

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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MAY 2003



ANDREW BAGGALEY CLIMBS THE KARLSSON MOUNTAIN IN THE LIEBHERR EUROPEANS

Pages 10 to 13



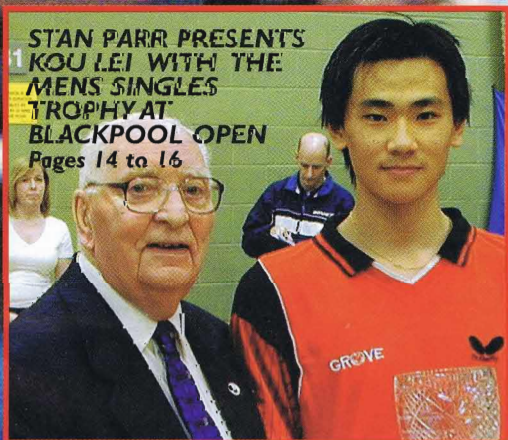
OTILIA BADESCU & VLADIMIR SAMSONOV THE NEW CHAMPIONS OF EUROPE
Pages 10 to 13

THE NEW ENGLAND TEAM KIT FOR COURMAYEUR



STAN PARR PRESENTS KOU LEI WITH THE MENS SINGLES TROPHY AT BLACKPOOL OPEN

Pages 14 to 16



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turn supporting table tennis.

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TTN EXTRA
A supplement including 'County Notes',
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TABLE TENNIS NEWS & TTN EXTRA

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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.freemove.co.uk
Web Site: www.etta.co.uk

Editor & Photographer
John F.A. 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

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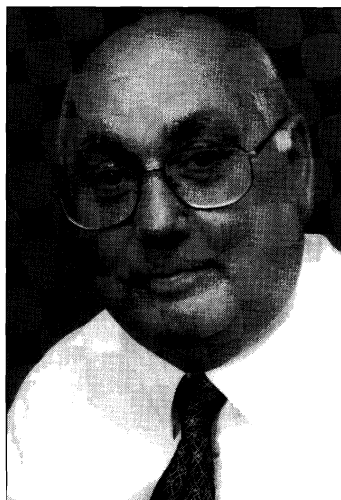
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FRONT COVER MAIN PHOTOGRAPH
ANDREW BAGGALEY
picture by Butterfly

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

ALEX MURDOCH WINS VOTE FOR THE ETTA CHAIR

ALEX MURDOCH, pictured right, has won the election of the ETTA Chairman for years 2003/4 and 2004/5. His term of office commences immediately following the AGM in Milton Keynes on Saturday 28th June 2003. Alex's team of Mike Johns for Deputy Chairman and Martin Clark as Treasurer were also elected.



ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN & TREASURER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE YEARS 2003/4 AND 2004/5

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN: The result of the election is as follows:

CHAIRMAN:	A.N. MURDOCH	416 vote units (157 papers)	ELECTED
	A.E. RANSOME	225 vote units (92 papers)	not elected

The Electoral Register (document 5087/23/DMN (13.02.03) contains 270 electors
253 ballot papers were received by the due date (22nd March 2003) of which 4 were declared invalid

ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The result of the election is as follows:

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:	M.F. JOHNS	384 vote units (144 papers)	ELECTED
	L.A. CHATWIN	256 vote units (104 papers)	not elected

The Electoral Register (document 5087/23/DMN (13.02.03) contains 270 electors
253 ballot papers were received by the due date (22nd March 2003) of which 5 were declared invalid

ELECTION OF TREASURER: The result of the election is as follows:

TREASURER:	M.G. CLARK	399 vote units (151 papers)	ELECTED
	B.R. GRANGER	239 vote units (97 papers)	not elected

The Electoral Register (document 5087/23/DMN (13.02.03) contains 270 electors
253 ballot papers were received by the due date (22nd March 2003) of which 5 were declared invalid

Anthony J.H. Wickens, Returning Officer

WOODY'S World

CONGRATULATIONS to Alex Murdoch and his team of Mike Johns and Martin Clark, who will take over the reins of the ETTA following the ETTA AGM on 28th June 2003, see this page for full official details

Congratulations also to Ken Phillips who won yet another top award, this time at the Annual Slough Sports Awards, where he won the 'Service to Sport Award', details below.

Three of our players did well in the European Championships in Courmayeur, Italy, Andrew Baggaley, Alex Perry and Joanna Parker, see pages 10 to 13.

Well, if you can't beat them then join them. Matthew Syed has decided to experiment with speed glue on his reverse rubber side. And he is practising hard to be ready to claim an Olympic place, see page 27.

John Wood

inception. Ken is always on hand to manage the setting-up and setting-down of the playing arena for weekend events and manages the liaison with the host school.

Ken's coaching activities take him all over the Southern Region where he is in great demand as a coach, tutor, assessor and presenter. He also coaches in local schools including Farnham Common Middle School, Burfield School and Arbour Vale School for children with special needs.

Due to his extreme dedication and success Ken was awarded the ETTA Male Coach of the Year in both of its first two years, 1999 and 2000 and in 2001 was awarded the NCF (Sport England) Volunteer Coach of the Year in an Individual Sport Award, the highest possible accolade. In 2002 Ken was awarded the ETTA Merit Award for his dedicated service to table tennis.

Ken's was not the only award to come to Cippenham Table Tennis Club as an unprecedented four awards were won in total. Precocious nine-years old Gavin Evans won the Junior Sportsman of the Year while Commonwealth Games double gold medalist Gareth Herbert won the Senior Sportsperson of the Year. For good measure the Club also picked up an award of its own - the Community Club of the Year. This is the third time that the Club has received this award that is given for service in the community. Fittingly, Jan Chapman was selected to receive this on behalf of the Club as it is, in part, because of the weekly sessions that she and Ken run at Arbour Vale special needs school that earns the Club this recognition.

TOP AWARD FOR KEN PHILLIPS

Ken Phillips wins top award as Cippenham scoop four at Slough Sports Awards, writes Graham Trimmings.

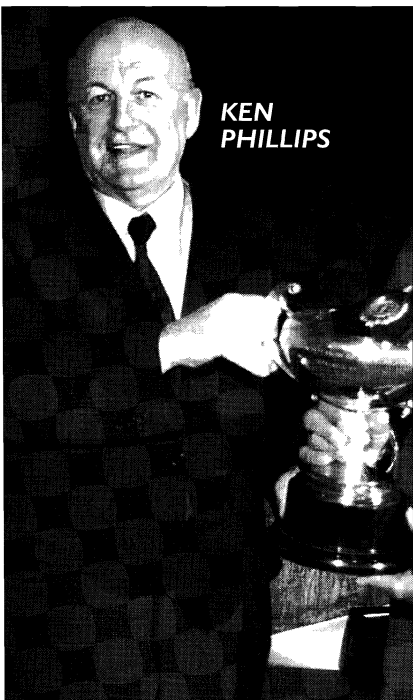
Cippenham Table Tennis Club supremo Ken Phillips fittingly won another award to add to his illustrious collection when, on 21st March, he received the Service to Sport Award at the Mayor of Slough's Annual Sports Awards.

Ken Phillips is the driving force behind the enormous success of the junior set-up at Cippenham, one of the leading clubs in England. He has also been Chairman since 1997 and a part of the management team at the Club for about twenty years. Ken is a qualified Level 4 (Senior) coach, the highest level, and is also a tutor/assessor running coach education courses in the Southern Region.

Ken was the coach responsible for the early development of both Terry Young and Gareth Herbert who are now both members of the England team in the

European League and were gold medallists at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester 2002. More recently under Ken's guidance the Cippenham club has produced a plethora of international players and national champions including Joanna Parker, Bradley Evans, Gemma Chapman and nine-years old Gavin Evans, surely destined to be the best of the lot. In fact, the Cippenham coaching set-up has produced no less than fourteen players who have represented their country over the past few years and junior teams from the club have won fourteen national titles.

Ken spends up to 60-80 hours a week on table tennis, mostly coaching but also finds time to organise and referee many competitions on behalf of the Cippenham club and other local organisations and do a great deal of administrative work such as liaising and negotiating with equipment suppliers. He was Coaching Officer and Treasurer of the Buckinghamshire County Association for many years and has been Joint Organizer of the National Junior League Southern Region since its



ENCOURAGING SENIOR RESULTS AT EUROPEANS



Alan Ransome OBE,
Chairman of the ETTA

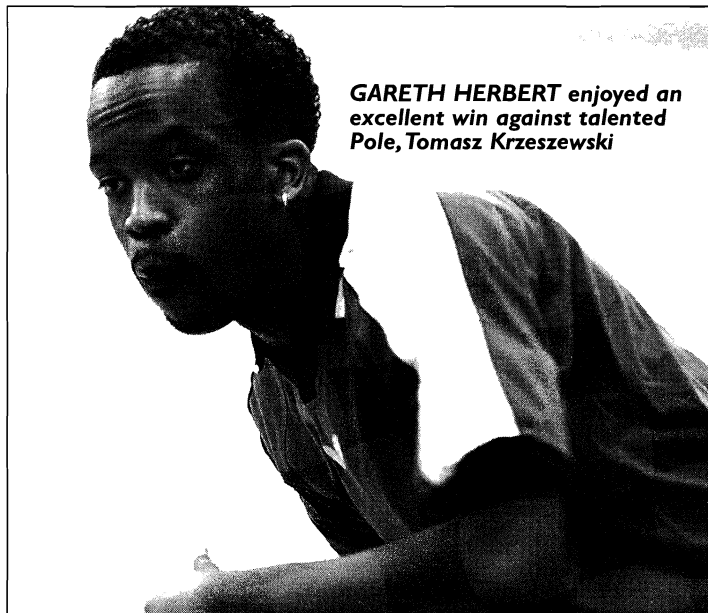
ALTHOUGH our teams were some distance from picking up any of the medals, from an England perspective the European Championships in Courmayeur, Italy, between 27 March – 6 April, produced some of our most encouraging results at senior level for some time.

In the team event, the men won a vital match over Norway by 3 sets to 2, which guaranteed a top 16 position and a place in the top section of the qualification tournament for the next European Championships in Denmark in two years time. This match was difficult for England to win as Norway are led by Wang Jianfeng who was able to win his two matches comfortably. Andrew Baggaley, Alex Perry and Gareth Herbert all won one singles to take England through.

In the singles events, the England boys also performed with credit. In particular Andrew Baggaley recorded excellent wins over Martin Monrad of Denmark by 4 sets to 2, and Peter Karlsson of Sweden, the former European champion and World No. 12 by a relatively comfortable margin of 4 sets to 1. After his win against Karlsson, Andrew's loss to the Austrian, Kostadin Lengerov, was an anticlimax, but nevertheless he did very well to win through to the last 16.

Gareth Herbert also enjoyed an excellent win as he defeated the talented Pole, Tomasz Krzeszewski, who beat Matthew Syed at the last European Championships, before losing to the brilliant young Romanian, Constanti Cioti, by 4 sets to 2.

The Women's team that was seriously weakened by the unavailability of Nicola Deaton and Katy Parker, was made up, with the exception of Helen Lower, of juniors, but produced a credible performance to finish in 23rd position. Their best result was a win over Luxembourg by 3 sets to 2 in which Helen, Joanna Parker and Georgina Walker all



GARETH HERBERT enjoyed an excellent win against talented Pole, Tomasz Krzeszewski

contributed.

The stars of the tournament from a men's perspective were the players from Belarus. Vladimir Samsonov was outstanding to win the Men's Singles and in the Men's team event where Belarus were the surprise winners of the Gold medals. Belarus beat Poland, Sweden and Germany to take the title. Samsonov was unbeaten in the team event, which included wins in the final over Timo Boll and Jorg Roskopf. He was supported by the defensive player, Evgueny Chtchetinine, who was also unbeaten and included a victory over Roskopf in the opening match of the final which swung the match firmly in Belarus' direction.

Controversy as European Team event is reduced

Off the table the main controversy surrounded the proposal to limit the number of entries in the team event at the next European Championships in Denmark to just 16 men's and 16 women's teams and to establish a qualification competition in two

sections, one for the top 16 countries in Courmayeur, of which 12 would qualify, and a second qualification competition for the rest of which 3 or 4 would qualify depending on the decisions of the host as to whether to play the qualification event or go directly into the finals. The rationale behind this was that the European League has not been as successful or popular in recent years and, therefore, to cancel the league and set up a European Championship Qualification has considerable merit. Added to this is the wish of some of Europe's larger countries to reduce the cost of staging future European Championships by limiting the number of teams who can play in the team event. This proposal proved to be very controversial and was only passed by just one vote at the Congress, 19 to 18 after the first vote failed to achieve majority at 17 all. Whether there should have been a second vote at all was highly controversial. Several of the smaller countries were not present due partially to the fact that the meeting was held the day before the competition started when some had not yet arrived. In fairness to the

ETTU, the meeting was called with due notice and additional hospitality offered for the extra day for the delegates. Nevertheless, some delegates who would have certainly voted against were not present.

This decision does not just affect the smaller countries as it could mean, for example, that England may not qualify for either the Men's or Women's team event in Denmark. For the other home countries such as Scotland, Wales and Ireland, the chances of qualifying are only slim. Many of the smaller countries were very disappointed at the outcome of the vote as they felt that it would deny their players and coaches the opportunity to participate in the team event at the Championships and it would reduce interest at senior level throughout the season leading up to the European championships due to the lack of a team competition for their national teams to compete in. One well known delegate who is normally conservative and reserved said to me, "what's the point of us having a strong junior programme if the main competition for our senior players at the European championships is beyond our reach." Other delegates were very worried about the potential for loss of government support for their programmes if they did not qualify for the European Championship team event finals.

It is also arguable as to whether reducing the number of teams actually reduces the financial viability of the European Championships as a proposition was passed at the last Congress to reduce the cost to the organisers by charging 50% of the team hospitality. Previously the hospitality was free for the basic number. From my experience host cities are one of the major backers for competitions of this kind and it is attractive to them to have as many participants as possible attending the championships to increase the so called economic impact. Several

FROM THE CHAIR - 2

associations have asked for a Special General Meeting of the ETTU to discuss this matter further. However, the Executive Committee have decided that the request to hold this in Paris at the World Championships would not give enough time and, therefore, it is likely that this whole matter will be next discussed at a General Meeting of the ETTU at the World Team Championships in Doha, Kuwait next Spring.

Samsonov joins the Masters in Sheffield

The next significant international event in England is the Continental Masters BBC TV Invitation competition, which is to be staged at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield on

9 August with BBC screening the highlights in Grandstand a day later on Sunday, 10 August. World Cup Champion, Timo Boll, was one of the first to accept the invitation to participate and the competition has been strengthened further by the confirmation that the new European Champion, Vladimir Samsonov is to enter. Further details will appear in the next issue of Table Tennis News.

Major Changes at Sport England

Sport England, the organisation that manages the majority of the Government and Lottery Funding distribution for Sport in this country has been going through the biggest changes that I can recall in its three decades. The new Chairman, Patrick

Carter, has postponed the approval of all new Lottery applications and has ordered a widescale review of Sport England's activities. At the same time there has been a very large staff reduction implemented at the organisation's headquarters in London. Amongst this review is a close look at the effectiveness of governing bodies and it has been indicated that the number of governing bodies like the ETTA who receive substantial government funds will be reduced substantially to around 16 on which the vast majority of Exchequer funding will be concentrated. With our record of grass roots development, table tennis has a good chance of being included within this priority group but this is by no means certain and, therefore, we have been taking positive steps to do our utmost to ensure that we are giving ourselves the best possible chance to be selected.

At the same time, we have had it finally confirmed that as a result of significant reductions in the Lottery funding available, the ETTA's World Class funding will be reduced for the coming season, to such a degree that it will not be possible to continue with the Academy in its present form at Nottingham. It is extremely important that if the very talented group of cadets that we have in England at the present time are to maintain their progress, that they are able to practice against strong opposition on a daily basis, receive tuition from world class instructors and have a suitable international competitive programme. This will not be possible to the degree that we have been able to provide over the past five years unless we are able to find additional resources through partnerships to make up at least some of the difference, and again significant efforts are being made to achieve this. It is also vital that we have a national centre where our senior players can practice and train together and that it is permanently available.

ETTA Elections

Following the ETTA Officer election results that were announced last month there will be a new leadership of the Association after the Annual General Meeting at the end of June. It has been a great privilege and pleasure to be your Chairman for the last twelve years and I have really enjoyed the challenge. I am personally in no doubt that the sport has made significant progress over that period, particularly in the area of Development where many more facilities and centres have opened throughout the country and many more people are participating in

them. In addition there has been a very large increase in the number of players competing in a wide range of competitions at county and national level. The prospects for the national team are also much better with the current batch of youngsters coming through.

Much of the support in the election for my team came from people with a sound knowledge of what is happening inside the sport, whilst much of the support for our opponents came from the local leagues who held the majority of the votes, many of whom were not really aware of the progress that has been made as our main information tools, Table Tennis News and the Annual Report had clearly not been widely read and absorbed by their membership. On the other hand, much of the publicity generated by the opposition did reach more of them. Some of this was misleading and selective and unfortunately, from our perspective, it was taken at face value.

My team were disappointed not to be given a fresh mandate as the immediate future of the sport could be a watershed. Once the new arrangements with Sport England and other government agencies are in place, the opportunities for sports like table tennis will never have been greater. On the other hand, if we are not selected to be part of these programmes or do not take full advantage of them, we can lose the momentum which has been built up and start to slide in a backward direction. We felt that we were the best people to lead this challenge.

The most important point, however, is that the health of the sport continues to improve and for this to happen more local leagues and clubs need to embrace the ETTA Development programmes and, in turn, recruit new players to the sport. This will only happen where enthusiastic and active local volunteers work with the ETTA and embark on programmes to increase the sport in their local area. There is no doubt that one of the good things to come out of the election was that it has created fresh interest in ETTA activities in some areas where little had been evident before and this in itself may spark fresh initiative which could certainly help.

I wish Alex Murdoch and his team every success in the challenges ahead. I intend to remain very active in the sport and have encouraged all the members of my team to do likewise. We will do all that we can to help and ensure that the sport continues in it upward trend.
Alan Ransome, O.B.E
ETTA Chairman

Can you... m o T i v a T e?

- Are you** - dynamic, versatile, hard-working and involved in Table Tennis?
- Do you** - have the ambition to help Table Tennis progress? communicate well and like meeting and dealing with people?
- Will you** - work with and motivate volunteers to deliver against a national work programme with set targets?

The ETTA is seeking to recruit individuals for three challenging roles to help drive forward the development of the sport through PremierClub - the national programme for club development.

If you think you fit the bill, we look forward to hearing from you!

National Volunteer Manager

Job purpose: To implement the national ETTA Volunteer Support Strategy 'A Helping Hand'.

Job details: Two year fixed term contract - all hours worked - Hastings based, salary £22,000 p.a. + travel expenses (car provided), operational budget.

Regional Development Officers (Northern/Yorkshire & South West)

Job purpose: To initiate and co-ordinate Table Tennis development in the region in accordance with ETTA national policy and priorities.

Job details: Fixed term contract - all hours worked - until March 2004, with the expectation of contract extension for a further four years subject to funding confirmation. Based within the regions, salary £18,000 p.a. + travel expenses and £1,200 car allowance.

Application process: Closing date June 23rd 2003

For a job pack (background, person specification, job description and application form - CVs alone will not be accepted) please contact: Sheila King (Development Secretary), ETTA, Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1HF. Tel: 01424 722525. Fax: 01424 422103. e-mail: sheilaking.etta@talk21.com

For an informal discussion about the posts contact Diccon Gray (Director of Development), tel: 07970 575285.

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POSTBAG

ARTIFICIAL WOOD

I WOULD like to take this opportunity of making the following comments on the modern table tennis tables available at the present time which are mostly made out of the artificial wood MDF.

Having purchased a new table a year ago to replace our old Jaques wooden table, we find that it is very smooth, almost like glass. Although its great to attack on, it absorbs very little spin, so any defensive player has great difficulty in defending on it.

As we know, our Mens No.1 player Matthew Syed has bitterly complained many times that he is unable to defend at times on these types of tables.

May we suggest that the English Table Tennis Association recommends the return to wooden tables for tournament and league play and to ban tables made with the product MDF.

David Cue

Kent League Secretary & Secretary of Gladbrooke TTC, Ashford, Kent

CHOICE

THIS is not about the merits of a particular scoring system. It is about choice, options, and the denigration of those holding different opinions, there has been far too much of this.

I understand that at the ETTA AGM at Milton Keynes to be held on 28th June the National Council is proposing a resolution to delete all reference to "21-up". I further understand that at the ITTF AGM to be held on 21st May, China is proposing that "21-up" be restored for world wide competition, as they consider this produces a better game.

My local League has asked for opinions on the two scoring systems, 75% of the membership have replied with 85% of these favouring 21-up, and I am aware that this system has substantial support elsewhere. Our membership has increased by 50% over the last three years. I don't want to see it fall back.

I have played in local Leagues for 50 years, and am still actively coaching and entering Juniors in my local League, and National and ETTA ("Woolwich") Junior Leagues I do not wish to be dictated to, and consider that options of choice should be preserved~ for the good of the game. I shall therefore be voting against the National Council's proposal on 28th June.

John Knock
Tonbridge, Kent

NEW PRIZE MONEY LEAGUE FOR CIRENCESTER

OVER recent years the table tennis league in Cirencester (like many other leagues across the country) has seen a reduction

in its number of players and teams. To arrest this decline a new Premier League is being set up and this league will be unique in England as it will offer prize money to the top teams at the end of the season. It is hoped that as well as local teams, other teams will be attracted from across the region to compete in what will hopefully be a very competitive, high quality league.

The format will be the traditional 3-a-side, with each team playing the others twice at Cirencester Deer Park Table Tennis Centre. Matches will be played on the 11-up system with each singles being the best of 5 games. Doubles may be included as well, although this is at the option of the teams entering the league - if the majority wish for doubles to be played then doubles will be played.

The prize money awarded at the end of the season will be between £ 600 and £ 1,500 per division - this will be advised to the teams when all entries have been received as the prize money depends on the income generated from players registration fees and team match fees.

The entry fee for this league is £ 10 per player and there is a team match fee of £7.50 (£2.50 per player) payable on match nights. The maximum number of players allowed to be registered for a team is 5.

It is hoped to run 2 divisions in the first season, which will commence in September 2003. The minimum number of teams required to make the league run is 12 (1 division) and the maximum number of teams that can be accepted is 24 (2 divisions). All matches will be played on Monday or Tuesday nights and the closing date for entries for this exciting new venture is 30th June 2003.

Entry forms can be obtained from Andrew Jarvis (Tel (H) 01793 821751; email andrewjarvis@softhome.net) or on the league website WWW.CIRENCESTERTABLETENNIS.CO.UK

Further information can be obtained from Andrew Jarvis or Graham Slack (Tel (H) 01285 654790).

For those who do not wish to play in the Premier League Cirencester TTL is also running its usual 2-a-side league which will also commence in September 2003. This is open to any players who wish to compete in local league competition.

Graham Slack

Cirencester TTL Publicity Officer

Editor's Note: Thankyou for your letter Graham. It now appears that we have two new leagues paying cash prizes, the other is BATS-Harlow. Could this be the new trend, the re-vitalisation of local leagues?



COURTSIDE

by John Woodford

- **THE** biggest shake-up in the history of English table tennis has happened. Supporters of Alan Ransome (OBE) could be taking a pessimistic view of what lies ahead. I feel that we must be positive by giving our new chairman Alex Murdoch support for the huge task that lies ahead in front of him.

- **LEAGUES** with the four votes swayed the voting, especially those leagues who do not follow closely what happens in the corridors of power. They voted for a change, because twelve years is a long time at the helm.

- **THE ETTA** has been facing difficult times, as are a number of other nations in Europe and beyond. Germany's registered players list has dropped from one million to 700,000 - they pay about £70 a year - that produces a huge sum of money.

- **GERMANY** also lost their main sponsor Opel some time back. Holland are in a similar position to England with around 40,000 players and problems with their government support.

- **SWEDEN** and Holland have lost or are about to lose their worldclass players. In France, Gatién is not the force he was. In Germany, Roskopf is never going to rise to previous heights and Timo Boll did not look a world-beater in Courmayeur.

- **ALL COUNTRIES** in Europe are having huge problems attracting spectators to major events. Courmayeur has a population of only 4,000, so only on the penultimate day did the watchers reach 1,000 - boosted by many players.

- **SO**, supporters of Alan Ransome should now follow him in saying that he will help the new regime. The voting 65-35 in favour of a change showed that the country is divided. Now is the time to unite with all the problems coming up. At least the finances are on an even keel, although the news from the Lottery is not encouraging.

- **REGARDING** recent comments in TTN on errors. All sections of the media, even television and radio make errors. Max Hastings, for nearly ten years Editor of The Daily Telegraph has in his recent book made some comments on these lines...

- **"DERANGED** people write and telephone the media (newspapers, magazines etc) in large numbers. News desks have a tendency to dismiss angry readers brusquely...

- **IT** is in the nature of newspapers (even some magazines) with the extraordinary speed at which they are produced that even Great Titles have to live with a daily roll-call of errors."

- **ALL** journalists try to cut down the number of mistakes but some are bound to occur. That applies to this magazine as much as any other.

- **CHINESE** coaches I have spoken with in both table tennis and badminton, hold the view that changes in scoring and equipment are designed to hinder Chinese players as they strive for world domination. Hence the Chinese move in Paris to return to 21-up. A massive majority will vote for 11-up.

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

IN the annals of table tennis, 1967 was a year to remember. It was the year when the European League was launched and perhaps more importantly the illustrious Swaythling Club was founded.

The Foundation

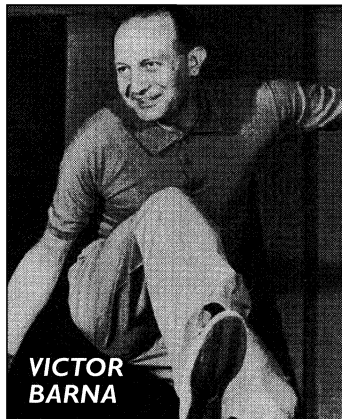
It was on Thursday, 20th April, 1967, that a gathering of ex-players and team captains, twenty three in number, met in Stockholm at the World Championships and initiated an organisation that has become quite unique in the world of sport. The Founder Members were players and champions from many different countries and they decided that the main aims of the club should be defined as follows:- To encourage international friendship through social activities, making it possible for older players, many of whom may be in bad health or without the means to visit and experience the atmosphere of a great tournament. To emphasise the importance of sportsmanship which could be symbolised by the presentation of 'special awards' in national competitions. To co-operate and maintain good relations with the ITTF and continental organisations and to give assistance to TV, radio and news media so that the sport of table tennis is given the best coverage. Finally, to instil into younger players that the cordial get-together of table tennis friends, was a sign of the

A TRIUMPHANT OF ACHIEVEMENT

existence of a camaraderie club and was just as important as winning cups and medals.

To establish a name for the new organisation' was met with approval in double quick time and when put to the vote, the title was readily accepted.

