfecTV! Table Tennis Channel.

Editor's note: the website itself is worth a visit.

### **Irish Table Tennis Association Website**

On going into the website of our neighbours, [www.ttireland.com](http://www.ttireland.com), in order to check for records on the Newtownabbey Butterfly Grand Prix, I (KM) confess to being most impressed with how well it was organised, with separate well serviced sections for: Tournament entries/downloads (mainly tournament result), Updates, the Player

(leading player) Interviews, Fun Zone, the Coach, the Umpire, the Administrator and the Provinces. There were articles of interest to a wide range of people. If you look on the top left of the 'Coach Corner' page, you can see an action film clip of what looks like a young Nicky Jarvis forehand looping!

### **Increase in traffic – [www.ittf.com](http://www.ittf.com)**

The ITTF's website, [www.ittf.com](http://www.ittf.com), is attracting more and more table tennis fans around the world.

The last measurement taken on December 31 2002 indicates that the traffic has increased by more than 100% since 30 September 2002 in number of page-views per month. In December 2002, the site had 2,325,402 page-views (1,068,866 in September 2002).

The number of individual users has steadily increased from 123,000 in September 2002 to 181,000 users in the month of December 2002.

### **KNOW THE GAME SERIES: Table Tennis (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition) book review by Ken Muhr**

This small (48 page) book has been produced in collaboration with the ETTA, with a revised text provided by ETTA Director of Teaching & Training, Peter Hirst.

It is attractively produced and illustrated, and covers a lot of ground in so few pages, 'from equipment, spin, grip and bat angles, through to stroke play, service and tactics,' and ending with quite a lot on warm ups/cool down, scoring, practice routines, fun games, programme planning, awards scheme (covering the planned new skills awards including Polybat tests for disabled players) and a section on coaching disabled people. Peter's logical coaching methods are clearly imprinted in the text, e.g. in the stages/processes through which a player goes in producing any shot: perception, decision, action.

Know the Game Table Tennis is very well organised and easy to follow, with a helpful index at the back. As well as being useful to people starting to play and improve at table tennis, it will be a valuable basic revision/reference point for teachers and coaches. I just wonder whether the sheer breadth of information might have detracted from providing possibly a little more explanation and illustration on how to perform basic strokes, such as topspin drives.

Anyway, at only £4-99 it is excellent value – you can't really go wrong! Published by A&C Black, London ([www.acblack.com](http://www.acblack.com)). ISBN 0 7136 6005 8



**ETTA NATIONAL TRAINING  
CENTRE, HOLME PIERREPONT,  
NOTTINGHAM**

**2 practical weekend courses:-**

**March 15/16**

Technical & Psychological

**March 22/23**

Tactical & Physical

The two weekends will look specifically at the process of HOW to develop players technically, tactically, psychologically and physically for a harsh competitive environment and to help prepare them for entry into national programmes.

**Who is it for?**

The courses are designed for 'Modern Day' coaches working in a club situation and are developing young players on the tournament circuit. This course is suitable for clubs that have 'Awards for All' grants.

**Tutors**

Peter A. Hirst, Director of Teaching and Training  
Mark Bawden, ETTA Sports Psychologist  
Steen Hansen, Performance Director (for a small part)

**Cost**

Each weekend £90 total £180 includes meals and accommodation for Saturday nights.

**Times**

Assemble Saturday morning 10am  
Disperse Sunday afternoon 4pm

Course is limited to 20 people per weekend. First come first served!

Closing date: 24 February 2003

For an application form, contact Michelle Holton (Teaching and Training Administrator), ETTA, Queensbury House, Third Floor, Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF. Tel: 01424 431222 or e-mail [teachandtrain.etta@talk21.com](mailto:teachandtrain.etta@talk21.com)

**LEVEL 3 COACHING COURSE**

This course is being held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> June and 5<sup>th</sup> July 2003 at Lilleshall National Sports Centre.

For further information contact Michelle Holton (Teaching and Training Administrator), ETTA, Queensbury House, Third Floor, Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF. Tel: 01424 431222 or

e-mail [teachandtrain.etta@talk21.com](mailto:teachandtrain.etta@talk21.com)

**TEACHER/SPORTS LEADER &  
LEVEL 2 COURSE**

This course is being held on Saturday 15/22/29 March 2003 1.00pm – 5.00pm at Collegiate HS Sports College, VIDA Sports Centre, Blackpool Old Road, Blackpool, Lancs. The tutor is Gail McCulloch – ETTA Level 4 Coach and ETTA Tutor/Assessor. The Assessor is to be advised.

For more information please contact Martin Ireland, ETTA NW Regional Development Officer, 18 St Luke's Road, Blackpool, Lancs FY4 2EJ. Tel: M 07973 411559 or e-mail: [m.ireland@etta-nw.co.uk](mailto:m.ireland@etta-nw.co.uk)

**MIDLAND COURSES**

Chris Newton, ETTA Midlands Development Officer has organised a coach course on 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> March at Draycott and Long Eaton TTC, Derby and is in the process of organising a course in Stoke before the end of March and a course in Bridgnorth, Shropshire but has no dates yet.

For further information please contact Chris on 01782 236930, M 07904115138 or e-mail on [cjn@etta75.freesev.co.uk](mailto:cjn@etta75.freesev.co.uk)

**Joe Mansano, Trinidad and Tobago  
Table Tennis Coach**

Joe Mansano, a coach in Port-of-Spain and at the Patna River Estate Table Tennis Club, has requested information on coaching, table work, physical training programmes, etc to improve his students, and himself as a coach. If you feel you can help him, Joe can be contacted at: 30 Ibis Drive River Estate, Diego Martin, Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies.



*Joe Mansano with his students pictured above.*

**'TIMING OVER THE TABLE' by  
Rowden Fullen, the Yorkshireman  
coaching in Sweden**

When you watch many of our young stars performing on the table, one of the first things you notice is the inadequacy

of the short and the 'mid-field' game. Usually the power strokes, the loops, drives and smashes are quite strong and well developed, but it appears that youngsters ignore the value of the short and linking play. Yet it is in fact expertise in just these areas which will allow them to get their strengths in during the game.

In almost all cases players are predictable and safe in pushing play -- they take the ball at 'peak' or relatively late and give the opponent time to think and to play. In addition they often do very little with the ball, just return safely. By playing in this way they don't obtain any advantage from 'mid-field' play, rather they allow the play to drift into a control situation where both they and their opponents have an equal chance to break out and win the point.

It is vital to retain the initiative in over-the-table play. In this way you can create many opportunities to get in and open up the play. How many players consider the point that there are basically 4 different ways to push -- with control, speed, spin or deception? In addition there are all the various timing points from very early to very late. Just think, if you combine the different methods of pushing with a variety of timing points, you increase the options enormously!

Quite often at top level players take the ball early so that they allow the opponent as little time as possible. However, they use variation in the racket angle at contact to create lesser or greater spin. The opponent then faces a fast return with very much backspin or almost none and has limited time to react. Top players are also good at varying length with the same stroke movement. The half-long serve can be dropped back very short or pushed back long and fast, but both from the same early timing point.

However, it is not only early timing that you can use to good effect. Many players overlook the value of very late timed strokes, which can in fact be just as effective and deceptive. Consider the scenario where you come in to push the ball at a late timing point and just roll the wrist instead and play an attacking shot. Both early and late timed strokes can be difficult to 'read' as the player has a variety of options and can change from one to the other almost instantaneously.

With the older type of push stroke, with much use of the wrist and the ball taken closer to the body, it was a little harder to create time and room to open on the next ball and to achieve enough back-swing to engineer good spin. This type of push was also often played from a low stance, so if the opponent were to hit the next ball hard, not only was it necessary to move to the ball but also to come up into a counter-hitting position.

It is obviously of particular importance to consider the technique involved in executing early timed push strokes and consider this in the light of how you play the stroke, where the racket finishes and how your execution of this individual stroke will affect the next shot you will play.

The most common modern technique is to take the ball well in front of the body, with little or no use of the wrist. Instead the stroke is executed from the elbow and the primary input is from the forearm. The stance is relatively upright and subsequent movement in any direction quite simple. If you consider this action in some detail, you may well arrive at the conclusion that there are a number of advantages.

Less use of the wrist gives rather more control in early ball play, without lessening the amount of spin you can feed into the shot. It is also possible to use a very fast action with this type of stroke, which makes it difficult for the opponent to 'read' the amount of spin and the length. But most important of all as the stroke is taken well in front of the body and finishes in a central position from a relatively upright stance, it is very simple to switch on to the attack. Because you switch on to the attack from a forward position and the arm is drawn back quickly, not only do you have space to play the shot but also you have good elastic energy input which you can use in the stroke.

## **2<sup>ND</sup> WORLD WAR TABLE TENNIS MATCHES (Bergmann, Barna et al) Souvenir Programme by Neil Hutchinson**

I have a table tennis programme I would like to sell. I am a collector of golf memorabilia and came across this at a fair. I would like it to go to someone who would appreciate it, best offer can have it!

It is called: HRH The Duke of Gloucester's Red Cross and St John Fund, Table Tennis Matches, Souvenir Programme. It is not dated but is clearly from the 2nd World War, and was for fund raising.

It is signed by four of the players: Richard Bergmann, Viktor Barna, Miss Blackburn and Miss Brook.

It is in very good condition with only minor wear.

Contact: Neil Hutchinson. E-mail: [neilhutch1@hotmail.com](mailto:neilhutch1@hotmail.com)

### **Stickers Collection**

I'm looking for stickers for my collection. Could you help me to find anymore please? My address is: Mr Etienne Gilles  
38 Rue Des Erables  
74800 La Roche Sur Foron  
France

## **A new resource on the Sports England Website: Addressing the Health Agenda**

There is increasing evidence on the (positive) link between exercise and good health. For example (Independent, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2002), new research suggests that people who take regular exercise can reduce their risk of cancer by as much as 50%. 'Academics' at the University of Bristol found physical activity significantly reduced the risk of bowel cancer and may help prevent breast, prostate, lung and eudiometrical cancer. It also aided recovery from cancer.

With the benefits of exercise (including playing table tennis) in mind, readers are advised of a new resource on the Sport England website, as explained by the (recently departed) Chief Executive of Sport England, David Moffett, below (though I would point out that I could not open several of the pages on it. KM):

"A new resource that is now on our website that we hope will be useful to you.

As you are no doubt aware, we have recently changed our mission statement such that we now see our role in fostering a healthier nation as key to what we do. As a consequence we believe that:-

- interacting with health professionals,
- raising the importance of physical activity due to its impact on the nation's health, and
- refocusing our work on the health arena

is all part of our core business.

We are also aware that many of us from a sports development background are unfamiliar with the structures, people, and policies found within the health sector, and that attempting to connect with health partners without this understanding is both daunting and difficult.

Consequently we have placed a new resource on our website at <http://www.sportengland.org/activecommunities/programmes/health.htm> which not only makes the case for sport and leisure professionals to widen their remit to include health issues, but also provides useful background information on the health services and relevant policies and plans. Our intentions are that this part of our website will grow to include other useful resources such as 'convincer documents', case studies of health and activity projects, information about the LEAP projects and useful web links, etc.

I hope you will find the time to look at this and will find it a useful resource."

## **LIEBHERR WORLD INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, PARIS Monday 19<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May**

Full details are available on the official website, [www.mondialping.com](http://www.mondialping.com)

Tickets are not available to the general public until the beginning of February. They will then be sold by TICKETNET, [www.ticketnet.fr](http://www.ticketnet.fr). According to the website, many of the best tickets have already been sold out.

## **LIEBHERR EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS, 2003**

**The Italian Table Tennis Federation** invites you to the 24th European Table Tennis Championships, sponsored by Liebherr, which will be held from 29th March to 6th April 2003 in Courmayeur. About 23 tables will be located inside the Forum, the marvellous sport stadium just in front of the majestic Mont Blanc.

The following events will be played:

- Event 1: Men's Team (Holder: Sweden)
- Event 2: Women's Team (Holder: Romania)
- Event 3: Men's Singles (Holder: Boll Timo, Germany)
- Event 4: Women's Singles (Holder: Ni Xia Lian, Luxembourg)
- Event 5: Men's Doubles (Holder: Fejer-Konnerth Zoltan - Boll Timo, Germany)
- Event 6: Women's Doubles (Holder: Boros Tamara, Croatia - Steff Mihaela, Romania)
- Event 7: Mixed Doubles (Holder: Blaszczyk Lucjan, Poland - Ni Xia Lian, Luxembourg)

For further information telephone: ++390636857759 or fax on ++39063204714 or e-mail [technical@tteuro2003.net](mailto:technical@tteuro2003.net) (website: [www.tteuro2003.net](http://www.tteuro2003.net))

## **TOP PLAYERS COMMENT ON NEW SERVICE - Most players see no difference by Ian Marshall (ITTF Press Release, Sunday, October 20, 2002)**

At the recent German Open in Magdeburg players and coaches were invited to give their views on the recent alterations made to the service rule. The reactions were varied with a distinct feeling that if the free arm was



withdrawn, then officials would accept the service as meeting the new rules; however it would appear that it is important that umpires address rules that have existed for several years, with throwing the ball back on to the racket the moment common complaint.

GUO Yue (CHN): Not much difference really, I've not had to make any big changes to my service, only minor ones.

LI Xiaoxia (CHN): The quality of my service is not as good as before, the receiver can return the service more effectively which sometimes means that my first attacking stroke after the service is not as good as before.

NIU Jianfeng (CHN): I haven't had to make many changes to my service action, so for me it's virtually the same as before.

CHANG Gao Jun (USA) For me no difference at all, I still play the same way.

Michael MAZE (DEN): The main problem at the moment is that some players still throw the ball backwards when they serve. We need to make sure that all umpires are consistent with the interpretation of the rules and that any rules that are introduced regarding the service are simple and easy to follow.

Petra LOVAS (HUN): No real difference; all that happens is that most players use the same service action but withdraw their non playing arm away from the ball; some move the playing arm away later than others.

Tamara BOROS (CRO): I practised for three months in the summer so that my forehand service action met the requirements of the new rules. However, I still think that some players don't follow the new rules; sometimes I can't see the ball and there are players who remove their free arm at the very last possible split second.

Neven CEGNAR (CRO) - Coach: The frustrating part is that when a player reverts to the old service action and hides the ball, no-one seems to say anything. I know the umpires are volunteers and give their time freely but perhaps it's time to consider the creation of an elite group of umpires who officiate at the major events. Timo BOLL (GER) I think the problem is not necessarily the free arm hiding the ball but the ball being thrown back on to the racket. I think that's the main area on which the officials need to concentrate.

Balazs NAGY (HUN) - Coach I don't

think a great deal has changed; many players still turn their body to hide the ball and just simply withdraw the free arm. Umpires in major tournaments don't want to make mistakes and perhaps are reluctant to call fault on a player's service. It's disappointing that some players still throw the ball backwards on to the racket; the reverse service is certainly not as effective if the ball is thrown vertically and visible to the opponent at all times. I think this service may well die out.

Krisztina TOTH (HUN) It looks like nothing has changed; players serve fairly at the start of the match but when it's close some revert to the old style and either leave the free arm in the same position as before or move it away at the very last split second. Some players still seem to throw the ball backwards.

Ferenc PAZSY (HUN) It's not much different than previously. It's sometimes a case of fighting fire with fire; your opponent does a service and you can't see the point of contact, he's not faulted so you do the same. We must stop players throwing the ball back on to the racket.

Mihaela STEFF (ROM): It's not as big a change as I expected; it has taken me some time to get the feeling of changing my service action. I expected the changes would be much greater.

Eva JELER (GER) - Coach: The difference is minimal, too many players haven't changed and they still adopt the old style of serving. Perhaps we should insist that the service is in front of the body at all times. We must encourage skill whilst also giving the receiver a fair chance to see the ball in order to make a good return.

Andrzej GRUBBA (POL): I really don't see any difference, it's quite disappointing, I think it's difficult for the umpires but I think we have come to a time when we need professional umpires for the ITTF Pro Tour and other major world events. I think the very best players follow the new rule but it's those who are a level below who seem to fall short.

Kalinikos KREANGA (GRE): Against Timo Boll at the German Open the new rule meant that I could see the spin on the ball better and I could attack more often when receiving service.

Werner SCHLAGER (AUT): There are some services that I'm no longer allowed to use so that reduces the effectiveness of my play when I'm serving.

Chen WEIXING (AUT): Previously I could hide the service with my left arm and win points directly from the service, now I have to rely much more on winning points in the rally or by playing a strong first attacking stroke.

Richard PRAUSE (GER) - Coach: I wonder if some players have made any changes at all to their service action, it's important that the umpires react and that serve is clearly visible and not thrown backwards.

Vladimir SAMSONOV (BLR): I've not had to make any changes, I was told my service action was fair before the rule change and at the German Open I could have no complaints. We must be patient, everything takes time, players have to adjust and umpires have to come to terms with the new rule.

### **WORLD CORPORATE GAMES - Unexpected Result! By Mark Fiddian (CRM Business Analyst)**

Friends, colleagues and other interested parties, an unexpected result. Having just returned from the 'World Corporate Games' held in Seville between 8-10 November, where I was representing IBM UK LTD in the men's (30-39 age) table tennis singles, I am very pleased to share the news that I won my event and therefore have been presented with a gold medal (see photograph below).



The background: the Corporate Games hosts stage regional, national and worldwide multi-sport festivals, which are open to participants from businesses, institutions and organisations of every size and type. The games have been held in every continent except Antarctica.

My introduction was via an IBM colleague, who introduced me to The UK & Ireland Corporate Games, which were held in June (Norwich 28-30 June) this year, all winners automatically qualifying for entry into the World Corporate Games.

*The events:* Seville hosted 112 organisations who, in the main, sponsored approximately 1,500 athletes to take part in the 228 events in Seville. Further information can be obtained from <http://www.corporate-games.com> Shall I see you at next year's UK & Ireland Corporate Games, which are

being held in Newcastle/Gateshead on 20-22 June 2003?

*Further information (KM):* Having looked on the Corporate Games website, I think I can deduce that other English/British (based) winners were: Men's Open Singles - Jonathan Cowan, Accenture; Men's 40-49 Singles - Mats Olsson, Potters Leisure Resort; Men's 50+ Singles - Dennis Robinson, Mayfield TTC; Men's Open Doubles - Barry Yarnley (with Jon Wright\*?), Craegmoor Healthcare; Men's 40+ Doubles - Mats Olsson (with Russell King\* or Trevor Bunn\*?), Potters Leisure Resort; Mixed 40+ Doubles - Clive Banham (with Jane Cumnor\*?), West London Mental Health Trust. \*Only one name given on website. However, those marked\* were the partners of the winners in the UK Corporate Games.

### **CIPPENHAM BANDED 2 STAR OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2002 by Graham Trimming**

Players from four different counties won the four events at the Cippenham Banded 2-Star Open Championships on 8<sup>th</sup> December. While the Women's Singles was played as a round robin, the men's event was split into three sections, each a "band" defined by the players' national ranking positions. This ensured competitive table tennis for all the participants with no easy matches for the top players.

Bucks county player Steve Munson, from Aylesbury, won Men's Band 1. The second seed was stretched to five games in his preliminary round group by Dorset junior player Neil Cartwright and was then taken to four in his quarter-final by the young Lithuanian Vytas Rabakas, currently living in Essex. By this time Munson had found his best form and his final two games were both won three-straight. Ian Packford (Oxon) was his semi-final victim followed by Gavin West in the final. The final was full of good fast-flowing rallies in which the Essex player West blocked Munson's attack superbly but was ultimately unable to take a game. West had a superb 11-9 in the fifth victory in his semi over fourth seed Steve Davis (Surrey) and beat Neil Cartwright (Dorset) by the same score one round earlier.



*Steve Munson (left), winner of the Men's Band 1 pictured with Gavin West, runner-up.*

Band 2 was remarkable in that all four finalists for the championship and consolation events came out of one preliminary group. At the group stage Ian Schwartz (Reading) and Steve Preston (Middx) finished with two wins and a defeat each, while Brian Savage (Derbys) and Gordon Chapman (Surrey) won once each. In the finals the results were repeated with Preston beating Schwartz in the main event and Savage beating Chapman in the consolation. The semi-finalists in the main event were Phil Slade (Northants) and Dave Adamson (Glos).

David Hilbeck travelled from Norfolk to play in his first tournament for many years, and it proved worthwhile as he progressed into the final with a 11-9 fifth game win over Chris Walton (Middx). However, in the final, he was unable to cope with the younger and faster David Langer (Surrey) who won three-straight. The other semi-finalist was Bracknell's Clive Banham. In the consolation Cippenham's Andy Spiers progressed through to the final but lost 17-15 in the fourth game to Adam Kelly (Middx).

Kent's junior Anusha Seneviratne came out on top of a six-player round-robin for the Women's Singles, beating all five of her opponents. The interest laid in who would be runner-up as three players tied with three wins each. The countback resulted in Cippenham's cadet Melanie Farquhar being awarded the runner-up position with Sharon Mitchell (Reading) third and Diane Melville (Middx) fourth.



*Anusha Seneviratne (right), winner of the Women's Singles pictured with Melanie Farquhar, runner-up.*

The tournament was organised and refereed by Graham Trimming. A disappointing aspect of the event was that 13 of the 72 (including 5 of the 11 women) failed to appear on the day without prior notice.

#### **Results:-**

**Men's Band 1:** Steve Munson (Bu) bt Gavin West (E) 6, 11, 7

**Men's Band 2:** Stephen Preston (Mi) bt Ian Schwartz (Bk) 10, 8, 11

**Men's Band 3:** David Langer (Sy) bt David Hilbeck (Nk) 11, 7, 8

**WS:** 1. Anusha Seneviratne (K); 2. Melanie Farquhar (Bk)

**Men's Band 1 Cons:** Geoff Grange (Mi) bt Steve Giles (Sy) -10, 5, 9, 9

**Men's Band 2 Cons:** Brian Savage (Dy) bt Gordon Chapman (Sy) -6, 9, 8, 8

**Men's Band 3 Cons:** Adam Kelly (Mi) bt Andy Spiers (Sy) 6, 5, -8, 15

### **CIRENCESTER 1 STAR U11/U13 held at Deer Park TTC, Cirencester on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2002 by Ken Bridle**

#### **Results:-**

#### **Girls Under 11**

Martha Travis (Co) beat Kate Matthews (Wal) 11-7, 14-16, 10-12, 11-5, 11-7.

