

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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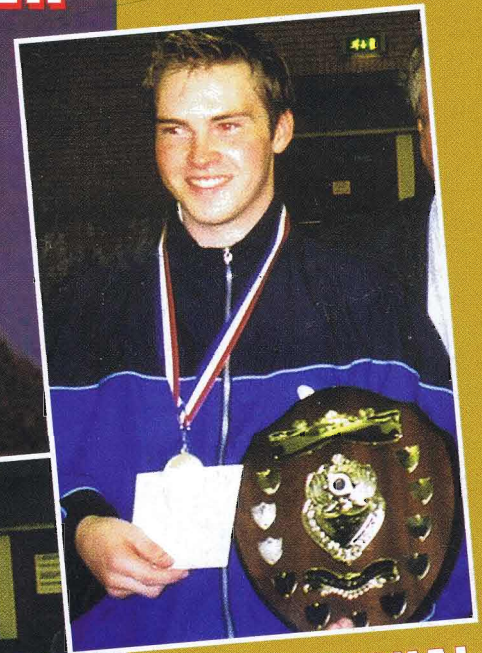
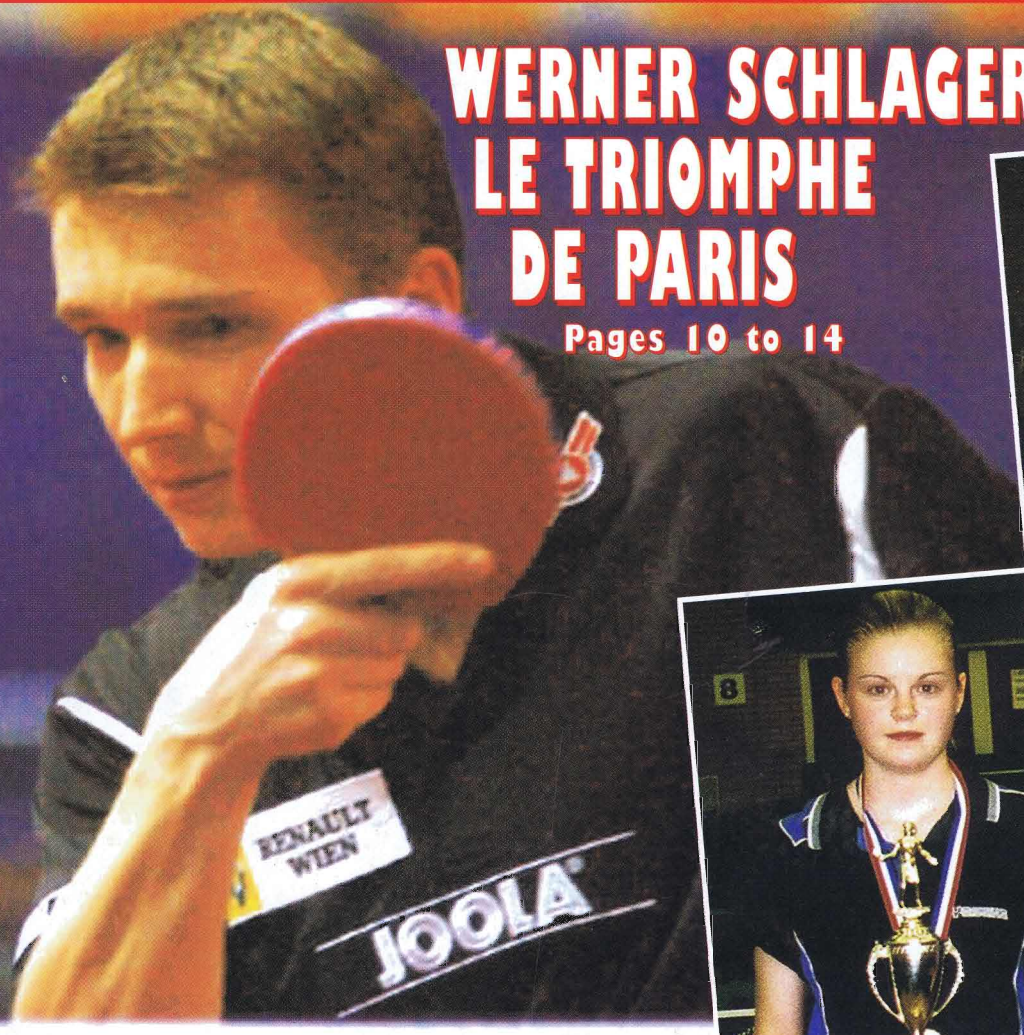
No.294

JUNE/JULY 2003



WERNER SCHLAGER LE TRIOMPHE DE PARIS

Pages 10 to 14



**NEW NATIONAL
JUNIOR
CHAMPIONS
BRYN
DRINKHALL &
GEORGINA
WALKER**

Pages 15 to 17



**SEE KREANGA
AT THE
CRUCIBLE**

See page 28



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

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TTN EXTRA
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'Results' and much more



TABLE TENNIS NEWS & TTN EXTRA

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FRONT COVER MAIN PHOTOGRAPH
WERNER SCHLAGER the new World
Mens Singles Champion



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ENGLAND FAN CLUB FORMED



FOUNDER members of the new England Fan Club pictured in Paris

Picture: Tony Chatwin

THE initiative was taken following a discussion amongst some English supporters and enthusiasts at the World Championships in Paris to form the often discussed England Fan Club.

The basic idea is to assist English table tennis enthusiasts with information and advice on tickets, hotels and travel to attend World, European, Commonwealth and other major table tennis events. For instance, there were many supporters in Paris, some possibly

sitting on their own and without contact with others having the same interest. The Fan Club could assist by obtaining tickets together and possibly cheaper by purchasing in quantity.

The following people contributed 10 Euros each as Founder Members: Alan and Jose Ransome, Tony Chatwin, Barry Granger, Brian Halliday, John Woodford, Brian and Fern Skinner, Malcolm Macfarlane, Diccon Gray, Ken Muhr, Jon Kaufman, plus the following day Gloria Wagener and Beverley Godfrey (the Sayer Twins) and Marie Kerr.

Membership will be open to anyone interested, either at home or abroad for £10. A database will be prepared and advance information obtained and circulated well in advance of events. We are looking for suggestions for a suitable name and logo and will formalise the club with a basic Constitution etc.

Interested? Contact Jose Ransome, Barry Granger or Malcolm Macfarlane via the ETTA.

TIM YARNALL ON SHORT LIST

ENGLAND cadet Tim Yarnall, 15, from Rushden, Northamptonshire, is on a short list of 6 for the Royal Variety Club of Great Britain 'Young Sportsman of the Year' award. The presentations, are to be made by Prince Andrew and will be televised by Sky Sport. Tim will be in good company with stars like David Beckham also to receive awards.

NOT SO ICY IN ITALY...

AT the European Championships Joanna Parker and Kelly Sibley were wrongly reported as having beaten Larusdottir and Hjalmardottir, both of Iceland. In actual fact Joanna lost to Volakaki (Greece) and Kelly went under to the world No.150 Tetyana Sorochinska (Ukraine).

PRESS OFFICER OF THE YEAR

RANDOM HOUSE book publishers will again be supporting the ETTA's Press Officer of the Year Award, with \$500 of books for the winner.

Clubs, Leagues & Counties or the Press Officers themselves, are therefore invited to send their portfolios to Michelle Giles, ETTA, Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF.

DING DONG

SPOOF news report on Allister McGowan's 'The Big Impression' BBC TV show, giant gorilla runs amok at TT tournament in far east, resulting in "King Kong ding dong at Hong Kong ping pong".

SYED vs COOKE: HEAD TO HEAD

ON my report on the English Championships at Sheffield (April TTN), I received and published incorrect information on battles between these two players. I was told that Cooke had never beaten Syed. I now understand that this was not so, Alan has beaten the Syed defensive web on several occasions in the past. Sorry Alan! *John Woodford*

WOODY'S World

WE HAVE COME to the end of another season, a year when we have seen change, with new rules becoming firmly established within the English game of table tennis.

Some like the new 40mm ball, others like Matthew Syed refer it as now becoming a "turkey shoot" (May issue of TTN), for the defender, forcing them to become more attack conscious.

But, the most controversial of all is the 11up scoring system where one has to be attack minded from the start, which also makes the game wider open making it possible for more people to win tournaments.

Werner Schlager, the new World Singles Champion, (see this issue pages 10 to 13) said in Paris of the 11up scoring system, "Many more players could now win the world title".

Opponents of the 11up scoring system for local leagues in England, will have an opportunity to vote on this at the ETTA AGM on the 28th June 2003, in Milton Keynes.

China had proposed a return to the 21up scoring system, and were to have voted at the World Championships in Paris, but they withdrew their proposition due to lack of support.

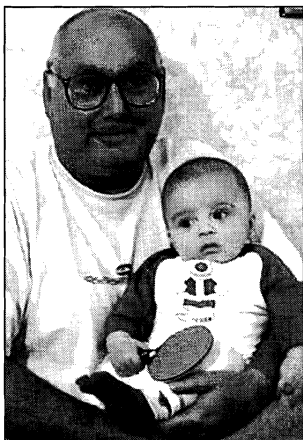
Back on the English scene congratulations are in order for the new National Junior Champions Bryn Drinkhall and Georgina Walker, see pages 14 and 15, and to the Plymouth & District TT League celebrating it's 100th anniversary, see page 6.

I would like to thank Alan Ransome, on behalf of Table Tennis News, for his support and contribution to the magazine, and to thank him for his services to table tennis for the past 12 years as the ETTA Chairman.

I would also like to thank all our readers for their support and contributions over the past season, and hope you have a good summer with plenty of sunshine.

John Wood

FUTURE OF ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS

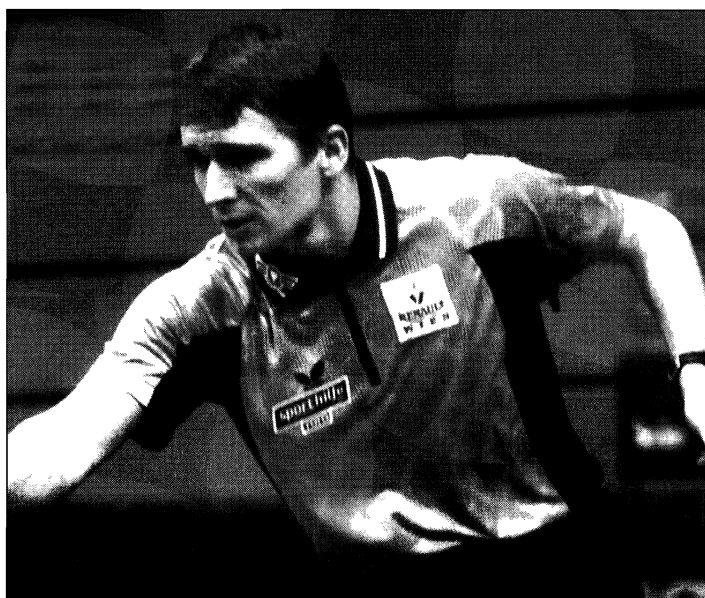


ETTA Chairman Elect, Alex Murdoch, is pictured with his first grandson also named Alex, who is already holding a table tennis bat

BERCY SPECTACULAR



Alan Ransome OBE,
Chairman of the ETTA



WERNER SCHLAGER the new World Singles Champion

WITH more than 10,000 paying spectators attending every session for the last four days, the World Table Tennis Championships reached new heights. It was not just that the public supported the Championship in such large numbers with warm audience participation, but the quality of the play, particularly in the Men's singles, which was spectacular. What's more, the top group of contenders were so even that it was very hard to forecast the winner, and this added to the recipe for an enthralling event

The winner was the world No. 6 Werner Schlager of Austria, who overcame the little known Korean defender, Joo Se Hyuk, in the final. Schlager produced a Houdini act in the quarter finals against the fancied English Open Champion, Wang Liqin of China. Wang led by 3 games to 2 and 10-6 before the Schlager recovery.

DEFENDERS REBORN

The surprise package was the Korean, Joo Se Hyuk who was only ranked 61 in the world before the Championship, and part of the surprise was that he is mainly a defensive player. Many in the sport had written off defenders as being potential challengers for major titles, but it is interesting to see how both in the European Championships in Courmayeur the Belarus defender, Evgueni Chhtchetinine, was unbeaten in the team event and reached the semi final of the singles, and now at the World Championships the Korean defender won through to the final with a real chance of clinching the title.

Joo is not an out and out defender, in fact his style resembles the type of game played by Chen Xinhua in his younger days in China, with a strong defence backed up by the ability to attack strongly on both wings. His play is very exciting and spectacular and was too much for his semi final victim, the talented Greek, Kalinkos Kreanga who had earlier defeated Vladimir Samsonov. Joo produced another spectacular win to beat one

of China's top players, Ma Lin in the quarter final. Schlager's semi final win was over the former World and current Olympic Champion, Kong Linghui in another exciting match at 14-12 in the decider.

Despite the apparent comparative lack of success in the Men's singles, China still dominated the event, winning four out of the five Gold medals and being totally outstanding in the women's events. Wang Nan beat her compatriot Zhang Yining in the Women's final.

It was great for the sport to witness the spectator involvement. The Bercy Stadium, with a maximum capacity of around 13,000, was packed. The setting lent itself beautifully to high level table tennis. Throughout many of the latter stages of the Men's Singles the fans participated in Mexican waves similar to the main stadium at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester. It seemed that the spectators responded to the spectacular play and that the players responded further to the crowd to reach new heights. The buzz on the public concourse surrounding the playing arena was also remarkable for table tennis and was more in tune with Wimbledon or a Premiership football match!

The French Federation did very well to promote the event and to sell all the tickets well in advance. This was mainly due to the big response to a campaign by the French Federation

to their clubs and members. Although tickets were sold out well in advance, it was also good to see so many English spectators at the event.

The television coverage from Bercy was very good and was broadcast throughout the world. The European coverage was mainly through Eurosport and British Eurosport in the U.K broadcast some of the good matches, particularly from the early stages. Unfortunately British Eurosport did not give the same coverage as the rest of the network to the final stages, which is a matter that we are taking up with their management.

21upWITHDRAWN

It has to be said that part of the reason for the spectacular play was the 11 up scoring system, which created more crises points than with the traditional 21 up system. The possibility of going back to 21 up was on the agenda for the International Table Tennis Federation Annual General Meeting following a proposal submitted by China. In reality, the proposal had little chance of success and, recognising this; the Chinese withdrew it prior to the meeting when they realised that the proposal had almost no support.

The second major change on the International Table Tennis Federation agenda, the higher toss of the service, did make some progress in that a proposal to throw the ball

up to a position higher than the player's head and at least 50cm, received majority support, but insufficient to carry the 75% majority needed to become law.

Future venues for World Championships were confirmed as Doha, Qatar for the World Team Championships in March 2004, Shanghai, China for the World Individual Championships in 2005, whilst Bremen, Germany was awarded the World Team Championships in 2006.

The International Table Tennis Federation is pushing ahead with an extensive development programme, particularly in the third world countries with Development Officers in each of the Continents. They also have a number of other initiatives, one of which is to increase participation in outdoor table tennis in as many parts of the developing world where suitable halls for playing table tennis do not exist. The International Table Tennis Federation is also experimenting with a project called "long table tennis". This brings two full sized tables together side by side with a gap between them in the middle and involves three players playing simultaneously on each side of the table, which is similar to doubles but is called "triples".

DENG STARS IN WOMENS FORUM

Another feature of the Paris World Championships was a Women's Forum, which was called with the objective of increasing the participation amongst women and girls in table tennis as players, coaches, administrators and officials. One of the key speeches at the Conference was given by the former World and Olympic Champion, Deng Yaping, who gave a presentation highlighting the reasons why table tennis is so popular in China and why the Chinese women dominate World and Olympic events. The principal reason is the early selection of talented players who are trained in full time academies by top coaches. The players are given full financial support by the state, not only for the period of time that they are playing the sport, but also for a career after

FROM THE CHAIR - 2

their retirement which means that the players can concentrate very heavily on developing their table tennis skills without having the concern of earning a living in the future. Women also receive equal prize money in China! Although this system would not be feasible in the capitalist world, more attention needs to be given to the opportunities to help players who are in the English squads to develop skills that would provide significant job opportunities hopefully within the sport after their playing days. Deng Yaping is currently taking a Degree in Marketing at Cambridge University. After completing her course she will return to work as part of the Marketing team for the Beijing Olympics Games in 2008. Deng Yaping has all the potential to become a major figure in the ITTF in due course.

MALAYSIA TO STAGE THE NEXT COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Meetings of the Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation also took place in Paris and Malaysia has been confirmed as the host for the Commonwealth Championships in June 2004 and Singapore for 2005 either en route to or on the way home from the World Individual Championships in Shanghai. Table tennis is included in the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne in 2006 and discussions are proceeding with two bidding cities for 2010, New Delhi in India and Hamilton in Ontario, Canada. New Delhi have confirmed that table tennis will definitely be included if they are successful, whereas Hamilton has named table tennis as one of 18 sports from which 15 will eventually be selected.

In Paris for the women's forum was Judy Kent from Canada who is a prominent member of the Commonwealth Games Sports Committee. The Commonwealth Games are currently considering which sports to include in the Games on a permanent basis and table tennis is one that is under serious consideration. All the necessary steps are being taken to promote our case.

100 YEARS FOR PLYMOUTH

The Plymouth & District Table Tennis League celebrated its 100th Anniversary with a dinner attended by 120 people at the Holiday Inn in



Pictured in Paris are the Commonwealth Management Committee, with Judy Kent from Canada (2nd from right front row).

Plymouth on Friday, 30th May. From the research that I have been able to carry out, it would appear that Plymouth is not only the first in England to reach 100 years but is the oldest league in history throughout the world. Whilst I was in Paris I had a discussion about this matter with Chuck Hoey, the Curator of the International Table Tennis Federation Museum in Lausanne and he was not aware of any local league formed prior to 1903. On the basis of this, in conjunction with the Plymouth & District League officials, I have lodged a claim for Plymouth to be recognised as the first table tennis

league with the ITTF and we are waiting for their confirmation.

The evidence supporting the claim is in the form of a press cutting from the Western Daily Mercury, which reported matches in the league on Thursday, 9 April 1903. The article gives details of a match between the Carlton Club and the Devonport YMCA. The league was formed after a meeting called by Mr. R.W.J. Norsworthy at the Y.M.C.A which started with between 8 and 10 clubs in 1903. Much of the history is documented in a very interesting booklet written by the late Tom Anson, which covered the period

from 1903 to 1978.

The highlights include visits by players such as Richard Bergmann, Victor Barna and Johnny Leach and coaching visits by Jack Carrington. The league established their own headquarters in 1960 and moved to the current facilities, which it owns in Desborough Lane in 1983. Amongst the competitions staged by the league was the Champion of 'Champions' tournament in 1970 that included Chester Barnes, Denis Neale and Jill Hammersley. The league have supported actively over many years both Devon County and the English Table Tennis Association.

PRESENTATION BY THE ETTA TO PLYMOUTH & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE, CONGRATULATING THE LEAGUE ON IT'S CENTENARY
(left to right)
Laurie Harrison
General Secretary,
Ian Lindsay
Chairman, **Graham May**
President, **Ted Morrish**
Treasurer, and **Alan Ransome**
Chairman of the **ETTA**, who made the presentation



One of the high points of the league has been winning the Wilmott Cup in 1988 and the Carter Cup in 1996. The league won the Carter Cup for the second time when John Vincent's team was successful in this year's competition just a few days before the Celebration dinner.

The Beacon Electrical Plymouth & District Table Tennis League is currently the fourth largest in England with more than 80 teams. The evening in Plymouth was most enjoyable and extremely well presented and we wish Plymouth every success for the next 100 years!

MORE FACILITY DEVELOPMENTS

More good news is coming through on the facilities front as the New Opportunities Fund (NOF) for PE and sport has now moved into stage 2 with local education authorities throughout the country. Table tennis features in several schemes with a strong prospect of new facilities for the Westfield TTC at the Weavers School in Wellingborough, the clubs in the Medway area at the Howard School in Rainham, Gillingham, for Redlands TTC at the Redlands School in Worksop, for the Bradford League, Hermits and Fastbats clubs at the Belle Vue Schools in Bradford, for the Blessed George Napier TTC at the school of the same name in Banbury, Oxfordshire and for the Shaw League at St. Albans Girls' School in Hertfordshire.

In addition to the schemes referred to above that have a sport specific element, many facility providers are now looking for community groups that are interested in using their new facilities, so more opportunities still exist for table tennis clubs and leagues to benefit. For further information, please contact Paul Baker via the ETTA Development Department in Hastings or by e mailing Paul directly on: paul@glynswood.freeserve.co.uk

FANTASTIC RESULTS FOR THE CADET BOYS

Led by Tim Yarnell of Northamptonshire, the England boy's cadet team produced their best performance to date in winning first place in the Cadet Six Nations (Under 15) Championships in Koping, Sweden early this month. In the team event, which is played on an all play all league system, we beat both Germany and Denmark 10-0, Holland 6-4, France 7-3 and Tim, Paul Drinkhall, Darius Knight and Bradley

Evans only needed a draw with Sweden to clinch the title, which they achieved 5-5. In the individual events Tim Yarnell continued his success by winning the Boys Singles beating Darius Knight in the final. The England girls finished 4th with wins against Denmark and Holland.

This victory is a great confidence booster for the team for the forthcoming European Youth Championships in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia in July.

GREAT MONTH FOR THE DRINKHALL AND EVANS FAMILIES

Two of the leading table tennis families on the junior circuit have just enjoyed an incredible month. The Drinkhalls from Cleveland saw Bryn win the National Junior Boys Singles title at Kings Lynn in May, beating Adam Bleakley of Lancashire in the final. The following day younger brother, Paul, won the Cadet Under 15 Boys Singles beating Darius Knight in the final. Paul and Darius won the doubles together.

Paul Drinkhall continued his success as part of the Cadet Six Nations team in Sweden and then went on to the National Under 13 Championships at the Doncaster Dome and won the Boys singles title beating Darius Knight again in the final. This is the fourth year in a row that Paul has won the national title in his age group.

For the Evans family, originally from the Cippenham Club in Slough and now resident in Nottingham, the month started well with Bradley being part of the squad that lifted the Cadet Six Nations title in Sweden. But their main joy came in the Under 10, 11 and 12 Championships in Doncaster when Gavin, still in the under 10 age group, won the Under 10, 11 and 12 titles and came very close to Paul Drinkhall in the semi final of the Under 13's! Gavin also combined with his other brother, Myles, to win the Under 12 boys doubles. Congratulations to all members of both families!

It is very encouraging to see the success that our cadet boys have achieved this season and this gives great credit to all those who are associated with their progress. It also gives real hope for the future, provided that the high quality training programme, which has taken place in Nottingham and has been largely responsible for the success, continues at the same level into the future.

ETTA ANNUAL REPORT

The English Table Tennis Association's Annual Report that is presented to the Annual General Meeting to be held in Milton Keynes on 28 June, has just been published. It gives a very comprehensive account of the Association's activities over the last twelve months and encompasses the wide and varying range of activities that are now generated by the ETTA. Copies of the Report can be obtained from the General Secretary, Robert Sinclair, in Hastings or can be accessed via the ETTA website, www.etta.co.uk

ROUGH WITH THE SMOOTH!

I was disappointed to read that Alex Murdoch appears to have taken umbrage at my section relating to the national elections in the last issue of the magazine. The comments included in this section reflected my thoughts and feelings after the campaign and I felt that they would be of interest to the readers. There was certainly no intention to disturb Alex as, since the election I have met with him twice and given him valuable information with regard to the activities of the Association. Other members of my Management team have done likewise and in the last issue we wished them every success in the challenges ahead.

As Chairman Alex will need to take the rough with the smooth and, in my book, the comments that he refers to would certainly go in the smooth column!

INTO THE FUTURE

This is the last Report of my current term as Chairman and I would like to thank all of you who have contributed to the progress of table tennis over the last twelve years and assisted the Association in our efforts to promote the sport.

A sincere "Thank You" to Johnny Leach, MBE, the President, to Tony Chatwin, Deputy Chairman, Barry Granger, Treasurer and to all members of Man Com, both past and present, and all their families, for being such a fantastic and supportive team over so many years. The same goes to all the Committee Chairmen and Committee Members and to the other volunteers who work regularly for the Association at the national level. Also to Richard Yule, our Chief Executive, and all the staff who have worked so hard for the improvement of table tennis over my period of

office. In my view, the Association is very fortunate to have a person of the calibre of Richard Yule as Chief Executive. I have come into contact with many Chief Executives from other sports and national associations overseas and none match up to Richard.

There is no doubt that the ETTA has been very fortunate to have so many volunteers and members of staff who combine so well to produce such a formidable force for table tennis, which is the envy of many other governing bodies of sport in this country and abroad.

I would also like to say a special "Thank You" to my wife, Jose, who has worked tirelessly for table tennis over the last twelve years alongside me and made a very significant contribution in her own right behind the scenes.

Since the elections in April, many people have asked me what I intend to do with all my spare time. Well, I will continue my work at the International level as a European representative on the ITTF Board of Directors and on various ITTF committees, as well as Chairman of the Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation. There are some very significant challenges ahead at the international level.

I have been nominated as the National Councillor for Cleveland for next season and will, therefore, remain on Council. I am willing to continue to work on ETTA committees if requested to do so. But most of my efforts will almost certainly go into my home county of Cleveland and club, Ormesby, where I have accepted the role of Development Officer for the County and started work on creating a new full time centre for my club which is really necessary if table tennis is to expand and improve. I must say how encouraged I have been with the welcome back from the players, coaches and officials throughout Cleveland. Table tennis in any case is going well in Cleveland with more people playing the sport now than at any time that I can remember, particularly in the schools sector, but there is much to do to increase the popularity further and improve the playing standards. I hope to play my part in helping to achieve these objectives.

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

**PLEASE NOTE
POSTBAG IS NOW
ON PAGE 8 WHILST
COURTSIDE MOVES
TO PAGE 20**

POSTBAG

SPEED KILLS

WHEN I first started playing table tennis in 1935, almost every club in our league had a different table. Some were so dead that the only way you could get the ball over the net was by scooping it up and over. Probably in the late 30's the Jacques table was introduced which gave an even bounce and an equal chance to compete on equal terms for all players.

Now I read a letter by David Cue, the Kent League Secretary in May's Table Tennis News that a year ago "they had bought a replacement table that was very smooth, just like playing on glass and absorbing very little spin."

The question I now have to ask is "Who gave permission for such a table to be introduced into our game?"

As a sometime umpire it was always impressed upon me that I examined the bats before the beginning of a game and to confirm that they confirmed to the ETTA logo, but nobody ever asked me to examine the table because apparently, it is not covered by any rules.

Yet the end result of such action is that our No 1 player Matthew Syed is placed at a disadvantage because he is unable to defend as he says in his "Athens" article, through guile and subtlety rather than through brute force. It is a sorry state of affairs for table tennis that one has to come to such a conclusion.

The emphasis since the introduction of the sponge bat is speed and more speed and while we know that on the roads "Speed kills" we never consider that speed is killing table tennis.

I know that as a spectator I would much prefer to watch the cut and thrust of a game that attracts both attack and defence and which has always been provided by such folk as Matthew Syed.

We must therefore ask ourselves the question - With the demise of Matthew Syed will the defensive stroke vanish altogether?

I am optimistic enough to believe that this will not be the case after reading in your Trade Page that a new pimple rubber is being introduced from 1st July named the Hallmark mid pimple Half Long (1mm size). Available through Tees Sport or Bribar.

No I have no shares in these people but I honestly believe that such a bat will help a players defence if he so chooses to use it.

I also believe that the manufacturers are right in slowing the game up a little and to create a more level playing field.

If in the future we may find that by slowing things down a bit we may find ourselves competing not only with each other but also with the Chinese. Who knows?

*Stan Johnstone
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire*

TV CUT

THE World Championships in Paris produced yet another marginalisation on the sport of table tennis, when SKY cut the coverage at the quarter-final stage of the Mens Singles.

As there was strong European interest it made the viewing aspect even more galling. I have written a strong letter to SKY, but it will be a waste of time I am sure, but Matthew Syed did mention earlier in the week that coverage would cover the finals at the weekend.

What we did have was of high quality, both the play and coverage, with Matthew Syed as always very professional.

*Brian Theaker
Highcliffe, Dorset*

LACK OF TV COVERAGE

I AM writing regards of the World Table Tennis Championships on Eurosport, or should I say the lack of coverage from the quarter-final stages.

For the first three days I watched the coverage from 4.30 until 6pm and managed to edit my tape.

The standard was improving as we reached the latter stages. I could not believe it when I switched on Eurosport, and there was NO coverage of the final stages. Still today I do not know the current World Champion?

I know that Eurosport is sharing 120 hours of the French Open for tennis. I cannot think of any Open Sport that this sort of thing could happen.

I am sure this is not the only letter sent to you regarding this farce.

I would appreciate your comments

continued on page 20

FROM THE CHAIRMAN ELECT

IT IS MOST likely by the time this June/July edition of TTN reaches you that I will have been officially installed as the new Chairman of your National Body, writes Alex Murdoch

It is without question necessary for me to respond to Alan Ransome's comments in the May issue of TTN under ETTA elections.

I, and many people who have contacted me, were dismayed by his comments relating to who supported whom in the election and I believe this was totally unnecessary and factually incorrect. This continued rhetoric does nothing for our sport only harm.

I do not consider it important or good for table tennis to go into the various claims and counterclaims now the election is over and the electorate have given me and the other officers such an overwhelming majority and mandate for the future.

I do though consider it is appropriate to thank the supporters who voted for me and wish also to thank the many other members who did not support me but have since contacted me with their offers of help and support in the future.

I have been heartened by the interest and support we are receiving since the election both on my continued travels and with the many phone calls, letters, emails and faxes from across table tennis including parents, players, local league, county, national and

international officials, Life members and Vice Presidents of the Association all of whom wish us well in our future goals for the sport in England.

It is my goal and that of my team to put in place measures which were part of our election promises and despite the efforts of a few who may attempt to disrupt this process you can be assured that we shall take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that the wishes of the membership are met.

I have stated from the very beginning that life will not be easy nor will there be a quick fix and all the changes within Sport England will make the bridges we have to face and cross not without obstacles, but they will be crossed with the firm belief that our sport, not individuals, is the most important thing.

Someone told me to look at Rudyard Kipling's poem "IF" and with that in mind I shall turn the other cheek and get on with mandate the Table Tennis membership gave me.

I am proud and honoured to have been elected your new Chairman in this new era.

SCHLAGER BREACHES GREAT WALL OF CHINA

EUROPE now has three men capable of upsetting the Chinese stranglehold on the world's top events - Timo Boll, Vladimir Samsonov and Werner Schlager from Austria, writes John Woodford.

Ice-cool Schlager has been in the waiting room for almost ten years, beating the odd Asian occasionally, but this time, now aged 30, he fired on all cylinders and brought the world mens singles championship back to Europe. Gatiien, Waldner and Persson—all well into their thirties' are now drifting away, slowly but surely.

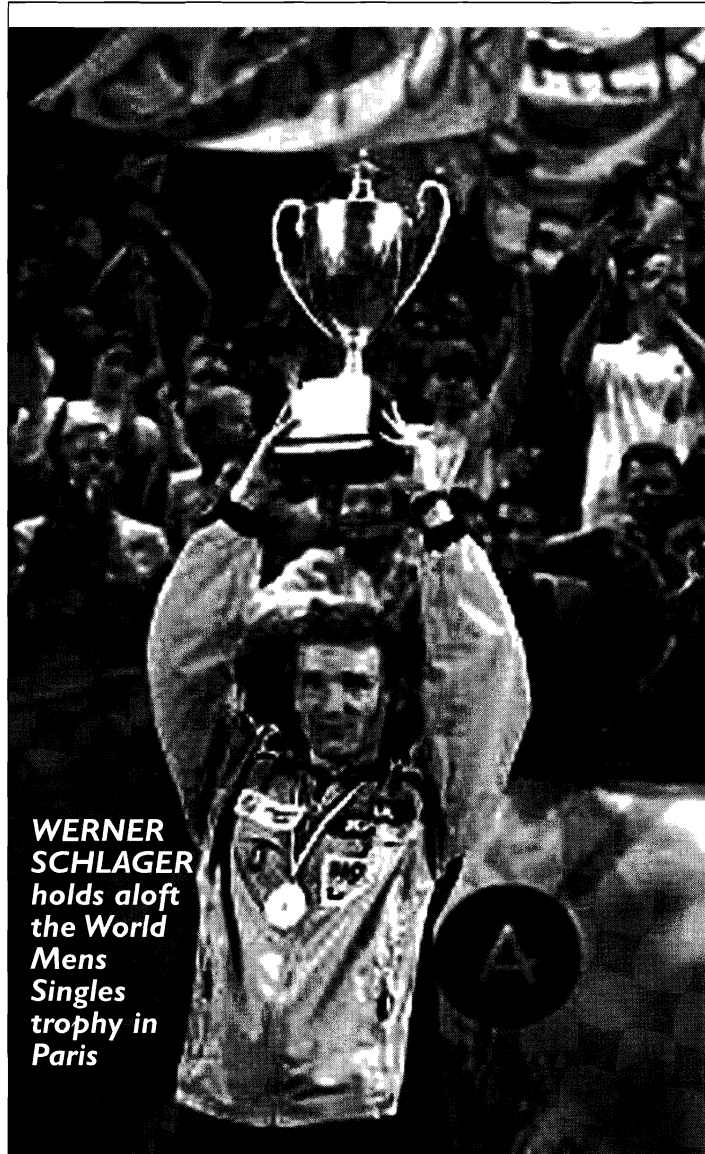
This tournament was the best I have ever witnessed, a full house of 15,000 on the last three days, many thousands from the first day. The atmosphere was unique with the Mexican Wave circling round the massive Bercy stadium time and time again, building up to an astounding climax when Schlager "brought the house down and the Great Wall of China by defeating China's Kong Linghui 11-5 in the seventh in the semi-finals and then Joo Se Hyuk, of Korea, 9, 6-6 10, -8, 10 in the never-to-be forgotten final.

