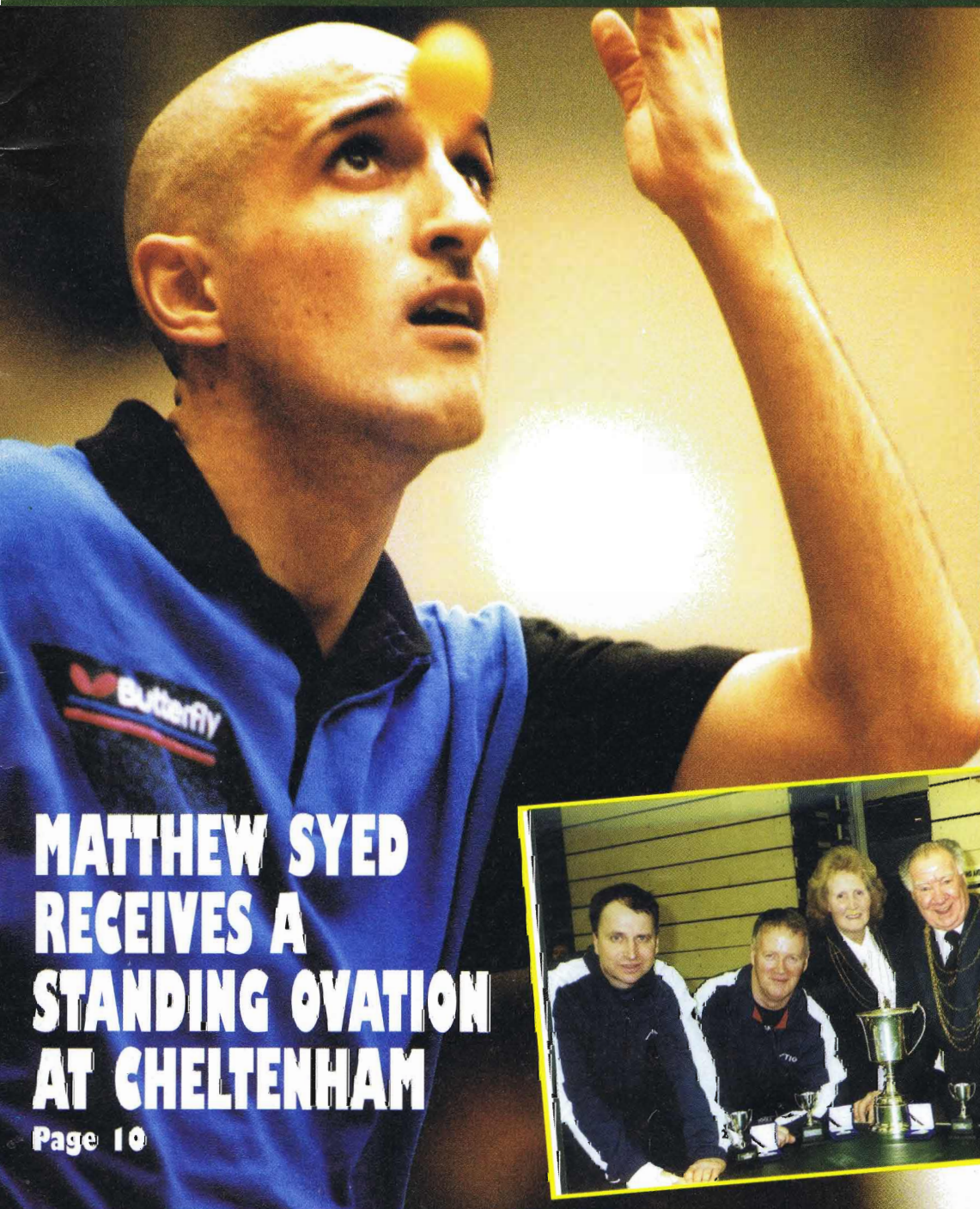


TABLE TENNIS NEWS

£2.95

No.291

MARCH 2003



**MATTHEW SYED
RECEIVES A
STANDING OVATION
AT CHELTENHAM**

Page 10

STOP PRESS



**NICOLA DEATON
RETIRES FROM
INTERNATIONAL
TABLE TENNIS**

**POLICE
CHASE
RECORD**
Pages 11



STIGA®

STIGA® is a registered trademark of Stiga AB, Sweden

**AIR-CAPSULE
SYSTEM**

www.tabletennis.se



2 Market Street, Blyth. Tel. 01670 351435.
Official Travel Agents.



91A Ashford Road, Eastbourne,
Tel. 01323 430036. Official Printers

LES SMITH
TROPHIES AND ENGRAVING
Stroud, Gloucestershire Tel. 01453 886686
Official Trophy Suppliers



90 Martins Lane, Northampton, NN4 6DJ
Tel: 01604 762711 - Suppliers of exciting
& innovative teaching & coaching aids



Rauter House, 1 Sybron Way, Millbrook
Business Park, Jarvis Brook, TN6 3DZ
Tel 0870 8483001



Acorn House, Forstal Road,
Aylesford, Kent ME20 7AF
Tel 01622 882233



perkinslade

3 Broadway, Broad St. Birmingham B15 1BQ
Tel: 0121 698 8000 Fax: 0121 625 9000



Joola Equipment & balls for all
ETTA National Tournaments 2000-2003



England Team clothing 2000-2004
Grand Prix 2000-2003
Junior/Vets/Womens British League 2000-2003



Ball Supplier
British League 2002-2004



Ball Supplier - Grand Prix 2000-2003
Junior/Vets/Womens Brit. League 2000-2003
Junior/Cadet National League 2002-2003



Ball Supplier
County Championships 2002-2005

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

Contents

CHATTERBOX 04
Katy Parker takes a year off

FROM THE CHAIR 05
Table tennis on television

POSTBAG 07
Letters to the Editor

COVER STORY 10
Standing ovation for Matthew Syed

BUTTERFLY GRAND PRIX 12
Jenkins beats Chinese at Bournemouth

TIMO BOLL 14
The vanguard of a new breed

BRITISH LEAGUE PREMIER 21
DML win their first game

EUROPEAN & WORLD NEWS 28
Table tennis alive and well in Grenada

TTN EXTRA
A supplement including 'County Notes',
'Results' and much more.

FRONT COVER MAIN PHOTOGRAPH
MATTHEW SYED
picture by: John Wood



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



SPORT
ENGLAND
LOTTERY FUNDED



Jarvis Sports



TABLE TENNIS NEWS & TTN EXTRA

The Official Magazine of the
English Table Tennis Association

Issue No.291
March 2003

Publisher

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

Editor & Photographer

John FA.Wood
37 Duporth Road, Charlestown,
St.Austell, Cornwall PL25 3NU
Telephone/Fax: 01726 77527
Mobile: 07786 444878
email: johnwood@macace.co.uk

Editor of TTN Extra

Ken Muhr
ETTA Headquarters, Hastings

Advertisements

Richard Yule
ETTA Headquarters, Hastings

Subscription & Distribution

Robert Sinclair
ETTA Headquarters, Hastings

Subscription Rates

UK - £20, Europe - £32,
Rest of the World - £37

Printer

Printed in the UK by
Nima Print & Design Services,
91a Ashford Road, Eastbourne,
East Sussex BN21 3TE
Telephone: 01323 430036

Unsolicited articles are welcome for possible publication but the
English Table Tennis Association will accept no responsibility for
the return of manuscripts and/or photographs.

Whilst every effort is taken to ensure that reports and facts
are correct at the time of going to press no responsibility will be
accepted by the ETTA should errors be published, either for errors
or matters arising as a result.

The views expressed in Table Tennis News are those of the
contributors and are not necessarily official ETTA policy. Similarly
TTN accepts advertisements in good faith, but cannot accept
responsibility for the goods or services described in
advertisements. If you have any queries, these should be addressed
directly to the advertiser.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be
reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means,
electronic or mechanical including photocopying, recording or any
information storage or retrieval system without the prior written
consent of the publisher.

KATY PARKER TAKES YEAR OFF

EIGHTEEN year old Katy Parker (Preston, Lancashire), seeded two in the women's singles, has officially withdrawn from the National Senior Championships being held at Ponds Forge International Sports Centre, Sheffield from 28th February to 2nd March.

Katy, the current England senior No.2, who for two months (last December and January) was ranked top, has been national champion in all age groups up to junior. Apparently unburdened by her famous table tennis family – her mother is the former 1976 European champion Jill (Hammersley) Parker and father Don has been the England manager – Katy was the youngest player ever to represent England at a world championship (at Manchester 1997, when she was only 12). Her mixed chop-and-hit game appeared to have matured over the last two seasons: she was unbeaten in the girls' team event of the 2002 European Youth Championships in Moscow, and with Matthew Syed reached the mixed doubles quarter-



finals of the Manchester Commonwealth Games.

However, she has played table tennis full-time since taking her GCSEs in 2001, taking a year in her preparations for the Commonwealth Games, and playing professionally in Sweden last year and in Germany this year. Now she has decided to take a break from table tennis for the first time since leaving school, using her time out to consider whether to continue her table tennis career, or university or other career possibilities.

Her father Don stressed that there were no bad feelings: "Katy has enjoyed table tennis, and there has been no falling out with the ETTA and the National Training Centre, no controversy. But she has had 7 intense years in the sport, and in her last few seasons as a junior, she was playing for England at both junior and senior level. It has been on her mind to have a break since the beginning of the year, and two weeks ago she discussed this with national coach Alan Cooke and Performance Director Steen Kyst Hansen.

There is not much money in women's table tennis, unless you are in the top 10 in Europe, and to compete at the highest level you must give it 100%, training 5-6 times a week. Being able to step away for a time will give Katy the chance to assess and re-evaluate her life. Jill and I just want Katy to be happy in whatever she does, whether it is table tennis or something else".

WALKER REACHES LAST 8 IN SWEDEN

Georgina Walker Quarter-finalist in World Junior Circuit, Sweden

WOODY'S World

THIS edition of Table Tennis News sadly, announces the retirement from international table tennis of England's No.1 ranked player Nicola Deaton, and a sabbatical year-out from table tennis by 18 year old Katy Parker.

As Editor and photographer of TTN, I have witnessed the development and rapid progress of both these young ladies at home and abroad, and I thank them on behalf of English table tennis for their efforts in improving the status of the sport in England.

Matthew Syed did England proud once again by winning a fantastic battle, to keep the country in a European Mens League match against Romania, at Cheltenham last month.

John Wood

England no.2 junior, Georgina Walker, 17, from Kirby-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, boosted her National Championships prospects by reaching the girls' singles quarter-finals of the ITTF Safir's World Junior Circuit tournament, being played in Orebro, Sweden. She lost 3-11, 3-11, 9-11, 9-11 to top seed Georgina Pota (Hungary). Bryn Drinkhall (Cleveland) reached the last 32 of the junior boys' singles, going down 4-0 to Minory Muramori (Japan), while in the cadet girls' ranking tournament (for group losers), Warwickshire's Kelly Sibley came runner-up to Gabriela Smetek of Poland, to whom she lost 4-0.

TABLE TENNIS RECOGNISED FOR WORK ON RACIAL EQUALITY IN SPORT

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

PLEASE NOTE

THE NEW ADDRESS & TELEPHONE NUMBER OF
JOHN WOOD
EDITOR OF TABLE TENNIS NEWS
37 DUPORTH ROAD,
CHARLESTOWN, ST.AUSTELL,
CORNWALL PL25 3NU
Telephone: 01726 77527
mobile & email remain the same

TABLE TENNIS ON TELEVISION



Alan Ransome OBE,
Chairman of the ETTA

BBC Television have agreed to broadcast a new table tennis competition, the Continental Masters. Following the success of the Commonwealth Masters played at Wembley last year, the Continental event will follow the same format and will be staged at either Wembley Conference Centre or the Crucible theatre in Sheffield in August.

Amongst the players who have been invited are - the current World No. 1, Timo Boll from Germany, who is providing the greatest threat at the present time to the Asians, one of the top Chinese players to be named after the World championships in Paris in May, and Segun Toriola who won the Commonwealth Games gold medal in Manchester. Also included on the invitation list is Matthew Syed our own No. 1 whose style of play delights the spectators and television audiences alike. There will also be a qualifying competition to include a second British player amongst the final six.

As with the Commonwealth Masters, all the play will take place over three to four hours and is scheduled for Saturday, 9th August with a full hour being shown on BBC Grandstand the following day, 10th August. This event is being jointly organised by Matthew Syed and the ETTA. Information about tickets and the details of the venue will be published in the next issue of Table Tennis News and will be publicised through the ETTA's offices and website.

NEW ETTA WEBSITE

The ETTA have been negotiating with a number of potential partners to develop and launch a new website for the sport in this country. After a great deal of discussion the Association have selected SportsFocus as their internet partner. SportsFocus are part of Touch PLC and have all the advanced technology and design capability to make the ETTA website one of the best in the sport.

The ETTA's Information



DUANG YONG JUN of Singapore, who beat Matthew Syed in the final of the PPP healthcare Commonwealth Masters at Wembley

Technology Committee Chairman, Malcolm Macfarlane, is developing the ideas currently with SportsFocus and would welcome any suggestions and ideas that members would like to see on the website. Malcolm is already receiving quite a number of very useful contributions and these are being included within the

discussions with our new partner. The target date for the launch of the new website is April/May of this year.

In conjunction with the current ETTA election campaign I have been speaking to many members over the last few weeks and there is no doubt that the introduction of the new website will be welcomed warmly

across the sport.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The next major event on the international calendar is the European Championships in Courmayeur in Italy from 25 March until 6 April. The Championships are being broadcast on the Eurosport television channel which can be accessed by several million viewers in the UK.

This Championship may be the last that includes both a full team event in which all 50 (approx) ETTU member associations participate with their teams as there is a proposal from the ETTU to have a much smaller and shorter team event in future championships followed by the five individual competitions.

Alan Ransome, O.B.E.
ETTA Chairman

TABLE TENNIS ON TV

European Championships in Italy

TV coverage on Eurosport is planned for:

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

TV coverage on Eurosport is also planned for:

World Championships in Paris

The provisional times of the coverage are as follows:

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

“WHY I DECIDED TO TAKE A BREAK”

AFTER careful consideration I've come to the decision to take a break from table tennis. I've been competing for both junior and senior teams for the last 3-4 years, playing my first World Championships at 12 and first European Championships at 15. Like most sportsmen and women I had goals in what I wanted to achieve. I achieved my first goal, which was to be number one at every age group, but my second goal seems a million miles away- to play in the Olympics, writes Katy Parker.

Speaking to other athletes at the Commonwealth Games it became clear to me that table tennis is a sport that needs a lot of training and unfortunately there aren't the financial rewards. As table tennis is such a minor sport people don't understand all the hard work that has to be put in. Table tennis has enabled me to gain many life experiences, more than most people my age. I have managed to travel around the world, experiencing many different cultures and traditions.

After achieving 9 GCSE's (A-C) I decided not to carry on with my education but to play table tennis full time, so I could give my best at my

final European Youths and at the Commonwealth Games. I played at the top of my game at the European Youths in Russia, I managed to be unbeaten in the team event. Also that year I made 2 quarter finals at the Commonwealth Games. I was very pleased with my table tennis but overall I was quite unhappy. I was living away from home and seemed to be living out of a suitcase I hadn't had a proper break for a long time.

Following the World Class performance director's advice I chose to play for a club in Sweden last year and am currently playing for a club in Germany. Many people have been critical about me not playing in many English tournaments, which I feel is unfair as I haven't missed any tournaments or matches on the international program, both junior and senior. I also think it is unfair that table tennis players aren't better funded. Therefore I have taken a break to assess the future both table tennis wise and career wise.

All the national team coaches had been top class. As much as they said to me I can be a good player, I don't feel at this period of my life that I can give it my all as I have lost the enjoyment and for me that is the most important aspect of

being a top class player. I have been dedicated to this sport for many years now. Part of me wants to carry on playing to see how good I can be but another part of me is looking forward into the future for a career in which I can financially support myself. At the moment the only career in table tennis is in coaching and I don't feel at 18 the need to coach when hopefully there is still room for improvement in my own game.

To be good at table tennis, personally I think it has to take up 80% of your time and it undoubtedly has to be your number one priority. For me now my number one priority is to go University and hopefully get a degree.

I admire the people who have made it in table tennis as I know how hard it is to make it and how committed you have to be. Many people don't understand all the hard work that has to put in to be a good player, but I'm sure many people will agree that it is tough.

When I was 14 years of age my number one priority was table tennis. However like most 18-year-old girls I have started to realise there are more things to life than table tennis. Whilst you can appreciate at the age of 14 my only concern was being the best I could possibly be at

table tennis. At 18 I realised that I couldn't devote myself fully to table tennis as I had other important concerns in my life, such as how I was going to go about pursuing a career in the future.

It was a big decision for me to take a break from table tennis however I don't think I will lose out a great deal if I decide to start again as I'm only in my first year as a senior and I feel it's not such an important year. There have been many factors why I decided to take a break. I had been training at the national centre in Nottingham for all of last year and part time this year. I'm not criticising the centre in any way, as all the coaches and staff were fantastic, but for me it was far too intense. All I had in my life was table tennis and I couldn't deal with it for much longer. I had the same routine day in day out, practise 9.30-12 and then again at 4.00-6.30. To be a top player though, those are the sort of hours you have to put in. That is when I realised that at this stage of my life it's not all that I wanted. I have no regrets whatsoever about playing table tennis as it has enabled me to have some of the best times of my life so far, but for now I feel it's the right time for me to take a break with the option of returning to the game in the future.

POSTBAG

SHARP WORDS

REPLYING to David Lomas in the last edition of TTN I wonder if he during his career as a schoolmaster, was completely free of mistakes. We all make errors, he has even referred to my "interview with John Prean" when it was with Carl Prean! So that is one-all between us. It is easy to sit back and snipe from behind the front-lines. I am in the trenches, writing up to a thousand words on table tennis a day on average. Nothing is perfect.

To his other points - on the 2004 world team event in Doha, Qatar, the date moved from April to March could easily be said to be moved either back or forward - you are nipping Mr Lomas. Deformation instead of defamation was a typographical error not down to me, I know the difference.

I concede that Shane Warne is a leg-spinner, not off-break. Thanks heavens Mr Lomas is not "becoming embroiled in the elections, that's the last thing we would want to happen!"

Finally, a reminder that my Courtside column is intended to contain sharp comments. It may even contain deliberate errors to see if the readers are awake after reading some of the other parts of this magazine!

*John Woodford
Eastbourne, Sussex*

DEMOCRACY

DICTIONARY definition: A form of government in which the power is vested in the people.

Domont League meeting, vote for future chairman of the ETTA, Basil or Cecil. Committee vote 6 for each, chairman votes for Cecil. League representative goes to County meeting and votes for Cecil, again votes are even 8 each. Chairman's casting vote goes to Basil. If committee's votes are reflective of 2000 County members, half have no say in their Association's vote. I can vote in a referendum, vote in the company I have shares in, but even if I attend the AGM, I cannot vote in our future.

The game of table tennis is a family game, from 9 to 90. The future: Year 2012, the ETTA AGM pass the rule that all leagues will play to ITTF Rule of 11up. Domont League Division 2 Graystoke 'A' team of father Peter Smith and his two sons Robert and John. The League AGM vote to stay with 21up and form the Domont Ping Pong Association. The father tells his two sons that they are to play. The mother agrees.

A rival informs the ETTA that John is playing in the new Association.

Poor John he is No.4 cadet in England, he is informed that he will not be allowed to compete in tournaments if he plays with dad's team. Dad is furious, he tells John you will play for us, I will still take you to tournaments. John grew up learning to respect his parents, after all if he is not playing in a table tennis league what shall he do? Disobey his parents, or quit the game he loves? After all he was told that it was a family game.

On all important issues there should always be a referendum, with an independent referee. One person one vote - that's democracy.

Sorry to say I am old fashioned and I love the sport which is fading away to oblivion.

Although I play 11up I do still prefer 21up, scoring, playing and coaching, but I know it is the future.

*Tony Pacitto
Shirland, Derbyshire*

RETIREMENT OF JOHN REED

THE Barrow & District Table Tennis League marked the retirement of John Reed in December by hosting an exhibition given by John Hilton and Terry Young.

John Reed has been involved with table tennis for over 40 years. In the 1960's and especially the 1970's he ran the nationally known Millom School teams. During that time he won 9 national school team championships with a succession of very strong boys and girls teams.

His successes led to the Barrow Schools Yorkshire Primary and Parkview Secondary being inspired to be just as successful in the 1980's and 1990's.

For over 20 years John was Chairman of the Barrow League and in 1993 became Chairman of the Barrow TT Centre, which arose from the ruins of an old gymnasium at Parkview School.

The exhibition marked also the opening of improved changing and toilet facilities at the centre.

John Hilton and Terry Young gave two exhibitions, one to local school children during the day and were then joined in the evening by Brian Keen and Paul Bower. They royally entertained the 130 people who attended and gave John Reed an excellent send-off.

John's inspiration and dedication will be sorely missed. We wish him well in his retirement.

*Roger Harris, Vice Chairman
Barrow & District TT Centre*



COURTSIDE

by John Woodford

• **VOTING** in the ETTA Elections of principal officers will be in full swing or may even have been completed by the time this column appears. There is no way I would wish to forecast the result but there will be plenty of verbal action after the results are announced.

• **MEANWHILE**, three points to consider. Nearly everyone will agree that a contest for the top posts is overdue. It may not be too comfortable for the present administrators.

• **SECONDLY**, two points from Alex Murdoch's impressive manifesto. I have never been clear on this question of what happens to the alleged huge profits made by the British League. I can vaguely recall someone saying that the money helps balance the ETTA funds?

• **NOW** the ETTA is a limited company, things are not the same as previously. Companies who do not break even or make profits can fail to exist. That is a Murdoch question.

• **THIRDLY**, in the Murdoch manifesto there is an unfortunate mix-up on the Commonwealth Games and the Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships. Mr Murdoch states that Manchester was "our worst performance ever". This was England's first appearance in The Games.

• **OBVIOUSLY** he is lining up the two events which is not a fair comparison. In Manchester, the table tennis entry was huge because of all the extra countries taking part in the other sports.

• **THE** table tennis entry was larger and stronger. One example was Johnny Huang, whose obnoxious behaviour was a disgrace. Matthew Syed's ability to stop class players is waning, as he admits himself, so England did not clear the board, but we did reasonably well certainly not the worst ever.

• **FINDING** sponsors in sport these days is to say the least, extremely difficult. At least for major events like the English Open, last held at Chatham two years ago.

• **NOT** quite such a problem for smaller events like the Sussex Open GP (Ocean International Communications) and the British Universities Championships, sponsored this time by The Daily Telegraph and Price, Waterhouse Coopers.

• **FOR** the English Open an outlay of around £40,000 is needed. Irons have been in the fire, but no success so far. English fans are starved of world-class table tennis.

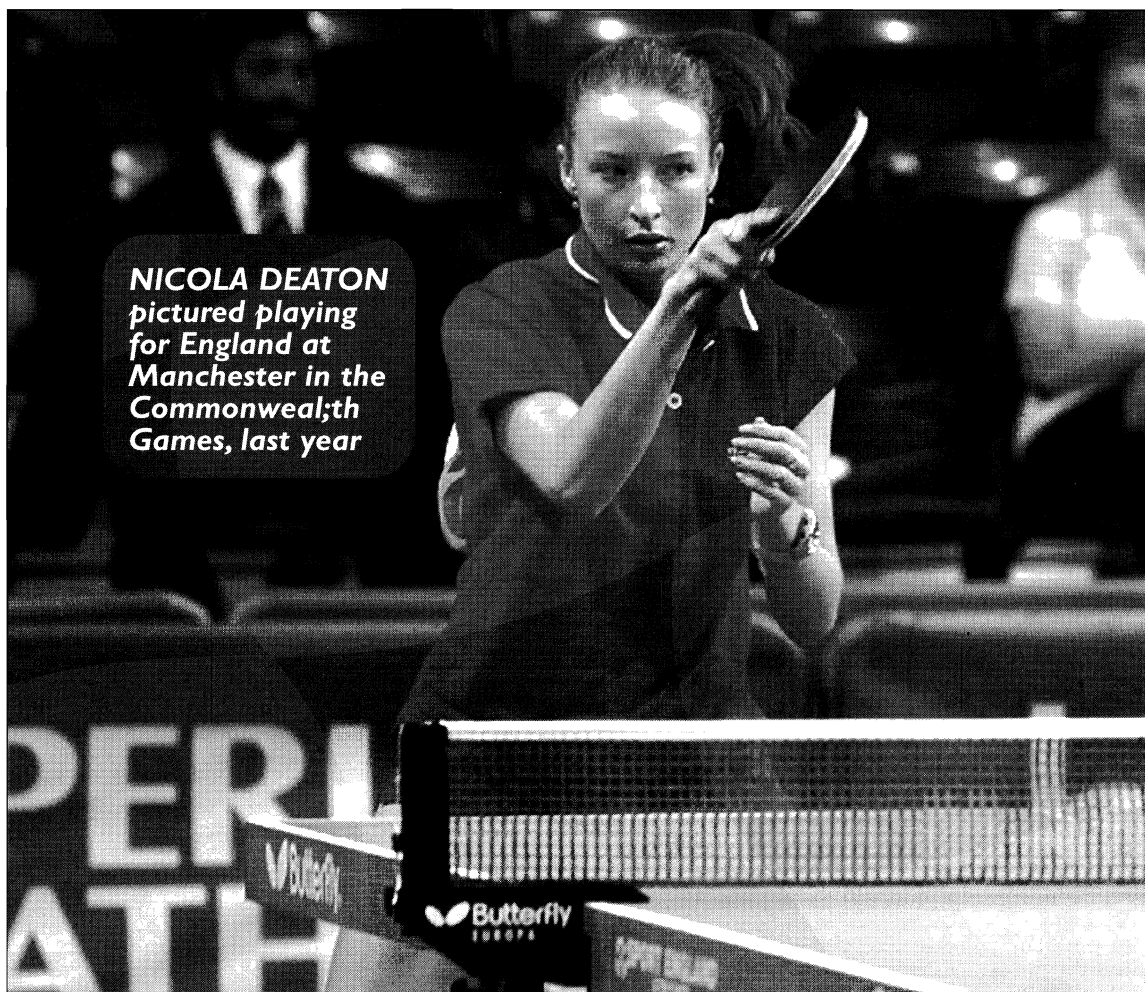
• **PARIS** is staging the world individual events (May 19-25) at their Bercy stadium. Quite a number of fans will be *COURTSIDE* in Paris from England including a group from the ETTA office at Hastings. See you there?

• **CHANCES** of watching Matthew Syed courtside beating some of the world's best players have now it seems disappeared.

He remains the most spectacular defender on the planet. Some say he could earn a lot of money as an exhibition player. But he is earning mega-dosh in Japan on the circuit and his feature articles in 'The Times' prove his writing ability especially when covering major sports. He is also emerging as a promoter of table tennis. As per last season's Commonwealth Masters.

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

NICOLA DEATON RETIRES FROM INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS



NICOLA DEATON
pictured playing
for England at
Manchester in the
Commonwealth
Games, last year

NICOLA DEATON (Chesterfield, Derbyshire), 26, the five times national women's champion who was surprisingly defeated by Lindsey Thornton (Lancashire) in the second round of the National Championships in Sheffield last weekend, has announced her retirement from international play with immediate effect, and therefore is not available for selection for the forthcoming European Championships. She will now concentrate on her psychology studies at the University of Nottingham, after which she plans to marry fellow international table tennis player and University of Nottingham student, Alex Perry.

Deaton took up table tennis when she was aged 6 on the QE 2 during one of her father's (Colin, a former England junior No.2) sports promotions, and was something of a prodigy, winning national titles at each age range she competed in. The then

European No.4 cadet girl, she won a doubles silver medal (with Sally Marling) and a team bronze medal in the cadet events of the 1991 European Youth Championships. In the same year Deaton took 3 Commonwealth bronze medals at Nairobi: in the singles, doubles and team event. A fast counter hitter and tenacious fighter who plays professionally in France, she has been England's top women player of recent years, heading the ranking list for all but two months since April 1999.

When contacted in France Nicola said: "I've had a good innings at international level. Playing in the Commonwealth Games in Manchester last year was one of my aims, but it is difficult to keep that sort of commitment alongside studying for a degree. Anyway you can't play table tennis at the top level for ever.

I'm hoping that the degree will open new doors for me."