#### **Consolation**

Laura McLeod (Dv) beat Vicky Smith (Dv) 11-2, 13-11, 11-9.

#### **Boys Under 11**

Oscar Selfridge (E) 2 Andrew Lee (E) 3 Lloyd Jamieson (Do)

#### **Girls Under 13**

Rachel Jamieson (E) 2 Laura Yarnley (K)

#### **Consolation**

Martha Travis (Co) 2 Sarah Russo (Sx)

#### **Boys Under 13**

Billy Deville (E) 2 Oscar Selfridge (E)

#### **Consolation**

Alex Banks (Av) 2 Jason Viola (Wi)

#### **Plate**

Lloyd Jamieson (Do) 2 Lloyd Gregory (Av)

### **STIGA BLACKPOOL JUNIOR 4 STAR SELECT held 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> January 2003 by Tony Meredith**

Once again, Blackpool & District Table Tennis League can look back on a very successful staging of the Stiga Blackpool Junior 4 Star Select. 160 plus competitors enjoyed a very smoothly run event with both days finishing ahead of the scheduled finishing time.

The Junior Boys' Singles attracted five of the top ten England ranked players. The top four seeds arrived in the semi-final positions but not without some cliff-hanger matches. Fourth seed Peter Cleminson from Essex came back from 2 games to 1 down to clinch victory over Lincoln's Alex Green, and Stafford's Greg Baker did a similar job on Lancashire's Adam Bleakley. Baker then defeated Devon's Craig Bryant in another five game to reach the final. As expected the Chinese no.1 seed Kou Lei made short work of Baker at the final stage. Kou went through the entire event with the loss of just one single game.





*Kou Lei, the winner of the Junior Boys' Singles*

The non-arrival of no. 2 seed Joanna Parker, who was on international duty in Austria, left a gap at the bottom of the Junior Girls' Singles draw. Lincoln's Lauren Springthorpe took up the challenge and made her way to the final via a straight games win over Heather Shutt (Yorkshire). No.1 seed Zhao Shuang comfortably beat Kelly Sibley in the semi-final but things were somewhat different in the final. Springthorpe, who had previously won the U-13 event, came within two points of victory. Zhao was 2 games to 1 down but managed to scrape the fourth 11-9 and eventually ran out winner in the deciding game.

The Cadet Boys' Singles produced some more than interesting encounters. Cumbria's Jonathan Crawford excelled in reaching the semi-final with a straight games victory over Danny Rees from Essex. and Lancashire's Tom Bray did well to reach the quarters after disposing of Sam Cannon (Essex) 7 in the fifth. Match of the day was the semi-final that featured nine year old Gavin Evans (the U-13 winner from Buckinghamshire) and David Meads of Durham. Meads had match point at 10-9 in the fourth only for Evans to come back and level at 2 all. Evans led 7-3 in the decider and it looked all over but Meads took the next five points and went on to take the game and match 11-9. Meads' successful run came to an abrupt end in the final where he was outclassed by No.1 seed Bradley Evans.



*Bradley Evans (right), the winner of the Cadet Boys' Singles pictured with Gavin Evans*

Kelly Sibley from Warwickshire was a comfortable winner of the Cadet Girls' event when she overpowered Sarah

Perks of Nottingham in straight games. Perks had excelled herself in the semi-final when she took out the no.2 seed, Lauren Springthorpe.

#### Results:-

Kou Lei (CHN) bt Greg Baker (Dv) 5,9,2  
 Zhao Shuang (CHN) bt Lauren Springthorpe (Li) 8,-7,-5,9,6  
 Daniel Reed (Cv) bt Stephen Roberts (Ys) 7,-12,-7,6,8  
 Jenny Galloway (SCO) bt Sarah Perks (Ng) -6,8,9,-5,9  
 Kou Lei (CHN) Bradley Evans (Bu) bt Adam Bleakley (La) Chris Gregory (Sp) 5,4,8  
 Zhao Shuang (CHN) Heather Shutt (Y) bt Kelly Sibley (Wa) Karen Shepherd (Ch) 8,10,8  
 Bradley Evans (Bu) bt David Meads (Du) 6,7,5  
 Kelly Sibley (Wa) bt Sarah Perks (Ng) 9,5,8  
 Matthew Dodds (Ys) bt Chris Close (Du) 8,5,-8,-9,10  
 Nikki Pilgrim (Wa) bt Susie Steeples (Li) 9,-8,8,-2,10  
 Ben Barlow (Y) Matthew Dodds (Ys) bt Graig Howieson (SCO) Scott Johnston (SCO) -3,-8,10,3,8  
 Kelly Sibley (Wa) Heather Shutt (Y) bt Emma Vickers (Dy) Caroline Hallows (Ch) 5,-6,2,6  
 Gavin Evans (Bu) bt Graig Howieson (SCO) -8,7,4,8  
 Lauren Springthorpe (Li) bt Jordyn Layfield (Ch) 5,5,-8,3

#### **OCEAN INTERNATIONAL SUSSEX OPEN BUTTERFLY GRAND PRIX, HORSHAM 9/10 November 2002**

Finals results (for the record): Open singles results from semi-finals:

**Men's Singles:** Alan Cooke (Derbyshire) bt Terry Young (Berkshire) 11-8, 11-5, 11-4. Liu Song (Argentina) bt Gareth Herbert (Berkshire) 12-14, 12-10, 11-7, 11-9.  
**Final:** Liu Song (Argentina) bt Alan Cooke (Derbyshire) 11-7, 11-7, 11-4.  
**Women's Singles:** Xu Jie (China) bt Naomi Owen (Wales) 12-10, 11-6, 11-8. Zhao Shuang (China) bt Louise Durrant (Nottinghamshire) 11-2, 11-7, 11-5.  
**Final:** Xu Jie (China) bt Zhao Shuang (China) 12-10, 11-6, 11-8.  
**Veteran Men's Singles:** Andrzej Grubba (Poland) bt Leszek Kucharski (Poland) 11-9, 12-10, 11-7.  
**Veteran Women's Singles:** Judy Morley (Gloucestershire) bt Sheila King (Sussex) 11-6, 6-11, 11-6, 11-6.  
**Under 21 Men's Singles:** Kou Lie (China) bt Peter Cleminson (Essex) 11-5, 11-8, 10-12, 12-10.

**Under 21 Women's Singles:** Zhao Shuang (China) bt Natalie Bawden (Essex) 11-3, 11-5, 11-4.  
**Men's Band 1 Singles:** Abdul Wuraola (Surrey) bt Clive Carthy (Essex) 11-9, 12-10, 11-7.  
**Men's Band 2 Singles:** Shaun Marples (Derbyshire) bt Tomas Svensson (Middlesex) 11-9, 6-11, 11-9, 12-10.  
**Men's Band 3 Singles:** Mark Daniels (Wales) bt Kenny Lindsay (Scotland) 11-4, 11-5, 11-8.  
**Men's Band 4 Singles:** William Cooney (Devon) bt Craig Howieson (Scotland) 9-11, 11-8, 14-12, 11-8.  
**Men's Band 5 Singles:** Antony Whelan (Cheshire) bt Craig Howieson (Scotland) 11-9, 11-4, 11-7.  
**Men's Band 6 Singles:** John Clark (Yorkshire) bt John Clarke (Sussex) 11-4, 13-11, 11-7.  
**Women's Band 1 Singles:** Rose Rainton (Sussex) bt Gemma Chapman (Sussex) 8-11, 11-8, 6-11, 11-6, 11-4.  
**Women's Band 2 Singles:** Catherine Eakins (Essex) bt Grace Brown (Essex) 11-5, 11-8, 11-9.  
**Women's Band 3 Singles:** Jennie Whealy (Essex) bt Jodie Stringer (Kent) 7-11, 11-3, 11-6, 11-7.

## COUNTY NOTES

- A look around the  
Country

**Issue No. 290**  
**January/February 2003**

#### **BERKSHIRE by John Cunningham**

For a second successive year, our Lady of Peace and IMPACT has been awarded the Times Trophy for Service to Sport and the Community by Wokingham District Sports Council. Commonwealth gold medal winners from table tennis, Matthew Syed, Gareth Herbert and Terry Young, also received special awards. Matthew attended the presentation and was one of two guest speakers. The England international and former parliamentary candidate for Wokingham took the opportunity to publicly thank all the parents, friends and coaches who give up so much time to support young sportsmen and women.

"For every person who wins a gold medal there are probably six people who have helped them to achieve their aim," said Syed.

He also told the youngsters not to neglect their education while pursuing a career in sport.

"There comes a time when you will need to have something to fall back on once your sporting career is over and it is far better to have qualifications," he said.

IMPACT players Lisa Calcutt and Stephen Ayres received the awards on behalf of Gareth and Terry who were playing table tennis abroad.



*Representatives of IMPACT Coaching and Players receive the Times Award for Service to Sport and the Community from the guest speaker, Peter Hull MBE, at the Wokingham Sports Council presentation. Pictured from left to right are Dave Calcutt, Bill Ayres, Stephen Ayres, Lisa Calcutt, Lee Calcutt and Alan Dines (IMPACT Coach and Director)*

### **Closed Championships December 2002**

The tournament started with the Veteran Singles (over 40s). There was a small, but very good quality entry, played in a group format firstly in groups of fours, then in groups of three, finally in single games.

The tournament provided some excellent matches, Broadmoor's Clive Banham having a particularly good tournament. Kingfisher's Peter Bennett also acquitted himself well, but the big guns eventually found themselves in pole position. The county's no. 2 Tim Heaps contested the final with no. 4 Dave Streak, Tim coming out the winner. Third were Bob Davis and fourth-new veteran Bob Sym.

Sunday started with the Men's Doubles, quantity was once again overridden by quality with some very good pairings, some being pulled from the hat. Scratch pairing Phil Prady and Clive Banham opened their account by taking out top senior Mark Banks and his partner Ramish Gehlot. They eventually went out to another scratch pairing of Martin Adams and Allan Bruton; in the other half of the draw top pair Graham Outrim and Hari Gehlot fought their way to the final where they made no mistakes against Adams and Bruton.

The Men's Singles brought some very close matches resulting in a number of

count-back situations. The tournament was once again played on a group basis providing plenty of games. The eventual winner Martin Adams was rarely troubled on his way to the final where he was a convincing winner over Tim Heaps.

The Ladies Singles brought some very close matches with three group winners fighting it out in a three way final. The resulting group between Jackie Lovell, Sharon Mitchell and Lisa Bosley provided the spectators with some epic and nail biting matches, the final placings were Jackie Lovell first, Lisa Bosley second and Sharon Mitchell third.

The Ladies Doubles, the smallest of the entries was nevertheless well fought with Sharon Mitchell and Denise Rolfe running out winners.

Finally the Mixed Doubles, always a fun event and a bit of a leveller, was well fought with Bob Davis and Lisa Bosley, Hari Gehlot and Melanie Farquahar, Dave Streak and Denise Rolfe, along with eventual winners Graham Outrim and Sharon Mitchell providing some sparkling table tennis.

All in all a good tournament, well run by Sylvia Bruton, if a little short on numbers.

### **Results:-**

#### **Veteran Singles**

W Tim Heaps 11, 11, 9, 11

RU Dave Streak 7, 8, 11, 6

#### **Mixed Doubles**

W G Outrim & S Mitchell 12, 11, 11

RU B Davis & L Bosley 10, 7, 6

#### **Men's Doubles**

W G Outrim & H Gehlot 11, 11, 11

RU M Adams & A Bruton 8, 9, 7

#### **Ladies Doubles**

W S Mitchell & D Rolfe 11, 11, 6, 11

RU D Weller & L Bosley 4, 7, 11, 4

#### **Ladies Singles**

W J Lovell 11, 4, 11, 11

RU L Bosley 6, 11, 4, 5

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

W M Adams 11, 11, 11

RU T Heaps 4, 5, 6

### **CHESHIRE by Alan Blears**

Belated congratulations to the Cheshire teams in the Junior County Championship. After wins against Sussex, Essex and Buckinghamshire the first team top the Premier Division. Danny Horner and Karen Shepherd lead the way with 100% records, but Tom Page, Neil Powell and Liz Dennett all made significant contributions.

The second team are in third place in Division 2A after wins against Lancashire 2<sup>nd</sup> and Worcestershire, and draws against Shropshire and South Yorkshire. Well done Aaron Beech,

Danny Russell, Jon Taylor, Hayley Parker and Jordyn Layfield.

### **Knutsford 2 Star U-12/15**

These results just missed the last edition, but the achievements of three Stockport youngsters should not be overlooked, as between them they won five trophies. Ten year old Jake Barratt was runner-up to the Wirral's Mitchell Barker in the Boys U-12, and also took the Best Performance Award. Emma Kelly was Girls U-12 winner, and was runner-up to Caroline Hallows in the Cadet Girls after a tense fifth game decider.

### **N.W. Regional Trials**

These were in some ways disappointing, as the Cadet and Junior Girls' events were a re-run of the Cheshire trials, with a few changes in personnel. Where were the lasses from Lancashire and Cumbria?

Also the Cadet Boys' event was marred by some poor behaviour, though not it seems from anyone south of the Mersey, which necessitated a rebuke from the organisers. Offenders should note that such behaviour reflects badly not only on themselves, but also on their parents and coaches, and brings the game into disrepute.

On a similar theme, is it too much to ask that youngsters who are invited to a regional training day, or their parents, should reply to the invitation, even if they cannot attend?

### **Karen Shepherd**

As her coach until her journey into the wilderness, led by people now departed, I retain a strong interest in this young lady, and following a season in semi-retirement it is great to see her performing so well again. Confidence restored, in the Western Open Grand Prix in Bath she reached the last eight of the Women's Singles, with a win against Welsh international Naomi Owen, before falling 18-16 in the fourth game to Barbara Kiss.

In the U-21's she was semi-finalist, losing a hard-fought match to long-term rival Abigail Embling. Congratulations to Karen, those now coaching her and her ever-supportive family.

### **Cricket, Music and Table Tennis**

We hear little of players' success in other fields, so allow me briefly to mention two examples from Stockport.

George Yardley is now on the books of Derbyshire C.C.C. Will he follow in gradad Norman's footsteps and one day be captain of England?

Clarinetist Adam Slater has been selected for the National Youth

Orchestra. Both have little time now to practise table tennis, but intend to continue "pinging the pong" whenever possible. Their efforts in Division 1 of the N.J.L. North West area show both are still forces to be reckoned with.

A Happy Fairly New Year to my readers (all three of you)!

### **CUMBRIA by Gordon Brown**

John Reed has retired as Chairman of Barrow Table Tennis Centre and at an exhibition match there, was presented with a glass decanter by Barrow League Chairman Keith Mallinson.

The occasion was attended by ETTA Chairman Alan Ransome; English Schools ETTA President John Arnold; Northern Region Chairman Colin Davidson, and Cumbria's ETTA Council member Clarisse Rose.

The exhibition match involved John Hilton, the 1980 European Champion, two of his friends, Brian Keen and Paul Bowen, and sixth ranked English player Terry Young.

Reed, who has been in the game for more than 40 years, was given a tremendous ovation by the 130 people present. He encouraged the sport as a teacher at Millom School before retirement from a local primary school, and was Chairman of Barrow League for more than 20 years.

The centre's acting Chairman, Roger Harris, also a school teacher who has done a lot to encourage table tennis in local schools, said "it was just one of those nights that went well. It was really good".



*Keith Mallinson (left), Chairman of the Barrow and District Table Tennis League, presents a glass decanter to John Reed, who has retired as Chairman after being involved in the sport for more than 40 years (courtesy of the North West Evening Mail)*

### **DERBYSHIRE by Colin Deaton**

A National County Championship winning double looks in store with both Derbyshire teams at cadet and junior level. Derbyshire's first introduction with a cadet team sees us in a table topping position, whilst our juniors need a little extra shove and they too could win the division. Both teams,

under the guidance of Neil Houghton, have impressed having a good balance.

Tributes have been paid to a stalwart in the Matlock area community. Stan Taylor recently died after playing in the Matlock & District League for well over 50 years. Stan made his name by winning several team and individual events. Those who played alongside Mr Taylor say he will be remembered for his achievements away from the table as well as those on it. Tony Gregory, the current Matlock League Chairman, who worked with Stan for many years, said "He was a great friend to the table tennis fraternity." In 1972 Stan took over the league's newsletter "LOVE ALL", all of which he printed himself and then distributed it to all the teams. Stan Taylor's contribution to Matlock table tennis was significant and this gentleman will be remembered and never forgotten. Meanwhile the Matlock League continues to flourish. The training with youngsters continues to develop and their veterans are to play in the Alec Brook Trophy competition.

One of the high spots to start the New Year for the Chesterfield & District League is the number of young players who are now in the higher spots of the ETTA rankings. Shaun Marples and William Cooney are their top two junior players, but they have a galaxy of young talent in their cadet age group. Alan Fullwood is their top cadet player with Daniel Palmer, Daniel Lawman and Chris Daffin all showing in the top 200 cadets. Featured in these rankings for the first time is 12 year old Jade Lawman who looks a real good prospect.

In terms of standard and membership, the Staveley Club continues to dominate the East Midlands at club level. This club, with 16 teams in the local league, has now developed into being one of the biggest clubs in the United Kingdom and is STILL GROWING. It is no surprise that this club has won the award for the last two years as the EAST MIDLANDS CLUB OF THE YEAR. Nicola Deaton is the President of the club with Sandra Deaton, the new ETTA Vice-Chairman, taking the role of Secretary. This season so far they top the East Midlands Cadet League and are unbeaten in the National Junior League. The aspect that is creating a real buzz is the discovery of 8 year old Lucy Davidson. Lucy is a real 'pocket rocket' and claims she is going to be better than Nicola Deaton.

Derby is going ahead with its junior school coaching programmes in schools. Two Level 2 coaches, Ada Murphy and Mick Swale, are operating midday and after school sessions at several inner city schools, including Hardwick and Pear Tree School. Apart from promoting and organising the

annual Derby 4 Star Junior Select Tournament, the Derby League operates a series of schools tournaments which is ideal for the beginner and improver. This, I feel, gives them an ideal opportunity to view the local talent they have. At the last event, young Laurie Blatherwick excelled in the U-11 events winning both the Girls and Mixed U-11 events. She also performed well in the U-13 Boys. Tournaments such as these need to be featured in other areas of the county.

Finally, I close my notes on two very pleasing aspects.

First of all, the news that Chesterfield and Matlock League player and official, Pat Thorley, has now been given the thumbs up to resume training again. The normally dedicated Pat was forced out of the game for a period of six months. Pat plays in Division 1 in Chesterfield and Matlock and was a regular for the South Yorkshire veterans team. How good it will be to see her back in action, confusing opponents with her long pimple game.

Secondly, our current English 5 times champion Nicola Deaton has announced her engagement to the Commonwealth gold medallist Alex Perry. Nicola is studying for a psychology degree at Nottingham University and is currently in her second year. Alex too is studying at Nottingham University taking law and management. The couple plan to marry when they have both completed their studies in about 15 months' time. Both Nicola and Alex were English triple champions in 1999, which included winning the mixed doubles titles. Congratulations are extended to both of them.

### **DEVONSHIRE by John Vincent**

The Recruit and Prosper 2002 Regional Conference in Taunton on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2002 was well attended and a huge success. 8 members from the Plymouth Premier Clubs were present including Laurie Harrison, Secretary of the Plymouth and District League which will be celebrating its centenary on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2003 with a dinner and presentation of trophies evening at the Holiday Inn on Plymouth Hoe.

### **County Junior Teams**

Devon 2 are to be congratulated on winning all their matches in Division 3C of the County Championships. Devon 1 have made a good start in Division 1B with a 7-3 win over Kent and 8-2 victory over Gwent. Devon 3 and 4 teams are giving talented young players an opportunity to sample county competition.



## Seniors

Devonshire 1 in the Premier Division found the going tough with a draw against South Yorkshire and two defeats. Marketa Myskova was brilliant winning all her 6 matches whilst team members James Whiteman, Kevin Buddell and Chris Brown won games. Devonshire 2 in Division 2B have a strong team built around Tony Sweet, Jane Swabey and Helen Lambert. After being runners-up last year they are now determined to become champions this season. Devonshire 3 have been formed to give the county juniors a taste of senior action.

## Veterans

The first team of Paul Giles, Mike Short, Graham May and Elaine Short have had 4 wins all with the score 6-3. Their aim is to win promotion to Division 1 for next year when they will be joined by Paul Whiting.

## School Team Event County Champions

### Boys:-

Under 11 – Yealmstone Farm C.P – Plymouth  
Under 13 – Exmouth C.C.  
Under 16 – Ivybridge Sports College  
Under 19 – Bideford College

### Girls:-

Under 11 – St. Peters R.C Primary – Plymouth  
Under 13 – Exmouth C.C.  
Under 16 – Exmouth C.C.  
Under 19 – None

## National Trials Qualifiers

### Junior Boys:-

Chris Brown, Shaun Gibbs, Darren Reed and Daniel Mayhew

### Junior Girls:-

Helen Parton and Sally Smith

### Cadet Boys:-

Darren Reed and Simon Poyner

### Cadet Girls:-

Sally Smith

## HAMPSHIRE by Jeremy Wilson

Hampshire have made a slow start in their bid to regain their place in Division 1 of the County Championships, despite heroics from Lee Dredge. The team went down 6-4 to Surrey and could only draw 5-5 with Buckinghamshire and a strong Sussex side, which included Peter Bartram, Andy Walker and Paul Barry. Team captain Butler picked up singles against both Surrey and Sussex, but Dredge led the way with 5 wins out of 6 during the day. Maria Taylor-Woodward and

Barbara Savage both also performed well.

Bournemouth top the table after the first round of matches in the Junior Hampshire Table Tennis League. The team of Neil Cartwright, James Whitehorn, Mark Grimley and Joy Whitehorn beat Basingstoke and Bournemouth B 10-0 in both their fixtures. Southampton and Portsmouth are also still unbeaten after playing out a hard-fought 5-5 draw. Portsmouth B top Division 2 on points difference who are led by unbeaten Nick Faithful. The Andover team of Jonathon Wright, Shaun Carver, Lee Stretch and Stacey Humphrey also performed well with an 8-2 win over Winchester.

The Southampton Table Tennis League looks set to be a close battle after several teams strengthened their teams in the closed season. Defending champions Snobs A line up with the same team and look certain to come under severe pressure from Waterside and Generation II. Waterside are boosted by the signings of Butler and Dredge alongside Southampton champion Christos Hannides, while Generation have drafted in multi-county champion Graham Toole to join current senior champion Victor Imiseev and veteran champion Miki Sinanan.