In China, no doubt when Schlager defends his title in Shanghai in 2005, the crowds will be up to 20,000 and most of those will shouting, screaming, flag-waving Chinese fans.

There is a lot to be admired about Werner Schlager. He is cooler than Samsonov, his expression rarely changes on court, he has a great range of strokes on both wings, he is quiet, unassuming, speaks good English and of course, part of his success must be the large number of Chinese players in the Austrian national squads,

SNAGS FOR CHINESE

Two snags for Chinese coaches,



WERNER SCHLAGER holds aloft the World Mens Singles trophy in Paris

firstly they are not well off for defensive practice partners and they are beginning to hate 11 points. Evidence of this came at the annual meeting of the ITTF when the Chinese proposal to go back to 21 points (because it suits their game) was withdrawn because they lacked

support.

Chinese coaches and officials feel that 11 points is a plot against them. Not so of course, "the shorter games bring more interesting rallies, far less boring expedite matches" said Adham Shahara in Paris. Checking the last 32 in the mens

and womens singles in Paris: Men: 16 Europeans and 16 Asians; Women 9 Europeans and 23 Asians.

How the mighty crashed in the French capital - Timo Boll, the world No.1 (at the time) went down in six games to the unseeded 18-year-old Qiu Yike from China. Gatiien went down fighting to Crisan (Romania); Jan-Ove Waldner, unwisely deciding to appear following lack of practice and a broken ankle floundered in seven games to the Greek No.4 Konstantin Papageorgiou, whose world ranking was 372.

Jean-Michel Saive fell to Wang Liqin. Samsonov got through to the last sixteen with an easy draw, but then incredibly, it seemed at the time, went under in seven to the amazing Kalinikos Kreanga, who some time ago played for Ormesby in the British League - a Butterfly player.

NO 2nd HALF FOR ENGLAND

The five England players in Paris battled hard during the first of the play in both the singles and doubles. The Bercy stadium is so vast with a thousand players from 116 countries that I managed to see almost all the England matches, but I never even saw the Scottish, Welsh or Irish squads on the 29 courts. The second half with its 29 tables was a ten-minute walk away needing a French guide to act as a pathfinder.

Gareth Herbert, serving as

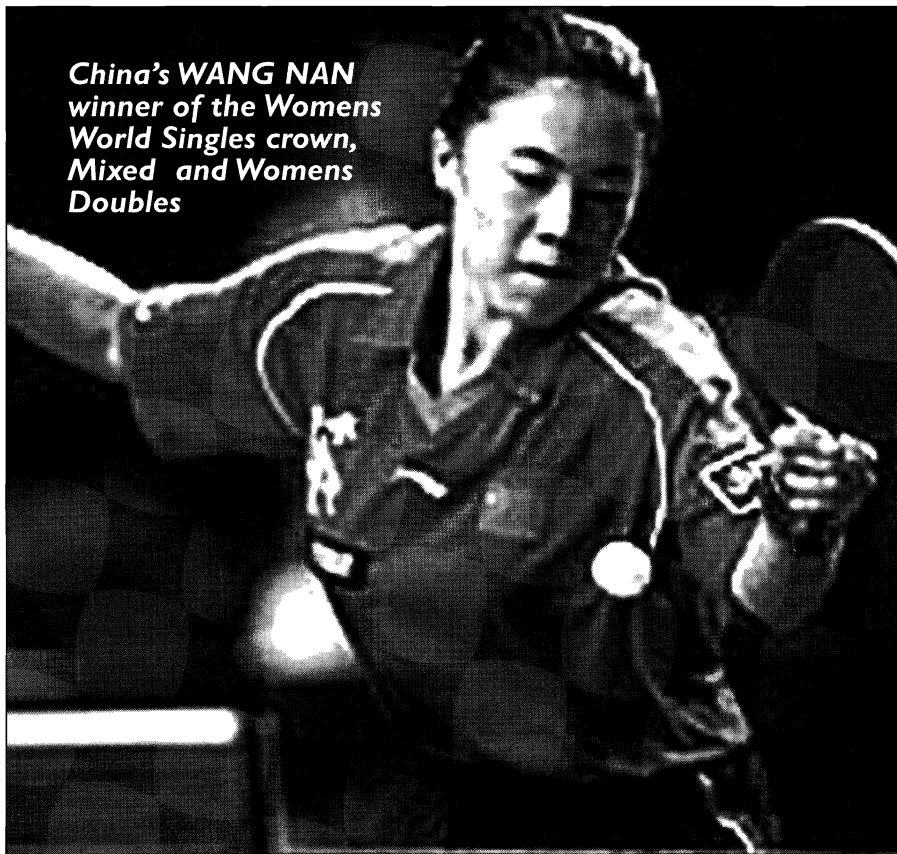
Words by the TTN reporting team in Paris

JOHN WOODFORD, MALCOLM MACFARLANE & BARRY GRANGER

venomously as ever, brought down Edgard Edemessi (Gabon) 6, 9, 4, 4 in 16 minutes in the opening group matches, whilst the new England No.1 Andrew Baggaley all but crushed a familiar face Darren Blake (Jamaica) 9, 1, 7, 5.

Georgina Walker, (ever promising a

LIEBHERR



China's WANG NAN winner of the Womens World Singles crown, Mixed and Womens Doubles

CHINA & ASIA WOMEN REIGN SUPREME

fine career ahead) was defeated 5, 8, 2, 5 by a vastly experienced defender Tetyana Sorochinska (Ukraine).

At that point Baggaley and Herbert suffered an embarrassing loss to a pair of unheard of Tunisians - (reported by Malcolm Macfarlane on the following page).

At that juncture we had hopes that Helen Lower might be in for a good tournament run but it did not happen - she went under 4-2, losing

to Silvia Morel from Chile.

Gareth Herbert was the England group winner. He went forward to the main competition but was vanquished 8, 5, 8, 7 by the Hongkong No.2 Li Ching, who is No.51 on the world list, some 85 places above Gareth, so no disgrace there.

Andrew Rushton, clearly rated as a good prospect by Steen Kyst Hansen played strongly and was never

outclassed in his group.

Matthew Syed's injured wrist, kept him out of the England team but he had a seat in the TV commentary box and was kept busy by Eurosport who covered most of the tournament but then (amazingly) failed to cover the final stages for British viewers. Mr Syed and many British fans were speechless on the decision - Eurosport turned to rugby instead.

CHINA SUPREME

Wang Nan, the new world No.1 landed all three titles - womens singles, mixed and womens doubles. She is following Matthew Syed and Deng Yaping into politics.

However, she was involved in a titanic battle in the womens final, eventually overpowering the Chinese

continued on page 12



Picture by David Cochrane



TAMAR BOROS of Croatia was one of three European women to reach the semi-final stage

No.1 Zhang Yining 7, 8, 4, -5, -6, -8, 5.
Three European women kept the Asians at bay until the later stages - Viktoria Pavlovich (Belarus), Otilia Badescu (Romania) and Tamara Boros (Croatia) who was the only European semi-finalist, going under 12, 8, 3, 4 to Wang Nan.

PARIS POINTS

- THE Bercy Stadium is huge and disliked by some for that reason. It did however, suit this event which was well-presented by the French.
- EIGHTY Chinese journalists were accredited but only thirty turned up due to the SARS problems.
- ADHAM SHAHARA, the ITTF president said at a Press Conference - "We are trying to get table tennis into every country in the world - we now have 195 nations in the ITTF. Today we saw how a defensive player (Joo, Korea) can rise to the heights. The Chinese men lost some ground, but they will be back".
- DOUBLE HAPPINESS: The Shanghai company are set to sponsor the world team event in Doha and the world individual championships at Shanghai in 2005.
- WERNER SCHLAGER: "I practice hard and often against defensive

players, I was not therefore worried about playing Joo in the final. I stopped him from getting into a rhythm."

- JOO SE HYUK said "He (Schlager) worked out all my strong points. My Aim is to be in the Top 10 in the world"
- MICHEL GADAL said "It takes ten years to produce a new generation of world-class players".
- TWO ARABS, one from Saudi Arabia and one from The Yemen were suspended until the end of 2003 by the ITTF for failing to appear against Israel's Gay Elensky.
- HOOLIGANS, French variety, dropped a video projector from a height on to a section of crowd and ran off. There were slight injuries to a few fans.
- KREANGA, the jumping Greek with his magic backhand was probably the biggest shockmaker in Paris. To reach the semi-finals after storming past Samsonov deserved high praise. French comment: He was euphoric, fabulous.
- JUDIT FARAGO (Hungary) became the first female member of the Executive Committee of the ITTF. She is elected for two years.

DOUBLES CHINESE TAKEAWAY

THE Doubles events in Paris were totally dominated by the Chinese with all the Gold, Silver and 4 out of 6 Bronze medals going to Chinese pairs, writes Malcolm Macfarlane.

In the Men's Doubles Andrew Baggaley and Gareth Herbert exited in the final qualifying round to a surprisingly effective Tunisian pair, Ghazi Belanka and Nabil Jemil running out straight set winners 11-7, 15-13, 11-7.

In the main event there were few result surprises as the three Chinese

pairs made steady progress to the semi-finals. There the final non Chinese opposition, the Korean No 2 seeds, Oh Sang Eun and Kim Taek Soo were beaten by Wang Hao and Kong Linghui 4-1. In the final Wang and Kong went down 4-2 to their compatriots Wang Liqin and Yan Sen.

We did however in this event see a Hong Kong coach physically manhandling an official as his pair was disputing a point. The coach was red carded but refused to leave the court so his pair Li Ching and Lau Sui Feng were disqualified in the seventh



Mens Singles finalist JOO SE HYUK of Korea

LIEBHERR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, Bercy, Paris

set and the Korean opposition progressed.

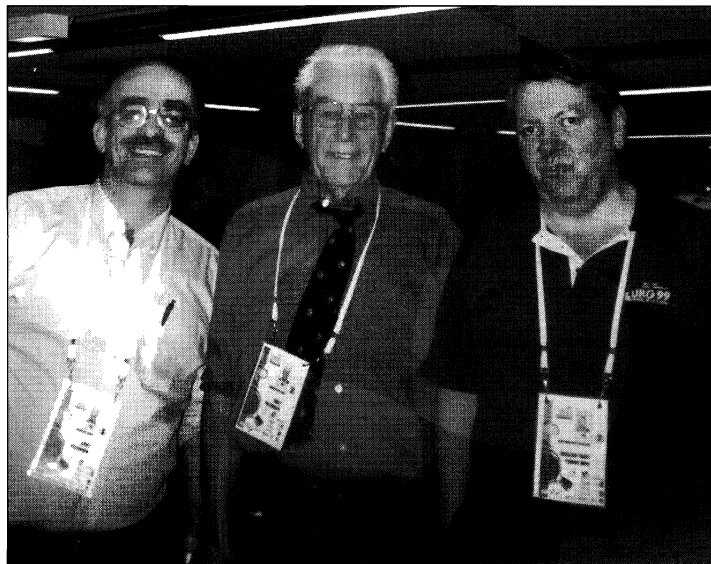
In the Women's Doubles the English pair of Helen Lower and Georgina Walker did qualify for the main event beating Peila Bouceta and Asma Menafi of Algeria 11-6, 12-10, 11-4. In the main event however Helen and Georgina were unable to overcome the solid defence of the BLR pair Tatyana Logatzkaya and Veronika Pavlovich going down 11-7, 7-11, 1-11, 7-11, 4-11.

Once again nothing hindered the progress of the three Chinese pairs to the semi-finals. Here the Korean interlopers, this time Suk Eun Mi and Lee Eun Sil, were dismissed by Wang Nan and Zhang Yining, the World No's 1 and 2, who then demolished Niu Jiangfeng and Guo Yue in the final 4-1.

In the Mixed Doubles once again there was little joy for the English

pairs. Andrew Rushton and Helen Lower did win their first match in qualifying against Mohammed Boudjadja and Asma Menafi of Algeria 11-2, 11-6, 11-4 but were unable to make further progress against Sun Wen-Wei and Su Hsien-Ching of Taipei losing 4-11, 11-7, 11-3, 11-8. Andrew Baggaley and Georgina Walker lost their first match against Leung Chu Yan and Song Ah Sim of Hong Kong 12-10, 11-9, 11-7

In the main event there was the problem of 7 Chinese pairs to contend with and 6 of these made the quarter-finals. The Mixed did produce one unique result where Oh Sang Eun and Lee Eun Sil of Korea beat Hou Yingchao and Fan Ying of China, the only match in the whole Championships where a Chinese pair lost to non-Chinese opposition. 6 Chinese quarter finalists became 4 semi-finalists and then Ma Lin and



AMONG the 430 working in the Media Centre at the Bercy Stadium were (left to right) BARRY GRANGER, JOHN WOODFORD and MALCOLM MACFARLANE.

Wang Nan won a close Final against Liu Guozheng and Bai Yang 4-3.

Paris was excellently organised and the spectator numbers incredible,

some opposition in the doubles from the rest of the World to the Chinese domination would have been welcome.

continued overleaf



The photograph above was taken on David Cockrane's camera, and features England umpire and spectators at the championships: from left to right, Bill Moran, a European umpire, David Cochran, Eric Pentland and Derek Sherratt. Pictured below are the jubilant Chinese women who took all the Womens Doubles medals



RULE CHANGES

THE important rule change affecting service passed in Bercy, Paris on 21 May 2003 was that the free arm should "be removed immediately from between the server's body and the net once the ball has left the server's hand". The ITTF Rules Committee now go away to reword the rule on this basis, see my comments below, writes Barry Granger.

The proposition that the ball should be thrown upwards at least 50cm or above the head of the server was defeated as it required 75% of then votes cast but only received 65%. Adam Sharara (ITTF President) believes it or something similar will be resubmitted in 2004 and passed. That remains to be seen.

The rule change to revert to games of 21-up (from the current 11-up) was withdrawn by the proposer, China.

I spent some time in Bercy watching some top players and their service action, with particular emphasis on the position of the free hand during service. The conclusion I reached was that there were certain players "sailing close to the wind" and who could perhaps be warned that their service was not able to be verified (by the umpire) as legal and that their free arm should be removed further before making contact with the ball on service. These players included Chila, Gatién and a Japanese who appeared to me to be shielding the ball, although I was a little way up in the seating.

Chuan Chih-Yuan (TPE) recent winner of Pro-Tour finals, Werner Schlager (AUT), and the Chinese Wang Liqin, Wang Hao, Qiu Yike (winner over Boll in Round 1 here) and Kong Linghui all achieved services whilst I was watching that I felt were within the spirit of the rules, (the latter using backhand in doubles). Chuan and Wang tended to clutch the side of their body with their free arm and some of then others held their free arm out pointing at their opponent, but even these may not be acceptable under the broad terms of the proposition passed.

Last word: if you can go to a World Championships, make the effort as I can recommend it, it was superb.

LIEBHERR

BY no means the funniest of jokes but on Sunday night thousands of European table tennis fans could be forgiven for saying the same thing "mines a Schlager" after Werner Schlager had just been crowned World Mens Singles Champion in the magnificent Bercy, Paris Sports arena, writes Steve Kerns.

"Doesn't always play spectacular Table Tennis, but he does have the very valuable ability to win." That was the luke-warm pen-picture painted of 31 year-old Austrian ace Werner Schlager in the Tournament programme.

It is fair to say that all of the 15,000 people present who witnessed Schlager's four epic duels with Kim Taek Soo (Korea), Wang Liqin (China), Olympic Champion Kong Ling Hui (China) and finally Joo Se Hyuk (Korea) in the final would challenge that statement. Rarely has a player worked so hard to win a World Mens Singles title and rarely can a player have competed with the same intensity and determination. The standing ovation he received after his last three matches was totally deserved amidst scenes that are only ever witnessed at the World Championships.

Perhaps the most dramatic game of all came when Schlager trailed reigning Champion Wang Liqin by 2 games to 2 and by 10-6 in his quarter-final. Surely he couldn't come back? Amazingly he wasn't beaten and despite trailing 4-1 in the seventh set there was only ever going to be one winner. 11-5 to Werner. Schlager's 14-12 in the seventh set victory over Kong in the semi-final was almost as dramatic as he saved two match points, one after the cruellest of net-edges had gone against him.

Schlager's opponent in the Final Joo Se Hyuk (Korea) came in to the Tournament ranked 61 in the world. This ranking proved about as reliable as West Ham's defence as he sensationally left a trail of scalps behind him. If that wasn't unbelievable enough he did it with a predominantly defensive style. How many people can honestly have expected to see a defender playing in the World Mens Singles Final? However his game also included arguably the most deadly forehand topspin in the whole Tournament with a swing very reminiscent of Wang Liqin. Any high returns brought about by the opponents failure to read his backhand chop (with long pimples of course) were invariably punished. His 11-9 in the seventh set quarter-final victory over Ma Lin (China) nearly brought the house down as Joo matched the

"MINES A SCHLAGER"

WERNER SCHLAGER
acknowledges the standing ovation on winning the Mens Singles crown



ITTF Pro-Tour leader point for point. Joo's 4-1 semi-final victory over Kalinikos Kreanga (Greece), (himself a 4-3 victor over European Champion Vladimir Samsonov) was quite simply a performance of the highest class.

TRIPLE GOLD FOR CHINA'S WANG NAN

One of the strangest aspects of the Tournament was the indifference with which the spectators (mostly die-hard enthusiasts) treated the Ladies matches. The Chinese women led by the incomparable left-handed Politics student Wang Nan were in a

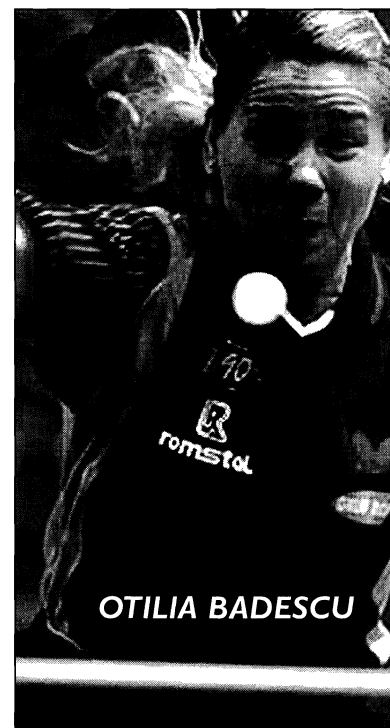
class of their own and as a result many of their games lacked any sense of occasion. Even current World No. 1 Zhang Yining didn't seem to believe she could beat Wang and although she pulled back from 0-3 to 3-3 in the Ladies Singles Final a poor start to the seventh end meant there would only ever be one winner. Wang's third successive World Singles title was capped by a Ladies Doubles success with Zhang and a Mixed Doubles title with Ma Lin.

Wang's Semi-Final against the highest ranked European lady player Tamara Boros (Croatia) had been awaited with real anticipation. Boros attacks the ball with the same

predominantly backhand free-swinging style as crowd favourite Kreanga and her battle for supremacy against the high-serving European Champion Otilia Badescu (Romania) will surely be remembered as one of the greatest Ladies matches ever. With people hoping that Boros just might be able to break the Chinese supremacy Boros was forced to admit defeat. After a desperately close first game (14-12) there only seemed to be one player in it as Wang out-maneuvred her opponent almost at will. 4-0 to the Chinese master. History may well decree that the retired Deng Ya Ping is the greatest of all lady players but 25-year-old Wang can't be far behind.

The lady players seem to have a rough time of it in China. Perhaps the most dominant team in any World sport at present they hardly seem to get a look in. Merchandise, posters, picture cards and blades invariably concentrate on the Chinese male players and despite having an awful Tournament by their standards the Chinese Men received the same treatment normally afforded to Rock stars. When three of their star players Wang Hao, Yan Sen and Wang Liqin tried to hot-foot it into hall the commotion was so great that the corridor had to be closed. Thousands of French-Chinese turned up over the last two days to totally destroy the myth that the Chinese public have lost interest in table tennis.

All in all an absolutely fantastic four days. Thanks Paris, but sorry, we still won't be supporting your 2012 Olympic bid!



DRINKHALL & WALKER NEW NATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPS

CONTINUING PROGRESS OF YOUNG INTERNATIONALS IN EVIDENCE AT ENGLISH NATIONAL JUNIOR & CADET CHAMPIONSHIPS by Ken Muhr.

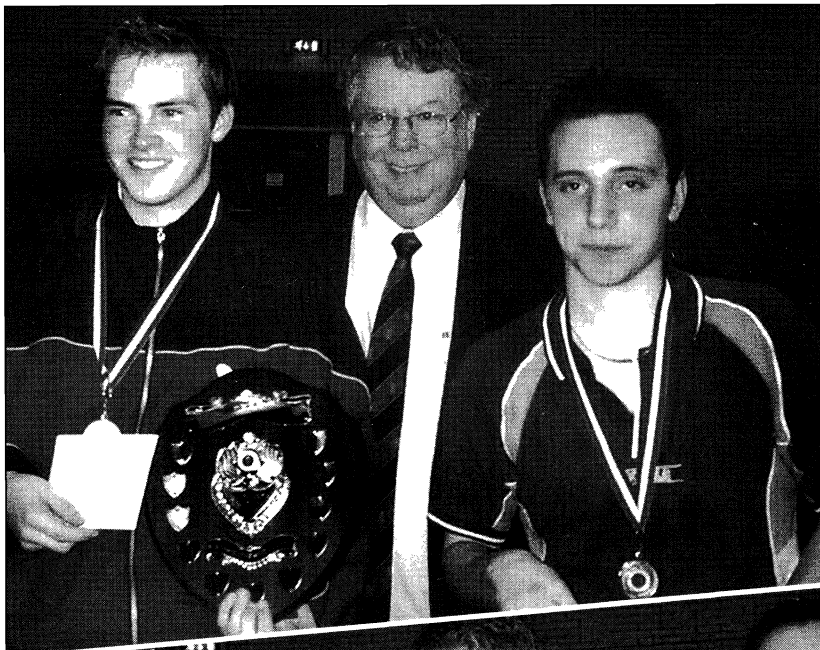
THE continuing progress of some of our young England junior and cadet internationals was in evidence at the English National Junior & Cadet Championships played at Lynnsport & Leisure Park, King's Lynn, on 17th/18th May, supported by King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council. Although the sportsmanship of most players was very good, referee Mick Strode was concerned by the number of yellow and red cards dished out by umpires, indicating poor behaviour by a small minority.

FIRST TIME NATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONS

Bryn Drinkhall, from Loftus, Cleveland, and Georgina Walker, from Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, became the national junior boy and girl champions for the first time.

Drinkhall took his junior boys' title from the 3rd seeded position, but was only seriously challenged once, in the quarter-finals, when he fought back from 2 games to one down against 13 year old prodigy, Darius Knight (Surrey), asserting his greater power to secure a 11-9, 3-11, 8-11, 11-8, 11-7 victory. In the semi-finals he had too much artillery for Adam Bleakley (Lancashire), who had knocked out top seed Peter Cleminson (Essex) in the previous round (having the skill to take advantage of Cleminson's inability to cope with the self-imposed stress of his expectations), Drinkhall winning 11-3, 12-14, 11-5, 11-5. Then in the final Drinkhall, in full attacking flow, overcame the 4th seed, Greg Baker (Warwickshire), surprisingly easily, 11-3, 11-8, 11-8, to lift the championships, Baker never finding his earlier consistency.

Baker had looked impressive in the semi-finals against Drinkhall's younger brother Paul, winning in 3 fast and pulsating games, 11-8, 12-10,



Junior National Singles Champions receive their trophies from ETTA Chairman ALAN RANSOME, left BRYN DRINKHALL with runner-up GREG BAKER, and pictured below is GEORGINA WALKER with runner-up JOANNA PARKER



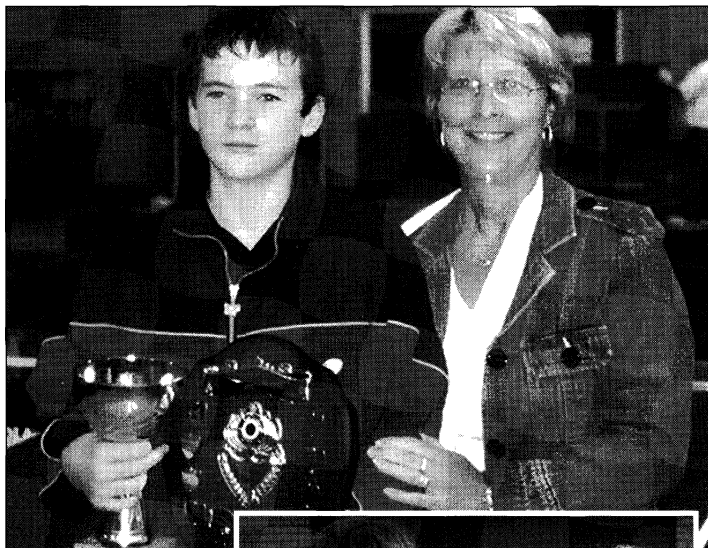
11-7. In the quarter-finals he had comfortably put down the challenge of Durham combination bat player, Andrew Leighton, the 10-12, 7-11, 11-5, 11-8, 14-12 conqueror of 7th seed Tim Yarnall (Northamptonshire). Leighton also beat over five games in the quarter-finals, David Hayes from Buckinghamshire, who had pipped David Meads (Durham) 14-12, 7-

11, 11-9, 8-11, 12-10 in an extraordinary encounter (although one conducted in the most gentlemanly of spirit): Hayes had actually led 7-0 in the 4th game, only to have it prised out of his grasp by the battling Meads! Paul Drinkhall had defeated in straight games (17-15, 14-12, 11-5) Stephen Denny (Yorkshire), who had caused a quarter-final shock in his 7-11, 11-6, 11-9, 3-11, 11-8 success over the

second seed, Craig Bryant (Devon). National under 21 champion Georgina Walker was the favourite for the junior girls' singles and duly claimed the title by hitting off defending champion, Joanna Parker (Surrey), 11-7, 11-5, 12-10 in the final. When it looked all over, Parker produced wonderful, classic defence against Walker's slick topspins to save two match points at 8-10 down

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ETTA NATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS



SANDRA DEATON, Vice-Chairman, Marketing, presented the Cadet Boys and Girls Singles winners trophies to PAUL DRINKHALL (top) and (right) KELLY SIBLEY



Paul Drinkhall & Kelly Sibley Cadet Champions

Paul Drinkhall followed his older brother, Bryn's, success the previous day when he had won the junior boys' singles, by lifting the cadet boys' while Kelly Sibley (Leamington Spa) won the cadet girls' singles.

In a reverse of last year, no.1 seed Drinkhall turned on the power to hit through the defending champion, Tim Yarnall, 11-8, 11-8, 11-6, in the cadet boys' singles final. He had reached the final via the Evans brothers from Nottinghamshire: Gavin, 15-13, 12-10, 6-11, 11-9 in the quarter-finals, and Bradley, 11-9, 8-11, 11-3, 11-9 in the semis. Tim Yarnall, seeded 3rd, had demonstrated his fighting spirit and good tactical brain in his semi-final against no.2 seed Darius Knight. Knight looked on top, playing zippy backhand and forehand attack to win the first two games, but at 8-8 in the third the match suddenly went Yarnall's way as he mixed his spin, speed and placements to confound his younger opponent and win 10-12, 4-11, 11-9, 11-4, 11-7. James Milton (Buckinghamshire) was the victor of a notable 2-11, 11-8, 8-11, 11-6, 11-7 third round battle with Daniel Rees (Essex), but Yarnall then stopped his further progress in straight games.

In the cadet girls' singles final, Kelly Sibley avenged a quarter-final junior singles loss to Lauren Spink the previous day, by defeating the Norfolk girl 11-9, 9-11, 11-5, 11-7. The difference this time was that Sibley strongly 'loop' attacked from much closer to the table, and sometimes even forced her opponent, who had been the quicker on the Saturday, away from it. However, Spink again played very well, and had a good day: seeded 3rd, she had put out second seed Lauren Springthorpe, 11-8, 5-11, 11-8, 11-6, in the semi-finals. Springthorpe had survived a tough five games quarter-final match (15-17, 11-5, 11-4, 7-11, 11-6) with Kent's Anusha Seneviratne, who looked like a defender in the way she pushed.

Probably the biggest surprise in the event was the 11-9, 4-11, 9-11, 11-9, 11-8 victory by under 12 Emma Vickers (Derbyshire) over 4th seed Gemma Yarnley (Kent) in the quarter-finals, Yarnley eventually wilting from Vickers' onslaught of positive play. However, Vickers found Sibley's game a bit too heavy to handle in the semi-finals, going down by a respectable 4-11, 10-12, 9-11.

Sibley got a second title and Spink consolation for losing in the singles when together they triumphed in the cadet girls' doubles, sweeping

continued on page 17

in the third game, but to no ultimate avail. However, the ice-cool Walker had been seriously frightened by Norfolk girl, Lauren Spink, in the semi-finals, when more than matched for speed and range of shots over the table, if not power. Spink quickly took the first two games, lost the third but came back from 7-9 in the fourth to 9-9, when Walker's corner called time-out. It was the measure of a champion that the server Walker did not then rush her attack, but followed with slow, controlled backhand loops to win the next two critical points, and then the match, 8-11, 4-11, 11-3, 11-9, 11-8.

The talented Spink had shown her mettle in the quarter-finals when she had weathered the heavy topspin storm from rising England star Kelly Sibley (Warwickshire), the no.4 seed, celebrating her 10-12, 11-7, 11-9, 12-10 triumph by weeping tears of joy! Spink's 'edge' was greater security on backhand counter-hitting, plus 'hugging' the table while Sibley backed off. The main upset in the event was the second round 7-11, 4-11, 11-7, 8-11 loss by 4th seed and 2001 champion, Kate Steward, to Somerset colleague Naomi Wilson,

who ultimately fell to Joanna Parker in the semi-finals. Karen Shepherd (Cheshire), who has made giant strides recently despite lacking training opportunities, got within a whisker of deposing Sibley in the second round, the scores to Sibley being 12-10, 10-12, 11-7, 8-11, 11-9, while Emma Weil (Essex) beat the higher ranked Claire Wilson (Durham) and Lauren Springthorpe (Lincolnshire), before succumbing to Joanna Parker.

Parker got consolation for dropping her singles title with two doubles successes: in the junior girls' doubles with Abigail Embling (Essex), in which they beat Kelly Sibley and Karen Shepherd 13-11, 11-7, 11-4, and in the mixed doubles with Bryn Drinkhall, in which they defeated Craig Bryant and Kate Steward over 5 games, 11-9, 6-11, 11-6, 8-11, 11-6. Although defensive players are not often doubles winners, the improvement in Parker's attack was a significant factor. Adam Bleakley with Chris Gregory (Shropshire) won the junior boys' doubles with a 11-9, 6-11, 11-2, 11-8 scoreline over Peter Cleminson and Greg Baker.



ALAN RANSOME, ETTA Chairman, presented the Junior Boys & Girls Doubles trophies to (left) CHRIS GREGORY & ADAM BLEAKLEY, and (below) to JOANNA PARKER & ABIGAIL EMBLING



TABLE TENNIS NEWS EXTRA

Issue No. 294 June-July 2003

Editorial

It is a sad **farewell from me**, my job a casualty not of politics but of the ETTA's need to cut costs. Whilst I share with outgoing ETTA Vice Chairman for Public Relations, Brian Halliday, exasperation at the frequent late delivery of TTN, I am also very disappointed that low sales do not recognise the improvements made to content. The **magazine** simply is not a commercial operation (and should not be judged as such) and **I wish players and enthusiasts would want to support it** and feel they should. Without proper support, TTN could be discontinued, but personally I would then think it appalling that we could not sustain a national magazine (of information, feature and debate) and document of historical record. The website, worthy and necessary, and obviously the best vehicle for instant news, is not the same. More comment about my post in Muhr's Memo.