STANDING OVATION FOR MATT SYED

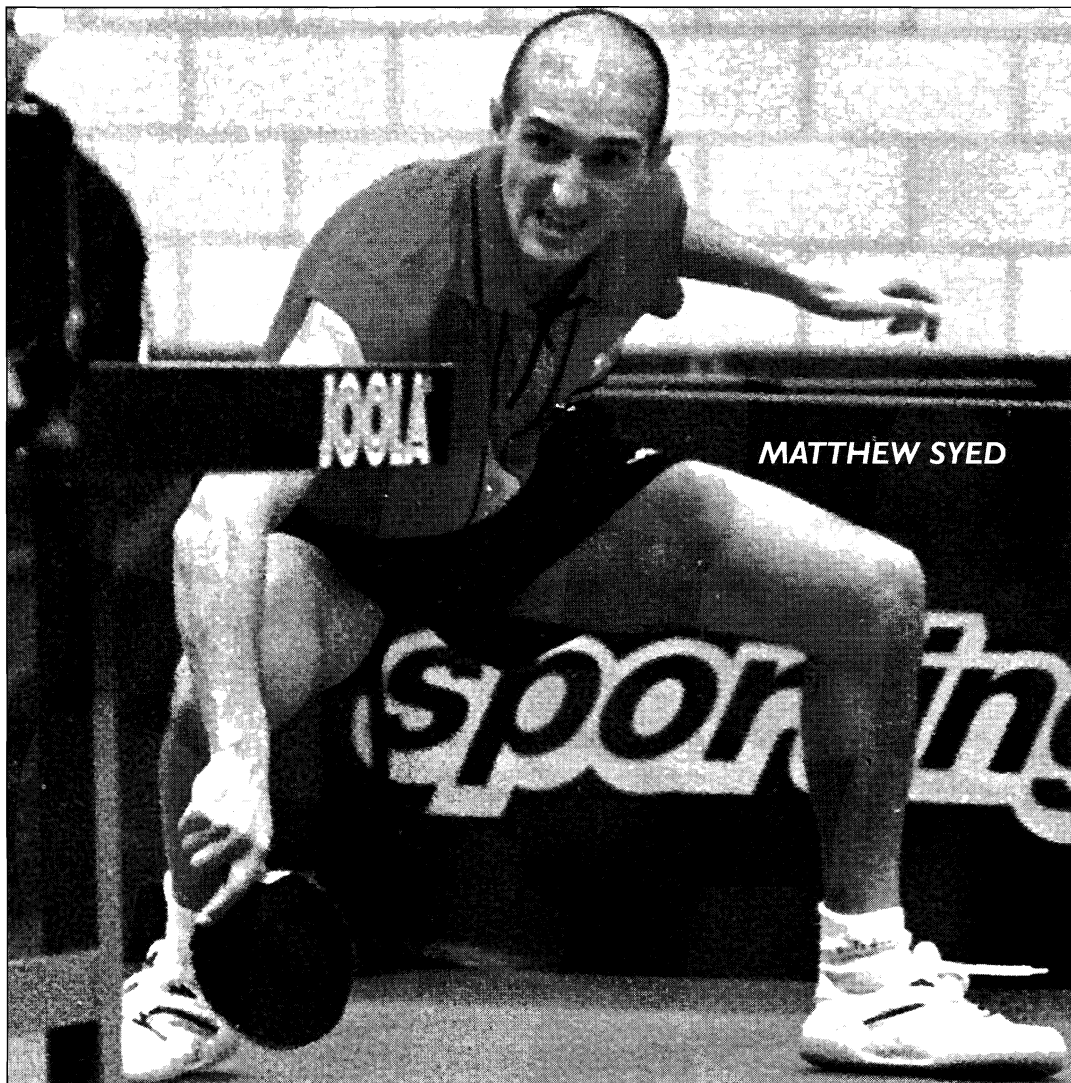
THIRTY years have elapsed since the Cheltenham League staged an international match. On February 11 it was England v Romania. In 1973 it was England v Soviet Union, writes John Woodford.

Bearing in mind Gloucestershire has only four leagues, there was an excellent turnout by the locals - 406 paid for their seats. Their reward after England went two-down was one of the best displays of long-distance defence by the world's best defender Matthew Syed as from two-down he defeated the 2000 European junior champion Constantin Cioti 11-13, 15-17, 11-6, 12-10, 12-10.

The 19-year-old Romanian had match points in the fourth game so the match nearly ended 3-0 to the visiting side, but the embarrassing cut-off was denied by Syed as he returned balls from the barriers in both corners of the long court. I have watched Matthew play for the last fifteen years all over the planet. I cannot recall a more exciting battle than this. Only a small number watching had seen Syed in action before. Certainly, the local fans were astounded at what could unfairly be called a circus exhibition. The crowd were spellbound rewarding Matthew with a standing ovation as England pegged Romania back to 2-1.

It is worth noting that now when Syed plays for England he is slotted into the No.3 position with only one game. This is because despite his spectacular defence he is liable to lose to a strong attacker of say European class. England champion Andrew Baggaley has been playing himself back into the limelight after injuries and spending a lot of time in Sweden. Against the vast experience of Vasile Florea he seemed unlikely to win but he was 10-7 up in the second only to lose five points in a row.

Playing Andre Filimon in the final match, again he had his chances winning the first game 7 but Filimon is a class player, coming back to win 4, 7, 6, to give Romania their 3-1 victory that was deserved because they hit the ball harder and with



Words by
JOHN WOODFORD
of
The Daily Telegraph
in Cheltenham

greater accuracy and their counter-hitting and their backhand shots were of high quality. Gareth Herbert had only one game. He gained a lot of points with his "wicked" serves. He also snatched the first game from Filimon but the Romanian's are a class act, especially coming from behind. Filimon played a superb rearguard action to take the last three games 4, 9, 5.

Sitting next to me at Cheltenham was the legendary Aubrey Simons - he won the Swaythling cup with Johnny Leach and Richard Bergmann for England over 50 years ago.

Aubrey had not seen Matthew in action before this match. He told me "I have never seen anything like this before, it is all new to me, I am thrilled".

Aubrey is 82 and still plays occasionally in the Bristol League for the Civil Service club.

• THE match was excellently presented by the Cheltenham TTA under Nicholas Davidson their Development Officer. Also a key figure was Peter Cruwys, Chair of the

Gloucestershire County TTA, plus a full complement of volunteers. The referee was Les Smith and umpires Andy Seward and Brian Gibbs.

The only snag was that the league could not afford the usual after-match reception for the local and visiting dignitaries which included the chair of the ETTA Alan Ransome and the aspiring chair Alex Murdoch.

RESULTS:
ENGLAND 1, ROMANIA 3
A. Baggaley 1. V. Florea -5, -12, -7.
G. Herbert 1. A. Filimon 7, -4, -9, -5.
M. Syed b. C. Cioti -11, -15, 6, 10, 10.
Baggaley 1. Filimon 7, -4, -7, -6.

POLICE CHASE RECORD



MAYOR & MAYORESS OF DONCASTER present trophies to THE POLICE (above): winners of the Mens Premier Division: (l.to r.) KEITH WILLIAMS, BRIAN JOHNS and JOHN RANKIN, whilst below they present the Womens Premier awards to COLEBRIDGE (l. to r.) ELAINE SHORT, EILEEN SHALER, JAN DUNNING and LINDA SIMPSON.



THE Police Association picked up their third British Veterans League title in a row and by the margin they did it, could hang on to it for some time to come, writes Jim Beckley.

They began the second session at the Doncaster Dome two points ahead of Ryelands and by the end of the weekend were five points clear and the only side to complete the ten match competition without being beaten.

Police players John Rankin, Keith Williams and Brian Johns finished two, three and four in the final averages with Dave Welsman the top Ryelands player with 66.66%.

Anticipating a close finish the organisers put what they thought would be the crunch match between

these two sides on last of all and on one of the showcourts.

But by then the Police had the title in their pockets and their dominance was complete when Keith Williams had to pull out leaving Brian Johns and John Rankin to tidy up and to keep their unbeaten run by winning 4-2 - it was that one-sided.

Tameside more than doubled their number of points from the first weekend and finished third ahead of Potters, while Batts Racquetsports and Bat and Ball are both relegated. John Hilton was the main provider of sets for Tameside finishing top of the premier division averages with 90%.

There was a much tighter finish to the ladies Premier Division where Colebridge, two points clear at the end of the first session managed to

maintain that gap as well as their unbeaten record to edge out last years winners Millennium Belles..

The return of Jan Dunning (eight out of eight) helped Colebridge whose other players Linda Simpson, Elaine Short and Eileen Shaler were clearly too strong the rest of the teams in that division.

Moving up to the mens Premier next season are St Marks and Fullerialians who took first and second place in the first division with Joe Kennedy winning all his twenty matches for St Marks.

Cippenham and North East side Thompson Insurance finished first and second respectively in division two while the Police Association 2nd team overtook Batts Bulldogs to take the 3rd division title by one point after winning the clash between these two sides on the last day.

Tokyo World Transport move up a division next year after winning division four as will Xystus who took second place while Seasiders 2nd team whose players dominated the division averages topped division five.

The Irish ladies team of Colleens make a return to the ladies Premier division after easing their way to the top of the first division. Jenny Harrison was the heroine with a 90% average after the first session in Stoke.

Finally organiser Gill Smith announced the Doncaster Dome had come through its first table tennis tournament in 20 years with flying colours and would be used again for the Vets British League next season.

Elaine Short, already with a winners medal with champions Colebridge picked up another award when she was chosen as the Player of the Weekend along with Dave Roberts of Plymouth Extremes who won the men's equivalent.



DIVISION 2 RUNNERS-UP: THOMPSON INSURANCE: (l. to r.) GEOFF SALTER, JOHN WILLIAMSON and MALCOLM LUSK.

JENKINS EIGHTH GRAND PRIX WIN

RYAN JENKINS is the present Master of Table Tennis in Cardiff! Five Grand Prix wins last season, now he has taken three titles this campaign and this time he overpowered the Chinese challenge from the Chinese contingent attached (as practice partners) to the Welsh national squad in Cardiff, writes John Woodford.

Two of the leading Chinese in Cardiff are high-class players Ran Yang who Jenkins brought down in the semi-finals and Jiang Tang his final victim. How well Ryan comes from behind and how skillfully he absorbs pressure and counter-attacks.

Jenkins said "Many players live in Germany mainly to get regular practice against Chinese players. I am lucky I can practice five hours a day, six days a week against the Chinese in Cardiff. That is now helping to increase my power and producing better results."

The Bournemouth crowd noted how Jenkins conceded the first two games in his semi-final but came back with superb power and quiet concentration to win the last three games.

In the final he again conceded two games - the third and fourth - before a crunching last game when the Chinese ace could only muster two points.

A look back before the men's semi-finals - the fifth seed Jason Sugrue (London Progress and Ireland) was looking forward to a crack at Wang. This happened but this time Wang took no prisoners as he surged forward 5,6,8.

Matthew Kenny seems to be making progress, but in the quarters he



Picture: Central Reservations

found Jenkins too powerful.

In the other half two Chinese dominated. Tang took out Gergely Urban 5, -6, 9, 8 whilst another Chinese Xiangcheng Che, a 34-year-old mature student at Birmingham University, defeated the still improving Gavin Rungay (Scotland) 10, 3, 3.

However, Che who lives in Japan met his match losing 5, 6, -12, 9 to Tang.

TONG FEIMING MISSING

Tong Feiming, world quarter-finalist not so long ago lived up to her reputation of not turning up, so that messed up the seeding in the womens singles. Feiming was the second seed but would probably have won it.

So the event was still dominated by Chinese players from Wales. Bundesliga player Jie Xu cruised through with a semi-final victory 3, 5, 9 over the improving Natalie Bawden. The bottom half, weakened by the absence of Feiming, Grace Brown (Essex) emerged as the semi-finalist, losing out 4, 2, 11, to Bei Li. In the final Bei Li put up stronger resistance than expected but was beaten by the German league player

Jie Xu 13, 9, -10, 4.

STRONG BAWDEN

The under-21 womens tournament saw another strong performance by Natalie Bawden. She overpowered another emerging player from Wales Laura Hall 8, 8, 7, in the final.

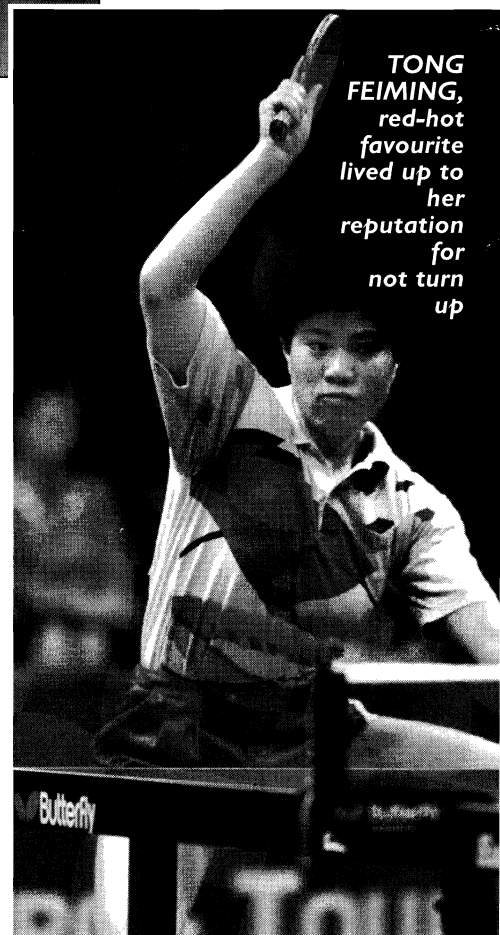
Another Welsh young man on the way up - Stephen Gertzen - triumphed after a marathon battle in the Under-21 final winning 5, -7, 3, -10, 12. his was the last final of the day, finishing around 6.30 pm thanks to excellent work by the control officials headed for the first time by Eileen Allison, who said "I had a very hectic two days, but I enjoyed it".

A quick look at the branded events - Xiangcheng Che was far too strong to be in the bands - but it is difficult when these

Chinese players emerge, relatively unknown. He easily beat Andrew Horsfield 5, 3, 3 but the Yorkshireman impressed all weekend, also reaching the mens singles quarters at the expense of Adam Brewer.

Rose Rainton the Sussex six-times champion captured the Band 1 event at the expense of Kent's Angie Bristow. But Miss Bristow took revenge against the Sussex No.2 in the main event.

The Sir David English Sports Centre, at the Bournemouth School is a tight squeeze for sixteen tables, although playing conditions were good. However no hot food was available on the two bitterly cold days.



Bournemouth Open

Another View

RATHER than write about different events (than John Woodford) at the same championships, it has been suggested that I give another perspective on the overall tournament, writes Ken Muhr.

My press release had the heading Jenkins leads Welsh Clean Up at Bournemouth Open, and the competition did have a strong Welsh, Chinese and Scottish flavour. Yes, I know that most of our young English stars were at the British Junior League over the weekend, but it does sometimes seem to me that it is the better Welsh and Scottish players who make most use of the Butterfly Grand Prix circuit, while the better English players, and on this occasion I am referring to our older teenagers and players in their twenties, stay away. Whilst the prize money is not adequate to induce those only concerned with making a living to come, the competition, and particularly learning to win under pressure which seems a problem for our players abroad is of value.

I reckon that for their standard, the Welsh and the Scottish are tougher competitors, which comes partly from their being willing to put their reputations on the line. Maybe some English players are more concerned with protecting ranking points and team places than learning how to win when they are expected to win. Putting themselves about on the English circuit might also help them develop a profile and following domestically, which is no bad thing.

Certainly Welsh No.1 Ryan Jenkins demonstrated tremendous courage at Bournemouth when he saved four match points in the third game (6-10 down) and three match points in the fourth game (7-10 down) against his Chinese defensive-with-big-forehand-loop sparing partner, Wang Ran, in the semi-finals, to come through 4-11, 8-11, 12-10, 12-10, 11-7. He had to earn these points through inspired attack. In the final, Jenkins won another hard fought battle, 11-6, 11-7, 7-11, 8-11, 11-2, with big loop-the-loop rallies, against the Chinese Tang Jiang Feng, (also training with the Welsh squad at Cardiff). A really brilliant point near the end of the 5th game with about 10 lobs from Jenkins which Tang just couldn't smash his way past, signalled Jenkins's supremacy, but victory was earned by sheer guts not because Jenkins was technically better.

Tang Jiang Feng had proved,

ultimately, too fit and strong in defeating the sensation of the championships, the lightning-sharp penholder Che Xiangcheng, 5-11, 11-6, 14-12, 11-9 in his semi-final, each player shouting his triumph after winning a point. Until the semi-finals, Che, 34 and an unknown in England, had not dropped a single game, crushing Scottish no.1 Gavin Rungay 12-10, 11-3, 11-3 in the quarter-finals: he had earlier totally dominated the mens band 1 singles. However, Che, currently studying for an MBA at Birmingham University, revealed that he had been the Chinese national junior champion when he was 15, but unfortunately at 18 had contracted a serious illness when he had been in strong contention for a Chinese senior team place. He had not played competitively for 10 years, but having moved to Japan, where table tennis is now booming, he had started practising again to help his son, a talented 11 year old shake-hands player who is the no.3 under 13 in his region. Under the severest of pressure, Tang's attack broke down a bit wide to the forehand but just good would he be after some training?!

Two more Chinese who are training with the Welsh national squad contested the womens singles final. The left-handed, pen-holder Xu Ji, took her third consecutive Butterfly Grand Prix title when she overcame her colleague Bei Li Bei, 15-13, 11-9, 10-12, 11-4 without undue exertion. She had been far too good for England no. 8, Natalie Bawden (Essex) in the semi-finals.

Stephen Gertson (Wales) won a hard fought mens under 21 singles final with Scotlands Kenny Lindsay, 11-5, 7-11, 11-3, 10-12, 14-12, but Natalie Bawden ensured that the under 21 womens singles title went to the home country when she beat Laura Hall (Wales) 11-8, 11-8, 11-7.

Results:

Mens open singles (from semi-finals): Tang Jiang Feng (China) bt Che Xiang Cheng (Japan) 5-11, 11-6, 14-12, 11-9. Ryan Jenkins (Wales) bt Wang Ran (China) 4-11, 8-11, 12-10, 12-10, 11-7.

Final: Ryan Jenkins (Wales) bt Tang Jiang Feng (China) 11-6, 11-7, 7-11, 8-11, 11-2.

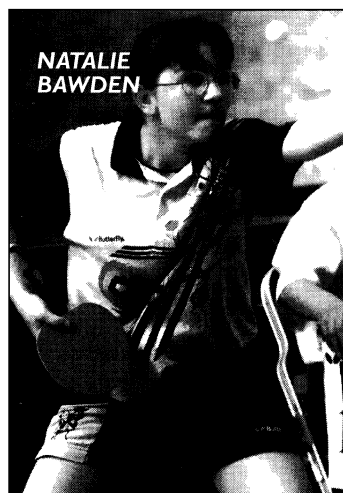
Womens open singles (from semi-finals): Xu Jie (China) bt Natalie Bawden (Essex) 11-3, 11-3, 11-3. Bei Li Bei (China) bt Grace Brown (Essex) 11-4, 11-2, 13-11.

Final: Xu Jie (China) bt Bei Li Bei (China) 15-13, 11-9, 10-12, 11-4.

Mens under 21 singles: Stephen Gertson (Wales) bt Kenny Lindsay (Scotland) 11-5, 7-11, 11-3, 10-12,



ROSE RAINTON winner of Womens Band 1



14-12.

Womens under 21 singles: Natalie Bawden (Essex) bt Laura Hall (Wales) 11-8, 11-8, 11-7.

Veteran mens singles: Clive Carthy (Essex) bt Ayoade Ademakinwa (Essex) 9-11, 11-9, 12-10, 11-8.

Veteran womens singles: Jane Durham (Cleveland) bt Judy Morley (Gloucestershire) 11-5, 11-8, 11-1.

Mens band 1 singles: Che Xiang

Cheng (Japan/Warwickshire) bt Andrew Horsfield (Yorkshire) 11-5, 11-3, 11-3.

Mens band 2 singles: Anthony Issac (Staffordshire) bt Neil Wright (Wales) 11-6, 11-9, 12-10.

Mens band 3 singles: Greg Yarnall (Northamptonshire) bt Adam Laws (Surrey) 11-9, 11-9, 11-8.

Mens band 4 singles: Chris Stone (Bedfordshire) bt Antony Quinlan (Middlesex) 11-7, 11-5, 11-7.

Mens band 5 singles: Tom Burdett (Gloucestershire) bt Matt Squires (Worcestershire) 13-11, 8-11, 9-11, 11-5, 11-4.

Mens band 6 singles: Philip Morford (Kent) bt David Frazer (Essex) 11-9, 11-9, 11-7.

Womens band 1 singles: Rosemary Rainton (Sussex) bt Angie Bristow (Kent) 11-7, 6-11, 11-9, 14-12.

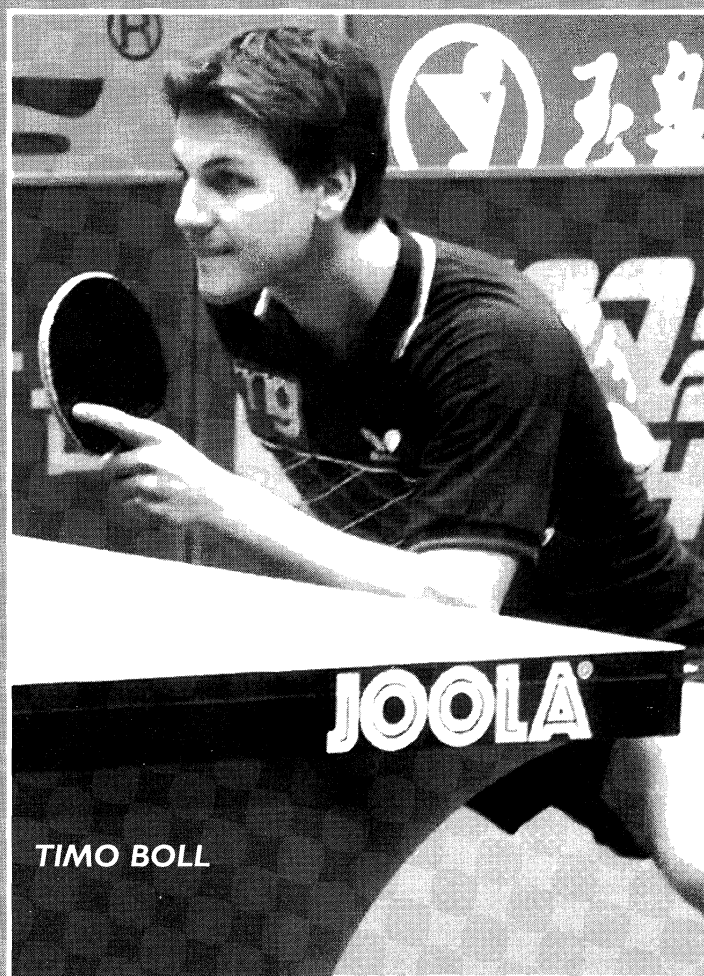
Womens band 2 singles: Lisa Radford (Devon) bt Shirley Dark (Somerset) 11-9, 11-7, 4-11, 11-9.

Womens band 3 singles: Lisa Radford (Devon) bt Sarah Hudson (Bedfordshire) 9-11, 11-4, 4-11, 11-6, 11-3.

TIMO BOLL - THE VANGUARD OF A NEW BREED

TIMO BOLL has ushered in a new chapter in the tumultuous history of the world's fastest sport. In January the 21-year old became the world No.1, ending a period of Chinese dominance that many believed would continue indefinitely. And he is improving at such a rate that a nightmare scenario is beginning to form in the minds of China's sporting elite: a Beijing Olympic Games in 2008 in which the host nation fails to capture the gold medal most coveted by its public and upon which it was banking, writes **Matthew Syed**.

They are right to be afraid. Boll is in the vanguard of a new breed intent upon striking the ball both earlier and with increased velocity. This is partly in order to intimidate the opponent in the manner of an ultra-fast bowler, but is fundamentally based upon the principle that if the ball is dispatched at one hundred miles per hour, giving an opponent just



TIMO BOLL

six hundredths of a second in which to react, it is unlikely to come back.

But whereas others inexorably sacrifice control in their quest for maximum power, Boll resolutely refuses to indulge in unforced errors. "He plays a very high-risk strategy seemingly without risk," is the assessment of his

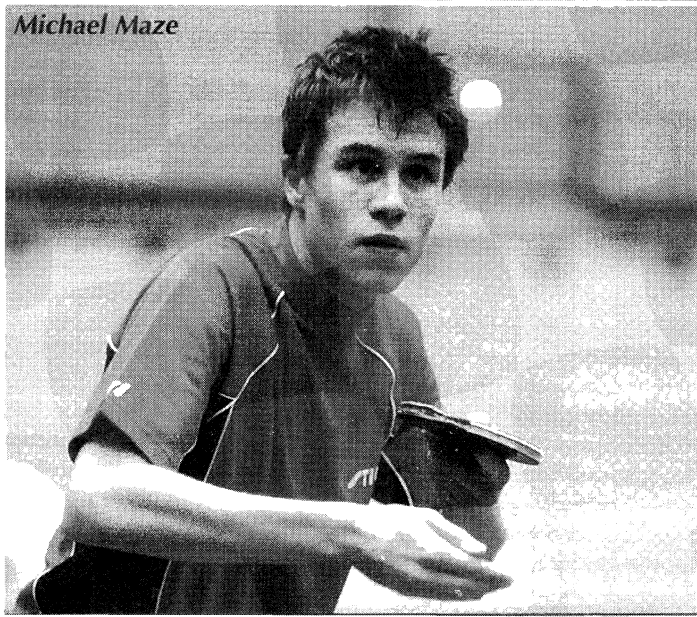
compatriot Jorg Roskopf, the former European champion. It is a style that can make accomplished opponents look foolish and cause those of us who took up the game in a gentler era to contemplate retirement. Inevitably, comparisons have started to be made to Jan-Ove Waldner, from Sweden, indisputably the greatest player that there

has been.

It was back in 1989, when Waldner cast his spell over the World Championships in Dortmund, that China first knew fear in the sport they had dominated since Slao Zedong granted it religious-like status in the late Fifties. The response of the Beijing table tennis autocracy was swift and ultimately effective and it ushered in the new era now headed by Boll.

China abandoned ideology. As the Berlin Wall crumbled in Eastern Europe, Beijing finally ditched its dogmatic adherence to the penholder grip favoured by Mao. The innovations pioneered by Waldner had fatally exposed the weakness on the backhand wing of a technique that had, fancifully, become a cherished symbol of China's intellectual vitality. The march of Western ideas was not wholly lost upon Deng Xiaoping, who increased the pace of economic reform, paving the way for the seven figure-dollar salaries being earned by top players in the new millennium

Michael Maze



As Waldner pirouetted to endless victories in the early Nineties, China embarked upon a desperate race to purge itself of the old orthodoxy. It did not take long for their statistical supremacy to reassert itself: in the 1995 World Championships in Tianjin, Kong Linghui, a player unashamedly modelled upon Waldner, defeated Liu Guoliang in an all-Chinese final. Liu, a penholder, had breathed life into the dying tradition via the most extravagant and unlikely of innovations, swivelling the wrist in order to play backhand topspins with the reverse side of the bat

Since then, with the exception of Waldner's mesmerising swansong at the World Championships in Manchester in 1997, China has claimed every world and Olympic men's singles title. Beijing had ample reason to congratulate itself for its hard-nosed pragmatism, while those of us in Europe looked wistfully back on the Waldner years as a golden age unlikely to be repeated.

Until the arrival of Boll. It is a heavy responsibility for the German since, with the exception of Michael Maze, 21 from Denmark, there are no young players from Europe with anything like the skill to compete with the massed ranks emerging from China's multitudinous youth programme. But the young man from Hochst has the character to match the task.

I spent a week with Boll a month ago playing exhibition matches across southern Germany. He is shy, softly spoken and possessed of a disarming modesty. But buried deep in his psyche is an indestructible kernel of self-belief in his victories in both the Top 12 and the European Championships last season, Boll demonstrated steely resolve in saving match points en route to the title.

So the Chinese system is playing its trump card brute numbers. There are 250 million regular players in China compared with 50 million in the rest of the world combined.

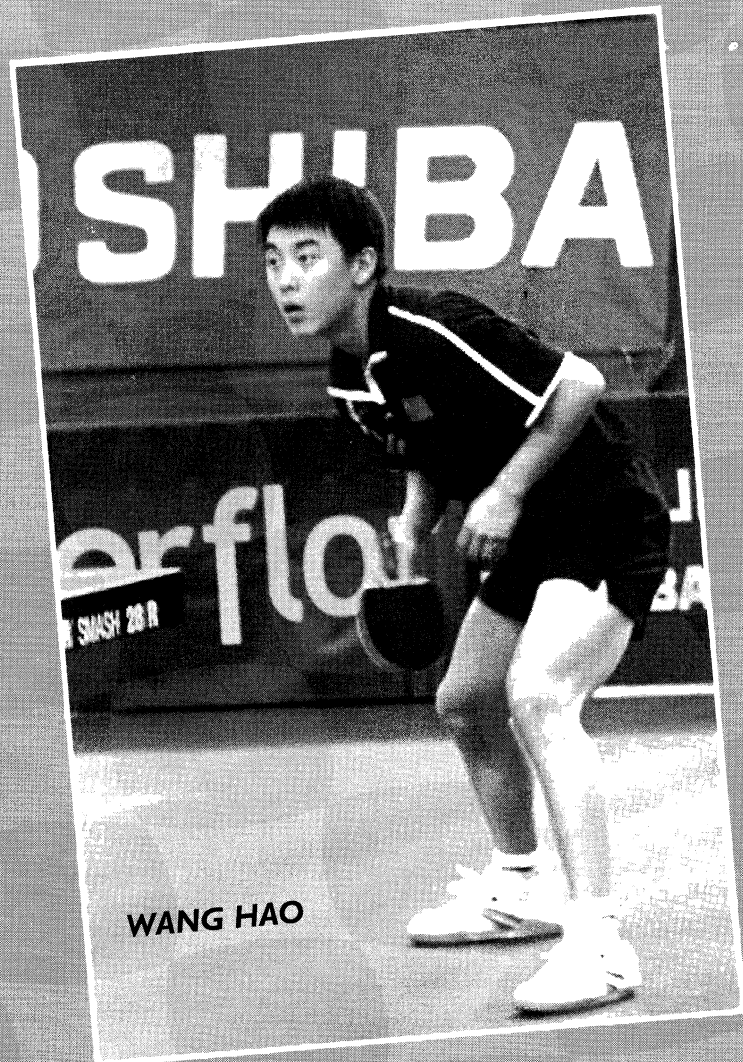
The newest hope to emerge from the vast network of clubs and provincial academies is a player who has taken Liu's innovation to its logical and improbable conclusion. Wang Hao, 19, is a penholder who deploys the wrist-swivel on every backhand, something that has generated the ultimate contradiction in a sport riddled with paradoxes: a topspin stroke that produces backspin. Wang heralded his potential last month defeating his German rival en route to winning the Croatia Open.

Whether Boll will demonstrate the lasting potency of his legendary predecessor from Sweden

by wresting both the world and Olympic titles from the vice-like grip of China is difficult to predict. The international governing body, fearful of the commercial and aesthetic implications of a new Oriental hegemony, is not alone in praying for him to succeed. But with the Beijing Olympics looming, the stakes have never been higher for China.

The world of table tennis is bracing itself for a titanic struggle.

Reproduced by kind permission of 'The Times' newspaper



£300 RAISED FOR RNLI



CHEQUE PRESENTATION AT FALMOUTH RNLI: Pictured above are NEIL PHILLIPS, JESS PHILLIPS, REBECCA PALMER, EMILY PALMER and SHAUN CUFFIN, who helped raise the £300, and MARK LEONARD the Chairperson of St.Austell & District RNLI.