Alpha also look much stronger with Portsmouth's Rod McMullan teaming up with Alex Rourke and Danny Lucking.

Hampshire hosted a popular night of international table tennis recently, but England lost 3-1 to Norway in their European League Division 1 match. More than 500 fans packed into the Mounbatten Centre in Portsmouth to see Gareth Herbert win England's only game against Geir Andre Erlandsen.

Graham Toole has crowned his table tennis comeback by lifting the Hampshire title for an amazing eighth time. The Fareham-based player has been out of the game for several years, but returned to take the title for the first time since 1995. Toole, who is now 38, coasted into the semi-final where he was matched against last year's finalist Tony Reynolds. Reynolds, from Basingstoke, held his own early on but narrowly lost a close first set 22-20. With Toole's big forehand topspin gradually finding its range with greater consistency, he cruised through the second 21-14.

In the final he played Chris Wilshere, who had come through an all Southampton semi-final 21-17, 22-20 against city champion Christos Hannides. But Toole's cool big-match temperament eventually helped him to a straight sets final win 21-17, 21-14. Amazingly, it proved to be Wilshere's only defeat of a hectic day. He went on to win the Veteran Singles title after wins against Mikki Sinanan and Mark

Scott, the Mixed Doubles with Maria Taylor-Woodford and also successfully defended the Men's Doubles title with Jeremy Wilson.

In the final the duo beat Charlie Childs and last year's singles champion Victor Imiseev 21-19, 21-15. It also proved to be a successful day for Wilshere's son, Glenn, who won the U-23 title with a 21-19, 21-15 win against Aldershot's Acton Zhang. Barbara Savage, from Aldershot, was victorious in a close Women's Singles final with a 19-21, 21-17, 21-17 win against Taylor-Woodford. Savage took her second title after she teamed up with Sandra Simpson to beat Taylor-Woodford and Mary Barron in the doubles final. In the Veteran Ladies Singles Jacki Rice narrowly beat Portsmouth evergreen Mary Barron 21-16, 22-20 in a hard-fought final.

## LEICESTERSHIRE by Derek Butt

In the Leicestershire League Division 1, two teams Leicester Electricity (previously Rushey Mead) and Knighton Park 1 are still unbeaten and boast 100% records in 8 matches; what a thriller is in prospect when these two meet. The works side playing for the past Rushey Mead championship team will be pushed by the Park squad, the result for this one will be hard to predict. At the bottom of the table are G. E. Sports without a win and look to have a mountain to climb if they are to avoid the drop. In Division 2 Thringstone have now got the services of Maurice Newman and will no doubt make them favourites for the title, and will probably find Electricity 2nds who are in second place pushing for a promotion spot also.

In the cup competitions all is progressing well and no surprises from the results in so far. The Rose Johnson Challenge Bowl, a handicap competition consisting of 4 players per team put on by the Leicestershire TTA, has had a good entry this season with 18 teams participating from Leicester and Hinckley. One match already played in this event saw Leicester Electricity beat Caterpillar 1 (Hinckley) in a close match at Caterpillar. It would be nice to see some teams from Loughborough in this very good event and meet some different faces.

News from the Hinckley League; we see that they are also finding the trend of numbers flagging although they still have 2 divisions, but with just 7 teams in each playing up to 21. The early leaders in Calor Gas Division 1 are the champions Goons, having lost just one match in 5 outings so far. Hinckley Meths in third place are the only side left with a 100% record, and the tip (not mine) for the Championship is Hinckley Meths. We shall see. At the

bottom the early strugglers are Stoney Stanton having lost all 4 of their fixtures. In Terrivision Division 2, Barlestone are the leaders and looking very strong. Market Bosworth in second place a few points behind will be pushing the leaders, both are still on a 100% record.

In Loughborough there are 2 divisions of 8 teams and also playing up to 21, 2 players to a team and playing 4 singles and 2 doubles. I am afraid I have no further news at hand from here.

### NORFOLK by Ray Hogg

Just got and read Table Tennis News for November and found in there more information about this county that I can obtain locally, such as John Fuller playing for Kettering after many years lay off. John was from Great Yarmouth and was top man for years in the Yarmouth and Norwich Leagues and also local and county championships. If he finds his form he will be very difficult to beat. Then in the Suffolk notes Andrew Doshier says about travelling 50 miles to a match. Last season Paul Cicchelli and Lee Balaam along with Martin Gray from Cambridgeshire all played in Norwich regularly and won our Premier Division. Paul and Martin played in all 117 games and won 114 of them. I also note that Norwich Foxwood is still in the British League, not that anyone in Norwich is aware of this as no indication is given in the local press that matches are or have been played. I think we owe it to their sponsor to publicise the progress of the team be it good or bad. I personally find it practically impossible to obtain results of county matches played so far this season.

### NORTHAMPTONSHIRE by Dennis Millman

On the veteran scene Northants Firsts made the comeback of the season when trailing Staffs 4-1, they took the last 4 singles to scrape home by the odd game in 9.

Clem Little, on her first appearance after injury, made no mistake to win in straight games against Shirley Boone, but for her male colleagues it was a sterner task as Gary Webb, Chris Gibbons and Steve Silk (for the second time) had to go the full distance before getting the better of the opposition.

There was no repeat performance against Worcestershire Seconds with single successes from Gary Webb and Gordon Shaw the only reward.

Mike Hawes forgot Yorkshire sides are invincible when faced by Northants, as he won twice to add to a Muriel Cox success on a rare appearance. However

even though it was Yorkshire Sixths, the end product was still a win for the 'White Rose.'

Lincolnshire were even more impressive with only a mixed doubles shared between Cox and Ian Sclater escaping their talented clutches.

Kettering continue to remain unbeaten in the Midland League, with the A side winning 8-2 against Nottingham C and then following up with all 10 points against Dudley. Ken Philipson and Geoff Atkinson were unbeaten in all 6 encounters with Sclater, who lost once against Notts, replaced by Shaw for the match with Dudley.

Mike Hawes and Gerald Finney both hit hat-tricks for the B team when Birmingham C were beaten 7-3, but it was newcomer John Fuller who won the day against Kidderminster B with 3 singles and then a double shared with Hawes, who also won twice.

Fuller, who last played some 24 years ago when he was Norfolk no. 1, returned to table tennis at the start of the season after playing squash and tennis in the intervening period and is now beginning to find his true form, as the potential Wellingborough League Premier Division champions Old Grammarians recently discovered.

Playing for Westfield B in the final match of the first half, Fuller's hat-trick included wins over Chris Gibbons and Dave Murphy, and he finished on a high note, when he and Hawes came from behind to take the match winning doubles.

Fuller deservedly made the Evening Telegraph headlines which read, 'Fuller's boys go top as O.G.s lose unbeaten tag.' Gratifying perhaps but the insertion of the word 'old' wouldn't go amiss, when the report also included the phrase, 'Dennis Millman chipped in with a vital win.'

### Latest placings:- P W D L PTS

Westfield B	9	8	1	0	65
Old Grammarians A	8	7	0	1	63
Chesterwell A	9	4	2	3	52
Higham Band A	9	5	2	2	50
Thrapston A	7	4	1	2	46

Gibbons and Fuller also feature in the upper reaches of Kettering's Premier Division, with Braybrooke's Gibbons getting the better of Kettering Town's Fuller when the teams met earlier in the season.

Gibbons was in such good form that he remained undefeated for 9 matches until Braybrooke encountered SAS Thrapston, whereupon he lost in quick succession to Ken Philipson, Steve West and Ian Sclater as the Islip based side boosted its title hopes.

### Latest positions:- P W D L PTS

Corby Town A	11	9	1	1	88
Higham Band	10	10	0	0	86
SAS Thrapston	11	8	0	3	81
Kettering Town A	11	9	0	2	77
Braybrooke A	10	6	1	3	66

Sponsorship pays! This season the Kettering League is sponsored by Burton Latimer Baptist Church and in the second week of December the press officer's report was able to include, 'With one week to go to the halfway stage of the campaign, Burton Baptist sides sit on top of Divisions 1, 2 and 3.'

It went on to add, 'However getting there may have proved an easier task than staying there' but not if a November headline is to be believed. 'Baptist trio leave their rivals without a prayer.'

### NORTHUMBERLAND by Pauline Long

The county veterans team, newly promoted to the Premier Division, found it hard going in their first series of matches at Ashford over the weekend of 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> October. 'Benny Robertson' was unable to play because of work commitments, which meant Malcolm Lusk had to move up to the no. 1 position and Jimmy Scope was brought in as a replacement to join Geoff Salter, Rob Dodds and Christine Robinson, who was making her debut at this level.' Despite several close games and an encouraging first match for Christine, they lost 0-9 to both Cheshire and Kent and 2-7 to Yorkshire, with Malcolm and Geoff each winning a singles.

The senior team of Eddie Smith, Andrew Wilkinson, Dave Godbold, Caron Guthrie and Pauline Long - replacing the injured Karen Henry - played all their matches over the weekend of 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> November using two tables for each match at Halton Table Tennis Club, Widnes. They narrowly failed to regain promotion to Division 1A when finishing as runners-up to eventual champions Cheshire, to whom they lost 4-6 to record their only defeat. They beat Cleveland 7-3, Cumbria 8-2, Derbyshire 8-2, Warwickshire 7-3, Warwickshire II 9-1, and were awarded a 10-0 walkover against Leicestershire who were unable to field a team on the second day.

Andrew led the way with 11 wins out of a possible 12 singles actually played, and Eddie and Dave won 10 each. For the women, Caron won 7 and Pauline 3, and both were awarded another singles when Cleveland were unable to field a second female player. Looking back over this experience of playing all the matches over one weekend, it appeared that while a lot of players seemed to be

in favour, I personally felt that because we were usually either playing or scoring, there was no opportunity to enjoy or appreciate the match to an impression of devaluation and "getting it over with."

#### Rankings:-

##### **Senior Men**

1, Eddie Smith; 2, Andrew Wilkinson; 3, Dave Godbold; 4, Ian "Benny" Robertson; 5, Malcolm Lusk; 6, Geoff Salter; 7, Steve Penman; 8, Keith Patterson; 9, Gary Sangster; 10, Chris Thorp; 11, Rob Dodds; 12, Jimmy Scope; 13, Alan Matthewson.

##### **Senior Women**

1, Caron Guthrie; 2, Karen Henry; 3, Christine Robinson; 4, Pauline Long; 5, Linda Pinkham.

##### **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.

The Northumbria League representative side of Eddie Smith, Michael Marsden and Chris Thorp won both their group matches at Huddersfield by 5-2 to advance to the next round of the Wilmott Cup men's team competition. Contrary to my report in the November issue of TT News, the league do NOT have a team in the Carter Cup junior boys competition, preferring to concentrate on their county matches and regional leagues. The cadet squad of Adam McCormack, Fan Cheng, Kevin Watson and Ben Thomson have already played in the first round of their league and won 3 out of 4 matches.

The new Northumberland Schools League has commenced with two sets of fixtures played at Ashington Sports College and West Gate Community School. Ashington 'A' and John Spence 'B' are leaders of group A, and Ashington 'B' and John Spence 'A' are at the top of group B. Michael Marsden is full-time coach at Ashington, while Andrew Wilkinson continues to coach at John Spence School, North Shields.

At the other end of the age scale, Pauline Long won the Women's 0-60 Consolation Singles at her first attempt in the Eastern Masters Veteran Tournament at Grimsby, defeating Joan Cook (Essex) in the final, while Malcolm Lusk reached the quarter-finals of the Men's 0-40 Singles event. Dates have finally been agreed for both the Northumberland Closed Tournament (Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February at the new Sporting Club of Cramlington) and the Newcastle Grand Prix

(Saturday/Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> March at Eldon Square Leisure Centre, Newcastle).

Reports on the progress of the Northumbria League and Team Handicap Knockout Cup Competition will be held over until the next issue of Table Tennis News owing to lack of space.

#### **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE by Mike Tunningley**

It is nice to see clubs and teams are moving with the times and creating websites for interested parties to browse through. This form of information is one of the quickest ways to obtain the latest news you require. We have two leagues in our county who currently enjoy these facilities, both Worksop and now Mansfield include regular updates for members to browse through. Their addresses are [www.wdttl.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.wdttl.fsnet.co.uk) and [www.mansfieldtabletennis.co.uk](http://www.mansfieldtabletennis.co.uk). Mansfield have a new venture this season with excellent facilities to extend into functioning as a table tennis club. The Summit Centre in Kirkby in Ashfield already has two teams using it as their venue. There is space for three practice tables as well as room to play a league match. The venue enjoys changing room and bar facilities and runs on a Thursday evening for a nominal charge of £2. The league obtained Lottery funding for four new tables and other equipment at the Centre.

Mansfield's Dean Brookes maintained his form of last season, when he won the leagues first trophy of the season, after winning the Autumn Cup by defeating Gareth Godber in three straight sets. On the league front early pacesetters Fringe are joined by Ravenshead All Stars as main challengers for the title, while in Division 2 Black Bull look the team to beat.

In the Worksop League the surprise leaders of Division 1 are Manton M.W. "B" who won promotion from Division 2 last season. They have played six games under the newly introduced bonus points rule while other teams have yet to appreciate its value. Extra points are gained by teams fulfilling their fixture on the correct date, playing with three players and sending in their scorecard on time. In Division 2 the strongest team is one of the youngest ever to top the league. Rhodesia T.T.C. include up and coming youngsters Matthew Dodds, Sarah Perks and Damien Piper, all of whom are rapidly improving with coaching and playing in various national tournaments.

The League wish to congratulate through this column Mick Vesey, on

being voted Male Coach of the Year at the ETTA's Presentation Dinner which was held at Lilleshall.

#### **SHROPSHIRE by Terry Ridgway**

Both county veteran sides are fighting for promotion in Division 4C, but with the Wiltshire and Dorset teams up there battling for the top spots, good wins are required in the remaining three games. Shropshire's second squad helped their cause with a 6-3 win over the first team (Dave Elkin, Chris Tarr and Wendy Baggott unbeaten!). It looks like the trophies could go all the way to the final series of games in May.



*Shropshire's second squad in the English County Veterans Championship (from left) Chris Tarr, Terry Ridgway, Rod France, Dave Elkin, Wendy Baggott*



*Shropshire's first team pictured at Shifnal's Idsall Centre (from left) Malcolm Langford, Jane Bevan, Rob Mansfield, Mike Dudley*

#### **Telford League**

Idsall A and Albrighton B are the only two unbeaten sides in the top division and hold the top positions. Last season's champions Albrighton A find themselves pushed down to third place and have a lot of work to do to retain the title. Broseley (with new signing Rob Davies in fine form!) and Industrial Bearings make up the chasing pack, surprising to see Bridgnorth A in bottom but one position! Leading averages go to county no. 1 Tony Ackeroyd with top veterans Malcolm Langford, John Holding and Dave Elkin following. Lilleshall A have an impressive 8 out of 8 wins to lead Division 2, but four sides are chasing the runner-up spot as Mathesons A, Owens T.V, Bridgnorth



D and Albrighton C all attempt to close the gap. Abbey B, C and D still lead Division 3, but Mathesons C are the only unbeaten side with matches in hand.

### Shrewsbury League

Two clubs dominate the Premier Division with Pontesbury A, B and C and Cricket Club A, B and C making up the top six positions. As with the last two seasons Cricket Club A are still unbeaten and with matches in hand will probably put in a late run and retain the championship. Division 1 looks tight and could go to any of five sides. Hospitals B look favourites and are still unbeaten. Top player averages at the halfway stage in the Premier go to Alister Corfield, Nigel Holding, Paul Corfield and Rob Mansfield.

### Division 1

Tight battle for the title as Myddle, Unison B and Hospitals B open up a gap at the top. Shrewsbury's Midland League sides are experiencing mixed fortunes as the A side have not won yet in Division 1, but the second team have won 2 out of 2 in Division 2 with captain John Holding unbeaten.

### SOMERSET by Martin Rumary

The qualifying rounds of the National Junior Ranking Trials were a great success for the county's cadet girls.

Having got through the preliminaries at St. Austell the quartet of Carly Roper, Claire Howe, Frances Potjewyd and Alex Johnson then all made the final five at the next stage at Cirencester and all will play at the Nationals. Claire and Carly also qualified for the junior finals as did John Hughes in the junior boys.

The county junior team also made a great start in Division 2B having been promoted last year. They started with a convincing 8-2 win over Berkshire then a draw with Surrey 2 and back to winning ways against Surrey 3.

*Somerset - 8 Berkshire - 2* (J. Hughes 2, G. Duddridge 2, M. Jenkins 2, C. Howe 1, C. Roper 1)

*Somerset - 5 Surrey 2 - 5* (J. Hughes 1, G. Duddridge 0, M. Jenkins 0, C. Howe 2, C. Roper 2)

*Somerset - 7 Surrey 3 - 3* (J. Hughes 1, G. Duddridge 0, M. Jenkins 2, C. Howe 2, C. Roper 2)

The seniors have not got off to too good a start with one draw and two losses.

Away to Hereford they were without Christine Cowell, but Wendy Pryce stepped into the breach and took a vital win to go with two from Naomi Wilson and one apiece from Joel and Strutt.

The matches against Devon 2 and 3 were both lost 4-6 with Devon fielding the same team in both games!

*Somerset 5 Hereford 5*  
(S. Joel 1, D. Shrutt 1, A. Rumary 0, N. Wilson 2, W. Pryce 1)

*Somerset 4 Devon 2 6*  
(S. Joel 1, A. Rumary 1, P. Tillotson 1, N. Wilson 1, C. Cowell 0)

*Somerset 4 Devon 3 6*  
(S. Joel 1, A. Rumary 1, P. Tillotson 0, N. Wilson 2, C. Cowell 0)

Having lost the services of Jerry Musselwhite this season the Vets A team will be pleased with two wins in two matches, while the Vets B side also remain unbeaten after two encounters as well.

*Somerset A 5 Middlesex 2 4*  
(B. Reeves 2, J. Crabtree 0, G. Green 1, S. Dark 1, mixed doubles 1)

*Somerset A 5 Herts 2 4*  
(B. Reeves 2, J. Crabtree 0, G. Green 1, S. Dark 1, mixed doubles 1)

*Somerset B 5 Devon 3 4*  
(M. Crook 0, A. Stone 1, B. Bruton 2, W. Pryce 0, both doubles)

*Somerset B 8 Sussex 4 1*  
(G. Green 2, A. Stone 2, M. Withyman 2, W. Pryce 1, mixed doubles 1)

*Somerset C 2 Dorset 3 7*  
(A. Maidment 0, A. Seward 0, S. Lewis 1, A. Sandford 0, mixed doubles 1)

*Somerset C 2 Devon 4 7*  
(A. Maidment 1, M. Tarr 1, S. Lewis 0, A. Sandford 0)

*Somerset C 1 Shropshire 1 8*  
(A. Maidment 0, A. Seward 0, S. Lewis 0, A. Sandford 1)

*Somerset C 6 Shropshire 2 3*  
(A. Maidment 2, A. Seward 1, S. Lewis 1, A. Sandford 0, both doubles)

Finally, congratulations go to our two top junior girls who both represented England teams this year. Kate Steward, of course, represented her country at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester and Naomi Wilson played for England schools at Cardiff.

### SOUTH YORKSHIRE by Alan Dunn

The first half of the season has seen the big clubs dominating our local leagues once again. At Xmas, Stocksbridge lead Barnsley Division 1 and are also top of Hallam (Sheff) Division 1, the Castle 'B' team are currently hard on their heels, only one win behind. The Rotherham Scorpions Club are leading Rotherham Division 1, they are being pushed hard by the London and Scandinavian Metals Club. The Rotherham Scorpions Club is yet again dominating the county as far as juniors are concerned, sitting on top of both National Junior League and National

Cadet League, and things are looking good for the future .. Sheffield Juniors are represented by the Castle and Abbeydale Clubs, and are challenging hard in both competitions. Scorpions are also involved in Junior British League, the Premier team event in TT. The teams are top in the boys 3a and girls are mid table of 3. Teams are: National Cadet League: Peter Morgan, Stephen Arliss, Joe Dunn, Robert Swift. National Junior League: Peter Morgan, Stephen Arliss, Liam Carson. Junior British League: Stephen Roberts, Ben Barlow, Daniel Hudson. Girls: Nicola Shepherd, Emily Robinson, Helen Reynolds. Rotherham's Ben Barlow is improving with every shot, proved recently by his victory in the Lancs. 3\* in Accrington. A special mention must go to Joe Dunn (Scorpions) who has received sponsorship from American multi-national Company 3M, and is currently training with the National U12 squad at Lilleshall National Sports Centre, and Nottingham TT Academy. The Barnsley TT Development Group led by Brain Heathcote, is working tirelessly to promote and improve the sport in the area. I have been involved in the work and know the effort Brian has put in will bear fruit in the near future.

The county teams are having mixed fortunes, but are doing well considering all were promoted over recent seasons. The juniors are in Division 2a and are 5<sup>th</sup>. The seniors are playing their first season in the Premier and are also 5<sup>th</sup>, the highpoint so far was a well-earned draw against Yorkshire. The Veterans are currently top of 2a with 3 wins, losing only to Warwickshire so far. I'm still waiting for reports for county teams, but hope to give more in-depth information in subsequent articles. The Hallam coaching session on Sundays at Hillsborough has recently started; it runs from 9.15 to 11.00 for seniors, the junior session is 11.15 till 1.00. Both sessions cost £3. In the South Yorkshire Schools Team Championships, the winners were U11 boys and girls: Dore Primary School, U13 boys: Meadow Head Secondary School, U.16 boys: Myers Grove, U16 Girls: City School. All the Schools were from Sheffield and Doncaster and the success of the event goes down to Sheffield Schools Co-ordinator Phil Wright and South Yorks Schools Officer Jim Kenny.

The new Rotherham Scorpions web address is [www.scorpionttc.net](http://www.scorpionttc.net). I need more information about new clubs or coaching ventures, as they happen. We have a great county; let's crow about it! Alan Dunn: (01709)324548 e-mail: [aldunnpingpong@hotmail.com](mailto:aldunnpingpong@hotmail.com)



Joe Dunn at Lilleshall National Sports Centre

### SUSSEX by John Woodford

The Sussex second team are the first side to win gold medals this season. With a strong team of Andy Walker, Peter Bartram, Terry Haley, Sheila King and Sarah Stedman, they travelled to New Malden overpowering Oxfordshire 6-4 and Buckinghamshire 8-2.