For now the **new ETTA management team are committed to Table Tennis News**, and no doubt will be **instigating changes**. I wish them and the magazine good fortune. Until further notice, I advise **contributors to send their 'Extra' copy to Lindsay Shipp (lindsayshipp.etta@btopenworld.co) at the Hastings office**, and continue to send their copy for the main (glossy) magazine to editor John Wood. Note that the **copy date for the September/October issue is 15th August**. Because this is the last TTN Extra for which I am responsible, I was not able to fit everything in it, but I have passed on some articles excluded to Lindsay, to be possibly used at a later date at the discretion of whoever has that remit.

With 500 million viewers on television and 90,000 spectators live, the **Liebherr World Championships in Paris from 19th-25th May was a fantastic event**. My only real criticism on the organisational side was the heavy congestion and long delay queuing and getting into the venue, owing to having only one entrance for spectators, but it was good to be amongst up to 10,000-12,000 table tennis supporters a day! Paris is a great city and most people very friendly.

In my opinion **11-up scoring** and all its attendant (extra) crisis points, really did **add to the drama of the table tennis**, even when some of the actual play was nothing special. However, there was wonderful play as well. In the men's singles third round, the aging Belgium warhorse, **Jean-Michel Saive**, started against defending world champion **Wang Liqin** in the best form I have seen from him – brilliant early forehand looping and lob defending – but he simply could not sustain this, falling 4-2. In the fourth round, the tall smooth-stroking European champion and world no.3, **Vladimir Samsonov**, wilted over 7 games under the continuous savage two wing looping assault of that diminutive Greek dynamo, **Kalinkos Kreanga**. And **two defensive players** (albeit with massive forehand attacks) reached the quarter-finals: Chinese-Austrian **Chen Weixing** had been most impressive in putting out rising Chinese star **Wang Hao** (7th seed) but then had no real answer to Kreanga, but the giant Korean **Joo Se Hyuk** ultimately wore down and outgunned an arrogant looking 2nd seed, **Ma Lin**, 11-9 of the deciding (quarter-final) game, before reaching the final via Kreanga.

What about Austrian **Werner Schlager**, the man no-one seriously considered would become **World Champion** (despite being 6th seed and a top 10 player for some years)?! Although once he had reached the semi-finals I thought that the winner of him and Kong would take the title, I still thought it would be Kong! Schlager has no brilliant shots, except perhaps his serves, but, an all-rounder, he has no weaknesses either, and this, combined with **incredible mental strength and the ability under pressure to pick just the right shot at the right time**, saw him save, in clashes of almost unbearable tension, **four match points against Wang Liqin** in the quarter-finals where he reduced the big forehand looping defending champion to almost exclusively back-hand in the deciding game, and a **match point** against 1995 champion, **Kong Linghui**, before winning 11-9, 7-11, 12-10, 11-8, 8-11, 7-11, 14-12! His final against Joo, not a classic, highlighted his excellent tactical sense and ability to win key points.

Europe's best woman hope, the powerful looping **Tamara Boros** (Croatia), survived an entertaining 4th round encounter with the speedy European champion Otilia Badescu (Romania), and was mighty relieved to defeat Chinese-American Chang Jun Gao, but when she lost in somewhat disappointing style in the semis to world champion Wang Nan, interest in the women's singles died: for all their technical excellence, I found watching Chinese playing each other mostly a bore!

There were **no major changes at the ITTF AGM** on 21st May, held during the World Championships. **China withdrew the most controversial proposition to bring back 21-up scoring** when they saw it would have very little support, and the ETTA AGM might take note that the return of the old scoring system is now a **'dead duck'** internationally. Propositions for a higher service throw-up only just failed to get the necessary 75% vote in favour, while the **meeting agreed that the free arm must be removed to the side as soon as the ball has left the server's hand**. Affiliation applications were accepted from seven new countries, East Timor, Tuvalu, Kosovo, Lesotho, Liberia, Niger and Malawi, raising the number of **ITTF member associations to 195**. As the first international sports federation ever, the ITTF held a **Women's Forum** on issues such as participation, leadership, education, training and marketing.

Great late news that the **England cadet boys' team of Tim Yarnall, Paul Drinkhall, Darius Knight and Bradley Evans** confirmed they are top of their age group in Europe by **winning the boys' team event at the Cadet Six Nations Tournament** (against Germany, Holland, Denmark, France and Sweden) in Koping, Sweden, on 29-31st May, while **Tim beat Darius in the cadet boys' singles final!** And stop press! An **incredible performance by 10 year old Gavin Evans** in not only winning the under 10, under 11, and under 12 boys' singles and with brother Myles the under 12 boys' doubles (and reaching the under 13 boys' doubles final) **at the National U10, 11, 12 & 13 Championships** in Doncaster, but also taking the eventual under 13 single

champion, Paul Drinkhall, to 9 in the fifth game in the semi-finals! What exceptionally talented young boys England currently has!

Top players coming to England for the **Continental Masters at The Crucible, Sheffield on 9th August** (to be BBC televised) are confirmed as: the super speedy world no.3, **Timo Boll** (Germany); the elegant European champion and world no 4, **Vladimir Samsonov** (Belarus); the athletic World Championships semi-finalist and world no.9, **Kalinkos Kreanga** (Greece); the defensive World Championships quarter-finalist and world no.27, **Chen Weixing** (Austria); and the big looping Commonwealth Games champion, **Segun Toriola** (Nigeria); joining England's highest world ranked player, the spectacular chopper, **Matthew Syed**. The tickets are selling fast – hotline 0114 2496000.

Paul Andrews of sponsors Ocean International plans to again invite leading players past (e.g. Grubba, Kucharski, Secretin, Appelgren, Orlovski, Surbek, Douglas, Liang Geliang) and present (e.g. Liu Song and Chen Weixing) to the Sussex Open Butterfly Grand Prix in Crawley on 18th/19th October.

The **United Kingdom Chinese Table Tennis Association (UKCTTA)** is being set up for the benefit of the Chinese community in the UK. Tel: 07944 541212/07050 108308, E-mail: info@ukctta.org Website: www.ukctta.org

Nominations for the ETTA National Volunteer (including Coaches and Press Officers) and **Club Awards**, to be presented at the Awards Dinner on Saturday 13th September at Lilleshall, **need to be returned by 21st July**. For details, contact Mrs Michelle Giles at the ETTA (Tel. 01424 722525, E-mail. teachandtrain.etta@talk21.com).

Finally, I am **very saddened to learn of the passing of Medway/Thanet, Kent coach and administrator Roy Pugh**, Somerset Coaching Officer **Les Bridges**, and Stockton, Cleveland, umpire and press officer **Frank Draycott**.

Ken Muhr

Ken Muhr
ETTA Information Officer

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kenmuhr.etta@talk21.com

Dorset County Junior Coach, Trevor Parry has provided a series of articles giving his views on coaching matters, one of which is published below:

BASIC COACHING FOR GRASS ROOTS TABLE TENNIS

Ideas for coaching beginners:

It is essential initially to learn to keep the ball on the table and play sequences of strokes so that, as soon as possible, they can find a table somewhere and play rallies with each other **without** the necessity of **always having a coach to ensure any kind of continuity and direction**.

They are going to learn a lot about position and movement by just having a table and playing games **without** being **brainwashed by much of the latest current peripheral wisdom and 'spin'**.

If they are going to stay with table tennis, which only the most talented seem to do, in this enlightened age, in spite of a lot of available coaching, they must be coached in a manner that leads to some measure of success in terms of **winning games at the level at which they are likely to achieve**. I have a profound distrust of that section of the coaching community who are not interested in what pupils are playing like at the moment, but only in **what they are going to be playing like three or four years hence** in some table tennis Nirvana of the future, by which time most of the prodigies they have conned will probably have **given up with frustration and the coaches moved on to more lucrative prey!**

My ideas of basic coaching are heavily influenced by six years teaching **among the predominantly Chinese community of Penang, Malaysia**. One of the reasons the Chinese are so strong is that there is a **very broad base where natural talent and potential can grow and develop**. There is not much coaching at grass roots level nor many coaches, but after about two years playing competitive games for points and talking to, and playing with, good active club players, the kids usually have a **sounder technique and a much better grasp of the 'basic mechanics' of the game** than the majority of our own juniors. At that stage they have usually decided that they **have some natural ability**, they like table tennis, the basic game 'warts and all', and they tend to go on playing. If not, following the oriental concept of loss of face, they will **devote their energies in a different direction!**

My experience largely is that new techniques, materials, theories and changes increasingly **reinforce the basic soundness of most of the old, long-established ideas and theories,**

especially when those ideas are rooted in the basic laws of mechanics.

I do not think **robots** have a great place in **grass roots group coaching**. I never saw one in six years in the Far East, but there were some very competent multi-ball feeders. For the money spent on a reasonable robot (£750-£1,000) there are a number of more **cost-effective aids to teach beginners to play table tennis**, namely:

1. A playback table or two separate halves of a static table placed against a wall (not much use for topspin techniques, but excellent for backhand and forehand serve and push and movement about the crossover point - very important).
2. A chair (or even better, an armchair) is excellent for demonstrating Dave Fairholme's 'Basic Constant Display Position', Chen Yin Hua's angles at knees, hips, elbows, balance, centre of gravity, central ready position with the racket at the Point of the Diamond.
3. A bowl and a set of chopsticks! If you have never eaten Chinese food properly, try this and you will realise that every time the Chinese eat, the chopsticks are in the same position from which every basic shot over the table initiates, namely the Point of the Diamond. From this point you can execute all the basic strokes, backhand push, forehand push, backhand topspin, forehand topspin and block with equal facility. This is why most of the Asian players are better and quicker in short tight situations than most of their European rivals. The first move in executing a forehand or backhand in a game situation is taking the racket back. I don't see many coaches in England coaching in this way. Shots tend to be taught or coached in isolation with the inevitable consequence that it then takes quite a long time to blend them into an all-round game.
4. A set of plain wood bats (no rubber at all), the 'Ken Beamish Special', provide a very good test of technique in the execution of the basic strokes and the critical point of timing. They also tell you a lot about playing against different rubbers: long

pimples, short pimples, anti and Neubauer. Many of the old Chinese players used to intersperse chop with the wooden side, with the normal topspin block game, which produces some weird floating effects, more so than with anti. A lot of my juniors prefer to play me with my normal bat than my plain wood bat, most of them play better than most juniors against 'funny bats'. A dozen wooden bats cost £50, c.f. £750 for a robot.

There is quite a bit of dubious advice in the **realms of movement and positional play**. Every movement of the body (agonist movement) has a **balancing antagonist movement**, i.e. to move to the left there is an initial weight transfer onto the right foot, to move forward there is an initial weight transfer onto the back foot. Much emphasis is placed on **improving speed of movement** in order to get in with the supposedly more powerful forehand, yet **the ball in a fast push travels at least twice as fast as a player can move**, especially so with a small junior. The game even from the penholder perspective is increasingly becoming a **two-winged game backhand and forehand**, with the 16 year-old Chinese prodigy Wang Hao showing the way. Far more important with basic coaching is to **cultivate quick movement about the crossover point**, to also get the body out of the way to cope with the **'jamming balls'** in order to facilitate a capacity to play forehand or backhand anywhere at least between the sidelines of the table.

I think that most **town and county junior standard players** play too far back, lean forward too much, which pushes the hips back to preserve balance, but tends to make them over balance forward, consequently much of the advice about hitting into the ball is impossible. It would be better and more effective to advise them **just to push the knees forward and keep the back relatively upright**. The weight then will be going forward into the shot and the later point of timing will result in a longer bat travel into the ball and a better capacity to topspin short or heavily chopped balls. I think there is too much concentration on **spin and power in the early stages of coaching** certainly in this country and not enough on **position play, direction and speed of shot and variation of timing points**.

I hope this proves of some assistance to anyone rash enough to get involved in coaching and explains to some extent where I am coming from in my coaching philosophy. **Coaching is**

essentially a progressive process. THIS IS BASIC COACHING.

Below are my (KM's) notes on a presentation by another top international coach, Glenn Osth, at the International Training Course for Coaches held in conjunction with the 44th World Championships in Manchester 1997:

Glenn Osth was a coach to Jan-Ove Waldner in his junior days who went on to become Swedish National Team Trainer. He said that there were many areas surrounding a player and the coach needed to know a bit about all of these:

1. Focuses on the player. The player's efforts are the most important.
2. The coach, and also good sparring partners.
3. Technical, tactical, physical and mental aspects.
4. Sponsor, parental, lifestyle and club support.
5. Media – the coach needs to know how it works, locally, nationally and even internationally. It is also important that the coach and player work with relevant medics and sport scientists.

However, **nothing else matters if the player is not putting in the hard effort and has no fight**. It has to come from inside and the player must have a high threshold of pain. Some players mistakenly think that only 2 to 5 (above) matter, but while something from all areas will lead to the achievement of goals, effort is of 75% significance compared to 25% from the other components combined. Those with **'Talentos'** – a gift from God (Greek) or supreme talent – still must use it and put in the effort. Although he liked to project a casual image, Waldner actually trained hard, for example going running when everyone else was resting.

Younger players needed **quantity training** to enhance their technique. But at a higher level shorter, more intense sessions aimed at **quality** and requiring greater concentration and effort should be emphasised, rather than quantity (the Germans make a mistake on this). (The Hungarians supposedly practice for 6 hours a day, but owing to drink breaks and chatting this is probably effectively more like 3 hours – you must train fully for all of the allocated time.) All over the world players are made to do too much in regular exercises and not enough irregular. In a two hour **training**

session Glenn will include (simple) exercises in three, 30 minute blocks for: **co-ordination** (between strokes – regular and irregular); **match play** (restrictive/conditional and free). Although co-ordination, footwork and match play are closely related, the emphasis in the exercises and mix of them will depend on the players, the aims of the session and whether it is prior to a major competition. An example of a session including warm up and practice could be: regular co-ordination exercise, regular footwork exercise, short break, irregular co-ordination exercise, restricted matches, short break, free matches, irregular footwork. There are a thousand different drill actions to keep fresh – the coach must be flexible to maintain the concentration of the players.

A **coach** has to be a spider in a radius of the web. He should have his specialist know how in one of the circles of the web, be searching and curious to find out more, adopt a frog view to look around himself and a helicopter view to look at and question himself and what he is doing at any one time. There is no hard and fast rule or recipe for success, not one answer only, and the coach must find out for himself what is better for him in connection with any individual player. In Glenn's view, resources should be ploughed into the grass roots.

Table tennis is a game of putting pressure on the opponent to make mistakes by not having the time to react, move, read spin or speed. In order to put pressure on the opponent a player must employ a **combination of a quick game and a power game**. When he has time he should use his full body rotation – power from the legs and hips. Many players use only arm, and at the beginners level it is easier to use only the arm. Close to the table a player can use the power of the ball coming to him to create speed with short movements and the hand and arm. However, away from the table longer movements of the body have to be adopted to create power.

The **neutral grip** is recommended for beginners, as it is flexible (appropriate for close to the table, e.g. flicking, and away from the table play) and allows optimal control and development of wrist movement. If a player uses a **forehand grip**, it will be difficult for him to get his wrist back and over the ball for backhand topspin (unless he adjusts his grip, e.g. Jorgen Persson). If a player uses a backhand grip, he will tend to play a late forehand, and always crosscourt unless he turns his body to compensate. However, the coach should be flexible on grip, according to the type of player.

Grip determines how to return the half-long ball (second bounce on the

end). A tight or non-neutral grip will restrict flexibility. With the forehand grip the player can topspin up the ball on the forehand; with the backhand grip he can get up the ball on the backhand. For example, Jean-Michel Saive can forehand loop up a (higher) ball from over the table, which he could not do if he had the wrong grip. (Walder changes his grip from forehand to backhand if he has time or anticipates: otherwise he plays a weak backhand.) **If you are orientated to one wing, you have to turn your body (when topspinning) for the other.** But many players use the backhand grip to return the short ball because of the larger range of movement in the wrist for this shot.

Glenn prefers a **straight** or **anatomic handle** rather than a flared handle, as the latter can block wrist action and flexibility and it favours the backhand grip. If the handle is too long, it can restrict backhand topspin.

There are **two types of forehand topspin when playing backspin; spinning up and spinning through the ball** using the opponent's backspin to create speed. The Chinese originated the latter, which they call **'the little smash'**. It is a shorter, faster action taken at top of the bounce. For this shot, you should not try to put your own spin on the ball: it is a very fast forward action with a closed bat angle and the wrist should not be used upwards. Of Europeans, Persson can play both types of loop, but many such as Karlsson, Jean-Michel Saive and the French just use the lift-up loop which can cause arm problems – cramp of the triceps.

Regarding **spin**, Glenn noted that **boys** seemed to understand it and technical matters better than **girls**. However, the girls need to understand technical matters and the coach should spend more time with them discussing this.

A neutral grip will enable you to loop with sidespin both ways; both **'hook'** ('banana') and **'fade'** ('window cleaner'). If the opponent has an extreme grip you know where their weaknesses are and where they will play the ball. Even penholders have different forehand and backspin grips. For a **power forehand topspin** you should hit the ball cleanly at top of the bounce with a closed bat angle to make it dip. For a power forehand topspin crosscourt from the forehand side the bat will be slightly down, but for crosscourt from the backhand side the end will be tilted slightly up. **You should know your opponent before playing him**, particularly studying his backhand and forehand strokes and short game. If when he forehand loops he comes from outside of the ball whilst going crosscourt you know he

has a backhand grip: if when he forehand loops he comes from inside of the ball whilst going crosscourt from the backhand side he has a forehand grip.

In order to obtain a good **match analysis**, try to find a good position to analyse all aspects, e.g. see all angles. Problems (at the top level) are: not finding a suitable position; looking for too much (focus initially on one aspect); the speed of the arm (e.g. to be able to observe adjustments to the grip) and speed of movement generally, deciding if your player is playing badly or if the opponent is playing unusually well, seeing/reading the spin, being able to focus on particular aspects rather than being entertained by the match, knowing how to document information, and knowing what equipment the opponent is using (try to observe it in practice beforehand if possible). Also try to observe the opponent's grip during the knock-up, and give pre-match advice as necessary. Post match analysis is very important for the coach and for player feedback.

TRAINING TIPS FROM STELLAN BENTGSSON, FORMER WORLD CHAMPION (from STIGA News No. 2-2003)

Backhand loop off backspin

When my opponent pushes my serve deep in the backhand corner I use the backhand loop.

I then anticipate the spin and the height of the ball. I take my forearm towards my stomach and I keep my wrist relaxed and have the elbow further out than the racket.

At the same time I bend my right knee and twist my hips so my right shoulder goes forward. My centre of gravity is in front of me.

As my racket goes forward towards the ball I keep my elbow fixed. (Don't pull the elbow to the right.)

Throughout the shot I keep my head tilted, chin tucked in to have good eye contact with the ball.

I hit the ball at the top* of the bounce. (*I say just before or after the top! KM)

Good luck!

POSITIVE THINKING

If you think you are **beaten**, you are,
If you think you **dare not**, you don't,
If you'd like to **win**, but you think you **can't**,
It's almost a cinch that you **won't**.
If you think you'll **lose**, you're lost,

For out in the world we find
Success begins with a **fellow's will**,
It's all in the **state of mind**.
If you think you're **outclassed**, you are,
You've got to think high to **rise**,
You've got to be **sure** of yourself
before
You can ever **win a prize**.
Life's battle doesn't always go
To the **swifter** or **faster man**,
But sooner or later the man who **wins**
Is the man who **thinks he can**.

Author unknown.

SPORTSAID

The sports charity, **SportsAid**, has launched its own fortnightly online newsletter, **'Springboard'**. The charity **directly funds youngsters in British sport** through initiatives including events, partnerships, and the SportsAid Alumni scheme. Subscribe by e-mail via:
sportsaid-subscribe@sportsaidnw.org.
For more information, contact:
www.sportsaid.org.uk

SPORT ENGLAND

'Access for Disabled People', a new guidance publication from **Sport England**, was launched this week. Produced to give advice on how to design new sports buildings and altering or adapting existing buildings to ensure good access, the publication is now available from the **Sport England** **website**:
www.sportengland.org

CLUB TOUR OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Would any club like to visit **Trinidad and Tobago** in the West Indies? **Joseph Mansano**, a coach at the **Patna/River Estate Club** whose former pupils include Anthony Corbin and Michael George currently playing in England, and who for a time himself lived in England (playing in the Wandsworth League from 1972-77), has extended an invitation to English clubs to come. His club members include several of the top young players in Trinidad and Tobago. Joseph can be contacted at: Patna/River Estate Table Tennis Club, c/o 30 Ibis Drive, River Estate, Diego Martin, Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies, tel. 0868 780 7970 or, after 8pm (Trinidad & Tobago time), tel. 0868 633 0739.

FAMOUS PEOPLE WHO PLAYED TABLE TENNIS

Several people noticed the photograph of table tennis action (on a 'Hunts' table) in the Sunday Times of 1st June, encaptioned 'Don't try too hard:

Saddam (Hussein) takes on his son-in-law Saddam Kamel at table tennis'. The bigger heading below it appropriately enough was 'Life and death'!

According to the Guardian (6.6.03), Scotland and Wolverhampton football striker, **Kenny Miller**, 'recently acquired a table tennis table and picturing playing ping-pong in a youth club requires no leap of imagination'.

But table tennis players can be famous in their own right, as could be seen by 1993 World Champion **Jean-Phillipe Gatin**'s (televised) speech to a packed (10,000-12,000) and wildly responsive crowd at the recent World Championships in Paris.

Deng Yaping, who has won four Olympic gold medals and 14 world titles at table tennis, probably the greatest woman player in the history of the sport, featured three times in Times articles during the week of the World Championships: on 24th May the feature was just about her. Thus we were reminded that her masters degree graduation at Nottingham University was broadcast to 400 million people, a measure of her supreme fame in her homeland, where she has been voted the sportswoman of the 20th Century. She is now starting a doctorate in economics at Cambridge University.

However, Deng also has a role as an international ambassador for China, heavily involved in promoting the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. The first of the three Times articles (21st May) described her and Martina Navratilova (tennis), Dawn Fraser (Australian swimmer), Nawal El Moutawakel (first Moroccan/Muslim Olympic gold medal winner), Nadia Comaneci (gymnast), Katarina Witt (figure skater) and Tanni Grey-Thompson (Paralympic gold medal winner), the only (7) female members of the 40 strong Laureus Sports Academy, as 'some of the greatest women sporting talents of the last 40 years'. Deng was certainly a wonderful player, but I doubt her claim (repeated in 25th May Sunday Times feature on Katarina Witt) to have been able to beat any up to the top eight men in China!

**'J-O Waldner - When the feeling decides' by Jens Fellke.
Book review by Ken Muhr**

Being a bit of a 'Waldner is the greatest' advocate and having witnessed both times he became world singles champion – the extravagant profligacy of his talent at the 'Magic Ball' Worlds in Dortmund 1989, and his awesome and ruthless efficiency in Manchester 1997 – I could not resist the above pocket sized (despite having 237 pages) illustrated paperback I

picked up from the Donic stand at the 2003 World Championships in Paris. Now published in (very good and readable) English from the original Swedish in 1997, but updated with an 'After Manchester' chapter, the book gives a fair description of Waldner's career, plus the book contents, on its back cover:

'Following his second singles World Championships victory in 1997, Jan-Ove Waldner of Sweden was considered the world's number one table tennis player of all time. In China he is spoken of as "The Evergreen" because of his remarkably long stay at the very top of the sport. His top-level competitive time period extended from 1982, when he reached his first singles final in the European Championships in Budapest, to 2000, when he not only carried team Sweden to a World Championships victory in Malaysia but also reached the singles final at the Olympic Games in Sydney. His career is by no means over; his next goal is the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens.'

In "Jan-Ove Waldner – When the feeling decides" (previously published in Swedish, German and Chinese), the Swedish author and journalist Jens Fellke charts the extraordinary rise of a living legend from Mascot to Master. Covered is Waldner's road to the national team, the fierce competition with the Chinese, an account of his development towards table tennis supremacy, and a description of his many contributions as a major innovator in the sport.

The book furthermore offers an analysis of the many characteristics that make Jan-Ove Waldner a unique table tennis player and of the factors contributing to his long reign among the world's elite players. In a special chapter, Jan-Ove himself gives practical and tactical advice to young players who aspire to reach the top.'

The first chapter, 'Nocturnal Anecdote', describes a novel gathering at Waldner's Stockholm apartment, with his friends Bjorn Borg, the legendary tennis player, and the footballer Tomas Brolin. The next chapter argues cogently that Waldner's 'position as the world's best table tennis player in history is indisputable'. Interesting to note that Swedish sports journalists in 1997 voted Waldner the second ranking Swedish athlete of all time, behind only Borg.

As a child prodigy from a stable and supportive family background (his older brother, Kjell-Ake, was also a good player) Jan-Ove was small for his age and shy, but fiercely competitive at

all sports. Apparently in table tennis he was temperamental (not a good loser) in competition and not particularly disciplined at practice routines, preferring to play around inventing shots and strange spins (particularly in service), and backing off to lob to give himself time. However, this helped him hone his extraordinary touch/feel for the ball and ability to adapt, although sometimes he seemed more content to put on a show than to win! There are plenty of charming pictures of the precociously talented youngster in the book.

He made steady progress in Sweden, but a trip (with Eric Lindh) to train in China in the summer of 1980, when Waldner was 14, seems to have been a turning point in his playing development, with more powerful attack and strong practice discipline. "There, I learnt the importance of hard training." (He has a lot of respect for China, actively supporting the successful Beijing bid for the 2008 Olympics. "China is my second homeland.")

A paragraph from the book regarding the first China trip, gives telling indicators why Waldner became such a great player:

'Jan-Ove notices how the Chinese emphasize the service execution, which is being practiced separately. He absorbs, imitates and integrates new concepts with his own playing style. He learns how to use the "chop" serve and to cover the point of ball impact with his body. In game play, he often takes a beating initially. However, without frustration, he analyses the losses and figures out remedies that he tries out in the next game. A few days later, at a rematch, he controls the play, finds the other player's weaknesses, and usually comes through as the winner.'

His main practice partner in the early years, Mikael Appelgren, gives the lie to Waldner's perceived laziness. "We practised enormously hard. Often we played for about four hours and were so exhausted that we hardly made it into the shower afterwards. Those who claim that Waldner is lazy are totally out of touch. You can't become number one in the world if you are lazy. On the contrary, he is energetic and stubborn. Each time he is beaten, he is looking for revenge immediately." Lack of space means I must resist saying more about the chapters charting J-O's career, and outlining aspects of his personality, including his golf addiction. Fans and coaches might value most the long section on 'Questions and Answers (from the great man himself)', the analysis of the

special characteristics that make the player in 'The Perpetual Innovator' chapter, Waldner's 10 'Tips for Future Champions', and the huge amount of statistical and records data in the appendix.

So I rate this 2003 book (ISBN 91-88541-98-3) a good read and highly recommended. To order, contact Jarvis Sports, tel: 01634 670580, e-mail: tabletennis@jarvissports.co.uk (or e-mail: secantk@aol.com fax: 001-604 507 91 67).

ANOTHER TT DICTIONARY

The first **table tennis dictionary** in **6 languages** published this year has been a great success, and the editor, Hungarian umpire Robert Szentgyörgyi, is now preparing another one with translation of table tennis words and expressions in **4 new languages**. The first **6-languages dictionary**, presented for the first time during the **European Championships** in Zagreb, provided translations in English, French, German, Spanish, Japanese and Hungarian, and it is still available.

The new dictionary, ready for the **Liebherr World Individual Championships** in Paris in May, will provide translations in English, Chinese, Russian, Arabic and Portuguese.

"When I worked as an umpire at the WTTC in Osaka, 2001, I could see that people had difficulty with communicating in the official language, English, so I had the idea of the dictionary. It turned out to be a much bigger challenge that I expected. However I have had many positive reactions and many requests for new languages", says Robert Szentgyörgyi.

The dictionary project has been supported by the ITTF and Ms. Judith Faragó from the Hungarian Association. **For further information, contact Robert Szentgyörgyi, e-mail: roberto50@freemail.hu.**

SECRETIN-PURKART EXHIBITION

Former top French table tennis internationals Jacques Secretin and Vincent Purkart used to do a spectacular, hilarious, and wonderfully entertaining table tennis exhibition. Now Pierrick Torasso's company Castor Productions are marketing a short one hour DVD/VHS video cassette called "The children of the ball, Show Secretin Purkart".

For more information, contact **Pierrick TORASSO**

CASTOR Productions
12 Route de Nanfray
74960 CRAN GEVRIER
contact@secretin-purkart.com
<http://www.secretin-purkart.com>

COMMUNITY FUND PUTS UP EXTRA £10m FOR RURAL SCHEMES

The **Community Fund** is pumping an extra **£10 million** into disadvantaged rural communities over the next five years.

The areas – known as **Countryside Communities** – that will benefit are King's Lynn and West Norfolk, Fenland and North Norfolk, Boston and West Lindsey, Shepway and Dover, and Sedgemoor.

The initiative is in addition to the ongoing **fair share scheme**, which targets **77 deprived areas** and is run in co-operation with another lottery distributor, the **New Opportunities Fund**. Between them, the two funds set aside **£16.2 million** for rural areas.

The Community Fund's chair Diana Brittan cited a village playgroup, a rural dial-a-ride service and keep-fit sessions for the elderly or a village hall as suitable ideas for funding. Sports activities can be eligible.