It was named therefore the 'Swaythling Cup' after the Dowager Lady Swaythling, mother of the Hon. Ivor Montagu. She will always be remembered as the kind Lady who had generously presented the original Swaythling Cup for the men's team winner in the World Championships. As the club grew in stature and to correctly establish its identity from that of similar named clubs forming in countries throughout the world, the word international was added in 1973. At the original meeting committee members were appointed and Victor Barna became the Founder President. The history of the club would not be complete without special mention being made of Victor Barna for his



VICTOR BARNÁ

influence on the development of the club was immense. He was a person of selfless compassion and a crusader to its cause. He became the mainspring of the club and worked tirelessly to promote it. The late H. Ron Evans paid tribute by saying: "In addition to his unique playing

skills, the other Barna miracle has been the inspiration of the fantastic organisation named 'The Swaythling Club'. His enthusiasm was infectious, so much so that he was able to motivate others to transmit the attraction of the SCI to cold blooded sceptics.

At this point, I feel it would be remiss of me not to mention that great champion Zarko Dolinar who made the first moves to establish this international club and in a speech to members he said:-

"I am sure that our Swaythling Club is a unique organisation in the world of sport and I hope that it will continue to develop and promote that which money cannot buy - friendship, health, love, faithfulness, loyalty and tolerance.

In 1982, the first World Veterans Championships were held in Goteborg, Sweden, and attracted over 400 entrants. Such a championship was an activity which fully expressed the principles of the Swaythling Club International. The SCI was quick to give these championships its patronage and presented perpetual trophies for all the singles events; what is more it promised to organise future championships to be held every two years.

Membership

Today, the Swaythling Club International is a respected organisation boasting of more than 600 members from 63 countries without compliance to creed or political affiliation. Many of its members are instantly recognised by wearing a blazer with a distinctive embroidered monogram on the pocket, plus a club tie or scarf. Membership of the SCI is by invitation and shall be available to the following:

- 1) Players who have won World Championship title events.
- 2) Players who have represented their country at a minimum of two World Championships.
- 3) Persons who have been non-playing team captains at a minimum of three World Championships.

Anyone who fits the above criteria should contact Mrs Jill Parker who is England's Swaythling Club representative. Jill is not only one of the country's most knowledgeable table tennis personalities, so if you are eligible and wish to become a member, then do not hesitate to contact Jill at her address:-

Mrs Jill Parker, The Spinney, 50 Egerton Road, Ashton, Preston PR2 1AL. Tel No. 01772 461325. The cost is £8.00 per year or £30.00 for 5 years.

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BAGGALEY CLIMBS THE KARLSSON MOUNTAIN

COURMAYEUR is the most spectacular venue in world table tennis. There is no other table tennis venue that I have seen or heard of that can match the snow-covered peaks surrounding Courmayeur, writes John Woodford.

So, Andrew Baggaley, who is a music addict, must have had the Sound of Music™ in his mind when he pulled off by far the greatest win of his career bringing down the former European champion and world No.12 Peter Karlsson (Sweden) 4, -9, 6, 3, 5.

Andrew's list of previous best victories include Zoltan Batorfi, Matthew Syed and Carl Prean. His unrelenting two-wing top-spin attack took the Swede by surprise - he was completely unable to cope with the man from Milton Keynes.

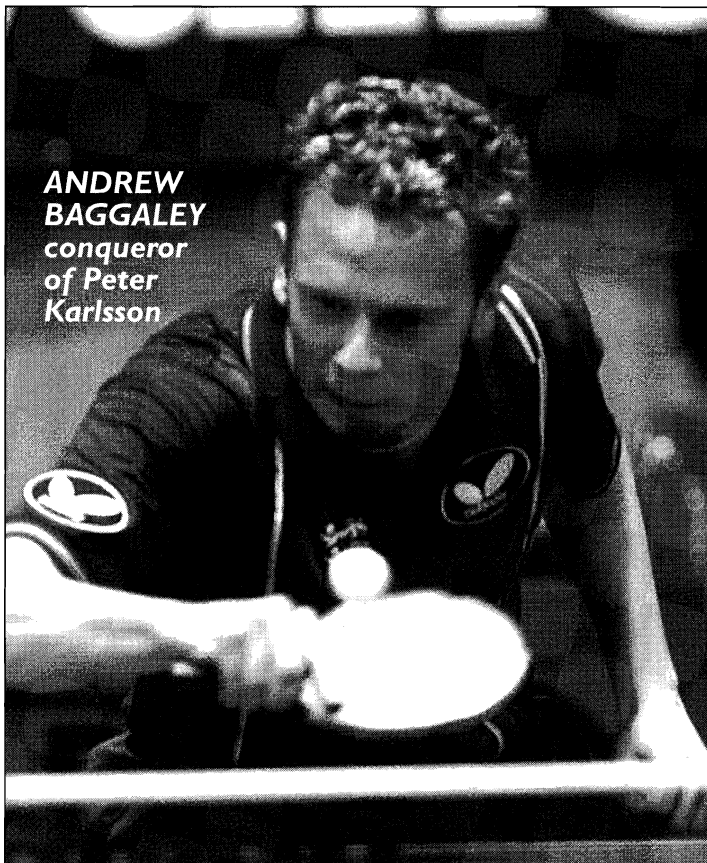
The Baggaley triumph came in the second round, setting up a third round clash with the Austrian No.4 Costadin Lengerov.

It was after the Lord Mayor's Show next morning when Baggaley clashed with Lengerov. All the England team and coaches except Alan Cooke were on their way home, continuing this absurd arrangement of sending teams home two days before the end of a tournament. There is so much to be learned watching the best players in Europe battling through the the final rounds.

In this case, there was a need to get the three junior girls back for the Junior Masters at Cippenham.

Lengerov is a class act. In a fine example of controlled play the Austrian took out Baggaley 0, 10, 6, 8. A further confirmation came as Lengerov bid for the quarter-finals - He was so narrowly defeated 10 in the seventh game by Alexei Smirnov (Russia) after losing seven match points.

That was some consolation for our man Baggaley, who we now know is



ANDREW BAGGALEY conqueror of Peter Karlsson

capable of great victories, but like all players (even Samsonov) can lose to opponents he should overpower.

Andrew Rushton was the first English man to fall in Qualification knock-out group No.23. He defeated a Bosnian called Hadzijahic 7, 9, 5, 8 before losing in the "final" 7, -7, 5, 7, 5 to the Latvian Vasiljevs. But Rushton is a solid prospect. He looks as though he means business on court, has a good range of strokes in his armoury and like Baggaley, keeps calm in battle.

Alex Perry had to pull out of his first round match with tendonitis in the shoulder - he would have met the top seed Timo Boll.

But, we did see Gareth Herbert in

fine fettle. The wicked serving man from Slough secured a fine win over the Polish No.2 Tomasz Krzeszewski at 6 in the seventh game - a torrid clash, probably one of Gareth's best wins.

Gareth, in a bid for the third round then came up against the young Romanian Constantin Cioti (the former European junior champion). In an enthralling battle Cioti went through at 6 in the sixth game.

OUR GIRLS

Girls is the key word - the England women's squad was led by Helen Lower plus, arguably, our three leading juniors - Georgina Walker, Joanna Parker and 14-years-old Kelly

Sibley, possibly the youngest player in the tournament.

Helen secured a smart win in Round 1 of the womens singles over Anna Fedtshenko (Estonia) 3, 9, 8, 5 but then went down to Silvija Erdelji from Yugoslavia. In the womens qualifiers Walker lost to Abbasova (Azerbaijan), Parker found Aldis Larusdottir (Iceland) a shade too strong, whilst the big-hitting looper Sibley lost 4-1 to another Icelander Kristin Jalmarsdottir - an icy business - Iceland is a new nation in European events.

However, our team of girls did beat Luxembourg to finish in 23rd position (men 16th) understandable perhaps when top people like Matthew Syed get injured and Nicola Deaton naturally decides to put her university studies first, bearing in mind that women are unlikely to earn substantial sums of money playing table tennis.

SAMSONOV UNBEATABLE

I have seen Vladimir Samsonov play poorly on several occasions over the years. This time, the slightly slower conditions suited him. He proved unbeatable and deserved fully his second European crown. Timo Boll was a huge disappointment as the world No.1.

His performances in Italy did not rate him a ranking in the world top ten. He beat the ever-improving

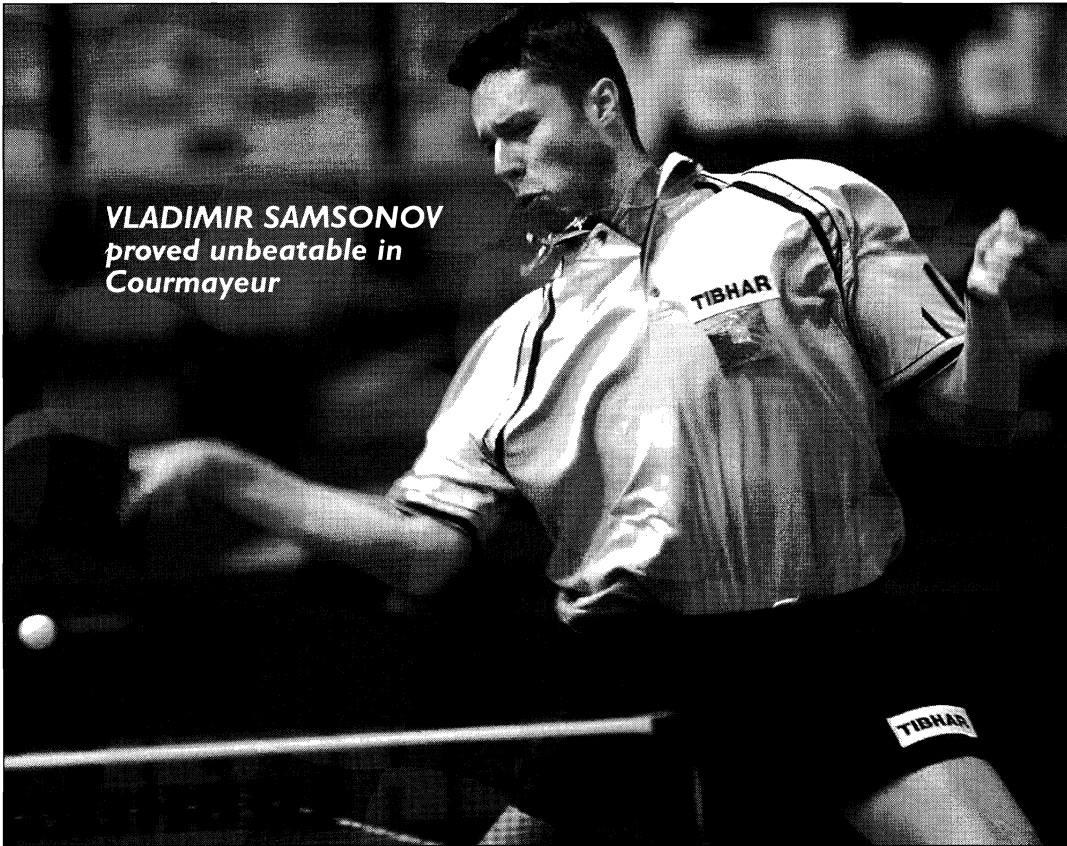
Words by the TTN reporting team in Courmayeur JOHN WOODFORD, MALCOLM MACFARLANE & GEOFF TAYLOR (Croydon)

Michale Maze at 1 in the sixth in the quarters but but was totally capsized 5, 8,3, 8 by Samsonov in the semi-finals.

Germany's Torben Wosik was the biggest shockmaker. His victims before he reached the final included Zoran Primorac, Jean-Philippe Gatien

TTN • MAY 2003

LIEBHERR



VLADIMIR SAMSONOV
proved unbeatable in
Courmayeur

sharing rooms were offered double beds! A large number of hotels were used with shuttle buses provided - a reasonable service.

- **COACHES** complained of the variable conditions in the two adjacent halls. Different Cornilleau tables were used - the surfaces were the same but with different undercarriages and different flooring in the two halls it was not a happy situation on the technical side.

- **TWENTY-FIVE** smaller nations including England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales complained bitterly at the new system for next season for teams in Denmark. England scraped into the top 16 but may have to play Germany, Greece, Russia or Poland home and away before Denmark.

The rest will have to qualify and only four will survive for Aarhus. Attempts to call for an extraordinary general meeting were dismissed by ETTU chair Stefano Bosi, who appears to be an autocratic operator. The fight will go on but I am afraid that the little nations will lose out to save money and slim down the championships.

SAMSONOV & BADESCU THE NEW CHAMPIONS

and Jorg Roszkopf.

In the final, Samsonov took Wosik apart 7,10, 10, 3. Vladimir could hardly believe his luck at meeting Wosik and Wosik thought it was all a dream - so he said at the press conference later. In a nutshell, Samsonov's counter hitting was superb and his attack sharper than I have seen before. The second seed Werner Schlager bowed out in Round 3 to Gatién, who was trying to make a comeback, before losing to Wosik. The Swedes went home with nothing after Jorgen Persson lost to Gatién at 10 in the sixth game.

TOP SEEDS TAKE EARLY SHOWERS

Top seeds Boros and Steff took early showers, Boros going down to Erdelji (Yugoslavia) and Steff losing to Stefanova from Italy.

Otilia Badescu (Romania) was a most popular winner with a titantic final tussle 10 in the seventh against

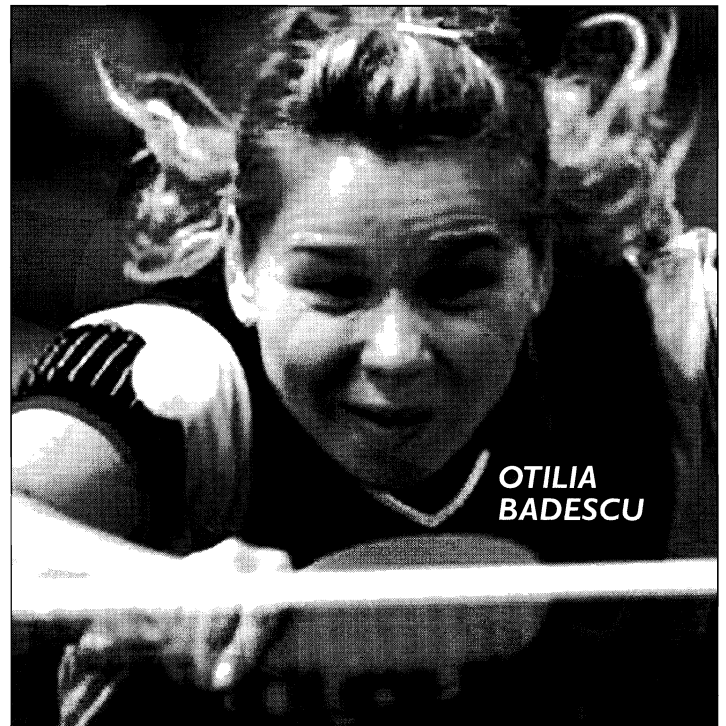
the Chinese Italian Wenling Tan Monfardini.

TEAM ENGLAND

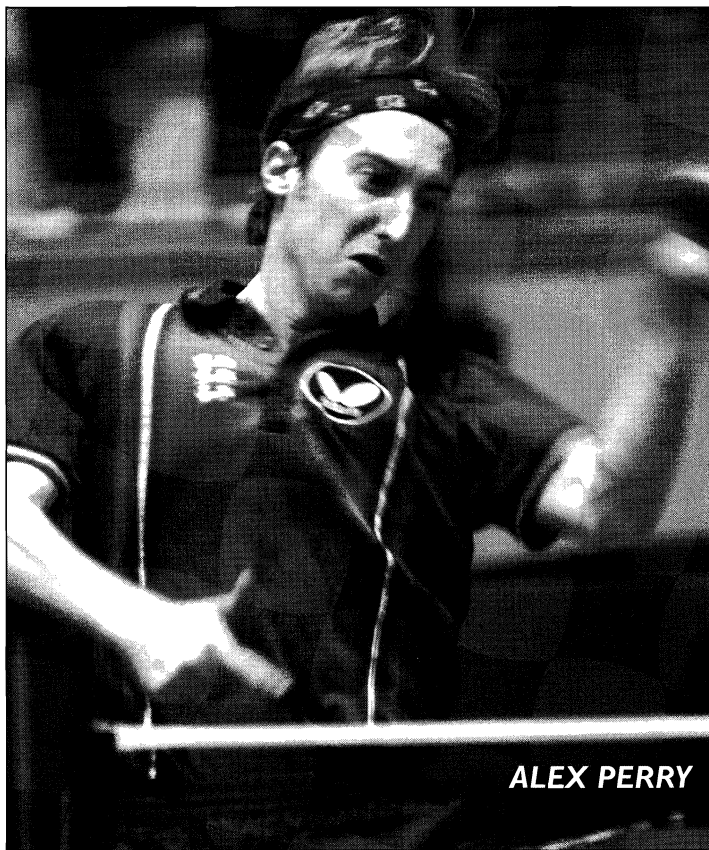
The team of English umpires was Doreen Nightingale, Margot Fraser, Peter May and Derek Sherratt. The two girls umpired one of the womens doubles semi-finals and all four enjoyed the three-stage cable-car ride up the mountains on a sparkling sunny day.

England supporters were as difficult to find as ice in Baghdad, except for the Milton Keynes trio led by Steve Baggaley. The England coaches were Steen Kyst Hansen for the girls and Alan Cooke for the men. Senior England officials present were Alan Ransome and Tony Chatwin, both now deposed by the new administration heads but both determined to help the new men with the huge tasks ahead.

- **THE** organisation by the Italians was good overall, but patchy in places. In two instances two men



THE END OF AN ERA? OR MAYBE THE START



ALEX PERRY

EVERY two years since the inception of the European Championships in 1958 the majority of the member countries of the European Table Tennis Union have competed together for the European Team Championships. Never again it would seem according to the President of the ETTU Mr Stefano Bosi. The current European Championships format is a "Monster" in his words. The next championships are planned therefore to only have 16 elite teams participating in each event but the smaller countries (supported by England) will fight this decision further, writes Malcolm Macfarlane.

Enough of the politics, our England Men's team started tremendously in their first match against Norway. Norway, you may remember, had soundly beaten England in Portsmouth not so long ago and that was with Matthew Syed available. The team of Andrew Baggaley, Gareth Herbert and Alex Perry performed exceptionally to win the only 3 games coach Alan Cooke felt they had a chance to win.

Wang Jianfeng of Norway won both his games as was expected but good wins from Andrew and Gareth over European No 51 Geir Erlandsen and

a win from Alex over No 81 Istvan Moldovan took the match 3-2. Three very close matches won well.

If only that had continued, from then on having held a place in Division 1 of the qualification for the new format championships with the win over Norway, the England Men's team lost the next three matches 3-0. First Greece, Andrew Baggaley lost to Ntaniel Tsiokas, Gareth Herbert to Kalinkos Kreanga and Alex Perry to Panagiotis Gionis, no real surprise against a very strong Greek team.

Then came Slovakia, Andrew lost to Peter Sereda, Gareth to Jaromir

Truska and Alex to Lubomir Pistej, this qualified the team for a final match against Belgium. Alex Perry dropped out and Andrew Rushton came into the team but again there were just three defeats, Herbert lost to Phillippe Saive, Baggaley to Martin Bratanov and Rushton to Marc Closset.

The England Men therefore finished 16th in the Men's Team competition, just one better than previously in Zagreb, and will have to get two wins at least from home and away matches against, probably, Germany, Poland and Russia over the next two years to qualify for the next Championships. The habit of getting close to opponents but just losing at the end must be put behind us, as it was in the Norway match, if we are to have any chance of qualifying for 2005 in Aarhus, Denmark. For example, in the three 3-0 defeats the count on deuce games was 2 for, 9 against.

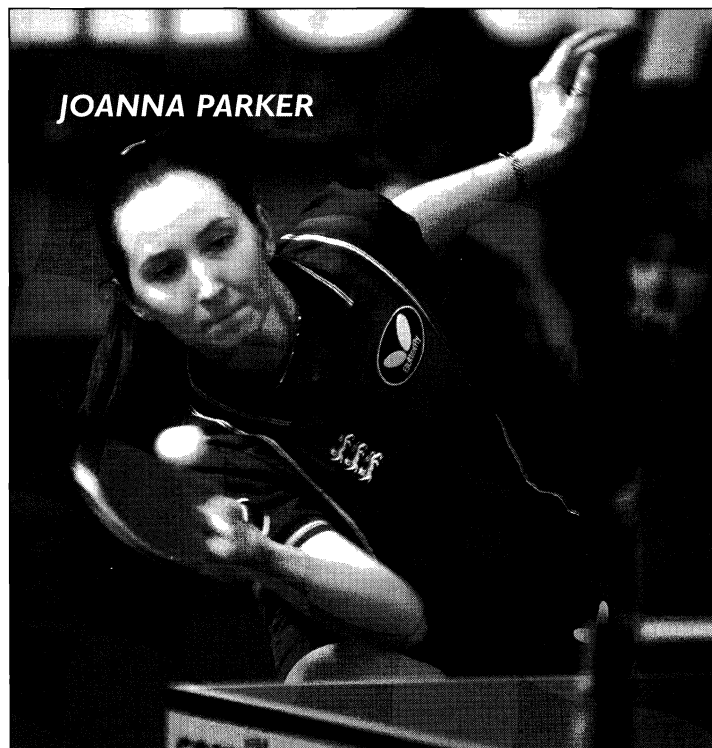
The England Women's Team is definitely at the start of a new Era. No more Nicola Deaton, no more Katy Parker (at least for now). The experienced Helen Lower was

leading a team of Juniors: Georgina Walker, Joanne Parker and youngest of all Kelly Sibley who is still a cadet.

The Women's team was promoted from the second division at the previous Championships in Zagreb and thus could be expected to struggle in this company and that was the story of the first three matches, all 3-0 defeats; first France, Helen Lower lost to Anne-Claire Palut, Georgina Walker lost to Solene Legay and Joanne Parker lost to Agathe Costes, next were Sweden, Georgina lost to Marie Olsson, Joanne to Susanne Jonsson and Helen to Susanna Nilsson.

In the third match Helen Lower was rested and Kelly Sibley joined the team for her first full International, the opponents Poland were just a little too strong, Georgina lost in four to Daria Luczakowska, Joanne lost in five to Magdalena Gorowoska and Kelly three straight against Marta Pilka.

Finally in the match against Luxembourg the Women's Team gained their one 3-2 victory to match the Men's Team. Experienced Peggy Regenwetter was unbeatable for



JOANNA PARKER

Luxembourg, although Helen Lower got very close, but wins from Helen and Georgina over Jessica Heinz and a win from Joanna over Simone Haan put the Women's Team in 23rd place, two better than in Zagreb. They are therefore placed to qualify over the next two years in the second division fighting for the four qualifying slots available to that division for the 2005 championships.

Winners in the Men's event, quite unexpectedly, were Belarus, who beat Sweden in the Semi-final and Germany in the Final. The Germans who beat the Czech Republic in the Semi-final were stunned as Evguenij Chtchetinine beat Jorg Roskopf in the first match to put them on the back foot.

Vladimir Samsonov then destroyed world number 1 Timo Boll to put Belarus two nil ahead, Zoltan Fejer-Konnerth brought Germany back to

2-1 with a win over the young Dimitry Chumakov but Samsonov won the Gold medal for Belarus with a fourth game win over Jorg Roskopf.

If the winners of the Men's event were unexpected that was nothing as to the Women's event. Italy, the host nation, surpassed I suspect even their own expectations. In the Quarter Final they beat the might of Germany, Struse, Stumper and Elke Wosik 3-2, in the Semi-final it was the Hungarians who fell by 3-1, Csilla Batoffi beat Wenling Tan Monfardini but Maria Fazekas lost to Negrisoni and Krisztina Toth lost to both Nikoleta Stefanova and Wenling Tan Monfardini.

In the final it was Croatia who succumbed, Tamara Boros losing to both Nikoleta Stefanova and Wenling, with Cornelia Vaida beating Wenling



EVGUENIJ CHTCHETININE of Belarus, celebrates his country's unexpected victory in the Mens team final against Germany



The jubilant ITALIAN WOMENS TEAM pictured on the rostrum

LAURA NEGRISONI

and Andreja Bakula losing to Laura Negrisoni.

The Italian team of 19 years old Nikoleta Stefanova, Wenling Tan Monfardini and their unbeaten captain, Laura Negrisoni had beaten the cream

of European Women's teams on their home soil and were quite unsurprisingly delighted.

Of the other home countries, Wales finished 29th, Scotland 38th in the Men's Team Event and Wales finished 33rd in the Women's Team Event.

GEOFF TAYLOR'S MOUNTAIN VIEW

COURMAYEUR in the Aosta Valley provided the venue for the European Championships, an area usually noted for its year round skiing and mountain scenery above which Mont Blanc, Europe's tallest mountain, towers, writes Geoff Taylor.

Here it was Vladimir Samsonov and Otilia Badescu, who scaled the heights to win the Mens and Womens singles. Samsonov beat Torbin Wosik, who has in recent years failed to realise earlier potential, but made good here with wins over Primorac, Gatién, and Roskopf. Samsonov had wins over Peter Korbel, Trinko Keen and defending champion Timo Boll.

When Kreanga withdrew with a shoulder injury, I thought that section of the draw might open a path for Alexander Karakasevic, who plays for a team in the USA called "Killer Spin", but a Swede Jens Lindquist won all the close games. Another surprise first round loss was that of Jean Michel Saive to Sedlan Milicevic of Bosnia. Badescu capitalised on the poor form shown by the early favourites Boros, Steff and Toth.

The host nation Italy provided two of the womens semi-finalists, with Wenling Tan Monfardini beating countrywoman Stefanova in one semi. Badescu defeated Erdelji of Yugoslavia, who had despatched top seed Boros.

There are a greater number of defensive players in the womens game, where less powerful attacking strokes makes this type of game more effective.

The World Championships in Paris are at the end of May, apart from Samsonov, Boll and Michael Maze, there was no evidence here that the Europeans are in the same class as the Asians, not just the Chinese, but also the Koreans, Japanese and Taiwanese could dominate this forthcoming tournament.

LIEBHERR

KOU LEI & ZHAO SHUANG DOMINATE

ANOTHER huge grand prix entry, 200-odd with thirty turned away at a tournament run by a club - The Blackpool TTC. But the downside is the meagre prize fund and the embarrassment of two talented Chinese teenagers winning the two main singles events, writes John Woodford.

The only player from the England camp was the third seed Natalie Bawden (Essex) who reached the quarters but then went down 5-3, 3, 10 to Karen Shepherd from Cheshire, in a bid to reach her appointed spot in the semi-finals.

In the womens singles the shock-of-the-day was the third round defeat of the local favourite Lyndsey Thornton who crashed to the long pimples owned by Judy Morley (Gloucestershire) 5, 10, -10, 3. Miss Thornton created the biggest shock at the national championships at Sheffield when she eliminated top seed Nicola Deaton. So, the two surprise semi-finalists were Miss Shepherd and Mrs Morley - both were despatched by the top seeds in the semi-finals - Shepherd went down 7, 6, 9 to Shuang Zhao, whilst in the bottom half Barbara Kiss powered past the Morley pimples 7,4,7.