That was in Division 2, but those five players are a team with no passengers and should give a good account of themselves next season in the high division.

Crawley retained the Sussex Inter-League Championships, senior and veterans titles at the Six Villages Centre, Fontwell. Ritchie Venner, now residing in Hastings, played for Crawley with Terry Haley in the all too frequent absence through injuries being suffered by the county champion, Mayur Majithia.

Barrie Gilbert and Fawsi Yousif had little trouble in winning the veterans event for Crawley.

Hastings now have two strong women's and girls teams – both were triumphant at Fontwell – Sheila King and Rose Rainton for the seniors, Lisa Standen and Stacey Furnival for the juniors.

The All-Sussex Championships, senior, veterans and juniors, will also take place at Fontwell shortly. Ritchie Venner, despite a dip in recent form, will be the top men's seed. Andy Walker took him to 11-8 in the fifth recently at the inter-league event.

Gary Wilson, Luke Bridge and Gina Rogers are still at the top of our junior ranks, but only the "giant" Wilson turned up for the Inter-League event.

In the British League, Division 1, Horsham are leading the table with Reading. The clash between these two rivals will take place shortly. Can Horsham afford to go up if they have the chance?

### WARWICKSHIRE by Caroline Williams

#### Warwickshire Closed

The Warwickshire Closed Championships will be staged on Sunday 5 January at Warwick just after the closing date of this article. Full results will have to wait until the next magazine.

#### County Matches

Warwickshire juniors playing in Division 1A of the County Championships have found the going hard. On the first day in November at Grantham, the squad of 4 boys and 3 girls went down 6-4 to a strong squad from Lancashire, drew 5-5 against a weaker Lincolnshire and then were swamped 9-1 by Derbyshire and with the same score to Nottinghamshire. Lee Bradford (Birmingham), David Bissell (Birmingham) and Matthew Cooper (Leamington) gained victories in the Lancashire match. Coventry's Nicki and Rachel Pilgrim both picked up two good wins when they played against Lincolnshire, plus one from Lee Bradford. Nicki Pilgrim was the lone voice for Warwickshire against Derbyshire and Leamington's Stephanie Hawkins did well to get one against Nottinghamshire.

#### Wilmott Cup Disappointment

Leamington men's team had an unfortunate experience in November when they travelled to Trowbridge in Wiltshire to play two other teams in the first round of the national team Wilmott Cup – and came third! The trio of Mark Woolerton, Jon Williams and Mark Jackson were unlucky and disappointed to lose to both Plymouth and West Wiltshire, and so Leamington will not progress to the next round. Against Plymouth, Spa had been 4-3 up but eventually lost 5-4, having the horrendous experience of losing both the last two games 12/10 in the fifth. The strongest side West Wiltshire beat Leamington 5-2.

#### Midland League News

In Division 1 of the Midland League the Leamington men's squad played their first match this season away against Oxford – and won it 7-3. Ron Vose swept up his three, Phil Paine and Earl Sweeney two each to give the team three points under the new scoring system in the Midland League. (Unfortunately 8-2 or better would have

given Leamington a more useful four points.)

On the last Sunday of the year, Leamington played both Coventry sides in the Midland Junior League, resulting in 7-3 and 8-2 wins. Against the Coventry B team Leamington won 8-2, Matthew Cooper taking his three and the doubles with Edward Freeman, who added a brace as did Richard Grover, Rachel Pilgrim replying for Coventry B. Leamington did almost as well against the Coventry A team winning 7-3. Matthew Cooper again took the maximum plus the doubles. This time he was partnered by Richard Grover who contributed a singles and there was also an Edward Freeman brace. Paul Nicholls won 2 and Robert Pilgrim 1 for Coventry A.

### WORCESTERSHIRE by Martin Clark

Mark Fiddian from Droitwich, representing IBM UK Ltd., surpassed all expectations to take gold in the 30-39 years old category at the World Corporate Games held in Seville, Spain, in November, beating another Englishman Barry Yarnley from Dover in the final.

He qualified for the Games after winning the UK and Ireland Corporate Games in July and he will defend that title in Gateshead later this year.

#### County Junior Championships

There was a surprise result in this season's championships held at Christopher Whitehead School where 42 boys and 13 girls took part.

Tom McDermott (Kidderminster), the title holder and no. 1 junior boy was beaten in the semi-final by 4<sup>th</sup> seed Robert Hatherly (Kidderminster) in 5 games. In the other semi, Matthew Hutton (Dudley) no. 3 seed beat Joe Higgs (Malvern) in 3 close games. In the final the unflappable Hutton beat Hatherly 7, -10, 8 and 5 to take the title for the first time.

No surprise in the junior girls with Kendall Smith (Kidderminster), the title holder and no. 1 seed beating Emma Williams (Worcester) in the final. 13 year old Williams had won through her group by beating Stephanie Beswick, Lynsey Garbutt and Leanne Sully.

In the cadet boys Ben Salisbury (Malvern) overcame Jack Higgs (Malvern) in a nail biting final that went to the wire in the 5<sup>th</sup>.

The cadet girls final saw Williams lose out to Hannah Garbutt (Dudley). Garbutt went 2 up, only to be pegged back in the next 2, however, she finally overcame last year's winner 11-8 to take the title.

The Boys' Doubles was taken by Joe Higgs and Anthony Wiseman

(Malvern) winning in 4 games against Matthew Hutton and Matthew Lang (Malvern).

Kendall Smith and Eleanor Lasota retained their Girls' Doubles title, beating sisters Rachel and Katie Sellick (Evesham).

County Association President Vera Royal presented the trophies.

### **County Championships Veterans' 1sts**

In what many considered to be less than ideal conditions at the Woodfield club in Wolverhampton, we had a satisfactory weekend in terms of results.

The first match against Lancashire 2nds resulted in a 6-3 victory with Eric Hardman providing the backbone with 2 sets and being ably backed up by Ray Dixon, Roy Norton and Janet Hunt.

The second match by contrast ended in defeat by the same score against South Yorkshire, Janet again playing her part in the singles and mixed doubles with Norton. Our only other success came again from Hardman.

On the Sunday we got off to a good start again by beating Bedfordshire 6-3. A sterling start saw Ken Walton coming in at no. 1 to win the first set and followed by victories by Norton and Hardman. Further wins in the men's doubles gave us a 4-1 lead and victory was secured with Walton and Norton in the last 2 singles.

The final match of the weekend was against neighbours Warwickshire. After 5 sets we had fallen 1-4 behind with only Walton in the opening set recording a win. Lynda Reid started the comeback and was followed by another victory by Walton, however, despite Hardman's win in the final set, we lost 4-5 largely due to losses in 2 close doubles sets.

Much criticism was levied by many players and supporters from all participating counties in respect of the heating, lighting and floor in what is supposed to be a purpose built venue under ETTA specification.

From my own perspective it was disappointing to note that apart from our own county providing three official umpires over the weekend, the only other blue coat came from Lancashire.

### **County Championships Veterans' 2nds**

Our second match of the campaign saw Nick Mytton enter the fray against Leicestershire 2nds. This turned out to be a nail biting match that started dismally with us falling 1-4 down. Only Mytton had taken his singles and losing both doubles put us in a precarious position. Dorothy Macfarlane won in 5 to put us back in the match and was

followed by victories by Mike Meredith and Mytton to level the match. All rested on yours truly Martin Clark in the final set which was won 3 straight (no sweat).

### **County Championships Senior 2nds**

Sadly, despite Mark Brooks' efforts, the team has withdrawn from the championships due to lack of availability of players particularly with a shortage of ladies. Mark has been frustrated in his attempts, partly caused by players being tied due to them being called on by the senior first team.

### **Veterans' British League**

Having performed most admirably throughout the weekend, it should not go unnoticed that Mike Meredith was awarded 'man of the weekend' at Stoke in November. He was the mainstay in the Seaside team of Keith Powell (Yorkshire), John Fannin (Gloucestershire) and Martin Clark (Worcestershire) who finished top of the division at this halfway stage.

### **Golden Jubilee Dinner**

Over 50 people celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Holt Fleet Hotel where many players and officials (some from the inauguration) enjoyed a most enjoyable and memorable evening. Beryl Shammmon not only organised the event, as she had so done for the silver anniversary, she also made the celebratory cake and was presented with a bouquet of flowers for her outstanding efforts. Photographs of past and present players were on display and a scrapbook of press releases was circulated amongst those present.

### **YORKSHIRE by Barry Snowden**

#### **White Rose Affairs Bradford League**

In the Bradford League it's good to see former county player Mick Stead back in action on a more regular basis. Mick had had operations on both his knees and his appearances for the last two seasons have been few and far between.

In the first half of the season Mick has lead his side Tog 24 to the top of Division 1 by winning all his 18 sets, including a vital maximum in the defeat of Bradford Fastbats A who were unbeaten prior to the meeting.

Tog 24 have now dropped just one point while defending champions Bramley are two points behind and are clearly missing the services of county senior second team skipper Simon Pugh who is not playing in Bradford this term.

Bradford Fastbats A were in top spot but successive defeats against Tog 24 and Bramley have pushed them back into 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

At the other end of the league Thorn Park School for the deaf playing in the league for the first time have yet to manage a point but have made many friends with their attitude. Despite finding league table tennis tough going, they applaud their opponents and bring an enthusiastic and enjoyable approach to the game.

### **Halifax League**

A new team are at the top of the Halifax 1st Division this season but the players are all familiar faces to this go-ahead league as Elland Rugby Club A lead the top division at the halfway stage, having won all their eleven matches.

Making a welcome return to Halifax is county senior second team skipper Simon Pugh who has an impressive unbeaten 21 sets record. Pugh is well supported by Halifax representative players Gilly Broadbent, Ian Tweedale and Gary Foster.

The rugby club are already 8 sets clear of second place Grasshoppers who have played one match more and have already lost 4 of their 12 starts and, despite the inclusion of veteran stalwarts Alan Dickinson, Paul Stannfield and Alan Carter in their ranks, it is hard to see how the Grasshoppers can now catch the high flying Elland.

On the Friday after Christmas the Halifax & District Table Tennis Association held their annual mystery doubles at the impressive Halifax Table Tennis Centre.

It was the 21<sup>st</sup> successive staging of this popular post Christmas event which attracted an impressive entry of 34 local league players for this event where partners are drawn out of a hat. The only proviso is that no Division 1 player may partner another top divisional player.

Grasshoppers player Bob Sanderson and Halifax TTC B player Shaun Forbes from the 3rd Division took this season's event with a hard fought final success over Alan Veal from HBOS and Steve Caulfield from Division 4 team Halifax Central 22-20 21-18.

### **Dennis Norburn**

It is with deep regret that I report the death of one of the stalwarts of the Yorkshire game as Dennis Norburn died suddenly at his home on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2002.

Dennis will be remembered as a Yorkshire County player and former Halifax and York champion, and many of his table tennis colleagues joined



friends and family to say goodbye to Dennis at Park Wood Crematorium on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December, which was one day before what would have been his 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

I myself were amongst a dozen or so that could not get a seat and stood at the back of the chapel, such was the popularity of the likeable Norburn who in recent years had devoted much of his time to the development of the junior players in the town.

Most weekends he could be found providing his own taxi service to many of the town's up and coming youngsters or being non-playing captain offering advice and knowledge to his charges.

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

I feel I do not do enough in this column to help local press officers, so before I get to table tennis in the national media, here is a bit of (edited) **advice** from the Observer (Stephen Pritchard, 3.2.02) about **getting letters published** in that particular newspaper, although the principles apply generally:

'Here are some **simple rules**:

1. Don't start your letter 'So,'.
2. Follow the guidelines set out every week on the letters page.
3. Be brief. It takes time for us to read several hundred communications. Try to keep the length of your letter to a maximum of 300 words. Most (letters published) are between 100 and 200 words; some are as short as 35 words. A long letter will inevitably have to be cut and runs the risk of becoming unbalanced, even after careful editing.
4. Stick to the point.
5. Be legible. Obviously typed letters and e-mails are easy to read but...our letters' editor sometimes feels like a pharmacist faced with scores of illegible prescriptions.
6. Avoid green ink.

It is worth noting that the letters that stand most chance of success are those that take an issue forward. Those that merely disagree with a point in the paper or complain and carp without substance to their argument usually get short shrift; those that throw new light on a subject are the ones that fight to get in the paper.

Don't be afraid to be passionate; we thrive on vigorous argument – and a touch of deft humour never does any harm – but avoid the temptation to hurl

insults. Try to tailor your letter for the (particular) paper.

Don't be tempted to go beyond the deadline: you'll be too late. Please include your name, address and daytime telephone number. We don't publish unsigned letters, however succinct, but if you want us to withhold your name and address please supply them anyway so we can verify your letter. E-mailers should insert 'letter to the Editor' in the subject field.'

I will publish BBC 'golden rules' on relating to broadcasters next month.

**John Woodford** continues to provide the only national newspaper day-to-day table tennis news service in his **The Daily Telegraph** copy, covering such issues as Katy Parker topping the England ranking list, various international matches and tournaments (including **Darius Knight & Paul Drinkhall winning the cadet boys' team event and Abigail Embling & Joanna Parker coming runners-up in the cadet girls at the Portuguese Youth Open**), and the **ETTA Chairman Election** (I will say no more about the latter, except that you can find out about the candidates on their respective websites: [www.alanransome.info](http://www.alanransome.info) and [www.alex@harwoodltd.couk](mailto:www.alex@harwoodltd.couk)). Some of John's **Press Association** copy (as well as some of my own press releases) has appeared in other national papers, e.g. I have seen Butterfly Grand Prix results in The Times and The Guardian, and there have also been occasional 'shorts' in the Daily Mail.

However, I think the most significant national coverage in the period has emanated around **Matthew Syed**, or **Darius Knight & Paul Drinkhall**, or both. Matthew has had **several features** on major sporting issues, such as drug testing, taking a stand against President Mugabe's Zimbabwe, and discrimination of gay athletes (a whole page this, which elicited an enormous readership response), referenced partly from his table tennis experience, **published in The Times**. As we go to press, The Times has just published a purely table tennis article of his on Timo Boll, which I shall detail in the next edition. Matthew has also been live interviewed about the (London) Table Tennis for Kids Project on TalkSport UK, done a live interview on BBC Asian network breakfast programme, and appeared for over an hour on Radio 5 Live's sports panel on the 'Sport on 5' programme on 6<sup>th</sup> January.

Matthew was behind getting Peter Charters and the (Reading) Kingfisher

Club featured on Meridian Television South and the half page (with photo) Sunday Telegraph (Simon Hart, 1<sup>st</sup> December) feature on Darius Knight, with big mentions of the National Training Centre, coach Gideon Ashison and Darius's colleague and arch rival, Paul Drinkhall. **Currently, I am getting more media enquiries on Paul and Darius than for any other table tennis issue**, and we can anticipate further coverage on them on TV and in the press. Also look out for a BBC TV broadcast on writer Howard Jacobson and table tennis.

Other snippets: The December **University of Nottingham Newsletter** announced **Nicola Deaton's invite to 10 Downing Street to meet the Prime Minister, Tony Blair (Alan Ransome and Matthew Syed also attended), and her engagement to University and England table tennis colleague, Alex Perry**. Then the January Newsletter majored on the Master of Research **graduation of Chinese superstar** (and British Member of Parliament equivalent) **Deng Yaping**, who 'enjoys the kind of fame in China that in Britain is reserved for sporting superstars like David Beckham'. As well as being the main news (with photo) item, Yaping's graduation was the (only) subject of the Newsletter front cover. Apparently around 400 million viewers watched the event courtesy of China Central TV.

In December, the (American) Tennis Channel ([www.thetennischannel.com](http://www.thetennischannel.com)) announced that it had secured the broadcast rights to 15 major international TT tournaments sanctioned by the ITTF, in a deal with [Tabletennisvideos.com](http://Tabletennisvideos.com), the U.S. television rights holder of ITTF events, who will produce 15 tournaments in 60 or 90 minute blocks for broadcast on The Tennis Channel.

Stop Press! A Guardian feature by Sophie Parkin (29.1.03) on sex in old age, 'Growing old disgracefully', says that, 'Another friend's 78-year-old mother and twin sister share their 55-year-old table tennis coach'! Who is the coach?!

# WILTSHIRE'S GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

**TWO distinguished Guests of Honour, Alan Ransome, OBE and Aubrey Simons were welcomed by John Ford as Chairman of the event's organising committee.**

Alan Ransome endorsed the status of this event in Wiltshire and spoke of the changes in the game in recent years like the switch to the 11up scoring system and the increased ball size. He observed that there was a worldwide majority in favour of changes intended to counter the effects of speed glue and to enable spectators to "see the game properly". Whilst the larger ball had been widely accepted the new scoring system Alan acknowledged had met resistance but this could well become mandatory.

Alan Ransome and Aubrey Simons shared the presentation of medals to seven of nine players who had made at least 100 appearances for Wiltshire. The recipients were Gwen Hazell, Sylvia Morse, Eddie Roofe and Basil Thompson all of Swindon, Terry Bruce and Bill Moulding both of Salisbury and Kevin Satchell of West Wilts. Alan Duke and Brenda Lee Baldwin were the additional qualifiers but were absent umpiring at a big event in the Midlands. However



**ORGANISING COMMITTEE & DISTINGUISHED GUESTS: (l.to r) (backrow): AUBREY SIMONS, NOEL SEWELL, JOSE & ALAN RANSOME, ROY HAZELL (frontrow): JOHN FORD, SUE STONE and ROY CHAPMAN**

Mrs Peggy Lee was truly delighted to accept the medal for Brenda from Aubrey Simons.

Kevin Satchell in acknowledging the "100 appearance" medals on behalf of the recipients paid an eloquent tribute to all who had helped his personal development in the game from school days and looked forward to his entry to the ranks. Kevin is of course a player of inter-national stature and at his peak was ranked No.8 in England. He appeared against Finland, Russia, Germany (twice) and in Commonwealth events. He is actively involved in top level coaching inclusive of work with the Scottish National team.

Noel Sewell paid an appropriate tribute to the memory of late officers of the county association. Their names and their distinctions were recalled with pride, gratitude and affection. People like Don Hillier and Kathleen Waters made major contributions whilst David Ketheroe and John Neech were the original Chairman & Secretary and served for some years from 1952.

The county Senior team marked the 50th milestone with three wins in County Championship matches with the team enormously strengthened with the appearance of Kevin Satchell supported so ably by Eddie Roofe, Tim O' Mahoney, Michele Cohen and Brenda Baldwin, all in good form.

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BC06

# CHINESE FROM WALES CLEAN-UP IN BATH

**THIS tournament easily retained its fine reputation as the the most popular on the circuit with its entry of 312 players, eventually pared down to around 300, writes John Woodford.**

All it needs to scoop all the honours is to find a sponsor (like the Sussex Open GP) to allow the top mens singles prize to be lifted from the £250 to £1,000.

Not many players world-wide get cash hand-outs from their national bodies. That certainly applies to England, so the top players have to go where they stand a good chance of earning money.

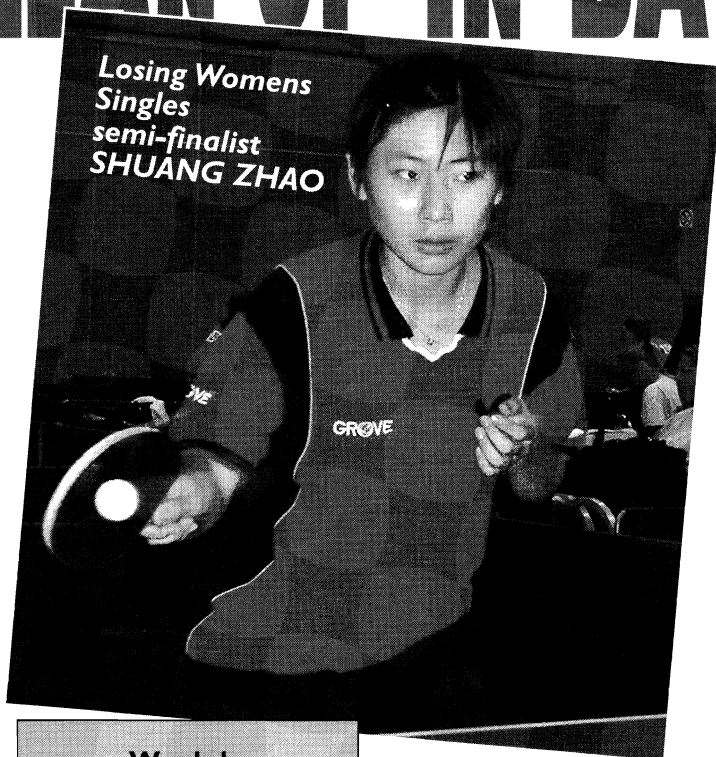
This cash-chase is even more important now that we have two new 'camps' of Chinese players one in Cardiff and one at Market Drayton. Chinese players have won the major battles in the last two Grand Prix tournaments - Sussex and now in Bath.

The Welsh Association with their attached Chinese squad and Ian Marshall at the Grove club would point out that it is a new advantage to be able to play against talented Chinese without having to join a club on the continent.

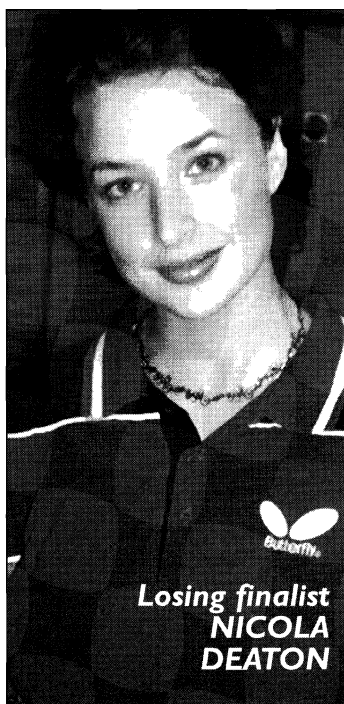
Both finalists Feng and Wang, benefited from the absence of any really strong players based at Nottingham, such as Alex Perry, Bradley Billington, Alan Cooke, Gareth Herbert and Terry Young. Had any two of those five been present, the Chinese players might well have been beaten, although both finalists are strong players like so many we see from China.