For further information, visit www.communityfund.org.uk

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 29 March – 6 April 2003, Courmayeur, Italy

Results for the record:-

Men's Team Final – Super Division

Belarus 3-1 Germany

Evgueni Chtchetinine v Jörg Roskopf -4, 6, 6, -8, 5

Vladimir Samsonov v Timo Boll 8, 5, 6

Dzimitrij Chumakov v Zoltan Fejer-Konnerth -7, -6, -11

Vladimir Samsonov v Jörg Roskopf 5, 6, -8, 5

Women's Team Final – Super Division

Italy 3-1 Croatia

Nikoleta Sefanova v Tamara Boros 10, -9, 5, -3, 9

Wenling Tan Monfardini v Cornelia Vaida -8, -8, -8

Laura Negrisoni v Andreja Bakula 8, 7, 2

Wenling Tan Monfardini v Tamara Boros 6, -3, 11, -7, 9

Men's Singles

Quarter-Finals

Timo Boll (GER) bt Michael Maze (DEN) 7, -6, -9, 7, 11, 1

Vladimir Samsonov (BLR) bt Alexei Smirnov (RUS) 5, 10, 9, 6

Jörg Roskopf (GER) bt Evgueni Chtchetinine (BLR) 4, 14, 11, -3, 8

Torben Wosik (GER) bt Jean-Philippe Gatien (FRA) -8, 6, 6, 10, 9

Semi-Finals

Vladimir Samsonov (BLR) bt Timo Boll (GER) 5, 8, 3, 8

Torben Wosik (GER) bt Jörg Roskopf (GER) 8, -3, 7, 8, -9, 8

Final

Vladimir Samsonov (BLR) bt Torben Wosik (GER) 7, 10, 10, 3

Women's Singles

Quarter-Finals

Silvija Erdelji (YUG) bt Nicole Struse (GER) -6, 7, 14, -10, 3, -1, 6

Otilia Badescu (ROM) bt Laura Stumper (GER) 10, 9, 8, -6, -9, -8, 7

Wenling Tan Monfardini (ITA) bt Andreja Bakula (CRO) 3, 7, 5, 9

Nikoleta Stefanova (ITA) bt Rula Budiene-Garkauskaite (LTU) -9, 9, 5, -6, 8, 9

Semi-Finals

Otilia Badescu (ROM) bt Silvija Erdelji (YUG) -6, 8, -8, 7, 5, 4

Wenling Tan Monfardini (ITA) bt Nikoleta Stefanova (ITA) 10, -7, 7, -11, 9, -10, 8

Final

Otilia Badescu (ROM) bt Wenling Tan Monfardini (ITA) -8, 6, 6, -7, -7, 6, 10

Men's Doubles

Final

Chen Weixing/Evgueni Chtchetinine (AUT/BLR) bt Dmitrij Mazunov/Alexei Smirnov (RUS) 8, 6, 4, 3

Women's Doubles

Final

Tamara Boros/Mihaela Steff (CRO/ROM) bt Csiila Bártoti/Krisztina Tóth (HUN) -7, 10, 9, 9, -5, 14

Mixed Doubles

Final

Werner Schlager/Krisztina Tóth (AUT/HUN) bt Chen Weixing/Viktoria Pavlovich (AUT/BLR) -12, 11, 6, 8, 5

ENGLISH SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION 30th Individual Championships held at Fenton Manor Sports Complex, Stoke on Trent, on Saturday 26th April 2003

Boys Under 19: 1. Peter Cleminson (Essex County), 2. Daniel Horner (Merseyside), 3. Louis Rosenthal (Greater Manchester) & Christopher Brown (Devon)

Girls Under 19: 1. Naomi Wilson (Somerset), 2. Gemma Chapman (Buckinghamshire), 3. Grace Brown (Essex County) & Cherith Graham (Merseyside)

Boys Under 16: 1. Stephen Denny (West Yorkshire), 2. Tim Yarnall (Northamptonshire), 3. Marc

Armstrong (Hertfordshire) & David Hayes (Berkshire)

Girls Under 16: 1. Nicola White (West Yorkshire), 2. Emma Weil (Essex County), 3. Lisa Radford (Devon) & Sarah Perks (Nottinghamshire)

Boys Under 13: 1. David Meads (Durham), 2. Damien Nicolls (Shropshire), 3. Stewart Moody (Lincolnshire) & Myles Evans (Nottinghamshire)

Girls Under 13: 1. Helen Crawford (Cumbria), 2. Jordan Layfield (Merseyside), 3. Emma Vickers (Derbyshire) & Caroline Hallows (Greater Manchester)

Boys Under 11: 1. Gavin Evans (Nottinghamshire), 2. Mitchell Barker (Merseyside), 3. David McBeath (Hampshire) & Billy Deville (Essex County)

Girls Under 11: 1. Jessica Macken (Essex County), 2. Melissa Wright (South Yorkshire), 3. Martha Travis (Cornwall) & Katie Rule (Berkshire)

ENGLISH SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

**National School Team Championship
held at Hinckley Leisure Centre on
Saturday 15th March 2003**

Boys Under 19: 1st – Blessed George Napier, Oxfordshire, 2nd – Duston Upper School, Northamptonshire, 3rd – Bradford Grammar School, West Yorkshire, 4th – Calday Grange School, Merseyside

Girls Under 19: 1st – Peniel Academy, Essex, 2nd – Ashfield School, Nottinghamshire, 3rd – Wycombe High School, Buckinghamshire, 4th – Weald of Kent, Kent

Boys Under 16: 1st – Peniel Academy, Essex, 2nd – Kings School, Lincolnshire 3rd – Ducie High School, Greater Manchester, 4th – Cape Cornwall School, Cornwall

Girls Under 16: 1st – Peniel Academy, Essex, 2nd – Kesteven and Grantham, Lincolnshire, 3rd – Duston Upper School, Northamptonshire, 4th – Bradford Girls Grammar, West Yorkshire

Boys Under 13: 1st – Peniel Academy, Essex, 2nd – Queen Katherine School, Cumbria, 3rd – Northfield School, Cleveland, 4th – John Hampden Grammar, Buckinghamshire

Girls Under 13: 1st – Peniel Academy, Essex, 2nd – Dowdales School, Cumbria 3rd – Ryelands School, Northamptonshire, 4th – The Grove School, East Sussex

Boys Under 11: 1st – St Peters School, Nottinghamshire, 2nd – Peniel Academy, Essex, 3rd – Nevill Road School, Greater Manchester, 4th – Farnham Common, Buckinghamshire

Girls Under 11: 1st – Peniel Academy, Essex, 2nd – Cliffedale School,

Lincolnshire, 3rd – Gladstone Road School, North Yorkshire, 4th – Ryelands Middle School, Northamptonshire

Best performance:

Girls: Jessica Macken, Peniel Academy, Essex

Boys: David White & Alexander Runham, Bradford Grammar School, West Yorkshire

For further information contact Grete Willacy, Competition Secretary on 01922 449847.

COUNTY NOTES

- A look around the
country

Issue No. 294
June-July 2003

BERKSHIRE by John Cunningham

Dales makes history

Apprentice tradesman **AT Dales** made history when she became the first female to win the table tennis **Top Table** outright at the Saturday morning **Hobbies Session**.

More than 400 apprentices from the **Technical Foundation College Army** have tried their hand at the sport since September 2002 thanks to the **Our Lady of Peace Impact Link**.

And despite her main hobby being boxing, Dales won not only her group in the round robin, but also the top table with an amazing 18 wins.

That put her 10 wins clear of second-placed **AT Smith**, who came from zero at the halfway stage to take silver with eight wins.



Pictured above (front row 3rd from left) is **AT Dales**

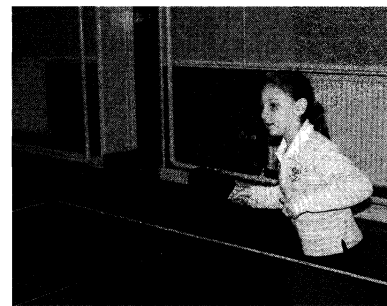
Jade's county call

Jade Fudge has been selected for the **Berkshire county under 14 cadet table tennis squad**, despite only playing the sport for a year.

The 10-year-old, from Coley Park in Reading, is a member of the **IMPACT coaching**.

She had her first competitive tournament when she gained a fourth-place medal in the **Berkshire Schools Championship**.

Coach **Alan Dines** is now preparing Jade for her county debut in September.



Pictured above is **Jade Fudge**

CHESHIRE by Alan Blears

The **N.W. Region** has many quality players who could not get into the team for the **National Regional Squad Championships**, but for those who were selected, wow, what a day they had, finishing as **national champions!**

The girls, all but one of them from Cheshire, dominated their opponents in all age groups, with the three youngest, **Caroline Hallows** (U13), **Rachel Baker** and **Jenny Dinsdale** (U11) all having **100%** records. Rachel, a Lancashire lass but training in Cheshire, produced the win of the day when after being **two games down** and **10-6 down** in the third came back to defeat her unfortunate opponent in the fifth to clinch a **7-5 win** against a powerful **Southern region** team. What a fighter!

The boys too were superb, and faced with such formidable opponents as **Darius Knight** from London and in the final the **Evans** clan for the East Midlands, they produced umpteen fifth-set victories against other opponents.

Surely one of the reasons for the **squad's success** under pressure was the **wonderful team spirit**, with older players coming over to cheer on the youngsters whenever they seemed to be in trouble. The players' attitude and behaviour, too, was a **credit to all concerned**.

This was a thoroughly deserved success, with congratulations going to **Jonathon Crawford, Tom Bray, Hayley Parker, Sophie Byron, Matthew Langford, Mitchell Barker, Jordyn Layfield, Caroline Hallows,**

Scott Crawford, Jacob Crabtree/Jake Barratt (joint U11), **Rachel Baker** and **Jenny Dinsdale**. There were some damp-eyed parents on a day to remember!

Schools Individual Finals

This was a day of near-misses for Cheshire youngsters. Cumbria's **Helen Crawford** completed a marvellous weekend for her family by winning the **girls' Under 13 section**, beating Caroline Hallows in the semis and Jordyn Layfield in the final, and a great effort by **Mitchell Barker** saw him also finish runner-up in the **boys' Under 11 section**.

Lancashire and Cheshire League

Karen Tonge has informed me of the **Halton club's** success in winning the **Norman Cook Trophy**, beating Bolton in the final 5-3, with **Malcolm McEvoy** scoring a notable win over John Hilton.

Stockport Junior Tournament

Roughly **thirty youngsters** from three local leagues took part in this annual event, and as usual there were some unexpected results. 13 year-old "new boy" **Ryan Costello** took the **junior singles** and **Under 21 Youth Cup** to show his considerable potential, while **Caroline Hallows** (12) and **Amy Walker** (13) were the youngest ever winners of the **junior drawn doubles**, and the first all-girl pairing to win.

Results:-

Under 12 Boys: W – Jacob Crabtree, R/U – Jake Barratt 11-6, 11-9, 9-11, 11-8

Under 12 Girls: W – Emma Kelly, R/U – Jenny Dinsdale 10-12, 10-12, 11-5, 11-9, 11-6

Under 12 Drawn Doubles: W – Emma Kelly & Matthew Weatherby, R/U – Michael Kilbride & Joshua Kapp 11-6, 11-8, 11-4

Semi-final: Emma & Matthew bt Jenny & Jake by 13-11 in 5th game!

Cadets (Under 15): W – Caroline Hallows, R/U – Ryan Costello 11-6, 11-3, 12-14, 11-7

Under 12 & Cadets Mixed Consolation: W – Andrew Tucker, R/U – Robert Taylor 12-10, 7-11, 11-4, 10-12, 11-5

Juniors (Under 18): W – Ryan Costello, R/U – Caroline Hallows 11-7, 11-9, 11-3

Junior Drawn Doubles: W – Amy Walker & Caroline Hallows, R/U – Ryan Costello & Satish Tanna 6-11, 11-8, 11-8, 11-9

Under 21 Youth Cup: W – Ryan Costello, R/U – Phillip Silver 10-12, 11-8, 11-6, 11-5

Finally, at the risk of upsetting Stan Clarke, may I suggest that correspondents refrain from using such emotive and discouraging words as "**thrashed**" and "**hammered**", especially when writing about events at which they were not present? I was present at the **Cadet County Championships**, when Cheshire's very young and inexperienced side (see "**Cheshire Notes**" for March) were certainly not "**thrashed**" 7-3 by Cleveland. We were down to four players, Fiona Dennett having gone home ill, and as 11 year-old **Emma Kelly** won both her sets, it is reasonable to think that with the more experienced Fiona as well, the result would have been a draw.

CUMBRIA by Gordon Brown

For the first time a Cumbrian lass won the **English National Schools Girls' Under 13 Championship**. **Helen Crawford**, one of a family of stars from Dalton-in-Furness, beat Jordyn Layfield (England and Cheshire) in three straight games in the final at Stoke-on-Trent.

After a **11-9, 11-7, 13-11 victory**, Helen was presented with her trophy by international referee and player, Les Smith. Father and coach, **Duncan**, who is the **Barrow League's Player of the Year** and **Clubman of the Year**, is proud of his daughter. "We are absolutely delighted for her. There were nerves in the final. She went through the preliminaries without dropping a single game. In the semi-finals she won against a girl ranked way above her and in the final beat last year's champion three straight".

Duncan, whose sons **Jonathan** and **Scott** are county champions at **under 16** and **under 11** respectively, added "Helen was ice cool, showing hardly any emotion, but she was quite nervous in the final at the last end." Jonathan and Scott did not leave the championships empty handed. They were part of the **North West team** that won the **inter-region title**, beating East Midlands **8-4** in the final.

Barrow Centre of Table Tennis Excellence director, **Mike Yardley**, also joined the plaudits. "I am pleased for the family, the schools and I am pleased for Barrow and table tennis in general. As long as we keep turning these kids out we will get recognition", said Mike.

Hats off to the **Crawford family** of Barrow-in-Furness. **Jonathan, Helen** and **Scott** are all county champions at **under 16, under 13 and under 11** respectively, while Jonathan finished 12th after reaching the last 16 of the **National Cadet Masters tournament** at Slough. All three are to represent their county in their respective age

groups in the **English Schools' individual finals**.

Jonathan, in particular, has impressed this season, representing Barrow senior men in the **British League**, playing for Manchester in the **Junior British League**, becoming Cumbria **junior under 16 and under 19 schools' individual champion**, Barrow **cadet and junior champion**, and **division one team champion**, captaining **Dowdales School under 16 team** to the national semi-finals, representing Barrow in the **Lancashire and Cheshire Junior Premier League**, and selected as number one to represent the **North West Regional Squad** in the **Regional Championships**.

Also, he and **Helen** have been selected for the Cumbria **under 13 county team**, which was a terrific experience for a 13 year-old girl. And last but not least, their father, **Duncan**, has become **Barrow League Player of the Year** and **Clubman of the Year**.

The league's **handicap knock-out competition** for the **Tom Dixon Cup** went to **St Columba's B**, who beat Millom former pupils in the final. **Philip Middleton**, of St Columba's, got the **Player of the Match trophy**.

DERBYSHIRE by Colin Deaton

Two **Long Eaton teams** contested the final of the **Walter Reeves Handicap Cup**. This cup is in memory of **Walter**, who was a stalwart worker in many capacities in the early days of the **Derby Association**. The handicaps are used to ensure that teams from all four divisions have an even chance of winning. This year's final was between **Long Eaton 1st** from the **Premier Division** playing **Long Eaton 4th** from **Division One**.

Stuart McIntyre, Colin Ambrose and Jane Vickers all started with 0 points advantage for the first team; Phil Vickers started with 0, David Arrowsmith with 45 and Emma Vickers with 63. This was the battle of the **Vickers family!** Former Derbyshire men's singles champion had spearheaded the challenge of the fourth team and in the final beat his wife, Jane **2-1** and Derby men's singles champion, Stuart McIntyre **3-2**, but lost narrowly **2-1** to Colin Ambrose. Phil's daughter, **Emma, the national under 11 champion**, played extremely well against much more experienced opponents, but still managed to gain points which included winning a game against her mother Jane. Emma produced the shot of the match with a backhand kill drilled down the line against McIntyre.

Derby's no. 2 junior, David Arrowsmith, also showed what an improvement he has made during the

season and threatened to beat all three of the first team players. David and Phil beat the Derby mixed doubles champions Jane Vickers and Colin Ambrose 3-2 in the **doubles** and the fourth team ran out comfortable winners by 84 points.

Cup and finalists' medals will be presented at the end of season social at the **Rolls Royce Centre**.

The **Derby Committee** are keen to ensure that the successful **summer league** run by **Marilyn O'Sullivan** last season was not just a one-off. Entries from interested parties and anyone willing to help should contact **Tony Young**.

Beginners and improvers coaching continues at the **Mackworth Club** on Friday evenings starting at 6.15 and 7.15. The practice sessions for players of all ages and abilities start at 7.45 and 9.45. All players and anyone else interested in table tennis in the **Derby area** are reminded that the **AGM** is set for **22nd May** at **Rolls Royce**.

Despite being in the backwater of Derbyshire, the **Matlock League** continues to jog along nicely and has this season fielded a team in the **national veterans Alec Brook Trophy**. Representing them in this event were **Geoff Gill, Mick Thorley, Tony Gregory** and **Stuart Morris**. They fought extremely hard but lost to both Liverpool and Nottingham.

In **Division One** of the **Matlock and District League, B.R. Insurance** retained the title represented by **Andy Burton, Steve Porter, Stuart Morris** and the widely travelled **Jane Vickers**. Bradford Dalers' team finished runner-up.

League Chairman, **Tony Gregory**, says he would like to see more new blood come into our game and he added that the presentation of awards will be an ideal place to come and see some top class table tennis. **Alex Perry** and **Nicola Deaton** are to feature a exhibition evening which will be followed by the various presentations.

Without doubt, the **Chesterfield League** continues to flourish. Both its **cadet teams** are in the **Johnny Leach Cup final** and the **Carter Cup squad**, led by **Shaun Marples**, will be keen to retain the Carter Cup.

The annual **Chesterfield Closed Championships**, held at the **Staveley Middlecroft Centre**, featured an entry that was down on last year. There were **65 entries in all**, with 45 of these entries from the Staveley Club.

The **Staveley Club's latest claim** at being the **biggest table tennis club in the UK** is not an idle boast, as they have 16 teams and have entered 10 teams in the **Sheffield Summer League**.

Throughout the summer months **Nicola Deaton**, the Club's President,

with Commonwealth Gold Medallist, **Alex Perry**, will be giving coaching sessions to selected youngsters. Their pride and joy this season has been the discovery of Under 11 players, **Liam Pitchford, Daniel Lowe, Shaun Cullen** and **Michael Simpson**. This quartet of players all attend regional coaching. Nine year old **Liam Pitchford** is most outstanding having won the **One Star Open** title held at Grantham. He, like all the Staveley youngsters, will be attending the **Alan Cooke, Nicola Deaton Summer School** at Grantham.

In the **Chesterfield Closed**, Yorkshireman **Richard Lighthowler** emerged as the **Men's Singles champion** defeating Shaun Bibby in a classic of a final. Perhaps the most popular win of the day was the victory in the **Women's Singles** by **Pat Thorley**. Previous to the event, Pat had been out of action for seven months with an illness. However, she bounced back to win 3 titles and in winning the singles Pat was delighted, having won the title after competing in the event for **35 years**. Pat won the **Women's Singles**, defeated the up and coming young Rebecca Stanley, the **Women's Doubles**, partnered by **Gillian Jones**, and completed a hat-trick with partner **William Cooney Jr** in the **Mixed Doubles**.

Star performance in these championships was achieved by the Centre's number one cadet player, **Allan Fullwood**. Allan reached the semi-final of the **Men's Singles**, defeating en-route Steve Young and the seeded Paul Walker from Matlock. He opposes William Cooney in the finals of both the **junior and under 21 events**. These two finals will be played at the **annual presentation evening** held in May. Trophies will be presented by the Regional Development Officer, Chris Newton.

ESSEX by Steve Kerns

Dig the new breed

John Payne went one better than last year as he retained his **Veteran Singles title** and added the **Men's Singles crown** to his portfolio at the **Essex Closed**, played at BATTs, Harlow, in May. Although Payne, arguably the most experienced player in the event, undoubtedly made his mark, a whole list of **young up-and-coming players** also made their presence felt to show that the future of Essex table tennis is still in good hands. However the less said about the entry of two ladies for the **Ladies' Singles** the better. This event had to be cancelled!

With the no. 1 seed in the **Men's Singles, Grant Solder**, having to pull out, any number of players must have

fancied their chances. Junior **Matt Staines** (Braintree) excelled by beating Matthew Spero (Ilford) 3-1, and then the hitherto unknown Osman Bawa (Ilford) (again 3-1). **Bawa** was an excellent 3-1 winner over Neil Brierley (Harlow). Staines eventually fell at the semi-final stage against John Payne (Central London) 3-2 having held two points to take a 2-0 lead. **Payne's** quarter-final victory over Vytas Rybakas (Chelmsford) at 12-10 in the fifth end was the weekend's most dramatic match as Payne somehow managed to claw his way back from 10-8 down in a dramatic fifth set. In the bottom half of the draw scratch entry **Robin Glassberg** (Ilford) produced some powerful play to ease past Jack Leather (Colchester) 3-0, then seeded Dave Cole (Colchester) 3-2 before losing 3-1 in the semi-final against second seed Gary Tendler (Ilford). **Tendler** had also struggled home 3-2 against another Ilford player Jason Clark in the second round but redeemed himself with a 3-0 victory over Keiran Lally (Clacton) in the quarter-final. On national rankings Tendler started as a strong favourite against Payne, but it was **Payne** whose excellent control against combination bats is legendary who prevailed over five sets.

The **Men's Doubles** also became very open with the withdrawal of the top seeds Solder and Ian Attridge, and at the end of the day it was the second seeds **Keiran Lally/Dave Cole** who came through to take the title. This proved a triumph for stamina as much as anything else as they needed five games to get the better of John King/Hamish Innes (Ilford), Gary Tendler/Daniel Cannon (Ilford) and in the final George Reeves/John Payne. A very hard-earned success.

The **Under 21 Men's Singles** produced some stirring play and the in form **Matt Staines** was quite outstanding as he battled his way past Anthony Greenwood (Colchester) 3-1, Daniel Spurling (Ilford) 3-0, then no. 1 seed Keiran Lally 11-9 in the fifth end of a furious semi-final. Having lost to Vytas Rybakas the previous day Matt produced some stunning play to take the title 3-0 against his talented opponent.

The depth of play in the **Restricted Men's Singles** was very high this year with so many strong players from Ilford taking part and fittingly an Ilford player, **Jason Clark** took the title. His biggest test came in the semi-final where he beat Paul Davison (Braintree) 3-1 and he saw off Carl Johnson (Harlow) 3-0 in the final. Johnson had in turn scored a superb 12-10 in the fifth set victory over Fred Dove to book his final place.

Saturday's **junior events** were dominated by **Vytas Rybakas** whose

laid-back approach hides a real determination to win and a clever tactical brain. His biggest scare came against Colchester's Anthony Greenwood in the **Under 18 Boys' Singles** semi-final where he trailed 2-0 before recovering to win 3-2. On this occasion he got the better of Matt Staines 3-1 in a very closely contested final. Staines had seen off the under-rated Jack Leather 3-1 in a hard-fought semi-final. **Kelly Skeggs** (Braintree) retained her **Girls' Under 18 Singles** and **Girls' Under 15 Singles** titles. She had to be at her best to get the better of Rachel Jamieson (Peniel Academy) 3-1 in the **Under 15's final**. **Jamieson** made amends by taking the **Under 13 Girls' Singles** where she beat team-mate Rachel Macken 3-0.

The **Under 15 Boys' Singles** was refreshingly well supported and as expected the top seed **Vytas Rybakas** took the title, but not without having to overcome a really determined effort from Peniel's Billy Deville. Deville pushed his older and taller opponent all the way and it was a relieved Rybakas who finally edged home 11-8 in the fifth end. Deville had ended the hopes of Colchester's Michael Andrews 3-0 at the semi-final stage whilst Rybakas had overcome Peniel's Stephen Cooper very narrowly 11-9, 10-12, 12-10, 11-9.

Peniel star **Billy Deville** predictably took the **Under 13 Boys' Singles** title; his closest test coming in the quarter-final against Joshua Lovett (Southend) where he came through 3-1. Lovett had in turn been pushed to see off Rykki Vansertima (Chelmsford) 11-9, 11-9, 12-10, whilst another Chelmsford player, Thomas Hill, had also come really close to making the semi-final as he lost 11-4, 11-7, 10-12, 8-11, 9-11 against Raihan Muhith (Ilford).

Romford & DTTL Closed

The number 9 turned out to be lucky for Paula Radcliffe at last year's Commonwealth Games as she took her first gold medal at a major track championships at her ninth attempt. For **Stuart Kimm**, eight times runner-up in the **Men's Singles** at the **Romford Championships**, his ninth final appearance was to provide the success that he so richly deserved as he beat surprise finalist Hamish Innes 3-0. Powerful top-spinner Innes had scored the shock of the tournament by ousting Ellenborough British League star Matt Spero 11-9 in the fifth end of a hotly contested semi-final, whilst Kimm had a hard battle before he overcame Peter Ridley 3-1. Kimm completed what must have been a very memorable day by taking the **Men's Doubles** with team-mate **Garry Lewsey**, his sixth title in seven years and the first with Lewsey. It was a great

day for Garry Lewsey as well as he retained his **Veterans** title by beating Mick Smalldon in the final, and captured the **Mixed Doubles** title with **Jackie Fenn**. In the days when better players often sign on for any number of leagues both Kimm and Lewsey have employed a simplistic approach to their sport, they enjoy their once a week outings in the **Romford League**. You won't find many better once-a-week players anywhere.

Elsewhere the hard-hitting **Janet Langford** regained the **Ladies** title she last won in 1998 with a final victory over Carol Nelson. But it was the **Junior Tournament** which provided one of the most refreshing statistics to come out of the county this season. The fact that over 50 players took part is testimony to the enormous enthusiasm generated in the coaching field in and around Romford. The best match of the day was arguably the **Under 15 Boys final** where county star **Billy Childs** shaded a five game thriller 11-8 in the fifth against Daniel Stander, whilst the irrepressible **Stander** hit back by capturing the **Under 21 Singles final** against Michael Copleston 13-11 in the decider. For good measure Stander also took the **Under 18 crown** with a final victory against Jamie Bond. The fact that Copleston and Bond fought out the **Division 5 Singles final** and both are being strongly considered for first division places next season gives some idea of the progress they have made. Stander is already an established first division player in only his second season of regular play, and he will not find better mentors than his Cranston Park team-mates Steve Rand and Peter Radford. Newcomer **Kelly Drury** was another to have a day she will long remember as she beat Amy Childs in the **Junior Girls' Singles final** and then teamed up with **Billy Childs** to capture the **Junior Mixed Doubles** title.

On a negative note one cannot help but question what has happened to the many other extremely talented players that the likes of **Kimm** and **Lewsey** used to spar with as juniors some 25 years ago or so. Such legends of the Essex scene as **Dave Iszatt**, **Bob Potton**, **Div Sehmbi**, **Les Eadie**, **Dave Newman**, **Kenny Jackson**, **Tony Penny**, **Leon Smith**, **Skylet Andrew** and **Des Charlery** were all county juniors of around that era. Sadly none of them are playing at present. For a sport that people can quite clearly play throughout their lives Essex do seem to have suffered the departure of rather more talent than most other counties. **Pressures of modern life or a sport without enough to offer any more?** Without wishing to be unreasonably pessimistic you have got to question just why so few of such a

talented bunch of players are still playing the sport!

HAMPSHIRE by Jeremy Wilson

Hampshire narrowly missed out on promotion to the **first division** of the **County Championship** after a mixed season. They finally finished third in **Division 2D**, just one point behind Buckinghamshire, with the unbeaten Sussex second team the clear winners.

Clive Payne and **Ramesh Bhalla** led the way in the **individual averages**, while Mark Butler and Lee Dredge also enjoyed solid seasons. For the women **Maria Woodward-Taylor** and **Barbara Savage** both won six out of their twelve matches. Other Hampshire teams generally struggled throughout the season.

The **junior team** was relegated from **Division 1B** after finishing bottom of the table after seven straight defeats, with county champions **Alex Garlick** and **Jenny Dobson** picking up ten of Hampshire's fourteen wins throughout the season.

The **veteran first team** finished sixth in **Division 1B** after recording two victories throughout the season. The **second team** also finished sixth in **Division 2B** with the squad of **Chris Shetler**, **Graham Outrim**, **Alan Palaczky**, **Peter Woodacre**, **Mauri Shave**, **Colin Webber**, **Pete Matthews** and **Sandra Simpson** all contributing important victories. The **third team** in **Division 3D** had a less successful season, finishing bottom with seven consecutive defeats. Faring marginally better were the **fourth team**, which finished second from bottom, beating Oxfordshire second team on sets difference.

In the **Hampshire junior inter-town league**, **Bournemouth** added to their senior success by topping the **first division**. **Mark Grimley**, **James Whithorn**, **Neil Cartwright** and **Tom Andrews** were all unbeaten for the champions who amazingly lost only one set on their march to the title. **Southampton** narrowly beat Portsmouth in the race for the runners-up spot with **Glenn Wilshere** leading the way. For **Portsmouth** Lee Mullett, Callum Shipp and David Woodacre all performed well, with Basingstoke's **Alex Garlick** also impressing individually with eight wins out of ten. **Portsmouth B** did, however, take the **second division title** with the squad of **Michael Gibbs**, **Lee Wilson** and **Connor Shipp** seeing off the challenge from Nick Faithfull, Ashley Willetts, Sajjad Jaffer and Mark Plunkett of Gosport and Fareham.

In the **cadet inter-town league**, **Portsmouth** prevented Bournemouth making it a clean sweep by narrowly winning their crucial match. The

unbeaten **Pompey team** was Gibbs, Connor Shipp and William George. The **second division of the inter-town league** was topped by **Gosport** and **Fareham** with Faithfull, Willetts, Jaffer and Conrad Haswell staying unbeaten to take the title ahead of Southampton C and Andover.

HEREFORDSHIRE by Harry Jutle

Junior Division 3C

Hereford played hosts to **Devon 3rd** resulting in an exciting **6-4 win!** Greg Price, Nikki Segust and Jessica Davies were on form to win 2 each to bring about the victory. Nick Wilson was unlucky to lose one in the 5th and the other in the 4th. Joe Davies lost one at deuce in the 5th and the other in straight sets. This win keeps them on track for the runner-up position again, as achieved last season.

Veteran Division 4D

Hereford 2nd played hosts to **Berkshire 5th** resulting in a thrilling **5-4 win!** This is their first win for which they were pushed all the way by their opponents. The team started 0-2 down, then responded by winning the next 4 to go 4-2 up (**Neville Meredith** and **Sharon Powell** in their **singles** and **Mixed Doubles**, **John Hunt** and **Steve Farr** in the **Men's Doubles**). The opposition responded by winning the next 2. To decide the outcome Steve Farr went on - lost the first, won the next 2, lost the 4th and won the 5th and final set 11-9 to finish the enthralling encounter. During the match 4 went into the 5th set, 2 went into the 4th, and 7 into deuce.

Veteran Division 3C

Hereford 1st played away against **Sussex 2nd** resulting in a **1-8 loss**. **Helen Green** scored the only win in her **Women's Singles** in straight sets, although she was pushed to deuce in the 3rd. Harry Jutle pushed one into the 4th as well as **Helen** and **Gordon Stables** in the **Mixed Doubles**. Bob Marshall was 9-5 up in one, only to lose 9-11. During the match 2 went into the 4th, and 2 into deuce.

Veteran Division 4C

Hereford 3rd played away against **Dorset 3rd** resulting in a **0-9 loss**. **Mike Wheatley** pushed both his **singles** into the 4th set, 2 to deuce. **Linda Ashman** and **James Palmer** also pushed the **Mixed Doubles** into the 4th. Mike Morgan lost both in straight sets. During the match 3 went into the 4th, and 4 into deuce.



Pictured above (front row from left) are Nikki Segust, Lauren James, Jessica Davies and (back row from left) Joe Davies, Nick Wilson, Alistair Dawson, Greg Price.



Pictured above (front row from left) are Mark Owen, Margaret Shock, Harry Jutle and (back row from left) Andy Castle, Norman Merchant, Alistair Dawson, Helen Green.

Arrow Plant Hereford Table Tennis League

Hereford Table Tennis Club made a clean sweep of all the **3 Arrow Plant Hereford Table Tennis League Divisions**, with a **Davies** family member in each team.

Division 1 title was decided at the last match of the season for **Hereford Table Tennis Club (HTTC) Shorties** in an exciting encounter against their rivals **Leominster Loopers** for the title. **Harry Jutle** won all 3, **Alistair Dawson** won 2, and **Harry/Alistair** beat Chris Martin and Steve Brown in the **Men's Doubles** to win the title convincingly by beating the opposition **6-4**, although needing only 4 points. Joe Davies lost to Chris, Steve and Dave Hamer. Shorties finished scoring 117, with Loopers 109 points. Leading division player was **Toby Eckley** (Green Farm Lions) with an average of **95.1%**, followed by Chris Martin at 87.2%, Alistair Dawson 3rd at 86.7% and Harry Jutle 4th at 85.7%. **Mark Stubbs, Steve Arrowsmith** and **Mike Belfield** complete the **Shorties** team. Also **Ian Slade** from **Division 3** played up once with **100%- the only undefeated player in the league**, and Dave Knowles played up once and won a game.

Division 2 title was won by **HTTC Clippers** scoring 131 points, who led from the beginning. They will yo-yo

back up again having been relegated last season. Team members are **Dave Knowles, Ted Andrews, Rob Davies** and **Alan Wilson**. Three teams fought hard for the runner-up position and in the end was won by **Green Farm Denco** at 114 points. Leading division player was **Allen Neads** (Denco) at **85.71%**, followed by Dave Knowles (Clippers) at 81.82%, Sharon Powell (HTTC Nice Girls) at 79.17% and Rob Davies (Clippers) at 75.47%.

Division 3 title was won by **HTTC Anoraks** scoring 128 points. They proved to be too strong with the team of **Ian Slade** at **100%** average, Kevin Hewitt at 97.14% and Jessica Davies at 81.08%. Their worst result was a 7-3 win against a late fellow team entry **HTTC Renegades**, with most results being 10-0 or 9-1. At half-way stage it looked like **Woolhope Wannabees** were going to claim the runner-up spot, but the young **Renegades** improved so much to claim the runner-up place with a game in hand scoring 98 points. Team members are Lewis Michael who finished third with 88.89% average, Lauren James fourth with 83.33%, Shaun Chambers with 75%, and captain Anita Jutle, a former county junior.

In the handicap competitions, the **Wenderlish Cup** was won by **Leominster Loopers**, defeating **Green Farm Lions 368 to 318**. The **Hereford Times Cup** was won by **Green Farm Denco** beating **HTTC Nice Girls 395 to 391**. The **Plate** was won by **HTTC Renegades** beating **St Michaels Kites 433 to 417**.

In other awards, Senior Merit went to **Linda Ashman**, Junior Merit to **Greg Price**, Junior Progress Boy to **Lewis Michael** and Girl to **Jessica Davies**. The County Junior Team runner-up trophies went to **Alistair Dawson, Greg Price, Joe Davies, Nikki Segust, Jessica Davies, Lauren James** and **Nick Wilson**.



Pictured above (front row from left) are Shaun Chambers, Jessica Davies, Anita Jutle, Harry Jutle and (back row from left) Mark Stubbs, Ian Slade, Nick Price, Kevin Hewitt, Joe Davies, Bob Davies, Ted Andrews, Alan Wilson and Dave Knowles taken at the Arrow Plant Hereford Table Tennis League presentation evening.

Finally, on a coaching initiative a new scheme of **Enrichment Program** is being run at **Whitecross High School**, the Hereford Table Tennis Club venue, on Wednesday afternoons. **Harry Jutle** and **Ted Andrews**, with help from **Dave Gough** and **Steve Watkins**, teach around **20 students** each half-term. So up to Xmas we've introduced around 40 students, and are now teaching the 3rd batch. The scheme has gone down well, and other schools are showing interest.