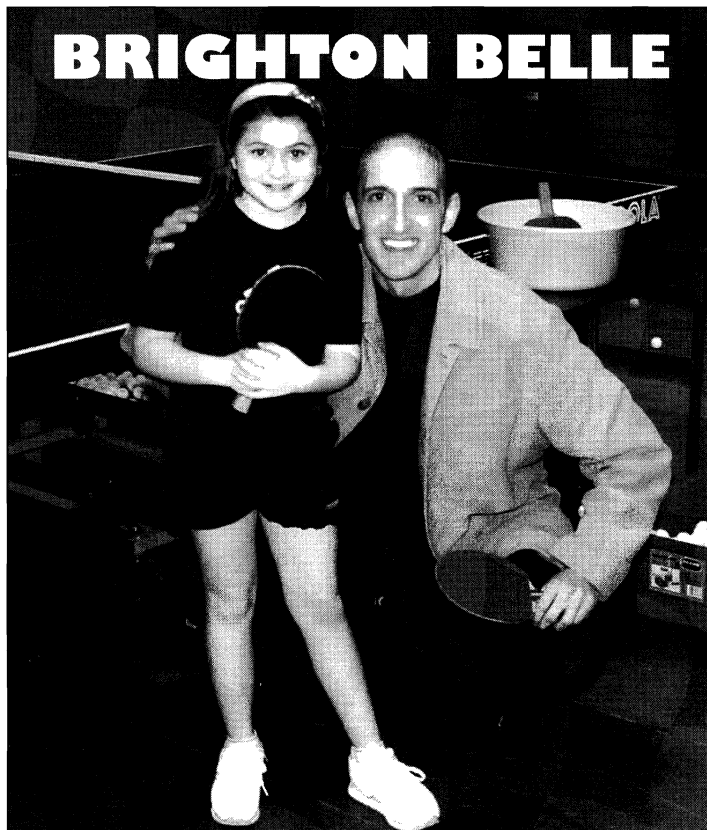
CORNWALL Table tennis Association held their annual fund raising 24 hour marathon table tennis event, at the St.Austell table Tennis Centre in December, raising after expenses a total of £600, which was equally split between the The Centre and Cornwall Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

The event was very successful with many players taking part, and five of those pictured above were present at the presentation in Falmouth.

Dave Nicholl, the Area Organiser RNLI, Cornwall, said: "We are very grateful for this cheque of £300, and thank those who took part in the table tennis marathon, it will provide water-proof clothing for one volunteer for 5 years."

PRESENT & FUTURE

SARAH RUSSO (pictured right) from Brighton, meets England No.1 **MATTHEW SYED**. Sarah is a member of England's Youth Development Squad.



STOP PRESS News in Brief

- **Safir's International Tournament, Sweden**
Fourteen year old England cadet no.1, Kelly Sibley (Leamington Spar, Warwickshire) has returned home, having had great success at the Safir's International Tournament in Orebro, Sweden. She won the girls' under 14 singles, beating Zeina Shaban (Jordan) 11-6, 11-8, 5-11, 11-8 in the final.

She reached the semi-finals of the under 15 girls' singles, before losing 11-7, 11-13, 11-9, 9-11, 5-11 to Laurance Junker (Belgium).

She reached the quarter-finals of the under 20 women's singles, knocking out the seeded Ran Ogawa (Japan) 1-11, 1-6, 11-9, 11-8 in the second round, before ultimately going down 11-8, 6-11, 11-5, 6-11, 8-1 to the Chinese Kang Li, who plays in the highest division of the Swedish national women's league.

Peter Cleminson (Brentwood, Essex), 17, also enjoyed success, beating Denmark's Aron Wenzall 11-9, 10-12, 7-11, 11-8, 11-6 to win the men's class two singles. Georgina Walker (Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Notts), 17, fell 9-11, 12-10, 8-11, 5-11 to the home country's Antra Ikena in the quarter-finals of the girls' under 17 singles.

England's Acting National Performance Director, Steen Kyst Hansen, commented, "We had some good results. Kelly played fantastically, particularly in the under 20 singles."

- **National Senior Championships**, This year's National Men and Women's Singles Champions are 37 year old Alan Cooke and 32 year old Andrea Holt.

- **Arthur Upton** died on 26 February 2003, of an heart attack.

TABLE TENNIS NEWS EXTRA

Issue No. 291 March 2003

Editorial

By the time you read this, the USA, Britain and allies, with or without a second United Nations resolution, will probably have gone to **war with the brutal Saddam Hussein regime in Iraq**. The immediate conflict will probably be short and defeat of Iraq certain, but the broader consequences are unpredictable and potentially disastrous, with political turmoil in the Middle and Far East and the fuelling of more terrorism. Some/many Arabs and Muslims around the world could vent their anger on Americans and British, who could, in turn, retaliate. Of course I do not want any of this to happen (and would have wished that Saddam Hussein could be disarmed and removed by negotiation and other peaceful means). But if it does happen, then I hope and believe that in table tennis specifically, and in our society generally, these differences will not intrude at a personal level to spoil our tolerant, sociable and inclusive community. I am told that table tennis is a popular sport in Iraq, and I strongly believe that **table tennis should continue to welcome all people, whatever their background**.

Another effect of the war, apart from potential environmental catastrophe if the Iraqi oilfields are fired, is that the **cost of fuel will go up, making it more expensive to travel to competitions and to heat and light facilities**. Hopefully, this will be only temporary, but it should make us consider how to cut back on fuel, by, for example sharing cars, using more public transport, cutting out unnecessary journeys, running more local and centralised activities, and turning off the lighting/heating when it is not necessary (or finding more efficient/effective forms of lighting/heating) to avoid waste.

Finances for most sports governing bodies continue to be tight. According to Vivek Chaudhary (Guardian, 1st February 2002), sports bodies are growing more fearful that they may be **priced out of using local authority sports facilities**, with a controversial Sport England report – which I have not seen yet – to recommend that the private sector take over the running of these facilities. Finding venues big enough for TT

events such as the ever more popular Junior British League, requiring, say, 36 tables, and at affordable prices, is increasingly difficult, so a **three year agreement with Aldersley Leisure Village, Wolverhampton**, to hold our Junior British League and Midlands Butterfly Grand Prix weekends there (although one fixture is still being negotiated) is **most welcome**.

Also in the Guardian (14.12.02), Chaudhary had warned that the government is threatening to squeeze the amount of money it spends on sport if governing bodies do not cut costs. **The treasury insists that funding needs to be more directed towards sport development**. Fortunately the **ETTA has kept a tight control on costs and made development a priority**, but that does not mean that we will not face more financial constraint and scrutiny.

Whichever team wins the election for the key ETTA management positions will have to face up to the **continuous decline of ETTA affiliations since 1979**. However, the measure for affiliations is still mostly through **local leagues**, and most of these operate in a way that is **unattractive to many potential new recruits**, owing to long evenings, poor and sometimes remote venues, unsociable atmosphere, etc. It is great that older players, who probably grew up with and like the present local league system, carry on playing longer into life, because table tennis is a sport for life, but **more attention must be given to creating an influx of new blood**, particularly younger players, and that will mean making changes such as shorter matches, held in single, better, multi-table venues having social amenities (such as a bar). As well as **making these changes to how local leagues are run** – and publicising them – there needs to be a **measure of the growing number of people who play regularly with some commitment but who do not play in local leagues**. **If, both, local leagues could be made more attractive, and these semi-serious others could be measured/affiliated in some way, we might actually see a growth in ETTA affiliations!**

Personally, **I would like two new forms of individual ETTA membership** in addition to licensed (open tournament & British League

etc.) players: an annual, once only fee of around £10-£20 (to include the magazine and other benefits) for local league players, however many leagues they play in; and a catch all fee of around £2 for semi-serious and recreational players (in schools, youth clubs, sports centres, social clubs, community groups, and in Premier and other TT clubs), skills awards recipients, holiday camp attendees, coaching pupils, etc. I know a working group has been looking at this (and the related defining and administrative problems) and I look forward to their proposals.

I also remain convinced that **more people would play table tennis if there were more active volunteers** organising clubs and activities. The health of the sport is absolutely dependent on good quality volunteers but we have too few of them (maybe some veterans now continue their playing careers, whereas in the past they would have got more involved with coaching or administration). Of course the ETTA has long recognised the importance of volunteers, and in regards to this **I welcome the publication of 'A helping hand' ETTA Volunteer Support Strategy** prepared by the ETTA Development and Teaching & Training Departments.

The membership should be aware that a **proposal effectively outlawing games up to 21** (for all competitions) and requiring only a straight majority, **will be put to the ETTA AGM on 28th June**. I think it will be passed. I previously have argued that any local league concerned with the future of table tennis and their younger players should employ what is now international law (11 up), but initially the majority of correspondents to the ETTA on the scoring system still advocate 21 up. Most of these correspondents were veterans (and note that Andrzej Grubba, also a veteran, feels the same: interview, Jan/Feb TTN).

However, not all veterans stick rigidly to tradition, and **two well-respected Kent players have now come out for games up to 11**. In the Bromley DTTA Newsletter editorial hard bat expert **Henry Buist** says, "There are advantages to 11 up and I think it is particularly suitable for mid-week leagues where the earlier finishes

are welcomed by most players. There is less waiting around...The rest of the world has accepted 11 up, and I think we might as well do it sooner rather than later." Then in Jan/Feb TTN, **Ron Etheridge** says, "Allowing this option (of retaining 21-up) for leagues has unfortunately produced a great deal of dissension...I understand that in Europe we are an almost infinitesimal minority not universally using the 11-up scoring system. **Surely it is time for the ETTA to make 11-up mandatory?** The present option discourages the better players from taking part in league play if their local league retains 21-up...Finally, there is little doubt that youngsters much prefer 11-up and the best way of increasing our (falling) numbers must be to encourage the younger element into leagues."

The idea (TT Illustrated, Jan/Feb 2003) of American doctor, **Michael J. Scott, MD**, of putting a "standard, acceptable, visible, and obvious design" on table tennis balls in order to detect spin is a good one. "A design on the ball would allow spectators, as well as players, to readily detect the relative degree of spin and make the game more understandable." A few designer balls are shown in the journal, but coaches have for a long time marked the ball in order to demonstrate and explain spin.

John Wood, Editor of (the glossy part) **Table Tennis News**, now lives at 37 Duporth Road, Charlestown, St.Austell, Cornwall PL25 3NU (tel. 01726 77527, e-mail johnwood@macace.co.uk) but correspondence for him is still being sent to his previous addresses in Hemel Hempstead (Hertfordshire), Charleston (different address) and Luxulyan (also in Cornwall)! Make sure you get it right!

On the question of correspondence, **I am currently overwhelmed with a large backlog of requests from students (from GCSE to PhD) for information.** It is a problem that I understand that many of the governing bodies of sport face. Answering some of the questions can be incredibly time consuming, but I will try to get through my fat folder of queries as quickly as I can.

Ken Muhr
ETTA Information Officer

E-mail:
kenmuhr.etta@talk21.com

BENEFITS ETTA MEMBERS GET FOR THEIR AFFILIATION FEES

By Ken Muhr, ETTA Information Officer

I wrote the basis of the following article nearly two years ago (April 2001) in response to a query from **Dr Roger Templeton of the Didcot League**. It is a **personal view**, not an **official ETTA document**. The issue of what members get for their fees plus the one about why we have not tried to get more table tennis on TV (we have actually tried very hard but it is not easy) are about the **two most common general questions** that I get asked by the membership.

My immediate response to the first question was, 'the provision of a range of opportunities within a regulated, structured framework'. I have seen that in a 1996 letter I wrote something similar: 'The recognised (by authority and funding bodies) structure in which to perform and the opportunities to advance, whether as a player, coach, official, or collectively as a team or club.' There was in fact in the early 1990s an ETTA booklet, 'Benefits, Opportunities and Services available to members' which set out to answer the question.

Before I elaborate I wish to make the following point. Many people perceive the ETTA as being a few (faceless?) senior elected officers plus a small team of professionals. However, essentially the ETTA is run by volunteers: in a real sense the ETTA is the affiliated players and all those involved with the organised sport in this country. To be a healthy sport we are **absolutely reliant on active volunteers on the ground**. To misquote President John Kennedy, people should 'ask not what table tennis can do for you, but what you can do for table tennis', because without volunteers, nothing will happen locally on the ground.

There are a number of models, which explain and categorise benefits of ETTA affiliation:

The 3 'Os' - Organisation, Opportunity and Order.

Organisation: You get the organisational structure of the ETTA (officially recognised by statutory, funding and other authority bodies), which includes the professional secretariat, the Management Committee and National Council, the departments and committees and other professional staff (some outreach) of the ETTA, the affiliated counties, leagues and clubs. This might not sound much but it is the means by which information is

communicated, regulation/action is implemented, competition is run and services throughout the country are given, **ensuring that the organised sport operates as a whole, in a (more or less) standardised, unified way:** you can go to any part of the country and the sport which you can participate in will be fundamentally the same one. You will know and can have a certain confidence in what you are getting. **Being properly structured means that the sport is stronger and more credible**, not only with the public, but with bodies whose facilities, funding or endorsement/political support the sport in any area may need. **It can promote, publicise and develop itself.**

Opportunity: You have the opportunity to play not only in your local league and league & county closed tournament, but also in any open tournament around the country, and, if you are good enough, in inter-league, County Championships, British League, National Team Knockout, National Championships (and appear in the national rankings!) for different age groups and categories, etc. There is the structure and opportunity to reach whatever standard of play you aspire to, up to representing your country. You can benefit by being in national, integrated programmes such as Premier Club, the ETTA national programme for club development, through which minimum standards of competition, coaching, activities and facilities are developed and maintained.

You have the opportunity to **qualify and use your skills as coach, and to gain benefits and services as a coach**. You also (are more likely to) have the opportunity to gain instruction from a qualified coach. As well as the above, youngsters have the **opportunity to participate in national programmes such the Skills Award Scheme and ('Woolwich' type) Junior Leagues**. You have the opportunity to qualify and be active in other officially recognised positions such as **Umpire, Referee and Tournament Organiser**. You have the opportunity to volunteer or hold positions in all levels of the structure, and eligibility to receive honours and awards from the sport. You have the opportunity and entitlement to **participate in the democratic structure and process of the sport (see also 'order' below)**. You can take advantage of schemes and partnerships negotiated by the ETTA such as **public liability insurance**.

Your club, league or county has the opportunity and entitlement to **receive services from the ETTA administrative and professional staff** (notably the Regional Development Officers, the Facilities Officer, the

National Equity Officer and Teaching & Training Dept. staff) and officials, such as **information** (e.g. through newsletters, bulletins and publicity material), **advice** (e.g. on club development, facilities and equipment, fund-raising and sponsorship, and any aspect of table tennis organisation) and **training** (e.g. as coaches).

Whilst individuals may not **personally take advantage of many of these opportunities and benefits**, in any sporting organisation there must be a **certain degree of altruism and concern for the greater good** (e.g. members wanting to see table tennis becoming more popular or juniors having the opportunity to progress), that goes **beyond self-interest**.

Order: Any organisation must have rules and regulations, and the ETTA must discuss, vote on, circulate and implement not only the ITTF laws and regulations of the sport, and its own internal rules and regulations on how the sport is played, but also the rules and regulations determining how the sport is organised and constituted in England. **There are a wide range of rules, such as those governing affiliation, election of officers and organisation of domestic competition.** As stated above under organisation, rules and regulations are essential not only to maintain order, but to ensure standardisation and uniformity across the country: **the sport must be the same one wherever it is played and people must know where they stand!** The ETTA gives member clubs, leagues and counties advice on model constitutions, rules and regulations. Whilst the **disciplinary procedure** is for the benefit of everyone else, access to the **Appeals Board for the redress of any grievance against any component of the ETTA structure** (club, league, county, national) could be seen as a benefit of membership.

The '3 Rs' – Rules/Regulations, Representation and Revenue

Rules/Regulations: This is really the same as 'order' so I won't repeat it.

Representation: Elected and appointed officials at all levels should **represent the interests of their members**, whilst representative teams compete for the playing membership of clubs, leagues, counties, etc. A benefit to the individual is the **opportunity not only to have representation, but also to be such a representative.** However, this probably is not what normally is meant by representation. **Rather, national teams represent the sport (ETTA) in this country**, and not only raise the profile (and hopefully image) of the sport, and give the public

the opportunity to witness top class play, **but they also give the opportunity for gifted athletes to achieve and experience the highest levels of performance.** At the highest level, the ETTA represents the sport to important bodies such as the Government, Sport England, Sports Coach (UK), the British Olympic Association, sponsors, the media (for example, we made headway on getting the sport on **Sky and Eurosport**, and more recently on **BBC through the Commonwealth Masters and Commonwealth Games** though terrestrial TV is much harder to crack) etc. ETTA professional staff and officials **represent the table tennis interest and viewpoint to a huge number of organisations and multi-agency committees at all levels.** Finally, the ETTA Information Officer (myself!) and all voluntary press officers **give publicity and exposure to the sport through press releases, reports, interviews, briefings, letters etc. to the media.**

Revenue: Professional staff of the ETTA (as well as the voluntary treasurers at club, league, county, regional and national level) **have to deal with the finances of the ETTA**, which is now a major task with a multi-million pound turnover. This might not seem a benefit of **ETTA membership**, although that they are dealt with professionally and well keeps down costs! However, as **affiliation fees are only a small proportion of the total ETTA income**, what is a more tangible benefit to the membership (else they would have to pay much more!) is the (representational) work of ETTA officers (e.g. the Chief Executive and the Commercial Manager) **in obtaining very large grants from the government (exchequer) and the Lottery**, plus numerous **smaller sponsorship deals.** I have mentioned earlier (under opportunities) the help and advice that ETTA staff such as RDOs can give to member clubs, leagues and counties on sources of funding, grant applications and writing business plans, as well as providing endorsement of schemes or grant applications. It is worth mentioning that table tennis has gained a huge amount of funding from sources such as the **Foundation for Sport and the Arts, Lottery Sports Fund Capital Funding and Awards For All (small grants) and local government.** If there was no governing body, supported by the membership, **Sport England** would not be prepared to provide substantial grants at national and local level. **They are much more likely to provide these grants to a sport that can show that it has a strong and healthy membership.**

There are many more benefits of **affiliation to the ETTA**, but I think this article is getting too long and readers will need time to digest it!

Supplementary points in response to feedback from the Didcot League:

Players pay **duplicate affiliation fees** when they play in **more than one (local) league** because this is the way **ETTA affiliation has been set up/constituted.** For a whole host of reasons there would be great advantages of moving towards **once (a year) only individual affiliation to the ETTA** - and I have long argued for this - but this would have to be voted through at the AGM, and many leagues and counties would probably be against it for **fear of losing their power base.** There would also be **major administrative and data input (and cost) implications for head office.**

I would also point out that the **current league affiliation system works both ways:** while if there are only 3 players (or 2 in a junior team) the **average affiliation fee** works out higher than the **affiliation unit**, where more than 4 players (or 3 in a junior league) are registered in a team, then the **average affiliation fee per team place** works out lower than the **affiliation unit** - or alternatively you could say that the **additional affiliations to the team are free.** There are quite a few teams that do register a number of reserves. And if players decide to **play in more than one league - their decision - they are hardly 'punished' financially by the ETTA! £3-68 - the price of 2 pints of (cheapish) - beer is not punishing or excessive!** Remember, the relevant league and county will also charge their appropriate affiliation fees each time as well.

Whilst questioning the level of affiliation fees, one should take into account that **total affiliation fees (£118,500 plus £31,500 for Player Licences)** came to only **9% of total ETTA expenditure (around £1.65 million) last season (2001-2002).** As the government gradually withdraws its support, fees will have to go up. **If the government drastically reduced its (exchequer and Lottery) support, fees would have to go up appropriately.** In France, where there is individual affiliation at around £10 per player, the governing body pulls in the equivalent of £2 million from 200,000 players, making it much more independent of government support (who contribute only 20% of income). **On this basis, our estimated 35,000 affiliated players would produce £350,000 (35,000 x £10),** which would greatly assist the ETTA but still leave it

reliant on the government. **Incidentally, the French mostly pay far higher club membership fees than in England.**

Whilst it is true that you now do have to pay a licence fee (or a daily licence if you don't play in many tournaments) to be able to enter open or national tournaments, **it is not required for national knockout competitions, County Championships or county closed championships.** Regarding the former, the structure (which is not 'stand alone') **would not exist if it were not for the ETTA.** The licence fees do not even cover the salaries of the Events Dept. staff and related administrative staff. Without sponsorship in kind (particularly the free or cheaper use of venues) secured from local authorities, **entry fees for ETTA Butterfly Grand Prix or national tournaments would be nowhere near enough to cover the costs of running them.**

Of course the ETTA has to charge for some of its services, **particularly courses!** There are costs involved **not only in administrating and delivering courses,** but also in the **planning and preparation** (including of syllabus, materials/resources and tutors) of them. As I said earlier, **league affiliation fees only pay for a tiny proportion of the costs of the ETTA** and there is considerable pressure from **Sport England** to raise more money from the membership if we are to continue to receive government support.

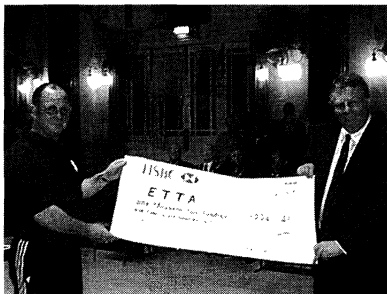
ETTA OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS By Brian Spicer, ETTA Commercial Manager

The photograph below shows Peter Austen of **Batskills** presenting a cheque to the **English Table Tennis Association's Chairman, Alan Ransome OBE,** at the **England v Romania International at Cheltenham Town Hall on February 11.** Batskills have marketed a set of **coaching aids** as a means of putting something back into our sport for the pleasure they have gained over the years, and as a commercial venture. **As official suppliers to the Association,** they were able to present us with the cheque as a result of their **healthy income from the first six months of trading as a company.** Current official ETTA suppliers are:-

Dawson & Sanderson – Travel
Nima Print – Printing
Les Smith – Trophies
Sussex Water – Water supply
Acorn – Business supplies
Interflora – Flowers

Perkins Slade – Legal advice – indemnity
and **Batskills,** suppliers of exciting and innovative teaching and coaching aids.

Other opportunities in **trade sectors** are available.



Peter Austen of Batskills (left) presenting a cheque to ETTA Chairman, Alan Ransome

ETTA APPROVED LAWS OF TABLE TENNIS

At its meeting on Saturday 18th January 2003, National Council decided to propose for consideration by the Annual General Meeting on Saturday 28th June 2003, the Motion contained in document 5090/1/RHS (13.02.03).

MOTION (on behalf of National Council)

“This General Meeting resolves that, with effect from 1st September 2003, the following shall be deleted from the ETTA Approved Laws:”

- B2.11.1 A game shall be won by the player or pair first scoring 21 points unless both players or pairs score 20 points, when the game shall be won by the first player or pair subsequently gaining a lead of 2 points.
- B2.12.1 A match shall consist of the best of 3 games or the best of 5 games.
- B2.13.3 After each 5 points have been scored the receiving player or pair shall become the serving player or pair and so on until the end of the game, unless both players or pairs score 20 points or the expedite system is in operation, when the sequence of serving and receiving shall be the same but each player shall serve for one point in turn.
- B2.13.6 The player or pair serving first in a game shall receive first in the next game of the match, and in the last possible game of a doubles match the pair due to

receive next shall change their order of receiving when first one pair scores 10 points.

- B2.13.7 The player or pair starting at one end in a game shall start at the other end in the next game of the match and in the last possible game of a match the players or pairs shall change ends when first one player or pair scores 10 points.
- B2.15.1 Except where both players or pairs have scored at least 19 points, the expedite system shall come into operation if a game is unfinished after 15 minutes' play or at an earlier time at the request of both players or pairs.

SPORT AND CRIME PREVENTION

Former **Observer** editor Donald Trelford, writing in **The Telegraph (18.1.03),** stated that “there is mounting evidence that **targeted community sports programmes** can cut crime and**provide potential offenders** with stronger motivation and more positive things to do with their time”, and mentioned a **number of schemes** where this has happened.

Tony Blair was quoted as saying, “It is important that we **give this encouragement to sport,** not only for its own sake, but because many people now recognise it as **one of the best anti-crime policies we could have.** It is also as good a **health and education policy** as any other”.

TABLE TENNIS AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AT SOUTH BANK UNIVERSITY

The number of sportsmen and women wishing to **pursue a sporting career** whilst continuing their education is increasing year by year. Many universities have **established scholarship and bursary programmes** aimed at supporting those competing at the highest level in their chosen sport whilst continuing their education.

Over the past two years, **South Bank University** has built on its extensive general programme of scholarships and bursaries to **focus on table tennis.** Crucial to this focus in the first instance has been the **establishment of a partnership with JAGS Table Tennis Club in Dulwich** who provide top level coaching to the University teams and also the chance for more talented players to access top level competition through the club itself.

New recruits to the programme this year have been Gergely Urban (MSc International Business), Dorottya Nagy (BSc Business Administration) and Jerome Jonah (BSc Sport and Exercise Science). They join existing elite players in Abdul Wuraola, Barbara Kiss and Bosede Kaffo who are all BSc Sport and Exercise Science students. All of the players have contributed to the University's successful run in the **BUSA Championships** with both the men and women winning their respective leagues.

The scholarship players are able to **access a special range of support services** to help them in balancing performance in competitions, training and other commitments. These benefits include up to £3000 per annum, free physiotherapy, massage and access to fitness facilities, free sports science support from the University's Human Performance Centre, a guaranteed place in University Halls of Residence, free access to coaching courses and free access to sports related workshops and seminars.

Importantly, each sports scholar is given a **Personal Liaison Officer within the Sports Department**. The scholar and Liaison Officer meet regularly to review a set of agreed sporting, academic and personal goals agreed at the start of each year. **Each Liaison Officer acts as a link between the academic department and the scheme member**, and this in turn allows a degree of academic flexibility for the scholar which can range from flexible essay deadlines to taking the degree over a longer period of time. The overall result of this is that members of the programme are **able to manage their sporting, academic and career aspirations more effectively**.

The University has also embarked on longer term development programmes with the recent appointment of former England U21 number 1 Grant Solder as **Table Tennis Development Officer** on a part time basis. Through his work, the University is seeking to **establish a flow of talented players to the partnership** including working with schools, colleges and clubs, in particular specialist sports colleges with a table tennis focus.

For more information on the programme, please contact Phil Muschamp, Deputy Director of Sport, South Bank University on 0207 815 7812, e-mail muschapt@sbu.ac.uk or visit www.sbu.ac.uk/sports/tabletennisexcellence



Pictured above (from left) are Barbara Kiss, Abdul Wuraola and Bosede Kaffo who are all BSc Sport and Exercise Science students

JUST WHAT MAKES A YOUNG PLAYER 'THE EXCEPTIONAL PROSPECT'? (SHOULD IMPROVERS CONCENTRATE ON THEIR STRENGTHS OR TRY TO BECOME COMPLETE?) By Rowden Fullen, the Yorkshireman coaching in Sweden gives his controversial view

In the words of Deng Yaping's father -- 'There are **3 things** required of an accomplished table tennis player, **strong 'fortes', all-round skills and no obvious chinks in his or her armour**'. But how are these to be applied to a child? Of all the three requirements, it seems obvious that the **first one is primary** while the **other two are only secondary**. If a child is able to develop very strong fortes at an early age, he or she can easily cultivate all-round skills and overcome his or her weak points at a later stage. But if you start out trying to be good all around so that you become something like a **jack of all trades**, you can hardly expect to **develop any strong fortes later on**.'

Den Dasong put his ideas into practice when **coaching his daughter in the early years**. She started at the age of five and learnt in the first year to play with the **'shakehands' grip**. Because she was so small her father had her **change to a tennis grip to increase her reach and bat-swing**. Every day Yaping played one or two exercises, **forehand attack against block or forehand to forehand duels with her father**. For a period of two years or more, Deng Yaping confined her training to only forehand attacking strokes and never practised backhand play. In later years all her opponents were afraid of her fearsome forehand. She developed **one strong forte as a young player**, which stood her in good stead throughout the rest of her career. When a little later she started to **work much on serve and third ball too**, then this forte came very much into its own.

The **early work done on her forehand** also made it quite an easy task for her coach, Zhang Xielin, when

it came to the time to decide what to do with her **backhand wing**. It was a simple choice to give her a **long pimple rubber** which was both slower and a little tricky, but which **above all gives her time to use her strong forehand side** and bring her forte into play. This is an ideal example of marrying equipment and playing style in a profitable way. **In Dortmund in 1989**, when she was only 16 and in her debut in the **World Championships**, Deng Yaping took her first gold medal in the **Women's Doubles**.

Deng's success provides much food for thought concerning **the methods to be used for training young players**. Perhaps the **conventional route** of all-round technical development is outdated, certainly a new trail has been blazed by Den Dasong who started his player out by specializing in a particular department **before building an all-round game at a more advanced stage**.

Of course Den Dasong had the right idea -- a player will only ever reach full potential by **cultivating his or her strengths and developing what he/she does best**, not by working on his/her weak areas, until these are passable or adequate! That is why with young players it is important to **isolate their strengths in the early years and to put in a fair amount of training time to make these as formidable as possible**. Strengths should above all be used and used to win games. The player even at a relatively young age should know **how to get his or her strengths in during the match**. This is why too it is very important to **work on serve and receive with young players**. Unless they develop an understanding of these areas of the game they are often restricted with what they can do with the next one, two or three balls and they never get the chance to play their winning strokes.

Even when a young player has a **very good winning weapon**, it is vital that he or she knows how to use it in the right way. **To be predictable at the highest level for example is not a winning tactic**. You must have the tactics to be able to impose your game on the opponent and to get your strengths in and use them to full effect. To be able to think tactics while you play also requires you **to be calm enough mentally and to have the right 'arousal' level and attitude**.

In fact this is an aspect which it is important to emphasize in the case of all promising young players, and especially with girls -- their own approach and attitude to the game. **Stress and concentration levels are very closely connected** and it is difficult to retain focus if emotions take over. **The ability to relax and to be calm enough to extract profit from**

one's own mental resources is a priority.

Also central to a player's development are **self-confidence and the capacity to be positive**. It is rarely if ever at the higher levels that players win by **containing or waiting for the opponents to 'do their thing' first**. At the top you need to think and play positively, you need to **win the points** and it is **exceptional to get a second chance**, if you don't take advantage of the first when it is offered.