Glancing at the mens singles quarter-final line-up Feng v Cleminson, James v Bryant, Drinkhall v Charles, Dolder v Harvey and in the top half: Jenkins v Denny, Gertsen v Urban, Sugrue v Wang, Campos v Lei.

Several of the local players in the last sixteen must have wondered how they got there. There were superb matches late on. Ryan Jenkins, winner of six grand prix events squandered four match points before losing in a classic all-aggression semi-final with Wang who went through 8, -7, 8, 5, 15.



**Words by  
JOHN WOODFORD  
of The Daily Telegraph  
in Bath**



Hungary.

Some time has elapsed since we heard of a player throwing a game in his group in order to get into the other half of the draw. This happened in Bath... Wang Ran calmly lost -3, -6, -2 to Chris Brown of Cornwall in order to avoid playing against his Chinese team-mate. When Ryan Owen did the same thing in Kings Lynn two seasons back, he was warned by the Welsh TTA. But the warning came as a specific complaint made by the Norfolk coach involved. Footnote: The organisation in Bath was excellent as in the past. There were around eight bluecoat umpires

The last game saw all play on other tables stopped as each man lost his match-points.

One round earlier, the quarter-final battle royal, also almost stopped all other play as Wang (Wales) overpowered the young Lei Kou (Shropshire) 11, -11, -7, 8, 7.

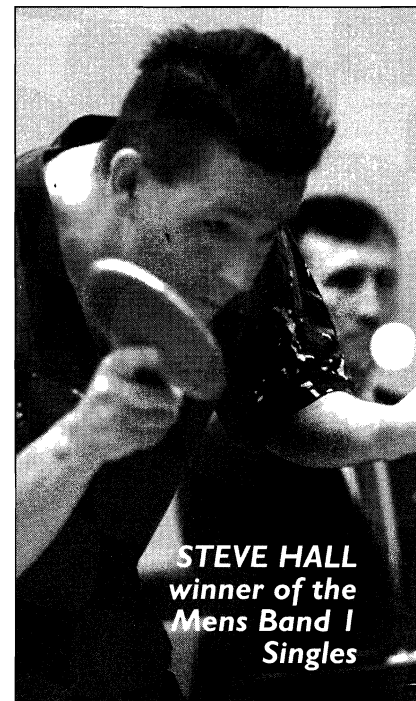
Those two matches provided brilliant watching for the fans, well worth making the journey to Bath.

In the final it was Feng from the Welsh attached-squad who triumphed 8, -10, 4, 5 over Wang.

## ENGAGEMENT

Nicola Deaton made a welcome appearance in Bath, shortly after her engagement to Alex Perry was announced. She played with power and precision stopping Barbara Kiss (Hungary) in the semi-finals 9, 10, 9 but in the final our Derbyshire star was defeated 4, 8, 7 by Jie Xu from Cardiff.

Jie plays in the Bundesliga womens top division for Badriburg and her best win so far in Europe was over Kristina Toth, the world No.24 from





in attendance - now an essential part of a Grand Prix, especially on the second day. Play ended promptly on both days and around 250 people watched the main finals around tea-time on the Sunday.

## THE BANDS

STEVE HALL the Welsh veteran coach and "funny-rubber" man is proving a difficult opponent. In a classic Band 1 final he overpowered Ireland's Eoin Byrne at 11 in the fourth.

In the Band 2 final Ireland also lost when John Bowe was outgunned by Stephen Denny (Yorkshire) 6 in the fourth.

Band 3 final opponents came from the south as Adam Laws (Surrey) defeated Tony Halling (Essex) 9 also the fourth.

Tony Halling, 15 from Leigh-on-Sea, Essex reached two finals. In Band 3 he knocked out the Lithuanian Vytas Rybakus but lost in the final to Adam Laws of Surrey.

The womens Band 1 winner was a Dutch lady Marlos de Smet, a close friend of Ryan Jenkins. She defeated Gemma Chapman (Bucks) 4, 7, 10.

Thirteen year old Stella Davis (Gloucester) No.9 on the England cadet list lifted the womens Band 2 title with a win at 2 in the fourth against Jane Dickens of Warwickshire.

### Open singles results (from semi-finals):

*Men's singles:* Wang Ran (China) bt Ryan Jenkins (Wales) 11-8, 7-11, 11-8, 5-11, 17-15. Tang Jiang Feng (China) bt Kevin Dolder (Lancs) 12-14, 11-6, 11-8, 11-6.

Final: Tang Jiang Feng (China) bt Wang Ran (China) 11-8, 10-12, 11-4, 11-5.

*Women's singles:* Nicola Deaton (Derbys) bt Barbara Kiss (Herts) 11-9, 12-10, 11-9. Jie Xu (China) bt Shuang Zhao (China) 11-8, 11-3, 9-11, 11-9.

Final: Jie Xu (China) bt Nicola Deaton (Derbys) 11-4, 11-8, 11-7.

*Men's band 1 singles:* Steve Hall (Wales) bt Eoin Byrne (Ireland) 10-12, 11-5, 14-12, 13-11.

*Men's band 2 singles:* Stephen Denny (Yorks) bt John Bowe (Ireland) 12-10, 11-8, 4-11, 11-6.

*Men's band 3 singles:* Adam Laws (Surrey) bt Tony Halling (Essex) 12-10, 11-2, 7-11, 11-9.

*Men's band 4 singles:* Tony Halling (Essex) bt Les Richmond (Lancs) 11-7, 11-3, 11-6.

*Men's band 5 singles:* Rafael Campos (Venezuela) bt Daniel Reed (Cleveland) 12-10, 11-5, 11-9.

*Men's band 6 singles:* Brian Britton (Cleveland) bt Antony Whelan (Cheshire) 7-11, 11-9, 13-11, 11-8.

*Women's band 1 singles:* Marlos de Smet (Holland) bt Gemma Chapman (Bucks) 11-4, 11-7, 12-10.

*Women's band 2 singles:* Stella Davis (Gloucs) bt Jane Dickens (Warks) 11-8, 11-5, 9-11, 11-2.

*Women's band 3 singles:* Jane Easley (Staffs) bt Diane Melville (Middx) 11-4, 11-4, 11-6.

*Under 21 men's singles:* Kou Lei (China) bt Peter Cleminson (Essex).

*Under 21 women's singles:* Shuang Zhao (China) bt Abigail Embling (Essex)

*Veteran men's singles:* Clive Carthy (Essex) bt John Rankin (Lancs)

*Veteran women's singles:* Jane Durham (Cleveland) bt Judy Morley (Gloucs)

## THE OTHER VIEW

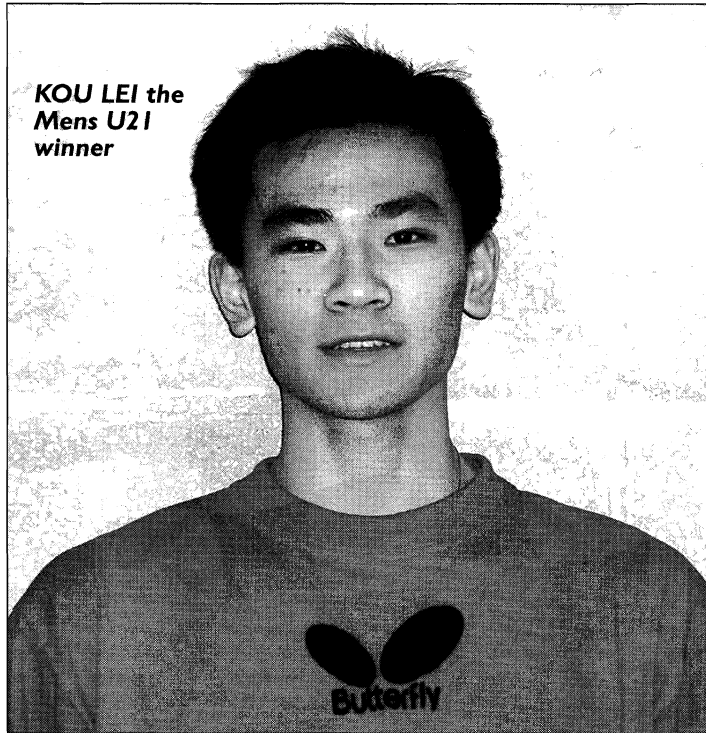
by Ken Muhr

**Neil Houghton requested that if I write a report, I should mention that despite the provision of cardboard bins by himself, disappointingly, some players still deposited their rubbish on the floor. Done it!**

In a repeat of the Ocean International Sussex Open final 3 weeks earlier, 17 year old England junior no.5, Peter Cleminson (Essex), took the precocious 15 year old Banbury based Chinese, Kou Lie, seeded 1, to 5 pulsating games in the men's under 21 singles final, before succumbing 11-9, 11-8, 7-11, 8-11, 5-11. It was the closest challenge Kou Lei, from Beijing, has been given by any England junior so far. After defeating second seed Craig Bryant (Devon) in the quarters, in the semi-finals Cleminson had won a marathon clash with Ireland's Eoin Byrne 9-11, 6-11, 19-17, 11-9, 11-6, while Kou had a straight games success over Stephen Gertson (Wales)..

16 year old Zhao Shuang, also from Beijing but also currently based in Oxfordshire, was a fairly comfortable winner of the women's under 21 singles, putting out 14 year old Welsh starlet Naomi Owen, 4-11, 11-3, 13-11, 11-3 in the semi-finals, before having a slightly tougher time (11-9, 11-9, 9-11, 11-5) against England national cadet champion Abigail Embling (Essex), who plays a similar heavy two wing topspin game to herself. Embling had put out Karen Shepherd (Cheshire) in her semi-final.

Former national veteran champion Clive Carthy (Essex) triumphed in the veteran men's singles, via Dave Harvey (Gloucestershire) in the semi-finals and John Rankin (Lancashire), 11-7, 11-13, 8-11, 11-6, 11-7, in the



final. Rankin had put out the second seed, Welsh international Steve Hall, 5-11, 11-5, 11-9, 7-11, 11-4 in the semi-finals. Cleveland's Jane Durham, who has dominated the tournament circuit this season, was a comfortable winner of the women's veteran singles, with wins over Sheila King (Sussex) in the semis and Judy Morley (Gloucestershire), 11-7, 11-5, 11-6 in the final. Morley had come through an epic 7-11, 4-11, 11-7, 11-6, 14-12 encounter with Penny Perry (Exeter, Devon).

### YOUNGSTERS DO WELL IN BANDED SINGLES

Two English youngsters, Stella Davis (Gloucestershire) and Tony Halling (Essex) did well to take two titles in the banded singles events dominated by foreign players, at the Western Open Butterfly Grand (supported by Bath & North East Somerset Council), played at the Bath Sport & Leisure Centre on 30th November/1st December, with the biggest ever entry of 318 players.

Stella Davis from Gloucester, only 13 and ranked no.9 in the England cadet ranking list, took the women's band 2 singles with a 11-8, 11-5, 9-11, 11-2 win over Jane Dickens (Warwickshire). In the semi-finals, the right-handed attacker had put out her left-handed Gloucestershire colleague from Stroud, 23 year old Marianne Willsher in straight games.

15 year old Tony Halling (Leigh-on-Sea, Essex), reached two finals. In the men's band 4 singles the fluent attacker defeated Lancashire's Les Richmond, 11-7, 11-3, 11-6. And in the men's band 3 singles, after knocking out his Essex colleague, 13

year old Lithuanian Vytas Rybakus 11-9, 12-10, 7-11, 11-7 in a match full of attractive and improvised attacking play, he then fell in the final, 10-12, 2-11, 11-7, 9-11 to Adam Laws (Surrey). 12 year-old Daniel Reed (Cleveland) created a stir when he reached the final of the men's band 5 singles via 16 year old Jon Hughes (Wellington, Somerset), 4-11, 11-9, 3-11, 11-1, 11-8, but in the final he found the 22 year old Venezuelan international Rafael Campos a bit too strong, going down 10-12, 5-11, 9-11. Campos is currently based in Bath while on an English Language course.

In a men's band 1 singles event dominated by Wales and Ireland after several of the seeds had been knocked out early, Welsh veteran Steve Hall overcame Ireland's Eoin Byrne 10-12, 11-5, 14-12, 13-11 in a hard fought battle, the losing semi-finalists being respectively Steve Gertson (Wales) and Damien Lynch (Ireland). The women's band 1 singles was lifted by 22 year old Dutch girl Marlos de Smet, who had too much weight of shot for Gemma Chapman (Buckinghamshire), triumphing 11-4, 11-7, 12-10. Gemma, England junior ranked 10, had narrowly put out her close rival, Lauren Spink (Norfolk), 14 and junior ranked no.9, 8-11, 7-11, 11-9, 11-7, 11-7 in the semi-finals. The 16 year old England junior no.15, Stephen Denny (Yorkshire), aged 16, overcame Ireland's John Bowe 12-10, 11-8, 4-11, 11-6 in the men's band 2 final.

# THE YORK GARDENS EXPERIENCE

**FOR SOMEONE who graduated from 1940s and 50s boys clubs to the London table tennis scene of the 1960s and 70s, I thought it about time to re-visit my roots, writes Brian Halliday**

Where to start? Where were all those clubs I had known so well all those years ago? I had played in a number of leagues in London where the variety and nature of the clubs was astonishing. We went regularly to, among others, banks, insurance offices, diamond merchants, embassies, tobacco companies, breweries (always good refreshments!), paint factories, bus depots, and numerous Civil Service outfits. It was all so easy in those days at, say, the Ministry of Defence and just report to Reception and say 'Table Tennis' to get in with no security interrogation whatsoever. We even played a match underneath Waterloo Bridge - broken windows and a Force 8 gale. Heady days.

The demise of those old traditional clubs and the structures that embraced them are regretted by so many older players. The London Business Houses League in 1960 had 21 mens and 5 ladies divisions, and the Central London League was not far behind. The Americanised revolution which poured a whole new culture at financial institutions and their ilk, killed off not only those clubs which had become part of so many players lives, but also eventually those leagues as well. It was now profit at all costs at the expense of a saner and altogether more pleasant way of life.

Therefore it was with some trepidation that the visit to York Gardens was planned. I had heard a lot about them from numerous people. Most clubs have some claim to fame, however transitory,

but this club had produced a player of marvellous potential. Darius Knight has already had a whole wealth of publicity, but sometimes 'potential' makes fools of us all.

Still here was an opportunity too good to miss. I decided that a visit to the club that had nurtured his talent was essential and might, at the same time, put some old ghosts to rest.

The York Gardens club is situated in Wandsworth, and although the signs to the Community Centre are numerous I defy anyone not to get lost in the surrounding estate of high rise blocks of flats, and one way dead ends. After about a dozen enquires I tracked down the Community Centre and was warmly welcomed by both Sue Adamson and Tom Draper.

The place was buzzing. Four tables with general play and coaching for juniors, with youngsters waiting to take their turn to play. I watched Tom playing his consistent hard bat defence against a young lad who was looping and driving with enviable consistency. Good coaches have all the patience in the world and that knack of being able to feed exactly the right ball to the pupil. Tom has it.

Sue explained that on most nights they had about 23 players but sometimes it was absolutely packed. The membership comes mainly from the York Gardens estate and it may be a significant factor in their success story that very few parents bring their offspring along - the kids just turn up because they like the atmosphere and they like playing. The lack of parental involvement throws more work on Sue and Tom and his wife, nevertheless the club seems to thrive on pressure situations.

The concept of encouraging the

local kids to learn to play sport is paramount at this club. I could not help but compare my own involvement with the London scene all those years ago. Then it was all about small clubs dedicated to success at league level. Then the game was 'middle class' with not much thought given to the future of the game especially in inner city and deprived areas.

Sue, Tom, and their coaches, ably assisted by ex RDO Jon Kaufman have brought a new vision to the club and encouraged a sense of purpose in their senior and junior members.

The four tables do not cater adequately for their needs, and it did look as if the problem would be resolved when a ten table venue became available at Southfields. The massive publicity surrounding Darius Knight and his coach and mentor Gideon Ashison led to him setting up a separate and dedicated facility. Gideon, whose expert coaching talents had been honed in a shed in Tom Draper's back garden, was now able 'to do his own thing'. The committee at York Gardens, to their credit, have no problem with that, but they do want their own place with more tables. The Council are sympathetic and present rent is reasonable, but land in this area is at a premium.

What can be done? This really is a special case, and the E.T.T.A. is actively investigating alternative venues for this progressive club.

Matt Syed has taken time out from his busy playing schedule to help set up 'Table Tennis for Kids'. More about this new and exciting initiative in due course - but in the meantime, where is there a better place to launch this than York Gardens?

## OBITUARY

### Jon De Groot

THE Southend League lost one of its greatest stalwarts when Jon De Groot died after a valiant fight against Leukaemia. When Jon first learned he had the dreadful disease 2 years ago, he fought it off and was back playing in the league within 6 months. He never lost his sense of humour or his determination and on visits to the hospital we found him in track suit and on the treadmill. Sadly the illness returned suddenly a few weeks ago and this time there was no let off; we shall all miss Jon greatly.

Jon arrived in Southend in the early 80s when his company "The Royal Insurance Company" relocated his department to London from Manchester. His loves were his Family, Table Tennis and Manchester United and he did a lot of charity fund raising before he fell ill. Jon joined the Invicta Table Tennis Club and gained a place in their first team. His team of Jeff Edwards, John Hill, Dave Sibley and Jon was a regular yo yo team in the 80s and early 90s, winning the first Division one year and getting relegated from the Premier the next; too good for Division 1 but not quite up to Premier standard. They were always a hard team to play against, Jon in particular. In recent years his team colleagues included John Golding, John Lott, Maurice Cornish, Talbot Wiseman and Colin Chatfield. Invicta Chairman Norman Creagor said Jon will be missed so very much by all members of Invicta, who will all have fond memories of him.

Jon was a man who believed in giving something back to the sport he loved and he became Captain of Invicta A and General Secretary of the Club. He also served on Southend's Management Committee until work commitments intervened. He was always ready to help. Jon regularly entered our Championships with great enthusiasm and again was always quick to lend a hand in the organisation of the Event and 2 years ago he devised a software Programme to speed everything up.

He was one of my Clients in London when with the "Royal Ins. Co" and again he was a pleasure to deal with providing you did the job up to the standard he required. He had a great sense of humour, sharp at times but always well meant.

Jon's Funeral was held in November, at the Jewish Cemetery in Southend and it was attended by a large group of friends and family and both Invicta and the Southend League were represented; it was clear how much he was loved by everyone.

Jon will be very much missed and our thoughts are with his wife Carol, his children and family and his many friends.

*Ken Field, Chairman on behalf of the Southend & District Table Tennis League*

# BRITISH LEAGUE

# PREMIER TEST

**THE SEVENTH British League Premier division matches produced arguably the most eye-catching results of the season to date, writes Steve Kerns.**

Progress came mightily close to losing for the first time, BATT'S John Holland produced a performance of stunning dimensions against the Champions-elect, Eddie Smith became the first player to beat Jonathan Taylor and the unpredictable JAGS side produced a masterful performance to trounce Wellow House 12-2. Even the gallant DML Plymouth side who have yet to score a point fared better, although their 8-6 defeat against Barnet does hide the fact that they were 8-3 down at one stage.

You have to start with the Champions and the all-conquering London Progress team made it seven wins out of seven; but this round of matches produced their first real "contest" of the season. BATT'S Team Peniel were left with mixed emotions after losing 8-6; genuine pleasure at having played so well tinged with the disappointment that inevitably accompanies a match where you have played really well but have still ended up losing. When BATT'S heard that Jason Sugrue wasn't playing their spirits must have been raised quite considerably although when they heard that Marco Essomba was his replacement it is doubtful if they were so delighted!. Rather like substituting Beckham for Keane (or even Phil Neville!) if you believe the hype surrounding a minor football match played over the same weekend!

John Holland played quite magnificently to take his three singles and it is doubtful if anyone will be able to produce a better performance anywhere in the British League this season. In successive matches John beat Cris Sladden, Marco Essomba and finally Tomek Gretschesell all 3-1. Matches were shared all the way to

4-4 when two fifth set doubles wins for the Progress pairs - Gretschesell/Taju Agunbiade and Sladden/Essomba eventually proved decisive. The informant Peter Cleminson had another day to remember, beating Taju 11-9 in the decider (only Taju's second defeat of the season) and then Tomek Gretschesell 3-1. Neil Charles added a great win over Taju in his last match but Cris Sladden's second victory, a 3-0 success over Chris Jamieson ensured that Progress took the game 8-6. Not surprisingly John Holland took the Player-of-the Match plaudits.

"Team of the Season" Seaisiders are now a clear second after yet another good performance; a 9-5 away win over Darlington I. With Johnathan Taylor's unbeaten record being destroyed 3-0 by a rampant Eddie Smith the Seaisiders victory owed everything to team-work as all four of their players - Taylor, Kevin Dolder; Paul Hutchins and John Rankin won twice. Dolder set the ball rolling with his opening 11-9 in the fifth set victory over Eddie Smith but he in turn missed out 13-11 in the decider against John Hilton. The ageless Hilton couldn't contain Taylor but added a second win with a 3-2 success over John Rankin. Michael Marsden did well to beat John Rankin 11-7 in the deciding fifth end but he made little impact against the orthodox attacking Dolder who was a comfortable 3-0 winner on this occasion. In an afternoon of excellent performances it was Eddie Smith who was selected as the Player-of-the-Match.

JAGS, surely the most inconsistent team in this division (their results have already included a superb 10-4 victory over BATT'S Team Peniel and a horrendous 12-2 defeat against Seaisiders) chose this week to really put it together. Facing a full-strength Wellow House team they were obviously well aware that victory would give Wellow House fresh heart that they can avoid relegation.

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PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
London Progress	7	7	0	0	77	21	14
Seaisiders	7	5	1	1	57	41	11
BATT'S Team Peniel	7	4	1	2	52	46	9
Barnet	7	4	0	3	46	52	8
Darlington	7	3	0	4	52	46	6
JAGS	7	3	0	4	45	53	6
Wellow House School	7	1	0	6	38	60	2
DML Plymouth	7	0	0	7	25	73	0
<b>DIVISION ONE NORTH</b>							
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
<b>DIVISION ONE SOUTH</b>							
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
<b>DIVISION TWO NORTH</b>							
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
<b>DIVISION TWO SOUTH</b>							
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
<b>DIVISION THREE NORTH</b>							
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
Seaisiders II	4	0	0	4	4	28	0
<b>DIVISION THREE MIDLANDS</b>							
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
<b>DIVISION THREE MIDLANDS &amp; SOUTH</b>							
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
BATT'S Team Peniel II	4	0	2	2	11	21	2
Grove II	4	0	1	3	78	25	1
<b>DIVISION THREE SOUTH</b>							
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

BRITISH LEAGUE TABLES



# CADETS & OVER 60's EXPAND

**IT IS encouraging to see that the two recently formed sections have increased membership since their inception last season, most noticeably the Cadet section where a whole new division has been formed, writes Stan Clarke.**

We now have three divisions in the section loosely based geographically with a southern division, a central, or midlands, division and a northern division, the winners of the three divisions will play each other to establish an overall winner towards the end of the season, probably at Grantham during the final Premier division weekend. The next step will be to establish a promotion and relegation system for the Cadets although this may well cause problems with travelling for such young players. The "Over 60" section has also seen an increase in teams, up to nine teams from the five who competed last season.