Harry Jutle

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ISLE OF WIGHT by John Prean

When these notes are published, a **new team** will be in office at the ETTA. They deserve our confidence and support in these challenging times. They will have inherited a dismal scene. About **half** of our assets, about **40%** of our members have gone in the last **12 years**. The downward momentum has seemed almost irresistible and now it has to be halted and then reversed.

On the island we have battled against **falling numbers** too long and perhaps not hard enough, but at last we have now tried to do something about it with **coaching and practice sessions** two or three times a week into which we have introduced some **competitive elements**. However, despite big numbers, the acid test will be how many of the newcomers will join the **local league**. Sadly, most of the **youngsters** see table tennis as only their **second or third sport**. It is not only soccer, with its millionaire and TV image. Other **"minor"** sports are making major efforts to attract the young and so provide competition for us.

My thoughts on how we play our local leagues are well known. The **late finishes**, the **late starts** repel the young, at any rate their parents, who **do not** wish to see **late nights** and **loss of essential sleep** in the middle of the school week. I see no problem in meeting this obvious challenge head-on, playing **fewer matches** on the night. I have no doubt that this may produce further controversies in the shape of the **11up v 21up sagas**, but this is a risk which has to be taken, since what we are doing now does not seem to have worked. One cannot claim success if **40%** of our players disappear in a **dozen years**.

It seems self-evident that, unless we reform and try new things, the **drift will continue towards oblivion**. Our leagues need to play matches in a way that players as young as **11 or 12** can take part in our local leagues where

everything starts. If we do not attract such players, if we continue with **failed formats and methods**, we inflict **real dangers** on the sport. More clubs and leagues will die.

On the island we have now brought a fair number of players to a standard where they can play in the local league. It remains to be seen whether our members will meet them halfway. If not, it may well be that we have **wasted our time** or that only the **older ones** will play **league table tennis**, the rest developing a **separate existence** away from the ETTA or, more likely, that they **fade away early in life**.

Our local problem remains that we have to replace the equivalent of **2 or 3** teams of **young players** who depart for university each year just to stand still. Arresting the **membership decline** must be a **top priority**, locally and nationally. That is where everything starts and nationally has not had the priority it should have been given. Too many other projects, some pipe dreams, were pursued, whilst the **basic realities** were neglected.

Our **county team** ended with **5 points** from **6 matches**. The bonfires will remain unlit, but it was not a bad effort in the light of prevailing problems. Next season looks more hopeful, as **Lucy Pointer** has returned to the fold after her disappointments at the national **"academy"** where so many promising careers seem to have ended without the compensation of **producing world stars**, the professed aim. On the contrary, promising players seem to have been lost to the sport altogether, a sad commentary on a period of **vast funding and little success**.

In our last county match, **Lucy** won two and so we managed to defeat **Berkshire II 6-4** without **Carl Prean**. **Alex Rorke** also won two, **Danny Burns** one and **Jo Hunt** (14) scored her first victory at this level.

Danny, despite operations on both knees and continuing complications, again did the **"double"**, winning both our **"Closed"** and the **Peach Cup** (Top 16 or less). The latter he won for the 9th time, the former for the 8th, which equalled **Roger Hookey's** record and yet **Danny** is only 23. If he could bring this form to county matches rather more often, we would be **contesting the top spot** in our section. The **Peach Cup** also saw fine displays from **Roger** (in the final), **Mike Turner** and **Lucy** in the semi-finals. **Roger** had 3 game points against **Danny** in the first, but did not convert any of them, then won the second, after which **Danny** sailed away into the sunset. **Roger** will wonder whether a **2-0 lead** would not have changed the outcome.

Our **tournaments** have not been too well attended, although the **league programme** went more smoothly than

I can recall for some time. Down to **3 divisions** for the first time, the close matches exceeded the **10-0's** and **9-1's** by a wide margin, confounding early fears.

I look forward to our **AGM** with trepidation, hoping that the nettles will be grasped and chances taken. My confidence in the sport remains **undiminished**, but success against **other sports** will require more of us than the cherished habit of standing still. A start has been made **nationally**, voting for a new, highly motivated **management team**. We, at the grass roots, need to move similarly, seeing new ideas as **friends**, not as a **burial** where we mourn the charms of a past that no longer exists.

LEICESTERSHIRE by Derek Butt

The **Division One** title of the **Leicester and District League** finally went to **Knighton Park** who won their final two matches **9-1** against Northwood and Desford Village. It has been a good team effort from **Karen Smith**, **Daniel Marriott**, **Cosmo Graham** and **Mayer Helisai**. **Karen** also took the **individual averages** title again. Well done **Karen** for all your success this season, not only for league play but also for your outstanding county performances, a real credit to Leicester and Leicestershire. **Leicester Electricity** finished second to the Park, their team of **Matthew Hobday**, **Dave Grundy**, **Andy Craven-Griffiths** and **Alan Hewitt** went right to the wire with the Park.

The cup competitions have all been played but one. In the **Rose Cup**, **Knighton Park** beat Desford Village **5-1**, **Karen Smith** and **Cosmo Graham** both unbeaten, while **Tony Smith** prevented a whitewash. In the **Corrall Cup**, **County Hall** were the victors over Blaby and Whetstone **5-3**. **Tony Gil** was the man of the match for the Hall with a maximum all in five. The Blaby team all got one each. The **Frith Trophy** was won by **Leicester Electricity** beating Nomads **6-3**, their team of **Dave Bray**, **Craig Batchelor** and **Keith Tointon** each winning two, while **Dave Croucher** got two for Nomads. The **Lillian Williamson Memorial Trophy** saw new winners as last season's winners were not able to field a team due to gradings. **Abbots Road** won it this time beating Markfield in an exciting **5-4** scoreline going one way then the other. At 4 all the pressure was on, but **Ajay Nakeshree** won it for the Abbots comfortably.

The **inter-towns championship** was held at **Knighton Park** recently with four teams participating in the senior event only, two from Loughborough and one each from Hinckley and

Leicester, and **Leicester** emerged the winners with a **5-1 win** over Loughborough first team in the final. Leicester made it theirs for the third consecutive year.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE by Dennis Millman

When **Steve Silk** persuaded **Andy Trott** to partner him in the doubles at the **Mackenzie Ward Estate Agents County Closed**, little did he realise that he was taking the first step towards Trott's **seventh Men's Singles title**.

Trott, who last played on a regular basis three years ago, has lost little of his expertise and only once was he put under pressure when faced by former champion **Kieron Dabbs** at the semi-final stage. At one game all Dabbs held a commanding lead in the third only to make several unforced errors. Trott, never one to miss an opportunity took full advantage, went on to **win 14-12** and a place in the final was a formality.

Silk, who like good wine improves with age, almost joined him for he led the eventual finalist by two games to one before **Gatiss** turned the screw.

The final was disappointing with Trott going two games up without having to display the touch and power for which he is renowned. However, Gatiss improved and had several chances to reduce the arrears before **Trott took the match and the title**.

Silk gained his reward when he and Trott **took the doubles** after close calls against Dabbs and Ray Kingston at the penultimate stage, with Richard Elliott and Mark Nannery a shade unfortunate to miss out in the final.

Youth will have its fling and though the **boys**, with the exception of **Tim Yarnall**, have yet to make the transition from **enthusiasm to experience**, the **girls** appear to have **bridged the gap**. This was most apparent in the singles groups where **Melissa Price** beat Janet Wright but then lost to **Sarah Hollis** in straight games.

In her group **Clem Little** was favourite, but the only player to appear at all eleven finals nights was ousted by **Katie Mansfield**. Then when the two youngsters met in the semi-finals it was **Hollis** by the odd game in five who went through to meet Viv Smiley. The final went right down to the wire with Hollis having every opportunity as she led in all five games, but won only two.

It was seniors against juniors in the corresponding **doubles** with **Smiley and Little**, who have featured in every final for the last eight years, winning four of the last five, facing the challenge of **Mansfield and Price** who had earlier retained the **Girls' Doubles** and then accounted for Wright and Muriel Cox for good measure. The

girls started well, but failed to master the varied skills of **Smiley and Little** and went down by three games to one.

This year the **mixed doubles**, enhanced by the emerging presence of the younger element, was an excellent event, but after both pairings had prevailed by the narrowest of margins, the final was an anti-climax with **Gatiss and Little** beating Silk and Smiley after a **16-14** second end.

Holder **Silk** made no mistake in the **Veteran Singles** beating Ken Philipson, before again getting the better of Chris Gibbons in a straight game final. However, when partnered by Kingston, Silk could not add the **doubles**, losing heavily to surprise champions **Paul Gatiss** and **Gary Webb**.

In the **Over 50s**, Philipson was never inconvenienced on his way to a **singles title** at his first attempt, and made it a double celebration when together with **Kingston** he added the **doubles** after being taken to an extended fifth end by Gordon Shaw and Michael Edwards.

Bill Fletcher is always a safe bet in the **Over 60 events** and he duly took the **singles title** for the eighth time in a row, and then with regular partner **Greg Dobrowolski** added the **doubles** for the sixth time of asking.

There were some tremendous matches at **junior level** with **Chris Doran** in the thick of things if not always ending on top. He went down **11-6** in a decider to **Dickson Pang** in the **Under 18 final**, **11-9** to **Sam Piranty** at the same stage of the **Under 15 event**, suffered a fifth end defeat in the **Under 15 Doubles** when partnered by Matthew Carter and as if to maintain consistency **11-9** in the deciding game and final match of the **Class 1 Singles**, with **Bill Chen** the victor.

On the credit side, he beat his doubles partner to win the **Under 13 event**, teamed up with him to make sure of the **corresponding doubles**, and to complete a fine tournament he accounted for Lee Bunker in the **Class 2 Singles**. Additionally, **Doran** was the player who eliminated the no. 1 seed **Dannel Pang** in the **junior boys' competition** and yet again it all happened in the fifth and final end.

Greg Yarnall won the **Rod Marchant Memorial Trophy** while other winners of senior events were **Viv Smiley, Aron Chan, Simon Bushell, Andrew and Paul Wood**.

At junior level the winner's rostrum was occupied by **Sarah Hollis, Sophie Hancox, Beth Walter, Andrew Guy, Keith Lucas, Martyn Hancox, Shonah Keeling, Aron Chan, Nick Howard, Danielle Prenderville and Peter Hill**.

The trophies were presented by **Alex Hamilton**, senior partner of Mackenzie Ward to end three days of high class

table tennis once again capably controlled by Tournament Organiser **Arthur Palmer**.

Mackenzie Ward has recently signed a **three year agreement to sponsor the tournament** and on finals night the company's representatives were most impressed with the overall presentation. As a result **Mackenzie Ward** is hoping to **further extend** its links with the **Northants County Association**.

NORTHUMBERLAND by Pauline Long

The **Newcastle Open Grand Prix tournament** held over the weekend of 29th – 30th March at **Eldon Leisure Centre** attracted an entry of 125 men and 23 women and turned out to be a great success, both from the competitors' and spectators' points of view. Full results will presumably have been published elsewhere in the magazine, but I think everyone will agree that the **Men's Singles final**, with **Tang Jiang Feng** eventually beating Yang Min **11-9** in the fifth was one of the best finals seen in the area for a long time.

Barbara Kiss took the **Women's Singles title**, while the **Under 21 Men's and Women's Singles** were won by **Shaun Marples and Karen Shepherd** respectively. **Tony Gelder** and **Jane Durham** came out top in the **Veteran Men's and Women's Singles**. There was some other local success, with **Frank Lasek** (Cramlington) winning the **Men's Band 6 Singles**, and also reaching the final of the **Men's Veterans' Singles** before losing out to Gelder. Pauling Long (DWP) reached the semi-finals of the **Women's Veterans' Singles**, going down to **Val Murdoch**, the eventual runner-up.

Thanks go to all involved with the organisation of the event, in particular **Aubrey Drapkin** and **Keith Wilson**. A **special needs event** was also arranged to coincide with the tournament and this had gone well with money raised for a **charitable project**.

On the **league front**, the month of **March** was marred by the sudden deaths during league matches of 67 year old **Norman Moore** (Division 4, St Charles 'B') and 57 year old **John Taylor** (Division 1, North Shields YMCA 'C') within the space of three weeks. Both men had played for various teams in the league for many years and will be sadly missed. A minute's silence was held in their memory at the next appropriate monthly **Board of Directors meeting**.

Although the league season was supposed to have been completed by the end of March, there are still a few matches outstanding at the time of writing. **Birtley 'A'** must now be odds-on favourites to regain the **Premier**

Division title from North Shields YMCA 'A' – both teams have two games to play, but Birtley have a 12 point lead. The other **Division Championships** have already been decided as follows:

Division 1: Newton 'A'

Division 2: Newcastle University 'A'

Division 3: Cramlington Trojans

Division 4: North Shields YMCA 'F'

The **Team Handicap Knockout Cup Competition** has now reached the quarter-final stage, and with Easter intervening, could take up to the end of April to be completed. The **Summer League** will commence in **mid-May** and will continue until **mid-August**.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE by Alan Dunn

Sheffield Hallam League Closed Tournament

Results:-

Men's Open Final: Winner – R. Lightowler, Runner-up – B. Grant

Ladies' Open Final: Winner – A. Baldi, Runner-up – R. Baldi

Youths Final: Winner – K. Lesser, Runner-up – B. Barlow

Junior Boys' Final: Winner – B. Barlow, Runner-up – S. Roberts

Junior Girls' Final: Winner – R. Baldi, Runner-up – K. Harrison

Cadet Final: Winner – B. Barlow, Runner-up – J. Grant

Handicap Final: Winner - C. Cattell, Runner-up - R. Maskery

Consolation Final: Winner - K. Lesser, Runner-up - R. Maskery

Men's Doubles: Winners - R. Shirt & S. Horsfield, Runners-up - A. Horsfield & T. Williams

Ladies' Doubles: Winners - A. & R. Baldi, Runners-up - J. Lawman & S. Bratt

Mixed Doubles: Winners - A. Baldi & A. Horsfield, Runners-up - R. Baldi & D. Chan

Barnsley & Rotherham Closed Tournaments to follow in future reports.

At the season end, **Stocksbridge** proved too strong for the rest of the field in the **Hallam League** (Andrew/Stephen Horsfield, Richard Shirt & Trevor Williams), the two Castle teams were 2nd and 3rd and Crookes 4th. In **Division 2**, **Wadsley** were **champions** and are joined by **Rotherham Scorpions** in being promoted to one of the strongest divisions in English TT. In the **Barnsley League**, **Barnsley Northend** were **champions**, finishing above the Stocksbridge side for the first time

since 'Adam were a lad'. **Rotherham League Division 1** was won for the second year in succession by **Scorpions** (Stuart Wallace, Ben Barlow & Craig Hastie; played most); **Division 2 champions** were new club **Piranha**, 2nd L.S.M. The junior side of things on the club front has again been dominated by the **Rotherham Scorpions Club**, winners for the second year of the **National Cadet League (U15)** and the **National Junior League (U17)**.



Pictured above are Scorpions, National Cadet League winners: (from left) S. Arliss, R. Swift, J. Dunn, P. Morgan



Pictured above are 3a British League winners: (from left) Dan Hudson, Stephen Roberts, Ben Barlow

The **Scorpions British League** teams also did well, **boys** winning **Division 3a** (Ben Barlow, Dan Hudson & Stephen Roberts). The **girls' team** were voted the team of the weekend in February, and finished in a respectable position in **Division 3** (Emily Robinson, Helen Reynolds & Nicola Shepherd). In **Senior British League** the Scorpions team has the task of bleeding the better juniors while trying to gain a respectable league position. This would not be possible without the support of players who regularly put their ranking points on the line, with not a lot to gain; it is this type of support which makes the Scorpions Club special. Players were Bill Grant, Ben Barlow, Stephen Roberts, Stuart Wallace, Mohammad Khan, Stephen Crosby, Joe Dunn, Daniel Hudson, James Houghton, Jack Grant and Alan Dunn. In the **County Championship** the **seniors** found the going a little tough in the **Premier Division**; they finished at the foot of the table, with draws against Devonshire and archrivals Yorkshire. The **South**

Yorkshire Vets team, Trevor William, Gary Woodward; steered by Bill Grant, are the **champions of Division 2a** losing just the one match against Warwickshire. The **junior team** which could have pushed for the top, ended the competition in a mid table position, complications caused by a dire lack of girl players is the main talking point. The county must co-ordinate its players better, and for that matter its coaching, as more coaches qualify and new Premier Clubs spring up, the county and clubs will have to give and take for the good of the sport. The newest team, the **Cadets**, was also co-ordinated by Bill Grant. The team finished 4th of 6 in the **top Division 1a**. Concerns have been shown at the inclusion of players in the squad who travelled to the venue and were subsequently left out without picking up a bat; hopefully this will be sorted for next season.

On a happier note congratulations have to go to Rotherham youngster **Matthew Dodds** who has been selected to represent **England Schools** at Largs in Scotland. Mat is one of the most committed juniors originally from the **Mick Vessey Camp**, who now plays for Scorpions, and county. Other juniors who deserve a special mention are **Ben Barlow**, who finished 9th in the **Cadet Masters**, and **Melissa Wright** who won the U11 section of the **South Yorkshire Schools** in her first tournament (other results to follow). At present the county is still not represented by an **ETTA Development Officer**, I've been doing my best in a voluntary capacity. If you need any advice I help all I can. I have been criticised unfairly I feel for the lack of county notes; I will say again, if you have any information about TT matters within South Yorkshire get in touch, and more reports will occur: **Alan Dunn** (01709) 323548 / e-mail: aldunnpingpong@hotmail.com Scorpions- www.scorpionsttc.net www.alsttsyorks.itgo.com

SURREY

Croydon Table Tennis League Annual Tournament By Lon Moir

Fourteen year-old **Adam Leow** created a new record for the **Croydon Table Tennis League** in the annual tournament. Not only did he reach three finals, he also won two of them and partnered his father in the doubles event.

Entries for the tournament were highly competitive and many tough games reached their conclusions. The **oldest doubles pairing** was **Lon Moir** and **Walter French** aged 79 and 82!

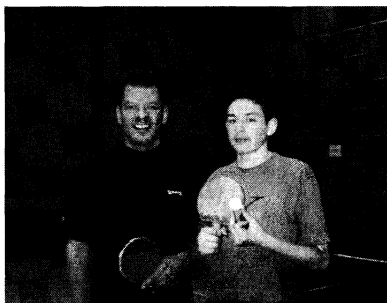
In the **Open Singles final** a previous champion, **Rev Russell Bates**, met

Adam Leow and took the first game. This event was the **best of five games to 11 points** and was constructive, mainly attacking and placing the ball ensued throughout. It was a win for **Rev Bates 12-10, 9-11, 14-12, 11-3**.

Defending handicap event champion **Adam Leow** met **Nigel Marshall**. This game consisting of **21 points** with **2 serves** each (a variation of the new points system): Adam started from scratch and dominated the game with a clear victory **21-11** and retained his title.

Top seeds **Lee Nicholls** and **Rev Russell Bates** met the father and son partnership of **Lenny** and **Adam Leow**. The **Leows** won the first game and greater concentration by **Nicholls/Bates** proved worthwhile as they took the second game. However, determination and great teamwork over the next two games proved too much for the top seeds resulting in an outstanding win for **father and son**. A new record was established as Croydon's doubles champions scored **11-8, 7-11, 11-8, 11-5**.

Adam Leow started playing only three years ago, coached by his father and colleagues at the age of 10. He has made rapid progress in **achieving results over top Croydon players**. He is a Croydon star in the making.



Pictured above are Lenny and Adam Leow

SUSSEX by John Woodford

Ritchie Venner, 38, retained the prestigious **Seaman Cup** for the top eight Sussex men at Fontwell, winning the trophy for the eleventh time.

Unluckily, the Sussex no. 2 **Adrian Moore** was unfit and did not play leaving the way open for a vintage performance by Worthing's **Andy Walker** who won the silver medal after losing the final **4-2** to the almost invincible Venner.

The event, now best of seven games, is not seeded so that left **Peter Bartram** with the short straw – playing Venner in the first round.

The **Nicholls Cup** for the top eight Sussex women was won by **Sally Weston** who lifted the cup for the eighth time, reinforcing her position as the Sussex no. 1.

In the final she defeated **Rose Rainton 3-0**, but the Bexhill player has a back problem that will not go away.

The two principal lower-age events were won by **Gary Wilson** (Worthing) who beat **James Winchester** in the **Bradley Cup** final, and **Stacey Furnival** (Hastings) who landed the corresponding girls event.

Lynne Thompson, a Lewes-based school teacher who now plays in the Haywards Heath League, is a 26 year-old who is beginning to make an impression on the Sussex scene. In the recent **Nicholls Cup**, she defeated Arundel's **Sarah Stedman** to reach the later stages.

Alan Beames is the new **Sussex councillor**, but he will resign to make way for **Carol Beames** on the new **National Council** line-up. Mrs Beames is expected to be one of five **ex-management committee members** expected to boost the power of the council from the floor.

One of the first tournaments on the **Grand Prix circuit** next season will be the **Sussex Open** at the Crawley Leisure Centre. Whether the prize money will be as large as last season will be known shortly, depending on sponsorship.

WARWICKSHIRE by Caroline Williams

Leamington League season draws to a close with a new name heading the division tables. **Whitnash A** have won **Division 1** for the first time ever with an excellent 174 points from their 22 matches with 19 wins, 2 draws and 1 loss. Last season they were runners-up to County Council A but this time it was Council who had to settle for second best with 165 points after two years running in the top spot.

In **Division 2**, **St. Georges B** picked up 167 points with an even better record of 20 wins, 1 draw and 1 loss and so return to **Division 1** from whence they were relegated last season. Saints were only just in front of Free Church A who gained 161 points. Last year **Marconi A** walked away with **Division 3** undefeated in their first season playing in the Leamington League and were promptly promoted to **Division 2**, so this year a second team, **Marconi B**, has joined Leamington - and again the **Division 3** title has gone to **Marconi!** Marconi B won 19 matches and drew 1 for a superb 153 points, well ahead of any other rivals. The other new team in the division, **BGN B**, came second with a mere 128 points.

In the **2-a-side league**, **Free Church teams** head both **Divisions A and B**. **Free Church E** (64 points) came first in A, with **FISSC B** second (58 points) whilst in **Division B**, **Free Church H**

(87 points) kept off a strong challenge from **Free Church I** (78 points).

WILTSHIRE

Closed Championships held at John O' Gaunt School, Trowbridge, on 29th/30th March 2003 – Organisers: A. Duke/R. Erskine. By Brian Cole

Men's Singles semi-final: E. Rooft bt P. Jackson 13, 7

Men's Singles semi-final: D. Richards bt G. Baldwin 13, -13, 11

Men's Singles final: E. Rooft bt D. Richards 17, 18

Women's Singles final: B. Baldwin bt T. Hicks

Men's Doubles final: D. Richards/E. Rooft bt T. Parkins/G. Baldwin 9, -19, 17

Women's Doubles final: B. Baldwin/T. Hicks bt N. Chambers/M. Willson 17, 13

Mixed Doubles final: B. Baldwin/G. Baldwin bt T. Hicks/A. Duke -18, 18, 18

U18 Boys' Singles final: A. Hodges bt D. Hodges 13, -9, 13

U18 Girls' Singles final: A. Jobanapurta bt R. Ashworth 7, 7

U18 Boys' Doubles final: M. Jackson/W. Silto bt D. Hodges/A. Hodges 17, 17

U18 Mixed Doubles final: M. Jackson/A. Jobanapurta bt M. Lloyd/R. Ashworth 10, 5

Veterans Men's Singles final: T. Lloyd bt G. Baldwin 15, -15, 14

Veterans Men's Doubles final: T. Parkins/T. Lloyd bt G. Baldwin/R. Hughes 23, 19

Veterans Ladies' Singles final: C. Manson bt M. Willson 15, 20

YORKSHIRE by Barry Snowden

Bradford League

Mick Stead and **Tony Bottomley** have proved an unbeatable combination for **Tog 24** as they completed a league and cup double in the **Bradford League**. They dropped only 3 points in winning the **Division 1** title and in the **Burton Cup final**, Bottomley won 3 and Stead 2, so beating Unity A **5-2**.

Division 1

Winner: Tog 24

Averages Winner: M Stephenson – Bradford Fastbats A

Division 2

Winner: Embassy C

Averages Winner: C Sanderson – Sedberg B

Division 3

Winner: Fastbats G

Averages Winner: P Sandhu – Hermits B

Division 4

Winner: Embassy E
Averages Winner: M Whitham – Little Horton B

Division 5

Winner: Hermits H
Averages Winner: M Housecroft – Clariant

Bradford Closed

In the **Bradford Closed Championships**, **Darren Page** of **Unity** took the honours with two titles. Page and his Unity team-mate Sean Ellis were the top two seeds and while Page had no trouble in reaching the final, Ellis was surprisingly beaten by Paul McKreith who then lost to Richard Priestley in the semi-final.

Page had a comfortable win and also added the **Men's Doubles** with **Ellis**.

Finals Results:-

Men's Singles: D Page beat R Priestley 21-17, 23-21

Men's Doubles: D Page/ S Ellis beat P McKreith/P Mann 21-15, 21-17

Handicap Event: P Cookson beat Ellis 21-8, 20-22, 21-18

Veterans: R Priestley beat N Harris 21-12, 21-15

Consolation: D Renton beat K Broadley 21-11, 21-11

Handicap Plate: S Kosmowski beat D Thompson 21-18, 21-20

Halifax Closed

A free entry initiative by the **Halifax League** to reverse the low entry trend for their **Closed Championships** paid off with the largest entry for over 10 years.

Simon Pugh regained the **Men's Singles events** after a number of seasons away from the Halifax League. His final victory was a straight games win over veteran **Alan Dickinson**.

Yorkshire second team skipper Pugh has returned to Halifax League action with new team **Elland Rugby League Club** who have won the first division title at their first attempt with Pugh remaining unbeaten throughout the campaign.

The top four seeds contested the **Men's Singles** semi finals with Pugh needing four games to put aside a spirited effort from tournament organiser **Paul Stansfield**, while in the second semi final no. 2 seed **Sean Ellis** took the first two games before a storming performance from **Dickinson** saw the Halifax elder statesman take the remaining three and with it a place in the final.

Ellis had more success in the **handicap event** which he took with a four game final against **Shaun Forbes** of the Halifax TTC. Forbes had a handicap of +7 as opposed to zero for

Ellis but it was Ellis who took a **13-11 5-11 12-10 11-9 victory**.

Halifax Most Improved Players

The **most improved young player of the year award** has been won by **Andrew Woodhead** who achieved over **85%** in the **division one averages**. This puts him among the top five players in the district.

Stronger and quicker on both wings than 12 months ago, he is rising quickly up the national rankings and should be a strong contender to be town champion one day.

The best newcomer in Halifax is nine-year old **James Mason**. The youngster shows a clear enjoyment of the game and regularly attends coaching sessions. He is also among other young potential future stars who comprise the **Halifax TTC C & D teams** in the coming **summer league**.

MUHR'S MEMO: Final Information Officer Messages from Ken Muhr

Please encourage **nominations, by 21st July, for the ETTA Press Officer of the Year**, again **supported by Random House** to the tune of **books to the value of £500** to the winner, plus presentational copies, an excellent prize! For further information, contact myself or Michelle Giles, 01424 722525, teachandtrain.etta@talk21.com

I am **very sorry that my post**, which I have mostly enjoyed, is **coming to an end**. The work definitely has not! There are some parts of the job that the ETTA will find hard to cover: **my press releases and reports have been very widely used, including by several websites**, and I have put more time than I should have (but unfortunately not widely appreciated) into **TTN**. I would have liked to have written or supported more articles about table tennis for non-table tennis journals. One hidden, time-consuming aspect of the job has been **responding to queries** from the media, membership, public and students. I have also been responsible for preparing **newsletters**, and **player profiles and programmes** for matches and events. Regarding the profiles, I wish I had time to do them better, and also to do interviews and profiles of key officers and volunteers/personalities in table tennis, because we lack information when we want to recognise and award people (or produce appreciations when they retire or sadly pass on). I could have done more in developing a library and archives, or collecting statistical data, such as the number of times players have

represented England. I have prepared some displays but not produced the kind of promotional and resource material the Development Department has wished for. And so on. However, it was **never possible to do everything** that should be done and **I did my best**.

I am **most grateful for the help and friendship of those I worked closely with** such as my professional colleagues at Hastings, and table tennis media colleagues, and **particularly for the solid support of Brian Halliday**. There are countless other correspondents, players, officers and enthusiasts whose help and support I have valued.

The **Paris World Championships did generate a lot of media coverage**, notably from **John Woodford** who provided the only (near) daily report service in **The Telegraph**, but also from **Matthew Syed in The Times**, with a big preview (19.5.03) and finishing with a finals report (26.5.03), though he was a little embarrassed that his tips **Boll** and **Samsonov** had not delivered! (Incidentally, **Boll** has been going through a rough period, losing twice to **Samsonov** in the Europeans, being thumped by **Magnus Molin** in the Bundesliga, and then exiting in the first round of the Worlds). The three **Times** mentions of **Deng Yaping**, including the **Ashling O'Connor feature** on her (24th May) were during the Championships. (There was also an unrelated piece on facts about table tennis in the Sunday Times magazine, 1st June.) The **British Eurosport** television coverage (with **Syed** commentary!) was well received, albeit there were complaints over missing the finals. Just before Paris, **Matthew Syed** arranged for **Alan Cooke** to appear on BBC TV East Midlands and **Andrew Baggaley** on BBC East.

As I go to press I have seen **Matthews's well crafted half page Times article** (10.6.03) with photograph of **Darius Knight** and coach **Gideon Ashison** on the folly and irony of the **Lottery reducing funding of Olympic sports like table tennis** (just when we have talented youngsters who could be real medal contenders), gymnastics and swimming at the same time as a bid has been launched to bring the 2012 Olympics to London. The **answer must be increased exchequer funding to realistically help Britain to win medals**.

Still the best chance of getting table tennis in the media is the work volunteers do locally. Keep it up. That's it from me!

Ken Muhr

continued from page 16

through the new Kent pairing of Gemma Yarnley and Anusha Seneviratne, 11-1, 11-6, 11-4. Paul Drinkhall got his second title in the cadet boys' doubles: with his long time partner Darius Knight, he beat Bradley and Gavin Evans 7-11, 15-13, 11-8, 11-8.

Results:

Junior boys' singles (from semi-finals): Bryn Drinkhall (Cleveland) bt Adam Bleakley (Lancashire) 11-3, 12-14, 11-5, 11-5. Greg Baker (Warwickshire) bt Paul Drinkhall (Cleveland) 11-8, 12-10, 11-7.

Final: Bryn Drinkhall (Cleveland) bt Greg Baker (Warwickshire) 11-3, 11-8, 11-8.

Junior girls' singles (from semi-finals): Georgina Walker (Nottinghamshire) bt Lauren Spink (Norfolk) 8-11, 4-11, 11-3, 11-9, 11-8. Joanna Parker (Surrey) bt Naomi Wilson (Somerset) 12-10, 11-8, 11-7.

Final: Georgina Walker (Nottinghamshire) bt Joanna Parker (Surrey) 11-7, 11-5, 12-10.

Junior boys' doubles: Chris Gregory (Shropshire)/Adam Bleakley (Lancashire) bt Peter Cleminson (Essex)/Greg Baker (Warwickshire) 11-9, 6-11, 11-2, 11-8.

Junior girls' doubles: Joanna Parker (Surrey)/Abigail Embling (Essex) bt Kelly Sibley (Warwickshire)/Karen Shepherd (Cheshire) 13-11, 11-7, 11-4.

Mixed doubles: Bryn Drinkhall (Cleveland)/Joanna Parker (Surrey) bt Craig Bryant (Devon)/Kate Steward (Somerset) 11-9, 6-11, 11-6, 8-11, 11-6.

Cadet boys' singles (from semi-finals): Paul Drinkhall (Cleveland) bt Bradley Evans Nottinghamshire) 11-9, 8-11, 11-3, 11-9. Tim Yarnall (Northamptonshire) bt Darius Knight (Surrey) 10-12, 4-11, 11-9, 11-4, 11-7.

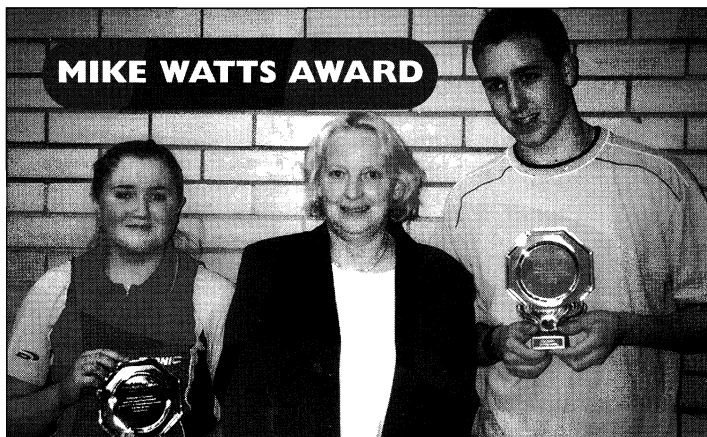
Final: Paul Drinkhall (Cleveland) bt Tim Yarnall (Northamptonshire) 11-8, 11-8, 11-6.