Young players must be encouraged to be positive in their play but also in their mind. They should take the attitude that to let an attacking opportunity go by is in fact failure! At times you may lose games by being over-positive but what both player and coach should be looking at is the overall, long-term development. **Playing in 'the right way' is vital to the growth of the player**. Many players have limitations in technique, they develop strokes in such a way that further progress is restricted. **But many more are limited in the mind and develop the wrong attitudes -- often winning or playing safe take priority over development and instead in the long run we get stagnation. The player's game stops progressing and becomes set in a pattern.**

Always bear in mind too, **that the concept of the player having his or her own idiosyncrasies, the idea of individual techniques but within the underlying principles**, is vital if the player is to cultivate his or her own personal style of play. Six players executing a forehand topspin will do so in six differing ways, with varied pace, varied spin, varied placement, a little element of sidespin, etc. **None of these is 'wrong'**. What we are looking at here is the **concept of individual 'flair', but within the underlying principles, the critical features of the stroke.**

What the coach should be looking at is how such unique characteristics can be turned to advantage. Does the player have a **'speciality'**, something a little different which causes problems to opponents -- or are there aspects of his or her game which can be accentuated to fashion such a speciality.

The prime skill of table tennis is to be able to adapt to an ever changing situation. Each player tries to adapt to the technique, tactics and playing style of the opponent and to avoid being **'controlled'** by the way the opponent plays. **Table tennis is largely a sport of conditioned reflex patterns where players train to react automatically**. This is why new techniques, tactics and **'specialities'** or unusual styles of play are difficult to cope with. The **'automatic pilot'** doesn't work so well any more and the player's reactions are

unstable, inaccurate, lacking smoothness and co-ordination. In fact the player who can keep one step ahead of the competitors in the innovation of technique, tactics or playing style, **will have a big advantage (especially now we are playing to eleven up) because the opponent will have difficulty in adapting in time.**

IF YOU CAN'T LEND A HAND

By Ken Muhr

Most parent coaches are, of course, great for their kids but there are still some who can cause harm. I wrote the following for the December 1981 edition of the now defunct **'Table Tennis' magazine**, in response to a contribution from John Prean, and I believe that my cautionary message is still relevant today:

While sympathising with and sharing John Prean's admiration (Table Tennis October) **for the dedicated, long-suffering and much-maligned parents of junior table tennis players**, I think that he gives only one side of the story. **There are parents who should not coach their own children.**

I simply do not believe that anyone can be selfless in what he does for his children. Most parents inwardly feel (though they do not often express it) satisfaction and contentment in doing their best for their kids, **even when the overt goal or reward -- success -- is not achieved**. Many, I believe, would also say that the total experience, in terms of their children's development and enjoyment, of travelling around, meeting people and making friends, and taking part is more important than the competition itself. **However, there are other parents who seem to revel in the martyrdom of self-sacrifice**, whether costed in time, money, effort or stress, and let everybody know it, **thereby making their children feel guilty and resentful.**

No doubt there are many parents who, like Mr Prean, **studiously and relentlessly study the game**. Others are not so conscientious or experienced, yet a few of these still think that they know all the answers. Leaving aside for a moment emotional considerations, what about those parents, who, ignorant or lacking in perception of the game, **still insist on shouting too simplistic, confused, unrealistic or unhelpful directions to their offspring**, sometimes even when better-informed, more astute advisers are on hand to assist?

And being knowledgeable and perceptive is not all it takes to make a good coach and non-playing captain. **He also needs to be able to communicate, give real encouragement and support, and**

instil confidence and a positive attitude. Not unnaturally, most parents get nervous when watching their progeny competing. Unfortunately feelings and emotions are contagious so that **tension can be transferred to the child, particularly when advice is given, and put him off**. Such emotion can also cloud and distort the judgement of both parties. Those parents unable sufficiently to control and hide their nervy and agonised feelings **should not give on-the-table advice to their children, and preferably should not be seen (or heard) to be watching**. They may be perfectly capable, however, of giving valuable advice to others.

Often 'all' that is required of the corner man is to **pinpoint one or two point-winning ploys or simple tactics or by a well-chosen word or gesture calm the player down, encourage him, keep him on the boil or revive his deflated ego**. But a few parents overload their charges with **reams of seemingly nonsensical advice or deliver lectures/threats/reproofs**, "Why don't you do as I tell you?...Use your brains for Christ's sake...I haven't come all this way to see you give in....We might as well just pack up and go home....Are you listening to me?" When the child comes off the table beaten, bemused and dejected, **all he can expect is a further tirade of abuse and frenzied bone-shaking. If he is lucky he will be totally ignored.**

We must all have witnessed this kind of behaviour to varying degrees. And the unfortunate child is in no position to refuse this kind of 'help'. The problems and dangers are that a parent can identify all too strongly with his child. **He can fall into the trap of projecting himself and his hopes and aspirations through his child, passing on his own inadequacies and frustrations, so it may come to the point where the player is competing not for himself but for his father**. In this situation the parent can build up enormous pent-up energy, mentally playing every point of the match but being physically unable to exert any influence on the outcome. He may try by sheer willpower to force his son to win and his emotional release is euphoria in success and exasperation and anger in failure. **For the child the joy of playing dies and there may be no escape from the pressure, either at table tennis or in the home, until he can break away during adolescence.**

The attainment of excellence in sport is a desirable aim with spin-offs of increased self-esteem and confidence. **However, too much emotional pressure can be brought to bear on children to succeed (in school, envisaged careers, music, etc, as well as sport) often to the detriment of**

their stability and normal adjustment. They need to be loved and accepted for themselves, regardless of their achievements. Surely the kind of people children become, their happiness and the richness of their lives are what matter most.

Who am I, a bachelor, to pass judgement on these parents? I cannot give a totally adequate answer, but I do try to observe objectively and then to empathise. **And my comments could equally appropriately be applied to some over-zealous, single-minded coaches** who channel all their energies and ambitions in one direction and can be devastated when the effort does not pay off. I should know, as I have made that mistake.

Every coach, whether a parent or not, should beware lest he gets too emotionally involved. He should try to get to know himself and his limitations and be prepared to face the harsh reality that there may be occasions when, even though nobody better qualified is available to help, **his involvement could jeopardise the successful outcome of a match – and worse, be psychologically damaging to the child.**

For the sake of convenience, not for sexist reasons, I have referred to the parent, coach and child in the male gender.

MARTIAL ART PING PONG

By Alan Lowe (e-mail:
a.lowe@shf.ac.uk)

Reading the article titled 'Making Coaching Real' written by Peter Hirst, the ETTA Director of Teaching and Training, the point Peter made about **table tennis being similar in many ways to combat sports**, relates to my own personal development in recent years.

About 8 years ago, I began to learn a Chinese martial art called 'Tai Chi Chaun', Wu style. Tai Chi is old art, which was developed many years ago in China, and is still practiced today by many of its population; they believe that **tai chi will help them maintain their health and prolong an active life style in old age.** At advanced level it is a combat sport, which involves movements similar to other martial arts, but are **performed slow, and very precise in training.**

After an 8-year period of initiation into Tai Chi, although only classed as an intermediate due to such a short period of training, tai chi has profoundly altered my table tennis coaching philosophy. I suppose I'm the only Tai Chi / table tennis coach in England.

For more information about Tai Chi see web page www.wutaichi.co.uk

In my opinion, a major problem with our international players, is not their physical state, technique or skills, but their **Mental Instability.**

Peter advocates in his article, 'that the **prime** skill is the ability to read and adapt to the ever-changing situations'. I fully agree with this statement, but it's in the method to achieve this that the Tai Chi martial art has a different opinion. I will call Peter's statement **Opponent Control.**

Peter then states that at the early learning stages the player needs to develop an understanding of what the person at the other end of the table is doing, i.e. Perception (looking outwards). This is not a fundamental of Tai Chi; in fact it is quite the opposite. **Tai Chi advocates self-analysis (looking inwards);** this is developed by a complex movement pattern called 'The Form'. In table tennis terms we would call it strokes, techniques, balance and movement patterns. The student learns part of the form at each training session, until all the form has been completed; usually this takes one to two years. After the initial form is learnt, the process is repeated again and again with refinements, which hopefully keeps deepening the student's knowledge about his physical and mental state. Advanced students can reach a level where the refinements are so fine that the layman cannot see them. This is the way Tai Chi teaches **Self Control.**

The final result should have developed five of the principles, which are **Calmness, Lightness, Agility, Exactness, Perseverance.**

My conclusion is: - How can we ever hope to have **Opponent Control** when we cannot control ourselves.

FAMOUS PEOPLE WHO PLAYED TABLE TENNIS

By Ken Muhr

I have had no new contributions but can use, for the first time, a 'celebrity' piece I received from **Peter Forrest** last October:

Some of the key players in the **2001 American Football Superbowl winners, the New England Patriots,** are keen **table tennis players,** according to the **NFL coverage on Sky.**

As an example of quarterback Tom Brady's competitiveness, the TV commentator described how, **at training camp in 2002,** Brady had been well beaten by fellow-player Deion Branch at ping-pong. According to another player, he spent most of the next day at the table, **practising his serves and his strokes.**

We don't know what the outcome of any revenge match was - but it's clear from the number of times Brady passed to Branch in the televised match that **any animosity at the table didn't carry on to the football field.**

RACKETLON

A new sports movement is trying to combine the **4 racket sports; table tennis, tennis, squash and badminton.** The idea of **Racketlon** started out in **Finland and Sweden,** taking up the concept from **Triathlon and Decathlon.** The idea is simply to **compete in all 4 racket sports,** one after the other, and the player who gets the most points in total, wins.

If you are curious about the idea, go to www.racketlon.com and have a look.

CORRECTION (KM)

By printing the results from the **Ocean International Sussex Open Butterfly Grand Prix (9th/10th November)** in the **Jan/Feb TTN Extra,** I repeated a mistake from my press release. John Clarke from **Sussex** beat (not lost to) John Clark from **Yorkshire 11-4, 13-11, 11-7** in the **Men's Band 6 Singles final.** My apologies! The winner on the draw sheet had been shown as 'Clark' without an 'e', and I had assumed that this was the **Yorkshireman.**

CIPPENHAM U-14/16 1 STAR OPEN held on 12th January 2003

There were several fine performances by home players at the **Cippenham U-14/16 1-Star Open Championships on 12th January.** The star of the show was 13 year old Melanie Farquhar who lives in Reading but has trained at Cippenham for the past two years. Farquhar was dominant throughout the day and finished as **girls' champion in both age categories.** In the final of the **U-16 event** she fought off a spirited challenge from another Cippenham youngster, Sylvana Bielec, in a match full of fast attacking table tennis. Farquhar was often driven back many feet from the table but still counter-attacked with force enough to soak up the blistering attack of Bielec. In the final of the **U-14 event** Farquhar beat one of the Welsh visitors, Emmaleigh Newman, who she also later beat in the semi-final of the **older age category.**

James Milton had his best tournament yet. The Hedgerley boy fought back to survive four match points to beat Cippenham colleague Mark Armstrong at deuce in the fifth of their classic semi-final encounter. Both boys played their fast up-to-the-table topspin attack in an entertaining match that swayed

first one way then the other. Meanwhile in the other semi-final Cippenham player Ashley Shaw was giving the highly ranked top seed Vytas Rybakas the fright of his life. The Lithuanian, currently based in Essex, only managed to win this epic at deuce in the fifth. Worse was to follow for Rybakas who, apart from claiming the third game, was outplayed by Milton in the final.

Rybakas duly won the **U-14 event** earlier in the day. He needed four games to see off the challenge of William Maybanks in the final while Maybanks had ended the run of Cippenham's Ashley Shaw one round earlier. Showing that he was not to be outdone by the more well known home players, Shaw reached the semi-finals of both events and will be a force to be reckoned with in the future. The other semi-finalist in the **U-14 Boys' Singles** was Joseph Chacoliades.

Another Cippenham player who caught the eye was 10 year old Katie Rule. In her best tournament to date Rule reached the quarter-finals of both events, beating Cippenham colleague Catherine Hayes in the **U-16s**. Hayes also reached the quarters of the **U-14s** while Jenny Hansell did likewise in the **U-16s**.

A huge entry of **160** kept referee and organiser Ken Phillips, together with **16 tables**, busy and the event was superbly managed on the day by Robert Hansell.

Results:-

U16BS: James Milton (Bu) bt Vytas Rybakas (E) 13, 7, -6, 8

U16GS: Melanie Farquhar (Bk) bt Sylvana Bielec (Bu) 7, 6, 6

U14BS: Vytas Rabakas (E) bt William Maybanks (He) 9, -9, 6, 7

U14GS: Melanie Farquhar (Bk) bt Emmaleigh Newman (WAL) -7, 8, 7, 7

U16BCons: Matthew Ware (Do) bt David McBeath (Ha) -10, 4, 8, 1

U16GCons: Abigail Moore (He) bt Chelsea Bennett (Sk) 7, 9, -7, -1, 8

U14BCons: Alim Hirji (Mi) bt Joshua Roseberry (He) 8, 5, 5

U14GCons: Abigail Moore (He) bt Lindsey Armstrong (Mi) 7, 8, 9



James Milton, the winner of the U-16 Boys' Singles pictured with Melanie Farquhar, the winner of both the U-14 and U-16 Girls' Singles.

CIPPENHAM VETERANS' 2 STAR OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS held on 2nd February 2003

Top seeds Dave Harding and Kim Johnson justified their rankings by winning the main titles at the **Cippenham Veterans' 2 Star Open Table Tennis Championships on 2nd February**. Neither had it all their own way in progressing to the titles but many of the other seeds were displaced before their allotted positions. One of the main beneficiaries of this was Cippenham's Mike Rhodes who reached the final of the **Men's Singles** despite being seeded only sixth.

Two of the eight seeds in the **men's event** even failed to make it through their preliminary round groups. Previous champion Steve Davis, the fifth seed, was a little unlucky to be relegated into third place in his group after a three-way tie at the top of the group. Phil Saxby and John Barnes progressed at his expense. There was worse for fourth seed Ramesh Bhalla who lost three times in his group, to Fred Dove, Tony Brown and Pete Dunnett, and finished fourth out of five. All the other seeds came through unscathed although top seed Harding only just held off a challenge from Steve Preston at **11-9** in the fifth.

The fun commenced again in the second round when second seed Derek Holman took his leave of the tournament, beaten by local Windsor resident Derek Wood in four games. In the same round Mike Wilkins, having come only second in his group after losing to Syd Montgomery, beat third seed Farhat Rasul **11-8** in the fifth and then in the next round he repeated the dose against seventh seed Keith Yarnley, this time in three straight games.

Local hero Mike Rhodes progressed into the semis with wins over Ray Sutton, Charlie Childs and Derek Wood, and then clinched his place in the final with a hard-fought **11-9** in the fifth victory over his Bucks team-mate Wilkins. In the top half of the draw Harding made his way via Graham Outrim, Barrie Gilbert and, in the semi, eighth seed Tom Carr who had ended the courageous run of unranked Fred Dove one round earlier. Harding found his best form in the final and was a relatively easy three-straight winner over Rhodes.

Steve Davis, not surprisingly, won the **consolation event** but had to come back from two games down in the final to beat Ian Schwartz. The Reading player, Schwartz, had a number of very close matches during the day, beating John Barclay and losing to Alan Boyle both deuce in the fifth in his group. This he continued into the knock-out, coming back from **8-4 down** in the fifth

to beat Graham Trimming and then just edging past Maurice Isaacs **14-12** in the fifth in the semi-final.

The **Women's Singles** produced an all-Welsh final between Kim Johnson and Regina Donovan, despite both players having been beaten in their preliminary groups. Johnson lost to High Wycombe local Mary Heffernan while Donovan lost to Sharon Mitchell. Mitchell, the second seed, then lost to Audrey Robinson to make it a three-way tie at the top of the group. In the knock-out, Heffernan eliminated Mitchell **11-9** in the fifth but fell in the semis to Donovan, herself an **11-7 winner** of Cathy Eakin one round earlier. The bottom half of the draw also produced a close match with Robinson needing five games to see off the challenge of Sue Adamson. Robinson was then eliminated by Johnson in the semi.

The tournament attracted a **record entry of 85 players** and Organiser Graham Trimming and Referee Mick Strode ensured it finished exactly on schedule.

Results:

MS: Dave Harding (Sy) bt Mike Rhodes (Bu) 8, 7, 6

WS: Kim Johnson (WAL) bt Regina Donovan (WAL) 10, 8, -5, 9

MCons: Steve Davis (Sy) bt Ian Schwartz (Bk) -3, -7, 1, 5, 6

WCons: Haruko Posford (Sy) bt Flavia Wade (Mi) 6, -7, 3, 1

CHELTENHAM (COTSWOLD) 4 STAR held at Cheltenham Recreation Centre on 25th/26th January 2003

Results:-

Girls' U-13: L. Springthorpe (Li) bt R. Jamieson (E) 6, 7, 2

Boys' U-13: D. Reed (Dv) bt D. Nicholls (Sp) -6, 8, -10, 7, 9

Cadet Girls' Open: L. Springthorpe (Li) bt J. Stringer (K) 2, -8, 6, 9

Cadet Boys' Open: B. Evans (Bu) bt G. Evans (Bu) 4, 6, 7

Cadet Girls' Grade 1: R. Jamieson (E) bt C. Howe (So) 7, 3, -7, -9, 8

Cadet Boys' Grade 1: L. Barnes (Sk) bt M. Simpson (Du) -8, 6, 7, 13

Junior Girls' Open: N. Wilson (So) bt L. Hall (Gw) -4, 7, 12, 3

Junior Boys' Open: K. Lei (Sp) bt S. Marples (Dy) 3, 7, 7

Junior Girls' Grade 1: S. Smith (Dv) bt C. Howe (So) -6, 8, 10, 6

Junior Boys' Grade 1: D. Meads (Du) bt I. Shuck (Gw) 4, -8, 7, 7

TABLE TENNIS FEATURED IN NEWCASTLE / GATESHEAD CORPORATE GAMES

Table tennis will continue its unbroken history in the **UK & Ireland Corporate Games** in the **10th Anniversary** edition in **Newcastle/Gateshead June 20-23, 2003**.

Women and Men Singles in 5 age classes (Open -30 30-39 40-49 50+) and **Doubles and Mixed Doubles in Open and 40+** give a good range of competition for all participants.

Every competitor is **guaranteed 3 matches** in each event entered in pool play and the top two in each pool proceed to the elimination and final rounds, so there is plenty of action for everyone.

The venue in **Newcastle** is exceptionally good. It is in the **Sports Development Centre at the University of Northumbria** and has excellent playing conditions.

The **Corporate Games** this year is likely to be the biggest ever as the host cities in **Newcastle/Gateshead** are very popular destinations. Early entry has been higher than in previous years and the Games has reached new heights in popularity.

The "extras" in 2003 are very impressive. The **Super Centre** is in **St James' Park**, the spectacular home of **Newcastle United**, which will also host the **Games party**. There are four themes – **James Bond, Elvis, The Full Monty and Black and White**.

Honorary Sport Patrons for the Games are **Olympic Gold Medallist and World Champion Triple Jumper**, Jonathan Edwards, and **Rugby legend** Rob Andrew. They will add lustre to the Games.

Every participant receives a Games T shirt and is invited to join in the **Grand Parade of Athletes over the Gateshead Millennium Bridge**. The legendary **Tennis Ball Hit Out** will be bigger and better than ever with some high value prizes.

Metro Magic – the region's top radio station is offering **special discounts** on night clubs and pub crawls on **Thursday and Friday evenings** and the whole weekend is likely to be a never-to-be-forgotten experience in sport friendship and fun.

The **Official Charity** is the **RNLI**, perhaps better known as the "Lifeboats".

For **entry details** and **all information** enter the **website** on www.corporate-games.com or **e-mail** info@corporate-games.com or **telephone** 01733 380 888.

COUNTY NOTES

- A look around the Country

Issue No. 291
March 2003

CHESHIRE by Alan Blears

Leprechauns and colleens were all agog when Liz Dennett visited the **Emerald Isle** and took home some prize goodies. In the **Munster Open** the county's no. 2 junior pinged her way to both the **Junior Girls' and Senior Women's titles**, and also pinged into the semi-final of the **U-21 event** in the **Newtownabbey Grand Prix**. The colleen who beat her? Er, well, actually it was Scotland's Gillian Edwards, by 3 games to 1. Well played Liz.

Blackpool Junior 4 Star

Other Cheshire youngsters did well in the **Blackpool Junior 4 Star**. Jordyn Layfield was **U-13 Girls' runner-up** to Lauren Springthorpe, **losing 3-1**, while Jonathon Taylor was semi-finalist in the **Cadet Boys' Band 1**. After a disappointing **U-13 event** Caroline Hallows reached the semi-final of the **Cadets Band 1**, and went one better in the **doubles** where she and Derbyshire's Emma Vickers were runners-up to the older, and much bigger Kelly Sibley and Heather Shutt.

Rosebank Junior 2 Star

This Christmas tournament saw Mark Davies as runner-up in the **Junior Boys**, with Alex Clare taking the **Best Performance Award**.

Stiga Hyndburn Junior Grand Prix

Sophie Byron was runner-up and Caroline Hallows third in the **girls' event**.

Junior and Cadet County Championships

A clash of three events on **January 18th** - schools area finals, junior and cadet county matches – combined with absence and illness, stretched the county's resources to the limit.

The **cadet team** had only one player, Richard Barker, who could have been expecting to play. The top cadet girls and Jonathon Taylor were in action for

the **junior 2nd team**, Adam Slater was on a musical tour of Norway, and Ajai Singh was ill. Thrown in at the deed end in **Division 1A** were Mitchell Barker, Michael Horobin, Fiona Dennett (who herself retired unwell near the end) and Emma Kelly, none of them more than 13. They might not have won all their matches, but how well they performed. With the two youngest players winning the most sets, Mitchell seven and Emma five, the future looks to be in good hands. Aged 11, Emma may well be one of the youngest players to represent the county.

I was not present for the **junior 2nd team's Division 2A** matches, but the full-strength team appears to have done very well, helped by an outstanding win by Hayley Parker. More details next time.

CUMBRIA by Gordon Brown

Congratulations to the **Under 13 girls** of **Dowdales School, Dalton-in-Furness**, and the **boys** of **Queen Katherine High, Kendal**, on getting through to the finals of the **National Schools Team Championships**.

In the **regional finals** at Blackburn, **Dowdales** had **8-0 victories** in their first two matches over **Windsor Park, Staffs**, and **Greencroft Secondary, Durham**.

In the **Windsor Park** match, Helen Crawford, Jane New and Katie and Laura Shepherd were all winners.

The girls later took on various **boys' Under 13 teams** and won each time. In the final girls' match, **Dowdales** drew **4-4** with **Bramhall High** and went through to the **nationals** by virtue of having won a greater number of ends.

Dowdales Under 16 boys reached their **regional finals** but did not get through, as did **Askam girls Under-11s**.

Cumbria 2, Parkview and **Barrow** were also runners-up in the **regional Under 16 girls**, making it the first time since 1986 that the school have not had a team in the **nationals**.

Veteran Alan Turner won all three senior trophies at the **Barrow and District League's annual tournament**, the first person to do so.

In the **Veterans' Singles (40 and over)** he beat Keith Mallinson **21-17, 21-13**, and in the doubles with Steve Bushell was on the winning side against Mallinson and Brian Crowe.

Turner and Bushell, who both play for **BAE**, faced each other in the **Men's Singles final**. After taking the first game comfortably, Turner had to struggle before getting home **22-20** in the second.

The Crawford family figured prominently in the competition. Father Duncan reached the **semi-finals** of the

Veterans' Singles, being beaten by Mallinson, was beaten by son Jonathan in the **Division 2-3 Singles final** over three games, and daughter Helen reached the **semi-finals** of the **Handicap Singles**, won by Peter Dennas, who compensated for his defeat by Duncan Crawford in the **Division 2-3 semi-final**.

DERBYSHIRE by Colin Deaton

What a fairy tale season it is turning out to be for enthusiasts and followers of **Derbyshire table tennis**.

For the very first time our **county cadets** played in the **National County Championships** and have emerged as the **divisional champions**. Led by Chesterfield's Allan Fullwood, the squad was Daniel Palmer, Daniel Lawman and Chris Daffin of Chesterfield and Tim Mitchell (Derby), with the girls being Emma Vickers (Derby), Emily O' Sullivan (Derby) and Kathryn Arrowsmith.

Determined not to be outdone, **Derbyshire juniors**, represented by Shaun Marples and William Cooney (Chesterfield), Adam Frost (Long Eaton), Sarah Bayliss and Emma Vickers (Derby), **combined well as a team also to emerge as the divisional champions**. With this **double success**, credit must be extended to the Derbyshire non-playing captain, Neil Timperley Houghton, who marshalled them with confidence and with his usual array of match tactics. On examining the results, we discover that the **Derbyshire junior side have not lost a match for two years**.

More success has come the way of **Chesterfield club, Staveley**. They are undefeated and continue to lead the **East Midland Cadet League** and are in a strong position to pick up the **National Junior title**. Perhaps the icing on the cake for this **north Derbyshire club was the 5-3 victory over Darlington in the Johnny Leach Trophy**. Alan, their number one cadet player, gained a superb maximum which gave the **Staveley Club** a place in this national final. Coaching sessions by Nicola Deaton and Alex Perry at this club have been very popular and the club, **with 20 teams in the local league**, has a full-time centre in the planning to be opened in 2005.

One of the highlights of **Derbyshire table tennis** this season was the entry of **74** for the **Under-11 individual schools event**. This event, played at **Dronfield School**, was a real eye-opener with youngsters from all pockets of Derbyshire in action. Play was very competitive with Natalie Sales (**Under 11 girls**) and Liam Pitchford (**Under 11 boys**) winning the titles for **Chesterfield** and thoroughly

deserving their place in the **National Schools Finals**.

There can be no denying that the **Midlands Development Officer**, Chris Newton, has played a big part in the growth of our schools by virtue of his '**Awards for All Scheme**'. Six new schools had made entries into the county event this year. Well done Chris – keep it up. We hear that the growth in Derby is still on the up and up with some very promising boy and girl players.

The **Derby Table Tennis Association** continues with some real involvement in the schools sector and has staged a **free open afternoon for juniors** at the **Sherwin Club** during half-term. An open afternoon was also featured at the **Sherwin Club** during the half-term week for the **over fifties**. Again the entrance is free. The objective here is to recover some members and initially, at least, play as a recreation. The big event of the year in the form of the **Derby closed event** is to be staged at the **Mackworth Sports Centre** and the organizer is John Cowell.

Matlock, under the chairmanship of Tony Gregory, is functioning well and Tony informs me that for the first time they have a **mature ladies' team competing**. Whilst they too have a squad of youngsters coming through, they have a team in **division one, The Fire Station**, which totals an average age of **68**. **B.R. Insurance** are the favourites to land their **division one title** again and in the **top division** Matlock's leading player, Geoff Gill, is undefeated.

The widely travelled Tony Pacitto was working hard coaching youngsters in the Matlock area, but has recently been out of action with heart surgery problems. **Mr Dedication has been missed** and on behalf of all enthusiasts in the Matlock and Derbyshire area, we wish him a very speedy recovery and we await to see him back in action with the kids.

In the **Burton League** a cubs' tournament team event and individual competition have been most popular. This event has been run for the last **15 years** and was again staged this year on **10 tables**.

Coaching classes throughout the **Burton area** continues, but one disturbing aspect which has been met with some disappointment, and was quoted to me by Chris Newton, our **Development Officer**; is "**I am concerned that the Burton League have not yet paid their affiliation fees**" and he went on to say "**This could have severe consequences for our senior and junior teams competing in the British League**". Let us all hope the **Burton League** can resolve this as soon as possible.

ESSEX by Steve Kerns

M&G Chelmsford Closed

No. 3 seed Keiran Lally became the fourth junior to win the **M&G Chelmsford & DTTL Men's Singles title**, but he was pushed all the way by another outstanding prospect - 13 year-old Vytas Rybakas who actually beat Keiran in the **Under 21 Singles final**. Despite losing the first game in the final, Keiran was in no mood to be denied and he came back strongly to take the second and third ends with some excellent away from the table play. Vytas should not be too disappointed, he did win five titles - **U13 Singles, U15 Singles, U17 Boys' Singles, U17 Doubles and U21 Singles**. Paul Davison created the shock of the tournament with a superb win over the no. 1 seed David Cole, but he too became a Rybakas victim in the staged semi-final.

Elsewhere the divisional events (**the Closed Tournament's equivalent of the Grand Prix Banded Singles**) proved by far the most popular with best-ever entries. Seventh seed Nigel Lamb was a superb winner of the **2-Down Singles** beating a series of players who he had lost to in league matches, whilst fifth seed Matt Brown was an equally impressive winner of the **4-Down Singles**. Selected results included:

Men's Singles Semi-Finals - Vytas Rybakas beat Paul Davison 22, 12, Keiran Lally beat Rik James 11, 23.

Men's Singles Final - Lally beat Rybakas -19, 18, 17.

Ladies' Singles Final - Cathy Eakin beat Leanne Bentley 18, 5.

Men's Doubles Final - Dave Cole/Rik James beat Keiran Lally/Steve Kerns -19, 24, 19.

Mixed Doubles Final - Dave Cole/Julie Vansertima beat Rik James/Jean Chasmer 11, 20.

Ladies' Doubles - (1) Cathy Eakin/Linda Murray (2) Julie Vansertima/Jean Chasmer

Under 21 Singles Final - Vytas Rybakas beat Keiran Lally 11, 17.

Over 40 Singles Final - John Holland beat George Reeves 11, 28.

Over 50 Singles Final - John Holland beat Ian Whiteside 7, 12.

Over 60 Singles Final - Ivan Chaplin beat John Darling 22, 15.

Under 17 Boys' Singles Final - Vytas Rybakas beat Alistair Hill -19, 19, 17.

Under 15 Singles Final - Vytas Rybakas beat Lorna Staff 19, 13.

Under 13 Singles Final - Vytas Rybakas beat Thomas Hill 18, -22, 5.

Under 17 Doubles Final - Rybakas/Lally beat Ryan Pitt/Simon Webber 15, 20.

2-Down Singles Final - Nigel Lamb beat Waseem Qureshi 16, -14, 16.