The womens final saw a very determined and spirited attempt by Miss Kiss to bring down the Chinese teenager, whose presence here owes much to Ian Marshall.

The Chinese girl lost the second and third games but overcame the Hungarian all-rounder's counter-hitting and persevered to claim victory 5, -5, -7, 3, 6.

All-out attacking from both players saw a superb final.

Ian Marshall's teenager in the mens singles was of course, the top seed Kou Lei. He came through the draw



**Words by
JOHN WOODFORD,
TONY MEREDITH &
ROB PARSONS
Pictures by
MARTIN IRELAND**

11, 8, 6 against Stewart Crawford (Scotland) in the quarters and Michael James (Yorkshire) in the semis 7, -7, 6, 3.

In the bottom half, Gavin Rungay produced too much power for John Hilton in the quarters but the Scottish No.1 had to fight very hard to knock out Jason Sugrue (Middlesex and Ireland) 9, 3, -5, 9.

Many of the Rungay services when his body shields the umpires vision may become illegal in September, if, as expected, the new rules will ensure that the umpire or umpires

must see the action at all times as well as the opponent.

I expected Gavin to give Kou Lei a tight encounter in the mens singles final. But proving he is well inside the Top-40 on the Chinese junior ranking list, he outgunned the Scottish champion 5, 2, 5 in 14 minutes.

The veterans entry was small. John Hilton had a struggle before he overcame local hero Keith Williams 5, -11, -7, 9, 7 in the final. The womens final saw Judy Morley battling away to stop Jenny Harrison (Essex) 5, -11, 4, 9, 3. The hardest fought final was the men's Under 21 when Kou Lei came under pressure with a fine battling show by Yorkshire's Stephen Denny - the Chinese player eventually survived to win 7, 8, -8, -8, 5. This match ended the tournament before 8 pm.

Natalie Bawden's best skirmish of the day was the Under-21 womens

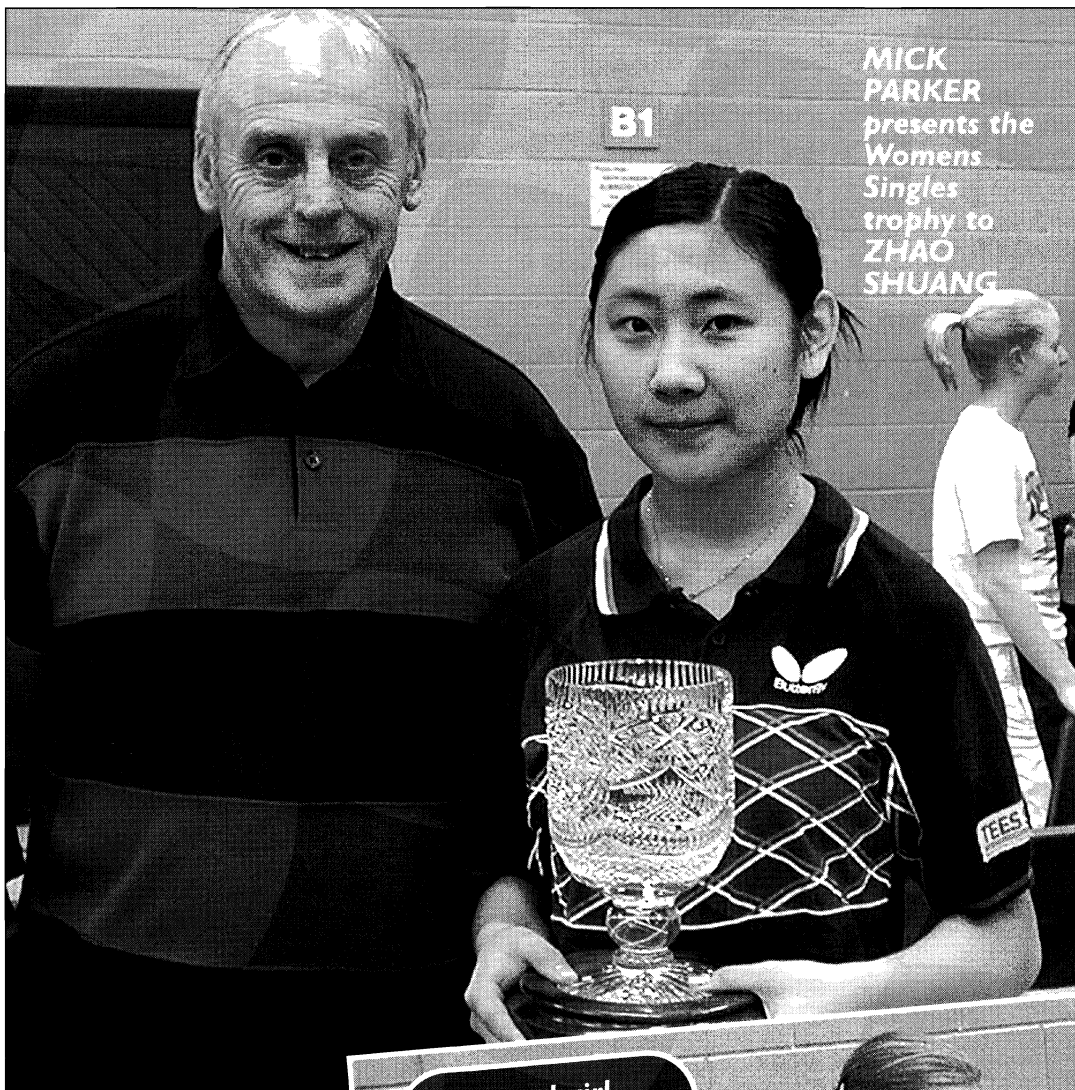
final when she was only edged out 4 in the fifth by Zhao Shuang, who was coached all day by Kate Steward.

- The organisation at Blackpool was as immaculate as usual. The team on the rostrum had three leaders - Martin Ireland, Ken Armson MBE and Stan Clarke, none of whom stood any nonsense - surrounds kicking and bat-throwing was kept to a minimum.

- The team of umpires was the biggest on the circuit - they included Roger Cochrane, Ron Georgeson, John Hardcastle, Bob Hawkins, Dave Heanaghan, Ray Lavin, John Mackey, Tony Meredith, Eric Pentland, Graham Rollison and Bob Williamson.

- Footnote: My only spot of bother at Blackpool was a taxi-driver who charged £20 to get me from Blackpool North station to St. Annes; the return at 0600 hours on the Monday was only £8.





winning in straight games. The womens singles produced the shock of the weekend when local girl Cherith Graham (Southport) eliminated No.5 seed Lindsey Thornton (Bury) in a real cliffhanger at 12-10 in the deciding game. Sadly, she was unable to re-produce this form in her next match against the veteran Judy Morley from Gloucester. The No.1 seed Zhao Shuang from China was given a fright in her quarter final match with Kents Angie Bristow. She was two games to one down and 10 all in the fourth but recovered to win it 12-10 and then took the decider to love in awesome style. Hungarian student Barbara Kiss (seeded 2) gave an excellent account of herself in the final, but the superiority of Zhao finally told in the deciding game.

On a local note, several Blackpool players gave creditable performances in Saturdays banded events. Steve Bevan from Cleveleys reached the semi finals of the mens band two where he went down to Ayoade Ademakinwa from Essex in the fifth and deciding game. Stuart Walker, also from Cleveleys did well to reach the quarter finals of the mens band five where he lost to Staffords Peter Allister also in the deciding game. Tamar Seymour qualified from her group matches in the womens band one only to lose out to Scotlands

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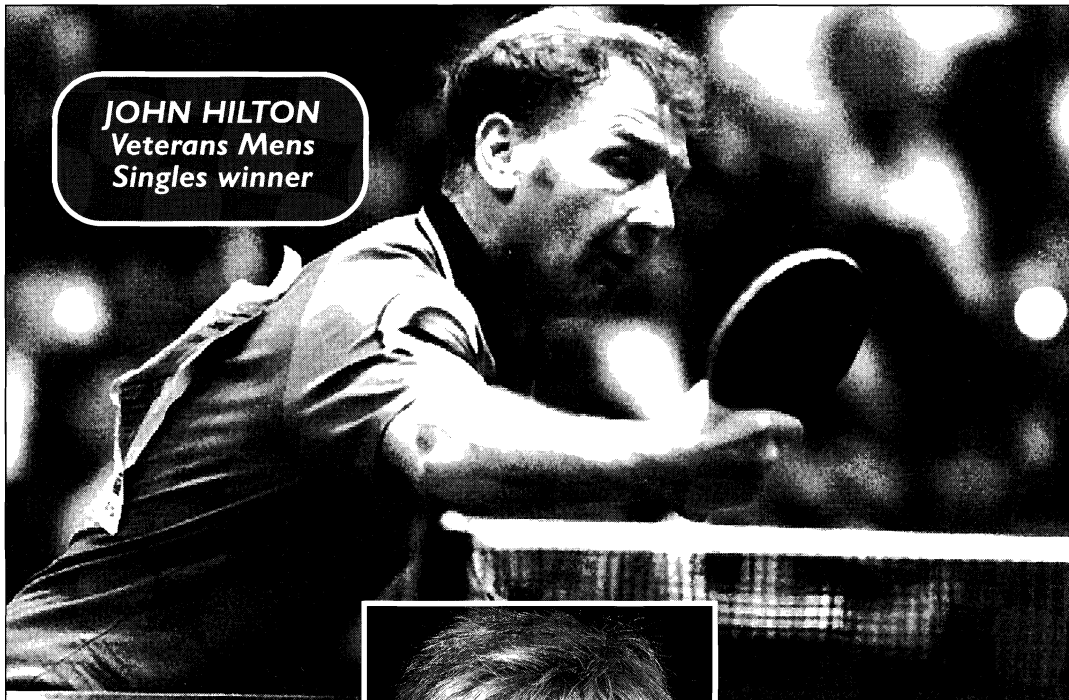
TONY MEREDITH'S VIEW OF THE 10th BLACKPOOL 3 STAR OPEN

THE tenth running of these championships, which were held at Blackpool Sports Centre, proved to be as popular as ever with a maximum entry of over 200 players. The ETTA Grand Prix tournament took on an International flavour with entries from all the home countries, one from France and the top seeds in both main events being Chinese.

Local interest in the mens singles came by the way of former European Champion John Hilton (Manchester) whose 55 year old legs carried him to the quarter finals where he went down to Scottish No.1 Gavin Rungay in straight games. Rungay reached his seeded position in the final after a marathon battle with Irish International Jason Sugrue. No.1 seed Kou Lei overcame Yorkshire's Michael James in his semi final and then proved to be far too powerful for his final opponent Rungay,



10th BLACKPOOL OPEN BUTTERFLY GRAND PRIX



JOHN HILTON
Veterans Mens
Singles winner



JUDY MORLEY

Mens B3 - Keith BIRD (Dy) bt Tom MURRAY (Ch) 4,9,3
 Mens B4 - Tom PAGE (Ch) bt Matt SQUIRES (Wo) -8,9,-7,7,5
 Mens B5 - Peter ALLISTER (St) bt Antony WHELAN (Ch) 9,-15,8,3
 Mens B6 - Kevin HASTE (Sy) bt Ross CULLEN (IRL) 4,8,6
 Womens B1 - Angie BRISTOW (K) bt Laura RUMGAY (SCO) -8,8,10,-7,9
 Womens B2 - Karin EGGAR (SCO) bt Clare LANGFORD (Ch) 6,7,7
 Womens B3 - Helen PARTON (Dv) bt Rebecca RUSSELL (SCO) -10,-10,9,9,5
 Mens Singles - Kou LEI (CHN) bt Gavin RUMGAY (SCO) 5,2,5
 Womens Singles - Zhao SHUANG (CHN) bt Barbara KISS (He) 5,-5,-7,3,6
 U21 Mens Singles - Kou LEI (CHN) bt Stephen DENNY (Y) 7,8,-8,-8,5
 U21 Womens Singles - Zhao SHUANG (CHN) bt Natalie BAWDEN (E) 4,-9,-13,8,4
 Veteran Mens Singles - John HILTON (Ch) bt Keith WILLIAMS (La) 5,11,-9,-7,7
 Veteran Womens - Judy MORLEY (Gs) bt Jenny HARRISON (E) -5,4,9,3

continued from page 15

Gillian Edwards in the knockout stage.

The event was a Butterfly tournament, which was also supported by Blackpool Borough Council.

A PLAYERS POINT OF VIEW

ONE of the few consolations for the less-than-successful tournament player is the capacity - with the inconvenience of playing actual matches quickly dispensed with - to partake of the other assorted amusements to be found at a large Grand Prix event, writes Rob Parsons.

For this writer, this was probably just as well, after a series of remarkably uninspired performances ensured that I made about as much impression on the various competitions as Iain-Duncan Smith makes at Prime Minister's Question Time.

With plenty of non-playing time to kill, my first recourse was to grab a chair (from the other end of the sports hall naturally, are there ever enough chairs at table tennis

tournaments?) and take in a little action. My forlorn hope was that watching some good players might miraculously provide me with a half-decent forehand and passable footwork via some kind of table-tennis osmosis. Unsurprisingly, it didn't.

There was some vicarious enjoyment to be had however, as I witnessed one of my travelling companions from the East Midlands cut a swathe through the Men's Band 3 to win the final. Being a consummate showman, he managed to wring every possible drop of drama out of his progression: staving off match points in the second round and somehow coming back from 8-2 down in the final set of the semi-final to win 11-8.

The competition was organised with typical professionalism as both days finished virtually on time, a remarkable achievement given that many of the referees, announcements were rendered nearly inaudible by a tannoy system that wouldn't have been out of

place in a railway station. The umpires went about their business in mostly unobtrusive fashion for most of the weekend too, though I was slightly surprised when an innocuous pre-match knock-up was curtailed by an umpire strolling past the court, despite the fact it had been going on for less than a minute.

I observed with interest to see how strictly the new service rules would be enforced, given that any form of disguise at the point of impact was strictly illegal. This was anything but apparent in the matches I watched, with a few players making a nominal effort to throw in a few more backhand serves, while their use of arm, hand and shoulder to shield the bat-face for forehand serves went entirely unpunished. Clearly, if players are willing to accept illegal serves from their opponents, then umpires are rightly reluctant to enforce the new rule before many have been given a chance to get used to it.

Away from the table tennis, the venue provided an upstairs bar complete with food and FA Cup football, and the usual bevy of American fast-food eateries were within two minutes drive. For those playing the whole weekend, accommodation was cheap and plentiful, and afforded the opportunity to sample the seaside town's numerous nightclubs, gardens and amusement arcades. Given, all this, an excursion to play at the Blackpool Grand Prix is well worth the effort, even for those who, like me, left their table tennis skills somewhere on the M6.

RESULTS

Mens B1 - Shaun Sharples (Dy) bt Neil Charles (Mi) -8,7,7,-13,7
 Mens B2 - John Holland (Mi) bt Ayoade ADEMAKINWA (E) -8,-7,5,8,5

STOP PRESS News in Brief

ANDREW BAGGALEY THE YOUNGEST ENGLAND NO.1 FOR 20 YEARS

20 year old Andrew Baggaley from Milton Keynes, the 2002 national men's singles champion, becomes the youngest England senior No.1 for 20 years in the new England ranking.

Carl Prean from the Isle of Wight, as a teenage prodigy, became No.1 in June 1983 when he was only 15, holding that position for six months to November 1983. Baggaley, who plays professionally in Sweden, now replaces Matthew Syed, who had held the top spot continuously from August 1999 up to April 2003, apart from in December 2001 when Gareth Herbert briefly held that position. Baggaley's elevation comes about owing to his excellent results in the Europeans in Italy at the beginning of April,



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Issue No. 293 May 2003

Editorial

So a new team of ETTA Ltd senior officers, Alex Murdoch as Chairman, Mike Johns as Deputy Chairman and Martin Clark as Treasurer, have been elected by large majorities, to take office immediately following the AGM on 28th June.

They will take the helm at a difficult time, with the World Class Performance funding for table tennis having been slashed (which will have repercussions on the ETTA as a whole), and the level of future exchequer funding being prioritised as one of 16-20 priority sports – not yet certain. Staff at Sport England, which distributes Lottery and exchequer money to sport, themselves have suffered from the chill wind of financial economy, jobs having been reduced from 570 to 250 in six months. Being considered a priority for sport Lottery funding depends not so much on size of participation but the ability to bring in the medals *now* or *soon*, as the £2.6 million for rowing, £1.06m for judo, £1.19m for canoeing and £1.2m for equestrian suggest (funding figures at 31.3.03): but unfortunately any major international table tennis medal prospects for us are in the longer term and will have to be achieved in the face of almost overwhelming opposition.

The ETTA electorate decided it was 'time for a change', and the Alex Murdoch team heralds the opportunity for a fresh perspective and openness to ideas for developing the game. They were also considered to be approachable, in touch with and listening to the grass roots, and while they are on their honeymoon period, they may have the chance to 'grasp some bullets', namely:

- To persuade local leagues and clubs and the players in them they are the custodians for the table tennis cause in their localities, with the responsibility for seeing it develop and prosper, and they cannot expect the governing body to do this for them. As outgoing chairman Alan Ransome

said, 'Local people make things happen'. ('Ask not what table tennis can do for you, ask what you can do for table tennis'!)

- Encouraging local people to make their local league formats and competitions, indeed the whole table tennis experience, more attractive, so as to recruit and hold on to newcomers. (Don't just try to satisfy the (ever-dwindling numbers of) backwoods players who want table tennis to stay as it is and has always been.)
- Developing individual (catch-all) forms of ETTA membership/affiliation for all players.
- Encouraging everyone to work together, united in a common cause, for the (greater) good of table tennis. Utopia! But we must work towards this, and which means we must support Alex, Mike, Martin et al and wish them every success.

Perhaps unfairly perceived by some as remote and out of touch with members, the outgoing management team have worked very hard to promote table tennis and deserve our thanks. And not through any sense of sycophancy or subordination (and I have always been given a freehand in my editorials), I give special mention to Alan Ransome, who with his legendary workrate and formidable powers of persuasion has ensured that table tennis has punched much heavier than our weight and that we have been included in many national programmes and funding streams rather than being sidelined. His knowledge and passion for table tennis are immense and the Ormesby Club will become an even greater force, now that Alan has more time to devote to it!

Accepting the lifestyle problems for residents and that there was a lack of finance for building up a regional structure to feed it with new players, I have always been supportive of the National Training Centre at Nottingham, which has never had its funding, and hence its future, secure.

To reach top international standard, you have to train hard every day with the right sparring partners, coaching and sports science back-up, and be able to play in top level competitions abroad. Nottingham brought all these factors together, and bearing in mind our declining playing standards, and the availability of the Lottery funding, I saw no better way to do it. Of course you can only work with the players you have got, some players did not take full advantage of the opportunity and in any case in takes 10-15 years from scratch to bring on new generation of senior internationals, but just where would we now be had we not had the Centre? It does not bear thinking about!

Acting Performance Director Steen Kyst Hansen would not be human if he was not now considering his future, but I hope he stays in England. Always rational, approachable and interested, he has worked exceptionally hard as an administrator, active coach, non-playing captain and manager, and tournament/competition observer (he more than any other national coach in recent years has attended the junior domestic circuit), and under his brief stewardship England has made steady progress.

The England men had an excellent 3-2 win over Norway at the European Championships in Courmayeur, Italy, which ensured they finished 16th and will play in the top group for qualification for the 2005 European Championships. A young (apart from Helen Lower) women's squad did well to finish 23rd. In the men's singles, 20 year old Andrew Baggaley produced results of the like that we have not seen for a long time for an England player: after knocking out the highly rated Dane, Martin Monrad, he then sensationally defeated the world no.11 and no.5 seed, Peter Karlsson (Sweden)! And Gareth Herbert, who seemed to be making similar break-through two years ago, returned to form with a great win over the world no.48, Tomasz Krzeszewski (Poland).

Stop press! I have just learnt that Tim Yarnall and Bradley Evans played well at the Austrian Youth Open on 18th-20th April, and Darius Knight lost in the cadet boys' final (he had beaten Tim 3-2 in the semis).

ETTA Director of Teaching and Training, Peter Hirst, has moved on to become the new **Performance Director for the English Squash Association** (more about that in Muhr's Memo). Peter of course had a long stint from the early 70s as an ETTA national coach (when he had a big input into the coaching manual), before moving out to New Zealand for a similar position in 1985. During his more recent employment with the ETTA over the last 4-5 years, **Peter very successfully re-constituted the annual conference at Lilleshall, and revamped the coaching syllabus** so that, for example, reading the game and self-learning had a much higher priority. **We wish him well** in squash.

China have submitted a **proposition** for the ITTF AGM, in Paris in May, for the **return of the 21 up scoring system**, very possibly because their top players have been less assured of winning under the new (somewhat unpredictable in terms of results) 11 up system, and owing to **China's political clout it is just possible it may be passed!** A **Rules Committee proposition to change the wording of the service law** to, 'From the start of the service until it is struck, the ball shall be above the level of the playing surface and behind the server's end line, and it shall not be hidden from the receiver and the umpire by the server or his doubles partner or anything they wear or carry', **is likely to gain majority support.**

Owing to TTN coming out late (apologies again), and to a relative shortage of copy for this edition, I have **brought some county notes forward for publication now.** Could contributors please note that **I do not normally publish local closed tournament reports** unless they are incorporated into county notes. However, in the absence of notes from a particular county, I very occasionally place a closed tournament report into the appropriate county slot.

Ken Muhr
ETTA Information Officer

E-mail:
kenmuhr.etta@talk21.com

COMMUNITY CLUB DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The ETTA has been invited to be part of a new funding programme for facilities launched recently by the **Department of Culture Media and Sport and Sport England.** Paul Baker,

ETTA Facilities Officer, provides further background to the programme.

The government, through the **Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS)**, has allocated £60 million over the next three years to a **Community Club Development Programme (CCDP)**, which is being administered by **Sport England.**

The **National Governing Bodies (NGBs) of sixteen sports** (Band 1: cricket, football, rugby union and tennis and Band 2: badminton, basketball, canoeing, cycling, gymnastics, hockey, judo, netball, rowing, rugby league, swimming and table tennis) have been invited to be part of the programme. The NGBs were selected based on their national participation rates, number of registered clubs, level of funding, participation in Clubmark and national facility strategy.

The four **Band 1 sports** each have a **fixed allocation**, while the twelve **Band 2 sports** will be **bidding for a share of £20 million.** It is intended that altogether around **250-300 projects** will receive support.

Aims and Objectives

The overall aims of the programme are to:

- assist in creating a sustainable and financially viable sports club infrastructure in England that links with schools, provides support and pathways for identifying and developing talented individuals, and meets the needs of local communities
- increase club membership levels among young people and to support the development of quality assured 'junior' sections of clubs
- increase club membership among women, black and other ethnic groups and people with disabilities.

The programme's objectives are to:

- promote the development of sports clubs for young people through enhancing club school links and extending community access
- promote the development of 'hub/beacon' clubs that create club networks and pathways through sport linked to the NGB programmes
- promote the development of multi-sport clubs to achieve economies of scale and to promote cross sport co-operation and development
- ensure that facility investment is supported by investment in the training and development of key

people (coaches, officials and administrators)

- create a large investment programme and ensure long-term viability and sustainability.

Strategic Need

Projects must relate their NGB's Development and Facility Strategy Plans, which will be best met by:

- projects which provide enhanced facilities for sports at clubs with inadequate existing provision
- projects which demonstrate links to other NGB priority development work, e.g. volunteering, coaching, talent development and club/school links
- projects serving clusters and/or meeting the needs of several clubs/sports
- clubs able to provide the greatest sporting and community benefit in terms of contributing to improved health, community cohesion, crime prevention, etc.
- clubs in areas of both sporting and greatest social deprivation
- projects providing greatest increased access to facilities for community use.

Eligibility

The programme is for the **development of capital facilities**, which can be for new buildings or the conversion/upgrade of existing facilities. It can also cover items of major fixed equipment for indoor and outdoor spaces.

The programme is targeted at areas of **multiple deprivation** in the 20% highest ranked local authority wards as identified in the **Index of Multiple Deprivation 2000 (IMD2000)**. These are the same areas covered by the **Priority Areas Initiative** of the **Sport England Lottery Fund**, details of which can be found on the Sport England website at www.sportengland.org

Each NGB is currently working with Sport England to produce an **'Investment Strategy'**, a framework that will be used by each NGB to select projects. The ETTA strategy will reflect the success of the **PremierClub** programme and of the model for facilities of the **ETTA Facility Development Strategy** and their relevance to the **Community Club Development Programme.**

The ETTA will be looking for projects to demonstrate how they:

- are development led and are a catalyst for change
- have a detailed development plan

- are about increasing participation particularly amongst the programme's priority groups
- are needed strategically in terms of location, design and intended use
- are financially viable
- have a strong development team both within the TT organisation and possible partners
- support the development of coaches and volunteers
- offer 'value for money' in relation to the amount of funding sought and have partner funding where appropriate.

Process and Timetable

Projects will be considered in **three rounds**, round 1 will be for Band 1 NGBs, while rounds 2 and 3 will consist of both Band 1 and Band 2 NGBs.

NGBs will present portfolios of projects to a **Project Board** consisting of representatives from **Sport England, DCMS and the NGBs**. The Board will select schemes and give in principle Stage 1 support for each round. Selected projects will then be required to develop detailed applications at Stage 2.

Current dates for submission of Band 2 NGB portfolios are **September 2003** for Round 2 and **March 2004** for Round 3.

Conclusion

This programme represents a great opportunity for the development of table tennis facilities. Table tennis groups with an interest in the programme should initially contact their **Regional Development Officer** or **Paul Baker** on 07778 518799 or via e-mail paul@glynswood.freeseerve.co.uk at paul@glynswood.freeseerve.co.uk for further information.

PROGRAMME FOR 1966 ENGLAND V CZECHOSLOVAKIA INTERNATIONAL MATCH, NEWBURY CORN EXCHANGE

Mrs Ruby H Lawrence's late husband was a keen table tennis enthusiast and following his death she wants to find a good home for the following **international match programme**, in which he has neatly filled in the scores: **England v Czechoslovakia, 1966, at Newbury Corn Exchange**, signed by Chester Barnes, Stuart Gibbs, Mary Shannon Wright, Pauline Hemmings & Vlado Miko, Marta Luzova, Antonin Dvorak & ETTA Chairman Conrad Jaschke. If you are interested in this programme please make any offers direct to **Mrs Lawrence**, 8 Soken Drive, Gressenhall,

Norfolk NR20 4DX. **She is keen to find someone who will value it than to make a lot of money.**

Hockey coach Trevor Chandler gives an (edited) view from another sport. From Sports Coach UK FHS October 2002:

IN MY VIEW

Coaching: Destroying the Flair and Spontaneity of the Individual?

There are a lot of us who think we know best, but I also believe that the **potential negative consequences of over-coaching** should be more recognised by the preachers and teachers in sport. The difference in confidence and motivation level between individuals learning for themselves as opposed to being taught – whether they are players or coaches – is often a **significant factor in that person's development and fulfilment of his or her potential**. Although some people like to be guided, perhaps from the cradle to the grave, it is through such guidance that the **importance of the flair and spontaneity of the individual may not be fully realised**. The wide use of the expression 'to be focused' also suggests that outside influences should be kept to a minimum.