Cadet girls' singles (from semi-finals): Kelly Sibley (Warwickshire) bt Emma Vickers (Derbyshire) 11-4, 12-10, 11-9. Lauren Spink (Norfolk) bt Lauren Springthorpe (Lincolnshire) 11-8, 5-11, 11-8, 11-6.

Final: Kelly Sibley (Warwickshire) bt Lauren Spink (Norfolk) 11-9, 9-11, 11-5, 11-7.

Cadet boys' doubles: Paul Drinkhall (Cleveland)/Darius Knight (Surrey) bt Bradley & Gavin Evans (Nottinghamshire) 7-11, 15-13, 11-8, 11-8.

Cadet girls' doubles: Kelly Sibley (Warwickshire)/Lauren Spink (Norfolk) bt Gemma Yarnley/ Anusha Seneviratne (Kent) 11-1, 11-6, 11-4.

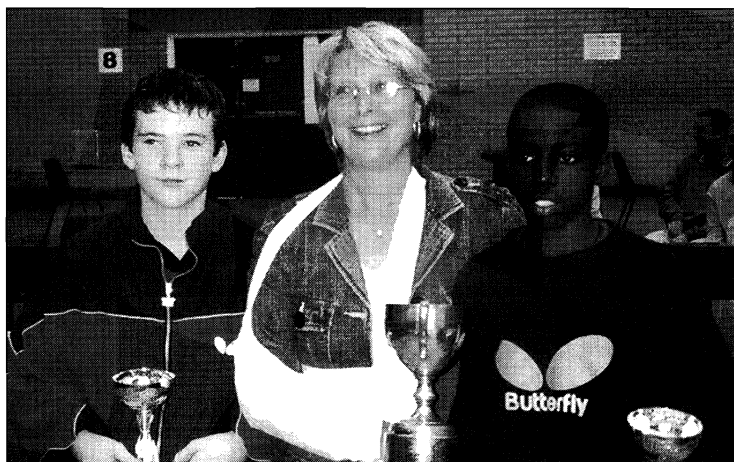


MIKE WATTS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2001/2: Winners CLAIRE WILSON and ALEX GREEN, who were presented with their trophies by Mike's wife HILDA WATTS (centre).



ALAN RANSOME presented the medals to the Mixed Doubles winners, BRYN DRINKHALL & JOANNA PARKER (above).

The Cadet Boys and Girls Doubles awards were presented by SANDRA DEATON, to PAUL DRINKHALL & DARIUS KNIGHT (left) and to KELLY SIBLEY & LAUREN SPINK (below).



Mike Watts Achievement Award 2001/2

On the Saturday (Junior) part of the National Championships, Mrs Hilda Watts, widow of the late Mike Watts, presented the Mike Watts Award on behalf of the ETTA Honours Committee. The award, in memory of Mike, a fantastic supporter and servant of table tennis, goes to the boy and girl player who has made the greatest improvement in ratings points in the period between August 1st (of the previous season) and the following 31st July, all award recipients being qualified to represent England as juniors but not normally being in the top 5 in any age category within the Rating List.

On these criteria, Hilda presented the award for 2001/2 to Claire Wilson (Durham), who with an increase of 1375 points rose from 60th to 26th in the junior girls' list, and to Alex Green (Lincolnshire), who with an increase of 1275 points rose from 44th to 15th in the junior boys' list.

Lynnsport & Leisure Park, King's Lynn, supported by King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council.

NO STOPPING RYAN JENKINS OR CHINESE WOMEN

RYAN JENKINS, rated No.2 in Wales (Adam Robertson at No.1) lifted his fourth Butterfly GP title at the Aldersley Leisure Village on April 27 when the tournament (boosted by 30 tables) finished before 7 pm, writes John Woodford.

Apart from his classy top-spin, Jenkins showed power and the ability to take a step back to counter-hit as he brought down the Chinese defender from Cardiff Wang Ran 8, 5, -4, 7 in a superb final.

After his victory Jenkins said "I shall try and make it five wins at Cheltenham in the final stop on the tour."

Jenkins has the best of both worlds. He commutes to his German club to play around twenty matches during the season, but when he is at home in Wales, he has the clear advantage of practicing five days a week with the Chinese contingent who are permanently employed as practice partners for the Welsh national squad.

Jason Sugrue, who led the Irish team at the world championships in Paris pushed through to the semi-finals -8, 8, 3, 9 against Tang Jiang Feng, but there the London Progress coach found Wang Ran's backspin too much - Wang went through 3, 7, 3.

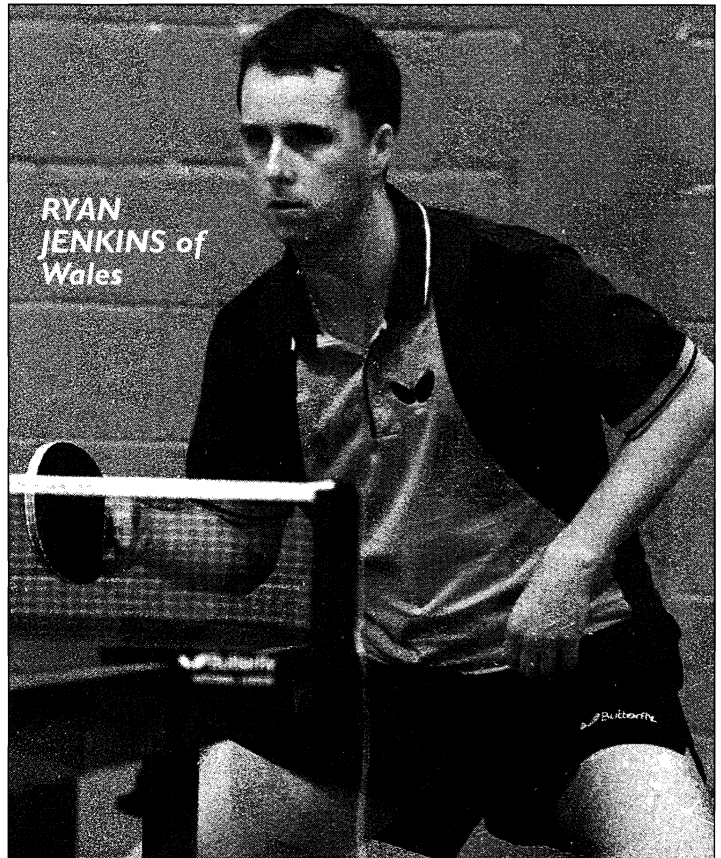
In the top half it was all Ryan Jenkins. His victims were Shaun Marples, Gergely Urban and Agunbiade 8, -6, 3, 4.

The surprise quarter-finalist was Durham's Michael Marsden, a player who Keith Wilson has been tipping for success for some time.

The womens singles was like so many events these days, dominated by Chinese players. The only Brit in the semis was Naomi Owen who defeated Clare Newns -8, 8, 9, 6 but lost to the teenager Zhao Shuang 8, 6, 10. Dorka Nagy (Hungary) emerged to the last four after holding off a strong challenge from Catherine Davies -10, 4, 11, 7 but the Cardiff-based Jie Xu overwhelmed the Hungarian 7, 8, 1, going on to a tremendous final, but eventually winning -10, 6, -10, 5, 6 against Zhao Shuang.

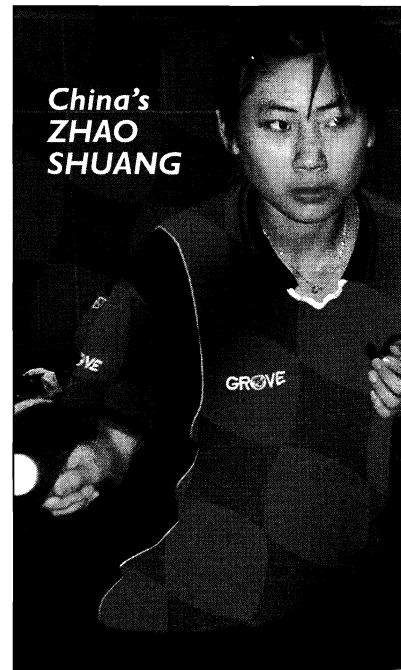
Zhao Shuang did however, win the Under-21 womens trophy 3-1 against Naomi Owen. Kou Lei landed the Under-21 men's event, 8, 9, 8 in the final against Yorkshire's Matthew Kenny, another improving player. Lithuania scored in the Bands 1 and 2 for men - Vytas Rybakas took out Steve Hall in the top band final and Chris Beckley in Band 2, also in the final, where on the scoresheet he appeared as "Arthur Rybakas".

RESULTS:
Men's singles (from semi-finals):
Ryan Jenkins (Wales) bt Tajun Agunbiade (Middlesex) 11-8, 6-11, 11-3, 11-4. Wang Ran (China) bt Jason Sugrue (Ireland) 11-3, 11-7, 11-3.
Final: Ryan Jenkins (Wales) bt Wang Wan (China) 11-8, 11-5, 4-11, 11-7.
Women's singles (from semi-finals):
Xu Jie (China) bt Dorka Nagy (Hungary) 11-7, 11-8, 11-1. Zhao Shuang (China) bt Naomi Owen (Wales) 11-8, 11-6, 12-10.
Final: Xu Jie (China) bt Zhao Shuang (China) 10-12, 11-6, 10-12, 11-5, 11-6.
Under 21 men's singles: Kou Lei (China) bt Matt Kenny (South Yorkshire) 11-8, 11-9, 11-8.
Under 21 women's singles: Zhao Shuang (China) 11-6, 11-7, 6-11, 11-5.
Veteran men's singles: Steve Hall (Wales) bt Tony Isaac (Staffordshire) 11-6, 12-10, 12-10.
Veteran women's singles: winner - Judy Morley (Gloucestershire), runner-up - Wendy Baggott (Shropshire).
Men's band 1 singles: Arthur Rybakus (Lithuania) bt Steve Hall (Wales) 5-11, 11-6, 11-7, 11-8.
Men's band 2 singles: Arthur Rybakus



RYAN JENKINS of Wales

(Lithuania) bt Chris Beckley (Surrey) 12-10, 11-8, 11-3.
Men's band 3 singles: James Brown (Yorkshire) bt William Power (Kent) 11-4, 11-5, 11-7.
Men's band 4 singles: Ray Jordan (Kent) bt Andrew Gradwell (Shropshire) 10-12, 11-7, 11-6, 11-7.
Men's band 5 singles: Alex Jones (Wales) bt Antony Whelan (Cheshire) 11-5, 11-7, 11-9.
Men's band 6 singles: Mikael Bellec (Lancashire) bt Peter Allister (Staffordshire) 5-11, 6-11, 11-7, 11-8, 11-9.
Women's band 1 singles: Lauren Spink (Norfolk) bt Alice Howard (Cheshire) 11-7, 11-3, 11-3.
Women's band 2 singles: Sarah Hall (Wales) bt Zoe Cheesman (Yorkshire) 11-8, 11-7, 8-11, 11-8.
Women's band 3 singles: Jenny Galloway (Scotland) bt Diane Melville (Middlesex) 15-13, 9-11, 5-11, 12-10, 15-13.



China's ZHAO SHUANG



FIVE FOR RYAN JENKINS

RYAN JENKINS lifted his fifth GP title of the campaign and the overall mens singles crown for the tour and around \$2,500 from the prize kitty, writes John Woodford.

Nearly all the Grand Prix venues this season have attracted maximum entry, with the exception of Newcastle and Belfast.

The tour is a remarkable success, giving many players opportunities to play in excellent tournament conditions who would normally only play in clubrooms. The tour is regrettably shunned by most of the England top ten players with a few exceptions like the coaches Alan Cooke and Brad Billington. Natalie Bawden has put in a number of appearances on the tour and has reached the final rounds of on number of occasions.

So, Ryan Jenkins is winning a lion's share of the money. He has changed clubs in Europe - he will play with Billington for the Zurich club Wadenswil on about ten weekends (double matches) leaving more time to play in Britain.

He also enjoys the major advantage of being able to practice four or five days a week with the Chinese players "attached" to the Welsh national squad in Cardiff.

My prediction is he could win more than five tour tournaments next campaign!

MORE MONEY PLAYING ABROAD
It is ironic that many players ~from British to Chinese~ can earn more money playing outside their home countries. One exception seems to be Ryan Jenkins who seems to get the best of both worlds.

He came through the Cheltenham draw via an improving Shaun Marples and in the quarters Gergely Urban (6, 2, 8) and the ever-threatening Irish No.1 Jason Sugrue -8, 7, 4, 8.

Earlier, Steve Hall, the Welsh veteran using what some call "funny rubber" sensationally capsized the young fourth seed Kou Lei 7, 6, -7, 3. That was the only major shock at Cheltenham. In the quarters, Sugrue had to concentrate hard to stop the Hall bandwagon 4, 7, -10, 5.

Chinese players from Wales dominated the other half. The defender Wang Ran lost the first game to both Niall Cameron and John Hilton to reach the semi-finals where he secured a spectacular win 9, 7, 7, 9 against his Cardiff mate

Tang Feng. The mens singles final was played around tea-time, which resulted in my getting a paragraph in the following morning's Daily Telegraph on the resounding Jenkins victory 9, 8, 3 against Wang Ran.

Again, Jenkins produced some thundering backhand kills that on one such shot, drew applause from his opponent as well as the fans, before wining 9, 8, 3.

KILLING FIELDS

The womens singles was a killing field for the Chinese pair Xu Jie (Wales) and Zhao Shuang from the Ian Marshall stable. These two excellent players met in the final - the verdict went to Xu whose experience in the Bundesliga puts her in a class on her own. She defeated the young Zhao Shuang 5, 12, 5, and won the overall tour prize. Earlier on, two English girls reached the semi-finals, Louise Durrant losing in four games to Xu and Natalie Bawden also losing in four to Shuang.

The best win in the womens singles was by Natalie the quarters when she eliminated Dorka Nagy (Hungary) and then better still, Naomi Owen at 7 in the fifth.

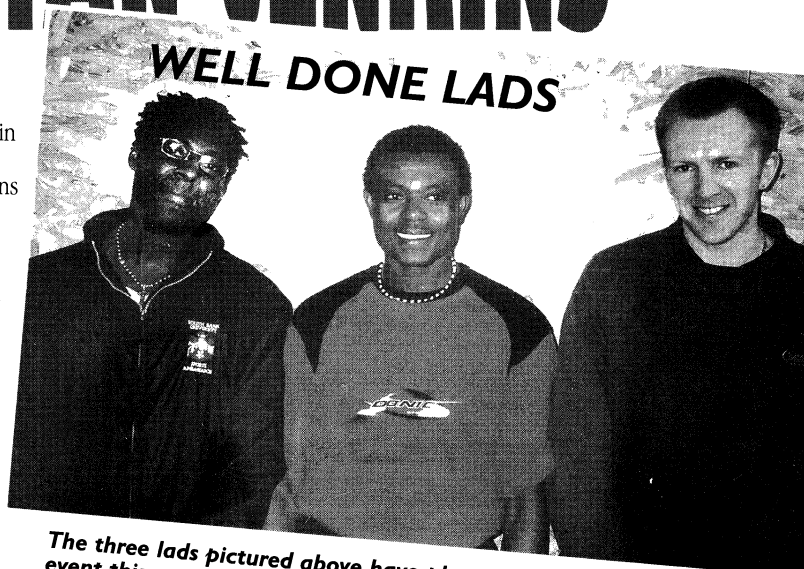
The Under-21 events were again Chinese dominated. Kou Lei won the mens prize after defeating a gallant display by David Meads from Durham 5, 5, 9. Natalia Bawden struck again reaching the final of the womens Under-21, where she went down fighting strongly to Zhao Shuang who triumphed -6, 5, 7, 8.

As expected, John Hilton rolled back the years by winning the mens veterans trophy -8, 5, 5, 5 against Steve Hall, whilst Judy Morley battled bravely to win the veterans womens tournament with a final round success -5, -6, 9, 6, 7, against Jane Durham from Cleveland.

Footnote: Peter Cruwys, chairman of Gloucestershire county was the foremost local administrator. The four bluecoat umpires working were Andy Seward, Barry Granger, Brian Gibbs and Nick Osland. On the first day (10.15 pm finish) local player Luke Moffat umpired many games during the day. Despite massive building works in and around the Cheltenham Recreation Centre, the tournament was ran smoothly with a finish before 7pm on the final day.

RESULTS:

Mens open singles (from semi-finals): Ryan Jenkins (Wales) bt Jason



The three lads pictured above have played in every Grand Prix event this season. (Left to right) JEROME JONAH (Kent), ABDUL WURAOOLA (Surrey) & CHRIS MARLOWE (Herts).

Sugrue (Ireland) 8-11, 11-7, 11-4, 11-8. Wang Ran (China) bt Tang Jiang Feng (China) 11-9, 7-11, 11-7, 11-9.

Final: Ryan Jenkins (Wales) bt Wang Ran (China) 11-9, 11-8, 11-3.

Women's singles (from semi-finals):

Xu Jie (China) bt Louise Durrant (Nottinghamshire) 8-11, 11-5, 11-8, 11-2. Zhao Shuang (China) bt Natalie Bawden (Essex) 8-11, 11-5, 11-7, 11-7.

Final: Xu Jie (China) bt Zhao Shuang (China) 11-5, 14-12, 11-5.

Under 21 men's singles: Kou Lei (China) bt David Meads (Durham) 11-5, 11-5, 11-9.

Under 21 women's singles: Zhao Shuang (China) bt Natalie Bawden (Essex) 6-11, 11-5, 11-7, 11-8.

Veteran men's singles: John Hilton (Cheshire) bt Steve Hall (Wales) 8-11, 11-5, 11-5, 11-5.

Veteran women's singles: Judy Morley (Gloucestershire) bt Jane Durham (Cleveland) 5-11, 6-11, 11-9, 11-6, 11-7.

Men's band 1 singles: Gary Tandler (Essex) bt James Whiteman (Devon)

11-9, 14-16, 11-7, 12-10.

Men's band 2 singles: Chris Brown (Devon) bt Ian Packford (Oxfordshire) 11-9, 8-11, 11-9, 13-11.

Men's band 3 singles: Olle Stenmark (Sweden) bt Stephen Roberts (South Yorkshire) 11-6, 11-8, 13-11.

Men's band 4 singles: Matt Squires (Warwickshire) bt Alistair Dawson (Herefordshire) 11-6, 11-8, 13-11.

Men's band 5 singles: Alistair Dawson (Herefordshire) bt Anthony Whelan (Cheshire) 11-4, 12-10, 12-10.

Men's band 6 singles: Alec Bartlett (Kent) bt Matt Meecham (Gloucestershire) 7-11, 12-10, 14-12, 11-6.

Women's band 1 singles: Lauren Spink (Norfolk) bt Judy Morley (Gloucestershire) 11-7, 11-6, 11-5.

Women's band 2 singles: Sarah Hall (Wales) bt Zoe Cheeseman (Yorkshire) 8-11, 9-11, 12-10, 11-9, 11-2.

Women's band 3 singles: Michelle Barrett (Devon) bt Helen Parton (Devon) 8-11, 11-9, 11-5, 11-8.

FINAL POSITIONS

Overall Butterfly Grand Prix Circuit Winners 2002-3:

Mens singles - Ryan Jenkins (Wales); **Women's singles** - Xu Jie (China); **Under 21 men** - Kou Lei (China); **Under 21 women** - Zhao Shuang (China); **Veteran men** - Steve Hall (Wales); **Veteran women** - Judy Morley (Gloucestershire); **Men's band 1** - Jerome Jonah (Kent); **Men's band 2** - John Holland snr. (Essex); **Men's band 3** - Kenny Lindsay (Scotland); **Men's band 4** - Matt Squires (Warwickshire); **Men's band 5** - Antony Whelan (Cheshire); **Men's band 6** - Andy Henry (Derbyshire); **Women's band 1** - Lauren Spink (Norfolk); **Women's band 2** - Sarah Hall (Wales); **Women's band 3** - Helen Parton (Devon).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR-2

continued from page 8

regarding the points raised, and your confirmation of the outcome of the matches that I did not watch.

On a positive note I was pleased to see the camera's were positioned correctly, instead of the overhead camera, which drives me mad.

George McGlone
Beckenham, Kent.

Editor's Note: The ETTA, Matthew Syed and others have received a flood of complaints disappointed at the scheduling of the World Championships coverage in Paris. Matthew Syed and Alex Murdoch have taken it up with Eurosport. If anybody wants to reinforce those representations, please write to: British Eurosport, Heathrow West Business Park, Heron Drive, Langley, SL3 8XP.

Table Tennis News, in all good faith, published the provisional dates and times of TV coverage of these championships in April's edition.

Regarding the new Mens Singles World Champion his name is Werner Schlager. A full report by TTN's team in Paris appears on pages 10 to 14.

IN THE MEANTIME MARTIN IRELAND HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING RESPONSES FROM HIS LETTERS SEEKING AN EXPLANATION:

FROM EUROSPORT

Hi Martin,
TV coverage of the Table Tennis in Paris, and why this coverage stopped at the semi final point.

It was very unfortunate but due to an abundance of other Sporting Events taking place that weekend, which Eurosport were obliged to cover, we were unable to continue the coverage of the Table Tennis. Whilst we understand that there is indeed a market for Table Tennis, there is a far larger market for Serie A Football, European Rugby, and Cycling. Ultimately it is not possible to cover every sporting event that occurs and in this instance it was deemed that we would sacrifice the Table Tennis coverage in order to show the final weekend of Serie A, the Parker Pen final and the Giro d'Italia.

I understand however that showing the event up to the Semi finals and then stopping was not ideal, however we did not anticipate the interest that Table Tennis has in the UK. With this in mind we have taken the necessary measures to ensure that this will not happen again. In the

meantime we have been asked if we are intending to show the semi and final matches that we missed, however at present we have no plans to do this.

Many thanks
British Eurosport

FROM THE ITTF

Dear Martin,
It seems that only in the UK the semis and finals were not shown. In all of Europe and France they were shown, but the finals were shown on a delay basis at 17:30. Your members should send letters or e-mails of complaint to Eurosport to ensure that this does not happen again. For your information we did receive this week the ratings of the table tennis transmissions and we stack very favourably against football. Some transmissions drew about 75%-85% of what football draws, and the Final drew almost the same viewership as football.

Thank you for your support.
Adham Sharara
ITTF President

FAIR PLAY

I DO hope that Alex Murdoch and his new team will introduce some form of legislation towards the standardising of rubbers. A first step is to ban all pimple rubbers since they give an unfair advantage to players using them.

We have a player in our own league who uses a specially engineered pimple rubber on his backhand, so that when the ball is smashed over the net it virtually dies in its tracks. No amount of personal exhortation to change back to a plain rubber has any effect! I am therefore appalled to see advertised in the May issue of Table Tennis News, by so-say reputable suppliers - "Half Long Pimple Rubbers" which make "the ball float and wobble" and which "gives a significant disturbing effect to the opponent".

Where is the sense of fair play and sportsmanship in all this? It is about time that games were won by natural skill and pure ability, not by resorting to dubious mechanical means.

Bill Davison
Chairman Mansfield & District TTA

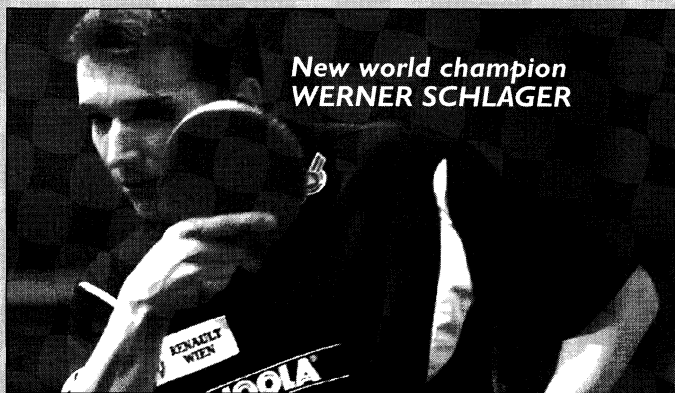
Editor's Note: Two points Bill, firstly legislation for table tennis rubbers is controlled by ITTF and not the ETTA, and secondly long pimples are mainly used by defenders, the likes of Matthew Syed, who need long pimples to counteract the unfair advantage that speed glue gives to the attacker. In reality Bill we can only have 'fair play' if we all return to playing with hard bats.



COURTSIDE

by John Woodford

- **CHINESE** coaches, rated the best in the world have a major problem following the Paris world event. Their officials withdrew a motion to return the world to 21 points because they found they had no support.
- **THE** eleven points system has now been tried, tested and acclaimed as the best move forward for years by virtually every nation (195 associations now on board with the ITTF) with the exception of China
- **CHINA** believes that all the changes in the past three years have been aimed to diminish their chances at the top world level. They have similar thoughts in badminton.
- **WATCHING** in Paris, I have formed the opinion that the Asians do not like playing eleven points; it does not suit their tactics at all. They say they need the longer 21 points games to be effective and win.
- **WERNER SCHLAGER** the new world champion had some interesting things to say to the media after his victory. Top of the list was his view that 11 points will make it more open at the top.
- **HIS** underlying meaning is that the Chinese monopoly is unlikely to continue with 11 points now settled in. Jokingly he said



New world champion
WERNER SCHLAGER

"Many more players could now win the world title, even a player from the Congo"

- **NOMINATION** time will have come and gone when this column appears in print - names of candidates for the ETTA Management Committee which will be placed before National Council after the AGM.
- **ALSO** names of Councillors for next season. I am certain that there will be at least four former management committee members on the new council, could even be five.
- **THIS** will surely lead to some very interesting debates with extra power from the floor?
- **THERE** is a major problem for this magazine concerning the considerable input produced by Alan Ransome for the last time in this edition. His range of information will it seems no longer be available to TTN. What happens now?
- **MY** suggestion is that someone either in or very close to the new top trio, possibly the chief executive will have to take on this task or feed the information to another person for onward transmission to the Editor.
- **WHATEVER** happens this information must appear in TTN, as most of it is essential material.

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

BRITISH LEAGUE PREMIER

1st LOSS

THE battle for second place in the British League Premier division has been one of the closest on record and it is BATTS Team Peniel (20 points) who have claimed the 2nd place prize ahead of Seasiders (19 points), writes Steve Kerns.

BATTS took full advantage by beating an understrength London Progress 1 10-4, Progress's first defeat of the season whilst Seasiders also completed their season in style with a 9-5 victory over Darlington. Seasiders will understandably feel disappointed as they faced full strength Progress sides on both occasions and they will feel that in such an important match Progress really should have fielded their best players. With only Tajudeen Agunbiade of the regular Progress team playing it does seem an unfair way to finalise proceedings. Progress will almost certainly point out that they have been using the recent fixtures as an opportunity to blood new players. However when there is decent prize money at stake then there can be no question that a team must endeavour to field sides of an approximately similar strength against all their closest rivals.

The Progress side minus Marco Essomba, Jason Sugrue and Cris Sladden actually gave a superb account of themselves against a Peniel side bolstered by the inclusion of Justin Goodall for the first time this year. Tajudeen Agunbiade scored a superb 12-10 in the fifth set victory over John Holland and he also avenged his first half defeat against Neil Charles. With Daniel Fesehatson adding a useful victory over Chris Jamieson it was Justin Goodall's undefeated performance that held the Peniel side together. He didn't have it all his own way as he beat Agunbiade 3-1 and had to retrieve a two games to one deficit before beating Egle Adomelyte 3-2. Improving veteran Henry Medellin couldn't quite record a win but can scarcely have played better as he successively pushed Chris Jamieson, Neil Charles and John Holland

to a fifth end. His defeat against Charles at 17-15 in the deciding set was the closest of the day.

A full-strength Seasiders left nothing to chance as they beat Darlington 9-5 in a first-class match. An undefeated Jonathan Taylor avenged his first half defeat against Eddie Smith by winning 3-1 as only one game out of 14 was decided three-straight. The very stylish Kevin Dolder also showed up well as he scored 3-1 wins over Smith, Andrew Wilkinson and Michael Marsden. The venerable John Hilton fared best of the Darlington players with wins over fellow veterans Paul Hutchings and "Big John" Rankin. With an excellent mixture of young improving and slightly more mature players (Taylor, Dolder, Greg Baker, Hutchings and Rankin) the promoted Seasiders team have been a revelation this year; expect them to do even better next season.

Relegated Wellow House signed off for the season with their best performance of the year as they held fourth-placed JAGS to a draw. An undefeated Lorestas Trumpauskas and Abdul Wuraoia held the JAGS side together as they both won their three singles whilst reserve Craig Gascoyne showed up well for Wellow House as he beat both Selwyn Campbell and John Dennison. Campbell's 11-7 in the fifth set victory over Andy Wignall also had a considerable influence on the outcome of the match as Wignall had produced a scorching display to beat John Dennison 3-0.

Barnet made the long trip to Plymouth a successful one by winning 10-4 as their no.1 player Gergely Urban remained undefeated. Paul Whiting pushed him closest just succumbing 11-9 in the fifth end and Whiting came up trumps as he beat both Costas Papantoniou (3-1) and Anthony Corbin (3-0). There is little doubt that Whiting is still a player of the highest Premier division standard. The improving James Whiteman also acquitted himself really well beating both Papantoniou (3-1) and Ballint Puskas (3-0). If this DML side can retain this set of players there is little doubt that they will be a considerable force next year in division One (South).

PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
London Progress	14	13	0	1	144	52	26
BATTS Team Peniel	14	9	2	3	108	88	20
Seasiders	14	9	1	4	114	82	19
JAGS	14	5	4	5	93	103	14
Barnet	14	6	1	7	91	105	13
Darlington	14	5	2	7	94	102	12
DML Plymouth	14	2	1	11	71	125	5
Wellow House School	14	1	1	12	69	127	3
DIVISION ONE NORTH							
Derwent	12	10	0	2	63	33	20
Ormesby	12	9	1	2	66	30	19
Grantham IDS	12	6	2	4	51	45	14
Coventry Phoenix	12	5	1	6	47	49	11
Norwich Todd Foxwood	12	4	2	6	40	56	10
Dewsbury	12	1	3	8	36	60	5
Halton Croda	12	1	3	8	33	63	5
<i>Darlington II resigned</i>							
DIVISION ONE SOUTH							
Horsham	14	8	4	2	69	43	20
Byug Hall Farningham Print	14	9	1	4	67	45	19
Cippenham	14	8	1	5	63	49	17
OLOP Impact	14	6	5	3	61	51	17
Ellenborough	14	6	4	4	61	51	16
London Progress II	14	6	4	4	55	56	16
EBS-Orange North'pton	14	1	2	11	43	69	4
De Vere Netts	14	1	1	12	28	83	3
DIVISION TWO NORTH							
Grove	14	13	1	0	89	23	27
Humpty's Club	14	9	4	1	76	36	22
ELGRE Nottingham	14	8	3	3	69	43	19
Derwent II	14	8	1	5	67	45	17
Oarbank	14	3	5	6	51	61	11
Potteries	14	5	1	8	50	62	11
Uxbridge Burton	14	2	1	11	39	73	5
Clarks Wakefield	14	0	0	14	7	105	0
DIVISION TWO SOUTH							
PSP Westinsure	14	11	2	1	82	30	24
Guildford	14	7	2	5	58	54	16
London Progress III	14	6	3	5	62	50	15
EBS-Orange North'pton II	14	5	5	4	53	59	15
Cippenham II	14	5	4	5	54	53	14
Oxford Fireplace Centre	14	4	4	6	53	59	12
Horsham II	14	4	2	8	48	64	10
Hastings	14	2	2	10	38	74	6
DIVISION 3 MIDLANDS							
Wirral Premier	14	11	2	1	79	33	24
Bedford Modern	14	9	3	2	76	36	21
Birmingham University II	14	7	4	3	61	51	18
Kingshurst Bribar	14	8	1	5	63	49	17
Woodfield	14	5	4	5	57	55	14
Rotherham Scorpions	14	5	2	7	51	61	12
Grove III	14	1	3	10	32	80	5
Darlington IV	14	0	1	13	29	83	1
DIVISION 3 MIDLANDS & SOUTH							
Generation 2	14	10	3	1	83	29	23(+146)
Birmingham University	14	11	1	2	83	29	23(+136)
London Progress V	14	8	4	2	69	43	20
OLOP Impact II	14	7	0	7	55	57	14
GuilOford II	14	6	1	7	48	64	13
Batts Team Peniel II	14	3	2	9	42	70	8
Ashford II	14	3	2	9	41	71	8
Grove II	14	1	1	12	27	85	3
DIVISION 3 NORTH							
Blackpool	14	12	1	1	88	24	25
Club Mid-Cheshire	14	12	0	2	89	23	24
Darlington III	14	8	4	2	70	42	20
Halton Croda II	14	6	2	6	52	60	14
Dewsbury II	14	6	1	7	51	61	13
Seasiders II	14	3	1	10	39	73	7
Barrow	14	2	2	10	33	79	6
Isle of Man	14	0	3	11	26	86	3
DIVISION THREE SOUTH							
Ashford	14	13	0	1	85	27	26
York Gardens	14	11	1	2	72	40	23
JAGS II	14	8	1	5	69	43	17
Guernsey	14	7	2	5	66	46	16
Horsham III	14	5	2	7	52	60	12
London Progress IV	14	2	2	10	37	75	6
Britannia H. Ipswich	14	3	0	11	36	76	6
Byng Hall F.P. II	14	2	2	10	31	81	6

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INCREASE IN CADET & OVER 60's

IT hardly seems possible but with last seasons matches only just finished arrangements are already underway for next season, most Counties have submitted their entries for next season as per the timetable, with only a couple ignoring the deadline dates.