4-Down Singles Final - Matt Brown beat Alistair Hill 17, 21.

6-Down Singles Final - Bill Chester beat Nigel Parmenter -20, 10, 21.

HAMPSHIRE by Jeremy Wilson

Rising Hampshire table tennis star Alex Garlick produced the performance of his life to lift the county junior title last month. The Basingstoke ace was seeded only third for the title and breezed his way into the semi-final where he was matched against second seed David Woodacre from Portsmouth.

Garlick comfortably took the first game **11-3**, before being pegged back **11-7** in the second. The third leg proved crucial and Garlick held his nerve to take it **12-10** before breezing through the fourth.

But there was another shock in the other semi-final when top seed and county **Under 23 champion** Glenn Wilshere was beaten in straight games by Aldershot's Acton Zhang **11-9, 11-5, 11-5**. Garlick took immediate control of the final and eventually eased to a straight sets victory.

He then made it a memorable double, teaming up with Woodacre to defeat Pompey duo Lee Mullett and Connor Shipp in a thrilling five-set **Under 18 Doubles final**.

But Shipp made amends in the **Under 15 Doubles** as he and Michael Gibbs defeated Locksheath duo Nick Faithfull and Conrad Haswell in another titanic struggle.

In the **Girls' Under 18 Singles** top seed Jenny Dobson from Southampton was pushed all the way by the impressive Jo Hurt from the Isle of Wight. But Dobson's big-match experience proved crucial as she took a closely fought match **14-12, 11-8, 12-10**.

The duo also contested the **Under 15 Girls' final** with Dobson winning a similarly close match **14-12, 11-7, 13-11**.

Hampshire schools have performed well in regional team finals – **with four squads progressing to the finals of the zonal championships**. The four were Mountbatten School, Romsey; Nursling School, Southampton; Southdown College, Waterlooville and King Richard School, Paulsgrove.

Winners of the **Under 19 title** were Southdown's squad of David Woodacre, Callum Shipp, Lee Mullett and Billy Edwards who comfortably overcame teams from Kingston, Reading and St Leonards.

The King Richard squad of James Newman, Jason Bavester, Lee Wilson and Daniel Street went through as

runners-up after losing to a strong Surrey squad.

David McBeath, Phillip Manning, Robin Hunt and Thomas Brackstone represented Nursling and lost out to Whitgift School, south Croydon, while Mountbatten performed well to beat teams from Hastings and Reading to progress. The Mountbatten squad were John McBeath, David Wills, Jonathan Whittall and Daniel Orman.

The matches were played at the **Admiral Lord Nelson School, Portsmouth**.

HEREFORDSHIRE by Harry Jutle

At just over halfway stage, after 9 games, **Division 1 is led by Hereford Table Tennis Club (HTTC)**. Shorties and Leominster Loopers, both at 64 points, with Green Farm Lions at 57 points lying in 3rd place. Toby Eckley is the leading player for the Lions, followed by Chris Martin for the Loopers, then Alistair Dawson and Harry Jutle for the Shorties.

Division 2 is led by HTTC Clippers at 84 points, Woolhope Wannabees at 71 points and HTTC Casuals at 67 points. Leading players are Ted Andrews and Dave Knowles for Clippers, John Pullen for Wannabees and Bob Marshall for Casuals.

Division 3 is totally dominated by HTTC Anoraks at 82 points, then Woolhope Foragers at 52 points, Bumer's Vikings at 46 points and HTTC Renegades at 44 points (with 2 games in-hand worth up to 20 points). Leading players are Ian Slade and Kevin Hewitt for Anoraks, Lewis Michael for Renegades, Tyrone Felsted for Foragers and Jenny Kitson for Vikings.

On a coaching initiative a new scheme of **Enrichment Program** is being run at **Whitcross High School, the Hereford Table 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 have introduced around 40 students, and are now teaching the third batch. The scheme has gone down well and other schools are showing interest.

County table tennis results on Saturday 1st February 2003

Junior Division 3C

Hereford played away against **Avon** resulting in a **7-3 win!** Greg Price continued his good form to win both games in straight sets. Jessica Davies won both, only dropping one game. Nikki Segust also won both, one in the 5th and the other in the 4th. Joe Davies won one in the 4th, but lost the other in

the 5th set. Nick Wilson was unlucky to lose both in the 5th sets, **14-16** in the one. This win keeps them on track for the runner-up position again, as achieved last season.

Scores: Greg Price 11-7, 11-5, 11-5 and 11-9, 11-2, 11-6. Jessica Davies 11-5, 9-11, 11-2, 11-9 and 11-7, 11-5, 11-6. Nikki Segust 11-7, 11-5, 6-11, 9-11, 11-3 and 11-8, 4-11, 11-8, 11-3. Joe Davies 12-14, 11-6, 11-7, 11-6 and 11-9, 11-6, 8-11, 12-14, 8-11. Nick Wilson 9-11, 11-9, 8-11, 11-5, 14-16 and 9-11, 11-2, 4-11, 11-4, 7-11.

Senior Division 2B

Hereford hosted a double match at **Queen Elizabeth High School, Bromyard**, against **Cornwall 1st and Cornwall 2nd**, winning both at **6-4!** Mark Owen won all his 4 matches in the 4th set. Andy Castle won 3 out of 4, two in the 4th and one in the 5th at **15-13**. Helen Green also won 3 out of 4, one in straight sets, two in the 4th and her loss was in the 5th set at **13-15**. Alistair Dawson won 2 in straight sets, lost one in the 4th and the other in the 5th. Margaret Shock lost in straight sets. During the match 4 went into the 5th set, 8 into the 4th, and 5 into deuce.

Scores against Cornwall 1st: Mark Owen 9-11, 11-5, 11-3, 11-9 and 11-5, 11-13, 11-1, 11-5. Helen Green 11-7, 11-6, 8-11, 11-6 and 11-7, 11-6, 13-11. Andy Castle 6-11, 9-11, 6-11 and 7-11, 11-6, 11-9, 11-4. Alistair Dawson 11-5, 11-7, 11-6 and 4-11, 14-12, 9-11, 9-11. Margaret Shock 5-11, 7-11, 5-11 and 3-11, 5-11, 8-11.

Scores against Cornwall 2nd: Mark Owen 10-12, 11-5, 11-6, 11-7 and 11-4, 6-11, 11-3, 11-7. Andy Castle 11-9, 9-11, 11-6, 8-11, 15-13 and 11-5, 11-4, 6-11, 11-8. Helen Green 8-11, 11-3, 5-11, 11-7, 13-15 and 9-11, 11-8, 4-11, 11-8, 11-6. Alistair Dawson 11-7, 11-4, 11-7 and 9-11, 14-12, 9-11, 11- , 8-11. Margaret Shock 9-11, 5-11, 5-11 and 4-11, 3-11, 3-11.

Veteran Division 3C

Hereford played hosts to **Oxford 2nd** resulting in a **6-3 win!** Mark Owen completed his success by winning his **2 singles**, only dropping 1 game, and the **Men's Doubles** with Harry Jutle in the 4th set. Helen Green won her **singles** and the **Mixed Doubles** with Norman Merchant in straight sets. Harry Jutle underlined the victory by a single win in the 5th set. Norman Merchant lost his **singles** in the 4th and at deuce in the 5th set. During the match 2 went into the 5th set, 3 into the 4th, and 5 into deuce.

Scores: Mark Owen 11-7, 11-0, 8-11, 11-7 and 11-2, 11-7, 11-6. Helen Green 11-5, 11-7, 11-7. Harry Jutle 5-11, 1-11, 7-11 and 11-7, 8-11, 10-12, 11-4, 11-3. Helen and Norman in the **Mixed Doubles** 11-5, 11-7, 11-7. Mark and Harry in the **Men's Doubles** 11-3, 11-3, 8-11, 11-8. Norman Merchant 8-11, 12-10, 6-11, 11-5, 6-11 and 12-14, 8-11, 11-3, 11-13.

Veteran Division 4D

Hereford 2nd played hosts to **Cornwall** resulting in a **3-6 loss**. Sharon Powell won her **singles** in the 5th set, followed by the **Mixed Doubles** in straight sets with Neville Meredith. Steve Farr won one in the 4th set. Neville lost both in the 4th, and John Hunt lost both in straight sets. During the match 1 went into the 5th set, 4 went into the 4th, and 6 into deuce.

Scores: Sharon Powell 10-12, 11-2, 11-8, 7-11, 11-5. Sharon and Neville in **Mixed Doubles** 11-5, 12-10, 11-9. Steve Farr 11-6, 14-12, 8-11, 11-5 and 6-11, 6-11, 6-11. Neville Meredith 9-11, 7-11, 15-13 and 12-10, 9-11, 8-11, 8-11. John Hunt 4-11, 3-11, 6-11 and 9-11, 8-11, 8-11. Steve and John in **Men's Doubles** 11-13, 7-11, 11-5, 4-11.

Veteran Division 4C

Hereford 3rd played hosts to **Wiltshire 2nd** resulting in a **1-8 loss**. Linda Ashman had a good win in her **singles** in straight sets with 2 at deuce, to save a whitewash. Bob Marshall pushed one into the 5th, and Mike Morgan one into the 4th. During the match 1 went into the 5th set, 1 went into the 4th, and 6 into deuce.

Scores: Linda Ashman 13-11, 11-8, 15-13. Bob Marshall 6-11, 17-15, 4-11, 11-7, 8-11 and 1-11, 13-15, 3-11. Mike Morgan 9-11, 8-11, 6-11 and 11-8, 5-11, 7-11, 10-12. Mike Wheatley 8-11, 3-11, 8-11 and 3-11, 14-16, 7-11. Linda and Bob in the **Mixed Doubles** 6-11, 2-11, 5-11. Mike and Mike in the **Men's Doubles** 8-11, 3-11, 6-11.

ISLE OF WIGHT by John Prean

After a depressing defeat by 9-1, we looked forward to the **"local derby"** against **Hampshire**. Against Bucks, against whom we had won in previous years, we were without Carl, on duty in Germany where he earns his living, and Danny Burns, who is still recovering from operations on both knees. However, Lucy Pointer was back, but short of practice and wins eluded her. Jill Fothergill won our sole point.

For the Hampshire match a good crowd turned up at the **Carl Prean**

Centre and at one time I counted over 40 people in the hall. That will not challenge Old Trafford, but was good for a **lower division county match**.

Our opponents came one lady short. Although cancellation was received several days earlier, **Hampshire could find no lady**, confirmation yet again of what has been clear for some time, not least in my notes. **Only 7% or so of our members are women** and to allocate to them 40% of places in county teams can hardly make sense. It is asking for trouble, which arrives all over the country at regular intervals. At other times county teams are complete, but forced to field a lady player who, for all her gallantry, is slaughtered. It is one of our many problems that **so few ladies find the sport attractive** and it is something that needs both thought and action. Little sign can be seen of either.

There is much criticism of the mixed team concept and many feel that the women's game would advance, **if played separately as in other countries and sports**. It would then create its own momentum. Alternatively, **a ratio of 3:1** would surely make more sense. This is the case in **veterans county matches** and the veterans scene seems to be growing, but that is another story.

Hampshire did, however, field Clive Payne, who, a couple of years ago, won both the **county senior and veterans titles** on the same day, a feat I cannot recall being equalled, which I regard as remarkable. The match itself was an entertaining one with the issue in doubt till the final match **when our guests levelled at 5 all**.

The **ladies' matches** were good ones with Jill losing in five to Maria Taylor-Woodward and Lucy winning in the same way. Time-outs played a part in these results. For us Carl won his usual two and these, with the walk-overs, gave us our five for the single point.

In our **first division Newport Vics' A team** is running away with the league and that is even without the absent Danny Burns. The margin seems to grow by the week. The other divisions are not as unequal as we feared and the soul destroying **10-0s remain rare**.

Our practice sessions (with qualified coaches in attendance) on Mondays and Fridays **continue to attract record numbers**, a tribute to the efforts made to attract new players and make them welcome. That is the good news. The bad news is that **I cannot see many who will graduate to our local league**. The late starts and the late finishes will hardly encourage the parents to entrust their children to us.

We have the choice of carrying on as we have been doing, which so far has **reduced our divisions from 7 to 3**, or

having a good look at things we have for so long accepted as the norm.

Our summer league for **2 person teams, playing 5 matches only**, was seen as a major success. We started at 8 and never finished later than 10. No-one asked for further matches. This system may indeed be a way forward with an earlier start. Alternatively, I see no point in continuing with **dead matches**, those in which **one side has won 6 sets** under the present system. That would make for some shorter matches and a more youth-friendly sport. I don't think it would be a great sacrifice to scrap the dead matches.

It is common practice in marketing that products that don't sell have to be replaced or re-packaged. **Table tennis cannot defy public taste**. We have tried and lost thousands of members of our local leagues. We must devise a more acceptable product for the vast public we can attract. The alternative is one of continuing decline.

I shall, of course, do my best to persuade my members to **adopt a more youth-friendly way of playing our league matches**. I am far from certain of success. They may well opt for the devil they know, **the one that sent our numbers down from 72 teams to 29**.

It is hard not to feel some disappointment that there is so little recognition in ETTA circles that the **local leagues are the bedrock of our sport**, that they need to be supported rather than being seen principally as a source of revenue. I see no signs of a realisation that perhaps we lose members because we attract so few new ones, that **ours is a sport that fails to compete with others who make strenuous efforts to attract young people**. We do not start out with a structure in which very young boys and girls will feel welcome and accepted or a competitive environment into which they can slip easily.

One reads of endless committees and sees their minutes, of large lottery grants spent on many schemes, **but the simplest facts are ignored**: that our local scene, where it all starts and often finishes, has often **lost touch with the demands of today**, that our local league structure has **not kept up with the competition of other sports** and is now **many years behind the times**.

Other sports have made massive efforts to reinvent themselves to replace the people who inevitably move on. We have not. We have **presented an unchanging picture which differs little from that of 50 years ago**. We have not attracted the young, the next generation. **Life has passed us by and we have become a very small sport indeed**. That will remain the situation unless we begin to **offer a sport that is equal to the demands of modern life**. Above all, we have duty to the next

generation which will demand some small sacrifices on the way.

KENT by Adrian Hall

Champagne celebrations as Kent returns to the Premier

Team Manager Joe Riggs had the champagne corks popping as Kent came back from **2-4 down** to get a **5-5 draw** with Wiltshire to win **Division 1 South** and make a return to the **Premier Division of the County Championships**. Kent only required a draw with Wiltshire to get back to the **Premier Division** at the first attempt, while Wiltshire needed to win the match to take top spot.

Things did not look good for Kent with Wiltshire racing to a **4-2 lead**. Kim Mudge (Bromley) then won a **Ladies' Singles** to make the match score **4-3**. Kent captain Joe Kennedy (Bromley) with his second win of the match beat the Wiltshire no. 1 Kevin Satchell to make the score **4-4**. Angie Bristow (Tunbridge Wells) and Maidstone's Dominic Hall played the last two matches on separate tables. Hall was the first to finish with a comfortable win over the Wiltshire no. 3 to set the champagne corks popping. Although Bristow lost her match the draw had been achieved mainly thanks to the leadership and two wins of county captain Joe Kennedy.

Kent results:-

Joe Kennedy (Bromley) (2), Dominic Hall (Maidstone) (1), Mark Brown (Tunbridge Wells) (1), Angie Bristow (Tunbridge Wells) (0) and Kim Mudge (Bromley) (1).

Kent Closed new format

Entry forms for the **Kent Senior and Junior Closed Championships** will be available shortly from Barry Skates, tel: 01732 840626 or e-mail barry@skatesb.freemove.co.uk. The tournament will be over the weekend **3rd/4th May at Body and Mind, Canterbury**. Tournament organiser Barry Skates will be introducing a new format this year to hopefully increase entries in the veteran categories.

The senior events will now be on the Sunday with the junior and an increased number of veteran events on the Saturday.

Kent League

League organiser David Cue has sent me the latest league tables. Unfortunately **Canterbury has withdrawn from the Men's Division** and David asks that all matches are completed by the end of April.

Men's Division:-

	P	W	D	L	Pt
Folkestone A	3	3	0	0	24
Dover A	4	1	1	2	18
Medway	2	2	0	0	14
Dover B	3	0	1	2	10
Sittingbourne	2	0	0	2	4

	P	W	%
Neil LeMilliere Med	3	3	100.00
Paul Cronin Med	3	3	100.00
Phil Morford Folk	9	8	88.88
Barry Yarnley Dov	6	5	83.33
Ian Gotdon Med	6	5	83.33
Kevin Powell Folk	9	7	77.77
Colin May Folk	9	6	66.66
Paul Smallman Dov	12	7	58.33
Cliff Smallman Dov	12	7	58.33
Martin Keefe Sitt	6	3	50.00

Veterans' Division 1:-

	P	W	D	L	Pt
Dover A	4	4	0	0	31
Medway A	3	3	0	0	25
Medway B	4	1	2	1	18
Folkestone A	2	2	0	0	16
Thanet	3	1	1	1	16
N.W. Kent A	4	1	1	2	16
Maidstone A	5	0	0	5	14
Dover B	3	0	0	3	4

	P	W	%
Phil Saxby Folk	3	3	100.00
Keith Yamley Folk	3	3	100.00
Mick Ling Med	9	8	88.88
Neil LeMilliere Med	9	8	88.88
Peter Baker Med	12	10	83.33
Mick Eames Than	9	7	77.77
Alan Rutherford Dov	12	9	75.00
Michael Howard Dov	12	9	75.00
John Glass NWK	12	9	75.00
Phil Marshall Than	6	4	66.66
Gordon Harris Maid	12	6	50.00
Steve Bispham Folk	6	3	50.00
Peter Stokes Maid	6	3	50.00

LEICESTERSHIRE by Derek Butt

The big match in **Division One** of the **Leicestershire & District Table Tennis League** between the two unbeaten teams, last season's champions formerly **Rushey Mead now Leicester Electricity** and **Knighth Park** first string saw a win for the latter **7-3**. Karen Smith led the way with a fine maximum plus two each for Cosmo Graham and Daniel Marriott. For **Electricity** Andy Craven-Griffiths **won two** while surprisingly Dave Grundy and Alan Hewitt were unable to win any. So the **Sparks team** have their work to do if they are to retain the trophy, and hoping the **Park** slip up in the process. **Holwell** are third but have little chance of catching the leaders. At the bottom

of the table **Goons** and **G.E. Sports** are the teams struggling.

In the **second division Thringstone** and **Electricity seconds** look to be the favourites for promotion **six points clear** of third placed **Arnesby**. **Thringstone** have a strong squad with Maurice Newman, Phil Jones, Clive Hall and John Lenton enjoying life at the top. **Electricity seconds team** consisting of the Craven-Griffiths family Bob, Shaun and Kelly.

The County held their annual Christmas tournament, the '**Phil Reid Memorial Trophy**', a handicap competition, and a good entry was on show with a mixture of top and lower ranked players. There were **eight groups playing over three evenings** with the winners from each going into Sunday's final. Winners from the groups were as follows: Peter Wilson, Shirley Pickering and Gordon Sanders (**all Knighth Park**), Rod Pickering (**Holwell**), Ben Jacobs (**Maccabi**), Andy Wright and Derek Butt (**Electricity**) and Kevin Truman (**Great Glen**). Again the finals were played with two groups, with the winners from each going into the grand final. Shirley, Rod and Gordon were unable to make the grand final and they were replaced by the runners-up in their respective groups, i.e. Josie Rogers (**KP**), Tony Lillicrapp (**Nomads**) and Bob Geary (**KP**). This resulted in Peter Wilson and Ben Jacobs (**+10**) going through, a close match was expected and Peter emerged the worthy winner taking the third **22-20**. Thanks go to the organiser Tony Lillicrapp for running this popular event and to Knighth Park for their hospitality.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE by Dennis Millman

Ten County Championship matches in one day produced **mixed fortunes for Northants** with pride of place going to the **Veteran Firsts** with a rare and coveted win against a **Yorkshire side** - albeit fourth in order of superiority.

Northants imposed early domination when Chris Gibbons, Gordon Shaw and Gary Webb took the **first three singles** with Webb's fifth end success against the formidable Vic Smith, the most impressive.

Both doubles were lost and the **ladies' singles** could have followed suit, but for a gallant last ditch effort from Clem Little who came from behind to take the final two games **12-10, 11-9**. Shaw then put the match out of Yorkshire's reach before Webb widened the victory margin.

When **Northants Seconds** met **Hertfordshire Fourths** the final score was the same, but this time we were on the receiving end, especially when

confronted by the most senior player on view – Alan (Digger) Lamprell.

Although former England no. 1 cadet Tim Yarnall was on hand to bolster the **Junior Firsts'** title hopes, imminent exams caused the withdrawal of Dannel Pang and Robert Williams. Initial unbeaten displays from Yarnall and Melissa Price, plus contributions from Dickson Pang and Katie Mansfield, kept the side on course with a **6-4 win over Shropshire**.

Then it was Pang's turn to remain unbeaten when **Worcestershire** provided the opposition, and with Yarnall again untroubled, **single successes** from Martyn Hancox, Price and Mansfield left Northants requiring a win in their final match against **Cheshire 2nds** to make sure of the **Division 2A title**. Although Yarnall and Pang excelled with four wins between them, it was not enough and for a second year in succession Northants had been pipped at the post.

The Junior 2nds travelled to Dewsbury where Ben Starmer and Alex Dickson made their debuts against the **second teams of Durham, Warwicks and Notts**. Starmer made an outstanding contribution on his first appearance, with **five wins out of six**, a tally matched by the more experienced Sarah Hollis. Both recorded **doubles** in the opening match against Durham, but the only other point came from Shonah Keeling. The same players contributed **five wins against Warwickshire**, but this time David Gibbons **added two more** to make sure of victory. In the final game Notts made an immediate impact and **led four nil** before Hollis reduced the arrears. Dickson won once and Ben Starmer ended the day on a winning note as did a strong Notts side.

Facing the two strongest sides in the East Midlands, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire, the **cadets failed to add to their early season successes** despite sound displays from the returning Chris Doran and Katie Mansfield. Now the cadets in their first season of competition can live with the best. **Excellent coaching, boundless enthusiasm and vital team spirit** have produced progress beyond expectation, with the promise of more to come.

Problems facing cup handicapping committees were never more apparent than when the third rounds of **Kettering's Borough Trophy** and **GRP Designs Trophy** took place.

In the **Kettering League, Higham Band** has finally taken over at the top, following an easy win over a **Corby A side** minus a snow-bound Chris Robertson. **Three unbeaten records were ended** with Ryan Keates and Steve Silk going down to Chris Ross and Corby's Gordon Shaw losing to all three Higham players. Meanwhile Richard Elliott reigned supreme.

NORTHUMBERLAND by Pauline Long

I must start with an apology to the **junior boys' Carter Cup team** – it seems that we did enter a team in this competition, even though I genuinely thought we had not.

The **Northumbria League** representative side of David Graham, Adam McCormack and Fan Cheng, all from the **Sporting Club of Cramlington**, competed against teams from Sunderland, Darlington and Leeds, the last two eventually qualifying to go forward to the next round. David was outstanding in winning six sets out of a possible eight, and only losing his other two in five games, but the pace was a little too hot for Adam and Fan, both of whom are still cadets, and have another four years in the junior ranks.

The first matches in the **Junior County Championships in Division 3B** were due to take place at Dewsbury on **18th January**.

Meanwhile, the **Northumbria League** has resumed matches following the Christmas and New Year break, and whilst there are no great surprises in the **Premier Division** – North Shields YMCA 'A', Birtley 'A' and St. Gabriel's are still battling with each other at the top – interest will this season be at the other end, when four teams will be relegated to allow the top eight to form a **"Superleague"** in which the teams will play each other on three or four occasions.

Other current leaders are **Division 1**, Newton 'A'; **Division 2**, ABB; **Division 3**, Cramlington Trojans; **Division 4**, North Shields YMCA 'F'.

The first round of the **Team Handicap Knockout Cup** has already produced one surprise, with last season's winners Cramlington Codgers going out at the first hurdle by 2-7 to lowly **Division 2** side Ouston 'B'. Another victory for the **"minnows"** came when Alnwick, in their first season of league play, defeated **Premier Division** side Byker 'A' in a 5-4 thriller. The second round was due to be completed by the beginning of March.

SOMERSET by Martin Rumary

It was sad to hear that Jack Chalkley had passed away over the New Year following his recent illness.

Jack had arrived in 1990 in Somerset from Staffordshire where, in the **late 80's**, he had held various posts including **County Chairman**. He initiated a club at **King's School in Cheddar**, entering teams in the local league, and will be fondly remembered **both in Somerset and Staffordshire**

and our sympathies go to his wife and family.

Bridgwater Championships

The **Bridgwater League** recently staged their championships and the finals went as follows:

Senior Singles: P. Tillotson bt E. Martin

Restricted Singles: A. Denman bt P. Kidby

Junior Boys' Singles: A. Denman bt G. Duddridge

Junior Girls' Singles: N. Wilson bt C. Roper

U15 Boys' Singles: A. Denman bt D. Markey

U15 Girls' Singles: C. Roper bt C. Howe

U13 Boys' Singles: G. Potjewyd bt B. Warren

U13 Girls' Singles: C. Maltby bt A. Johnson

Senior Doubles: N. Wilson & R. Daly bt E. Martin & C. Allsopp

Junior Doubles: G. Duddridge & M. Jenkins bt A. Denman & C. Roper

Fresh news just in is that following a close **5-4 win over Wilts 3 from 1-3 down**, our **Vets 2 team** have put themselves in a great position to gain promotion if they can get a favourable scoreline in their last game. **Vets 1 lost to a strong Devon side** and **Vets 3 similarly went down 7-2 to Wilts 2** despite one win each for Steve Lewis and Ann Sandford.

The **seniors** got a creditable draw against an **Avon team** which included Natasha Lake, the Welsh no. 2 lady. Jon Hughes was called in as a late replacement for his first senior match and ended up with **two fine wins**.

Following their good start at the **first 'block' weekend** the **seniors** cemented their place in **Division 2B** with a win, a draw and a loss at the **Graham Spicer Centre in Surrey**. Jon Hughes again ended up 'man of the day' with **6 wins out of 6**, but the whole team fought hard to come back from a **1-4 deficit to win 6-4 against Kent 2** and from **2-4 down to draw with Oxfordshire**.

The **cadets** played their **second block fixture at Guildford** and although Claire Howe and Carly Roper remained unbeaten the boys found things hard going and they **drew one game** and **lost the other two**.

County Results

Seniors

Somerset 5 Avon 5 (A. Rumary 1, P. Tillotson 0, J. Hughes 2, N. Wilson 1, C. Cowell 1)

Vets

Somerset I 3 Devon I 6 (B. Reeves 1, S. Lewis 0, J. Crabtree 1, S. Dark 0, Men's Doubles 1)

Somerset II 5 Wilts III 4 (A. Stone 2, B. Bruton 1, M. Crook 0, W. Pryce 1, Men's Doubles 1)

Somerset III 2 Wilts II 7 (S. Lewis 1, A. Maidment 0, P. Hewitt 0, A. Sandford 1)

Juniors

Somerset 3 Bucks III 7 (J. Hughes 2, G. Duddridge 0, M. Jenkins 0, C. Howe 0, C. Roper 1)

Somerset 6 Kent II 4 (J. Hughes 2, G. Duddridge 1, M. Jenkins 1, C. Howe 1, C. Roper 1)

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

The recent **Cotswold 4 Star Junior** ended up a very successful competition for two Somerset girls.

Claire Howe reached the finals of both the **Cadet and Junior Girls' Class 1 competitions** where she came runner-up in both despite putting up a good fight, especially in the cadets.

Naomi Wilson had a real struggle in her group in the main event and hopes were not high in getting too far on the day, but she fought her way through and hit top form to beat top seed Lauren Springthorpe in the semi-finals. She then beat top Welsh girl Laura Hall in the final.

SUSSEX by John Woodford

It has taken some fifteen years for plans to come together for an **eight-table new venue at Hailsham**. Building will start in September on a **multi-sporting venue** that will accommodate excellent facilities for table tennis, including refreshment facilities, showers etc.

The main table tennis man fighting our corner is the veteran Hailsham coach Jim West, who currently runs a coaching session at the **Hailsham Lagoon on Friday evenings** attracting nearly twenty youngsters.

The excellent **Six Villages Centre at Fontwell** is currently the main venue for major Sussex events, but it involves a 100-mile round journey for people travelling from the Hastings and Eastbourne areas. Having two main centres – Fontwell and Hailsham – will restore the balance for travellers, fans, players and officials.

Ritchie Venner is certain to be the top seed for the senior title at the **all-Sussex Championships** due to happen shortly at Fontwell. The **Men's Singles** crown-holder Mayur Majithia has been dogged by injuries and family commitments all season, but he is now back on the scene at least in the **Crawley and Horsham League**.

Whether he will defend his title is uncertain.

Rose Rainton, who gallantly continues as secretary of the **Hastings TTA**, will defend her **Women's Singles title**; hopefully there will be a challenge from the former champion Sally Weston from Horsham and also Sheila King. Gary Wilson (Worthing) is expected to defend his junior title for the last time.

WARWICKSHIRE by Caroline Williams

At the **Warwickshire Closed Table Tennis Championships** held in January at Warwick there were new names on the trophies. Firstly, the **Ladies' Singles** was won by Leamington's Jane Dickens who beat Ann Lloyd **-10, 6, -8, 6, 6**. Jane partnered Stephanie Hawkins (Leamington) to second place in the **Ladies' Doubles**, losing in the final to the Birmingham duo of Helen Turner and Ann Lloyd **4, 7, -6, -10, 8**.

The **Men's Singles** was as often, the province of the talents of Birmingham. Mark Read, a former finalist, saw off Mike Browne **7, -6, 9, 9**. Mark Read then combined with Ian Ferguson (three times **Men's Singles champion** 2000-2002) to take the **Men's Doubles** against Leamington's Andy Cockerill and Phil Paine **3, 8, 9**. Mark Read then picked up yet another trophy for the **Mixed Doubles** where he partnered Helen Turner for Birmingham to **8, 11, 8** success against Julie Richardson and Andy Cockerill for Leamington.