Shouldn't we learn from the success of our top sportsmen and sportswomen **who use the tools around them, but are never dominated by them?** A focused Faldo in his day and, for that matter, Nicklaus and Palmer would not have allowed a psychologist to intervene as Ernie Els did during the last stages of this year's Open Championship. Els won despite the psychologist help; not because of it. **He had a psychologist, so his play faltered until his individual, focused skill finally shone through.**

Sport, it seems, may be going the same way as business, commerce, the legal profession, health and safety legislation and the like. Whatever your nine-to-five job is, **it's unlikely that you haven't experienced the ever-increasing pressure to attend expensive courses only to be reassured that you're not missing out**. I recently attended a child protection course which, while being a pleasant social evening, only served to raise more questions than answers. It also highlighted the fact that the present system achieves little in the way of prevention and, in fact, only served as a deterrent to the coaches attending. Similarly, is it just that I read more these days, **or is our sports jargon getting more complicated?** Again,

this is a real turn-off for many of the people I know who help out on Sunday mornings.

Getting back to the concerns about too much coaching for players and teaching for the coaches, **this is not just the British way, it is the way of anywhere else in the world – apart from the good old USA**. We all know what happened in last year's British Lions rugby tour when flair and spontaneity were coached out of the game. For those who don't, we lost despite being the better side. In the same way, why do we love the way the Brazilians play football? Didn't they win something recently?

One final point on spontaneity as my meanderings are beginning to resemble, without the humour of course, those of a certain Billy Connelly. Let's take a quote from the great man, when he's expressing a level of intolerance with this evermore bureaucratic and controlled world. 'They're taking more and more away from us everyday. We shouldn't let them get away with it'. However, in the interests of good balance, **we all know the benefits of teamwork, coaching in its rightful place and good discipline.**

Although Peter Hirst has now moved on to become Performance Director for the Squash Association, readers may be interested in one of the last articles he penned (for the English National Championships programme, 2003).

THE FUTURE OF COACHING By Peter Hirst, (former) ETTA Teaching & Training Director

The Prime Minister is reported as saying that sport is a major asset, which is under used. **Sport means many different things to many people;** to some it is keeping healthy and fit, for others it is social inclusion and just being with friends.

The statistics show that it costs the government **£26k to keep someone in care per year** and a massive **£126k to keep someone in custody**. Obesity and related ailments costs a staggering **£2 billion per year**. So it's about time that sport got more of the cake to **keep people occupied in a healthy environment**, such as playing table tennis. After all, we all know the benefits, don't we?

A government task force on coaching is saying that **coaching is central to sport at every level and that we need more coaches**. There is a perception that there is a 'black hole' where Level 1 coaches disappear, never to be seen

again. This is certainly true in table tennis. A strong rumour is that coaches can earn money, which is true, **but most coaches coach only to put something back into table tennis**, with the majority paying for the privilege in just the same way that people pay to play or watch our sport. **Some coaches simply cannot afford to stay in coaching.**

There is a need, definitely a need, to **professionalise coaching**, not just in financial terms but in attitude and training so that we can **move our sport of table tennis forward in positive ways**, that provide all who choose to play the best opportunities that we can.

The news is not all bad, as **new initiatives by government will very soon be investing heavily into coaching** over a three year period, with £15 million coming on stream in year 1 starting April 2003, rising to £30 million in year 3. We will first see an impact with a **TV campaign on BBC to attract people to the virtues of coaching**. The two key areas to move forward will be **coach development and coach deployment** with career pathways, targeting adults and parents of children already playing, to have an impact at introduction and participation levels. The money will be going into **sports coach UK for coach education and into local authorities for deployment**, with some going into **national governing bodies of sport**, so we in table tennis will be bidding for our share along with all other sports.

To be part of the future, enrol as a student coach with the **ETTA Teaching and Training Department** by ringing Michelle on 01424 431222.

Another former ETTA employee – he was our first Performance Director – Michel Gadal, now Technical Director for his native France – was the then Canadian National Coach, having previously been a National Coach for France and having coached Jean-Phillipe Gatien. Below are my (KM's) notes on Michel's presentation to the training course at the Manchester World Championships. Owing to the difficult circumstances, we may have not got the best of Michel in England, but his ideas are always worth referring to:

**PRESENTATIONS FROM
INTERNATIONAL TRAINING
COURSE FOR COACHES held in
conjunction with the 44th World
Table Tennis Championships,
Manchester 1997**

Michel Gadal felt that the training components for achieving a higher

level of performance were technical/tactical, physical and mental preparation, and that at the highest level it was the mental side that could make all the difference. Fundamental elements to achieve a higher level were **adaptability** (players need to learn techniques to adapt to any given situation, 'giving an answer before a question is asked'), **anticipation** ('knowing the question before the question is asked', knowing and watching opponent rather than focusing on self – in practice, players tend to focus too much on themselves – and if you play at high speed, being aware that 80% of balls will come back in the same direction if you play down the line), **speed** (the need to be fast, to give speed to the ball, to take it early – between off-the-bounce and the top-of-the-bounce – and to move fast, which must be taught early), **precision** (top players use the lines – corner and wide of the corner – and occasionally hit to the crossover, while weak players play mainly to the middle and a study in 1989 indicated that it was better to play the ball 20% slower but deeper rather than shorter but faster) and **concentration** (it is a game between two brains, and you need to focus on the right element and learn not to be distracted, and practice for keeping focus in non-playing time between points/games, etc.).

Every time a coach is coaching, he should ask himself whether he is including at least one of these elements; adaptability, anticipation, speed, precision, concentration. Coaches sometimes know too much about technique but do not know about the game. **The game is more important than technique** – you adapt your techniques to the game. Speed and accuracy should be increased together. On service, teach first with wrist only for backspin, sidespin and topspin. The right service should be adopted according to the player's game and the situation.

Adaptability: a player must be able to give a good/appropriate answer, preferably a topspin with speed, to any ball. The technique may be with the whole body if there is time, or with just the elbow and wrist. The player should **train for the game:** practice should be aimed for the game situation. Sometimes it is more important for a player to adopt his own tactics and learn from his mistakes. **Train for courage: table tennis is a very risky game.** Many coaches tell players not to take risks, but from the beginning, we should train players to think for themselves, take risks and make unexpected play, and when the situation is tight to do something more (though

not crazy). **Coach for the future:** the player should practice the game – his game – for the match at the same intensity as for the match. He should **try to win every single point.**

In **practice**, one partner can first be co-operative (i.e. feed), then be 50% co-operative, then be competitive/difficult all of the time. The number in a training session should ideally be 10-16, and partners should be changed every exercise (30-40 minutes per exercise) so as to adapt to differing playing styles. If a player is making less than 4 successful routines out of 10 then the routine is too difficult. But if he is achieving 8 out of 10, then it is too easy. Therefore, make the exercises easier or more difficult. Do not accept the player making too many mistakes. Also, in practice, teach **refocusing** in non-playing time to break high level of mistakes.

Multi-ball is good for learning/fixing technique but not for thinking skills, and there should be a break for refocusing between each routine. Do not use multi-ball within 2-3 weeks of a competition. The ideal time is July and August.

Regarding **duration of exercises**, it is good to change the length of exercises, being adaptive of time, and not staying too rigid to timing. Be open to what is happening, listen to players (if you can trust them) and be flexible. Players need to be fresh. Let players try things out in games and learn from their own experience. Before competition, use the type of practice as in competition, scheduling in breaks between exercises so as to learn to wait between matches.

Adaptability of technique; technique should be taught for use in different situations. The hand/wrist is the most adaptable and precise joint, appropriate for speed and accuracy. With **youngsters**, first teach, 'What should I do with the ball?' Maybe it is an arm action first, starting with the wrist and building up with the forearm, whole arm and then whole body (upper body and lower body for power). (When the player is timid, use the whole body.) Youngsters learn this very quickly. A soft hand is important for returning short service. Let players find their own motion and tempo. Start with an early timing (although it is more difficult). Start playing slow and build up to fast rather than fast to slow – the timing point is slightly later (near top of bounce) for the slow ball. **Teach difficult techniques – what is hardest to learn – early**, as youngsters are more able to absorb new knowledge quickly. The best age to begin learning the table tennis is 7-8. Build round

something good/new in the player and always be positive in your coaching. A challenge always needs to be given to a very talented player, possibly by giving a more difficult task within the same exercise, e.g. playing to half of the table side instead of the whole table.

Michel conducted research before the Olympics on the **amount of practice time** players put in. Japanese/Asians did the most (2,000 hours a year), but the average for seniors was 1,200 hours (4 hours a day). For juniors the average was 700-800 hours and the cadets 400-500 hours. In France cadets trained 10-12 hours a week (6 hours was not enough!), and juniors 16-18 hours. Cadets had a competition every 3-4 weeks and juniors more competitions. All top players have, when they were juniors aged between 15-17, beaten top seniors. Regarding **competition, players should always have a reasonable chance to win or at least put up a fight.** Players learn from playing at 19 all.

Michel had used the following **physical exercises** to develop fast footwork and strength in the legs, short sprints (say 30m) with short steps, running down hill (used short steps) and running round the side of cycle tracks. Multi-ball for speed (and strength of the arm) should be done at the beginning of a practice session before a player is tired.

Speed glue can be used when players are young provided practice is plentiful: if they practice only 3 times a week – no glue; if they practice 12-15 hours a week, use glue. Also let youngsters try out **different rubbers**, perhaps 30 minutes a week in match play. They will develop a better understanding of playing against different rubbers (e.g. long pimples). Be flexible in teaching **flicking** – the timing and the action. There are many answers.

Remember, **it is the player who plays, who wins, who loses.** Therefore the coach should keep a distance.

IDENTIFYING THE (CURRENT) LEADING PLAYER/PERSONALITY

Cheshire correspondent Alan Blears has suggested an interesting idea for TTN:

"How about asking our leading players to supply early photos of themselves? Then you could include one (picture) each month and ask readers to identify him/her, giving a few clues. The first correct answer to win, say, six balls."

Sounds good, and I will pass this on to editor John Wood. What do readers think?

IDENTIFYING (PAST) LEADING PLAYERS/PERSONALITIES

Terry Ridgway has suggested another idea, which like the one above has been used before, but does create a lot of interest: printing old photographs of major table tennis occasions and inviting readers to identify the occasion, the place and the people pictured.

The example Terry gave was of a picture that a Margaret Murray of Shrewsbury had come across while going through her grandfather's things and had sent to the Shropshire Star for their 'Pictures From The Past' spot. Two Star readers in particular, Eddie Shotton and Frank Leath, responded saying that they had actually been to the event: an exhibition given at the old Shrewsbury Swimming Baths in February 1939 (or 1938!) by touring world champions, Bohumil Vana (Czechoslovakia), Victor Barna (Hungary) and Laszlo Bellak (Hungary), who were shown with (identified) local officials and players in this and another photo.

Thoughts or contributions from readers on these lines would also be appreciated.

CAUTION ADVISED ON SUPPLEMENT USE Athlete Supplement Advice Statement

UK Sport – which is responsible for **promoting ethically fair and drug-free sport** – is among a number of prominent UK sporting bodies releasing an advisory statement today to UK athletes on the use of supplements. The statement warns athletes to be **'extremely cautious about the use of any supplements'**.

Athletes are advised that **'no guarantee can be given that any particular supplement is free from prohibited substances as these products are not licensed and are not subject to the same strict manufacturing and labelling requirements as licensed medicines'**.

The statement – published by **UK Sport, the British Olympic Association, the British Paralympic Association, the National Sports Medicine Institute and the home country sports councils** – reminds athletes of the strict liability rules that exist in sport, which state that athletes are responsible for any substance found in their system.

The last few years have seen a number of findings for substances such as

nandrolone which have been traced to poorly labelled or contaminated supplements. In February 2003, UK Sport published its **'Nandrolone Progress Report'** summarising the findings. It highlighted the findings of a major study conducted in Cologne in 2002 which showed **94 out of 634 samples** from non-hormonal dietary supplements contained **prohibited anabolic-androgenic steroids not listed on the label.** In each case, athletes taking the contaminated supplements would test positive under the **Olympic Movement Anti-Doping Code rules.**

Richard Callicott, Chief Executive of UK Sport, said: "We know that the vast majority of UK athletes are **committed to competing drug-free.** Part of our role as the **national anti-doping organisation** is to provide athletes and their support personnel with the information that encourages and allows them to do so. That is why we are delighted that **seven other organisations in the UK** have joined us in sending this important message about supplements to our athletes."

"The last thing we want is to have a **British athlete test positive by taking a contaminated supplement** and facing consequences which could so easily be avoided by heeding this advice that has been **developed by qualified members of the major sporting organisations in the UK.**"

The statement draws particular attention to the **difference between a medicine and a supplement**, with licensed medicines being labelled with a product license number which will not be found on a supplement label.

"Claims of 'quicker recovery' or an 'instant increase in strength' are commonplace on supplement labels", says Callicott. "However, if these supplements do as they claim and make **physiological changes to the body** then they should be viewed with caution. This is an important distinction for athletes to remember. The absence of an **approved quality standard** is of major concern, not only in the UK, but throughout the world. The organisations represented here in the UK are all committed to working towards a permanent solution to this problem. This may require some significant changes within the supplement industry."

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE LONDON PROGRESS TABLE TENNIS ACADEMY - sponsors sought!

The London Progress Club, the five times (and current) British League

Premier Division champions and champions of so many other titles besides, have appealed for **sponsors and new members** to support the official launch of the new **London Progress Club Table Tennis Academy**, whereby coaching (from top coaches including Irish no.1, Jason Sugrue) practice and competition will be available at their **10 public venues around north and west London**. The club, a (excellence level) member of the **ETTA Premier Club programme** and twinned with **Sokah Tafel Tennis Club, Antwerp**, has made its reputation for tearing down all social barriers to participation, long before 'social inclusion' became a trendy term.

Sponsors, invited from schools, clubs, leagues, boroughs, companies and individuals, are asked for **£100**, which will entitle them and all their immediate family to an **annual membership of London Progress Club** and to play at all these public venues. (Editor's note: just how family and group membership entitlement is worked out for organisational sponsorship is not entirely clear, but ask Jon Kaufman!)

Send your cheques to: London Progress, c/o 10 Sunner Road, West Harrow, Middlesex HA1 4BU. For further information, contact **Jon Kaufman, administrator, London Progress Table Tennis Academy**, tel. 07050 042671, e-mail. jonk@ufman.fsnet.co.uk website: www.London-Progress.freeserve.co.uk

CCPR RE-LAUNCHED WEBSITE

The **Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR)** which, "promotes, protects and maximises opportunities in sport and recreation for society, by providing leadership, service and support to its members", has **re-launched its website: www.ccpr.org.uk** Readers may be particularly interested in the 'Sources of Funding for Sport and Recreation' section, but there is also a lot of information and policy documents on sports related subjects that are of value.

(SPORTSMATCH) FUNDING FOR GRASS ROOTS SPORT RENEWED

Sport England has confirmed funding for **Sportmatch**, the incentive scheme for **grass roots sport sponsorship**, for 2003/04. The scheme will have **£3.675 million** to support some **370-400 grass roots sports programmes**.

Sport England has also confirmed its intention to continue funding for the following two years at the same level subject to provision being made to **Sport England** by the **Department for Culture, Media and Sport** which has separately confirmed its intention to include **Sportmatch** in its forward plans.

"This is great news," said Sportmatch director Mike Reynolds. "It means that unless there are major, unforeseen economic developments our future is secure until March 2006".

"Applications, however, continue to be well above the funding levels available, as they have for every one of the ten years of the scheme's existence. Most of these applications are for perfectly viable grass roots sporting programmes and their rejection is a source of huge disappointment to organisers, sponsors and, of course, ourselves. So despite the good news on Sportmatch we will continue to make a case for increased funds to Sport England and Government."

Note: **Sportmatch** in England is funded by the **Department for Culture, Media and Sport** through **Sport England**. **Sportmatch** is administered by the **Institute of Sports Sponsorship** and has an annual budget of **£3.675 million** covering approximately **370-400 awards each year**. An independent panel meets eight times a year to assess applications. In 10 years **Sportmatch** has encouraged **4,000 companies to sponsor projects in 73 sports**. An estimated **12 million people** – overwhelmingly **under 18's** – have participated in **Sportmatch-backed schemes** which in total have put **£75 million into grass roots sport**.

For further information, contact:

Sportmatch
4th Floor, Warwick House,
25-27 Buckingham Palace Road,
London SW1W 0PP

Tel: 020 7233 7747 (voice mail system)
Fax: 020 7828 7099

E-mail: info@sportmatch.co.uk
Website: www.sportmatch.co.uk

TOP SPORT NET AND WALL GAMES

BT TOP Sport, sponsored by BT and developed by the Youth Sport Trust with relevant governing bodies of sport, supported teachers and community deliverers as they introduced specific

sports and games, including table tennis, to young people aged 7 to 11, providing them with the opportunities to develop sporting skills.

The TOP Sport table tennis bag came with cards and the necessary equipment to deliver games.

Now the **Youth Sport Trust** and the **governing bodies** of table tennis, badminton, lawn tennis, squash and volleyball, with the (somewhat controversial!) **support of Cadbury**, have developed generic cards for 'Net and Wall' games and in this editor's (KM's) opinion, racket skills learnt in the early stages are **transferable across racket sports**. Below is what the Youth Sport Trust says about the programme:-

TOP Sport Net and Wall Games have been designed to give children an introduction to the skills needed for the games of badminton, squash, table tennis, tennis and volleyball. The activities offer a range of net and wall games skills in an enjoyable format. The cards cover the following areas:

Are you ready? – The ready position and its importance.

Flights and arrivals, Rebound ready – Judging the flight of an object and getting into position to catch it.

Getting a grip – Holding a racket.

Serving it up – Striking a ball.

Roving returns – Returning a ball or shuttlecock thrown by a partner.

In or out – Getting the ball or shuttlecock in court.

Reliable rallies – Keeping the ball or shuttlecock in play

Far and near and side to side – Sending the ball or shuttlecock to different areas of the court and finding the effect on opponents.

Go for ten – Attacking space to score points.

Team two v two – A team game for all the sports.

Including young disabled people – Ideas for including all children in the activities.

Knowledge and understanding of fitness and health – Ideas for embedding knowledge and understanding of fitness and health in every lesson.

The front of each TOP Sport card contains the following:

- a brief description of the activity
- safety points
- suggestions for equipment
- think INC. advice.

The brief description should help teachers understand the activity and give information about numbers in teams and court sizes.

The safety points offer simple things to check to help provide a safe environment for children.

The list of equipment helps teachers see at a glance the essential equipment necessary for each game.

Think INC. stands for think inclusive. These panels offer specific advice for young disabled people or children who may be challenged by learning games.

TOP Sport now uses the four aspects of **National Curriculum 2000** on the back of the cards. These include:

- **Acquiring and developing skills**
- **Selecting and applying, skills and tactics**
- **Evaluating and improving performance**
- **Knowledge and understanding of fitness and health.**

Acquiring and developing skills list key teaching points to help children improve. Adaptations and variations are also offered in this section using the STEP format.

S Space
T Task
E Equipment
P People

Teachers can use the suggestions under these headings to vary games and to make them easier and harder and to include young disabled people.

Selecting and applying, skills and tactics and **evaluating and improving performance** offer simple ideas for questions that teachers could use to help children develop in these areas.

Knowledge and understanding of fitness and health is covered in two ways. There is a panel on each card offering one outcome that could be achieved with the activity. There is also a separate card which gives ideas that could be incorporated into any of

the activities in the TOP Sport Net and Wall Games.

Contact: Youth Sport Trust, tel: 01509 226600, www.youthsporttrust.org.

FAMOUS PEOPLE WHO PLAYED TABLE TENNIS

No new material unless the fact that former England international and now successful football agent Skylet Andrew is going out with actress Amanda Holden (Daily Mail, 25 April) fits the bill, so I lifted the following snippets from the February VETTS Newsletter:

Editor Brian Halliday had acknowledged Larry Hodges of the USA as the source.

“You know with Congress out of session, you should put a ping pong table here”. Josh in TV show “The West Wing”.

“They’re for another generation. I prefer more classic games like ping pong.” Paolo Maldini, member of the Italian World Cup football team.

“A golf bag is difficult enough to travel with, I can’t imagine to do it with a ping pong table.” Tiger Woods, when asked if he travelled with a ping pong table, so that he could play between rounds.

“They get into it too heated. If those guys are going to be like that in their matches as much as they do in table tennis, it’s going to be tough on the Europeans.” Scott Hoch of the US Ryder Cup team’s nightly table tennis matches, which included Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson and others.

ENGLAND WINS ALL EVENTS AT JUNIOR & CADET 6 NATIONS TOURNAMENT, CARDIFF

England players won all events at the **6 Nations Junior & Cadet tournament** held at the **Welsh National Training Centre**, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, 29th/30th March.

Results:

Boy’s under 18 team: 1st England, 2nd Wales

Boy’s under 15 team: 1st England, 2nd Scotland

Girl’s under 18 team: 1st England, 2nd Wales

Girl’s under 15 team: 1st England, 2nd Wales

Boy’s under 18 singles (from semi-finals): Bryn Drinkhall (Eng) bt Stephen Gertsen (Wal) 11-4, 11-3,

11-2. Adam Bleakley (Eng) bt Peter Cleminson (Eng) 9-11, 5-11, 11-5, 11-9, 11-8.

Final: Bryn Drinkhall (Eng) bt Adam Bleakley (Eng) 11-8, 11-13, 12-10, 14-12.

Boy’s under 15 singles (from semi-finals): Darius Knight (Eng) bt Liam Thomas (Wal) 11-5, 11-6, 12-14, 11-5. Paul Drinkhall (Eng) bt Tim Yarnall (Eng) 17-15, 12-14, 11-3, 6-11, 11-8.

Final: Paul Drinkhall (Eng) bt Darius Knight (Eng) 11-6, 13-11, 11-8.

Girl’s under 18 singles (from semi-finals): Kate Steward (Eng) bt Karim Eggar (Sco) 11-4, 11-5, 11-8. Abigail Embling (Eng) bt Laura Hall (Wal) 11-9, 11-9, 11-4.

Final: Abigail Embling (Eng) bt Kate Steward (Eng) 11-8, 5-11, 11-6, 11-5.

Girl’s under 15 singles (from semi-finals): Lauren Springthorpe (Eng) bt Jenny Galloway (Sco) 11-6, 8-11, 11-4, 11-9. Lauren Spink (Eng) bt Sarah Hall (Wal) 11-6, 11-3, 11-8.

Final: Lauren Springthorpe (Eng) bt Lauren Spink (Eng) 13-11, 7-11, 4-11, 11-8, 11-9.

GEORGINA WALKER & PETER CLEMINSON WIN ENGLISH NATIONAL JUNIOR MASTERS

17 year olds Georgina Walker (Kirby in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire) and Peter Cleminson (Brentwood, Essex) confirmed their new status as top girl and boy in England, by winning the **English National Junior Masters competition**, played at **Cippenham Table Tennis Centre**, Slough on 5th/6th April.

The clean hitting and cool Georgina Walker was unbeaten in retaining the **Girls’ Singles title**, being given perhaps her hardest fight, **11-8, 11-7, 13-15, 13-11**, by 14 year old Kelly Sibley (Leamington Spa), with whom she has just returned from representing **England senior women in the European Championships in Italy**. The big-topspinning Sibley had clinched very tight but important wins over Kate Steward (Taunton, Somerset), **7-11, 11-6, 11-4, 2-11, 11-8** and Karen Shepherd (Cheshire), **9-11, 11-9, 11-8, 8-11, 13-11** to secure 3rd place, behind national junior champion, Joanna Parker (Chertsey, Surrey), 15, to whom she lost, **10-12, 11-9, 4-11, 5-11**.

Parker, also just returned from the **European Championships**, was chop returning the ball a little short (in length) and was comfortably beaten by Walker. She also suffered a, **11-9, 8-11, 5-11, 2-11**, loss to former national junior champion, Kate Steward, who has reverted to an all-round style, but won her other matches.

Despite being trounced, **6-11, 4-11, 7-11**, by the powerful Cleveland boy, Bryn Drinkhall, and surviving an epic, **6-11, 11-8, 9-11, 13-11, 17-15**, encounter with Stephen Denny (Yorkshire), the two-wing top-spinning Peter Cleminson ended a fairly comfortable winner of the **Boys' Singles**. The runner-up, the tenacious Tim Yarnall (Rushden, Northamptonshire), 15, had good wins over Bryn Drinkhall, Paul Drinkhall and Darius Knight (Surrey), but fell unexpectedly fell to David Meads (Durham), as well as losing to Cleminson and Greg Baker (Warwickshire). 14 year old Manchurian, Adam Bleakley (Lancashire), ranked only 11 in England, also had a great tournament, finishing third with wins over higher ranked juniors Bryn Drinkhall, Paul Drinkhall, Greg Baker and Darius Knight.

Top 10 Final Positions:

Girls: 1 – Georgina Walker (Ng); 2 – Joanna Parker (Sy); 3 – Kelly Sibley (Wa); 4 – Kate Steward (So); 5 – Gemma Chapman (Bu); 6 – Karen Shepherd (Ch); 7 – Claire Wilson (Du); 8 – Lauren Springthorpe (Li); 9 – Sarra Wang (E); 10 – Gemma Yarnley (K).
Boys: 1 – Peter Cleminson (E); 2 – Tim Yarnall (Np); 3 – Adam Bleakley (La); 4 – Bryn Drinkhall (Cv); 5 – Darius Knight (Sy); 6 – Greg Baker (Wa); 7 – Paul Drinkhall (Cv), 8 – Shaun Marples (Dy); 9 – Stephen Denny (Y), 10 – David Meads (Du).

PAUL DRINKHALL & KELLY SIBLEY WIN ENGLISH NATIONAL CADET MASTERS

13 year old Paul Drinkhall (Loftus, Cleveland) and 14 year old Kelly Sibley (Leamington Spa, Warwickshire), were unbeaten in winning the **Boys' and Girls' Singles** respectively, played at the **Cippenham Club**, Slough, on 12th/13th April.

Drinkhall, showing far greater composure and confidence than at the **Junior Masters** the previous weekend, turned on his power and flair to comfortably retain his title, defeating his nearest rival Tim Yarnall (Northamptonshire), the national cadet champion, **11-9, 5-11, 11-9, 11-6**. Despite being closely challenged by Bradley Evans (Nottinghamshire) and David Hayes (Buckinghamshire), Yarnall lost only to Drinkhall and came runner-up (he also was runner-up a week ago in the junior boys' competition), for the send year running. Darius Knight (Surrey), 13, who lost only to Drinkhall and Yarnall, came third.