All three of the Premier divisions have completed their first round of fixtures over the past couple of weeks, although I do not have the score sheets for the Senior Premier at this time. The first to play were the Veterans on the weekend of 26/27th October at the Ashford club. The first round of matches paired Cheshire against Lancashire, a real "Derby" match, Lancashire welcomed debutant Paul Hutchings into the Veteran ranks and he was immediately thrown in at the deep end when in the opening set he was matched against John Hilton, no contest! Paul winning three games to

love, next up was Mike Johns against Keith Williams who took the first two games before Mike powered back to level the set at 2/2, but it was to no avail as Keith comfortably won the fifth 1 1/3 to put Lancashire 2/0 up in the match. Brian Johns then beat John Rankin to peg back the Lancastrians only for Keith and Brenda Buoeu to restore the lead by winning the mixed doubles, the Johns family secured the next set when Mike and Brian beat John and Paul in the men's doubles only for Brenda to easily beat Doreen Schofield to take the match score to 4/2 in favour of the "Red Rose". John Hilton then beat Keith Williams in a tight five game set before Paul Hutchings crowned an immaculate debut by beating Brian Johns to secure the win at 5/3. In the final set Mike Johns comfortably beat John Rankin, but by then Lancashire were celebrating their win over the old enemy. At the same session Sussex disposed of Middlesex 6/3 and Kent beat Surrey by the same score, Yorkshire thrashed Northumberland 7/2, Keith Roger winning both of his sets in three straight. In the evening round of matches Cheshire put their earlier defeat behind them and thoroughly trounced Surrey 8/1, Yorkshire just scrapped home 5/4 against Sussex when Malcolm Corking piped Nick Standen in the

final set. Kent put Northumberland to the sword 9/0, Di. Pearce was named as player of the match when she recovered from being two games down against Christine Robinson to win the next three. Lancashire continued their good start with a 9/0 drubbing of Middlesex, although three sets needed all five games to produce a winner. The Sunday dawned with Kent, Yorkshire and Lancashire all undefeated, Kent faced Sussex and maintained their record, but only just, John Burleton beating Barrie Gilbert in the final set of the match to ensure victory 5/4. Yorkshire where pared against Middlesex and achieved a very good 6/3 victory despite Malcolm Corking conceding both of his sets due to injury. Lancashire continued their run of good form beating a curiously under performing Surrey side 7/2. Surrey, with Ian Girdler, Dave Welsman Dave Harding and Margaret Maltby should not be struggling in this way, having lost all of their matches and won only six sets from twenty-seven. Cheshire meanwhile rounded off their weekend in fine style thrashing the luckless Northumberland 9/0.

So at the halfway stage Lancashire are in top spot, level on points with Kent and Yorkshire but with a superior sets difference, whilst Cheshire wait in the wings to see what happens in the second round of matches when the top three must play each other.

## JUNIOR PREMIER

The first round of matches were played at Cippenham on 2/3rd November and in the first set of matches Cheshire really went for the "Jugular" when they whipped Buckinghamshire 8/2, although they did run into some resistance when in the first set Gavin Evans beat Tom Page, but Cheshire won the next three sets before Gemma Chapman beat Elizabeth Denning to make the match score 3/2 to Cheshire but that was to be the last stumbling block before the youngsters from the North West wrapped up the match, mind you Gemma Chapman almost had a double when she led Karen

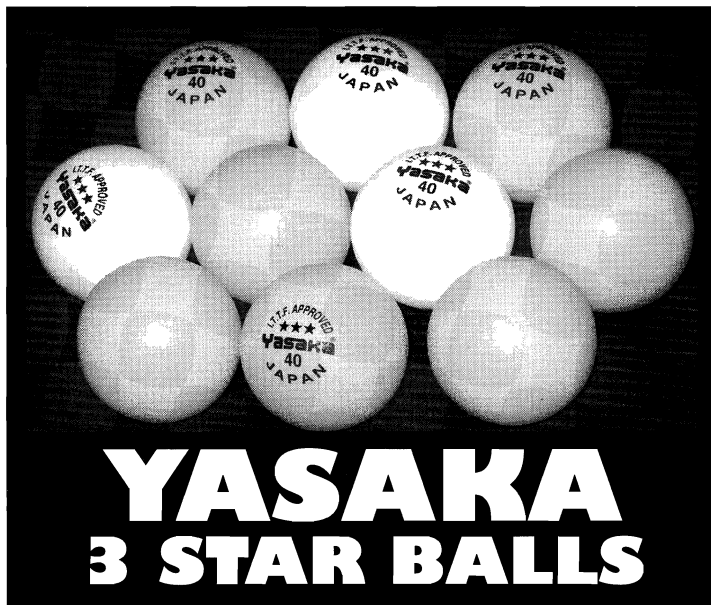
Shepherd by two games to love, but Karen powered back to take the last three games.

Surrey were entertaining Sussex and proved to be rather generous hosts as Sussex thrashed them 8/2, but Surrey were just a little unlucky, Robert Lemon having won the first set against Luke Bridge was desperately unlucky to loose against Gary Wilson in his second set having won the first two games only for Gary to level at two games all and win the deciding game 17/15 and Jessica Trimmell lost to Gina Rogers 12/14 in the fifth after being 2 games to 1 up at one stage.

Lincolnshire overcame Essex 7/3, player of the match for the Lincolnshire team was Alex Green with two wins, the second against the dangerous Vytas Rybakas. Meanwhile Glamorgan, who won the championship last season, found themselves held to a draw by Yorkshire, who after six sets were holding a 4/2 lead only for the Welsh team to gallop into a 5/4 lead, which left Stephen Denny to face Aled Rhys Howell in the final set and in a tight struggle Stephen ran out the winner by three games to one denying the Welsh a victory.

The second round of matches produced four outstanding wins as Glamorgan thrashed Buckinghamshire 8/2, Yorkshire battered Lincolnshire 9/1 and Essex inflicted the same score on Surrey, however the best result of the morning was the 10/0 win by Cheshire against the luckless Sussex. With Danny Horner, Tom Page, Neil Powell, Karen Shepherd and Elizabeth Dennett the Cheshire squad is a formidable line-up and will take some beating.

The final round of matches produced the first draws of the weekend between Surrey and Lincolnshire and Yorkshire, Glamorgan finally found their true form when they inflicted a 9/1 defeat on Sussex, but Cheshire ensured they would stay top of the heap when they brushed aside Essex 7/3 to maintain their 100% record, Glamorgan finished in second place and it seems certain that the result of the match between these two will determine the final destination of the championship. Buckinghamshire and Surrey are in the two bottom places and need to improve their performances if they are to avoid the drop into the first division.





SENIORS							
PREMIER	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Glamorgan	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Sussex	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Middlesex	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Surrey	3	1	1	1	12	18	3
South Yorkshire	3	0	2	1	14	16	2
Yorkshire	3	0	2	1	12	18	2
Devonshire	3	0	1	2	11	19	1
DIVISION 1A							
Leicestershire	4	4	0	0	31	9	8
Yorkshire 2nd	4	3	1	0	28	12	7
Lancashire	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Worcestershire	4	3	0	1	23	17	6
Essex 2nd	4	1	1	2	19	11	3
Nottinghamshire	4	0	1	3	11	28	1
Durham	4	0	1	3	11	29	1
Cambridgeshire	4	0	0	4	10	30	0
DIVISION 1B							
Kent 1st	5	5	0	0	38	12	10
Wiltshire	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Middlesex 2nd	5	2	1	2	26	24	5
Gloucestershire	4	2	0	2	23	17	4
Berkshire	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
Hertfordshire	5	2	0	3	18	32	4
Glamorgan 2nd	4	1	1	2	17	23	3
Kent 2nd	5	0	0	5	12	38	0
DIVISION 2A							
Cheshire	7	7	0	0	55	15	14
Northumberland	7	6	0	1	53	17	12
Cleveland	7	5	0	2	41	29	10
Warwickshire 1st	7	4	0	3	39	31	8
Derbyshire	7	2	1	4	32	38	5
Cumbria	7	2	1	4	29	41	5
Warwickshire 2nd	7	1	0	6	18	52	2
Leicestershire 2nd	7	0	0	7	13	57	0
DIVISION 2B							
Avon	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Cornwall 1st	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Devonshire 3rd	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Devonshire 2nd	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Somerset	3	0	1	2	13	17	1
Herefordshire	2	0	1	1	7	13	1
Cornwall 2nd	1	0	0	1	2	8	0
<i>Worcestershire 2nd have Withdrawn</i>							
DIVISION 2C							
Suffolk 1st	4	3	1	0	30	10	7
Lincolnshire	4	3	1	0	28	12	7
Bedfordshire	5	3	0	2	29	21	6
Hertfordshire 2nd	4	3	0	1	23	17	6
Northamptonshire	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Suffolk 2nd	4	0	1	3	11	29	1
Norfolk	5	0	0	5	10	40	0
DIVISION 2D							
Sussex 2nd	4	3	1	0	27	13	7
Oxfordshire	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Buckinghamshire	2	0	2	0	10	10	2
Hampshire	3	0	1	1	14	16	1
Surrey 2nd	3	1	0	1	14	16	2
Isle of Wight	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Berkshire 2nd	2	0	1	1	7	13	1
JUNIORS							
PREMIER DIVISION							
Cheshire	3	3	0	0	15	5	6
Glamorgan	3	2	1	0	11	8	5
Yorkshire	3	1	2	0	19	11	4
Lincolnshire	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
Essex	3	1	0	2	15	15	2
Sussex	3	1	0	2	9	21	2
Buckinghamshire	3	0	1	2	9	21	1
Surrey	3	0	1	2	8	22	1
DIVISION 1A							
Derbyshire	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Nottinghamshire	4	3	1	0	32	8	7
Cleveland	4	2	1	1	21	19	5
Yorkshire 2nd	4	1	2	1	10	20	4
Cumbria	4	1	1	1	17	13	3
Lancashire	4	1	1	2	16	24	3
Warwickshire	4	0	1	3	11	29	1
Lincolnshire 2nd	4	0	1	3	10	30	1
DIVISION 1B							
Middlesex	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
Devonshire	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Buckingham 2nd	2	2	0	0	12	8	4
Kent	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Glamorgan 2nd	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Essex 2nd	2	0	1	1	8	12	1
Gwent	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Hampshire	2	0	0	2	2	18	0
DIVISION 2A							
Durham 1st	4	4	0	0	28	12	8
Northamptonshire	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Cheshire 2nd	4	2	2	0	24	16	6
DIVISION 1A							
Shropshire	4	2	1	1	11	18	5
South Yorkshire	4	1	1	1	11	19	3
Worcestershire	4	1	0	3	15	25	1
Lancashire Ind	4	1	0	3	14	16	1
Norfolk	4	0	0	4	9	30	0
DIVISION 2B							
Somerset	3	1	1	0	20	10	5
Kent 2nd	3	2	1	0	17	13	5
Surrey 2nd	4	1	3	0	21	19	5
Buckingham 3rd	4	1	2	1	21	19	4
Dorset	2	1	1	0	11	8	3
Oxfordshire	4	1	1	1	19	11	3
Berkshire	3	0	1	1	11	19	1
Surrey 3rd	3	0	0	3	9	11	0
DIVISION 3A							
Hertfordshire	3	3	0	0	16	4	6
Bedfordshire 1st	3	3	0	0	15	5	6
Suffolk	3	3	0	0	14	6	6
Huntingdonshire	4	1	0	1	10	10	4
Norfolk 2nd	3	0	1	2	8	22	1
Bedfordshire 2nd	4	0	1	3	12	18	1
Cambridgeshire	4	0	0	4	5	35	0
DIVISION 3B							
Conwy	4	0	0	4	5	35	0
Durham 2nd	4	0	0	4	5	35	0
Northampton 2nd	<i>No Matches Played Yet</i>						
Northumberland	4	0	0	4	5	35	0
Nottingham 2nd	<i>No Matches Played Yet</i>						
Nottingham 3rd	<i>No Matches Played Yet</i>						
Warwick 2nd	<i>No Matches Played Yet</i>						
DIVISION 3C							
Devonshire 2nd	3	3	0	0	28	2	6
Herefordshire	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Devonshire 3rd	2	1	1	0	12	8	3
Cornwall 1st	2	1	0	1	12	8	2
Avon	2	0	1	1	6	14	1
Devonshire 4th	2	0	0	2	3	17	0
Cornwall 2nd	1	0	0	1	0	10	0
DIVISION 3D							
Gloucestershire	3	3	0	0	11	9	6
Sussex 2nd	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
Wiltshire	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
Middlesex 2nd	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Essex 3rd	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Sussex 3rd	3	0	1	2	12	18	1
Buckingham 4th	3	0	1	2	10	20	1
Gwent 2nd	3	0	0	3	11	19	0
CADETS							
DIVISION 1A							
Cheshire	<i>No Matches Played Yet</i>						
Cleveland	<i>No Matches Played Yet</i>						
Durham	<i>No Matches Played Yet</i>						
Lancashire	<i>No Matches Played Yet</i>						
South Yorkshire	<i>No Matches Played Yet</i>						
Yorkshire	<i>No Matches Played Yet</i>						
DIVISION 1B							
Derbyshire	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Northamptonshire	3	2	0	1	22	8	4
Lincolnshire	3	2	0	1	21	9	4
Suffolk	3	1	0	1	18	11	4
Glamorgan	3	0	0	3	4	16	0
Worcestershire	3	0	0	3	0	30	0
DIVISION 1C							
Sussex 1st	4	2	2	0	25	15	6
Surrey 1st	3	2	1	0	20	10	5
Somerset	3	1	2	0	16	14	4
Gloucestershire	3	1	2	0	16	14	4
Sussex 2nd	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Surrey 2nd	4	1	0	3	11	29	2
Berkshire	4	0	0	4	16	24	0
VETERANS							
PREMIER							
Lancashire	3	3	0	0	21	6	6
Kent	3	3	0	0	20	7	6
Berkshire	3	3	0	0	18	9	6
Cheshire	3	2	1	0	21	6	4
Sussex	3	1	2	1	14	13	2
Surrey	3	0	3	0	6	21	0
Middlesex	3	0	3	0	6	21	0
Northumberland	3	0	3	0	2	25	0
DIVISION 1A							
Essex	4	4	0	0	29	7	8
Cheshire 2nd	4	3	1	0	26	10	6
Hertfordshire	4	3	1	0	24	12	6
Oxfordshire	4	2	2	0	17	19	4
Norfolk	4	2	2	0	15	21	4
Leicestershire	4	1	3	0	15	21	2
Yorkshire 2nd	4	1	3	0	15	21	2
Durham	4	0	4	0	3	33	0
DIVISION 1B							
Surrey 2nd	4	4	0	0	27	9	8
Kent 2nd	4	3	1	0	22	14	6
Dorset 1st	1	2	0	0	17	1	4
Dorset 2nd	2	2	0	0	11	7	4
DIVISION 1C							
Buckinghamshire	4	1	3	0	10	26	2
Hampshire	4	1	3	0	10	26	2
Hampshire 2nd	4	1	3	0	10	26	2
Hampshire 3rd	4	1	3	0	10	26	2
Hampshire 4th	4	1	3	0	10	26	2
Hampshire 5th	4	1	3	0	10	26	2
Hampshire 6th	4	1	3	0	10	26	2
Hampshire 7th	4	1	3	0	10	26	2
Hampshire 8th	4	1	3	0	10	26	2
Hampshire 9th	4	1	3	0	10	26	2
Hampshire 10th	4	1	3	0	10	26	2
Hampshire 11th	4	1	3	0	10	26	2
Hampshire 12th	4	1	3	0	10	26	2
Hampshire 13th	4	1	3	0	10	26	2
Hampshire 14th	4	1	3	0	10	26	2
Hampshire 15th	4	1	3	0	10	26	2
Hampshire 16th	4	1	3	0	10	26	2
Hampshire 17th	4						

# AT CHATEAU MARMOUNT THERE IS PING PONG

**HM THE QUEEN** used to play table tennis a little, a fact referred to in Dave Hewitts hilarious account (December TTN Extra) of when Andrew Eden met up with Her Majesty. Actually, table tennis was a bit of a family tradition. That distinguished former editor of Table Tennis, Leslie Woollard, said in his 1952 book (revised in 1975), also called Table Tennis, writes Ken Muhr.

His late Majesty, King George VI was an enthusiast and used to play regularly and well in Buckingham Palace before the war, when he also had a table installed at Balmoral for the then Princess Elizabeth.

Film star Leonardo DiCaprio is an enthusiastic player, as confirmed again by The Guardian interview (29.11.02) conducted by Marshall Sella: "At the end of the day, theres always sports. At Chateau Marmount there is a ping-pong table, and DiCaprio is unable to resist a challenge. We hit the table, and it soon becomes clear that this is going to be a sound pummelling. At first, he taps through a few friendly volleys, trying to be civil. But as the game begins, he's smashing the ball savagely and with expert spin, occasionally shouting gleeful phrases. More than a few times, the Nepalese elephant etched on his T-shirt becomes little more than a blur, as he slams the ball so hard that it gets lost in the ivy of the brick wall



behind me. Beyond the politeness of our practice volleys, he has no mercy; this is the sports equivalent of one of his on-set spurts, and he has no intention of failing. So he wins one for the Gipper. The five points I manage are mainly by virtue of his own net-shots. Working off nervous energy seems to offer him release."

Doreen Stannard spotted this item under the appalling headline, Was I wrong not to Pong? in the Daily Mirror of 14th December, 2002, in James Whitakers column: "After Sunday lunch at the Cotswolds home of Anne Robinson, she challenged me to a game of table tennis. We were both competitive animals,

needing to win. And I emerged the victor P.S. When the shadow Home Secretary, Michael Howard, played a similar game of table tennis with Anne, he did the decent thing. He lost."

I noted in the Jan/Feb 2003 Table Tennis Illustrated an old (early 1960s?) photograph of the Beatles posing over a table tennis table holding bats, but by the look of their grips they were not much of players! Where did editor Ian Marshall get this picture from?

VETTS Editor Brian Halliday included a piece on a possibly famous person in the January 2003 edition, but we can't check, because both the writer of the piece and the subject are unknown! The unnamed player encountered in Toulon, was said to be a former junior champion, and looked middle-aged with the build of Arthur Lowe. He claimed he was an orchestra conductor and was in town for a concert, before moving along the Riviera to team up with Quincy Jones for a jazz festival near St Tropez, where his good friend, Gerard Depardieu, would be joining them. His name was on the posters outside the hall and I have sighted his name on a fair share of old films since. Anyway, he pulverised the writer and company at table tennis. Has anyone any ideas who he is/was? Following an enquiry from Neil

Kaufman, Official Historian of Leyton Orient FC, who is writing book on the club, I discovered that 69 year old former Essex and 46 times England international, Bobby Stevens (the national champion in 1963), had played football for Walthamstow Boys and Youth teams and for the South of England Youth Team, and trained at Leyton Orient and West Ham. He also played football for RAF Maintenance Command while in the forces. At one stage Bobby had been torn between playing football or table tennis, as matches kept clashing on Saturdays, but two cartilage operations in late 1954 made the decision for him!

Bobby comes from a very sporting family: his father had played football for Tottenham Hotspur and his brother Wally had played left wing for Clapton Orient. He has two nephews, Ray Stevens and Darren Hall, both of whom have been national badminton champions, and his sisters have played tennis and table tennis for Essex. Unfortunately, Bobby has been out of circulation for the last 5-6 years as his wife has Alzheimer's disease, but before that he was doing some table tennis coaching.

Of course footballers often are proficient table tennis players. Andrew Pearce from Burton on Trent has supplied a (Birmingham) Sunday Mercury (24.11.02) article, World Cup Ding-Dong Was Settled With Game Of Ping Pong saying how Swedens Olof Mellberg (Aston Villa) and Freddie Ljungberg (Arsenal) ended their pre-World Cup disagreement which started with a fight in May while Sweden were training in Japan, by playing a game of table tennis!

Brian Halliday alerted me to the Daily Telegraph column (30.11.02) by Robert Philip on the late, great sporting all-rounder, Max Woosnam (who represented England at both tennis and football), whose daughter, Denise Patterson, was quoted as saying, "In addition to his other achievements, he could beat us all at table tennis using a kitchen-knife as a bat."

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# TIMO BOLL & TOP CHINESE BEATEN

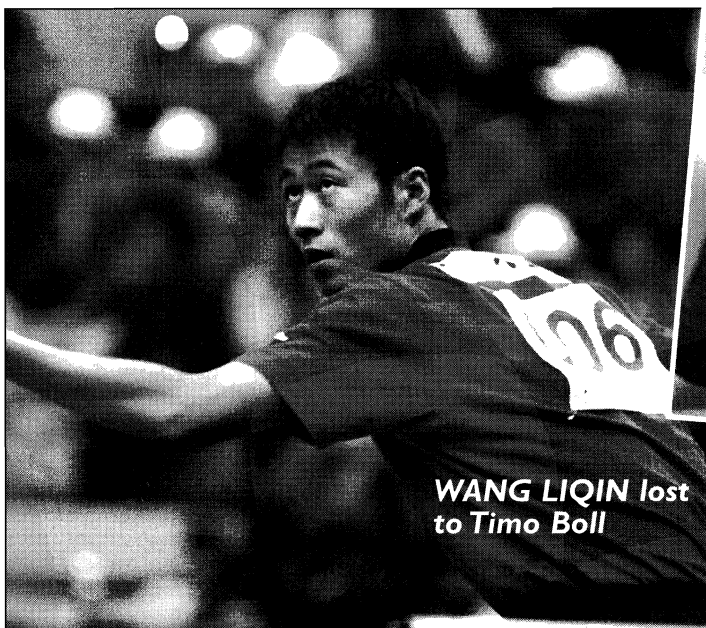
**HIGHLY-RATED Chinese players - Ma Lin and Wang Hao and even the European champion and world cup holder Timo Boll bit the dust at the World Pro-Circuit finals played over four days Erikdalshallen stadium in Stockholm, December 12-15, writes John Woodford.**

No British players on view of course, but plenty of quality play to watch including the final rounds of the World Junior Circuit which under ITTF guidance is now established and we assume will be 'bolted' onto the senior world pro finals in future.