The **Junior Girls' Singles** was won convincingly by last year's runner-up Nikki Pilgrim from Coventry, who defeated her sister Rachel **5, 8, 3**. The same two also met for the final of the **Cadet Girls' Singles**, which saw last year's second placed Nikki Pilgrim again defeating her sister Rachel, this time the score was **-11, 9, 7, 8**. Nikki Pilgrim joined up with Nuneaton's Kelly-Jane Walden to take the **Nuneaton Girls' Doubles** title, overcoming Rachel Pilgrim and Stephanie Hawkins in the title match **7, 8, -7, 6**.

Leamington took the **Junior Boys' Singles** title for the first time for some years, with Simon Nolan overcoming Birmingham's Leigh Bradford **1, 9, 11**. Leigh is out of luck at the **Warwickshire Closed** – this was the third time he had come runner-up! The **Cadet Boys' Singles** was an all Birmingham affair with Samreet Sandhu in a tight final conquering Paul Leek **-9, -10, 5, 7, 9**. The **Junior Boys' Doubles** was won by the Coventry pair of Brett Medforth and Paul Nicholls against the Leamington duo of Simon Nolan and Sam Clarke **10, 9, -4, 3**.

A new feature this year was the restricted events for players not at the top of their respective ETTA national ranking lists. In the **Boys' Restricted Singles** there was an all Birmingham final with David Bissell holding off the challenge from Navinder Matharu **10, 8, -6, -13, 5**. The **Girls' Restricted Singles** finished an all-Leamington final with Rosalind Freeman holding on against a determined effort from Sophie Cooper **6, -9, -6, 8, 7**.

The **Men's Restricted Singles** proved at the end to be a Nuneaton affair with both finalists from there. Alan Hewitt defeated David Grundy **3, -8, 3, -12, 9**. The **Ladies' Restricted Singles** interestingly enough saw the new Ladies' Singles champion Jane Dickens falling to Helen Turner **5, 7, -9, -7, 7**.

The **Veteran Singles** was this year won by Mike Browne from Birmingham, who triumphed over Leamington's Earl Sweeney **9, 4, 8**. Earl, however, was not deterred and partnered Phil Paine to a Spa **Veteran Doubles** victory for the second year in succession, **-9, -5, 8, 9, 11** against Ray Dixon and John Taylor (Birmingham). Ray Dixon picked up the **Over 50 Singles** against fellow Birmingham player John Chandler **10, 8, 9**.

YORKSHIRE by Barry Snowden **White Rose affairs**

Hull & District 75th Anniversary

The decision to hold a dinner to mark the **75th Anniversary of the Hull & District Table Tennis Association** was taken at the AGM and a sub-committee subsequently formed to make the necessary arrangements. What seemed like a never ending round of meetings and discussions eventually bore fruit when, on **Saturday November 2nd over 90 people**, players past and present and guests attended the celebratory dinner.

Guest of honour was Cyril Villiers, who in his time as **Regional Chairman of Sport England** supported table tennis in this area at every opportunity. The toast to the Queen, Patron of the ETTA, was given by our Chairman, and the response and toast to our Association given by **Bevan Walker, Chairman of YTTA**. Also on the top table were Joan Villiers and Wendy Walker, Abe and Rose Abrahamson, Mauren Kynman and Richard and Brenda Hudson. A brief history of Hull table tennis and a commemorative pen was also given to all whom attended.

Maureen Kynman and Abe Abrahamson had the honour of cutting the cake, expertly made by Mary Sykes, who along with her sister-in-law was responsible for the floral decorations on all the tables.

Dancing was to the music of Alf Stevenson's band and the evening was a great success.

Huddersfield Table Tennis League

The **Huddersfield Table Tennis League's 2002/2003 season** started with one less team than the previous season, but surprisingly with five more registered players. Since the start of the season an additional fourteen players have been registered. Next season we hope to convert these extra players into teams. The season started with the news that **Mavis Dyson had died on 26.9.02**. Mavis was a **four times Yorkshire singles champion** and represented Yorkshire on **25 occasions**. She also won **34 Huddersfield Singles, Ladies' Doubles and Mixed Doubles titles**. A wonderful achievement.

Huddersfield advanced into the second phase of the **Wilmot Cup** which is to be played in April. The team of Tim Dyson, Shaun Ellis and James Brown did us proud. On an individual basis Geoff Brook, along with Fred Lockwood, won the **Turkish Over 70's Doubles title** in October and followed this up in November with the **Swedish Masters Over 70s' Doubles title**.

Junior coaching under David Wood and Alan Dickinson is going great guns, with in excess of 60 youngsters attending four Monday sessions. Such is its success that in the **League Championships held in February 2003** the junior, cadet and under 12s, etc, has attracted **33 entries** - marvellous.

The **First Division** having been dominated for a number of years by Brook Motors, looks like having a new name on the trophy. With just over half the season completed **Kingsmith 'C'** are clear favourites.

Cadets County Championship Northern Section held at Halifax Table Tennis Centre

Once again the impressive **Halifax Table Tennis Centre** hosted a prestigious event as Barry Snowden organised the **Cadets County Championship Northern Section** on behalf of the ETTA, which proved to be another unqualified success as last year's winners Cheshire were once more joined by Cleveland, Durham, Lancashire and the host county with South Yorkshire making up the six teams.

All counties had agreed to complete the competition on one day and with each county having five matches to play, it was important to keep the event running with each match being played

on two tables with the first matches starting at 9.30am.

The event was expertly refereed by John Hardcastle who kept all the counties on their toes and even completed one of the matches on three tables so as not to fall behind schedule.

The final match was completed ten minutes ahead of schedule and County Championships official Snowden was presenting the winners and runners-up trophies to Durham and Lancashire respectively by 7.30pm.

The versatility of the **Halifax Centre** was confirmed as a **Veterans Division 3 match** was also comfortably played on the same afternoon as Yorkshire 3 entertained Leicestershire 2 at the nine table venue.

MUHR'S MEMO: Information Officer Messages from Ken Muhr

At a **UK Sport seminar on 'Promoting Sport'** at **The Belfry, Wisham, Warwickshire, on 27th November**, Charles Runcie, **BBC Head of Sport, Regions**, gave his **'golden rules'** on relating to broadcasters, namely:

- Build relationships
- Make sure your star performer arrives on time
- Don't expect the BBC to know (about your major events etc.)
- Get your sports stars on non-sport programmes
- Be selective/sparing on who you put on your e-mail circulation list (broadcasters don't want to receive your every e-mail as they get too many already)
- Provide local stories and local heroes to bring your sport alive

As I briefly mentioned in the last edition, Matthew Syed had a half page feature, **'Worried Chinese keep eye on Boll'**, with photo, on young German superstar Timo Boll, the new world no.1, published in **The Times (1st February 2003)**. It is the first time that a feature has been written on Boll, about whom Matthew quotes German compatriot Jorg Roskopf as saying **"He plays a very high risk strategy seemingly without risk"**, in the national British press. Syed in the article covers two broad themes: **China v Europe and how in 1989 the great Swede Jan-Ove Waldner successfully challenged the ascendancy of China**, and now Boll is threatening to do the same again; and related to this, the awesome power of the Chinese system, in terms of sheer numbers of players

and in technical innovation, as it strives to keep Chinese table tennis on top.

Matthew also penned another **Times article (published on 27th February)** on **race, nationality and sporting loyalty**, in which, as usual, he was able to mention table tennis although his focus was cricket. I was interested to listen to Matthew on **BBC Radio 4's 'Off The Page' programme (21st February)** fronted by Matthew Parrish, but found it rather disjointed, with he, a table tennis player, discussing **'rules'** with a murderer and a survivor of an attempted murder, each **'writer'** reading out a piece on their own experience and reflections on rules.

John Woodford (**Daily Telegraph and Press Association**) was on his own in having published regular table tennis shorts over the last month, but Richard Eaton (**Times**) also got in a short on Dale Barham (the then **national under 21 champion**) leaving table tennis after disciplinary problems. Many of the stories related to the forthcoming **National Championships**, such as second women's seed Katy Parker withdrawing so that she could have time out to consider her future, and on the chances of engaged **Nottingham University pair**, Nicola Deaton and Alex Perry, **both singles champions** (and who got a lot of **local press publicity** and on **Yorkshire TV** for doing schools exhibitions in Sheffield, as well another mention with photo of Alex in the **University of Nottingham February Newsletter**). **The Guardian** published an article on referee Richard Scruton (**24th February**), **The Independent** printed a questionnaire on Alex Perry the same day, and on **27th February**, **The Times** published a feature by Sarah Potter on **national junior champion** Joanna Parker. I will save comments on the actual coverage of event until April.

I am always worried that I might miss **major TT coverage**, but the **New Yorker (February 17-24)** published an article by Nancy Franklin on table tennis - **"the no.2 sport in the world after soccer"** - in which she describes playing and being coached by the renowned septuagenarian, Marty Reisman. Actually the **New Yorker** approached me for some background history on table tennis, and promised to send me the completed article, but all I saw was a review of it in **The Editor section of The Guardian (22nd February)**.

GROVE BACK AT THE TOP

AFTER 7 YEARS

AFTER a gap of seven years Grove again hold the Butterfly Bowl as they took the premier division title without the loss of a point when this seasons competition was concluded at Grantham Meres Leisure Centre over the week-end of January 25/26th, writes Brian Lamerton.

With Welsh international Naomi Owen joining English international Louise Durrant and Chinese wonder girl Zhao Shuang Grove swept everything before them including twice defeating runners-up Horsham, 4 sets to 2 and 5 sets to 1 during this second week end; Sally Weston and Jill Harris defeating Owen first time round and Karen Smith getting the



Butterfly Trophy winners: GROVE

PREMIER - TOP HALF	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grove I	6	6	0	0	32	4	12
Horsham Ladies	6	4	0	2	19	17	8
Grove II	6	1	1	4	11	25	3
Cippenham TTC	6	0	1	5	10	26	1
Premier - Bottom Half							
Eagle Printers	6	3	2	1	21	15	8
Irish Ladies I	6	2	3	1	18	18	7
Leeds Ladies I	6	2	2	2	19	17	6
London Progress -	6	0	3	3	14	22	3
First Division - Top Half							
Hull Sandhill	6	4	1	1	24	12	9
Hollington	6	2	4	0	22	14	8
Spicer Ladies	6	0	4	2	13	23	4
Wirral Ladies	6	0	3	3	13	23	3
First Division - Bottom Half							
Brittania Hanbury (FP)	6	3	1	2	17	19	7
Halton Croda I	6	3	0	3	21	15	6
BATTS Peniel Team	6	3	0	3	18	18	6
Irish Ladies II	6	2	1	3	16	20	5
Second Division - Top Half							
Darlington I	6	3	3	0	22	14	9
Byog Hall I	6	3	1	2	19	17	7
Leeds Ladies II	6	2	1	3	15	21	5
Drayton & Long Eaton	6	1	1	4	16	20	3
Second Division - Bottom Half							
Elgre	6	4	2	0	27	9	10
Ashford	6	3	2	1	23	13	8
East Midland Ladies	6	1	2	3	13	23	4
Norwich Gels	6	0	2	4	9	27	2
Third Division							
Norton Ladies	10	8	2	0	50	10	18
Darlington II	10	6	3	1	40	20	15
Sutton at Hone	10	5	3	2	33	27	13
Grove III	10	3	3	4	29	31	9
Halton Croda II	10	1	1	8	14	46	3
Byng Hall II	10	0	2	8	14	46	2

Pictures by PATRICIA MOSNEY

better of Louise Durrant during the second outing. London Progress were unable to match their title winning achievements of 2002 with their new squad including Scotland's Gillian Edwards and must now look forward to a season in division one.

With Sally Clark (Marling) restored to their team Hull Sandhill, ever present in the competition quickly bounced back from their one season out of the top flight making up two

places in the second week end to take division one by a single point from Hollington who are also due to regain their premier place. Hull's one dropped point was in a last match draw with Hollington, Clark winning two with sister Samantha Marling winning once as did each of the Hollington team, Rose Rainton, Sheila King and Sara Coggon

Darlington can be well pleased with their week-ends work being runners-up in division three as well as winners of division two. After a 100% record throughout the first week end Darlington 1 sts. did however drop three points second time out as their



PREMIER DIVISION RUNNERS-UP: HORSHAM

Schildkröt

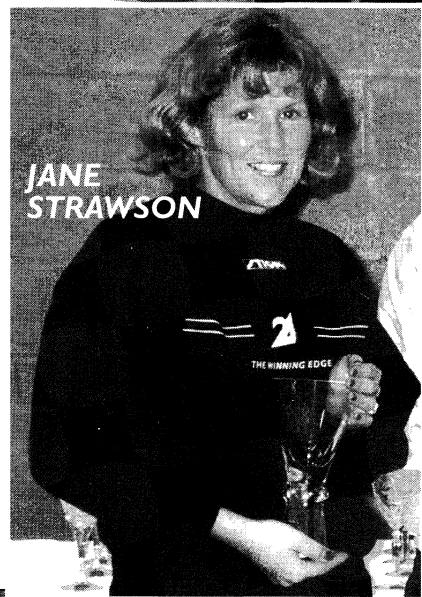
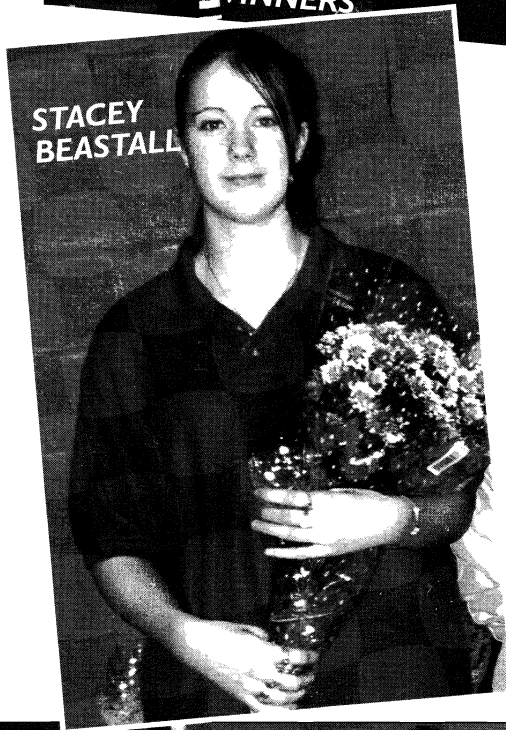
team of Claire Wilson, Cherith Graham and Sarah Nouch were held to draws by Byng Hall, Leeds and Draycott Longeaton. Wilson's one defeat of the week-end was at the hands of Leeds Clara Howard and Byng Hall's Angie Bristow went down only to Graham. A big roar went up in the division 2 match between Elgre and Norwich Ladies when the former Jodie Cox won the first game of her match with veteran Pam Butcher by the old fashioned score of "Twenty One - Nineteen"

Norton Ladies deservedly took division three dropping only three sets throughout the week end and all to runners -up Darlington in a drawn match; Stephanie Donnelly was Darlington's star in this match spoiling the unbeaten record of both Tracey Spencer and Amanda Pennell whilst Joanne Meads was responsible for ending Alkistis Olympiou's winning run.

Stacey Beastall of Draycott Longeaton was nominated player of the week end with Eagle Printers team of the week end. The Solihull Trophy, awarded annually to a person, player or official, who has done much to enhance the reputation of the competition, went to Elgre's Jane Strawson one of a very few players to have participated in each of the 15 years of the competition. A presentation was also made to long serving umpire Geoff Taylor.

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

1. Premier division winners - GROVE - Naomi Owen, Zhao Shuang, Louise Durrant.
 2. Premier division runners-up - HORSHAM - Karen Smith, Jill Harris, Jose Bongers.
 3. 1st. division winners - HULL SANDHILL- Samantha Marling, Sally Clark,, Zoe Fisber, Tanya Waller.
 4. 1st. division runners-up - HOLLINGTON - Sheila King, Rosemary Rainton, Sara Coggon.
 5. 2nd. division winners - DARLINGTON - Claire Wilson, Cherith Graham, Sarah Nouch.
 6. 3rd. division winners - NORTON LADIES - Tracey Spencer, Alkistis Olympiou, Helen Butcher, Amanda Pennell.
 7. Player of the week-end - STACEY BEASTALL.
 8. Solihull Trophy winner - JANE STRAWSON.
 9. Team of the weekend - EAGLE PRINTERS - Emily Dearing, Marketa Myskova, Elaine Short, Elizabeth May.
- LISA PEXTON and SUE FERGUSON, Community Leisure Officers of South Kesteven District Council made the presentation of trophies.



PSP WESTINSURE & GROVE ALMOST HOME & DRY

SIX of the eight regional British League divisions have produced excellent competition this season with everything still to play for as far as the leading teams are concerned. The two exceptions are divisions two (South) and two (North) where PSP Westinsure and Grove I lead by the proverbial mile with 19/20 points and 20/20 points respectively, writes Steve Kerns.

Another feature of the British League this year has been the incredibly high standard of player taking part in the third divisions. Last weekend's matches produced one of the shocks of the season as Birmingham University II fielded a name that won't be familiar to any of us - Che Xiang Cheng. Fired up by their new signing they stunned division 3 (Midlands) leaders Wirral Premier by winning 6-2. Amongst Che's four wins over the weekend was former England international Andrew Eden read on

Division One (North) - Second-placed Coventry Phoenix faced their two main rivals but 3-5 defeats against both Ormesby and Derwent means their chance of winning the title is finished. The battle for honours could well go all the way to the last round of matches when Ormesby will face Derwent. However as Derwent have a game in hand (following the withdrawal of Darlington II) they still hold the ascendancy. Ormesby had all manner of problems in beating bottom side Halton Croda 5-3 and actually trailed 1-3 before turning it on in the second half of the match. Halton's all-action Chris Ford was an excellent winner over Bryn Drinkhall and Adam Bleakley came up trumps against Keith Rodger. Whatever Carole Moore said to her team at 1-3 must have worked as the change could hardly have been more dramatic. Bryn Drinkhall beat Bleakley 3-1, Steven Bailey destroyed Ford 3-0, Rodger saw off Mal McEvoy 3-0 and Tony Wilson sealed a vital win with a 3-1 victory over Ken Connor. Ormesby were "much quicker out of the blocks" against Coventry Phoenix as they stormed into a 3-1 lead. Neil Wright's 3-0 victory over Tony Wilson being the only match to escape them. Despite an excellent success for Chris Gregory over Bryn Drinkhall Ormesby were in no mood to be denied and Keith Rodger's 3-0 victory over Neil Wright and Steve Bailey's 3-0 success against Shahryar Massodi gave them their 5-3 success.

Derwent's Championship credentials were further enhanced with their 5-3 victory over Coventry Phoenix. Derwent no. 2 Andrew Horsfield played a blinder by beating both Chris Gregory (3-2) and Neil Wright (3-1) with team-mates Dave Godbold, Richard Smith and Stephen Horsfield all winning once. However,

Derwent will be aware that they lost to Ormesby 6-2 in December and they will need to make full use of that game in hand if they want to be sure of promotion. Grantham (with 11 points) who also have a game in hand are still in the reckoning and they were sure of their victory when Michael George sealed the match at 5-1 against Dewsbury I. Dewsbury's Shaun Ellis was an excellent 3-1 winner over both David Harvey and Mark Donaghue. George held his team together as he beat Richard Lightowler.

Norwich made absolutely certain they won't be involved in any relegation battles by taking 3 points out of 4 against the bottom two sides. Their 6-2 victory over Halton Croda was achieved rather more easily than Ormesby had managed and saw Paul Cicchelli produce his best play of the season. Paul came back from 2-0 down to score a superb victory over Adam Bleakley as Norwich raced into a 4-0 lead. Norwich's newcomer Jens Ebbrecke came close to taking a double. After beating Chris Ford 3-0 (11,12,10) he just missed out against Bleakley (-4,-10,10,10,-10). Norwich came back from 2-4 down to draw against Dewsbury I, Jon Cockburn taking the Player of the Match Award by beating both Stuart Sykes (3-2) and Shaun Ellis (3-0).

Division One (South) - The fact that no team won both their matches says a lot about how competitive this division is. And the fact that the leaders Horsham were held to a draw by bottom-placed team EBS-Northampton I (without a single point before the weekend) says even more!. Horsham go into the last weekend as the narrowest of favourites after beating OLOP Impact I 6-2. Dominic Hall took the Player of the Match Award for winning both of his singles although this was an excellent all-round team performance from Horsham with Terry Haley, Andy Walker and Peter Bartram all playing their part. OLOP No. 3 Hari Gehlot made his mark by beating Terry Haley and David Barr avenged his first half-defeat by beating Bartram 3-2.

Byng Hall's promotion hopes were scuppered by their 3-5 defeat against London Progress II, a match where they were surprisingly found wanting in the top half of the scorecard. The highly respected Adrian Moore/Mark Brown strike force came unstuck against an inspired Daniel Fesehatsion who beat them both 3-1 and Darek Zukowski got the better of Mark Brown 11-7 in the decider. Mark Romano kept Byng Hall in the game with his second singles victory by beating James Sprackling 3-2 but John Huckle couldn't contain Vidal Graham leaving Progress as 5-3 winners; their best performance of the season. The talented Fesehatsion unsurprisingly took the Player-of-the-Match Award, as well as a

bucket load of ranking points.

EBS-Northampton proved to be the big surprise of the weekend. The addition of Simon Rockall at no. 1 certainly made a difference, and although he only won once (beating Ellenborough's Jimmy Walsh) the fact that he pushed their other players down a position clearly helped. EBS staged a magnificent recovery against Ellenborough to achieve a draw from 1-4 down. With three stirring performances Keiron Dabbs beat Simon Phillipz 3-1, Steve Munson scored a fantastic 11-8 in the fifth set victory over Jimmy Walsh and Dave Gatiss secured them a point with a 3-1 victory over Matthew Spero. Fuelled by this success (or perhaps irritated by the comments of the League's Press Officer!!) they did even better Horsham, again earning a draw. Peter Bartram put Horsham 3-2 ahead by beating Rockall 3-1 and Terry Haley added an excellent 3-2 victory over Keiron Dabbs. However, a determined Northants weren't finished and Steve Munson scored one of the day's best wins, a stunning 3-1 victory over Dominic Hall to make the score 3-4. Ryan Keates was in no mood to let this opportunity go to waste and he made no mistake by beating Ramesh Bhalla 3-0 to earn his side a vital point.

Division Two (South) - Of the eight matches played in this division six of them were won by the lower-placed team as the form-book counted for absolutely nothing. Runaway leaders PSP Westinsure (the one team whose results did go to form) now lead the way by a massive eight points. They think it's all over it is.....

It's really difficult even to know where to start Perhaps second-to-bottom Guildford deserve the top-billing having produced two outstanding performances. Against second-placed London Progress III Jason Tendler opened proceedings with an 11-9 in the fifth set victory over Euan Liddle but that didn't stop them falling 3-1 behind. In game no. 5 Tendler came up trumps again with a fine 3-1 victory against Mike Levene and from here his team-mates really excelled to rattle off the next three games. Phil Snelson saw off Euan Liddle 3-0, Adam Laws beat Zayd Mauthoor 3-0 and in this kind of mood it was no surprise to see Michael Hill complete the ultimate comeback with a 3-0 win over Egle Adomelyte to leave Guildford as 5-3 winners. Guildford made short work of an under-strength Oxford Fire Place Centre with an emphatic 8-0 success. The score might have flattered them slightly but the "Guildford four" certainly deserved their win.

Bottom team Hastings scored their first win of the campaign, again at the expense of Oxford Fire Place Centre who

they beat 6-2. Stuart Hobden's 12-10 in the fifth set victory over Mark Newsn gave an early indication that it wasn't going to be Oxford's day and "doubles" for Paul Barry and Nick Standen gave Hastings the ascendancy. Hobden just failed to complete his full-house, missing out against Raymond Powell by a tantalising 21-19 in the fifth end.

EBS Northampton II also showed a marked improvement and their two wins see them jump from sixth to joint second in the table (tied with Cippenham II). Conversely Horsham II, who had enjoyed a meteoric rise from sixth to joint second now find themselves back in fifth place after failing to add to their points total. Greg Yarnall with two fifth set wins left them with too much to do against Northampton, although Mark Purcell must have pushed Yarnall close in the Player-of-the-Match deliberations with his victories over Matt Gander and Graham Carter. Having lost 6-2 to Northampton they missed out by the same score-line against Cippenham II who are now joint second. Cippenham's success came about via two victories from the fast-improving Robert Hansell (who avenged his 14-12 defeat against Richard Tanner last time with a nail-biting -9, 10, 12,-9,10 victory) and owed a lot to Paul Baker's 3-2 match-clinching victory over Graham Carter, where Paul came back from 2-0 down. EBS-Northant's 5-3 victory over London Progress III saw Thai-Chong Lieu take central billing with his victories over Mike Levene and Zayd Mauthoor. However these weren't enough to earn him the Player of the Match Award which went to the veteran Michael Wilkins who beat Zayd Mauthoor 3-1 and completed the job with a 5-3 success over Egle Adomelyte.

And here's a suggestion for you to think about It's plain to see that one team (PSP Westinsure) are streets ahead of the opposition in this division (as are Grove I in division Two (North)). As such the battle for second place becomes far less intense with no guaranteed promotion for the runners-up. With matches now being played at central venues would it not be possible for all 16 teams in the first and second divisions (North and South) to be placed in the same division, all playing each other once. Venues could hopefully be split 50/50 on a North and South basis. This might lead to even more competitive divisions with the top two teams being promoted and the bottom two sides relegated. Any comments on this suggestion will be welcome!. I'll duck for cover now!!

Division Two North : Champions elect Grove I had their closest shave of the season against an inspired Oakbank team

continued on page 25

PREMIER DIVISION

DML's 1st WIN

DML PLYMOUTH'S first win of the season in the British League Premier division definitely took a turn for the unexpected.

DML Plymouth scored their first points of the season with a decisive 10-4 win over Wellow House School whilst BATTs Team Peniel I's chances of matching their runners-up position of last year all but disappeared after they went down to JAGS 8-6. London Progress's 8-6 win over second-placed Seasiders wasn't necessarily one of their best performances of the season but with a seven point lead with four matches left to play it has almost certainly guaranteed that they retain the Championship.

DML Plymouth's 10-4 victory over Wellow House didn't reflect a team who were worried about going down. A genuinely superb allround team effort seemed more that of a side who had resigned themselves to the fact that they were about to be relegated and were determined to enjoy the rest of their season. Paul Whiting took the Player of the Match Award for his Club's first maximum of the year after his three wins. He opened his campaign with a 11-9 in the fifth game victory over Chris Rogers and after this excellent win was undoubtedly seeing the ball as clearly as a football as he beat both Lee Neil and Mark Green as well. Defender James Whiteman went down 14-12 in the decider against Green but hit back with excellent victories over Gannon and Rogers and Junior Craig Bryant also impressed with two good wins over Neil and Gannon. If they don't achieve any more points this season DML will look back fondly at this particular result.

JAG'S 10-4 win over BATTs Team Peniel in the first half of the season certainly appeared to have been one of the season's biggest upsets. Just to prove that it hadn't been a fluke JAGS repeated the feat, this time 8-6. Peniel surged into a 4-

2 lead but JAGS finished by far the stronger taking five of the last six games including both doubles. With the score poised at 6-6 JAGS had the advantage as Abdul Wuraola beat Chris Jamieson 3-1 and Clive Carthy saw off old rival Neil Charles by the same scoreline. The scorecard comments made this scribe smile - "John Holland for his steady play". As John's winning streak has now extended to 21 games there can be little doubt that he has been the best player in the British League this year. His 11-3, 11-8, 11-6 victory over Lorestas Trumpauskas to whom he had lost in the first half of the season being particularly impressive. You have to ask to what level does his play need to reach to rise above "steady"? On the other hand you might well argue that such legendary sportsmen as Stephen Hendry, Steve Davis, Bjorn Borg and Chris Evert and even athletes such as Michael Johnson and Paula Radcliffe receive dividends for the "steady" way they perform(ed). One to think about?

London Progress's 8-6 win over Seasiders flattered the losers slightly; they trailed 8-3 before winning the last three games which gave the score that air of respectability.

Cris Sladden looked to be in great form as he beat both Jonathan Taylor and Kevin Dolder 3-0 but in his third singles he was found wanting losing to England no. 51 Paul Hutchings 3-1. This left Irish international Jason Sugrue as the only undefeated player after he had polished off Dolder (3-1), Taylor (3-1) and Greg Baker (3-0). Daniel Fesahatsion was unable to repeat his debut heroics of the previous match missing out narrowly in three close games against Baker (2-3), Hutchings (1-3) and Dolder (2-3).

Darlington impressed with their 9-5 victory over Barnet. John Hilton excelled to remain undefeated.

PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
London Progress	10	10	0	0	106	34	20
Seasiders	10	6	1	3	78	62	13
Batts Team Peniel	10	6	1	3	75	65	13
Darlington	10	5	1	4	77	63	11
JAGS	10	4	2	4	67	73	10
Barnet	10	4	1	5	61	79	9
Wellow House School	10	1	0	9	52	88	2
DML Plymouth	10	1	0	9	44	96	2

DIVISION ONE NORTH

Derwent	8	7	0	1	45	19	14
Ormesby	9	6	1	2	46	26	13
Coventry Phoenix	9	5	1	3	43	29	11
Grantham IDS	8	5	1	2	37	27	11
Norwich Todd Foxwood	9	3	2	4	29	43	8
Dewsbury	8	0	2	6	22	42	2
Halton Croda	9	0	1	8	18	54	1

Darlington II resigned

DIVISION ONE SOUTH

Horsham	10	6	3	1	50	30	15
OLOP Impact	10	6	2	2	46	34	14
Byng Hall Farningham Print	10	6	1	3	49	31	13
Ellenborough	10	5	3	2	46	34	13
Cippenham	10	5	0	5	43	37	10
London Progress II	10	4	2	4	38	42	10
De Vere Netts	10	1	1	8	22	58	3
EBS-Orange Northampton	10	0	2	8	26	54	2

DIVISION TWO NORTH

Grove	10	10	0	0	63	17	20
Humpty's Club	10	6	3	1	51	29	15
ELGRE Nottingham	10	5	3	2	47	33	13
Derwent II	10	5	1	4	47	33	11
Oakbank	10	2	5	3	41	39	9
Potteries	10	3	1	6	35	45	7
Uxbridge Burton	10	2	1	7	33	47	5
Clarks Wakefield	10	0	0	10	3	77	0

DIVISION TWO SOUTH

PSP Westinsure	10	9	1	0	63	17	19
EBS-Orange North'pton II	10	3	5	2	39	41	11
Cippenham II	10	4	3	3	38	42	11
London Progress III	10	4	1	5	44	36	9
Horsham II	10	4	1	5	39	41	9
Guildford	10	4	1	5	38	42	9
Oxford Fireplace Centre	10	3	2	5	34	46	8
Hastings	9	1	2	7	25	55	4

DIVISION 3 MIDLANDS

Wirral Premier	10	7	2	1	53	27	16
Bedford Modern	10	6	2	2	51	29	14
Kingshurst Bribar	10	6	1	3	49	31	13
Rotherham Scorpions	10	5	2	3	44	36	12
Birmingham University II	10	4	3	3	40	40	11
Woodfield	10	3	4	3	41	39	10
Grove III	10	0	3	7	21	59	3
Darlington IV	10	0	1	9	21	59	1

DIVISION 3 MIDLANDS & SOUTH

Generation 2	10	7	2	1	59	21	16
Birmingham University	10	7	1	2	54	26	15
London Progress V	10	6	3	1	49	31	15
Guildford II	10	6	1	3	43	37	13
OLOP Impact II	10	5	0	5	42	38	10
Ashford II	10	2	2	6	30	50	6
Batts Team Peniel II	10	1	2	7	26	54	4
Grove II	10	0	1	9	17	63	1

DIVISION 3 NORTH

Blackpool	10	9	1	0	63	17	19
Club Mid-Cheshire	10	8	0	2	59	21	16
Halton Croda II	10	6	2	2	49	31	14
Dewsbury II	10	5	1	4	43	37	11
Darlington III	10	5	3	2	47	33	13
Seasiders II	10	2	0	8	23	57	4
Isle of Man	10	0	2	8	17	63	2
Barrow	10	0	1	9	19	61	1

DIVISION THREE SOUTH

Ashford	10	9	0	1	61	19	18
York Gardens	10	8	1	1	48	32	17
JAGS II	10	7	0	3	53	27	14
Guernsey	10	5	1	4	46	34	11
Horsham III	10	4	2	4	44	36	10
Byng Hall F.P. II	10	2	1	7	24	56	5
London Progress IV	10	1	1	8	24	56	3
Britannia H. Ipswich	10	1	0	9	20	60	2

The British League Official Ball

DONIC

3 Star -ITTF approved

available from

JARVIS SPORTS

The Table Tennis Specialists

Telephone:

01634 670580

LOST OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE ?

THE time is fast approaching for the submission of amendments to regulation for consideration at the annual County Championships Conference; at the time of writing there is only just one month to the closing date for amendments to be in the possession of the Administrator. Once the Administrator has possession the proposed amendments will be circulated to the Counties, who will then have the right to submit amendments to the proposals which will appear on the order paper for the Annual Conference, however if your County is not represented at conference any opinions you may have will not be aired and you will not have an opportunity to register a vote, writes Stan Clarke.

CADET DIVISION 1A (NORTH)

The six teams played all of their fixtures at the Halifax TTC on Saturday 18th January 03, under the watchful eyes of Referee John Hardcastle and organiser Barry Snowden.

In the first round of matches Cheshire beat Yorkshire 6/4, and Cleveland and South Yorkshire, Durham and Lancashire drew their matches, this was to be the only point dropped by Durham during the course of the day, Lancashire relied heavily on their two girls with both Hayley Wilkinson and Jessica

Hall unbeaten in the match, even so with Durham leading 5/4 and Chris Close of Durham two games to love up in the final set of the match against Phillip Wilkinson it looked all over for the Lancastrians, but Phillip dug deep to level the set at two games each which must have shaken Chris to the core, as he tamely conceded the final game 11/4 to give Lancashire the draw.

In the second round of matches South Yorkshire and Cheshire drew, thanks to Mitchell Barker beating Stephen Arliss in the final set of the match, Lancashire and Cleveland also drew Andrew Wilson taking the final set against Josh Bleakley to deny Lancashire their first win. No such worries for Durham against Yorkshire as they raced into a 6/0 lead, Jeanna Cunningham stopped the rot with a 3/2 win over Rachael Greener and Fran Currie beat Samantha McCormick also by three games to two for the only other success for Yorkshire as Durham strolled to an eight two victory.

Durham were now leading the division and proceeded to consolidate their lead when they met neighbours Cleveland in their third match, despite falling 2/0 behind after Daniel Reed beat Mark Simpson and Nicky Skipp beat Chris Close, they won the remaining eight sets to finish comfortable winners.

Lancashire kept the pressure on by beating Cheshire 6/4, once again their girls kept Lancashire in the match remaining undefeated and maintaining their 100% record over the three matches played. In the other "Derby" match Yorkshire played South Yorkshire and in a close match, that at one time stood at 4/4, South Yorkshire kept their nerve to win the final two sets and ran out winners at 6/4.

Two more matches for each team to play and Durham really piled on the pressure with a relatively easy 8/2 defeat of Cheshire, Lancashire kept up their winning streak by beating South Yorkshire 6/4, Hayley Wilkinson losing her 100% record when she lost to Emily Robinson. Cleveland and Yorkshire drew 5/5.

The final round of matches and Lancashire remained unbeaten by virtue of a 6/4 win against Yorkshire, Cleveland thrashed Cheshire 7/3, but Durham made no mistakes and ensured champions position when they hammered South Yorkshire 8/2, they will be invited to play off against the winners of the two other Cadet divisions to decide the overall winner of the Cadet divisions.

CADET DIVISION 1C (SOUTHERN)

The division played out their remaining fixtures at Guildford, Sussex 1st were in the lead by one point over Surrey 1st after the first round of matches, but had played one match more, the clash between the two teams resulted in a draw, but that was to be the last point dropped by Surrey 1st and having won all of their remaining matches they finished in top spot, one point ahead of Sussex 1st.

CADET DIVISION 1B (CENTRAL)

Derbyshire led the division from start to finish winning all of their matches in fine style, dropping only nine sets from a possible fifty, and finishing two points clear of nearest challengers Lincolnshire, who themselves lost only one match.

The play-off for the overall winner

of the Cadet divisions will be Durham, Derbyshire and Surrey. The matches will be played at Grantham alongside the Premier divisions on 22nd March.

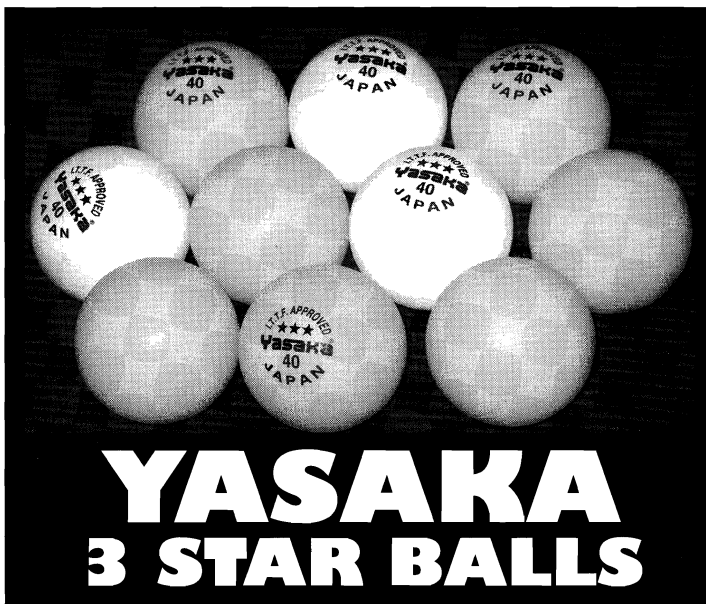
SENIOR DIVISION 1B

With all fixtures now completed Kent, as I suggested in an earlier column, ran out as comfortable winners by a margin of four points over runners-up Wiltshire, but the match between the two teams was a very tight affair, five sets requiring five games to produce a winner. It looked at the start that Kent were going to run away with the match as they eased into a 2/0 lead as Joe Kennedy beat Eddie Roofe and Mark Brown beat Tim O'Mahoney but Michelle Cohen's win over Kim Mudge rallied the Wiltshire team and they took a 4/2 lead thanks to Kevin Satchell beating Dominic Hall, Brenda Baldwin beat Angie Bristow and Eddie Roofe defeating Mark Brown, Kent levelled the match at 4/4 when Kim beat Brenda and Joe beat Kevin, Michelle put Wiltshire ahead at 5/4 but in the final set of the match Dominic Hall beat Tim O'Mahoney to earn a draw for Kent. A most important point as it ensured that Wiltshire could not match the points total accrued by Kent regardless of the outcome of the remaining matches.

Middlesex finished in third place, tied on points with Wiltshire, but with an inferior sets average. Glamorgan and Berkshire finished even closer together, level on points, level on sets average, it required a count-back of game point to separate the two, Glamorgan finishing in fourth spot by having won six points more than Berkshire.

Gloucestershire and Kent 2nd are relegated to the second division, Gloucestershire are perhaps a little unlucky as they won two matches and gained four points, in many other divisions that would be enough to avoid the dreaded drop.

Kent 2nd will be glad that a miserable season is over, having failed to win a single point and winning only fourteen sets from a possible seventy.



SENIORS

PREMIER	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Glamorgan	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Sussex	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Middlesex	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Surrey	3	1	1	1	12	18	3
South Yorkshire	3	0	2	1	14	16	2
Yorkshire	3	0	2	1	12	18	2
Devonshire	3	0	1	2	11	19	1

DIVISION 1A

Leicestershire	4	4	0	0	31	9	8
Yorkshire 2nd	4	3	1	0	28	12	7
Lancashire	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Worcestershire	4	3	0	1	23	17	6
Essex 2nd	4	1	1	2	19	11	3
Nottinghamshire	4	0	1	3	11	28	1
Durham	4	0	1	3	11	29	1
Cambridgeshire	4	0	0	4	10	30	0

DIVISION 1B

Kent 1st	5	5	0	0	38	12	10
Wiltshire	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Middlesex 2nd	5	2	1	2	26	24	5
Gloucestershire	4	2	0	2	23	17	4
Berkshire	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
Hertfordshire	5	2	0	3	18	32	4
Glamorgan 2nd	4	1	1	2	17	23	3
Kent 2nd	5	0	0	5	12	38	0

DIVISION 2A

Cheshire	7	7	0	0	55	15	14
Northumberland	7	6	0	1	53	17	12
Cleveland	7	5	0	2	41	29	10
Warwickshire 1st	7	4	0	3	39	31	8
Derbyshire	7	2	1	4	32	38	5
Cumbria	7	2	1	4	29	41	5
Warwickshire 2nd	7	1	0	6	18	52	2
Leicestershire 2nd	7	0	0	7	13	57	0

DIVISION 2B

Avon	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Cornwall 1st	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Devonshire 3rd	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Devonshire 2nd	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Somerset	3	0	1	2	13	17	1
Hertfordshire	2	0	1	1	7	13	1
Cornwall 2nd	1	0	0	1	2	8	0

DIVISION 2C

Suffolk 1st	4	3	1	0	30	10	7
Lincolnshire	4	3	1	0	28	12	7
Bedfordshire	5	3	0	2	29	21	6
Hertfordshire 2nd	4	3	0	1	23	17	6
Northamptonshire	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Suffolk 2nd	4	0	1	3	11	29	1
Norfolk	5	0	0	5	10	40	0

DIVISION 2D

Sussex 2nd	4	3	1	0	27	13	7
Oxfordshire	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Buckinghamshire	2	0	2	0	10	10	2
Hampshire	3	0	1	1	14	16	1
Surrey 2nd	3	1	0	1	14	16	2
Isle of Wight	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Berkshire 2nd	2	0	1	1	7	13	1

JUNIORS

PREMIER DIVISION

Cheshire	3	3	0	0	15	5	6
Glamorgan	3	2	1	0	11	8	5
Yorkshire	3	1	2	0	19	11	4
Lincolnshire	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
Essex	3	1	0	2	15	15	2
Sussex	3	1	0	2	9	21	2
Buckinghamshire	3	0	1	2	9	21	1
Surrey	3	0	1	2	8	22	1

DIVISION 1A

Derbyshire	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Nottinghamshire	4	3	1	0	32	8	7
Cleveland	4	2	1	1	21	19	5
Yorkshire 2nd	4	1	2	1	10	20	4
Cumbria	4	1	1	1	17	13	3
Lancashire	4	1	1	2	16	24	3
Warwickshire	4	0	1	3	11	29	1
Lincolnshire 2nd	4	0	1	3	10	30	1

DIVISION 1B

Middlesex	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
Devonshire	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Buckingham 2nd	2	2	0	0	12	8	4
Kent	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Glamorgan 2nd	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Essex 2nd	2	0	1	1	8	12	1
Gwent	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Hampshire	2	0	0	2	2	18	0

DIVISION 2A

Durham 1st	4	4	0	0	28	12	8
Northamptonshire	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Cheshire 2nd	4	2	2	0	24	16	6

Shropshire	4	2	1	1	11	18	5
South Yorkshire	4	1	1	1	11	19	3
Worcestershire	4	1	0	3	15	25	1
Lancashire Ind	4	1	0	3	14	16	1
Norfolk	4	0	0	4	9	30	0

DIVISION 2B

Somerset	3	1	1	0	20	10	5
Kent 2nd	3	2	1	0	17	13	5
Surrey 2nd	4	1	3	0	21	19	5
Buckingham 3rd	4	1	2	1	21	19	4
Dorset	2	1	1	0	11	8	3
Oxfordshire	4	1	1	1	19	11	3
Berkshire	3	0	1	1	11	19	1
Surrey 3rd	3	0	0	3	9	11	0

DIVISION 3A

Devonshire	3	3	0	0	16	4	6
Hertfordshire 1st	3	3	0	0	15	5	6
Suffolk	3	3	0	0	14	6	6
Huntingdonshire	4	1	0	1	10	10	4
Norfolk 2nd	3	0	1	2	8	22	1
Bedfordshire 2nd	4	0	1	3	12	18	1
Cambridgeshire	4	0	0	4	5	35	0

DIVISION 3B

Conwy							
Durham 2nd							
Northampton 2nd							
Northumberland							
Nottingham 2nd							
Nottingham 3rd							
Warwick 2nd							

DIVISION 3C

Devonshire 2nd	3	3	0	0	28	2	6
Herefordshire	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Devonshire 3rd	2	1	1	0	12	8	3
Cornwall 1st	2	1	0	1	12	8	2
Avon	2	0	1	1	6	14	1
Devonshire 4th	2	0	0	2	3	17	0
Cornwall 2nd	1	0	0	1	0	10	0

DIVISION 3D

Gloucestershire	3	3	0	0	11	9	6
Sussex 2nd	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
Wiltshire	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
Middlesex 2nd	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Essex 3rd	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Sussex 3rd	3	0	1	2	12	18	1
Buckingham 4th	3	0	1	2	10	20	1
Gwent 2nd	3	0	0	3	11	19	0

CADETS

DIVISION 1A

Cheshire							
Cleveland							
Durham							
Lancashire							
South Yorkshire							
Yorkshire							

DIVISION 1B

Derbyshire	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Northamptonshire	3	2	0	1	22	8	4
Lincolnshire	3	2	0	1	21	9	4
Suffolk	3	1	0	1	18	11	4
Glamorgan	3	0	0	3	4	16	0
Worcestershire	3	0	0	3	0	30	0

DIVISION 1C

Sussex 1st	4	2	2	0	25	15	6
Surrey 1st	3	2	1	0	20	10	5
Somerset	3	1	2	0	16	14	4
Gloucestershire	3	1	2	0	16	14	4
Sussex 2nd	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Surrey 2nd	4	1	0	3	11	29	2
Berkshire	4	0	0	4	16	24	0

VETERANS

PREMIER

P	W	L	F	A	Pts	
Lancashire	3	3	0	21	6	6
Kent	3	3	0	20	7	6
Berkshire	3	3	0	18	9	6
Cheshire	3	2	1	21	6	4
Sussex	3	1	2	14	13	2
Surrey	3	0	3	6	21	0
Middlesex	3	0	3	6	21	0
Northumberland	3	0	3	2	25	0

DIVISION 1A

Essex	4	4	0	29	7	8
Cheshire 2nd	4	3	1	26	10	6
Hertfordshire	4	3	1	24	12	6
Oxfordshire	4	2	2	17	19	4
Norfolk	4	2	2	15	21	4
Leicestershire	4	1	3	15	21	2
Yorkshire 2nd	4	1	3	15	21	2
Durham	4	0	4	3	33	0

DIVISION 1B

Surrey 2nd	4	4	0	27	9	8
Kent 2nd	4	3	1	22	14	6
Dorset 1st	1	2	0	17	1	4
Dorset 2nd	2	2	0	11	7	4

Buckinghamshire	4	1	3	10	26	2
Hampshire	2	0	2	7	11	0
Berkshire 1st	4	0	4	11	25	0
Avon	2	0	2	3	15	0

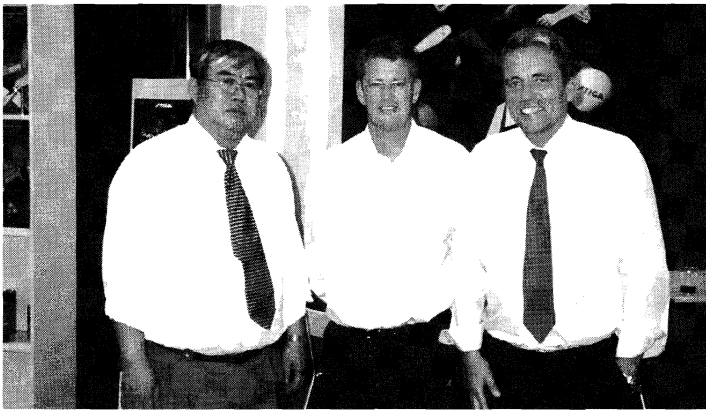
DIVISION 2A

South Yorkshire	4	3	1	20	16	6
Essex 2nd	3	2	1	16	11	4
Warwickshire	4	2	2	20	16	4
Worcestershire	4	2	2	19	17	4
Bedfordshire	3	2	1	13	14	4
Essex 3rd	3	1	2	13	14	2
Lancashire 2nd	5	1	4	16	29	2

Norfolk 2nd have withdrawn

DIVISION 2B

Devonshire	2	2	0	12	6	4
Somerset	2	2	0	10	8	4
Hertfordshire 2nd	2	1	1	13	5	2
Kent 3rd	2	1	1	11	7	2
Wiltshire	2	1	1			



STIGA at ISPO in Munich

ISPO, Munich - STIGA's new range was launched at ISPO. Pictured left are (from left to right) Antony Fung, the owner of the world's largest table

tennis factory in China, Mats Bandstigen, owner of Stiga and Alan Hydes, Stiga's UK distributor are photographed at the Stiga stand for the launch of the new Stiga table tennis range. Part of this new range is the Stiga ACS system. Details: Serious players can now experience much greater speed and spin in their game, without sacrificing any control, thanks to the new Air-Capsule System (ACS).

STIGA has developed the Air-Capsule System, a rubber technology that revolutionises table tennis. The ACS-technology allows very high speed to be combined with maximum springiness/elasticity in an ultra-light rubber with outstanding control. This phenomenon must be experienced first hand.

ALAN COOKE & NICOLA DEATON 2003 SUMMER SCHOOL AT GRANTHAM COLLEGE



Due to popular demand Britain's best and most up to date summer school offers two weeks in 2003.
1st WEEK- Monday August 4th to Friday August 8th
AND/OR
2nd WEEK- Monday August 11th to Friday August 15th

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

STIGA at HARRODS in London



ALAN HYDES, Stiga' UK distributor pictured together with his daughter THERESA at the London Store.

STIGA has been chosen by Harrods as the exclusive supplier for the full range of table tennis products in London's most prestigious Departmental Store in Knightsbridge. Harrods are delighted with the STIGA business.

Alan has worked with Stiga and Harrods for the past five years to achieve exceptional growth.

where they scraped home 5-3. Nevertheless it was enough to retain their perfect record with 10 wins out of 10. Oakbank's Shaun Marples (on his day a far better player than his England no. 13 Junior ranking would indicate) excelled to beat Nupur Santra and Shuang Zhao, two superb wins. His victory over Shuang (the England no. 4 lady player) was earned the hard way as he retrieved a 2-0 deficit before getting there -6,-10, 9,10,6. He deservedly took the Player of the Match Award.

Humpty's Club jump to second after beating both Potteries (6-2) and Uxbridge Burton (7-1). The 6-2 victory over Potteries flattered them slightly with three deciding set victories. Jason Ramage sealed the win at 5-1 with his second success of the match, doing just enough to beat Colin Braxton 11-9 in the fifth end. Garry Knights also won twice which included an excellent victory over Andy Rich.

Second-placed Elgre drop back to third although they at least got the fixture against Grove out of the way. It started promisingly enough for Elgre as Trevor Kerry beat Andrew Nicholls 3-1 but that was as far as it went as Nupur Santra, Shuang Zhao and Rafael Campos rattled off the next seven games. Kerry made a big effort against Nupur Santra but couldn't extend his opponent to a deciding end on this occasion. Elgre were also held to a draw by a battling Derwent II, the fourth placed side, a result that will probably haunt them. Into their running far quicker than their opponents they surged into a 4-1 lead as the hard-hitting Kerry secured his second singles victory. A decisive 3-0 win for Mick Wilcockson over John Taylor gave Derwent a glimmer of hope and Richard Moss (a 3-1 victor against Adam Ellis) and Christopher Nicholls (who beat Adam Frost 3-0) earned their side a point.

Division Three (Midlands & South) - The balance of power might just have altered in this evenly matched division. Even though Generation II (with 16 points) top the table by a single point after their two wins Birmingham University I who beat leaders London Progress V 6-2 appear to have the easier run-in. Progress have to face Generation II in the next round whereas Birmingham University's hardest test looks to be Guildford II.

In the weekend's biggest game Birmingham University knew that only a victory over Progress would suffice and they made no mistake in winning 6-2. The match itself wasn't quite as exciting as you might have expected with no game going to a fifth set. Progress no. 1 Yuchang Zhang showed he should be playing in a higher division by winning twice, beating Steve Buck 3-0 and Glen Wilkes 3-1 but that was as far as the Progress "story" went. Father and son combination Stuart and Tim Seaholme gave nothing away in taking their four singles.

Generation II who have proved to be very adept at beating the lower placed teams made no mistake as they beat Ashford and BATTs Team Peniel II. Their undefeated trio of Victor Imiseev, Roger Hookey and Graham Toole illustrated strength in depth in the 7-1 demolition of

Ashford and only an inform Neil Brierley got in their way as they beat BATTs Team Peniel II 6-2. Brierley excelled with a 3-0 victory over Roger Hookey (a game between two of the most similarly styled players one could possibly think of!) and a second fine victory over Victor Imiseev. This represented Imiseev's first defeat of the season although Brierley (in a typically magnanimous gesture) gave the Player of the Match Award to Generation II's Graham Toole.

London Progress V did clear the tricky hurdle of fourth-placed Guildford II. Yuchang Zhang led from the front with two wins and the improving Daniel Cannon also won twice. Bipin Majithia who beat both Sam Cannon and Ray Lam made life very uncomfortable and this left England no. 10 Cadet Sam Cannon with the job of playing the last match to secure the 5-3 win. Sam showed real composure to come back from 2-0 behind to beat David Lloyd -9,-6, 10,7,8. A very hard-fought win for Progress.

Birmingham University won their other match 6-2, against fifth placed OLOP II. OLOP who fielded Tony Duffield at no. 4 were never going to be easy opponents. With four games going to a deciding leg Birmingham were relieved they won three of them. OLOP's Tony Reynolds excelled by beating Glen Wilkes 11-9 in the fifth end and Mark Banks scored with a 3-0 victory over Tim Seaholme.

Duffield had his chances losing in five games against family combination (nephew and uncle this time) Tim and David Seaholme. Seem's more like TV's "Generation Game" than British League!
Division Three (South) - "Three became two.....". Leaders JAGS II effectively surrendered any hopes they had of taking the title as they lost twice; against York Gardens (2-6) and Horsham III (3-5). The defeat against Horsham III was the real stunner as an inspired Horsham side raced into a 3-1 lead. Farhat Rasul scored his second win by beating Simon Pink (3-2) and Adrian Davis just got the better of Chris Vincent 17-15 in the decider to make the score 3-3. You might have favoured JAGS after such a narrow victory but Horsham were having none of it. Terry Dean scored his second fifth set win, at 11-3 in the decider against Martin Smith which left Graham Faulkner with the task of winning the last singles to take the match. He proved up to it by beating Musa Farquharson 3-1.

York Gardens found themselves tied at 2-2 against JAGS, but a 3-0 win for their no. 1 player Mark Smith over Farhat Rasul seemed to give them fresh heart and they rattled off the last three games. Peter Barrow impressed with a 3-0 win over Adrian Davis and Dipan Shah completed the job with a -6,-12, 7,8,9 victory over Rodney Farquharson. Lowly Progress IV (you don't normally associate the words "lowly" and Progress) also gave a very good account of themselves against York Gardens despite losing 2-6. Reggie Groves played really well and beat both Rhygan Nelson (3-1) and Peter Barrow (again 3-1). Ian Buchanan gave a superb account of himself against Mark Smith before losing 11-6 in the decider.

Ashford take over at the top of the table after two convincing wins, 8-0 drubbings

of both Byng Hall Farningham Print II and Britannia Ipswich. Their side of Thomas Svensson, Stefan Edlund, Henry Buist and Nicholas Ravalec has strength in depth and the Championship will almost certainly be decided when they meet York Gardens. Ashford go into the final round of matches with a single point advantage.

Guernsey showed themselves to be remarkably good at beating the teams below them in the table. Neither Byng Hall II or Progress IV represented any problems whatsoever as they steam-rolled both sets of opposition 8-0. Their successful players were Phil Ogier, Lucas Waring, Peter Bretel and Richard Veale.

Bottom side Britannia Ipswich came close to adding a third point to their total as they stood at 3-3 with Horsham III. Fred Dove (playing very well after a lengthy break from the sport through injury) had excelled by beating both Chris Vincent (3-1) and Simon Pink (3-2) but Horsham took the last two games. Chris Vincent saw off Aimee Sparkes (3-1) and Graham Faulkner earned himself the Player of the Match Award by defeating Clair Emmerson 11-6 in the fifth end.

Division Three (North) - This division has produced one of the talking points of the season. Darlington III were clearly determined to make a mockery of the Press Officer's predictions that Club Mid-Cheshire were odds-on favourites to take the title. However, in their desire to succeed Darlington included Daniel Tomica, the no. 6 ranked player in their Club, which obviously isn't normally allowed in a Club's third team. Club Mid-Cheshire chose to rest their no. 1 player Brian Johns but as they replaced him with the very stylish England. no 12 Veteran Keith Williams you could hardly say they were under-strength. Darlington Chairman Keith Wilson feels strongly that as his Club had withdrawn their second team from the League Tomica is eligible for their third team. Whether the British League Committee will see it in the same light remains to be seen! Awkwardly there is no specific rule that covers such a scenario and as such Darlington's 5-3 victory is going to be subject to a great deal of further scrutiny. The fact that Tomica played at no. 1 will obviously affect the whole match result. The match itself was a good one and Mike Johns stayed undefeated to keep his side in the game. He actually beat Tomica 3-1 in the first game whilst Daniel later made his mark with a victory over Keith Williams. Darlington Junior Andrew Leighton's excellent win over Wayne Percival certainly caught the eye of this scribe (he is after all ranked some 700 points lower) although it was Percival who took the Player of the Match Award with the comments "A born fighter"!

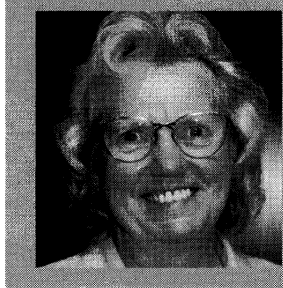
Darlington's other match was against the divisional leaders Blackpool and although Tomica won twice Blackpool came through from 2-3 behind to win 5-3. With the pressure on Zeke Dixon beat Kevin Wilson 3-0, Steve Bevan got the better of David Meads 3-1 and Martin Ireland played superbly to beat Andrew Leighton 3-2 for what could well prove to be a very important triumph. A fantastic all-round effort by the Blackpool side.

Elsewhere Club Mid-Cheshire and Blackpool weren't unduly troubled in beating Isle of Man and Seasiders 8-0 as they both became aware of the controversy that would surround the appearances of Daniel Tomica. Bottom team Barrow twice lost 3-5 but although they fought well they will admit that they did not come particularly close to adding another point. Halton Croda's Tim Wearden and Dewsbury's James Brown took the respective Player of the Match Awards. Harry Carter was by far Barrow's most successful player with three wins and a walkover from his day's work.

Division Three (Midlands) - Birmingham University II produced one of the season's biggest upsets and their stunning 6-2 victory over divisional leaders Wirral Premier came about via two wins from their no. 2 player (!) Che Xiang Cheng who toppled England no. 11 Andrew Eden 11-7 in the deciding end. This scribe had suggested that Eden might last a whole season undefeated in the Premier division, and he goes and loses in division three! The reality is rather different however. Che, a mature student at the University was apparently a former leading Chinese junior player some ten years ago who had to face the harsh reality that he wasn't likely to reach the very top of the Chinese tree. Birmingham Club Secretary Jane Dickens takes up the story "He had only been here a week and contacted us and explained that he used to be quite good. However he insisted on us holding a Trial before we picked him. As there just wasn't time we decided to leave Sharzad Waseem at no. 1 and were a little concerned that perhaps Che wasn't quite as good as we had first thought!" One thinks that Mr. Cheng could find himself in great demand next season if this result is anything to go by. Amidst all the excitement Earl Sweeney also won twice (beating both Aaron Beech and Neil Powell) to leave Birmingham as 6-2 winners.