Kelly Sibley deployed her athletic loops for even greater dominance in the **Cadet Girls' Singles**, being extended only once – by Sarah Parks (Nottinghamshire) – to a deciding game, and finishing strongly to overcome Lauren Springthorpe (Lincolnshire), the runner-up, **9-11, 11-8, 11-9, 11-2**. Springthorpe lost just this once, but scrapped through **9-11, 13-11, 4-11, 11-7, 15-13** against Jordyn Layfield (Cheshire) in one of the closest clashes of the competition. The sharp fore-hand hitting Sarra Wang (Essex) came third, immediately above combination bat player Gemma Yarnley (Kent)(who had the same match average), by dint of overcoming the latter, **11-9, 11-13, 9-11, 11-6, 13-11**. The deciding game could gone to either player, Wang leading 9-5, Yarnley then taking 5 consecutive points to hold a match point, but Wang keeping her nerve to win on 'deuce'.

Top 10 final positions:

Boys: 1 – Paul Drinkhall (Cv); 2 – Tim Yarnall (Np); 3 – Darius Knight (Sy); 4 – David Meads (Du); 5 – Bradley Evans (Ng); 6 – Daniel Reed (Cv); 7 – Christopher Lewis (Sy); 8 – David Hayes (Bu); 9 – Ben Barlow (Ys); 10 – Darren Reid (Dv).
Girls: 1 – Kelly Sibley (Wa); 2 – Lauren Springthorpe (Li); 3 – Sarra Wang (E); 4 – Gemma Yarnley (K); 5 – Sarah Perks (Ng); 6 – Anusha Seneviratne (K); 7 – Melanie Farquhar (Bk); 8 – Jordyn Layfield (Ch); 9 – Sophie Byron (Ch); 10 – Sally Smith (Dv).

INTERNATIONAL 24 HOURS TOURNAMENT

7th/8th June, Chambon Feugerolles, France

An **international 24 hours non-stop team event** (teams of 2 and 3) tournament is being held in **Chambon Feugerolles** (near Saint-Etienne in the Loire, 74 km from Lyon). The venue is: Guy gymnasium and Alain, Street Benoit Fourneyron, 42500 Chambon-Feugerolles 04 77 89 21 59. For further information, contact **David Varillon**, 47, Street Pasteur, 42500 Chambon Feugerolles, tel. 06 82 97 86 03 or 04 77 61 18 95 but hurry, because places are filling up fast!

CIPPENHAM JUNIOR 2 STAR OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS (19.4.03) By Graham Trimming

The host club's duo David Hayes and Caroline Linz were the winners at the **Cippenham Junior 2 Star Open Table Tennis Championships** on Easter Saturday. This is the fourth year

in a row that both titles have remained at **Cippenham** and one has to look back to the first running of the tournament in 1997 for the only time that the **Girls' Singles** has eluded the **Slough-based club**.

The final of the **Boys' Singles** was contested by the top two seeds with Hayes coming from a game down to wrest the title from Marc Armstrong. After winning his preliminary round group Hayes beat Lee Mullett, Cippenham colleague Ashley Shaw and, in the semi-final, Michael Harvey to set up the final showdown with Armstrong, another player who trains at Cippenham. After winning his group, Armstrong beat Andrew Gross, Alex Kearley and Chris Buck. Ashley Shaw was joined in the quarter-finals by his brother Oliver but he became a victim of Harvey.

In the **Girls' Singles**, Caroline Linz took her first title by beating surprise finalist Carley Roper. Roper had a good win in the quarters over Sarah Hubbard and then dismissed Lisa Standen in the semis. Linz defeated Alison Woodland in her semi after the Sussex girl had secured an unexpected win over home player Sylvana Bielec. Bielec had also lost her second-seed position when beaten by Standen in the preliminary group.

There was more joy for the home club when 10-years' old Katie Rule won the **Girls' Consolation** in an all-Cippenham battle with the more established Jenny Hansell. Rule had also beaten another older Cippenham player, Catherine Hayes, brother of the boys' champion, in the semi-final. The **Boys' Consolation** went to John McBeath of Hampshire.

The tournament was organised by Terry Boxall and refereed by Mick Strode.

Results of finals:

Boys' Singles: David Hayes (Bu) bt Marc Armstrong (Mi) -9, 7, 4, 5
Girls' Singles: Caroline Linz (Bu) bt Carley Roper (So) 6, 4, 3
Boys' Consolation: John McBeath (Ha) bt Andrew Merrick (Gs) 9, -9, 13, 7
Girls' Consolation: Katie Rule (Bu) bt Jenny Hansell (Bu) 6, 7, -2, 7



Pictured above are Caroline Linz and David Hayes, the winners at the Cippenham Junior 2 Star Open.

COUNTY NOTES

- A look around the
Country

Issue No. 293
May 2003

CHESHIRE by Alan Blears

Junior County Championship

The junior first team made a valiant effort to regain the **Premier Division title**, but had to be content with the **runners-up spot**. Still, national runners-up can't be bad, can it? Well done Karen Shepherd, Liz Dennett, Clare Langford, Danny Horner, Tom Page, Neil Powell and Aaron Beech.

National Cadet League

More success here, with the team of Hayley Parker, Jordyn Layfield, Sophie Byron and Jonathon Taylor winning the **North of England section**. Well played guy and gals!

Stiga Hyndburn Junior Grand Prix

As you see from the above, one of the reasons for **Cheshire's current junior success** is the strength of its **girl squad**. The conveyor belt is still churning out new ones as well, in the shape of Stockport's formidable trio of Jenny Dinsdale, Emma Kelly and Caroline Hallows, aged 10, 11 and 12 respectively – and there are others in the pipeline too, folks.

These three certainly found it worth their while to enter the last of the **Stiga Hyndburn tournaments**, going home with bundles of cash and vouchers. Gaining just reward for playing in every one of the series was Caroline Hallows, who was overall winner of

both **Under 13 and Under 15 girls' events** as well as gaining a lot of dough.

Thanks again to Tony Meredith and his team, and also to the generous sponsors, Stiga and Bill Thornton: £80, for example, in cash and vouchers is a lot of money to a 10 year-old!

Up there with these three was the Wirral's mini tornado, Sophie Byron, to complete the following line-up, with their finishing positions:-

Under 13 Girls: 1 - Caroline Hallows, 2 - Jenny Dinsdale, 3 - Emma Kelly
Cadet Girls: 1 - Caroline, 2 - Sophie, 3 - Jenny, 4 - Emma
Junior Girls: 3 - Caroline, 4 - Sophie, 8 - Jenny and Emma

It was Mother's Day, so I hope they bought their mums something good! Don't you think there should be a Coaches' Day?

Six Nations

Congratulations to Liz Dennett on being selected to play in the **Six Nations tournament – for Ireland** (don't ask!), where she reached the quarter-finals.

Regional Squad Tournament

Congratulations again to Jenny Dinsdale and to Katie Bevan (both **Under 11**), to Caroline Hallows, Jordyn Layfield and Fiona Dennett, with Emma Kelly as reserve (all **Under 13**), on being picked to represent the **North West** in the forthcoming **inter-region tournament**.

Knutsford Senior Mixed 2 Star

Super Group: W – John Hilton, R/U – Kevin Beadsley
Group One: W – James Brown, R/U – Dave Hamilton
Group Two: W – Anthony Whelan, R/U – James Eaton
Group Three: W – Daniel Damman, R/U Mark Davies
Group Four: W – Tim Weardon, R/U Andrew Davies

Stop Press

A brilliant weekend for Karen Shepherd in the **Newcastle Butterfly Grand Prix** winning the **Under 21s** with a first-ever win against Natalie Bawden and being runner-up in the **Women's Singles** to Barbara Kiss, after another first-ever win against Louise Durrant. Great show, Phoebe!

DERBYSHIRE by Colin Deaton

The Matlock and District League featured their **annual league finals** at the **Cromford Community Centre**.

Some thrilling table tennis was witnessed with the **Men's Singles** being won by Steve Porter who overcome Paul Walker. Earlier Walker had defeated the favourite and defending champion, Geoff Gill.

As expected Jane Vickers emerged as the **women's champion** but was made to fight all the way by Pat Thorley, who was making a return back to the game after a six month lay off due to illness. Her husband, Mick, kept the Thorley flag flying by winning the **Over 55 Singles**, a new competition in the memory of the late ex-League Secretary Stan Taylor, defeating Mick Padley in the final.

Full winners were: **Men's Singles** – Steve Porter, **Women's Singles** – Jane Vickers, **Men's Doubles** – Geoff Gill and Paul Walker, **Veterans' Singles** – Geoff Gill, **Over 55s** – Mick Thorley, **Second Division Singles** – Steve Willison, **Under 12 Singles** – George Benton, **Under 21 Singles** – Duncan Litchfield, **Under 14 Singles** – Andrew Mottershead, **Handicap Singles** – Steve Porter.

It is hoped that Nicola Deaton and Alex Perry will be available to present all the awards at a presentation night held in May.

Derby's Emma Vickers continues to develop her talents and is most certainly the most exciting prospect the Derby area has produced for several years. Next season I feel the small, diminutive Derby schoolgirl will make her presence felt in **national junior competitions**. She has already played, with success, for the **Derbyshire junior teams in the National County Championship**.

Meanwhile, the **Derby League** staged their **second junior school's friendly tournament** at the **Mackworth College** and it seemed to be enjoyed by all ages varying from eight years and upwards.

Mackworth are enjoying a mid-table position in the **National Cadet League** and this area also possesses one or two very strong young junior boys. The player that really caught my eye from Derby earlier this year was 16 year-old Adam Frost. With a combination of good technique and tremendous power he is my tip for the top and will be a superb number two behind Chesterfield's Shaun Marples next season in the **Derbyshire junior team**.

Another grant has been obtained by the **Derby League** from the **Single Regeneration Budget** for the coaching work to continue in the **inner city schools**. This proves that the Derby League intend to keep talent spotting in their neck of the woods.

Chesterfield's good fortunes continue in that both their juniors in the **Carter Cup** and their cadet team in the

Johnny Leach Cup are in the **national finals**. In addition to this, the **Staveley Club** have run away with the **East Midlands Cadet League** and also in contention to win the **National Junior League**, and are to have the last two weekends of the season played at the Staveley venue. This **12 table venue** of the **Staveley Club** is now in big demand in table tennis circles. They have **20 teams** in the **local league** with even more planned for next season and plans already in the pot for a full-time table tennis centre.

Under the direction of ETTA Vice-Chairman, Sandra Deaton, the club operates 3 nights per week with day courses every school holiday and half term. Said Sandra Deaton **“we have 60 members with some very promising under 10s and one exceptional 8 year-old girl who could equal the performances of Nicola Deaton in the future”**. Visits from Alan Cooke, Nicola Deaton and Alex Perry in one-to-one coaching sessions the club has some **6 young players** in the **cadet or junior ranking lists**. Top player in the cadet team is Allan Fullwood with William Cooney their top junior. The club’s strength for the future lies in their **9 and 10 year-olds**. They will be in action at the **Doncaster Dome** in the **National Championships** at the **under 10, 11 and 12 age groups**.

How good it was to see Michael Isherwood actually playing table tennis again. Apparently Michael still continues to play abroad but does not play in any domestic events. Michael plans to marry in the future and currently they are purchasing a new home in the Bolsover area and as Michael says it overlooks the Castle. His lady, of course, is no stranger to table tennis as she was a regular in the Spanish ladies side.

Finally, to a lot of table tennis followers in Derbyshire it was no surprise to see Alan Cooke emerge as the new **English Closed champion** again. Alan was fantastic and thoroughly deserved his crown and the level of vocal support in this final was unbelievable and rarely witnessed in our game in this country. Well done **“Cookie”**, you deserve it.

Sadly Nicola Deaton made an early exit. She was only a shadow of her former self and it was apparent on the table that she lacked her usual sharpness and her concentration on her studies took its toll.

DEVONSHIRE by John Vincent

Senior Premier Weekend

After gaining only 1 point from their first 3 matches with a weakened side the county looked set for the drop.

However, with our full strength team of Craig Bryant, Paul Whiting, James Whiteman, Mike Short, Marketa Myskova and Elaine Short at the final weekend, the side saved our **Premiership status with 3 wins and a draw**.

The team started brilliantly with a **7-3 victory over eventual champions Essex**. Bryant and Whiting won 2 each plus good support from Mike and Elaine Short and Myskova recording a win a-piece. Losing to Natalie Bawden was the only defeat that Marketa suffered all weekend.

Devonshire maintained their good form with a **6-4 win over Sussex**. Bryant and Myskova recorded maximums with Whiting and Elaine taking 1 each.

The Sunday morning brought a **5-5 draw with Yorkshire**. Craig 2, Marketa 2 and Elaine 1 scored our points.

The team finished in **third place** after a **7-3 victory over Surrey**. Marketa defeated the highly rated Joanna Parker **15-13** in the fifth end to record another maximum. Whiting 2, Bryant 1, Mike and Elaine won 1 each. A wonderful weekend was marred by a finger injury to Craig forcing him to concede his match with Michael Chan. What rotten luck for the Devon no. 1 after he had been in such devastating form all weekend.

National Junior League – Plymouth

Rounds 3 and 4 of this popular competition have now been completed and the **final league tables** are as follows:-

<u>Division 1</u>	Points
Charlesdale	123
Ilfracombe	100
Harris Mill ‘A’	88
Yealmpstone	81
Penryn College	70
Ivybridge ‘A’	65
Woolwell ‘A’	54
Exmouth	42
Ivybridge ‘B’	20
<u>Division 2</u>	Points
Harris Mill ‘B’	93
Ivybridge ‘C’	77
Exe ‘B’	72
Exe ‘A’	63
Woolwell ‘B’	52

It was pleasing to note that a large proportion of players in **Division 2** were girls.

ESSEX by Steve Kerns

County champions after a nine-year break

The Essex Senior first team of Cris Sladden, Lorestas Trumpauskas, Clive Carthy, Gary Tendler, Natalie Bawden and Lucy Wang took the prestigious **County Championships Senior Premier Division title** at the Grantham Mears Leisure Centre at the weekend in a desperately close division where as many as six teams were in danger of being relegated going into the last round of matches.

Sunday morning’s opponents Sussex who hadn’t been out of the top two places in the last four years were expected to provide tough opposition and they didn’t disappoint. Their no. 1 player Ritchie Venner seemed to get better and better as the match progressed and blocking in the Desmond Douglas mould (this really isn’t an unfair comparison on this occasion) he scored two superb wins, beating both Trumpauskas and Sladden **3-1**. With Sussex no. 3 Peter Bartram having beaten Clive Carthy in the first match Essex were always struggling and a **3-0 win** for Sussex no. 2 Rosemary Rainton over Lucy Wang added to the Essex woe, as Lucy had won this clash last season. Natalie Bawden again came to the rescue as she beat Sally Weston **3-0** to leave the score **5-4** to Sussex. The last game between Peter Bartram and Trumpauskas would effectively play a major part in the outcome of the whole weekend. A draw would leave Essex possibly only needing to score three games in their last match against Middlesex whilst a win for Sussex would give them an outside chance of the runners-up spot. This match was understandably tense throughout as fluent top-spinner Bartram matched his higher-ranked opponent over the first four ends. Fortunately for Essex it was Trumpauskas, one of the most experienced players on the circuit who found that little bit of extra pace on his backhand when he needed it most. He came through **11-7** in the final game. Not one of Lorestas’s best ever displays but from the Essex team’s perspective one of the most important.

After the last ball had been hit the Essex team had time to reflect on a tough couple of days. There could be little doubt that the title had been won back in November when Essex had played superbly to win all three of their matches. In the end 11 points out of 14 had been enough to take the Championship. There was another sting in the tail as well; when Sussex (who went into the Sunday Morning matches with an outside chance of taking second place) **lost 6-4** to Yorkshire and found

themselves relegated. It had been that close.

HAMPSHIRE by Jeremy Wilson

Brothers John and David McBeath landed a rare double at the **Hampshire Schools' Table Tennis Championships** held at the **Admiral Lord Nelson School, Portsmouth.**

David, from Nursling Primary School in Southampton, took the **under 11 title** in straight sets by beating Ringwood's Lloyd Jameson in the final.

But not to be outdone by his younger sibling, John, who attends Mountbatten School in Romsey, repeated the feat in the **under 13 singles** against Portsmouth's William George.

The duo train at the successful **Southampton West Table Tennis Club** and team-mates David Wills, Greg Jones, Nicola Dunkason of Mountbatten School, Romsey, with Phillip Manning of Nursling Primary and Alistair Jones of King Edwards all reached the quarter-final and semi-final stages of their events.

Sarah Warwick (Mountbatten) also had a good day to come runner-up in the **under 13 girls' event** to Gosport's Annabelle Moore.

In the **under 19 boys' championships** Barton Peveril's Glenn Wilshere used his powerful forehand to good effect as he beat Basingstoke's county junior champion Alex Garlick **12-10, 11-8, 11-8** in a high quality final.

The **under 16 boys** was another exciting event with Portsmouth players dominating proceedings.

In the first semi-final Mayfield School's Michael Gibbs beat Portchester's Ashley Willietts **11-6, 8-11, 11-7, 12-10** to set up a final with team-mate Connor Shipp who had earlier beaten Paulsgrove's Lee Wilson.

With both players knowing each other's game well, the final was a titanic match which Gibbs eventually shaded **15-13, 12-14, 11-3, 9-11, 11-9.**

The other Portsmouth winner of the day was Heather George in the **girls' under 19 event.**

The **under 11 girls' event** also saw a close fought finish with Lauren Owen of Wildground Junior School, Southampton, beating Becky House of Holbury Junior School, Southampton, **3-1** in the final.

Generation II completed victory in the **Southampton Table Tennis League**, while ageless Hampshire county veteran Ramesh Bhalla helped the **Horsham national league team** to the **Division One title.**

HERTFORDSHIRE NOTES

Hertfordshire Junior Closed Table Tennis Championships 2002/3 held at Barnet Table Tennis Centre on Sunday 1st December 2002 by Mark Dare

The **2002/3 Hertfordshire Junior Closed Table Tennis Championships** saw an entry of **26 boys** and **10 girls**, a significant increase on last year. **Six singles events** (U12, U14 and U17) as well as **three doubles events** were keenly contested by players from all over the county.

Under 12 Girls' Singles:-

Abigail Moore (North Herts) beat Tamsin Holland (Barnet) **11-8, 11-7, 11-2.**

An evenly matched contest for the first two legs before Abigail's steady play and stronger nerve on the day saw her through.

Under 12 Boys' Singles:-

William Maybanks (Barnet) beat Nadav Karmazin (Barnet) **11-8, 11-1, 12-10.**

Some exciting attacking table tennis from William saw him prove to be a little too strong for Nadav, who was celebrating his 11th birthday on the day of the tournament.

Under 14 Girls' Singles:-

Aimee Potts (Barnet) beat Abigail Moore (North Herts) **7-11, 8-11, 11-4, 11-9, 12-10.**

Aimee gained revenge on Abigail, who had beaten her in both the **under 12** and the **under 17 events**, by the narrowest of margins in an excellent hard fought match.

Under 14 Boys' Singles:-

Ben Swart (Barnet) beat Alim Hirji (Barnet) **11-6, 11-9, 11-7.**

Ben defeated Alim for the second time in the day to secure the **under 14 title** with an outstanding display of power table tennis.

Under 17 Girls' Singles:-

Nikki Shah (Barnet) beat Abigail Moore (North Herts) **11-7, 11-0, 11-6.**

Nikki played with great skill and control to overcome 12 year-old Abigail, who was playing in her fourth final of the day.

Under 17 Boys' Singles:-

Ben Swart (Barnet) beat Andrew Forbes (Barnet) **7-11, 11-9, 13-11, 12-10.**

Notable results to the final included an excellent win by Chris Tye (SHAW) over the defending champion James Goodhead (SHAW) **4-11, 11-8, 12-10, 8-11, 11-6.**

The final saw an extremely close game with 14 year-old Ben Swart just pipping Andrew Forbes in 4 close games.

Under 17 Boys' Doubles:-

Andrew Forbes (Barnet) and Matthew Broughton (Barnet) beat James Goodhead (SHAW) and Chris Tye (SHAW) **11-8, 11-7, 6-11, 11-9.**

Andrew and Matthew looked to have the game under control until they slipped up in the third game but recovered to take a close fourth game to clinch the match.

Under 17 Girls' Doubles:-

Nikki Shah (Barnet) and Tamsin Holland (Barnet) beat Abigail Moore (North Herts) and Melanie Van Der Waals (Barnet) **4-11, 12-10, 11-9, 11-9.**

After a shaky start Nikki and Tamsin battled through a tight encounter to win a first title for Tamsin and second of the day for Nikki.

Under 17 Mixed Doubles:-

Nikki Shaw (Barnet) and Alim Hirji (Barnet) beat William Maybanks (Barnet) and Haylee Potts (Barnet) **11-6, 11-8, 13-15, 13-15, 11-7.**

Number one seeds, Nikki and Alim, started well winning the opening two games but then William and Haylee staged a spirited fightback winning the next two games at deuce. Nikki and Alim then managed to regain their composure to take the final game and a clean sweep of **under 17 events** for Nikki.

Many thanks are due to Tournament Organiser Brian Gale and Tournament Referee Doug Thomsett, who ensured the tournament ran smoothly and to time.

The standard of play throughout the day was of the highest standard and shows the development programmes in the county taking effect. With so many cadet players coming through, the future seems to be in good hands.

LEICESTERSHIRE by Derek Butt

In **Leicester Division One** the championship is going right to the wire as previously on 100% **Knighton Park** first string lost to second placed **Leicester Electricity 6-4.** I have no details at the time of writing, but it has certainly made it interesting now. **G.E. Sports** are relegated and look like being joined by **Goons.**

In **Division Two Leicester Electricity seconds** are promoted after the Craven-Griffiths family have had an exceptional season. **Thringstone** and **County Hall** are battling it out for second place along with **Leicester Taxes** and **Arnesby** who are still in with a chance. **Regents Sports** are relegated.

Leicester held its **Closed Championships** recently at **Rushey Mead** and a good weekend it turned out to be. Thanks to the hard work of the organisers, Peter Wilson and Tony Lapworth, and with help from others on the day.

Dave Grundy was the winner of the **Men's Singles** and the **Under 300 event** plus a hand in the **doubles title** with Andy Craven-Griffiths. Dave beat Alan Hewitt in both his **singles titles**.

The **Under 400 event** was won by Matthew Hobday beating the unlucky Alan Hewitt. In the **Cadets' event** Arshad Ibrahim, a very good prospect, showed his potential by taking the title with a win over James Morley. James did win the **Boys' event**.

The **Hinckley League** has been completed and the **Goons** retained the **Calor Gas Division One title** with Dave Tanner, John Reay, Jason Woodfield and Barry Robinson all playing well and not losing a match.

Nalgo 'A', also unbeaten, finished second with Ian Baxter finishing at the top of the averages unbeaten. **Hinckley Meths 'A'** player Mick Alsopp finished second also unbeaten, but having played a lot less than Ian. At the bottom of the table is **Caterpillar 'A'**.

In the **Terrivision Division Two Barlestone** are the champions having lost just one match. Norman Weaver finished first and Russell Pettitt fifth in the individual averages. **Caterpillar 'B'** just beat **Market Bosworth 'B'** to second place.

Hinckley are also running a **handicap individual knockout competition**. The **Hinckley Junior League** ably run by Dave Blaney had another successful season with many youngsters showing good progress. Mitchell Warner and Lyndon Seal finished at the top of the table three points clear of Naomi Saigal and Amy Price-Williams. Mitchell finished at the top of the individual averages.

NORFOLK by Ray Hogg

So another season passes by, time to take stock of the ups and downs and make arrangements for next season. Actual playing may stop, but not for the **County Committee** who will be in session deciding which teams to enter with some **guarantee** that these will be **full teams**. This season we have been **short** many times – a situation that cannot continue.

We now have enough players to field an **over 60s team** if they so wish – also the same applies to **cadets**. The main doubt is the **seniors** who despite having many very good players within the county, trying to find **3 men** and particularly **2 women** willing to travel has proved to be impossible. We never had this trouble years ago, even the

veterans do not seem to be as keen as in years gone by.

The **bright spot** is the **juniors** – many have improved noticeably during the season both in play and interest and Ray Gale has great hopes for the future, his main problem may be who to leave out.

Ian McLean and Lauren Spink continue to **dominate locally**, particularly Lauren who is so far ahead of the ladies and most of the men – if they played county we would be a lot better off, but they cannot be everywhere if there are clashes of dates.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE by Dennis Millman

Three hundred and fifty games, twenty four events and only three titles retained. That was the mix which provided tournament organiser Phil Slade with a full yet entertaining programme at the **fifty sixth Kettering Closed tournament**.

As usual the **Men's Singles** occupied pride of place with seven of the eight top seeds taking their appointed places in the quarter-finals. The exception was Chris Gibbons, who fell to the emerging talent of Sam Piranty who then failed to solve the problems posed by Alan Ashberry.

The eventual finalist Robert Williams was far from convincing in the early stages, surrendering two game leads to both Derek Muggleton and Henry Arthur before easing through in **fifth end deciders**.

Earlier Ashberry, that master craftsman of the hard bat technique, had negotiated all obstacles on his way to a **fourth hard bat title in seven years**. Later he carried forward his good form to lead Williams by two games only for the top junior to take the next three.

Meanwhile Ken Philipson, seeded no. 2, had failed to survive a tense battle with Chris Robertson, and it was the Corby player who had beaten Williams two days earlier, who contested the semi-final. Again Williams trailed but finally peaked at the right time to go into his **first senior final**.

In the other half of the draw Richard Elliott carried all before him until he met club colleague Steve Silk at the penultimate stage. Last year Elliott foundered at the same stage against team-mate Mark Nannery and he was determined not to allow a repeat performance. In a stirring encounter he went two games up before Silk saved a match point to take the next. Elliott could have won the fourth but Silk prevailed. In the decider Silk saved further match points before finally admitting defeat.

By contrast the final was a **low key affair**, for once Elliott had survived a

first end deuce, he was always in control and quickly **regained the title he had won twice before**.

It was not surprising that with Elliott and Silk paired together, one half of the doubles was almost decided, whereas Philipson and Steve Brown had to work hard to earn a place in the final. At one all and thirteen all it could have gone either way, but two points later the Elliott/Silk duo were on their way to **taking the title at their first attempt**.

In the **Ladies' Singles** Helen Watts despatched Clem Little with ease, but though Viv Smiley had more difficulty against Muriel Cox, it was the Thrapston player who called the shots to beat Watts in straight games and so retain the title. Smiley and Little then gained revenge for last year's defeat at the hands of Watts and Poorna Chaudhuri to take the **doubles title for the first time**.

Neith Elliott nor Smiley was destined to **win the traditional treble**, for in the **mixed event** Smiley and Adrian Ellmer disposed of Elliott and Cox, before themselves being well beaten by Little and Gerald Finney. Earlier the Finney/Little pairing had gone two games down to the brother and sister pairing of Martin and Helen Watts, but duly recovered to **regain the title they last won two years ago**.

Uniquely six players took the honours in the **veteran's section**. The main singles was enhanced by **three tremendous matches**, with Silk again getting the better of Philipson at deuce in the fifth, Gibbons' attack just too strong for Gordon Shaw, and then in the final, and contrary to recent form, Chris Gibbons edged out Silk to **take the title for the second time in three years**.