The Swedish TTA tried hard to emulate previous finals but the absence of Jan-Ove Waldner, halved the potential crowd. Semi-finals day saw just under one thousand fans present, but had Waldner been involved in the later rounds it would have been standing room only. Waldner had sustained a broken ankle after falling down some steps in a Stockholm restaurant.

Whether he will be fit for the European championships in Courmeyer in March is anyone's guess.

At a media gathering, once again he said he hoped to carry onto the next Olympics in Athens, but it may not



**WANG LIQIN lost to Timo Boll**

happen. Also, he said that being a single, without family commitments, he wanted to continue his involvement with sport and of course, in table tennis after his competitive days are over.

## IMPRESSED

The player who impressed me in Stockholm was the 19-year-old Wang

Hao, who brought down Ma Lin, 11 in the, seventh game taking his fifth match point. But the mens singles winner was Chuan Chih-Yuan from Taipei. In the final he beat Kalinikos Kreang-. (Greece) at 6 in the seventh. Kreang-~, flashy at times but also devastating, went on to Copenhagen where he won the Pondus Cup. Matthew Syed played in the Danish super-cup, losing 4-2 in the quarter-finals to Denmark's Michael Maze.

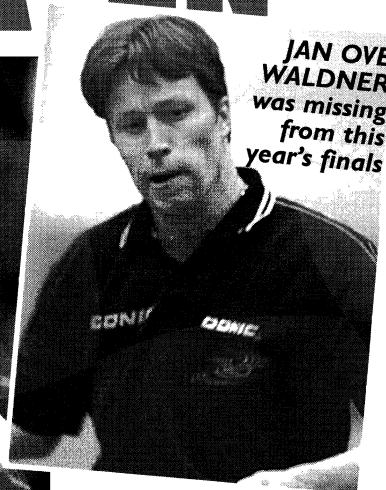
As usual, Chinese women dominated the Stockholm scene. Zhang Yining defeated Guo Yue 10 in the sixth game of the final. The most notable young girl in Stockholm was the new Hungarian star Georgina Pota - one to watch for the future.

• For the many who have never been to Stockholm it is one of the most beautiful capital cities of Europe. My fellow travellers Barry Granger, Geoff Taylor (Croydon) and I managed to squeeze in a delightful waterborne tour of the city which is built amongst a thousand islands.

## FINALS:

Mens singles: Chuan Chih-Yuan (Taiwan) b K. Kreanga (Greece) 9, 7-9, -10, 1-11, 6.

Womens singles: Zhang Yinang (China) b Guo Yue (China), 9, -5, 13, 2, -3, 10.



**JAN OVE WALDNER was missing from this year's finals**

## A STAR IN THE ASCENDENCY

**CHUAN CHIH-YUAN from Taiwan a twenty year old shakehands grip player, who trained in Beijing, won the Mens Singles title, writes Geoff Taylor.**

Chuan, who has not won any tournaments on the Pro Tour in 2002, won the \$38,000 US first prize with a victory over Kalinikos Kreanga of Greece, in the final.

He has a game based on control and placement, rather than sheer power. His fighting spirit is good and his mental toughness reveals that he is a star in the ascendancy.

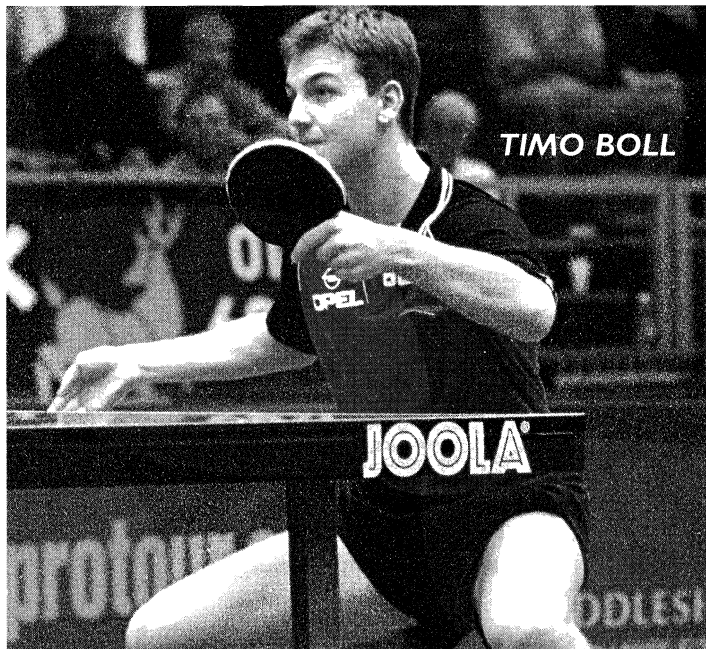
Kong Linghui, Jean Michel Saive and Wang Hao were his victims en-route to the final.

This was a very good event for spectators; matches of note included in the first round wins by Wang Hao over Vladimir Samsonov. Subsequently the young Chinese player beat Ma Lin before losing to the eventual winner.

Wang Liqin defeated Ryu Seung Min, before losing to Timo Boll, who struggled due to a hip injury, losing to Kreanga.

Younger players dominated the semi-finals, three 21 year olds and Kreanga now 30.

The only technical changes were the new services by the Chinese and a major improvement on their part, unleashing 'backhands' off of the other side of penhold bats, with a power and constancy previously unseen.



**TIMO BOLL**

**JOOLA**



# ETTA NATIONAL RANKING LIST

## TOP OF THE TABLE

FEBRUARY 2003 - List 106

Further details please ring Doreen Nightingale 01424 722525

### Senior Men

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 SYED, Matthew (BK) (SY)	4842	***
(2)	2 HERBERT, Gareth (BK)	4761*	
(3)	3 PERRY, Alex (DV)	4732*	
(5)	4 COOKE, Alan (DV)	4663**	
(6)	5 YOUNG, Terry (BK)	4622**	
(7)	6 PREAN, Carl (IW)	4552	
(8)	7 RUSHTON, Andrew (LA)	4473*	
(9)	8 BILLINGTON, Bradley (DY)	4463**	
(11)	9 EDMAN, Andrew (LA)	4332	
(13)	10 BARHAM, Dale (CA)	4202***	
(15)	11 HOLLAND, John (DY) (E)	4008	
(16)	12 KENNY, Mathew (Y)	4006***	
(18)	13 SLADDEN, Cris (E)	3917*	
(19)	14 DRINKHALL, Bryn (CV)	3856	
(21)	15 TAYLOR, Jonathan (LA)	3846	
(23)	16 BAKER, Gregory (ST)	3827	
(22)	17 HAMMOND, Eric (MI)	3823**	
(25)	18 CLEHNSON, Peter (E)	3770	
(26)	19 BRYANT, Craig (DY)	3765	
(27)	20 JAMES, Michael (Y)	3714*	
(29)	21 DOLDER, Kevin (LA)	3684	
(30)	22 WUROLA, Abdul (SY)	3668	
(32)	23 MOORE, Adrian (K)	3660	
(34)	24 KNIGHT, Darius (SY)	3654	
(33)	25 GOODALL, Justin (K)	3653****	
(31)	26 SMITH, Eddie (ND)	3650	
(36)	27 ROGERS, Chris (LE)	3644	
(35)	28 CHAN, Michael (SY)	3619*	
(37)	29 HILTON, John (CH)	3615	
(44)	30 CHARLES, Neil (MI)	3609	
(38)	31 MARSHALL, Peter (Y)	3606*	
(39)	32 VENNER, Ritchie (SX)	3599*	
(57)	33 DRINKHALL, Paul (CV)	3565	
(41)	34 NEIL, Lee (NG)	3564	
(43)	35 WHITING, Paul (DV)	3561	
(48)	36 CARTH, Clive (E)	3545	
(45)	37 WILKINSON, Andrew (ND)	3542	
(52)	38 PAPANTONIOU, Costas (MI)	3538	
(42)	39 BARR, David (BK)	3520	
(46)	40 ECKERSLEY, Nigel (SX)	3510**	
(56)	41 JOHNS, Brian (CH)	3505	
(60)	42 YARNALL, Tim (NP)	3504	
(49)	43 HUTCHINGS, Paul (LA)	3502	
(47)	44 CUTLER, Tom (MI)	3497*	
(75)	45 GREGORY, Christopher (SP)	3490	
(51)	46 BROWN, Mark (K)	3461	
(53)	47 SMITH, Mark Richard (Y)	3454	
(55)	48 KENNEDY, Joe (K) (E)	3451	
(61)	49 WILLIAMS, Keith (LA)	3435	
(62)	50 SATCHELL, Kevin (WI)	3421	
(59)	51 GREEN, Mark (NG)	3398	
(50)	52 BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA)	3387	
(65)	53 JONAH, Jerome (K)	3383	
(67)	54 TENDLER, Gary (E)	3380	
(64)	55 HORNER, Daniel (CH)	3372*	
(58)	56 GANNON, David (LE)	3365	
(66)	57 BARTRAM, Peter (SX)	3362	
(68)	58 GRIFFIN, Darren (GS)	3352	
(63)	59 POUNTNEY, Robert (SY)	3348	
(69)	60 MCKOY, Nick (MI)	3347*	
(71)	61 RANKIN, John (LA)	3345	
(70)	62 TILFORD, Richard (HA)	3339****	
(81)	63 HARDSNEN, Michael (DU)	3332	
(84)	64 HALL, Dominic (K)	3327	
(74)	65 JAMESON, Christopher (E)	3318	
(73)	66 ATKINSON, David (CA)	3312*	
(77)	67 HORSFIELD, Andrew (Y) (Y)	3309	
(76)	68 CORBIN, Anthony (HE)	3298	
(80)	69 BEADSLY, Kevin (Y)	3260**	
(91)	70 GELDER, Tony (DU)	3259	
(83)	71 ROSENTHAL, Louis (CH)	3249**	
(78)	72 HARVEY, Dave (GS)	3238	
(85)	73 HARDING, David (SY)	3231	
(88)	74 WHITEMAN, James (DV)	3227	
(89)	75 SHORT, Mike (DV)	3226	
(90)	76 CLAYTON, Tony (DO)	3216*	
(87)	77 JOHNS, Mike (CH)	3212	
(97)	78 PHILLIPS, Simon (SY) (K)	3202	
(99)	79 GODBOLD, David (DU)	3200	
(93)	80 GASCOINE, Craig (NG)	3189*	
(94)	81 LOGSDON, Phillip (NK)	3187****	
(92)	82 SMITH, Richard A (Y)	3179	
(82)	83 BARATY, Eli (MI)	3176	
(95)	84 ADAMS, Martin (BK)	3175*	
(106)	85 BAILEY, Steven (CV)	3170	
(112)	86 BUTLER, Mark (DO)	3165	
(86)	87 WALSH, Jimmy (HE)	3160	
(107)	88 ROOFE, Eddie (WI)	3137	
(98)	89 COX, Philip (K)	3133	
(116)	90 KERRY, Trevor (NG)	3129	
(101)	91 WELSMAN, Dave (NP)	3129	
(102)	92 WIGNALL, Andy (LI)	3128*	
(103)	93 LIGHTWLER, Richard (Y)	3121	
(104)	94 FORD, Christopher (LA)	3121**	
(105)	95 PAYNE, Phil (SO)	3115***	
(96)	96 DABBS, Kieron (NP)	3109	
(127)	97 SPRACKLING, James (MI)	3079	
(108)	98 CAMPBELL, Selwyn (SY)	3088*	
(110)	99 WALKER, Andy (SX)	3071	
(111)	100 ROMANO, Mark (K)	3069	

### Senior Women

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(2)	1 DEATON, Nicola (DY)	4026*	
(1)	2 PARKER, Katy (LA)	4020	
(7)	3 PARKER, Joanna (SY)	3869	
(4)	4 WALKER, Georgina (NG)	3847	
(6)	5 STEWARD, Kate (SO)	3831	
(8)	6 MARCH, Linda (HE)	3746***	
(11)	7 EMBLING, Abigail (E)	3613	
(12)	8 BAWDEN, Natalie (E)	3583*	
(13)	9 DURRANT, Louise (NG)	3508*	
(15)	10 SIBLEY, Kelly (WA)	3396	
(14)	11 SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LI)	3372	
(16)	12 SMITH, Karen (LE)	3363*	
(18)	13 WHITE, Nicola (Y)	3279*	
(19)	14 NEWNS, Clare (CH)	3258*	
(20)	15 KEAST, Lesley (LI)	3253*	
(22)	16 COHEN, Michele (AV)	3246	
(21)	17 ROBERTS, Joanna (Y)	3236***	
(24)	18 CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK)	3231	
(23)	19 HARRIS, Jill (ST)	3227*	
(25)	20 WESTON, Sally (SX)	3223	
(26)	21 HARPER, Sandra (BD)	3212*	
(29)	22 SPINK, Lauren (NK)	3189*	
(30)	23 SPARKES, Rebecca (SP)	3189****	
(32)	24 SHORT, Elaine (DV)	3185	
(28)	25 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH)	3157	
(31)	26 LOCKWOOD, Karen (CH)	3145****	
(33)	27 NARENDHAN, Aparna (MI)	3143*	
(34)	28 YARDY, Hannah (E)	3140****	
(35)	29 RUOCCO, Shelley (E)	3121***	
(39)	30 BUOYE, Brenda (LA)	3117	
(36)	31 RAINTON, Rosemary (SX)	3105	
(37)	32 BLOOR, Trudie (SP)	3097****	
(38)	33 BONGERS, Jose (ST)	3091*	
(40)	34 HOWARD, Alice (CH)	3085	
(41)	35 BALDI, Andrea (Y) (Y)	3077*	
(42)	36 ASHSON, Glenda (SY)	3075***	
(43)	37 SHIELDS, Helen (Y)	3075	
(38)	38 HURLING, Emma (HE)	3058	
(44)	39 WILSON, Naomi (SO)	3056	
(45)	40 WANG, Lucy (E)	3040*	
(46)	41 DURHAM, Jane (CV)	3038*	
(42)	42 LAMBERT, Helen (DV)	3017	
(47)	43 SIMPSON, Linda (Y)	3000	
(48)	44 HURRELL, Rebecca (MI)	2994*	
(49)	45 LLOYD, Gemma (CH)	2981**	
(51)	46 MORLEY, Judy (GS)	2963	
(47)	47 PEARCE, Diane (K)	2956	
(56)	48 RIDER, Sandra (Y)	2955	
(50)	49 BAWDEN, Marilyn (E)	2945	
(53)	50 MALBY, Margaret (NP)	2942	
(54)	51 INGHAM, Katy (CH)	2941*	
(57)	52 SILBURN, Nicola (Y)	2932****	
(52)	53 SEYMOUR, Tamar (OX)	2909	
(62)	54 MARLING, Samantha (MI)	2906	
(58)	55 COGGON, Sara (HE)	2898*	
(59)	56 PERRY, Lucy (DV)	2897*	
(61)	57 BRISTOW, Angie (K)	2895	
(60)	58 ROBINSON, Suzanne (GS)	2872	
(63)	59 PERRY, Penny (DV)	2872	
(65)	60 KING, Sheila (SX)	2854	
(67)	61 SHALER, Eileen (LE)	2849	
(72)	62 GRAHAM, Cherith (LA)	2835	
(68)	63 SCHOFIELD, Doreen (CH)	2828*	
(66)	64 VAJDI, Carmen (SY)	2825**	
(71)	65 DAWSON, Marjorie (E)	2824	
(66)	66 SWABEY, Jane (DV)	2818	
(80)	67 HORSWELL, Sarah (MI)	2812	
(70)	68 DIGNUM, Margaret (WO)	2810*	
(64)	69 HARRISON, Jennifer (E)	2797*	
(73)	70 SORRENTINO, Annabelle (CH)	2795***	
(76)	71 DENNETT, Elizabeth (CH)	2795	
(69)	72 BURGESS, Suzanne (CH)	2791	
(83)	73 CRICK, Lisa (BK)	2787	

(75)	74 KNIGHTLEY, Gillian (BK)	2785*	
(77)	75 DEARING, Emily (Y)	2780***	
(79)	76 GARLICK, Helen (K)	2766**	
(78)	77 MUDD, Kim (E)	2766	
(87)	78 FLOWERDAY, Anne (E)	2764	
(74)	79 GELDER, Shirley (DU)	2763	
(88)	80 STEDMAN, Sarah (SX)	2758	
(81)	81 VICKERS, Jane (DY)	2755****	
(85)	82 BROWN, Sarah (E)	2754	
(84)	83 HALES, Linda (LO)	2750*	
(86)	84 WHITE, Jean (LI)	2740**	
(89)	85 SPARKES, Aimee (SK)	2713	
(90)	86 TODD, Nicole (E)	2706	
(92)	87 STEWART, Tina (K)	2703	
(91)	88 SEAHOLME, Sarah (HE)	2702	
(93)	89 BENTLEY, Ruth (NG)	2691	
(94)	90 STITCH, Julie (CU)	2680*	
(95)	91 GRAHAM, Sylvia (LA)	2678***	
(96)	92 WILLIAMS, Jackie (K)	2665**	
(93)	93 JUDDSON, Carol (Y)	2664*	
(97)	94 REID, Lynda (WO)	2663	
(100)	95 BROWN, Janet (OX)	2658	
(101)	96 BARELLA, Jane (SY)	2656**	
(102)	97 SMITH, Nicola (Y)	2643***	
(103)	98 BROWN, Grace (E)	2626	
(99)	99 LANGFORD, Clare (CH)	2618	
(100)	100 JOHNSON, Susan (BK)	2617	

### Junior Boys

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(2)	1 BARHAM, Dale (CA)	4202***	
(3)	2 DRINKHALL, Bryn (CV)	3856	
(4)	3 BAKER, Gregory (ST)	3827	
(5)	4 CLEMINSO, Peter (E)	3770	
(6)	5 BRYANT, Craig (DY)	3765	
(7)	6 KNIGHT, Darius (SY)	3654	
(10)	7 DRINKHALL, Paul (CV)	3565	
(9)	8 YARNALL, Tim (NP)	3504	
(12)	9 GREGORY, Christopher (SP)	3504	
(8)	10 BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA)	3387	
(11)	11 HORNOR, Daniel (CH)	3372**	
(15)	12 GREEN, Alex (LI)	3056	
(13)	13 MARPLES, Shaun (DY)	3055	
(14)	14 NOUTCH, Simon (Y)	2974	
(17)	15 EVANS, Bradley (BU) (NG)	2922	
(16)	16 DENNY, Stephen (Y)	2898	
(19)	17 BROWN, Christopher (CO)	2784	
(18)	18 MOSS, Richard (Y)	2686	
(21)	19 LALLY, Keiran (E)	2614	
(22)	20 CARTWRIGHT, Neil (DO)	2482*	
(32)	21 NICHOLLS, Ashley (SP)	2373*	
(23)	22 HARLEY, John (K)	2341	
(26)	23 LEMON, Robert (SY)	2326	
(24)	24 PANG, Dannel (NP)	2319	
(27)	25 STAINES, Matthew (E)	2301	
(29)	26 HAYES, David (BU)	2294	
(25)	27 EVANS, Gavin (NG)	2276	
(28)	28 SHAHLAEI, Harry (GS)	2270*	
(30)	29 PEEBLES, Robin (NG)	2253**	
(33)	30 MOORE, Paul (SY)	2233*	
(34)	31 HALLING, Tony (E)	2194**	
(46)	32 MEADS, David (DU)	2178	
(31)	33 REES, Daniel (E)	2174	
(36)	34 POWELL, Neil (CH)	2174	
(35)	35 COONEY, William (DV)	2138	
(37)	36 GIBBS, Shaun (NY)	2127	
(38)	37 SHARP, Evan (SY)	2121*	
(42)	38 KODICEK, Jacob (CO)	2101	
(40)	39 LEIGHTON, Andrew (DU)	2100	
(39)	40 CANNON, Samuel (MI)	2087	
(41)	41 ARMSTRONG, Marc (MI)	2071	
(42)	42 WOODHEAD, Andrew (Y)	2026	
(45)	43 MILTON, James (BU)	1980	
(43)	44 BROOKS, Warren (BU)	1966*	
(44)	45 ROGERSON, Shaun (LI)	1931**	
(52)	46 WESLEY, Richard (NG)	1883	
(51)	47 PANG, Dickson (NP)	1873	
(47)	48 YEUNG, Hamish (BD)	1869*	
(50)	49 BRADFORD, Leigh (WA)	1789	
(49)	50 PAGE, Tom (CH)	1772	

### Junior Girls

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(4)	1 PARKER, Joanna (SY)	3869	
(2)	2 WALKER, Georgina (NG)	3847	
(3)	3 STEWARD, Kate (SO)	3831	
(5)	4 EMBLING, Abigail (E)	3613	
(7)	5 SIBLEY, Kelly (WA)	3396	
(6)	6 SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LI)	3372	

(8)	7 WHITE, Nicola (Y)	3279*	
(9)	8 CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK)	3231	
(12)	9 SPINK, Lauren (NK)	3189*	
(11)	10 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH)	3157	
(13)	11 WILSON, Naomi (SO)	3056	
(14)	12 GRAHAM, Cherith (LA)	2835	
(15)	13 DENNETT, Elizabeth (CH)	2795	
(16)	14 BROWN, Sarah (E)	2754	
(17)	15 LANGFORD, Clare (CH)	2618	
(18)	16 YARNLEY, Gemma (K)	2600*	
(19)	17 WEIL, Emma (E)	2467	
(20)	18 WILSON, Claire (DU)	2466	
(21)	19 HOWARD, Clara (CH)	2323*	
(22)	20 SHUTT, Heather (Y)	2218	
(23)	21 CRAVEN-GRIFFITHS, Kelly (LE)	2216*	
(22)	22 BELL, Amanda (Y)	2211	
(24)	23 TUCKER, Emily (BU)	2180	
(25)	24 HUBBARD, Joanne (K)	2145	
(26)	25 WALLER, Tanya (Y)	2119*	
(28)	26 SENEVIRATNE, Anusha (K)	2003	
(29)	27 WANG, Sarra (E)	1982*	
(30)	28 PARTON, Helen (DV)	1884	
(36)	29 PERKS, Sarah (NG)	1867	
(31)	30 DAVIS, Stella (GS)	1862*	
(32)	31 BARRETT, Michelle (DV)	1852	
(33)	32 BALDI, Rachel (Y) (Y)	1851*	
(34)	33 VAJDI, Christina (ST)	1834	
(35)	34 RADFORD, Lisa (DV)	1775	
(37)	35 DONNELLY, Stephanie (CV)	1714	
(38)	36 MEADS, Joanne (DU)	1628	
(40)	37 HEARD, Gemma (E)	1617	
(39)	38 REES, Bethany (E)	1555	
(43)	39 BOSLEY, Lisa (BK)	1519	
(41)	40 STRINGER, Jodie (K)	1517*	
(42)	41 ROGERS, Gina (SX)	1475**	
(44)	42 LIGHTWLER, Katie (Y)	1435**	
(45)	43 PARKER, Hayley (CH)	1418*	
(46)	44 CLEMINSO, Jessica (E)	1360**	
(47)	45 SKEGGS, Kelly (E)	1345*	
(48)	46 PARNELL, Francesca (BU)	1327	
(49)	47 GASSON, Faye (CU)	1290**	
(51)	48 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU)	1282</	



## GEOFF GRANGE - BLUE BISHOPS... A CD review

# DEEP

WE publish below a review, with apologies to Geoff for the delay, of the Blue Bishops CD, 'Deep'.