Initial indications are that there will be a reduction in the number of Senior and Junior teams but that will be offset by an increase in the Cadet and Over Sixty divisions. There is every likelihood that the Cadet divisions will consist of a Premier Division and two 1st. Divisions, thus providing a promotion/relegation path in future years. The increase in the Over Sixty entries should mean that the division can be split into two separate divisions loosely based on a North/South divide, which will hopefully reduce the travelling for the teams involved and perhaps the need for an overnight stay, it is too early to say if there will be a play off between the two divisional winners to determine an overall champion, but your committee will look at this at it's next meeting.

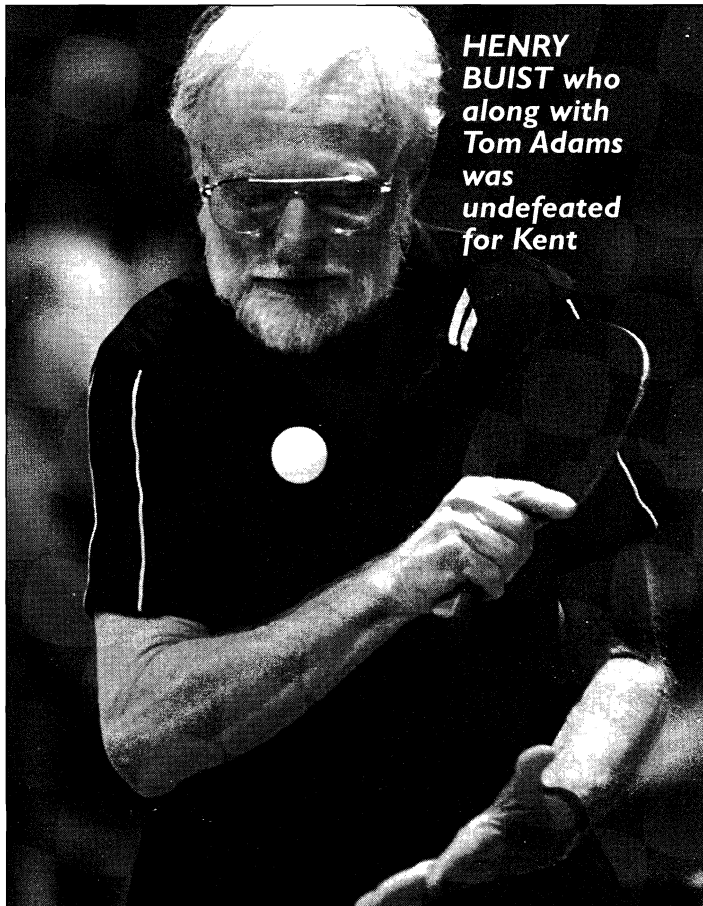
CADET DIVISIONS

After a great deal of negotiation the play off between the winners of the three Cadet divisions has taken place, Surrey finished as overall champions in a round robin competition against Durham and Derbyshire. My thanks to all of the people involved in ensuring the play-offs took place.

VETERANS PREMIER DIVISION

After the first round of three matches Lancashire headed the division, albeit on sets difference over Kent and Yorkshire, but with a win over Cheshire already in the bag.

Surrey, Middlesex and Northumberland were contesting the relegation places having lost all three of their opening round matches, poor old Northumberland had only managed to win 2 sets from a possible 27. So to



HENRY BUIST who along with Tom Adams was undefeated for Kent

Knutsford for the remaining four rounds of matches, the first games starting at noon, for Lancashire it proved to be "High noon" as they clashed with a formidable Yorkshire team containing Keith Roger, Kevin Beadsley, Steve Mills and Helen Shields, to make things worse Keith Williams was not available for Lancashire due to work commitments. As it turned out things couldn't have been much worse for the Red Rose, as the

invaders from the North roared into an eight nil lead and only John Rankin beating Steve Mills saved the whitewash.

Kent achieved the same result against Middlesex, in this case it was Chris Pickard who beat John Burleton for the solitary Middlesex win. Cheshire, who had Wayne Percival standing in for the unavailable Brian Johns, ran out comfortable winners by 7/2 against Sussex. In the bottom of the table clash between Northumberland and Surrey the North East team were a little unlucky to find the match score tied at 4/4 only for Geoff Salter to come face to face with Dave Welsman for the deciding set, Dave duly won by three games to one, ensuring there was no escape from the bottom of the pile for the North East team.

In the second round of matches Kent, who had taken over as joint leaders of the division along with Yorkshire were paired to play their rivals and the resurgent Yorkshire team were not in the mood to take prisoners, as they played out a very close match which went right to the wire resulting in a 5/4 victory for Yorkshire.

Cheshire must have suddenly realised that their hopes for the championship were still on course as they were to play the leaders the next day, so they demolished Middlesex 8/1.

Lancashire bounced back to winning ways as they battered Northumberland 7/2 and Sussex added to the woes of

Surrey with a 6/3 victory. The final day dawned with Yorkshire in top place still undefeated. Lancashire faced Kent and any hopes they had of mounting a challenge went out of the window as Kent proved to be worthy winners, by 7/2. Northumberland finally came good in their match against Sussex, winning 6/3, and Surrey condemned Middlesex to relegation when they narrowly won 5/4. The crunch match of the round was Yorkshire against Cheshire, with Brian Johns replacing Wayne Percival, the match was nip and tuck all the way, with neither team able to gain more than a solitary set lead until, with the score locked on 4/4 Steve Mills faced John Hilton, John won the first two games but Steve fought back to take the third, but it was to no avail as John took the fourth game to secure the match 5/4 for Cheshire. In the final round of matches Lancashire played a team containing three reserves against Sussex and lost 4/5, Surrey had an almost unbelievable win against Yorkshire by 5/4 and the two bottom teams faced each other, with Middlesex going out with a bang as they beat Northumberland by 5/4, with the result that both teams were relegated. Cheshire played Kent in a match that would have a profound bearing on the outcome of the division, in reality it turned out to be something of an anticlimax as Cheshire roared to a 5/0 winning margin before Di. Pearce beat Sue Burgess, but it was too little to late as Cheshire once again took the title of Premier Division Champions.

VETERANS OVER SIXTY DIVISION.

The second and final round of matches were again played at the Woodfield Club Wolverhampton. thanks to the good offices of Ray Dixon, who acted as organiser for both of the weekend for this division and made a fine job of it.

Essex started the weekend in top place as the only undefeated team in the division and they remained that way throughout. ensuring victory in their last match against Yorkshire. the only team that could have challenged for top spot. Yorkshire finished as runners-up, ahead of third place Worcestershire by virtue of a superior sets difference.

Team of the weekend however must be Kent, who dragged themselves from eight place to finish in fourth position, thanks in no small part to the efforts of Tom Adams and Henry Buist who were both undefeated over the weekend. Berkshire and Surrey finished in the bottom two places.

I had the pleasure of attending the Sunday afternoon session to present the trophies to the successful teams and I must say that I was very impressed by the standard of play and the enthusiasm shown by all of the players, not to mention the wide variety of styles on display. something you do not see very often in the modern game.

**YASAKA
3 STAR BALLS**

SENIORS

Premier	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex	7	5	1	1	48	22	11
Glamorgan	7	4	0	3	37	33	8
Devonshire	7	3	2	2	36	34	8
Middlesex	7	3	1	3	40	30	7
Yorkshire	7	2	3	2	33	37	7
Surrey	7	3	1	3	29	41	7
Sussex	7	2	2	3	35	35	6
South Yorkshire	7	0	2	5	22	48	2

Division 1A

Leicestershire	7	6	1	0	50	20	13
Yorkshire 2d	7	5	1	1	46	24	11
Worcestershire	7	4	0	3	35	35	8
Lancashire	7	3	1	3	39	31	7
Durham	7	3	1	3	35	35	7
Nottinghamshire	7	2	1	4	28	42	5
Essex 2nd	7	1	2	4	29	41	4
Cambridgeshire	7	0	1	6	18	52	1

Division 1B

Kent 1st	7	6	1	0	50	20	13
Wiltshire	7	4	1	2	42	28	9
Middlesex 2nd	7	4	1	2	38	32	9
Glamorgan 2nd	7	3	2	2	38	32	8(144-132)
Berkshire	7	3	2	2	38	32	8(136-125)
Hertfordshire	7	2	1	4	26	44	5
Gloucestershire	7	2	0	5	34	36	4
Kent 2nd	7	0	0	7	14	56	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

Devonshire 2nd	6	5	1	0	42	18	11
Avon	6	3	3	0	42	18	9
Somerset	6	2	2	2	33	27	6
Herefordshire	6	2	2	2	26	34	6
Cornwall 1st	6	2	1	3	33	27	5
Devonshire 3rd	6	1	1	4	18	42	3
Norfolk 2nd	6	1	0	5	16	44	2

Division 2C

Suffolk 1st	6	5	1	0	46	14	11
Lincolnshire	6	5	1	0	42	18	11
Bedfordshire	6	3	0	3	32	28	6
Hertfordshire 2nd	6	3	0	3	29	31	6
Northamptonshire	6	2	1	3	28	-2	5
Suffolk 2	5	0	1	4	13	37	1
Norfolk	5	0	0	5	10	40	0

Division 2D

Sussex 2nd	6	5	1	0	41	19	11
Buckinghamshire	6	3	2	1	37	23	8
Hampshire	6	2	3	1	36	-4	7
Isle of Wight	6	2	1	3	23	37	5
Surrey 2nd	6	2	0	4	28	32	4
Oxfordshire	6	2	0	4	25	35	4
Berkshire 2nd	6	1	1	4	20	40	3

JUNIORS**Premier Division**

Glamorgan	7	6	1	0	54	16	13
Cheshire	7	6	0	1	48	22	12
Yorkshire	7	4	2	1	46	24	10
Buckinghamshire	7	4	1	2	42	28	9
Lincolnshire	7	2	1	4	27	43	5
Essex	7	2	0	5	30	40	4
Sussex	7	1	0	6	13	57	2
Surrey	7	0	1	6	20	50	1

Division 1A

Derbyshire	7	7	0	0	57	13	14
Nottinghamshire	7	5	1	1	52	18	11
Yorkshire 2nd	7	4	2	1	47	23	10
Cleveland	7	2	1	4	30	40	5
Lancashire	7	2	1	4	27	43	5
Cumbria	7	1	2	4	24	46	4
Warwickshire	7	1	2	4	23	47	4
Lincolnshire 2nd	7	1	1	5	20	50	3

Division 1B

Devonshire	7	7	0	0	59	11	14
Kent	7	4	2	1	42	28	10
Buckingham 2nd	7	5	0	2	36	34	10
Middlesex	7	3	2	2	39	31	8
Gwent	7	3	1	3	31	39	7
Glamorgan 2nd	7	1	2	4	32	38	4
Essex 2nd	7	1	1	5	27	43	3
Hampshire	7	0	0	7	14	56	0

Division 2A

Durham 1st	7	6	0	1	47	23	12
Cheshire 2nd	7	5	2	0	46	24	12
Northamptonshire	7	5	0	2	44	26	10

Shropshire	7	3	2	2	37	29	8
South Yorkshire	7	1	3	3	33	33	5
Worcestershire	7	2	0	5	27	43	4
Lancashire 2nd	7	1	1	5	21	46	3
Norfolk	7	1	0	6	19	50	2

Division 2B

Dorset	7	6	1	0	52	18	13
Buckingham 3rd	7	4	2	1	43	27	10
Surrey 2nd	7	3	3	1	40	30	9
Somerset	7	3	2	2	38	32	8
Oxfordshire	7	2	3	2	35	35	7
Kent 2nd	7	2	2	3	29	41	6
Surrey 3rd	7	1	0	6	18	52	2
Berkshire	7	0	1	6	25	45	1

Division 3A

Herefordshire	6	5	1	0	45	15	11
Bedfordshire 1st	6	4	2	0	42	18	10
Suffolk	6	4	1	1	41	19	9
Norfolk 2nd	6	2	1	3	27	33	5
Huntingdonshire	6	2	0	4	25	35	4
Bedfordshire 2nd	6	0	2	4	19	41	2
Cambridgeshire	6	0	1	5	11	49	1

Division 3B

Nottingham 2nd	6	6	0	0	47	13	12
Durham 2nd	6	4	1	1	44	16	9
Northampton 2nd	6	4	1	1	40	20	9
Conwy	6	3	0	3	33	27	6
Northumberland	6	1	1	4	22	38	3
Nottingham 3rd	6	1	1	4	17	43	3
Warwickshire 2nd	6	0	0	6	7	53	0

Division 3C

Devonshire 2nd	6	6	0	0	53	7	12
Herefordshire	6	5	0	1	41	19	10
Avon	6	2	2	2	31	29	6
Devonshire 3rd	6	2	2	2	28	32	6
Cornwall 1st	6	2	1	3	31	29	5
Devonshire 4th	6	1	0	5	15	45	2
Cornwall 2nd	6	0	1	5	11	49	1

Division 3D

Sussex 2nd	7	7	0	0	20	20	14
Gloucestershire	7	5	1	1	39	25	11
Wiltshire	7	4	0	3	34	30	8
Gwent 2nd	7	3	1	3	34	33	7
Buckingham 4th	7	1	2	4	30	40	4
Sussex 3rd	7	1	2	4	29	41	4
Essex 3rd	7	1	2	4	27	40	4
Middlesex 2nd	7	2	0	5	28	42	4

CADETS**Division 1A**

Durham	5	4	1	0	37	13	9
Lancashire	5	3	2	0	28	22	8
Cleveland	5	1	3	1	24	26	5
South Yorkshire	5	1	2	2	22	28	4
Cheshire	5	1	1	3	20	30	3
Yorkshire	5	0	1	4	19	31	1

Division 1B

Derbyshire	5	5	0	0	41	9	10
Lincolnshire	5	4	0	1	39	11	8
Suffolk	5	3	0	2	27	23	6
Northamptonshire	5	2	0	3	27	23	4
Glamorgan	5	1	0	4	14	36	2
Leicestershire	5	0	0	5	2	48	0

Division 1C

Surrey 1st	6	4	2	0	41	19	10
Sussex 1st	6	3	3	0	38	22	9
Gloucestershire	6	3	2	1	32	28	8
Sussex 2nd	6	3	1	2	29	31	7
Somerset	6	1	3	2	29	31	5
Surrey 2nd	6	1	1	4	20	40	3
Berkshire	6	0	0	6	21	39	0

VETERANS**Premier**

P	W	L	F	A	Pts	
Cheshire	7	6	1	48	15	12
Kent	7	5	2	41	22	10
Yorkshire	7	5	2	39	24	10
Lancashire	7	4	3	35	28	8
Sussex	7	3	4	30	33	6
Surrey	7	3	4	25	38	6
Northumberland	7	1	6	18	45	2
Middlesex	7	1	6	16	47	2

Division 1A

Essex	7	7	0	53	10	14
Cheshire 2nd	7	5	2	37	26	10
Norfolk	7	5	2	35	28	10
Yorkshire 2nd	7	3	4	32	31	6 (127-123)
Hertfordshire	7	3	4	32	31	6 (129-132)
Oxfordshire	7	3	4	30	33	6
Leicestershire	7	2	5	26	37	4
Durham	7	0	7	7	56	0

Division 1B

Dorset 1st	7	7	0	57	6	14
Surrey 2nd	7	6	1	40	23	12
Dorset 2nd	7	5	2	31	32	10
Kent 2nd	7	3	4	31	32	6

Berkshire 1st	7	2	5	29	34	4
Hampshire	7	2	5	26	37	4
Buckinghamshire	7	2	5	17	46	4
Avon	7	1	6	21	42	2

Division 2A

South Yorkshire	6	5	1	31	23	10
Warwickshire	6	4	2	35	19	8
Essex 2d	6	4	2	34	20	8
Essex 3rd	6	3	3	27	27	6
Worcestershire	6	2	4	25	29	4
Bedfordshire	6	2	4	21	33	4
Lancashire 2nd	6	1	5	16	38	2

Division 2B

Devonshire	7	7	0	43	20	14
Kent 3rd	7	6	1	41	22	12
Wiltshire	7	4	3	35	28	8
Somerset	7	4	3	31	32	8
Hertfordshire 2nd	7					

HILTON & DUNNING CHAMPIONS

VETTS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, HELD AT THORNBURY LEISURE CENTRE 17th – 18th MAY 2003

TWO singles titles and an over 40's Doubles Title with Joe Kennedy gave John Hilton a very successful weekend at Thornbury. During the over 40 /over 50 events Hilton only dropped two sets. Over the season in VETTS Tournaments out of the 9 competitions John Hilton has had 8 victories with only Brian Johns beating him in the Hereford tournament in January, writes Ron 'The Rocket' Langheim.

In the over 40's event John accounted for Elliott, Harding, Short and Harvey in the Semi-final whilst Brian Johns saw off Jeffers, Payne, Kennedy and Eckersley before losing 5, 7, 5, in the final.

There was a good match in an earlier round between John Kennedy (Kent) and the fast improving Henry Medellin late of Columbia but now a resident of leafy Surrey.

Henry was two sets up but Joe fought back to level the match at two all. In the deciding set Henry had match point at 10-9 and then hit what he thought was a winning shot when the ball hit the top of the net and changed direction leaving Kennedy to change direction return the ball and carry on to win the point and then to win the game and match. Tremendous match!

It was good to see Dave Harvey (Gloucs) make a rare appearance at a VETTS tournament and he had wins over Brian Clements, Keith Williams and Peter Bartram before losing to John Hilton 6, 7, 7, in the semi final.

A three sets to love win over Mike Short in the over 50's gave John Hilton the title which also included wins over Phillipson, Schwartz, Sandmark (Sweden) and Baldwin. Ian Schwartz had the temerity to take a set off Hilton so I expect every point to be replayed at the Kingfisher Club over the ensuing months.

Mike Short beat Witherman, Bhalla, Crowley, Jackson, and Harvey 8-11-9 in the fifth set en-route to the final. During the event there were good wins for Barry Crook (Sponsored by ASDA) over Brian Clements, John Fannin over Geoff Salter before losing to the volatile Derek Holman in 5 sets – Fannin won first set 11-0.

Derek Holman beat Henry Buist before losing to Baldwin a match full of incident with umpire Point



Crowley needing a firm hand to control a very committed Holman. Ken Jackson (the Crosby Plumber) had an excellent win over number 4 seed Dave Welsman, and Dicky Priestly beat master defence-man Roy Norton -14, -7, 8, 9, 8.

Former National Champion Henry Buist regained the over 60 title with a comfortable win over John Holland having his first season in this age group. Holland en-route to the final beat Geoff Bax, Tony Brown, last years winner Points Crowley and Roy Norton whilst Henry Buist reached the final with wins over Hodgetts, Adams, Taylor and Sandmark.

In an earlier round Geoff Bax had a good win over Southern Masters Winner, Fred Lockwood who looked very disappointed after this defeat.

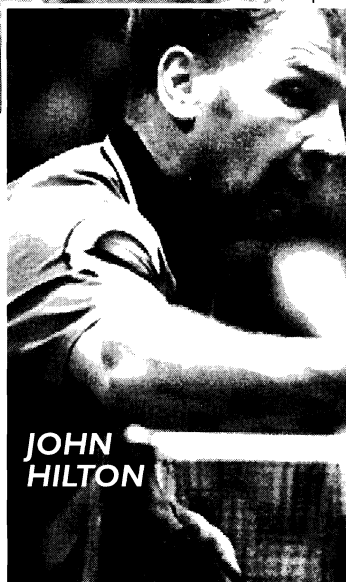
Bill Bruton won his first VETTS Single Title in the over 70 event with wins over Bax, Lush, and Willimott. Former Champion Geoff Brook was one of Willimott's victims.

STUNNING DUNNING JUST TOO GOOD

Number one seed Elaine Short went out in the semi-final to Regina Donovan (Wales) who had earlier beaten former Champion Diane Pearce. Winner Jan Dunning who last won this title 3 years ago was far too good for Regina and victory came with an 8, 6, 7, win.

In reaching the final Jan beat Shirley Gelder, Helen Pogmore, Judy Morley and Sheila King.

The over 50's event saw Diane Pearce 2001 winner regain her title (11-8 in the final set) with a victory



over Judy Morley beating Margaret Maltby, Penny Perry and Janet Brown on the way. Judy Morley accounted for Susan Body, Eileen Shaler and Linda Simpson. Holder Teresa Devaney (IRE) went out in the first round to Val Murdoch.

The holder of the over 60's and over 70's events retained their titles with Margaret Dignum beating Muriel Hooker in the over 60's and Pam Butcher beating Connie Moran in the over 70's.

It is always nice to see members pick up their crystal trophies for the first time and I was very pleased to see Billy (crystal) Clayton with partner Ray Lush pick up the runner-up prize in the over 70's doubles and Major Mike Dorrington victorious in the over 70's plate.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEKEND

MEN: John Hilton

WOMEN: Regina Donovan

RESULTS:

MENS SINGLES

OVER 40: Winner: John Hilton runner up: Brian Johns

OVER 50: John Hilton

runner up: Mike Short

OVER 60: Winner: Henry Buist

runner up: John Holland

OVER 70: Winner: Bill Bruton

runner up: Mike Willimott

WOMENS SINGLES

OVER 40: Winner: Jan Dunning

runner up: Regina Donovan

OVER 50: Winner: Diane Pearce

runner up: Judy Morley

OVER 60: Winner: Margaret Dignum

runner up: Muriel Hooker

OVER 70: Winner: Pam Butcher

runner-up: Connie Moran

MIXED DOUBLES

Winners: Brian Johns/Helen Shields

runners-up: Joe Kennedy/Elaine Short

MENS DOUBLES

OVER 40: Winners: John Hilton/Joe Kennedy

runners-up: Wayne Percival/Keith Williams

OVER 50: Winners: Derek Holman/Richard Priestly

runners-up: Derek Wood/Ken Phillipson

OVER 60: Winners: Roy Norton/Fred Lockwood

runners-up: Henry Buist/Geoff Brook

OVER 70: Winners: Terry Donlon/Geoff Bax

runners-up: Ray Lush/Billy Clayton

WOMENS DOUBLES

OVER 40: Winners: Elaine Short/Helen Shields

runners-up: Jan Dunning/Brenda Buoe

OVER 50: Winners: Diane Pearce/Linda Simpson

runners-up: Gill Knightly/Margaret Maltby

OVER 60: Winners: Pam Butcher/Sally Bax

runners-up: Doreen Schofield/Connie Moran

PLATE COMPETITION

MEN

OVER 40: Winner: Derek Wood

runner-up: Ken Jackson

OVER 50: Winner: Nat Richardson

runner-up: Bill Bruton

OVER 60: Winner: Terry Donlon

runner-up: Peter Wood

OVER 70: Winner: Mike Dorrington

runner-up: Harry Ross

WOMEN

OVER 40: Winner: Gill Knightly

runner-up: Wendy Baggott

OVER 50: Winner: Muriel Hooker

runner-up: Helen Pogmore

OVER 60: Winner: Jean White

runner-up: Jan Curtis

OVER 70: Winner: Nellie Penny

runner-up: Georgina Veneer

SUGRUE RETAINS HIS GREATER LONDON TITLE

JASON SUGRUE, fresh from representing Ireland in the World Championships in Paris last weekend, stormed through the Greater London Table Tennis Championships to retain his London Crown, and thus reminded Londoners just how his club, London Progress, have managed to win their fifth consecutive British League title, writes Jon Kaufman.

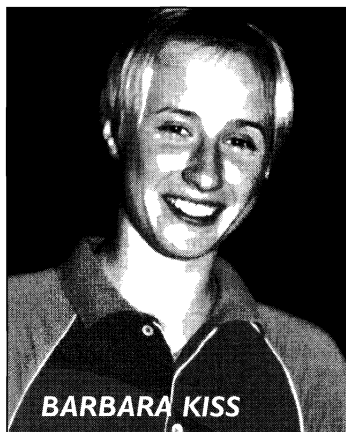
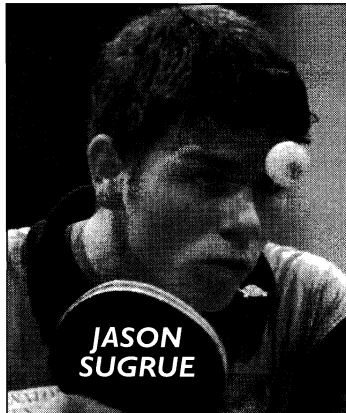
The highlight of the tournament was undoubtedly his gruelling semi-final five-setter against Hungarian star, Urban Gurgley. Sugrue found himself trailing in the match two sets to one in the stifling heat of the weekend, and it took all his considerable resources to claw his way back into the match. With the match tied at two sets each, Sugrue showed his true championship style and blitzed Gurgley 11-3 to take his place in the final for the second year running.

The other semi-final was an all Progress affair, where club No.4, Tajudeen Agunbiade dismissed Club No1 Marco Essomba in three straight sets. The final between Sugrue and Agunbiade was something of an anticlimax as Sugrue destroyed his Progress team mate 11-1, 11-1, 11-8.

London Progress took two other titles at the championships with Egle Adomelyte winning the Junior Girls title and Matthew Staines from Frenford Progress taking the Junior Boys. In addition, both players reached the semi-finals of the mixed Under 21's, but unfortunately met each other in the semi-finals. In a tremendous battle of skill and determination, Matthew came out on top to reach his second of four finals for the weekend.

KISS WINS WOMENS TITLE

Another highlight of the championships came in the Women's Singles event which saw the two top Progress women, Egle Adomelyte and Marina Zarzyucka take on two highly talented Hungarian players and a former England star, Shelly Rocco. In an intriguing competition three players finished with three wins each, so a nail-biting count back was used to decide the winner. On



this occasion the two Progress players had to settle for second and third place as Barbara Kiss claimed the event by just four single points.

While the Progress superstars were doing their thing on the Sunday, the next generation of Progress youngsters had been hard at work the previous day.

Good performances were given by Danny Flash, Tony Alvarez, winner of the Under 15's consolation event, and John Umulo. From Edgware Progress based at the Edgware School, Sam Moore, Kevin Harris Bhavin Savjani and Minakshi Gohel all gained valuable experience at a top regional event. Sam Moore looked particularly comfortable notching up 3 wins in the under 15's and two wins in the Under 18's. From Compton Progress, Daniel Baranowski and Max Johnson continued their steady development under the coaching regime of Jason Sugrue, both players picking up good wins throughout the weekend.

CADET SIX NATIONS SUCCESS



The England cadet boys' team of (left to right) Bradley Evans (Nottinghamshire), Darius Knight (Surrey), Paul Drinkhall (Cleveland), and Tim Yarnall (Northamptonshire), confirmed they are top of their age group in Europe by winning the boys' team event at the Cadet (under 15) Six Nations Tournament in Koping, Sweden, last weekend.

Yarnall, 15 from Rushden, continued his excellent form in the cadet boys' singles, lifting the event by beating his England colleague, Darius Knight, 11-7, 11-7, 11-5, in the final.

REGIONAL SQUAD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2003

THE event the 3rd Regional Squad championships, the venue, Fenton Manor, Stoke, the day, Sunday 27 April, the day and the place to be for any cadet player and there were 140 of them there all wanting to play their hearts out for their region, writes Ken Armson MBE.

The recognition by regions of the value of these championships was reflected in the greater strength in depth of teams and the presence of leading cadet players foremost of these being Darius Knight for London. The ten regions were drawn into 2 groups for the qualifying matches and with a strong line-up East Midlands the holders looked likely to qualify in Group A for the final play off against Group B winners and duly won their group narrowly defeating two other contenders Yorkshire and Southwest 7-5 to remain undefeated. Southwest taking 2nd place having drawn with Yorkshire who could only manage a draw with Southeast that consigned them to 3rd place and a play off for a 5th or 6th final placing. Group B had several possible contenders for the play off for 1st or 2nd place in London, Southern and Northwest with London having more than a passing interest in winning. The group being opened up when in the second match Southern secured a narrow 7-5 victory over London. Northwest having won their two matches convincingly sat out the 3rd set of matches but had then to face Southern and London in their last two group matches. They literally scraped home against Southern 7-5, securing a group winning 8-4 victory against London to ensure their place in the play off for the cup and regional

championship for 2003. Southern taking 2nd place and possibly looking back on what might have been when they let victory against Northwest slip through their rackets. London had to settle for 3rd place but will be back next season if this event takes place, more determined than ever to take the trophy and the championship to London.