In the **Over 50s** Shaw gained an **11-9 fifth end decision** over Michael Edwards, but was then made to struggle by Philipson, who **took the title at the first attempt**. He and Geoff Atkinson then reached the final of the corresponding doubles, but went down to the combined efforts of Edwards and Shaw.

The **Over 40 Doubles** was always going to be difficult to call and this uncertainty was confirmed when the no. 1 seeded pair Edwards and Silk went out to Ashberry and John Fuller, and the no. 3 seeds Shaw and Brown were eliminated by Philipson and Dennis Millman. The no. 2 seeds Gibbons and Finney went out against Atkinson and Ian Sclater in five ends, and the winners went on to account for Ashberry and Fuller in a tremendous final. When Ashberry and Fuller took the **third end 18-16** to lead by two games to one it looked as if the unseeded pair was on its way to victory, but then the only established pair in the competition got

its act together to **take the remaining games and the title.**

Simon Jarvis mastered newcomer Keven Woodhead in the **Over 30s event** while at **Under 30 level** youth prevailed as David Gibbons put in a positive performance to beat Michael Clarke.

Junior events were won by Robert Williams, Sam Piranty, Simon Bushell, Lee Dilkes, Steve Broughton and Alex Eales, while at **senior level** additional honours went to Adrian Ellmer, Damian Carr, Broughton, Steve Smith, Peter Hill and Mark Pearson.

NORTHUMBERLAND by Pauline Long

The **county veterans' team** of "Benny" Robertson, Malcolm Lusk, Geoff Salter, Rob Dodds and Christine Robinson just failed to retain **Premier Division status** in their final series of matches at **Knutsford** over the weekend of **8th - 9th March**.

They scored a good **6-3 win over Sussex**, but **lost 2-7 to Lancashire** and **4-5 to both Surrey and Middlesex**. Malcolm, currently ranked 52, was outstanding in winning five out of eight singles, including a victory over Surrey's present English Closed champion Dave Harding, and two other top 25 ranked players. Together with "Benny" he was also unbeaten in all four **Men's Doubles**. Geoff had four singles wins and "Benny" two, while Christine excelled with a notable victory over Sussex's ranked no. 14 Sheila King.

Meanwhile, Pauline Long won her second successive **Women's Over 60s Singles plate event** at the **Northern Masters veterans' tournament in Blackpool**, beating Lancashire's Alwyn Burrough in the final. Malcolm reached the quarter-finals of the **Men's Over 40s Singles**, losing out to Kevin Beadsley, but in partnership with Kevin, reached the semi-finals of the **Over 40s Men's Doubles**. Geoff reached the quarter-finals in both the **Over 40 and Over 50 events**, going down to Derek Holman and Keith Williams.

The **Northumbria League season** was supposed to end during week commencing 31st March, but inevitably some matches are still outstanding, which may affect the final outcome, and a short extension may be granted. Current leaders are:

Premier Division: North Shields YMCA 'A'

Division 1: Newton 'A'

Division 2: Newcastle University 'A'

Division 3: Cramlington Trojans

Division 4: North Shields YMCA 'F'

SHROPSHIRE by Terry Ridgway

Telford's Tony Ackeroyd successfully defended his **county championship title** with a stunning **21-9, 21-14 final victory** over his Albrighton team-mate Dave Elkin. In a repeat of last season's epic, the county's best two players put on a superb display of attacking topspin table tennis, but the Stirchley based Shropshire no.1 always had the better final shots and the ability to block and counter hit the high loop drives of his opponent.

Ackeroyd did not drop a set on route to his third consecutive final, beating county veteran captain Terry Ridgway in the last sixteen and overcoming the challenges of Ludlow's Steve Brown and the highly experienced combination bat play of Norman Merchant **21-6, 21-15** in the semi-final.

Second seed Elkin had to battle all the way to beat Telford stars Keith Pritchard, Albrighton A team-mate Peter Fowell and a narrow **21-12, 26-24 victory** over Idsall's club coach Chris Tarr set up the final.

Idsall's 15 year-old Michelle Tarr had the **county committee** search the record book to confirm that she is the **youngest ever county ladies champion** as she stormed to the trophy with a non-stop display of power hitting and uncompromising smashes.

In a **round robin event** Michelle beat fellow Idsall junior Hannah Turner and dethroned two times county champion, Bridgnorth's Wendy Baggott **21-19, 21-16**.

The Albrighton club also took winners' trophies in the **open doubles section** as Ackeroyd and Peter Fowell cruised past last season's winners from Shrewsbury Mathew Croft and Dean Pountney **21-11, 21-17**.

With four of the top seeds crashing out in the early group stages, the **consolation plate** proved to be of the highest order as the left handed Shrewsbury Cricket Club B captain Dean Pountney triumphed against Lilleshall A's Mark Dixon **21-14, 21-10** in the final.

Telford Division One

Idsall A captured the **Division One trophy** after an unbeaten season. Their squad of Paul Fisher, county veteran Chris Tarr and highly rated juniors Andrew Gradwell, Joe Hurdley and Michelle Tarr look capable of defending the title for many years to come! **Albrighton B** finished in the **runner-up position** with last season's champs **Albrighton A** only managing third spot.

Relegated from the **top division** are **Bridgnorth C** after only one season and **GPO** who were very unfortunate to finish in the bottom two.

Promoted and **Division Two champions** in style are **Lilleshall A** – who have Don Fear, Kevin Crump, Mark Dixon and Sid Jones looking forward to their first season ever in the top flight.

Pushing to replace their **C side in Division One** are **Bridgnorth D** who need to win their games in hand well to claim second place.

Abbey C look favourites to win **Division Three** with **Mathesons C** and **Abbey C** in close contention.

Individual averages leaders in the **top division** are currently county no.1 Tony Ackeroyd followed by Malcolm Langford with John Holding, Andrew Gradwell, Chris Tarr and Terry Ridgway.

Shrewsbury League

This season's premier title went to last year's runners-up **Pontesbury A** who have a fiercely competitive side of town open champion Paul Corfield, veteran champion Rob Mansfield and Shrewsbury legend Darrel Corfield. Runner-up spot is a battle between **Cricket Club A** and **Cricket Club B** (Dean Pountney appears to be playing for both teams!). Fourth place in a tight pack are **Cricket Club C**.

The county veterans' teams both did well and finished equal third in **Division 4C** (with an identical record!). The interest generated within the county was immense and next season new signings' will include Telford's Tony Ackeroyd and Oswestry's Clive Roberts.

SUFFOLK by Andrew Doshier

As I write it is the end of March and a time largely when respective leagues across the country are having their closed championships, and local and national leagues are drawing to a conclusion.

The **Bury Championships** saw a group stage for the **men's singles** with the men's top four seeds getting to their place in the draw, including Mick Palmer & Ian Brown.

A special mention must go to Brian Richardson and Joanne Pettitt who got to the final of four events. Richardson certainly had a chance in the **men's singles final** eventually going down in five games to the author of this article. By the time he got to the final game in the **veterans' singles** he was suffering from muscle spasms and put on a great show nevertheless – just losing out to Ian Brown, again in the decider. Together with the author they reached the **men's doubles** in a hard fought final losing to David Unwin and Mick Palmer **3-1**. Richardson did win a title with Pettitt in the mixed. Joanne gets special credit for winning three titles,

also the **women's singles** in **round robin format** and the **women's doubles** with Karen de Vries.

Andrew Gross took out the **junior boys' singles** with a **3-0 win** over Aaron Self. Self did have something to smile about beating Ian Freeman from being **2-0** in the semi-finals in the **second division singles**, alas he lost the final in four sets to Robin Wallis. The **division three singles** were won by Ed Spencer **3-2** over Theo Williamson.

Gross took the **restricted singles** with a final win over Pettit **3-1**.

Ian Brown took out the **handicap singles** with a straight victory over Ray Stapleton.

In the **Ipswich Championships** four of the top eight seeds in the **men's singles** failed to win through. Two unseeded players in Lee Barnes and John Tallent fought a tough three ender with Barnes the winner in one quarter, while Wayne Shaw and Richard Hutchinson played a classic with Shaw saving match points before emerging victorious in another quarter.

In a wonderful final Warner eventually won the day over Shaw with some enterprising play away from the table as both players gave their all. This was Warner's first time in the final, while Shaw won this title back in 1998.

Vicky Gray took out the **women's singles** over Sonja Talbot 11 & 12. Talbot gained revenge teaming up with Susan Suckling in the doubles to beat Gray & Clapson. Shaw and Richard Ingle won the **men's doubles**. Gray and Warner both won a doubles in also adding to their singles titles with the **mixed** over Talbot & Hodder.

Hodder though gained a first ever win over Charles Fulcher in the final of the **veterans' singles**.

In the **restricted** and the **first division finals** Jimmy Farrow beat Paul Broxton.

Senior County Weekend

Congratulations to the **county first team** who have won promotion back to **division one**. Without either number one man or woman player for the first weekend, we still **won three** and **drew one**. The draw was with **Lincolnshire**, who also won their other games.

At the start of the last day we led the table by virtue of two more games won, but had to play the dangerous **Northants team** who were stronger on paper than on the first weekend. The run-in favoured Lincs, but as a team we all pulled our weight. Vicky Gray was superb as was Paul Cicchelli, both winning all their games. Vic Smiley for Northants gave Gray her hardest game losing in four sets, while Hertfordshire's Mike Boardman gave Cicchelli his hardest game as the **Suffolk number one** won 8 in the

decider. Richard Hutchinson deserves a special mention as he lost just one out of 12 games in this competition. The **second team** didn't fare so well but on the last day took a couple of rubbers off **Lincolnshire** to help the first team. Ian Brown was in splendid form and almost repeated his victory over **Wignall** in the **Wilmott Cup** as he led **2-0** before going down in what had to be the most exciting game of the day. Brown and Claire Emmerson each won a rubber here.

Juniors - County and National League events

In their first season in the **Junior British League**, the **Stowmarket team** of Lee Barnes, Andrew Gross, Martyn Cook, Sam Walker and Sam Shaw were placed in **Division 3A** with five other teams. Their highlight was getting a creditable draw against 2nd place at the start of play **Darlington** on the last weekend.

The **County Juniors** at start of play in their final weekend led their division with **Beds** and **Herts**. In the game with Beds, we led **5-4** with Gross to play for the match. Unfortunately for the county his opponent David Brightman **won 12-10** in the fifth, this was followed by a **6-4 loss** to Herts and an **8-2 win** over Hunts, which in effect left us in third position.

Next season with several juniors leaving the ranks, I'm told we will have a **cadet team** rather than a junior one.

It is pleasing to see a lot of talented juniors about, as Lee Barnes has had a lot of success at **banded cadet events** this season, and Rachael Stephens, Chelsea Bennett and Aimee Miscall are all coming on, while Peter Avenell reports that Josh Broadbent, a nine year-old, is showing lots of potential.

SUSSEX by John Woodford

Adrian Moore is the **new Sussex champion**, winning the crown for the **eighth time**. In a tense final at the Six Villages Sports Centre at Fontwell, he eased past Ritchie Venner **4, -8, -4, 3, 9**.

Adrian won the title **seven times** between **1981 and 1994** – his swashbuckling attack has varied little over the years.

Venner, going for his **ninth title**, said "The playing conditions at Fontwell are excellent, I shall be back again next year".

In the semis Venner defeated Nigel Eckersley and Moore stormed past the Worthing top-spinning veteran Peter Bartram.

Rose Rainton won her **seventh** Sussex crown **4, 5, 9** against Sarah Ciedman, although Sally Weston missed the tournament again.

Horsham have won promotion from **Division 1** of the **British League** to the **Premier Division**. Six men have been in action during the campaign – Andy Walker, Dominic Hall, Peter Bartram, Terry Haley, Ramesh Bhalla and Jeremy Wilson.

If the **Premier Division** is converted to **four weekends** instead of fourteen, Sunday's costs will be cut back, so Horsham may be able to afford to play in the top flight.

But they will need at least two of the star players who have been playing for **Darlington and Tunbridge Wells** if they are to stay up. The problem is – how many of the men who got them up, will want to play in the Premier?

Sussex under the **new ETTA regime** are likely to **change councillors** – Carol Beames will return in place of Dave Berriman, whose work commitments have made National Council difficult for him.

Ritchie Venner is the **new Hastings champion**, Stuart Hobden triumphed at **Eastbourne** and Wesley Bush-Harris finished as the top man at the **Brighton championships**.

Once again, I notice that even established writers like Steve Kerns are falling back into the parochial habit of using the dreadful word "**closed**" instead of championships. Once again, I stress that our rival sports **badminton and squash** have all eliminated this **parish pump term**. We must follow suit – take out "**closed**", it is nearly as bad as "**ping pong**"!

WARWICKSHIRE by Caroline Williams

Leamington Closed

Mark Woolerton has lifted the **Men's Singles title** for the third time in four years. At the **Leamington Closed Championships finals** held in March, Mark Woolerton climaxed the evening in the final **8/11, 11/5, 11/7, 11/8** against Mark Jackson, previously winning in 2000 and 2001. Mark Woolerton's path to the trophy had featured a semi-final against last year's champion Jon Williams which had gone to the wire **9/11, 11/7, 11/7, 11/13, 11/8**. Mark Jackson in the other semi-final booked his first ever **Men's Singles final** by defeating the 2000 and 2001 runner-up Andy Cockerill **11/8, 13/11, 11/8**.

Mark Woolerton also played against Jon Williams for the **Bombay Tandoori Grade 1 Singles** – with a very similar result **11/7, 11/8, 7/11, 7/11, 11/9** to give him the double of the **Grade 1** and the **Men's Singles**. This is a feat rarely achieved, with possibly the only other person to do it being Jas Singh in 1998.

The **Wright Hassall Ladies' Singles** provided an exciting 5-setter for the penultimate match before Leamington league newcomer Jane Dickens overcame Liz Haynes **17/15, 2/11, 11/5, 7/11, 11/6**.

Jane Dickens and Liz Haynes paired up to contest the **Ladies' Doubles** but were outpointed by sisters Tracey Fletcher and Julie Richardson **12/14, 5/11, 11/6, 12/10, 11/8**. Julie Richardson partnered Andy Cockerill to take the **Fragmere Properties Mixed Doubles** **11/8, 7/11, 13/11, 9/11, 11/8** against Liz Haynes and Jon Williams.

Earl Sweeney, runner-up last year in the **Veteran Singles**, went one better by successfully challenging Martyn Todd **11/8, 5/11, 11/9, 11/7**. One of the few to retain his title, Graham Hoskin repeated the 2002 final by seeing off Brian Aston **11/4, 3/11, 11/4, 11/4**.

Stephanie Hawkins has always played second fiddle to Kelly Sibley, who now set for international senior duty was only able to watch on finals night. Stephanie took the limelight, moving up from runner-up to champion in two competitions, defeating Charlotte Freeman in the **Under 15 Girls' Singles** **11/5, 11/7, 11/4** and older sister Ros Freeman in the **Junior Girls' Singles** **11/7, 11/5, 11/9**.

Edward Freeman took the **Under 15 Boys' Singles** overcoming Daniel Rowan **11/6, 11/5, 11/4** and also won the **Grade 4 Singles** against Daniel's mother Janice **11/5, 11/7, 11/7**. Daniel Rowan took the **Grade 3** by the narrowest of margins against Brett Medforth **9/11, 11/9, 11/6, 9/11, 13/11**. Younger brother Michael Rowan gained the **Under 13 Boys' Singles** against 2002 runner-up Luke Hobbins **14/12, 11/7, 9/11, 12/10**. The **Grade 5 Singles** saw Adam Cooper achieving a fine win over Derek Grover **11/1, 11/3, 11/7**.

Two lads had been very busy already with their team, Blessed George Napier, Banbury becoming **Under 19 champions** in the **English Schools' Table Tennis Association** national finals at Hinckley. Then Simon Nolan and Sam Clarke returned to Warwick to pick up the **Ford Motor Junior Doubles** against Matthew Cooper and Edward Freeman **11/9, 11/2, 12/10**. Simon Nolan gained the **Ford Motor Junior Singles** playing against team-mate Sam Clarke **11/3, 11/3, 11/4** and the **Grade 2 Singles** **11/9, 11/3, 17/15** against Tom Brocklehurst (in his first singles final). However Simon slipped up to Terry Smith in the **Piccolino's Pizzeria Youth Singles** **11/8, 3/11, 11/9, 10/12, 11/8**.

In the inaugural **Parent and Child Doubles** it was the Astons who gained the upper hand on the Coopers. Regular **Division 1** player Brian Aston encouraged his son Colin, a former

player, to join him in this fun event and the duo gained the title **11/8, 10/12, 11/7, 11/4**.

Presentations were made by John Ingram and Fiona Fairbairn (Wright Hassall). Carol Meredith and Bob Montgomery kindly umpired throughout the finals.

YORKSHIRE by Barry Snowden

Yorkshire Clubs Finals

The finals of the **men's and veterans' team events** were both held on the same night at the excellent **Dewsbury Table Tennis Centre**, once more organised splendidly by Brenda Hudson.

In the **men's events** holders Hull YPI faced Bramley Ebenezer while in the **over 40s event** Hull YPI were once more represented as they met Bradford Fastbats, and both matches proved to be thrillers.

In the **men's event** Tom Hughes gave Bramley an opening set lead when he beat Simon James **12-10, 15-13, 12-10**, but the YPI were soon ahead as firstly Scott Taylor scored a shock **11-7, 11-5, 11-6 victory** over Richard Smith which was followed by an **11-7, 11-6, 11-4 victory** by Michael James over Mark Land.

Smith levelled for Bramley with a **12-10, 11-8, 8-11, 11-5 success** over Simon James only for the elder James, Michael, to put the YPI ahead once again as he just beat off a determined challenge from Hughes **11-7, 6-11, 11-8, 10-12, 11-5** as YPI now led **3-2**.

The closest set of the match saw Land level for Bramley as he beat Taylor **9-11, 11-9, 9-11, 11-9, 11-9** only for Michael James to complete a fine maximum at the expense of Smith as he cruised to an **11-8, 11-4, 11-6 victory** to put the Hull side **4-3 ahead** and one set from victory.

The scheduled penultimate set of the match also proved to be a thriller as Simon James just held on to record a match winning success against the gutsy Land as James **won 11-8, 9-11, 9-11, 11-8, 11-9**.

The **veterans** saw Richard Priestley produce an inspired performance as his maximum, including a win over Mike Harrison, proved to be the decisive factor in the Bradford team's **5-3 victory**.

Two wins each from Priestley and team-mate Paul Bryant in the first five sets saw Fastbats establish a commanding **4-1 lead** and despite a mid-match rally which saw Clive Pollard beat Keith Bell and Harrison fight back from two games down to beat Bryant, it was man of the match Priestley who claimed victory for his side with an **11-7, 11-3, 12-10 victory** over Pollard.

The final set between the two players yet to get off the mark, Bell and Dave Bartlett, was therefore not needed.

Leeds Closed Championships

The sensation of the **Leeds Closed Championships** came in the **Men's Singles** as **Division Two** player, Phil Lowe, overcame three top-rated **Division One** opponents en-route to the final.

Lowe was not expected to progress further than his qualifying group, but he saw off the highly-rated Paul McCreith to take his place in the quarter-finals. Next up for Lowe was well-fancied **Men's Doubles** winner Paul Stephenson, but Lowe kept his head to once again defy the odds.

The semi-final seemed a formality for Lowe's second-seeded opponent, Keith Bell, but yet again Lowe's strong service and relentless attack took him through a deciding end encounter. The final proved too much for Lowe, but only just, as top seed Paul Sanderson needed a deciding end win to become **Leeds Men's Singles champion**.

Sarah Noutch retained her **Ladies' Singles title**, again leaving Bramley club mate Amanda Bell as runner up. In his third final of the day, Keith Bell lost out to doubles partner Paul Sanderson in the **veterans' event**.

The **junior events** were dominated by players from Bramley Ebenezer as Minesh Tanna reversed last season's final by defeating Chris Parker in the **boys' final**, while Amanda Bell finished undefeated in the **round robin girls' event**.

Victoria team-mates Paul Stephenson and Nigel Pennock had the better understanding in the **Men's Doubles final**, as they took the title against Paul Sanderson and Keith Bell. The young Bramley Ebenezer duo of Amanda Bell and Lee Orange beat the experienced Linda Sanderson and Keith Bell in the deciding end of the **Mixed Doubles final**.

The **handicap events** were a success for attacking **lower division** players, as **Division Six** junior player Daniel Fenteman won the singles and Chris Hodges and David Campbell took the doubles.

The following notes should have been included in the April TTN. Our apologies for the omission:

Keighley – A Success Story

One local league that has reversed the national decline in playing numbers is the West Yorkshire association of Keighley and District. In 1996 Keighley seemed to be heading into oblivion as they were no longer affiliated to the Yorkshire TTA and by

1997 they had one league with only eight teams and the same team had won the league for the previous five seasons.

League Secretary John Paul Dunn was joined on the committee by David Adams who soon became development officer and between them assisted by a number of willing volunteers they have transformed the Keighley League. They rejoined the Yorkshire fold and their first action was to introduce a non league players competition and they went about this in a novel way.

Adams took posters to local filling stations and after receiving permission attached them to petrol station doors. The same posters were left at newsagents which simply said "Wanted Table Tennis Players. Must be between 10 and 70 years old". With the help of about a month's free advertising on local radio station, Fresh AM, they were able to hold a 60 player tournament of non league players and through this tournament they were able to introduce 7 new teams to the league.

The next step was to introduce some coaching into the area. They now have regular coaching in the four regions of the district. The area is set up in a novel way as Keighley is on the gateway to the Yorkshire Dales and it was decided to set a compass on Keighley Town Hall and radiate 15 miles in each direction to decide the outer boundary. With many villages scattered around the dales the next attempt was to convert village halls into venues which proved a success.

Table Tennis was generated in the district thanks to two lottery sports for all grants as tables, etc were bought and spread around small village halls where interest had been shown, and in the meantime the demise of the nearby Lancashire leagues in Colne and Nelson brought some fresh blood into Keighley to play. Due to the fine work shown by the Keighley officials and the influx of new players the standard of play in the league had rocketed by 2000 with many local league players using Keighley as the second league they chose to play in during the season. This season sees 3 divisions of 10 teams playing in the Keighley League whilst their representative teams are performing with distinction as their men's team has won the Yorkshire league, with the juniors and veterans still unbeaten well after the halfway stage of the campaign.

Major driving force JP Dunn recognises that the league cannot rest on its laurels and work goes on. Pockets of young players are being coached throughout the region and as well as practice they are all involved in a weekend junior league. The league is confident of being able to introduce a 4th division next season.

It is also hoped to appoint a specialist table tennis coach to work in schools. In a recent survey, table tennis had come out top as the most popular sport wanted by the area schools.

The more established youngsters are involved in the British Junior League and often attend open tournaments and more and more older players from the league are also playing British League, Grand Prix and Veterans tournaments. The league now has around 120 registered players and has two schools who have table tennis clubs each around 30 strong. Their closed championships attracted an entry of 60 players.

JP Dunn and David Adams deserved immense credit for what they have achieved in such a short time but would not like to forget the efforts of local volunteers such as Steve Rutherford and Peter Holbrook.

For more information about the Keighley League please contact John Paul Dunn 01535 600310 or David Adams 01535 637453

MUHR'S MEMO: Information Officer Messages from Ken Muhr

Matthew Syed made much of the table tennis news over the month. His **Times feature of 18th April described how and why he was practising with speed glue** on his forehand as, 'one last-ditch...attempt to qualify for the (Olympic) Games', a theme that was picked up by John Woodford in the Daily Telegraph. Matthew also got a feature in The Times (19th April) on snooker's Stephen Henry, coinciding with the start of the Embassy World Championships at **The Crucible, Sheffield**, on which he (Matthew) was commentating for British Eurosport. Matthew also slipped into the article the fact that the **Continental Masters table tennis event (with Boll, Samsonov and himself competing) was being held at the same venue on 9th August, and being filmed by BBC TV.** During the snooker world championships, Matthew actually got himself filmed by the **BBC for two long plugs** for the Continental Masters table tennis (hotline: 0114 2496000)! He has also been **interviewed on BBC Radio 5 Live and Talk Sport** about the event.

The **European Championships** in Italy, and particularly **Andrew Baggaley's performances**, achieved some shorts in The Daily Telegraph (John Woodford), The Times and the Daily Express. **John Woodford** also got a few pieces published on the **ETTA election result**, while in **The Times (9th April), a triumphant John Goodbody** gloated over the **unseating of Alan Ransome** and repeated some unsubstantiated allegations.

While John Woodford has mentioned directly that the **Liebherr World Individual Table Tennis Championships are still to go ahead in Paris from 19-25 May, despite SARS** (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), this fact has also been referred to (including by Richard Eaton) in several newspaper reports on the **postponement**, owing to SARS, by the International Badminton Federation of the **World Badminton Championships**, due to have been held in Birmingham from 12-18 May. It is perhaps also worth recording that the table tennis championships is the bigger event, having 700 players from 116 countries, as opposed to 300 plus players from 48 countries for the badminton. However, our sympathy should be with our English colleagues in badminton – we too would have been devastated if a big event to be staged here had been cancelled. The Observer Sport Monthly (May), by the way, has published a rare preview on the Paris World TT Champs.

I believe that **Darius Knight** has appeared again on a BBC children's TV programme, because they asked me for background information on him. Table tennis and *The Mighty Walzer* were again mentioned in a large (two page) Daily Telegraph feature (12th April) on, 'our funniest, most overlooked, most furious living writer', **Howard Jacobson**. Howard has also been filmed for a BBC 4 feature on table tennis, which has not been broadcast yet, while there are still plans to make a full length film of 'his semi-autobiographical book, *The Mighty Walzer*.

Readers may already be aware that the **ETTA** is developing a **new website** to come live at the end of May with **SportFocus**, who already give table tennis good coverage on www.sportfocus.com

A report published on www.sportcal.com stated that '**sports broadband service users are to rise 543 per cent by 2008**'. Although traditional broadcasters with major sports rights will benefit most from broadband revenue streams, according to report author, Rachael Church, a market will emerge for less popular or niche sports that are unable to gain television carriage. '**Delivering sport through broadband will be a saviour for sports unable to reach their fans through traditional means.**'

Finally, please be advised that the **ETTA internet server cannot currently reach people with e-mail addresses with 'AOL' and 'compuserve'**. In other words, those of us at Hastings headquarters cannot e-mail those of you who have these addresses.

TANG JINN FENG & BARBARA KISS NORTHERN STARS

AN all Chinese Mens Singles final provided a large crowd with a thrilling finale at the 3rd Newcastle Grand Prix. The Eldon Square Leisure Centre is a top class venue with superb lighting and it got the quality match it deserved.

Italian based Yang Min had been expected to dominate the event but the much younger Welsh based Tang Jinn Feng toppled the number one seed in a nailbiting fifth set. Yang Min looked to have stepped up a to top gear as his penhold forehand smash took him 2-1 up in sets.

However Tang was his equal in the fourth, levelling the match and then sneaking home 11-9 in the fifth. It was a match of world class quality.

Bradley Billington had seemed to be the main English hope but he was surprisingly beaten in the first round by Welsh veteran Steve Hall.