With Che in their side Birmingham University also beat Kingshurst 6-2 and ironically after suffering their first defeat Wirral have extended their lead to 2 points. With Sharzad Waseem also staying undefeated and Earl Sweeney and Peter Dasher both winning once Birmingham looked good value for their win. Kingshurst chose a bad weekend to be understrength as they also faced a strong Bedford Modern team. Bolstered by the inclusion of Andy Trott (who used to play for Barclays Bank) Bedford were always ahead, eventually winning 6-2. Trott who had overcome a nasty bout of travel sickness, played really well to beat Mike Browne who in turn came back to beat Mick Harper in his second singles. Bedford jumped above Kingshurst after beating Woodfield 6-2, Woodfield's Steve Cullis playing a "blinder" to beat a lacklustre Mick Harper 3-0. Cullis completed an excellent afternoon's work by beating Rob Dynes 3-1 but Andy Trott and John Alsop didn't give anything away which left Bedford comfortable winners.

Grove II will almost certainly feel short-changed against Rotherham Scorpions. having lost 8-0, with 5 very close games.



ETTA NATIONAL RANKING LIST

TOP OF THE TABLE

MARCH 2003 - List 107

Further details please ring Doreen Nightingale 01424 722525

Senior Men			
Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 SYED, Matthew (Bk) (SY)	4857	
(2)	2 HERBERT, Gareth (BK)	4755	
(3)	3 PERRY, Alex (DV)	4732**	
(4)	4 BAGGALEY, Andrew (BU)	4718	
(5)	5 COOKE, Alan (DY)	4663***	
(6)	6 YOUNG, Terry (BK)	4622***	
(7)	7 PREAN, Carl (IW)	4552*	
(8)	8 RUSHTON, Andrew (LA)	4473**	
(9)	9 BILLINGTON, Bradley (DY)	4463***	
(10)	10 EDEN, Andrew (LA)	4333	
(11)	11 BARHAM, Dale (CA)	4202****	
(12)	12 HOLLAND, John(Dy) (E)	4024	
(13)	13 KENNY, Mathew (Y)	4011	
(14)	14 TAYLOR, Jonathan (LA)	3847	
(15)	15 SLADEN, Cris (E)	3832	
(16)	16 HAMMOND, Eric (ML)	3823***	
(17)	17 BAKER, Gregory (ST)	3821	
(18)	18 BRYANT, Craig (DV)	3819	
(19)	19 DRINKHALL, Bryn (CY)	3790	
(20)	20 JAMES, Michael (Y)	3714**	
(21)	21 CLEMINSON, Peter (E)	3698	
(22)	22 HILTON, John (CH)	3683	
(23)	23 WURAOA, Abdul (SY)	3683	
(24)	24 SMITH, Eddie (ND)	3659	
(25)	25 VENNER, Ritchie (SK)	3657	
(26)	26 KNIGHT, Darius (SY)	3654*	
(27)	27 DOLDER, Kevin (LA)	3643	
(28)	28 ROGERS, Chris (LE)	3642	
(29)	29 MOORE, Adrian (K)	3630	
(30)	30 WHITING, Paul (DV)	3628	
(31)	31 CHAN, Michael (SY)	3619**	
(32)	32 NEIL, Lee (NG)	3606	
(33)	33 MARSHALL, Peter (Y)	3606**	
(34)	34 CHARLES, Neil (ML)	3590	
(35)	35 HUTCHINGS, Paul (LA)	3571	
(36)	36 DRINKHALL, Paul (CY)	3565*	
(37)	37 GREGORY, Christopher (SP)	3555	
(38)	38 PAPANTONIOU, Costas (ML)	3553	
(39)	39 WILKINSON, Andrew (ND)	3530	
(40)	40 BARR, David (BK)	3514	
(41)	41 ECKERSELY, Nigel (SK)	3510***	
(42)	42 JOHNS, Brian (CH)	3478	
(43)	43 CUTLER, Tom (MI)	3478	
(44)	44 YARNALL, Tim (NP)	3473	
(45)	45 KENNEDY, Joe (K) (E)	3470	
(46)	46 WILLIAMS, Keith (LA)	3460	
(47)	47 GREEN, Mark (NG)	3458	
(48)	48 SMITH, Mark Richard (Y)	3458	
(49)	49 CARTHY, Clive (E)	3429	
(50)	50 SATCHEL, Kevin (WL)	3425	
(51)	51 BROWN, Mark (K)	3417	
(52)	52 HORNER, Daniel (CH)	3399	
(53)	53 TENDLER, Gary (E)	3386	
(54)	54 BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA)	3367	
(55)	55 BARTRAM, Peter (SK)	3362	
(56)	56 MARSDEN, Michael (DU)	3358	
(57)	57 JONAH, Jerome (K)	3358	
(58)	58 GRIFFIN, Darren (GS)	3357	
(59)	59 SCHOFIELD, Andrew (Y) (Y)	3352	
(60)	60 MARPLES, Shaun (DY)	3343	
(61)	61 GANNON, David (LE)	3341	
(62)	62 JAMIESON, Christopher (E)	3341	
(63)	63 MCKOY, Nick (ML)	3334	
(64)	64 FESEHATION, Daniel (MI)	3328	
(65)	65 CORBIN, Anthony (HE)	3323	
(66)	66 HALL, Dominic (K)	3320	
(67)	67 ATKINSON, David (CA)	3312**	
(68)	68 WHITEHAM, James (DV)	3308	
(69)	69 POUNTNEY, Robert (SY)	3296	
(70)	70 RANKIN, John (LA)	3289	
(71)	71 GELDER, Tony (DU)	3289	
(72)	72 ROMANO, Mark (K)	3283	
(73)	73 JOHNS, Mike (CH)	3271	
(74)	74 BEADSLY, Kevin (Y)	3267	
(75)	75 ROSENTHAL, Louis (CH)	3249***	
(76)	76 SHORT, Mike (DV)	3247	
(77)	77 ROCKALL, Simon (BU)	3247.1	
(78)	78 TILFORD, Richard (HA)	3240.1	
(79)	79 HARVEY, Dave (GS)	3213	
(80)	80 GASCOYNE, Craig (NG)	3204	
(81)	81 ADAMS, Martin (BK)	3201	
(82)	82 GODBOLD, David (DU)	3201	
(83)	83 PHILLIPS, Simon (SY)	3201	
(84)	84 CLAYTON, Tony (DO)	3195	
(85)	85 BAILEY, Steven (CY)	3186	
(86)	86 BARATY, Eli (MI)	3176*	
(87)	87 FORD, Christopher (LA)	3168	
(88)	88 SMITH, Richard A (Y)	3161	
(89)	89 HARDING, David (SY)	3154	
(90)	90 KERRY, Trevor (NG)	3150	
(91)	91 DABBS, Kieron (NP)	3141	
(92)	92 WELSMAN, Dave (NP)	3134	
(93)	93 COX, Philip (K)	3133*	
(94)	94 WIGNALL, Andy (LI)	3127	
(95)	95 PAYNE, Phil (SO)	3115****	
(96)	96 GIRDLER, Ian (SY)	3115	
(97)	97 LIGHTWOLVER, Richard (Y)	3114	
(98)	98 BUTLER, Mark (DO)	3111	
(99)	99 WALKER, Andy (SK)	3099	
(100)	100 CAMPBELL, Selwyn (SY)	3092	
(81)	81 HALES, Linda (DO)	2787	
(82)	82 CRICK, Lisa (BK)	2787*	
(83)	83 BURGESS, Suzanne (CH)	2785	
(84)	84 DIGNUM, Margaret (WO)	2779	
(85)	85 KNIGHTLEY, Gillian (BK)	2772	
(86)	86 BROWN, Sarah (E)	2769	
(87)	87 GARLICK, Helen (K)	2766***	
(88)	88 FLOWERDAY, Anne (E)	2764*	
(89)	89 STEDMAN, Sarah (SK)	2761	
(90)	90 WHITE, Jean (LI)	2756	
(91)	91 BENTLEY, Ruth (NG)	2742	
(92)	92 VICKERS, Jane (DY)	2737	
(93)	93 SPARKES, Aimee (SK)	2725	
(94)	94 MAY, Elizabeth (DV)	2705	
(95)	95 TODD, Nicole (E)	2705	
(96)	96 STEWART, Tina (K)	2703*	
(97)	97 SEAHOLME, Sarah (HE)	2702*	
(98)	98 BROWN, Janet (OK)	2697	
(99)	99 REID, Lynda (WO)	2696	
(100)	100 JUDDSON, Carol (Y)	2696	
(1)	1 MUDGE, Kim (E)	2690	
(2)	2 STITCH, Julie (CU)	2680**	
(3)	3 GRAHAM, Sylvia (LA)	2678****	
(4)	4 WILLIAMS, Jackie (K)	2665**	
(5)	5 BARELLA, Jane (SY)	2656****	
(6)	6 BAX, Sally (HE)	2647	
(7)	7 SMITH, Nicola (Y)	2643****	
(8)	8 WHITE, Nicola (Y)	3230	
(9)	9 SPINK, Lauren (NK)	3189**	
(10)	10 WILSON, Naomi (SO)	3158	
(11)	11 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH)	3141	
(12)	12 DENNETT, Elizabeth (CH)	2877	
(13)	13 GRAHAM, Cherith (LA)	2838	
(14)	14 BROWN, Sarah (E)	2769	
(15)	15 WEIL, Emma (E)	2621	
(16)	16 LANGFORD, Clare (CH)	2607	
(17)	17 YARNLEY, Gemma (K)	2518	
(18)	18 WILSON, Claire (DU)	2416	
(19)	19 HOWARD, Clara (CH)	2413	
(20)	20 SHUTT, Heather (Y)	2355	
(21)	21 HUBBARD, Joanne (K)	2273	
(22)	22 CAVERN-GRIFFITHS, Kelly(LE)	2216**	
(23)	23 BELL, Amanda (Y)	2205	
(24)	24 SENEVIRATNE, Anusha (K)	2177	
(25)	25 WALLER, Tanya (Y)	2172	
(26)	26 WANG, Sarra (E)	2115	
(27)	27 WANG, Sarra (E)	2090	
(28)	28 RADFORD, Lisa (DV)	1986	
(29)	29 PARTON, Helen (DV)	1968	
(30)	30 BARRETT, Michelle (DV)	1904	
(31)	31 PERKS, Sarah (NG)	1892	
(32)	32 DAVIS, Stella (GS)	1854	
(33)	33 BALDI, Rachel(Y) (Y)	1851**	
(34)	34 VAJDI, Christina (SY)	1834*	
(35)	35 PENNELL, Amanda (ST)	1795 N	
(36)	36 DONNELLY, Stephanie (CV)	1793	
(37)	37 MEADS, Joanne (DU)	1713	
(38)	38 HEARD, Gemma (E)	1705	
(39)	39 REES, Bethany (E)	1612	
(40)	40 DRINKHALL, Katie (Y)	1563	
(41)	41 PARKER, Hayley (CH)	1513	
(42)	42 SKEGGS, Kelly (E)	1474	
(43)	43 BOSLEY, Lisa (BK)	1467	
(44)	44 BEASTALL, Stacey (NG)	1419	
(45)	45 TWEEDI, Rebecca (BU)	1400	
(46)	46 ROGERS, Gina (SK)	1369	
(47)	47 SMITH, Sally (DY)	1342	
(48)	48 CLEMINSON, Jessica (E)	1326	
(49)	49 PARNELL, Francesca (BU)	1316	
(50)	50 GASSON, Faye (CU)	1290***	
(1)	1 KNIGHT, Darius (SY)	3654*	
(2)	2 DRINKHALL, Paul (CY)	3565*	
(3)	3 YARNALL, Tim (NP)	3473	
(4)	4 EVANS, Bradley(Bu) (NG)	2876	
(5)	5 MEADS, David (DU)	2580	
(6)	6 HAYES, David (BU)	2378	
(7)	7 EVANS, Gavin (NG)	2327	
(8)	8 REES, Daniel (E)	2239	
(9)	9 SHAHLAEI, Harry (GS)	2235	
(10)	10 CANNON, Samuel (MI)	2134	
(11)	11 MILTON, James (BU)	2068	
(12)	12 REED, Daniel (CV)	2048	
(13)	13 BARLOW, Ben (YS)	1723	
(14)	14 LEWIS, Christopher (SY)	1691	
(15)	15 NICHOLLS, Damien (SP)	1666	
(16)	16 REED, Darren (CO)	1514	
(17)	17 ROBINSON, Dorian (SY)	1467	
(18)	18 CRAWFORD, Jonathan (CU)	1443	
(19)	19 LEOW, Adam (SY)	1382	
(20)	20 EVANS, Myles (NG)	1291	
(21)	21 SIMPSON, Mark (DU)	1254	
(22)	22 BRAY, Thomas (LA)	1244	
(23)	23 BARNES, Lee (SK)	1171	
(24)	24 WILSON, Andrew (CY)	1134	
(25)	25 SKIPP, Nicholas (CV)	1131	
(1)	1 SMITH, Karen (LE)	3376	
(2)	2 SHORT, Elaine (DV)	3253	
(3)	3 DUNNING, Jan (WO)	3244	
(4)	4 HARPER, Sandra (BD)	3145	
(5)	5 BUOYE, Brenda (LA)	3109	
(6)	6 SHIELDS, Helen (Y)	3082	
(7)	7 DURHAM, Jane (CY)	3067	
(8)	8 PEARCE, Diane (K)	3017	
(9)	9 SIMPSON, Linda (Y)	2919	
(10)	10 MALTRY, Margaret (NP)	2981	
(11)	11 HURRELL, Rebecca (MI)	2981	
(12)	12 BRISTOW, Angie (K)	2978	
(13)	13 BROWN, Grace (E)	2976	
(14)	14 BAWDEN, Marilyn (E)	2963	
(15)	15 LLOYD, Gemma (CH)	2960	
(16)	16 RIDER, Sandra (Y)	2955*	
(17)	17 MORLEY, Judy (GS)	2952	
(18)	18 MARLING, Samantha (ML)	2942	
(19)	19 INGHAM, Katy (CH)	2920	
(20)	20 SEYMOUR, Tamar (OK)	2904	
(21)	21 HORSNELL, Sarah (ML)	2903	
(22)	22 PERRY, Lucy (DV)	2897**	
(23)	23 DEARING, Emily (Y)	2889	
(24)	24 COGGON, Sara (HE)	2887	
(25)	25 DENNETT, Elizabeth (CH)	2877	
(26)	26 PERRY, Penny (DV)	2873	
(27)	27 ROBINSON, Suzanne (GS)	2872*	
(28)	28 SCHOFIELD, Doreen (CH)	2866	
(29)	29 SHALER, Eileen (LE)	2845	
(30)	30 GRAHAM, Cherith (LA)	2838	
(31)	31 VAJDI, Carmen (SY)	2825***	
(32)	32 DAWSON, Marjorie (E)	2824*	
(33)	33 SWABEY, Jane (DV)	2822	
(34)	34 GELDER, Shirley (DU)	2817	
(35)	35 HARRISON, Jennifer (E)	2811	
(36)	36 KING, Sheila (SK)	2810	
(37)	37 WHEALY, Jennifer (E)	2802 N	
(7)	7 SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LI)	3392	
(8)	8 WHITE, Nicola (Y)	3230	
(9)	9 SPINK, Lauren (NK)	3189**	
(10)	10 WILSON, Naomi (SO)	3158	
(11)	11 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH)	3141	
(12)	12 DENNETT, Elizabeth (CH)	2877	
(13)	13 GRAHAM, Cherith (LA)	2838	
(14)	14 BROWN, Sarah (E)	2769	
(15)	15 WEIL, Emma (E)	2621	
(16)	16 LANGFORD, Clare (CH)	2607	
(17)	17 YARNLEY, Gemma (K)	2518	
(18)	18 WILSON, Claire (DU)	2416	
(19)	19 HOWARD, Clara (CH)	2413	
(20)	20 SHUTT, Heather (Y)	2355	
(21)	21 HUBBARD, Joanne (K)	2273	
(22)	22 CAVERN-GRIFFITHS, Kelly(LE)	2216**	
(23)	23 BELL, Amanda (Y)	2205	
(24)	24 SENEVIRATNE, Anusha (K)	2177	
(25)	25 WALLER, Tanya (Y)	2172	
(26)	26 WANG, Sarra (E)	2115	
(27)	27 WANG, Sarra (E)	2090	
(28)	28 RADFORD, Lisa (DV)	1986	
(29)	29 PARTON, Helen (DV)	1968	
(30)	30 BARRETT, Michelle (DV)	1904	
(31)	31 PERKS, Sarah (NG)	1892	
(32)	32 DAVIS, Stella (GS)	1854	
(33)	33 BALDI, Rachel(Y) (Y)	1851**	
(34)	34 VAJDI, Christina (SY)	1834*	
(35)	35 PENNELL, Amanda (ST)	1795 N	
(36)	36 DONNELLY, Stephanie (CV)	1793	
(37)	37 MEADS, Joanne (DU)	1713	
(38)	38 HEARD, Gemma (E)	1705	
(39)	39 REES, Bethany (E)	1612	
(40)	40 DRINKHALL, Katie (Y)	1563	
(41)	41 PARKER, Hayley (CH)	1513	
(42)	42 SKEGGS, Kelly (E)	1474	
(43)	43 BOSLEY, Lisa (BK)	1467	
(44)	44 BEASTALL, Stacey (NG)	1419	
(45)	45 TWEEDI, Rebecca (BU)	1400	
(46)	46 ROGERS, Gina (SK)	1369	
(47)	47 SMITH, Sally (DY)	1342	
(48)	48 CLEMINSON, Jessica (E)	1326	
(49)	49 PARNELL, Francesca (BU)	1316	
(50)	50 GASSON, Faye (CU)	1290***	
(1)	1 KNIGHT, Darius (SY)	3654*	
(2)	2 DRINKHALL, Paul (CY)	3565*	
(3)	3 YARNALL, Tim (NP)	3473	
(4)	4 EVANS, Bradley(Bu) (NG)	2876	
(5)	5 MEADS, David (DU)	2580	
(6)	6 HAYES, David (BU)	2378	
(7)	7 EVANS, Gavin (NG)	2327	
(8)	8 REES, Daniel (E)	2239	
(9)	9 SHAHLAEI, Harry (GS)	2235	
(10)	10 CANNON, Samuel (MI)	2134	
(11)	11 MILTON, James (BU)	2068	
(12)	12 REED, Daniel (CV)	2048	
(13)	13 BARLOW, Ben (YS)	1723	
(14)	14 LEWIS, Christopher (SY)	1691	
(15)	15 NICHOLLS, Damien (SP)	1666	
(16)	16 REED, Darren (CO)	1514	
(17)	17 ROBINSON, Dorian (SY)	1467	
(18)	18 CRAWFORD, Jonathan (CU)	1443	
(19)	19 LEOW, Adam (SY)	1382	
(20)	20 EVANS, Myles (NG)	1291	
(21)	21 SIMPSON, Mark (DU)	1254	
(22)	22 BRAY, Thomas (LA)	1244	
(23)	23 BARNES, Lee (SK)	1171	
(24)	24 WILSON, Andrew (CY)	1134	
(25)	25 SKIPP, Nicholas (CV)	1131	
(1)	1 SMITH, Karen (LE)	3376	
(2)	2 SHORT, Elaine (DV)	3253	
(3)	3 DUNNING, Jan (WO)	3244	
(4)	4 HARPER, Sandra (BD)	3145	
(5)	5 BUOYE, Brenda (LA)	3109	
(6)	6 SHIELDS, Helen (Y)	3082	
(7)	7 DURHAM, Jane (CY)	3067	
(8)	8 PEARCE, Diane (K)	3017	
(9)	9 SIMPSON, Linda (Y)	2919	
(10)	10 MALTRY, Margaret (NP)	2981	
(1			

PAIN

**MICROACE PROGRAMME™ •
ADVANCED BREAKTHROUGH IN
PAIN RELIEF**

Manufactured by MSL Medical, The Microace Programme™ is the ultimate breakthrough home use product in pain relief, for people suffering from arthritis or sports injuries.

The MicroAce Programme™ works by placing small electrode pads on the affected area. Minute Electromagnetic pulses then reduce swelling and rebuild damaged tissue by breathing life into seemingly dead cells.

Backed by clinical trials, trusted and used by thousands of people, doctors and physiotherapists across the world, plus well known sports stars such as David Beckham and Tim Henman - The MicroAce Programme™ generates results.

The MicroAce Programme™ is used daily for half an hour. In a trial of 3,000 people, over 80% of users have reported an improved quality of life and decreased pain.

In addition, clinical trials have proved that the microcurrents generated by MicroAce™ mimic natural electrical currents in the damaged tissue whilst stimulating tissue repair and regeneration, thus enhancing the body's own natural healing process.

As well as pain relief, the MicroAce Programme™ also:

- Reduces swelling
- Improves joint mobility and blood flow
- Reduces stiffness - Removes toxins
- Improves quality of sleep
- There are no known side effects.

Unlike other pain relief systems that provide temporary pain relief by treating the symptoms, Microace™ can bring long term pain relief if the treatment programme is followed correctly by treating the cause of the pain.

The MicroAce Programme™ is approved by the NHS, TGA and the medical devices directive. The MicroAce™ carries the CE safety mark.

For a trial of The MicroAce Programme™, a copy of the clinical trials or customer testimonials please contact Lydia Davey, t: 0207 405 4041, e: Lydia@bosehewitt.com

**MAINTAIN YOUR
DRIVE WITH
DYNAMISAN THE
NEW SYSTEM
SUPPORT FOR
MIND AND BODY**

Today's fast paced modern lifestyle requires top performance in all areas of your life. If your system feels overloaded, you may need some extra support. Dynamisan's combination of multivitamins and minerals, amino acids

and Ginseng, provide exactly what the name implies - a dynamic system support that activates energy release to help your body and mind through a busy and demanding life.

Why is the Dynamisan formula unique?

Dynamisan contains 11 essential vitamins and 10 minerals together with two amino acids and Ginseng. This formulation complements macronutrients from diet to help maintain the body's essential biochemical systems.

Why amino acids?

The two amino acids are particularly important as they provide support when there are heavy demands made on the

body – either mental or physical (during heavy muscle activity.)

Why Ginseng?

Panax Ginseng has been used in Chinese herbal medicine for thousands of years, and is universally recognised for its many beneficial properties.

For optimum dynamic performance ...

- Eat a healthy diet with plenty of fresh non-processed food including fruit, vegetables, pulses and lean meat or fish
- Drink plenty of fluids, especially water to maintain all the systems of your body
- Try to get the right amount of rest to keep you alert, including mental relaxation to refresh and rejuvenate your mind as well as body

- Exercise - even 15 minutes brisk walking a day will maintain good health
- Take Dynamisan – to activate energy release and help maintain optimum performance.

Priced at \$7.49 for 30 tablets.

For further information, contact Ali O'Neill at Fuel PR on 020 7 498 8211 or ali@fuelrefuel.com

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.

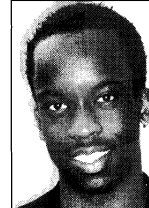
**COURSE COACH:
ANDREW EDEN**

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



**COURSE COACH:
GARETH HERBERT**

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



**COURSE COACH:
TERRY YOUNG**

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



**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.**

**For application form or further information contact:
Grant Solder, 11 Clive Road, Gidea Park, Romford, Essex RM2 5SP
Telephone/Fax: 01708 445309 - Mobile: 07930 275940**

Supported by:
SOUTHBANK UNIVERSITY - For more information visit:
www.sbu.ac.uk/tabletennisexcellence



TABLE TENNIS ALIVE & WELL IN GRENADA

IN December we paid a visit to Grenada and seeing an article in the local newspaper about TT decided to contact the chairman of Grenada TT Association, and also singles champion for the past 10 years. Jason Stanisclaus is committed to improving TT on the island and particularly interested in helping school children to develop their talents and avoid involvement with drugs and crime. His views struck a chord as these are precisely the aims of Table Tennis for Kids, writes Alan Sherwood.

Unfortunately, the Government of Grenada is not as sympathetic as they could be and funds are extremely limited. Commercial sponsors are also thin on the ground. However the TT Committee is full of enthusiastic people who are dedicated to improving the lives of children and the playing standards on the island. The committee includes Rae Roberts, journalist and TV broadcaster, and no mean player who invited me to appear on TV but lack of time prevented it. They do not have their own club at present but are hoping to obtain some land in St. George's the capital. If they do the TT members will build it themselves.

Currently coaching is carried out by school masters and others who have little or no knowledge. They desperately need an experienced coach who would like to spend some weeks on this glorious island. Constant sunshine and beautiful beaches guaranteed but not a lot of money! The people I met were all very pleasant and eager to improve the game and playing standards. I saw one Grenada team player, Andrew Slocombe, practising with 2 youngsters, one of whom was Rachel Persaud, under 15 champion. They all had orthodox styles and practised well.

Table Tennis for Kids were so impressed with my report that they have offered them help. They obtained a specific donation to help Grenada and 10 Butterfly top of the range tables and nets are being sent as a gift to use in their new headquarters club.



ABOVE: (l.to.r) ANDREW SLOCOMBE national player, RACHEL PERSAUD under 15 junior champion, BRENDON GREEN a promising junior and JASON STANISCLAUS the National Champion
MIDDLE: It's practice time.
BOTTOM: Car park area behind Trade Union HQ, on which they hope to build a new club.



CALENDAR

MARCH

9th British League (12) Premier Division
 9th National Cadet League (2)
 15th ESTTA National Team Finals
 15th-16th British League Weekend (4)
 16th Sportbreak Junior 2 Star
 16th Leach & Hammersley Cups R3
 Pat Archdale Cup R1
 22nd County Championships
 Cadet, Junior, Senior & Veteran (7)
 22nd-23rd Junior Premier Weekend (2)
 23rd National Cadet League (4)
 23rd Knutsford Senior 2 Star
 23rd BUSA Team Finals
 25th-6Apr. European Championships
 29th National Junior League (4)
 29th-30th Regional Training
 29th-30th ETTA Butterfly Grand Prix
 30th Stiga (Hydburn) Cadet & Junior 3 Star

Birmingham Uni.
 Courmayor, Italy

APRIL

5th Chesham Boys School 2 Star
 U13, U15, U16 Boys & U17 Girls
 5th Chandlers Cadet/Junior I Star
 5th Willmot Cup & Rose Bowl R3
 5th-6th VETTS Southern Masters
 5th-6th Junior Masters
 5th-6th British Schools U123 International
 6th British League (13) Premier Division
 6th Whitchurch Senior 2 Star
 12th Alec Brook Trophy R2
 12th-13th Cadet Masters
 12th-13th Junior Regional Training
 12th-13th ETTA Butterfly Grand Prix
 Blackpool Open
 19th Cippenham Junior 2 Star Open
 19th-20th Cadet Regional Training
 20th British League (14) Premier Division
 26th ESTTA Individual Championships
 26th-27th ETTA Butterfly Grand Prix
 Midland Open
 26th-27th Evoca Veteran 2 Star
 27th National Cadet Regional Squad
 Team championships
 27th Whitchurch Senior 2 Star Super 8

Bracknell

Blackburn

Blackpool

Wolverhampton

TABLE TENNIS NEWS COPY DATES

ISSUE

SEPT/OCT 2002
 NOVEMBER 2002
 DECEMBER 2002
 JAN./FEB.2003
 MARCH 2003
 APRIL 2003
 MAY 2003
 JUNE/JULY 2003

COPY DATES

1st AUGUST 2002
 1st OCTOBER 2002
 1st NOVEMBER 2002
 1st JANUARY 2003
 1st FEBRUARY 2003
 1st MARCH 2003
 1st APRIL 2003
 1st MAY 2003

THE ETTA WEBSITE

www.etta.co.uk

STARS OF GRANTHAM

UP and coming British Table Tennis stars have seen major improvements in their play since joining the Table Tennis Academy at Grantham College.

The Academy, which was launched in September 2002, is run in partnership with the English Table Tennis Association (ETTA) and the Grantham Table Tennis League with international star, Bradley Billington, leading the development. Bradley has extensive experience in Table Tennis with an enviable career history including four years as national coach at the national Academy in Nottingham.

As a player Bradley achieved Commonwealth Gold, Silver and Bronze medals and was national doubles champion in 2001. He was also National Junior Champion, National Under 21

Champion and a former England Junior and Senior international. Bradley still competes in the Swiss league and national competitions. He has been extremely impressed with the improvements the players have made since joining the Academy. He has already had players gain their first national team selection. One of these players is Matt Kenny.

Matt first got into Table Tennis through his school and local leagues, went on to play at the National Training Centre in Nottingham and then Matt decided he wanted to get a good education as well as good coaching so joined the Table Tennis Academy at Grantham College. Matt, who is also studying for a National Diploma in Sport & Exercise at the College, is already ranked number

14 in the men's national ranking and has had his first men's national team selection since joining the Academy.

The Academy is intended for players from the UK and abroad, to take advantage of top level coaching and training facilities and to improve their national ranking. In addition to 15 hours of professional coaching per week, players at the Academy also study on a full-time course at the College.

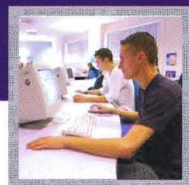
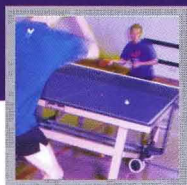
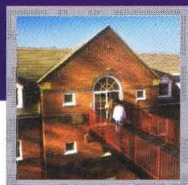
Prior to joining the Academy, players must normally already be playing to Junior County standard. After completing the Academy programme players can expect to advance their play significantly. Dependant on the academic level the student studies at, other opportunities include progression onto HND Sports Science offered at

Grantham College and then transfer to final year degree study at De Montfort University or other universities.

Students can also take advantage of the other excellent College facilities including the on site residential accommodation and gym. There is also an excellent social aspect to the College with students meeting in the variety of eating places during the day including the buzzing refectory. The Student Association, which is run by the students, organises various social events throughout the academic year including a Student Ball.

For further information about the Table Tennis Academy at Grantham College please call the Advice & Guidance Team on 01476 400250.

Take your game to the **next level**



 **Grantham College**

Table Tennis
Academy

**Are you aged 16 or above and playing table tennis to at least county standard?
Do you want to improve your national ranking and study for a national qualification?
Then why not enrol at Grantham College's Table Tennis Academy in September 2003.**

Grantham College is one of the U.K's top Further Education Colleges:

- Take advantage of our excellent facilities, including self-catering accommodation
- 15 hours per week of professional coaching from former international player Bradley Billington
- Compete in local, regional and national tournaments

For further information call **01476 400258** or visit **www.grantham.ac.uk**