In the final Northwest and East Midlands were neck and neck and at 4 sets all a draw was looking likely, but when all twelve matches are being played simultaneously tactics play no part in possible victory. It is all down to players and although East Midlands appeared the stronger team Northwest had greater strength in depth and possibly the better team spirit and ran out comfortable winners to become Regional Squad champions for the 2nd time in 3 years and take back to the Northwest the Karen Tonge cup. This event relies heavily on the ability of regional volunteers to keep matches moving using six tables per match with matches being played on an hourly basis and this year they excelled themselves and the programme was completed ahead of schedule. All worked tremendously hard and outstanding were two ladies with the southeast region. Northwest were crowned champions but the uncrowned champions were again the dedicated regional volunteers and coaches without whose input over seven demanding hours this event would not have been the resounding success that it was. Final positions were: 1st, Northwest, 2nd, East Midlands, 3rd, Southern, 4th, Southwest, 5th, London, 6th, Yorkshire, 7th Southeast, 8th West Midlands, 9th, Northern, 10th, Eastern



NETA NATIONAL RANKING LIST

TOP OF THE TABLE

1st June 2003 - List 110

Further details please ring Doreen Nightingale 01424 722525

Senior Men		
Pos	Name	Rating Flag
(1)	BAGGALEY, Andrew (BU)	4872 **
(2)	SYED, Matthew (BK) (SY)	4857 ***
(3)	HERBERT, Gareth (BK)	4837
(4)	PERRY, Alex (DV)	4728
(5)	COOKE, Alan (DY)	4712 **
(6)	YOUNG, Terry (BK)	4650 **
(7)	PKEAN, Carl (IW)	4552 ****
(8)	RUSHTON, Andrew (LA)	4479
(9)	BILLINGTON, Bradley (DY)	4470
(10)	EDEN, Andrew (LA)	4342 *
(11)	HOLLAND, John(Dy) (E)	4009
(12)	KENNY, Madhew (T)	3890
(13)	CLEMINSON, Peter (E)	3879
(14)	AGUNBIADE, Tajudeen (MI)	3859
(15)	TAYLOR, Jonathan (LA)	3858
(16)	BLAKE, Darren (SY)	3850 **
(17)	DRINKHALL, Bryn (CV)	3830
(18)	BRYANT, Craig (DV)	3830
(19)	SLADEN, Kris (E)	3800
(20)	HAMMOND, Eric (MI)	3796
(21)	YENNER, Ritchie (SX)	3793
(22)	HILTON, John (CH)	3786
(23)	BAKER, Gregory (ST)	3774
(24)	WURAOIA, Abdul (SY)	3759
(25)	JAMES, Michael (T)	3744
(26)	DRINKHALL, Paul (CY)	3736
(27)	BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA)	3723
(28)	DOOLDER, Kevin (LA)	3702
(29)	GODDARD, Justin (K)	3689
(30)	WHITING, Paul (DV)	3688
(31)	PYE, Leeroy (NK)	3680 **
(32)	KNIGHT, Darius (SY)	3647
(33)	CHARLES, Neil (MI)	3633
(34)	MOORE, Adrian (K)	3630
(35)	SMITH, Eddie (ND)	3625
(36)	YARNALL, Tim (NP)	3624
(37)	ROGERS, Chris (LE)	3604
(38)	MARSHALL, Peter (T)	3597
(39)	CHAN, Michael (SY)	3581
(40)	NEIL, Lee (NG)	3568
(41)	JOHNS, Brian (CH)	3551
(42)	WILKINSON, Andrew (ND)	3533
(43)	PAPANTONIOU, Costas (MI)	3522
(44)	SMITH, Mark Richard (Y)	3511
(45)	KENNETY, Joe (K) (E)	3508
(46)	ECKERSELEY, Nigel (SX)	3494
(47)	HUTCHINGS, Paul (LA)	3493
(48)	BARR, David (BK)	3489
(49)	TENDLER, Gary (E)	3482
(50)	DENNY, Stephen (Y)	3473
(51)	CUTLER, Tom (MI)	3457
(52)	WILLIAMS, Keith (LA)	3446
(53)	GREGORY, Christopher (SP)	3442
(54)	SATCHELL, Kevin (WI)	3425
(55)	MARSHALL, Michael (DU)	3416
(56)	ADAMS, Martin (BK)	3407
(57)	GREEN, Mark (NG)	3406
(58)	BROWN, Mark (K)	3389
(59)	HORNER, Daniel (CH)	3384
(60)	WHITEMAN, James (DV)	3379
(61)	MARPLES, Shaun (DY)	3370
(62)	GRIFFIN, Darren (GS)	3357
(63)	BARTRAM, Peter (SX)	3352
(64)	JAMIESON, Christopher (E)	3352
(65)	MCLEAN, Ian (NK)	3325
(66)	HORSFIELD, Andrew (Ys)(T)	3323
(67)	ATKINSON, David (CA)	3319
(68)	MCKAY, Nick (MI)	3317
(69)	BALLET, Steven (CY)	3315
(70)	CORBIN, Anthony (HE)	3314
(71)	THOMAS, Daniel (Y)	3310
(72)	GANNON, David (LE)	3305
(73)	BEADLES, Kevin (T)	3305
(74)	ROMANO, Mark (K)	3296
(75)	POUNTEY, Robert (SY)	3296
(76)	GELDER, Tony (DU)	3294
(77)	HARVEY, Dave (GS)	3290
(78)	FESEHATION, Daniel(MI)	3286
(79)	JOHNS, Mike (CH)	3280
(80)	WALSH, Jimmy (HE)	3274
(81)	HARDING, David (SY)	3266
(82)	ADEMAKINWA, Ayodele (E)	3262
(83)	SHORT, Mike (DY)	3255
(84)	JONAK, Jerome (K)	3252
(85)	GODBOLD, David (DU)	3243
(86)	HALL, Dominic (K)	3243
(87)	TILFORD, Richard (HA)	3240
(88)	PAYNE, Clive (HA)	3228
(89)	HEREDITH, Darryl (LA)	3222
(90)	GILES, Paul (CO)	3221
(91)	GREEN, Alex (LI)	3214
(92)	FORD, Christopher (LA)	3213
(93)	HORSFIELD, Stephen (YS)	3208
(94)	CLAYTON, Tony (DO)	3204
(95)	CARTHY, Clive (E)	3204
(96)	ROSENTHAL, Louis (CH)	3204
(97)	BUTLER, Mark (DO)	3187
(98)	RANKIN, John (LA)	3184
(99)	BARATY, Eli (MI)	3176
(100)	DABBS, Kieron (NP)	3175
(87)	BROWN, Janet (OX)	2791
(86)	STEDMAN, Sarah (SX)	2791
(78)	BURGESS, Suzanne (CH)	2791
(79)	CRICK, Lisa (BK)	2787
(80)	HALES, Linda (DO)	2787
(82)	DIGNIM, Margaret (WO)	2783
(81)	LANGFORD, Clare (CH)	2783
(84)	SORRENTINO, Annabelle	(C 2780)
(85)	GELDER, Shirley (DU)	2778
(75)	DAWSON, Marjorie (E)	2775
(88)	WHITE, Jean (LI)	2756
(89)	WILLIAMS, Jackie (K)	2743
(90)	VICKERS, Jane (DY)	2737
(83)	KNIGHTLEY, Gillian (BK)	2735
(96)	BROWN, Sarah (E)	2733
(92)	SPARKES, Aimee (SX)	2714
(94)	MAY, Elizabeth (DV)	2705
(95)	MUDGE, Kim (E)	2704
(97)	STEWART, Tina (K)	2703
(98)	SEAHOUSE, Sarah (HE)	2702
(99)	BROOKS, Diane (ST)	2700
(104)	REID, Lynda (WO)	2698
(100)	TODD, Nicole (E)	2694
(99)	JUDSON, Carol (Y)	2690
(101)	STEEL, Pauline (SX)	2687
(91)	BENTLEY, Ruth (NG)	2685
(11)	SPINK, Lauren (NK)	3422
(8)	SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LI)	3299
(9)	CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK)	3285
(13)	WILSON, Naomi (SO)	3230
(10)	WHITE, Nicola (Y)	3219
(15)	GRAHAM, Cherith (LA)	2971
(14)	WILSON, Claire (DU)	2912
(19)	WEIL, Emma (E)	2821
(16)	DENNETT, Elizabeth (CH)	2810
(17)	LANGFORD, Clare (CH)	2783
(18)	BROWN, Sarah (E)	2733
(20)	YARNLEY, Gemma (K)	2535
(23)	WANG, Sarra (E)	2524
(21)	HOWARD, Clara (CH)	2460
(22)	WALLER, Tanya (Y)	2358
(24)	SHUTT, Heather (Y)	2346
(25)	SENEVIRATNE, Anusha(K)	2317
(26)	HUBBARD, Joanne (K)	2273
(27)	TUCKER, Emily (BU)	2258
(28)	BELL, Amanda (Y)	2212
(31)	PARTON, Helen (DV)	2033
(34)	BARRETT, Michelle (DV)	1987
(32)	RADFORD, Lisa (DV)	1983
(30)	PERKS, Sarah (NG)	1980
(33)	BALDI, Rachel(Ys) (Y)	1926
(34)	DONNELLY, Stephanie (CY)	1855
(35)	DAVIS, Stella (GS)	1854
(37)	MEADS, Joanne (DU)	1840
(38)	VAJDI, Christina (SY)	1831
(36)	REES, Bethany (E)	1784
(39)	HEARD, Gemma (E)	1690
(41)	BEASTALL, Stacey (NG)	1589
(43)	PARKER, Hayley (CH)	1570
(42)	LIGHTOWLER, Katie (Y)	1563
(45)	BOGLEY, Lisa (BK)	1467
(44)	SKEGGS, Kelly (E)	1457
(47)	FARUQHAR, Melanie (BK)	1441
(46)	ROGERS, Gina (SX)	1422
(48)	SMITH, Sally (DV)	1391
(59)	VICKERS, Emma (DI)	1374
(50)	BYRON, Sophie (CH)	1365
(52)	HAYFIELD, Jordyn (CH)	1364
(51)	HALLS, Caroline (CH)	1345
(53)	PARNELL, Francesca (BU)	1309
(15)	BYRON, Sophie (CH)	1365
(17)	LAYFIELD, Jordyn (CH)	1364
(16)	HALLS, Caroline (CH)	1345
(14)	TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU)	1293
(19)	STRINGER, Jodie (K)	1215
(20)	PILGRIM, Rachel (WA)	1212
(22)	STEEPLES, Susie (LI)	1150
(21)	PILGRIM, Nikki (WA)	1145
(23)	LINZ, Caroline (BU) (SY)	1078
(24)	HOWE, Claire (SO)	1063
(28)	BIELEC, Sylvana (BK)	1044
Under 13 Boys		
Pos	Name	Rating Flag
(2)	DRINKHALL, Paul (CV)	3736
(1)	KNIGHT, Darius (SY)	3647
(3)	EVANS, Gavin (NG)	3350
(5)	NICHOLLS, Damien (SP)	1910
(6)	ROBINSON, Dorian (SY)	1712
(7)	REED, Darren (CO)	1703
(8)	SIMPSON, Mark (DU)	1553
(9)	EVANS, Myles (NG)	1421
(11)	DODDS, Matthew (YS)	1293
(10)	DORAN, Christopher (NP)	1265
Under 13 Girls		
Pos	Name	Rating Flag
(1)	SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LI)	3299
(2)	WANG, Sarra (E)	2524
(6)	VICKERS, Emma (DY)	1374
(4)	LAYFIELD, Jordyn (CH)	1364
(3)	HALLS, Caroline (CH)	1345
(5)	PILGRIM, Rachel (WA)	1212
(7)	JAMIESON, Mark (E)	1020
(8)	DENNETT, Fiona (CH)	1011
(9)	WHITTEHORN, Joy (DO)	702
(10)	GREENER, Rachel (DU)	538
Veteran Men		
Pos	Name	Rating Flag
(1)	HILTON, John (CH)	3786
(2)	ROGERS, Chris (LE)	3604
(4)	JOHNS, Brian (CH)	3551
(3)	PAPANTONIOU, Costas (MI)	3522
(5)	KENNETY, Joe (K) (E)	3508
(7)	ECKERSELEY, Nigel (SX)	3494
(6)	HUTCHINGS, Paul (LA)	3493
(8)	BARR, David (BK)	3489
(9)	WILLIAMS, Keith (LA)	3446
(10)	BARTRAM, Peter (SX)	3352
(11)	GANNON, David (LE)	3305
(12)	BEADLES, Kevin (T)	3305
(14)	ROMANO, Mark (K)	3296
(15)	GELDER, Tony (DU)	3294
(16)	HARVEY, Mike (CH)	3280
(18)	HARDING, David (SY)	3266
(20)	ADEMAKINWA, Ayodele (E)	3262
(19)	SHORT, Mike (DY)	3255
(21)	PAYNE, Clive (HA)	3228
(22)	GILES, Paul (CO)	3221
(25)	FORD, Christopher (LA)	3213
(23)	CARTHY, Clive (E)	3204
(26)	CLAYTON, Tony (DO)	3204
Veteran Women		
Pos	Name	Rating Flag
(1)	SMITH, Karen (LE)	3388
(3)	DUNNING, Jan (WO)	3287
(2)	SHORT, Elaine (DY)	3237
(4)	HARPER, Sandra (BD)	3186
(9)	MORLEY, Judy (GS)	3099
(6)	SHELDON, Helen (Y)	3063
(5)	BUOYE, Brenda (LA)	3063
(8)	MALTY, Margaret (NP)	3060
(7)	PEARCE, Diane (K)	3038
(10)	DURHAM, Jane (CY)	2993
(11)	SIMPSON, Linda (Y)	2987
(12)	BAWDEN, Marilyn (E)	2950
(13)	HARRISON, Jennifer (E)	2901
(14)	HARRISON, Jennifer (E)	2901
(15)	KING, Sheila (X)	2894
(16)	SCHOFIELD, Doreen (CH)	2879
(17)	PERNY, Penny (DU)	2877
(18)	SHALER, Eileen (LE)	2834
(19)	FLOWERDAN, Anne (E)	2811
(20)	DEWINTER, Elizabeth (CH)	2810
(21)	ROBINSON, Suzanne (GS)	2800
(22)	WHEALEY, Jennifer (E)	2802
(2)	WALKER, Georgina (NG)	4025
(4)	SIBLEY, Kelly (WA)	3861
(3)	PARKER, Joanna (SY)	3860
(5)	EMBLING, Abigail (E)	3799
(6)	STEWART, Kate (SO)	3704
(7)	SHEPHERD, Karen (CH)	3480
(2)	CLEMINSON, Peter (E)	3879
(3)	BRYANT, Craig (DV)	3830
(5)	DRINKHALL, Bryn (CV)	3830
(4)	BAKER, Gregory (ST)	3774
(8)	DRINKHALL, Paul (CV)	3736
(9)	BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA)	3723
(6)	KNIGHT, Darius (SY)	3647
(7)	YARNALL, Tim (NP)	3624
(13)	DENNY, Stephen (Y)	3473
(11)	GREGORY, Christopher (SP)	3442
(12)	HORNER, Daniel (CH)	3384
(10)	MARPLES, Shaun (DY)	3370
(14)	GREEN, Alex (LI)	3214
(18)	MEADS, David (DU)	3156
(17)	BROWN, Christopher (CO)	2916
(15)	EVANS, Bradley (BU) (NG)	2877
(16)	NOITCH, Simon (Y)	2853
(19)	LEIGHTON, Andrew (DU)	2836
(20)	LALLY, Keiran (E)	2760
(22)	MOSS, Richard (Y)	2720
(31)	STAINES, Matthew (E)	2626
(25)	PAGE, Tom (CH)	2569
(23)	CARTWRIGHT, Neil (DO)	2564
(21)	HARLEY, John (K)	2561
(15)	HAYES, David (BU)	2555
(26)	PANG, Daniel (NP)	2550
(41)	KODICK, Jacob (CO)	2478
(30)	NICHOLLS, Ashley (SP)	2415
(27)	LEMON, Robert (SY)	2410
(29)	COONEY, William (DY)	2369
(33)	EVANS, Gavin (NG)	2350
(32)	REES, Daniel (E)	2320
(34)	ARMSTRONG, Marc (MI)	2281
(35)	PEEBLES, Robin (NG)	2257
(47)	MILTON, James (BU)	2257
(36)	HALLING, Tony (E)	2242
(37)	SHALAEI, Harry (GS)	2235
(44)	REED, Daniel (CY)	2226
(38)	MOORE, Paul (SY)	2210
(43)	ROBERTS, Stephen (YS)	2198
(40)	SHARP, Evan (SY)	2180
(40)	POWELL, Neil (CH)	2153
(42)	WOODHEAD, Andrew (T)	2143
(48)	FROST, Adam (DY)	2118
(45)	GIBBS, Shaun (DV)	2099
(50)	WESLEY, Richard (NG)	2097
(49)	CANNON, Samuel (MI)	2031
(53)	HALL, Lewis, Christopher (SY)	2020
(51)	BARLOW, Ben (YS)	1961
(56)	PANG, Dickson (NP)	1956
Junior Girls		
Pos	Name	Rating Flag
(2)	WALKER, Georgina (NG)	4025
(4)	SIBLEY, Kelly (WA)	3861
(3)	PARKER, Joanna (SY)	3860
(5)	EMBLING, Abigail (E)	3799
(6)	STEWART, Kate (SO)	3704
(7)	SHEPHERD, Karen (CH)	3480
(3)	WALKER, Georgina (NG)	4025
(2)	PARKER, Katy (LA)	4020
(4)	LOWER, Helen (ST)	3947
(6)	SIBLEY, Kelly (WA)	3861
(5)	PARKER, Joanna (SY)	3860
(7)	HOLT, Andrea (LA)	3826
(9)	EMBLING, Abigail (E)	3799
(10)	STEWART, Kate (SO)	3704
(11)	OWOLAABI, Kubrat (MI)	3652
(13)	BAWDEN, Natalie (E)	3627
(14)	DURRANT, Louise (NG)	3500
(15)	SHEPHERD, Karen (CH)	3480
(16)	CLARK, Sally (Y)	3460
(17)	THORNTON, Lindsey (LA)	3434
(29)	SPINK, Lauren (NK)	3422
(18)	SMITH, Karen (LE)	3388
(20)	SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LI)	3299
(26)	HUNTING, Jan (WO)	3287
(21)	CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK)	3285
(22)	WESTON, Sally (SX)	3284
(24)	HARRIS, Jill (ST)	3269
(27)	NEWNS, Clare (CH)	3249
(25)	SHORT, Elaine (DY)	3237
(28)	COHEN, Michele (AV)	3233
(38)	WILSON, Naomi (SO)	3230
(30)	KEAST, Lesley (LI)	3226
(31)	ROBERTS, Joanna (Y)	3223
(23)	WHITE, Nicola (Y)	3219
(33)	HARPER, Sandra (BD)	3186
(34)	YARDY, Hannah (E)	3167
(35)	RAINTON, Rosemary (SX)	3158
(36)	SPARKES, Rebecca (SK)	3134
(37)	BONGERS, Jose (ST)	3122
(39)	BALDI, Andrea(Ys) (Y)	3119
(51)	MORLEY, Judy (GS)	3099
(41)	HOWARD, Alice (CH)	3098
(42)	HAREDRAM, Aparna (MI)	3092
(40)	BRISTOW, Angie (K)	3071
(43)	BUOYE, Brenda (LA)	3063
(45)	SHIELDS, Helen (Y)	3063
(47)	MALTY, Margaret (NP)	3060
(46)	HURLING, Emma (HE)	3058
(49)	LLOYD, Gemma (CH)	3046
(48)	WANG, Lucy (E)	3043
(44)	PEARCE, Diane (K)	3038
(50)	LAMBERT, Helen (DV)	3023
(52)	DURHAM, Jane (CY)	2993
(53)	HARRISON, Linda (Y)	2987
(54)	HURRELL, Rebecca (MI)	2978
(60)	GRAHAM, Cherith (LA)	2971
(62)	SMITH, Sarah (MI)	2953
(55)	BROWN, Grace (E)	2951
(56)	BAWDEN, Marilyn (E)	2950
(57)	INGHAM, Katy (CH)	2943
(58)	MARLING, Samantha (MI)	2942

Leopard

Dr. Neubauer

TORNADO
ULTRA

Dr. Neubauer

Super Block

Dr. Neubauer

The Wall

FOUR NEW RUBBERS FROM Dr. NEUBAUER

FORMER world veteran champion Herbert Neubauer has developed four new pimples rubbers for the coming season, two short and two long. They should be available from the 1st July.

The two new short pimples rubbers are an innovative milestone for this type of rubber, with Dr. Neubauer Tornado you will reach new dimensions of rotation whilst with Leopard when blocking topspin or smash it will produce very disturbing returns.

Both the two new long pimples rubbers have smooth frictionless pimple surface, which with Super Block is ideal for close to the table blocking and lifting. Moreover you can attack chopped balls, producing wobbling returns. You can also counter-attack with 1mm sponge. The Wall, which is a breakthrough in modern defensive play, guarantees very good control in all defensive strokes, and maximum spin reversal on topspin. It is recommended to use 'The Wall' without sponge as it is already quite fast.

RUBBER TEST

These four rubbers were tested on a Dr. Neubauer Combination blade, (as at the time of going to press his two new exciting balsa wood blades were not available for testing, but they will be experimented with in time for the September/October issue of TTN).

The test tried the long pimple on the lower side and the short on the other. TORNADO 1.5mm short pimples - Very versatile rubber more suit to the rolling

TRADE PAGE

type player, with lots of spin, especially service. It's great for topspin.

LEOPARD 1.5mm short pimples - Good control, more a defensive rubber than Tornado, plus good blocking rubber, ideal for the allrounder.

THE WALL OX long pimples - Very good control for defense and occasional attack. It cuts and floats well. If you go to the back of the court and cut hard, the ball keeps very low after contact with the table. (Reminiscent to Toni Hold with the small ball).

SUPER BLOCK OX long pimples good for attack and, as the name suggests, blocking close to the table. Less float than The Wall, but much more consistent to hit with.



STIGA PROMOTION AT SELFRIDGES

Sales of the new Stiga range were outstanding and the promotion was a major success. Pictured above with a visitor (centre) are Paul Hydes (left), and ALAN HYDES the Stiga UK distributor and 4 times English & Commonwealth Gold Medallist

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

ORGANISOR: GRANT SOLDER (Sponsored by Stiga)

Aged 30, former professional TT player. Currently a professional TT Coach Former: Former England No. 1 Junior, English Under 18 Champion and Spanish Open Champion. Grant has represented England at junior and senior level. ETTA Qualified Coach.

**COURSE DIRECTOR:
NICKY JARVIS**
Professional TT Coach Former:
England No. 1, World No.27,
European No. 14, National Coach.
Qualified ETTA Coach.

**COURSE COACH:
DESMOND DOUGLAS**
Professional TT Coach Former:
England No. 1, World No.7,
European No.2, European Top 12
Champion & Commonwealth
Champion

**ENGLAND TABLE TENNIS
PSYCHOLOGIST: MARK BAWDEN**
Current England Team Sports Psychologist, working
with England's leading players.

COST PER PERSON: £249 NON-RESIDENTIAL, £349 RESIDENTIAL
Includes accommodation at the Palms Hotel, Saturday, Sunday & Monday evenings, plus
breakfast, lunch & dinner. The rooms have en-suite and satellite TV.

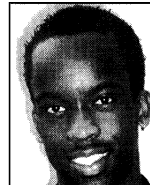
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**COURSE COACH:
ANDREW EDEN**
Professional TT Coach England
International. Former: England
No.1 Junior & Junior Champion.
Commonwealth Games
medallist.

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

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



SPECTACULAR LINE-UP FOR THE CONTINENTAL MASTERS

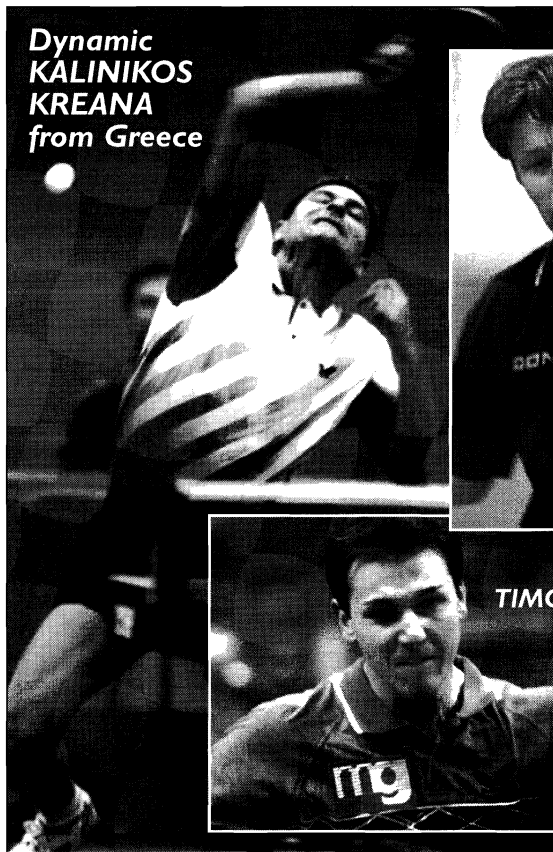
JAN-OVE WALDNER indisputably the greatest player in the history of table tennis has confirmed his participation in the Continental Masters. The legendary former two times world champion is gunning for a second Olympic gold medal in Athens in 2004 and is already in training for the Sheffield showdown.

The last time the Swede played in this country he produced one of the most mesmerising performances ever seen when he captured the world title in Manchester in 1997 without dropping a single game.

Kalinikos Kreanga, the most spectacular away-from-the-table looper in the world, has also accepted an invitation. The losing semi-finalist at this year's World Championships is capable of beating anyone in the world – as he demonstrated in his triumph over the heavily fancied Vladimir Samsonov in Paris. But it is his crashing, all action style that has captivated audiences around the world.

His strokes are almost as long as his tiny frame and yet he willingly retreats to the deep and unleashes arcing loops that induce sharp intakes of breath from his fellow professionals.

Also making the journey to Sheffield is Chen Weixing, the defensive player formerly of China and now playing out of Austria who reached the quarter-finals of the recent world championships. His matches in Paris were considered to be amongst the most entertaining – the key to his success being his beguiling capacity to turn defence into attack from all areas of the court. Nobody in the line-



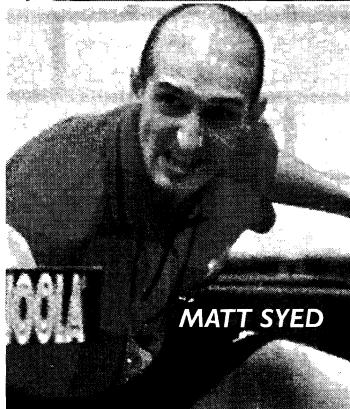
Dynamic KALINIKOS KREANGA from Greece

JAN-OVE WALDNER

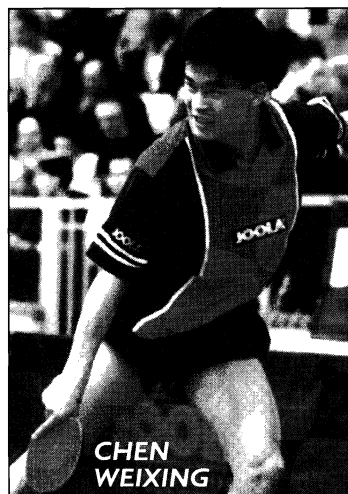
TIMO BOLL



VLADIMIR SAMSONOV



MATT SYED



CHEN WEIXING

up will relish the possibility of facing an in-form Chen.

Alongside Waldner, Kreanga and Chen are Timo Boll, Vladimir Samsonov and Matthew Syed. There is little doubt that this is the most illustrious line-up of players ever assembled for an invitation competition. The concept for the event has evolved over the past couple of months – instead of showing the best from each continent the idea is now to

showcase the greatest and most entertaining players on the planet. And given the players you can be sure that Sheffield will be playing host to a memorable competition.

The six-man event will be played according to a knockout format comprising two quarter-finals, two semi-finals and a final, with all players drawn. A Super Kids Challenge match will be contested in advance of the final. Play commences at 6.30pm. The Crucible theatre in Sheffield, with its intimate and gladiatorial configuration is a worthy setting for what should be a fabulous evening of table tennis.

The ETTA would like to thank Paul Andrews, Managing Director of Ocean International Communications, for his energetic input into the commercial structuring of the competition as well as tireless assistance on event planning. He is responsible for securing the participation of Waldner, Kreanga and Samsonov. Paul will be familiar to many competition players as the sponsor of last year's highly successful Sussex Grand

Prix. Rumour has it that he has even more ambitious plans for next year's Sussex event. More in the next edition.

Seats with "unrestricted" viewing sold out within weeks of going on sale. In consequence, sales were put on hold at the beginning of June to determine if some slight adjustments might bring more seats into full view. The ETTA is delighted to announce that approximately 200 new seats are now available and have been held back until June 27th to enable Table Tennis News and ETTA Website readers to be a part of this glittering event. Please try to book as soon as possible.

A hundred or so tickets are still available at £5. These seats have a perfectly unrestricted view of the table and both players. The only restriction on viewing occurs if the player at the far side of the table retreats to the barriers. Most of the action will be perfectly visible – and of course the seats will provide all the atmosphere. At £5 a real bargain. Please talk to the Crucible Box Office for more information.

CALENDAR

JULY		
3rd-6th	USA Open	Fort Lauderdale
12th-13th	Regional Training	
13th	Whitchurch 2 Star Senior Super 8	
20th	Whitchurch Junior 2 Star	
26th	National Council	
AUGUST		
7th-10th	ITTF Pro Tour - Malaysia Open	
9th	Continental Masters - The Crucible	Sheffield
14th-17th	ITTF Pro Tour - Singapore Open	
16th-17th	Regional Training	
19th-23rd	ITTF World Junior Circuit	Taiyuan, China
23rd-24th	ETTA Butterfly Grand Prix City of Liverpool Open	Liverpool
31st	British League (1) Premier Division	
SEPTEMBER		
4th-7th	ITTF Pro Tour - Korea Open	Seoul, Korea
4th-7th	ITTF World Junior Circuit	San Diego, USA
6th-7th	Womens British League (1)	
6th-7th	VETTS North Eastern Masters	
11th-14th	ITTF Pro Tour - China Open	
11th-14th	ITTF World Junior Circuit	Brazil
13th	Chesham Junior 2 Star	
13th-14th	Regional Training	
13th-14th	ETTA Teacher & Training Conference	
13th-14th	British League Weekend (1)	
14th	British League (2) Premier Division	
18th-21st	ITTF Pro Tour - Japan Open	Kobe, Japan
20th	County Championships (1) Cadet, Junior, Senior & Veteran	
21st	Preliminary Trials	
25th-28th	ITTF World Junior Circuit	New Zealand
27th	Essex Junior 4 Star	
28th	Essex Cadet 4 Star	
28th	British League (3) Premier Division	
OCTOBER		
4th	Stiga Blackpool Cadet 4 Star	Liverpool
4th-5th	VETTS Midlands Masters	
4th-5th	ETTA Butterfly Grand Prix (TBA)	
5th	Stiga Blackpool Junior 4 Star	Liverpool
9th-12th	ITTF Mens World Cup	
11th	County Championships (2) Cadet, Junior, Senior & Veterans	

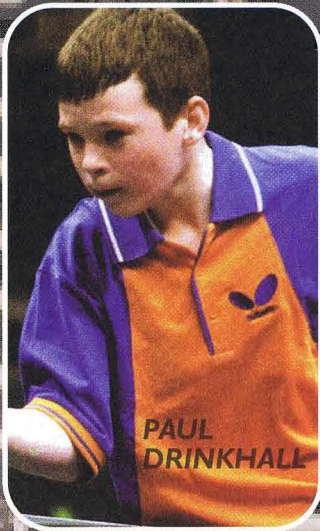
TABLE TENNIS NEWS 2003/2004 SEASON COPY DATES

ISSUE	COPY DATES
SEPT/OCT 2003	15th AUGUST 2003
NOVEMBER 2003	1st OCTOBER 2003
DECEMBER 2003	1st NOVEMBER 2003
JAN./FEB.2004	1st JANUARY 2004
MARCH 2004	1st FEBRUARY 2004
APRIL 2004	1st MARCH 2004
MAY 2004	1st APRIL 2004
JUNE/JULY 2004	15th MAY 2004

THE ETTA WEBSITE

www.etta.co.uk

CHAMPION IN THE MAKING



Brian Halliday investigates the progress of Paul Drinkhall

The Ormesby Club of Cleveland has a rich history of producing world class players. Not an overstatement when the list includes Denis Neale, Nicky Jarvis and Carole Moore. This star trio have not been content on sitting around dwelling on the triumphs of yesteryear and in fact all are still actively engaged in coaching the youngsters of the 21st century.

Some 26 years ago Carole Moore (nee Knight) electrified English supporters when, in the World Championships in Birmingham, she took the reigning World Champion Pak Yun Sun of Korea right to the wire. Perhaps her best performance in a star studded career. These days Carole brings that dedication to her role as one of the very best coaches on the European scene.

Every once in a while a young player will arrive that has that special something so difficult to define. Talent, application, will to win, flair, technique, capacity for hard work, ability to listen all necessary attributes, but without that special X factor then the very top level in our sport will not be attainable. For Carole the moment of truth arrived when Paul Drinkhall walked through the door. She had already seen the budding expertise of his brother Bryn, who was showing signs of being a class act in his own right, but here was a lad who seemed to have a good feel for the ball. "From the start it was evident that Paul had good hand and eye co-ordination" she said.

The rapport that a coach has with a player must extend to the family and Andy and Karen Drinkhall have given their sons maximum encouragement without resorting to the overpowering arrogance that has blighted so many promising table tennis careers. Sport is littered with young starlets who burn out through over zealous coaches and over enthusiastic parents. Paul seems lucky in that in these early years he is being taught the right game always with a touch of humility. Only the World Champion has cause for arrogance, everyone else can lose to someone.

Paul Drinkhall, who is 13 years old, spent his early school days at Loftus Primary near his home town of Saltburn on Sea. Racket sport expertise seems to run in the family as his father, Andy, plays a mean game of Badminton when he finishes work in his job as a potash miner. Maybe the main hereditary skills have been handed down from his grandfather who was a good table tennis player himself. Although Paul's life now centres around his chosen sport he retains a healthy interest in most other sports,

especially football, where Manchester United is his first love.

Paul is a likeable young lad, easy going and pretty laid back. It is on the table that his personality changes and that in-built will to win comes to the fore, usually to the dismay of his opponents.

Well just how good is he? What does the future hold? Carole Moore says about his prospects " He has the potential to be in the top 20 on the world senior list." Ex World Champion Stellan Bengtsson was even more enthusiastic. The Swede reported that Paul and his contemporaries at Nottingham are the best in their age group in Europe "and perhaps the best in the world". OK so the knockers and whingers will say it is too early to assess what exactly the future might hold, but all those who have seen him perform at his best report a rare talent indeed. Too often our sport lets potential stars slip through its fingers by denying gifted youngsters the maximum opportunity to develop to their full potential. The set up at Nottingham is right for Paul and his team mates. You only reach the top with a combination of world class coaches and world class practice partners. England has the facility to nurture and develop real champions. A change in policy, with the inevitable reduction in funding, would mean the continuation of sub standard international results at world level. Paul and his colleagues have started a process which heralds a new era in the sport.

Darius Knight is to the South what Paul is to the North of England. Great friends off the table but deadly rivals when the chips are really down. Shades of his coach Carol and her playing rivalry with our own ex European Champion Jill Parker. Years ago there was the on going debate about Barna and Bergmann, and in years to come we may see a similar arguments as to the merits of Drinkhall and Knight. Now they are already seasoned travellers all over the world - even seven weeks in China. The trophies are already piling up, the Italian Open Under 12, the Safirs International event in Sweden, and the Portugal Junior team event where his massive contribution ensured victory.

When asked about his ambitions for the future Paul said that his main aim was to be Olympic Champion first and World Champion second. Pie in the sky? Not really. We have had players over the last twenty years who, as juniors, were able to beat the best in their age group, certainly in Europe, but were never quite able to carry it through to the senior ranks. Make no mistake Paul is special and deserves the ongoing support of all of us to enable him to reach his goals.