Steven Bailey had knocked out seeds Eddie Smith and Matt Kenny, and with Gergely Urban an absentee, the young Ormesby player found himself in the semis. For awhile it looked as though there may be a hope of English success, but eventually Tang was too strong. Yang Min powered past the other Welsh based Chinese Wang Ran, whose defensive skills couldn't cope with the non stop barrage of forehand smashes.

Barbara Kiss repeated her group win over Karen Shepherd with comfortable 3-0 final victory in the Womens Singles. However the Cheshire girl had a good tournament, having beaten Louise Durrant in the semi-finals and also

beating top seed Natalie Bawden to win the Womens Under 21 Singles. Shaun Marples took the Mens equivalent with a five set win over Steven Bailey.

As usual the banded events proved both popular and competitive. Scotland's Gillian Edwards was the only top seed to succeed winning the Band 1 Womens with a final win over local junior Claire Wilson. The Durham Girl also filled the runner up slot in the Band 2, losing to Andrea Harrison(La). Helen Parton made the long journey from Devon worthwhile to win the Band 3. She defeated Joanne Meads (Du) who had beaten top seed Lorna Harper(Ch).

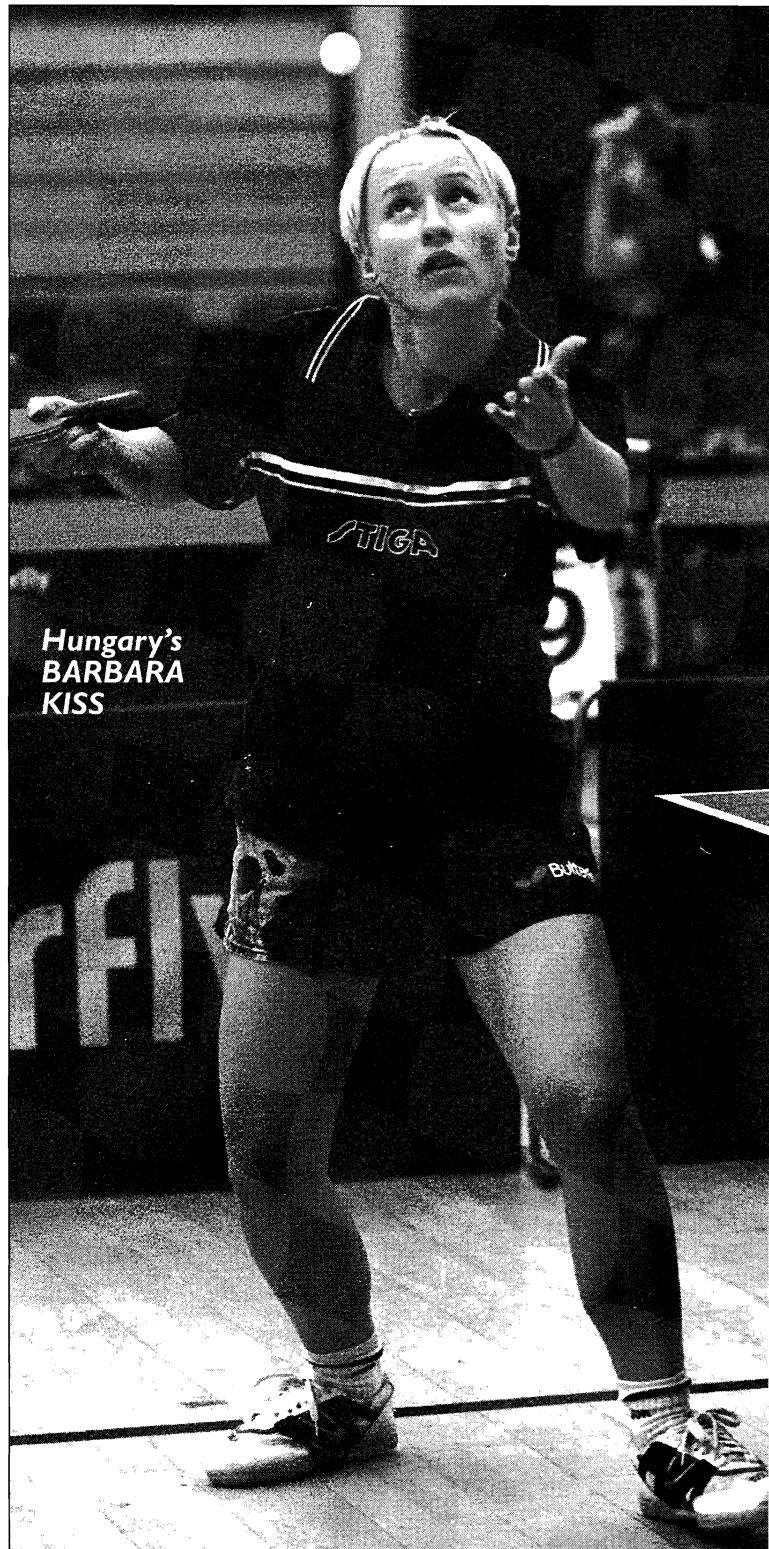
In the Mens Events Andrew Wilkinson was favourite for the Band 1. Hopes of a home success ended with a first round exit to fellow Darlington British League team mate Michael Marsden who went out in a tense five set semi-final to eventual winner Gary Tendler (E).

Number 2 seed Steve Dixon(Cu) claimed the Band 2 title. Unseeded pair Aaron Fennell (E) and Stephen Roberts (YS) fought out the Band 3 final with the latter winning 11-7 in the fifth. Roberts was the seeded finalist in the Band 4 but lost to unseeded Antony Whelan (Ch). 12 years old Mark Simpson (Du) had thrilled spectators with his five set semi final win over top seed Peter Lowry (Ch) in the Band 5 mens but went down in five sets to Stephen Crosby (YS).

Northumberland claimed the Band 6 title with Frank Lasek overcoming Michael Bellac (La). Lasek also contested the veterans final but found Tony Gelder (Du) too strong, with Jane Durham (Cv) also winning comfortably against Val Murdoch to justify her top seeding position in the Womens event.

SYED, DOUGLAS & PALMER

The Newcastle Grand Prix was part of a weekend development initiative. Although not playing in the tournament, the organisers brought together Matthew Syed and



Hungary's
**BARBARA
KISS**



Desmond Douglas. On the Friday before the Grand Prix, the English stars were joined by para Olympian star Mark Palmer for an afternoon with Special Needs and children with disabilities. The session held at the brand new Westgate Centre For Sport was hugely popular. ETTA Equity Officer Judy Rogers, and Darlington juniors Claire Wilson, Joanne Meads, David Meads, and Andrew Leighton helped with the children, as did Westgate's Stuart Anderson.

The pair moved across the city to the equally impressive Benfield Centre For Sporting Excellence for a session with Northumberland's Excellence squad. Then on the evening came a special Charity Challenge night. The proceeds were to help 16 years old Rachel Johnson accept her invitation to play for England in the World Transplant Games in July. Rachel had to raise £1100 to accept the honour. The smiling youngster was thrilled to play against Matt, and despite the many physical problems she has endured, including a liver transplant, Rachel's smiling determination was the reason for table tennis people to show how they care about their sport and it's players, regardless of standard or physical ability.

Mark Palmer showed just how good a player he is against both Syed and Douglas. Juniors Claire Wilson and David Meads played challenges against them too before Matt conducted an auction of memorabilia. An autographed 1966 England World Cup football shirt was also the subject of an auction, and final bids were taken over the two days of the Grand Prix. It was a highly satisfying moment at the end of a long and hectic weekend when the shirt went and the final figure was reached. Table Tennis people had helped Rachel to reach her target. Not only those involved with playing, from Matt and Des down to local league players, but also the trade, Jarvis Sports, Bribar, and Bill Thornton all donating prizes for a raffle. Jarvis Sports Reg Thompson in particular for donating the England football shirt.

Two Saturday taster sessions proved disappointing. Both the development people at the Westgate and Benfield Centres did little to promote them and the attendance was poor. However it did bring back the reality that in our sport we suffer from such people who treat it with scant regard, despite the willingness and enthusiasm of those who want to see more and more children playing.

Italy's star Chinese Yang Min joined in too. He and Mark Palmer played a succession of matches during the

first day of the Grand Prix which thrilled everyone.

Despite the poor efforts of the sports development people at the two main centre's, table tennis showed what a great sport it is for everyone. It showed how it can provide fun and competition, whether it be for men and boys, women or girls, able bodied, and those not so able bodied. All of the children taking part and all of the players, Des and Matt included, wore the same design of 'T' shirt. A happy smiling face and the words "I'm a special table tennis player" seemed to sum it all up. No matter what the skill or ability, everyone enjoyed the sport. We all might complain of lack of funding at national and regional level, but for once table tennis united to give help where it was needed.

RESULTS

MENS SINGLES: s/f: Yang Min (ITA) bt Wang Ran (WAL) 8, 10, 3
Tang Jinn Feng (WAL) bt Steven Bailey (Cv) -8, 9, 4, 6.

Final: Tang Jinn Feng bt Yang Min - 7,10, -2, 12, 9

WOMENS SINGLES: s/f: Barbara Kiss (HUN) bt Natalie Bawden (E) 10, 7, 5. Karen Shepherd (Ch) bt Louise Durrant (Ng) 4, 10, 9.

Final: Kiss bt Shepherd 8, 4, 6
MB1: Gary Tendler(E) bt Steve Hall (WAL) 9, 10, 7

MB2: Steve Dixon (Cu) bt Daniel Welsh (Cv) 5, -5, 2, 8, 9

MB3: Stephen Roberts (Ys) bt Aaron Fennell (E) 7, -8, -9, 8, 7

MB4: Antony Whelan (Ch) bt Stephen Roberts(Ys) 9,-11, 2, 9

MB5: Stephen Crosby (Ys) bt Mark Simpson(Du) -11, 11, -8, 9, 6

MB6: Frank Lasek (Nd) bt Michael Bellac (La) 9, 9, 8

WB1: Gillian Edwards (SCO) bt Claire Wilson (Du) 11, 5, 9

WB2: Andrea Harrison (La) bt Claire Wilson (Du) 8, 8, 7

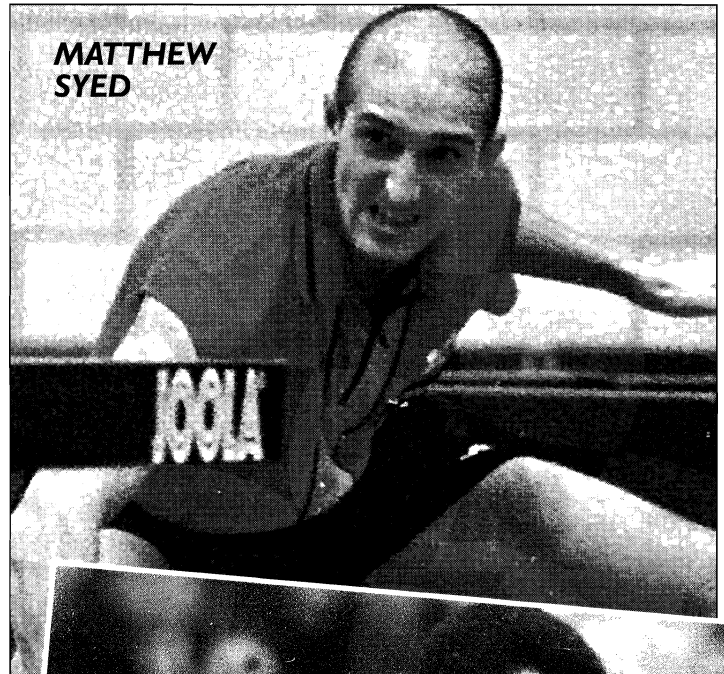
WB3: Helen Parton (Dv) bt Joanne Meads (Du) -8, 6, 7, 13

U21M: Shaun Marples (Dy) bt Stephen Bailey (Cv) 6, -11, 7, -10, 5

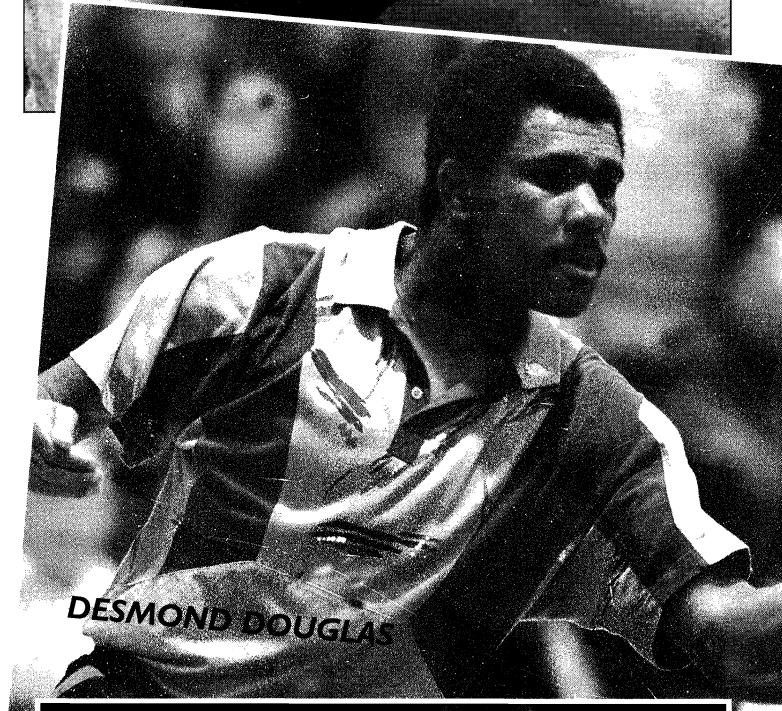
U21W: Karen Shepherd (Ch) bt Natalie Bawden (E) 8, 7, 10

VM: Tony Gelder (Du) bt Frank Lasek (Nd) 3, 8, 5

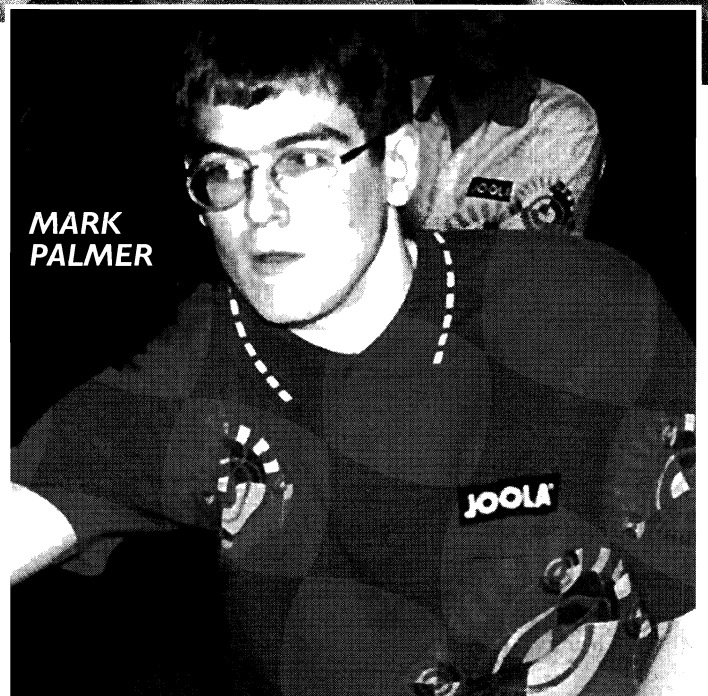
VW: Jane Durham (Cv) bt Val Murdoch (He) 6, 5, 4.



MATTHEW SYED

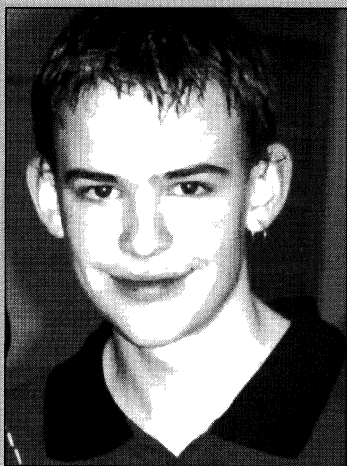


DESMOND DOUGLAS



MARK PALMER

CONGRATULATIONS TO HORSHAM I & BLACKPOOL



Horsham I's DOMINIC HALL

CONGRATULATIONS to the eight winning teams in the regional British League Senior divisions, writes Steve Kerns.

If pushed to pick out a couple of teams for special mention you might just choose division One (South) winners Horsham I as their team of Peter Bartram, Dominic Hall, Andy Walker, Terry Haley, Mayur Mayithia and Ramesh Bhalla did incredibly well to come out on top in a very evenly matched division where a mere four points covered the top six sides. By no means the youngest side in this division this team took the title largely due to their all-round strength rather than down to the performance of one or two exceptional players. You have also got to give credit to the Blackpool side of Steve Dixon, Steve Bevan, Zeke Dixon and Martin Ireland the new division three (North) Champions who managed to hold off a very strong Club Mid-Cheshire team. To say that Club Mid-Cheshire (whose squad included Brian Johns, Keith Williams, Mike Johns, Wayne Percival and Alec Johns) wouldn't look out of place in the Premier division isn't being totally unreasonable yet they didn't manage to take the title !.

Division One (North) - Leaders Derwent made sure of promotion to the Premier division by winning three of their four matches. They couldn't match the highly promising Ormesby side

succumbing 6-2 but three vital wins in their other three matches was enough to give them the title. And let no one devalue their achievement, it certainly wasn't their fault that Darlington II had to withdraw having beaten Derwent and having lost to Ormesby. Derwent may well have been philosophical after their 6-2 defeat, as their two wins came at the expense of the Ormesby no. 1 Bryn Drinkhall. And well-earned wins they were too, with Andrew Horsfield triumphing 12-10 in the decider and Dave Godbold winning 11-9 in the fifth. Logic says that if you take two games off the opposition's no.1 then you should do well. But it wasn't enough as Keith Rodger, Steven Bailey and Paul Drinkhall took the remaining six games to repeat the 6-2 win of the first half of the season.

Derwent's closest shave came against Grantham where they were poised at 3-3. The stylish Richard Smith held his nerve with a well-executed 3-0 win over Steve Davies and Simon Nouch duly won his second singles with a 3-1 victory over Mark Donoghue. Derwent didn't have it all their own way against County colleagues Dewsbury I either although their 5-3 win hides the fact that they had earlier moved into a 5-2 lead. Plenty of interesting matches here with Derwent's David Godbold beating Simon Pugh 3-2 but

losing 3-0 to Richard Lightowler and Darren Page scoring an excellent victory over Simon Nouch. Andrew Horsfield took the Player-of-the-Match Award for his two wins; over Richard Lightowler (11-8 in the fifth end) and Shaun Ellis (10,10,10).

Dewsbury and Halton Croda were locked in their own separate battle to avoid relegation and both sides displayed remarkably improved form. When the two teams met Croda did well to earn a draw despite being a player short. Croda's Adam Bleakley and Chris Ford were both undefeated. Croda managed another draw against Grantham, with the Bleakley-Ford double act again staying unbeaten. They also managed to beat Coventry Phoenix 6-2, this time facing a set of opponents who were short because of injury to one of their players. Dewsbury were even more dominant against Coventry storming home 7-1, the only game that escaped them being Neil Wright's victory over Shaun Ellis. Lightowler, Pugh and Page were all undefeated.

Division One (South) - Leaders Horsham I held on to take the title in this incredibly evenly matched division where a mere four points covered the top six sides. Horsham were able to afford the luxury of a 5-3 defeat against Crippenham I in the last round of matches knowing that they had already been crowned



Blackpool's STEVE BEVAN

Champions. Cippenham who took seven points out of eight were the most succesful team of the weekend. They effectively killed off Byng Hall Farningham Print I's hopes in round 12 with their 6-2 victory. The calm and unhurried Martin Adams was quite outstanding as he beat both Mark Brown and Adrian Moore 3-0, whilst Clive Payne added vital wins over John Huckle (13-11 in the fifth end) and Mark Brown (12-10 in the decider). Byng Hall ensured they finished second by beating OLOP I 5-3, doubles for Adrian Moore and Mark Romano giving the Kent side the edge.

Horsham overcame the threat posed by Ellenborough despite falling 2-0 behind. Mayur Mayithia playing in his first match of the season beat both Simon Philipz and Matt Spero and Andy Walker also stayed undefeated as Horsham ran out 6-2 winners. They were held to draw by London Progress II despite Peter Bartram taking his two singles. Dominic Hall was involved in two narrow finishes, getting the better of James Sprackling 12-10 in the decider but finding himself on the wrong end of a 13-11 defeat against Darek Zukowski. Progress's Euan Liddle did well to win twice, scoring excellent victories over Andy Walker and Terry Haley.

Ellenborough did well to earn a draw against OLOP who drew three of their four matches. Gary Tendler excelled to beat David Barr, and Matthew Spero won the vital eighth game with a 3-1

victory over Danny Baxter, good going considering Baxter had previously beaten Simon Philipz 3-0. In a match where the ETTA Ranking List counted for little Ali Subhan made his presence felt with a fine win over Matt Spero. OLOP's 4-4 result against London Progress II came about via a Dave Barr double and two good wins, a fine 3-2 success for Hari Gehlot over James Sprackling and a draw-clinching 11-9 in the fifth end victory for Danny Baxter against Euan Liddle.

Neither of the bottom two sides De Vere NETTS or EBS-Orange Northants I could add to their points totals in other games so the battle to avoid relegation came down simply to who could win their match. Sadly from the NETTS team's perspective the game was a disaster as EBS totally dominated it, winning 8-0. The addition of Simon Rockall to their squad in the no. 1 position gave EBS added strength in depth, and their side of Rockall, Keiron Dabbs, Steve Munson and Dave Gattiss were simply that little bit too strong. EBS also came close to nicking a draw against Cippenham, finally succumbing 5-3. The hard-hitting Dave Gattiss scored fine wins over Clive Payne and Lee Dredge as Martin Adams and Mark Butler stood firm for Cippenham. Expect EBS to do much better next season, they scored 16 points last year and are clearly a much better side than the team who managed a paltry 4 points this year; particularly with Rockall in their line-up. With other strong players, notably

continued on page 25

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PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
London Progress	13	13	0	0	140	42	26
BATTS Team Peniel	13	8	2	3	98	84	18
Seasiders	13	8	1	4	105	77	17
JAGS	13	5	3	5	86	96	13
Darlington	13	5	2	6	89	93	12
Barnet	13	5	1	7	81	101	11
DML Plymouth	13	2	1	10	67	115	5
Wellow House School	13	1	0	12	62	120	2
DIVISION ONE NORTH							
Derwent	12	10	0	2	63	33	20
Ormesby	12	9	1	2	66	30	19
Grantham IDS	12	6	2	4	51	45	14
Coventry Phoenix	12	5	1	6	47	49	11
Norwich Todd Foxwood	12	4	2	6	40	56	10
Dewsbury	12	1	3	8	36	60	5
Halton Croda	12	1	3	8	33	63	5
<i>Darlington II resigned</i>							
DIVISION ONE SOUTH							
Horsham	14	8	4	2	69	43	20
Byug Hall Farningham Print	14	9	1	4	67	45	19
Cippenham	14	8	1	5	63	49	17
OLOP Impact	14	6	5	3	61	51	17
Ellenborough	14	6	4	4	61	51	16
London Progress II	14	6	4	4	55	56	16
EBS-Orange North'pton	14	1	2	11	43	69	4
De Vere Netts	14	1	1	12	28	83	3
DIVISION TWO NORTH							
Grove	14	13	1	0	89	23	27
Humpty's Club	14	9	4	1	76	36	22
ELGRE Nottingham	14	8	3	3	69	43	19
Derwent II	14	8	1	5	67	45	17
Oarbank	14	3	5	6	51	61	11
Potteries	14	5	1	8	50	62	11
Uxbridge Burton	14	2	1	11	39	73	5
Clarks Wakefield	14	0	0	14	7	105	0
DIVISION TWO SOUTH							
PSP Westinsure	14	11	2	1	82	30	24
Guildford	14	7	2	5	58	54	16
London Progress III	14	6	3	5	62	50	15
EBS-Orange North'pton II	14	5	5	4	53	59	15
Cippenham II	14	5	4	5	54	53	14
Oxford Fireplace Centre	14	4	4	6	53	59	12
Horsham II	14	4	2	8	48	64	10
Hastings	14	2	2	10	38	74	6
DIVISION 3 MIDLANDS							
Wirral Premier	14	11	2	1	79	33	24
Bedford Modern	14	9	3	2	76	36	21
Birmingham University II	14	7	4	3	61	51	18
Kingshurst Bribar	14	8	1	5	63	49	17
Woodfield	14	5	4	5	57	55	14
Rotherham Scorpions	14	5	2	7	51	61	12
Grove III	14	1	3	10	32	80	5
Darlington IV	14	0	1	13	29	83	1
DIVISION 3 MIDLANDS & SOUTH							
Generation 2	14	10	3	1	83	29	23 ⁽⁺¹⁴⁶⁾
Birmingham University	14	11	1	2	83	29	23 ⁽⁺¹³⁶⁾
London Progress V	14	8	4	2	69	43	20
OLOP Impact II	14	7	0	7	55	57	14
GuilOford II	14	6	1	7	48	64	13
Batts Team Peniel II	14	3	2	9	42	70	8
Ashford II	14	3	2	9	41	71	8
Grove II	14	1	1	12	27	85	3
DIVISION 3 NORTH							
Blackpool	14	12	1	1	88	24	25
Club Mid-Cheshire	14	12	0	2	89	23	24
Darlington III	14	8	4	2	70	42	20
Halton Croda II	14	6	2	6	52	60	14
Dewsbury II	14	6	1	7	51	61	13
Seasiders II	14	3	1	10	39	73	7
Barrow	14	2	2	10	33	79	6
Isle of Man	14	0	3	11	26	86	3
DIVISION THREE SOUTH							
Ashford	14	13	0	1	85	27	26
York Gardens	14	11	1	2	72	40	23
JAGS II	14	8	1	5	69	43	17
Guernsey	14	7	2	5	66	46	16
Horsham III	14	5	2	7	52	60	12
London Progress IV	14	2	2	10	37	75	6
Britannia H. Ipswich	14	3	0	11	36	76	6
Byng Hall F.P. II	14	2	2	10	31	81	6

BRITISH LEAGUE TABLES

ESSEX PREMIER CHAMPIONS

THE final round of matches in the Junior and Senior Premier Divisions were played at Grantham over the weekend of 22/23 March 2003, writes Stan Clarke.

SENIOR PREMIER DIVISION

Essex and Glamorgan were in first and second places in the division after the first set of matches, with Yorkshire and Devonshire in the two relegation places, so it must have been with some trepidation that Devon in their first match faced Essex, however it did not last for long as the team from the West Country quickly ran up a 4-0 lead before Natalie Bowden won the first set for Essex, but it was to little avail as Devon took the next three sets making the match score 7-1 and securing the points. Two wins each for Paul Whiting and Craig Bryant and one each for Mike Short, Elaine Short and Marketa Myskova for Devon with the only success for Essex being a Double for Natalie Bowden and one for Lorestas Trumpauskas.