Geoff Grange, the vocalist and harmonica player, has worked with many leading musicians, including former Rolling Stone, Bill Wyman. However, originally from Hartlepool, he will be better known in table tennis circles as the Acton and Middlesex veteran, who has a vicious, off-spin forehand loop, combined with a backhand block and lob. Geoff asserts, from their bouts on the table tennis table, that Bill Wyman is quite a good player. Can readers guess the identity of another table tennis personality, the reviewer, 'White Rabbit'?



## "Deep" the second album from the Blue Bishops

CD Review by White Rabbit

As an aging rocker I often fight shy of new bands. "Plenty of good ones then, very few now", I hear myself saying and it's even worse when I hear my words echoing my parents, "Do you call that music?"!

So it was with a little trepidation that I agreed to listen to the second album by a band I had not heard of, the Blue Bishops, but I am pleased to say that I

was immediately impressed with their musicianship. I am equally pleased to say that having listened to them I did a little research and found they are all "over 21" and have individually been around some of the best in the business.

"Deep" would have been called Rhythm & Blues when I was young, but today's culture seems to ascribe something else entirely to that descriptor, but it is the Blues with a hard rockin edge and will appeal to both rock and blues fans.

During my first listening I kept listening for other influences and duly heard the blueswailing harp of Keith

Relf, the guitar and vocals of Rory Gallagher, the virtuosity of Leo Kottke, and the whole of the Cyril Davis Chicago All Stars!

Whilst all of those comparisons are highly complimentary, I ought to say that during my second and third plays the comparisons faded and the BB's started to stand up in their own right.

The album opens with the BB's version of "Stop Breaking Down" written by Robert Johnson which is a good solid opener featuring a strong vocal from lead singer Geoff Grange. Tracks 2 - 11 are all compositions written by members of band and run the whole way from rock to pure blues, with a couple of very tongue

in cheek tracks, and one masterly acoustic guitar duet from Simon Burrett who is joined by ex Jethro Tull's Martin Barre - fantastic stuff - more please. The album closes with Dylan's "Highway 61" played with some gusto by the band, and made me think they are probably a superb "live" act - I must try and catch them one day.

Overall the album is excellent and even stands comparison with the masters of the genre, "The Blues Band", whose every release is in my music collection. Will "Deep" join them? It just might!

Gigs information: Tel. 01297 551244.

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Approved by

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English Table Tennis Association

# “BIGGER BALL-WHY?”

**ANDRZEJ GRUBBA interviewed by Ken Muhr at the Ocean International Sussex Open Butterfly GP, Christ's College School, Horsham on 10th November 2002.**

Poland's Andrzej Grubba, now a veteran (he is 44), is one of the all-time greats of table tennis. Renowned for his backhand topspin 'loop', spectacular balloon defence and elegant all-round control, Grubba was for many years in the world top ten (he reached no.3), winning the World Cup singles in 1988, the European Top 12 in 1985, and reaching the World championships singles semi-finals (losing to the eventual world champion, Swede Jan-Ove Waldner) in 1989.

**KEN MUHR:** *How do you feel about playing in England again?*

**ANDRZEJ GRUBBA:** It is fine. I was here about 5 years ago for the World Championships in Manchester and it was not very successful (for me). But any time I am here, not only because of sport, I like England, I like this country and any possibility to be here again is fine.

**KM:** *I can remember speaking to you at the coaching course at the European Championships, in Birmingham in 1994.*

**AG:** That is quite another story. We (Poland) had another coach and for a while we had problems with each other. I played only a few matches – his conception was not to let me play, even if I was definitely still the no.1 in Poland. And I couldn't accept it, because it was in a European Championships, which should be something different, not a regular tournament. So that is why I told him directly that he was not competent to be a chief of the men's team. We finished the championships with a very bad atmosphere altogether. At the end he had to ask me to play, because he was afraid the team would fall down. So I played in only two matches, which we won 4-0 against the Czechs and Holland, which helped us stay in the first category. We lost all the other matches without me – no, it was a little bit of scandal!

**KM:** *You can't feel all that happy, but how do you feel about how you played today?*

**AG:** It was okay. I don't want to apologise, because I think I did a good job. I lost to a better player (14 year old Kou Lei) and the only problem was last week because I had a gripe problem with my stomach and couldn't practise normally. But I played quite okay today. **KM:** *You seemed to have the control but maybe you were not quite positive enough until the fifth game against Kou Lei.*

**AG:** Too short a break between matches! The match before I had played against a Welsh player (Steve Hall), winning 3-0,

but it was quite a tough match. So directly after that I had to play another one, and I was leading against the Chinese 2-0 and decided to survive somehow, but I did not do enough to win another game. Definitely, I lost 2-3 – well, he was better!

**KM:** *You were 7-4 up in the fifth game and missed a big kill, so you could have been 8-4 up.*

**AG:** In the fifth?! I don't remember. I did my best and couldn't have presented myself stronger.

**KM:** *Historically, I hear you could have been a left-hander. Your coach in Poland encouraged you to be a right-hander. Is that true?*

**AG:** Part of it. When I was in school, we certified left-handers, it was better if you used your right because lefthanders, 'have no future', and, 'it looks bad'. Now more kids play left-handed. I was playing handball for another couple of years with my left hand for school level. I can still play table tennis with my left hand but I have had no opportunity today, because I have tried to take this competition seriously. I hope there will be more space in the veterans (and he did produce some left-hand shots in the vets final). But originally I was left-handed, but playing table tennis with my right.

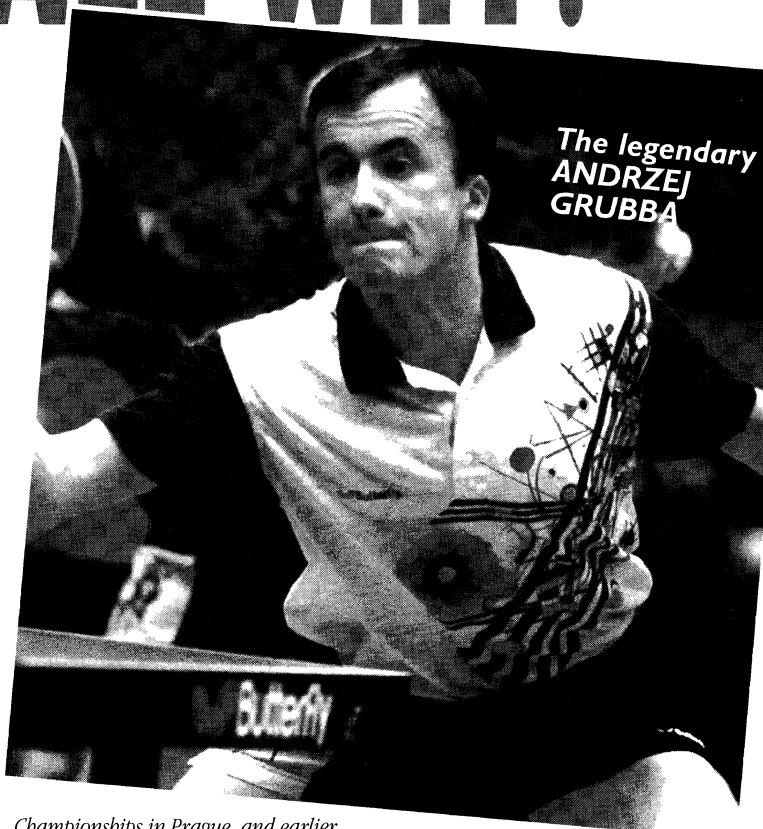
**KM:** *Do you wish you had played left-handed?*

**AG:** If you are left-handed, play with your left, definitely. But I don't see any big difference if you are right or left-handed. There have been many great players playing with the left, playing with the right, penholders, choppers or whatever. No, no difference.

**KM:** *John Prean, Carl's father, thinks you are the greatest, but a lot of people might consider, rather like our Desmond Douglas, that although you have had a lot of success, you never quite achieved what you might have done - not world champion, not European champion. Done very well, but not won the absolute key events. Is that fair?*

**AG:** I would say I am happy with my career and with what I achieved. Here is an answer: maybe I was too early happy with all of this. Sometimes you have got to have that something (clicks fingers) you cannot describe. I wanted to have, too often, too much fun. I remember several matches, important matches, where one or two balls I tried to play for the spectators, which cost me the victory. Also, 1984 was my great year, I won 3 European Championship medals: losing finals singles, losing finals doubles, and losing finals team. I remember the next four years until I won the World Cup, it was very difficult to win. It was like that, somewhere in the back of my head, I still had bad memories from Moscow. It was always close, I didn't know what to do, I was losing my confidence.

**KM:** *I saw you at the 1986 European*



*Championships in Prague, and earlier on, you looked much the best player. But then you lost to Jacques Secretin in the team event and I can't remember who you lost to in the singles, and it was a surprise, because people were expecting you to win.*

**AG:** I lost to Persson in the semi-finals, and Persson was definitely the best player. He beat Leszek (Kucharski) in the final.

**KM:** *I should have remembered that. I won money on Persson!*

**AG:** The European Championships are another story. First of all, you play in two competitions. Myself and Leszek had to win all our matches to win the team event. It was very stressful and we are not machines. At that time you had to play all your singles, three singles each match, so when you finished your match you were really throwing up from tiredness. Within a couple of hours you had to play another match. So when the men's team competition was gone, you had no power left for the individual event. Why we lost always, or mostly, to Sweden, was because they could play with two different teams. If Persson was not there, there was still Bengtsson, Lindh, Appelgren, Waldner. They had six players and could play with two different teams, still beating others. They could conserve power.

**KM:** *The fact that you two came up at the same time was nothing to do with the Polish system, it was just chance was it?*

**AG:** We were always fighting to get a visa to realize our plans. When we went for international competition, there was always one cheaper visa for a team, but

we were told we had to get to the semi-finals or we had to win the competition. Otherwise, there would be problems with money for another competition. So it was quite a strange system, quite a stupid system. In fact a killing system, because we had to concentrate on competitions that were not the most important ones. This is a story for a really good book, for those who have doubts why we did not win what we should have won. The Communist system with all its organisation and pressures, was a big part of our victories, but it is gone and I don't want to talk any more about it. At the beginning I remember visiting England, when I was absolutely dead against anti-spin, John Hilton or Dougie Johnson. I was many times visiting just to play against them or people like them, because I couldn't recognise the difference in the rubbers – at that time the rubbers could be the same colours both sides – so I really did not know how to play against them. The funny thing was that when I finally understood much of it, they changed the colours, to two different colours! So all my experiences were useless!

**KM:** *You play a very attractive game, and Matthew Syed has said that yourself, Secretin and Appelgren are the players he loved watching more than anyone else. You all have good ball control, play away from the table, and play good all-round stuff. But what do you think about the future of the game? Has that kind of attractive, open game got any*

*continued on page 29*



chance in the future? How do you feel the game is developing now?

AG: First of all, the only change, from my point of view, should have been to make a serious rule with the service. All the other changes, I was from the beginning opposed to. I know that it was 50/50, with some people saying 11 points is better, some people saying 21 points is better. My point of view is that we killed our tradition, and the tradition is not something you can buy in the supermarket. We had to work for it very hard. We had over a 100 years history, and suddenly we just produce a new sport. Same racket, bigger ball. Why, I ask? Also, this change with the colour of the table. I am still against it somehow but I have to accept this, because I am still in table tennis. But I am quite sure it was not the most important thing we should have done, and especially not in such a short amount of time. Within two years we changed nearly everything in table tennis.

KM: *So for the service, you feel we should go further?*

AG: Definitely. But referees: here is the problem, they don't care so much. As long as we have no professional referees, you can forget about the development of the service to make it right. Wherever you are, England, Germany, Poland, the problem is exactly the same. The rule is clear now, but what is clear if you pay no respect to it? I have been to the German Open and was very, very disappointed with the referees. They do not react, even if you make serves that really are not allowed.

KM: *Would the service be okay if it was adbered to, or do you think it should be taken further? There was talk about throwing up the ball higher, but that would be quite a fundamental change. Do you think that they are just not policing it properly?*

AG: In a couple of years we could make it like this: you can make service only from forehand or backhand, but you have to stay parallel to the table, you cannot hide anything. Otherwise there will still be problems: there will always be positions to hide the ball. There are so many good ideas, but to realise these ideas is much more important.

KM: *Who do you look up to as players?*

AG: From my style development, I was watching many years ago, Stellan Bengtsson, how he moves and how he applies himself to matches. I tried to copy or take direction from the playing intelligence of Secretin. I always wanted to have a forehand like Jonyer or Klampar, and backhand like Gergely, because table tennis is an individual sport and it is part of your individuality to put different things into your game.

KM: *Did you develop your own backhand loop - you had one of the best in the world at the time?*

AG: That (influence) was from Jonyer. There were many people, like Mazunov, who could play a very good backhand, and Gergely, who in a different way was great as well. But you have to find your own combination from different styles, to put into your game. I was a bit unlucky because basically I really had no coach, and you had to coach yourself, you had

to look for the best opportunities to learn something, sitting in the corner watching the better players.

KM: *Was that the same for both you and Leszek Kucharski?*

AG: It was for a while – I taught him playing backhand and he tried to teach me playing forehand! But I think he was more talented because my backhand is definitely better than my forehand at times! That's it: the important thing is that table tennis is not only something you do during training and then you go home and forget about it. Table tennis must be some kind of a religion, you go home and you consider, 'what did I do right, what did I do wrong, in which direction do I have to go, what do I have to improve first? I have to improve everything, but what do I want to improve first to give me another one or two points?' And from what I see now, the younger generation finish their job in the hall. It's 6pm, 'Okay guys, thanks', and their brain is already at home, on their girlfriend or disco. We also had girlfriends and also had our disco sometimes, we had our fun, but at different times (John Clarke then interrupted Andrzej's flow).

KM: *What do you do in table tennis now?*

AG: I sell Butterfly equipment. I work in Germany as a co-ordinator or chief trainer of an Olympic table tennis centre, in TTC Grenzaeo. Actually in the club where I have worked for the last 12 years, and until the end of last season I was chief coach at the club as well. We won the German Championships, and in our training group was a team which won the German women's Bundesliga, so both were champions from my group!

KM: *You don't play much now?*

AG: It was too tiring and it was hard to combine coaching an Olympic Centre, to coach the women, to coach the first team from Grenzaeo, so I had to reduce my activities. Now I have a little bit more time for coming up here and playing my exhibitions, and in the middle of August I was coaching the World team against China. We lost unfortunately, although we won four (sets) against the best in China, but to be the coach of Timo Boll, Samsonov, Walder, Saive and Kim Taek Soo was an honour. Two weeks ago I played my exhibition with Fetzner at the Swiss Open Tennis in Basle, in the central court, Sunday, 3-30pm, 70 minutes live television on the first channel in Switzerland, which it seems to me was a very good promotion for table tennis. So now I have more time for travelling.

I enjoy table tennis now much more than before and I think this is my 'victory', because I see so many players, especially from Asia, who after 15-20 years of practising drop out of table tennis. It has always been fun (for me) to play table tennis, but now more than ever, even to practise. To put on shorts and shirt and play an exhibition – two weeks ago I played with Fetzner, three weeks ago I played with Persson, next week I play with Hakansson in Poland – well, it's great!

## CATHY MITTON continued

*continued from page 11*

British Wheelchair Open at Stoke Mandeville in the class 2-5 team event and further silvers whilst playing up in the class 3 and open singles events.

The ISMWSF World Wheelchair games also at the same venue saw Catherine once more take runners up spot in the class combined 1-2 singles and her marvellous season culminated with silver in the combined class 1-2 at the World Championships in Paris. In the final she once more lost to Lafaye but this time it was much closer as the French player won 17-21 21-9 22-20.

1999 began slowly for Catherine with a bronze medal in the class 2-5 team event at the 3rd Alukor Cup in Budapest (Hungary) and went one better by taking silver in the class 2-3 singles at the Southern Cross Games in Sydney but it was 1999 that Catherine took her first gold medal.

The Irish National Table Tennis Championships was the event in which Catherine first struck gold in the class two singles. This was followed by winning the class 2 singles in the European Championships which were held in Piestany (Slovakia), when she beat Clara Podda of Italy in the final

2000 was Olympic year in which Catherine once more enjoyed medal success by taking the bronze in the class 1-2 singles and extended her stay in Sydney by taking a family holiday and described her visit as the experience of a lifetime.

After the Paralympics she was frequently stopped and spoken to by Australians who noticed her GB tracksuit and even asked for her autograph as the sports cultured Australians were captured by the whole concept of the Olympics followed by the Paralympics. Perhaps lessons could be learned.

The 2001 European Championships in Frankfurt saw Catherine take silver in a combined class 1-2 singles when just beaten by the ubiquitous Lafaye 22-20 21-19. This was followed by a bronze in the team class 1-5 at the British Open but the rest of the year was another golden haul.

She repeated her success of two years before by taking the class 2 singles at the Irish Open and followed this by taking two golds at the Azur Open in Saint Raphael (France) when she took the class 1-2 singles and was part of the GB team which won the class 1-2 team event.

That year was rounded off by victory in the class 2 singles at the 4th Trofeo el Mediterraneo in Agrigento (Italy)

Despite 2002 being a Commonwealth Games and World

Championship year Catherine found time to take Gold medals in the class 2 singles at the British Open in Cardiff and once more took the class two singles at the Irish Open in Dublin.

Manchester's Commonwealth games proved a major highlight for Catherine as it was the first games in which disabled events were integrated into the games and despite a few teething problems early on she was deeply honoured to be part of Team England for the games.

Chatting to the likes of athletes Jonathan Edwards and Darren Campbell in the competitor's restaurant proved a real highlight as was the encouragement the disabled players received from the able bodied Team England players at their finals.

Catherine hopes that table tennis will continue to be included as a full Commonwealth Games event in the future. In fact not only would she like to see more than two players per country at future games and she would like to see the disabled events expanded to include both male and female competitors and doubles and mixed doubles competitions the same as the able bodied competitors.

No sooner had Catherine picked up her bronze medal playing above her category in the class 2-3 singles at the Manchester Commonwealth Games than she was jetting off to Chinese Taipei for the World Championships and it was here that she recorded possibly her greatest triumph when she took the gold medal in the class 2 singles. On this occasion she took a 3-1 victory in the final against Genevieve Clot of France.

Following Manchester and Taipei with a win over Bevan Walker, things don't get any better and I ended my night at Dewsbury by offering to umpire the doubles set as Catherine and her able bodied team mate once more beat Walker and his partner to record a 6-4 victory for their team.

It was an interesting experience for me as I had never umpired a match with a wheel chair player as one of the participants and with the slightly different rules it proved more than interesting and fittingly ended a very enjoyable evening in the company of a rarity, a British World Champion, international medallist and a charming lady.

Barry Snowden  
1st December 2002

# CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY 2003

8th	National Junior League (3)	
8th	Ormesby & Gainsford Cups R2	
8th-9th	Schildkrot Veterans British League (2)	
9th	ESTTA Regional Regional Team	
9th	Whitchchurch Senior 2 Star	
15th-16th	Schildkrot Junior British League (2)	
15th-16th	ETTA Butterfly Grand Prix Open	Bournemouth
16th	Bribar Veterans 2 Star	
22nd	Cadet/Junior Chandlers 1 Star	
22nd	Exeter 1 Star U11/U14/ Junior	
22nd	Ormesby & Gainsford Cups R3	
22nd-23rd	Cadet/Junior National Ranking Trials	Stratford
22nd-23rd	VETTS Northern Masters	Blackpool
22nd-23rd	BUSA Individual Championships	Warwick University
23rd	British League Premier Division (11)	
23rd	Stiga (Hyndburn) Cadet/Junior 3 Star	
23rd	Whitchchurch Senior 2 Star	

## MARCH

1st	Chesham High School 2 Star U13/14/15 Boys & U16 Girls	
1st-2nd	National Senior Championships	Sheffield
2nd	Whitchchurch 2 Star Junior	
8th-9th	Derby Junior 4 Star Select	
8th-9th	North Herts (Ashe Construction Ltd) Banded 2 Star Satellite Grand Prix	Hitchen Boys School Knutsford
8th-9th	Veterans Premier Weekend (2)	
9th	British League Premier Division (12)	
9th	National Cadet League (2)	
15th	ESTTA National Team Finals	
15th-16th	British League Weekend (4)	
16th	Sportbreak Junior 2 Star	
16th	Leach & Hammersley Cups R3 Pat Archdale Cup R1	
22nd	County Championships Cadet, Junior, Senior & Veteran (7)	
22nd-23rd	Junior Premier Weekend (2)	
23rd	National Cadet League (4)	
23rd	Knutsford Senior 2 Star	
23rd	BUSA Team Finals	Birmingham Uni. Italy
25th-6Apr.	European Championships	
29th	National Junior League (4)	
29th-30th	Regional Training	
30th	Stiga (Hydburn) Cadet & Junior 3 Star	

## 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

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