Just to keep things equal second place Glamorgan fell foul of Sussex by the same score line, with Adrian Moore and Peter Bartran doing the major damage with two sets each and Richie Vennor, Rose Rainton and Sally Weston weighing in with a set a piece. Stephen Jenkins was undefeated for the Welsh side with Catherine Davies securing the third set.

With Yorkshire beating Middlesex 6-4, thanks in no small part to a brilliant double by Nicola White over Lesley Keast and Egle Adomyrite, South Yorkshire suddenly found themselves in bottom place as they fell to Surrey 6-4.

The second round of matches saw Essex bounce back into top gear with an empathetic thrashing of South Yorkshire 9-1, only Andrea Baldi offering any resistance when she beat Lucy Wang, eight of the sets completed in three games and the other two taking four to decide.

Glamorgan also returned to winning ways with a 6-4 victory over Yorkshire

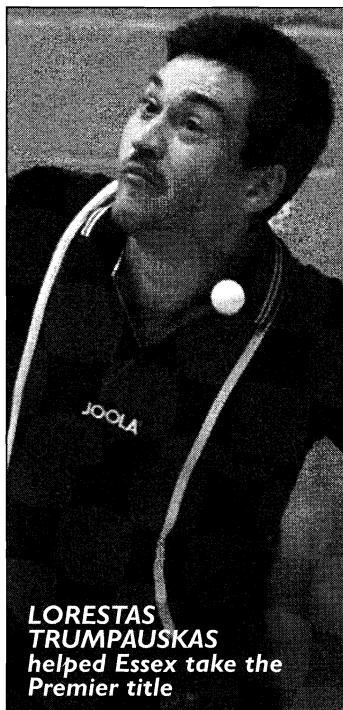
thanks mainly to Stephen Jenkins and Naomi Owens with Mark Smith winning two for Yorkshire.

Devon continued their improvement by beating Sussex 6-4 all of their sets coming from the undefeated Craig Bryant, Paul Whiting and Marketa Myskova. Surrey found Middlesex much too strong as they steamrollered their way to an 8-0 lead before Joanna Parker beat Lesley Keast and Adam Laws recorded a fine 3-0 defeat on Tommy Cutler.

The first round of matches on the Sunday morning saw Sussex hold Essex to a 5-5 draw and suddenly the whole division was thrown wide open with a variety permutations open, depending on the other results, Glamorgan could take top spot if they defeated Surrey, in the event they lost 4-6 and will probably regret resting their number one Stephen Jenkins. For Surrey Jane Barella and Henry Medelin starred with two wins each.

Middlesex meanwhile thrashed South Yorkshire by 9-1, only Andrea Baldi proving a threat when she beat Lesley Keast. Devon and Yorkshire fought out a 5-5 draw with Craig Bryant and Marketa Myskova again undefeated, Mark Smith winning two for Yorkshire, with the match score 5-4 to Devon Peter Marshall gained an invaluable point for Yorkshire when he defeated James Whiteman to level the score.

The final round of matches started at 2pm, Devon, now safe from relegation worries played Surrey, who had under performed all weekend, and promptly shot into a 5-2 lead only Joanna Parker beating Elaine Short and Henry Medelin beating Mike Short offering any real resistance. In the eighth game between Michael Chan and Craig Bryant with the score at one game all, Craig smashed his hand against the table whilst attempting a difficult forehand shot and damaged his thumb to such an extent that he was unable to play on, a subsequent X-ray



LORESTAS TRUMPAUSKAS helped Essex take the Premier title

showed that the bone was broken, we wish Craig a speedy recovery. The ninth game between defenders Joanna Parker and Marketa Myskova was a classic which went all the way, finally won by Marketa 14-12 in the fifth, Paul Whiting has took the final set to make the match score 7-3 to Devon.

Glamorgan kept the pressure on Essex with a convincing 8-2 defeat of South Yorkshire, having strengthened their team by reintroducing Stephen Jenkins, only Andrea Baldi and Stephen Horsfield standing in their way.

Essex made sure of the title in a close fought match against Middlesex thanks in no small part to Lorestas Trumpauskas and Natalie Bowden. The remaining match was between Yorkshire and Sussex, the two teams who have finished in first and second places for the past two seasons, matches between the two are always long close fought affairs and this proved to be no exception, the added spice being that if the Yorkshire team did not win this match they would be relegated, a draw would be sufficient to see Sussex safe. In the event the match score stood at 5-4 to Yorkshire as Mark Smith faced Adrian Moore in the final set, Adrian won the first game 11-7, but Mark fought back to win the next three games 11-8, 12-10, 11-9 to ensure safety to Yorkshire and condemn Sussex to the first division next season along with South Yorkshire.

JUNIOR PREMIER DIVISION

Cheshire started the weekend with a one point advantage over Glamorgan who were in second place, their match was against Lincolnshire who were disposed of by 9 sets to 1, the very promising Alex Green defeating Tom Page for the solitary Lincolnshire success. Glamorgan responded by beating Essex by the same

score, with Vitas Rybakas being the only one to cause problems when he beat Aled Rhys Howell in a tight 5 games set, Surrey continues their miserable season by succumbing 7-3 to Yorkshire, Joanna Parker winning two sets for Surrey. Sussex faired even worse with a lack lustre display against Buckinghamshire who won 10-0 and lost only 2 games in the whole of the match.

In the evening matches Glamorgan hammered Lincolnshire 8-2 and Cheshire narrowly took the points against Surrey 6-4, Daniel Horner unbeaten for Cheshire as was Joanna Parker for Surrey.

Buckinghamshire continued their winning run with an 8-2 defeat of Essex and Yorkshire trounced Sussex 9-1, only Gina Rogers offering any resistance beating Amanda Bell.

On Sunday morning Cheshire faced an in form Yorkshire, winning the match 6-4 with Danny Horner and Karen Shepherd responsible for 4 sets between them.

Glamorgan faced Surrey needing a win to have any chance of taking the title and they did not fail, running out winners by 7-3, Joanna Parker once again proving too strong for her opponents Laura Hall and Naomi Owen, but with little support from her team mates her efforts were to no avail.

Essex thrashed Sussex 9-1 and Buckinghamshire romped home 7-3 against Lincolnshire despite Alex Green beating both Bradley and Gavin Evans.

So to the final round of matches Buckinghamshire easily beat Surrey 8-2, Surrey relegated in wooden spoon position, had it not been for Joanna Parker who remained unbeaten their record would have been even worse.

Sussex faced Lincolnshire with little hope of avoiding relegation even if they could force a win, in the event they flopped to an 8-2 defeat, not a good season for Sussex with both the Senior and Junior teams relegated from the Premier Divisions.

So to the crunch match, Glamorgan v Cheshire, Glamorgan needed to win to secure top place but Cheshire would triumph if they forced a draw. The defining set was the first set when Danny Horner faced the Glamorgan number 2 Liam Thomas, Danny with a 100% record of wins surprisingly slipped up when he lost the fifth game 9-11 to give victory to Liam. Glamorgan capitalised on their first set win with wins from Aled Rhys Howell, Naomi Owen and Stephen Gertson before Karen Shepherd registered the first win for Cheshire against Laura Hall, but Glamorgan were on a roll and quickly snapped up the next four sets to take a 8-1 lead and the Championship for the second successive season with Cheshire yet again in second place.

Thanks must go to the Umpires whose hard work over the weekend ensured the smooth running of both competitions despite, being severely under staffed.

YASAKA
3 STAR BALLS

SENIORS																							
Premier	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts																
Essex	7	5	1	1	48	22	11	Shropshire	7	3	2	2	3	7	29	8	Berkshire 1st	7	2	5	29	34	4
Glamorgan	7	4	0	3	37	33	8	South Yorkshire	7	1	3	3	33	33	5	Hampshire	7	2	5	26	37	4	
Devonshire	7	3	2	2	36	34	8	Worcestershire	7	2	0	5	27	43	4	Buckinghamshire	7	2	5	17	46	4	
Middlesex	7	3	1	3	40	30	7	Lancashire 2nd	7	1	1	5	21	46	3	Avon	7	1	6	21	42	2	
Yorkshire	7	2	3	2	33	37	7	Norfolk	7	1	0	6	19	50	2	Division 2A							
Surrey	7	3	1	3	29	41	7	Division 2B								South Yorkshire	6	5	1	31	23	10	
Sussex	7	2	2	3	35	35	6	Dorset	6	5	1	0	42	18	11	Warwickshire	6	4	2	35	19	8	
South Yorkshire	7	0	2	5	22	48	2	Buckingham 3rd	7	4	2	1	43	27	10	Essex 2d	6	4	2	34	20	8	
Division 1A																Essex 3rd	6	3	3	27	27	6	
Leicestershire	7	6	1	0	50	20	13	Surrey 2nd	7	3	3	1	40	30	9	Worcestershire	6	2	4	25	29	4	
Yorkshire 2d	7	5	1	1	46	24	11	Somerset	7	3	2	2	38	32	8	Bedfordshire	6	2	4	21	33	4	
Worcestershire	7	4	0	3	35	35	8	Oxfordshire	7	2	3	2	35	35	7	Lancashire 2nd	6	1	5	16	38	2	
Lancashire	7	3	1	3	39	31	7	Kent 2nd	6	2	2	2	29	31	6	<i>Norfolk 2nd have withdrawn</i>							
Durham	7	3	1	3	35	35	7	Surrey 3rd	7	1	0	6	18	52	2	Division 2B							
Nottinghamshire	7	2	1	4	28	42	5	Berkshire	7	0	1	6	25	45	1	Devonshire	7	7	0	43	20	14	
Essex 2nd	7	1	2	4	29	41	4	Division 3A							Kent 3rd	7	6	1	41	22	12		
Cambridgeshire	7	0	1	6	18	52	1	Hertfordshire	6	5	1	0	45	15	11	Wiltshire	7	4	3	35	28	8	
Division 1B																Somerset	7	4	3	31	32	8	
Kent 1st	7	6	1	0	50	20	13	Bedfordshire 1st	6	4	2	0	42	18	10	Hertfordshire 2nd	7	2	5	33	30	4	
Wiltshire	7	4	1	2	42	28	9	Suffolk	6	4	1	1	41	19	9	Hampshire 2nd	7	2	5	24	39	4	
Middlesex 2nd	7	4	1	:	38	32	9	Norfolk 2nd	6	2	1	3	27	33	5	Buckingham 2nd	7	2	5	22	41	4	
Glamorgan 2nd	7	3	2	2	38	32	8(144-132)	Huntingdonshire	6	2	0	4	25	35	4	Middlesex 2nd	7	1	6	23	40	2	
Berkshire	7	3	2	2	38	32	8(136-125)	Bedfordshire 2nd	6	0	2	4	19	41	2	Division 3A							
Hertfordshire	7	2	1	4	26	44	5	Cambridgeshire	6	0	1	5	11	49	1	Yorkshire 3rd	7	6	1	40	23	12	
Gloucestershire	7	2	0	5	34	36	4	Division 3B							Worcestershire 2nd	7	6	1	37	26	12		
Kent 2nd	7	0	0	7	14	56	0	Nottingham 2nd	5	5	0	0	3	7	13	10	Yorkshire 4d	7	4	3	36	27	8
Division 2A																Cheshire 3rd	7	4	3	35	28	5	
Cheshire	7	7	0	0	55	15	14	Durham 2nd	5	3	1	1	34	16	7	Cheshire 3rd	7	4	3	35	28	5	
Northumberland	7	6	0	1	53	17	12	Conwy	5	2	0	3	23	27	4	Northamptonshire	7	4	3	32	31	8	
Cleveland	7	5	0	2	41	29	10	Nottingham 3rd	6	1	1	4	17	43	3	Clwyd	7	2	5	24	39	4	
Warwickshire 1st	7	4	0	3	39	31	8	Northumberland	5	0	1	4	12	38	1	Staffordshire	7	1	6	24	39	2(104-134)	
Derbyshire	7	2	1	4	32	38	5	Warwickshire 2nd	2	0	0	2	7	13	0	Leicestershire 2nd	7	1	6	24	39	2(94-135)	
Cumbria	7	2	1	4	29	41	5	Division 3C							Division 3B								
Warwickshire 2nd	7	1	0	6	18	52	2	Devonshire 2nd	6	6	0	0	53	7	12	Nottinghamshire	6	6	0	41	13	12	
Leicestershire 2nd	7	0	0	7	13	57	0	Herefordshire	6	5	0	1	41	19	10	Kent 4th	6	5	1	42	12	10	
Division 2B																Essex 4th	6	4	2	30	24	8	
Devonshire 2nd	6	5	1	0	42	18	11	Avon	6	2	2	2	28	32	6	Hertfordshire 3rd	6	2	4	21	33	4	
Avon	6	3	3	0	42	18	9	Devonshire 3rd	6	2	2	2	28	32	6	Yorkshire 5th	6	2	4	19	35	4	
Somerset	6	2	2	2	33	27	6	Devonshire 4th	6	1	0	5	15	45	2	Middlesex 4th	6	1	5	22	32	2	
Herefordshire	6	2	2	2	26	34	6	Cornwall 2nd	6	0	1	5	11	49	1	Norfolk 3rd	6	1	5	14	40	2	
Cornwall 1st	6	2	1	3	33	27	5	Division 3D							Division 3C								
Devonshire 3rd	6	1	1	4	18	42	3	Sussex 2nd	7	7	0	0	20	20	14	Sussex 2	7	6	1	47	16	12	
Cornwall 2nd	6	1	0	5	16	44	2	Gloucestershire	7	5	1	1	39	25	11	Surrey 3rd	7	6	1	44	19	12	
<i>Worcestershire 2nd have Withdrawn</i>																Berkshire 2nd	7	5	2	39	24	10	
Division 2C																Middlesex 3rd	7	3	4	36	27	6	
Suffolk 1st	6	5	1	0	46	14	11	Gwent 2nd	7	3	1	3	34	30	8	Gloucester 2nd	7	2	5	27	36	4	
Lincolnshire	6	5	1	0	42	18	11	Buckingham 4th	7	1	2	4	30	40	4	Herefordshire 1st	7	2	5	21	42	4	
Bedfordshire	6	3	0	3	32	28	6	Sussex 3rd	7	1	2	4	29	41	4	Hampshire 4th	7	2	5	20	43	4	
Hertfordshire 2nd	6	3	0	3	29	31	6	Middlesex 2nd	7	2	0	5	28	42	4	Oxfordshire 2nd	7	2	5	18	45	4	
Northamptonshire	6	2	1	3	28	-2	5	CADETS							Division 3D								
Suffolk 2	5	0	1	4	13	37	1	Division 1A							Devonshire 2nd	7	7	0	42	21	14		
Norfolk	5	0	0	5	10	40	0	Durham	5	4	1	0	3	7	13	9	Gloucestershire 1st	7	6	1	39	24	12
Division 2D								Lancashire	5	3	2	0	28	22	8	Berkshire 3rd	7	5	2	33	30	10	
Sussex 2nd	6	5	1	0	41	19	11	Cleveland	5	1	3	1	24	26	5	Glamorgan	7	4	3	36	27	8	
Buckinghamshire	6	3	2	1	37	23	8	South Yorkshire	5	1	2	2	22	28	4	Surrey 4th	7	3	4	28	3	5	
Hampshire	6	2	3	1	36	-4	7	Cheshire	5	1	1	3	20	30	3	Sussex 3rd	7	2	5	28	3	5	
Isle of Wight	6	2	1	3	23	37	5	Yorkshire	5	0	1	4	19	31	1	Warwickshire 2nd	7	1	6	25	38	2	
Surrey 2nd	6	2	0	4	28	32	4	Division 1B							Hampshire 3rd	7	0	7	21	42	0		
Oxfordshire	6	2	0	4	25	35	4	Derbyshire	5	5	0	0	41	9	10	Division 4A							
Berkshire 2nd	6	1	1	4	20	40	3	Lincolnshire	5	4	0	1	39	11	8	Lincolnshire	5	5	0	38	7	10	
JUNIORS																Hertfordshire 4th	5	4	1	34	11	8	
Premier Division																Northampton 2nd	5	2	3	20	25	4	
Glamorgan	7	6	1	0	54	16	13	Suffolk	5	3	0	2	27	23	6	Hertfordshire 6th	5	2	3	17	28	4	
Cheshire	7	6	0	1	48	22	12	Northamptonshire	5	2	0	3	27	23	4	Yorkshire 6th	5	1	4	16	29	2	
Yorkshire	7	4	2	1	46	24	10	Glamorgan	5	1	0	4	14	36	2	Nottingham 2nd	5	1	4	10	35	2	
Buckinghamshire	7	4	1	2	42	28	9	Leicestershire	5	0	0	5	2	48	0	<i>Durham 2nd have withdrawn</i>							
Lincolnshire	7	2	1	4	27	43	5	Division 1C							Division 4B								
Essex	7	2	0	5	30	40	4	Surrey 1st	6	4	2	0	41	19	10	Cambridgeshire	6	6	0	44	10	12	
Sussex	7	1	0	6	13	57	2	Sussex 1st	6	3	3	0	38	22	9	Bedfordshire 2nd	6	5	1	32	22	10	
Surrey	7	0	1	6	20	50	1	Gloucestershire	6	3	2	1	32	28	8	Berkshire 4th	6	3	3	27	27	6	
Division 1A																Hertfordshire 7th	6	2	4	24	30	4	
Derbyshire	7	7	0	0	5	7	13	Somerset 2nd	6	3	1	2	29	31	7	Hertfordshire 5th	6	2	4	23	31	4	
Nottinghamshire	7	5	1	1	5	2	18	Sussex 2nd															

HALF LONG

THERE is a new pimple rubber being launched for 1st July 2003, it is the Hallmark mid pimple Half Long.

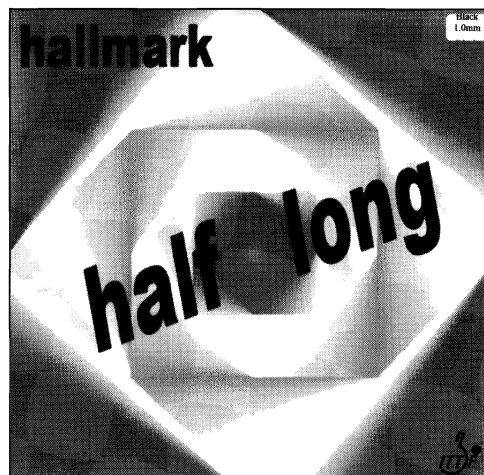
Half Long is a medium length pimple that is designed for the player that requires some of the effect of a long pimple but with improved control. It is available in both red and black.

Hallmark Half Long has fairly rigid pimples which give the rubber excellent control and make it very easy to either attack or defend with. When attacking

it is very easy to flick almost any pushed ball and hit through any counter hit ball. Against topspin the ball can be blocked hard which gives a significant disturbing effect to the opponent. The 1mm version has greater effect than the 2mm. To get some topspin on the ball using Half Long it is best to use 2mm sponge thickness with speed glue. When defending the rubber is very safe and it is easy to swap from defence to attack.

RUBBER TEST

This Half Long new rubber was tested on a Hallmark Dr. Neubauer Combination blade, with Dr. Neubauer Super Special long pimples



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.

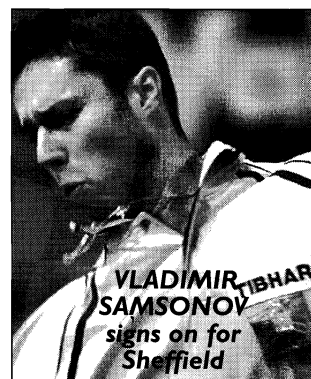
For an application form & further information please contact: ALAN COOKE on 01246 855834 or 07887 586615 or NICOLA DEATON on 01246 570805 or 07881 624330

on the slower side.

The 1mm version was better for consistent chopping away from the table, with bags of control. This 1mm rubber also makes the ball float and wobble a bit.

The 2mm version is really for an out and out blocker and attacker, good for rolling and creates a lot of topspin. A definite winner for the aggressive player.

Half Long is available from either Tees Sport or Bribar Table Tennis.



CONTINENTAL MASTERS AT SHEFFIELD 9th AUG 2003

TICKET PRICES

ADULTS £15.00

CHILDREN & OAP £10.00

ALL SEATS WITH RESTRICTED VIEWING £5.00

CRUCIBLE TICKET HOTLINE 0114 2496000

continued from page 21

Greg Yarnall, Simon Pryke and Lieu Thai-Chong all pushing for a place in their first team this Club has a very good pool of players.

Division Two (North) - This division by comparison turned out to be the most clear-cut in the whole League. Grove I strode on majestically to take the title amassing 27 points out of 28 whilst the two teams at the bottom of the table Uxbridge and Clarks were unable to add to their totals and are both relegated. The results went more and less totally to form and not one single team managed to improve their position over the final weekend. It wasn't until the last round of matches that Grove finally dropped their first point when second-placed Humpty's Club held them to a draw. Grove's Lei Kou and Shuang Zhou took their four singles as per the script but Jason Ramage redressed the balance by beating both Rafael Campos and Ashley Nicholls. Tim Simpson secured the draw for Humpty's by beating Campos 3-0 in the last match of the day. Humpty's showed they were good value for their second place with a 6-2 victory over ELGRE. Paul Wood impressed with a 3-1 victory over Trevor Kerry having earlier been beaten 12-10 in the decider by John Taylor. Jason Ramage's victory over Taylor in game no. six ensured Humpty's stayed in control. ELGRE who won three times over the weekend were an equally impressive third and they showed their quality as they disposed of both Oakbank and Uxbridge Burton 6-2. Hard-hitting England no. 104 Trevor Kerry moved ever closer to a England top 100 ranking by staying undefeated.

Uxbridge had a miserable weekend losing all four matches but were never going to find it easy being a player short on the Saturday. Robin Pearce certainly made his mark against Potteries with wins over Andrew Rich and Dave Savage but Potteries were still able to take the match 6-2. Clarks Wakefield suffered the galling experience of going through the whole season without scoring a single point. Nevertheless, they gave a very good account of themselves against Oakbank, only succumbing 5-3 after Mark Land had scored a fine win over Andrew Woodhead. It wasn't a good weekend for Oakbank who only won once and went down heavily (7-1) against Derwent II. Even Shaun Marples (now no. 70 in England) couldn't produce his best form finding himself outgunned 3-1 by Stephen Horsfield (ranked no. 165 in England).

Division Two (South) - PSP Westinsure were able to saunter to the title eventually taking the division by a massive margin of eight points despite losing their first match of the season against London Progress III. In comparison the battle to avoid relegation could not have been more intense as no fewer than six teams could be seen scrutinising the scoreboard closely on the Sunday morning realising that two defeats could see them relegated. The Final League table showed just what an evenly matched division it was; with a mere two points covering those teams placed second, third, fourth and fifth.

After a dramatic change in fortunes it was Guildford (who quite incredibly had not scored a single point after the first round of matches) who came through to take second place. Those football followers hoping for a Newcastle United success in the Premiership should certainly be encouraged by this! Guildford showed they meant business on the Saturday morning by holding PSP Westinsure to a draw. Michael Hill won twice including a vital 11-7 in the fifth end success against Dave Richards in the last game. Three further victories, against EBS-Orange Northampton II (5-3), Cippenham II (5-3) and Hastings (6-2) saw them complete their meteoric jump from sixth place in the table. The 5-3 victory over EBS went a long way to deciding second place as Guildford surged into a 3-0 lead. Adam Laws was on superb form with convincing wins over Simpon Pryke and Dannel Pang whilst Pryke hit back with a 3-2 victory over Jason Tendler. Their no. 3 Laws with seven wins out of eight proved to be their most successful player with Jason Tendler (six wins out of eight) adding excellent support from the no. 1 position. EBS Orange Northampton were also well beaten 7-1 by PSP who turned in their most impressive performance of the weekend. A very strong allround team effort from Eddie Roofe, Trevor Lloyd, Tim O'Mahoney and Dave Richards throughout the season. With England no. 60 Kevin Satchell "in reserve" PSP should give a good account of themselves in division 1 next year.

Horsham II's weekend started promisingly enough with a 4-4 draw against London Progress III with their no. 3 player Matthew Gander taking the Player-of-the-Match Award by winning twice. Matt's 13-11 in the fifth end victory over England no. 13 ranked Junior Girl Egle Adomelyte undoubtedly played a large part in enabling Horsham to secure their point. It was also to be the only game

ROSE RAINTON
was 'Player of the Match' for Hastings against Horsham II



Egle lost all weekend as she went on to take the scalps of such established British League performers as Graham Carter (Horsham), Robert Lemon and Robert Hansell (Cippenham), Andrew Packford and Mark Newns (Oxford Fireplace Centre) and Tim O'Mahoney (PSP Westinsure), an outstanding weekend's work. The Saturday afternoon clash between Horsham and Oxford Fire Place Centre suddenly took on a renewed significance and also produced one of the weekend's most unexpected results. Horsham were never in the match as Oxford ran out 8-0 winners, a result that wiped out the games advantage Horsham had over Oxford going into that game. Karl Bushell, Mark Newns, Ray Powell and Andrew Packford totally dominated affairs. A Sunday morning match against PSP Westinsure saw Horsham miss out 5-3 and a final 6-2 defeat against relegated Hastings saw them demoted along with their Sussex colleagues. Joint second at Christmas they could not have seen this coming. Former Sussex first team star Paul Barry was unbeaten for Hastings whilst current Sussex County first team player Rose Rainton took the Player-of-the-Match Award for her excellent wins over Matt Gander and Simon Pink. A buoyant Oxford were in no mood to be denied and they did well to draw with Cippenham II in their last game. Cippenham's England no. 25 Junior Boy Robert Lemon excelled with wins over Ray Powell and Andrew Packford whilst Mark Newns made his mark with his victories over Mark Jackson and Paul Baker. Jackson in turn hit back with a very good win over the Oxford no. 1 Karl Bushell.

Division Three (Midlands) - Hot favourites Wirral Premier didn't disappoint and four wins from their last four matches meant they took the title in style. With Andrew Eden playing at no. 1 this wasn't altogether surprising and he breezed through his seven singles without dropping an end. Wirral weren't really pushed as they overcame Kingshurst Brabar (7-1), Woodfield (6-2), Rotherham Scorpions (7-1) and Darlington IV (6-2). Eden's team-mates displayed a strength in depth as Neil Powell, Tom Page, Gavin Lloyd and Aaron Beech all showed good form. Perhaps it was their no. 2 player Powell who scored his side's best individual win of the weekend as he made a mockery of his England no. 561 ranking with a superb win over Kingshurst's Mike Browne (ranked no. 213).

Bedford Modern with three wins and a draw finished strongly to take second place and afforded themselves the luxury of using two different players in the no. 1 position. Andy Trott played the Saturday matches against Rotherham Scorpions and Darlington IV and stayed undefeated whilst Mick Harper entered the fray on the Sunday and won three of his four singles against Grove III and in the draw against Birmingham University. Harper tasted defeat against the Birmingham no.1 Sharzad Waseem as the Birmingham side also enjoyed a great weekend which saw them annex seven points from their four matches. Without Waseem the University side did well to beat Woodfield 5-3, Earl Sweeney moving

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ETTA NATIONAL RANKING LIST

TOP OF THE TABLE

1st MAY 2003 - List 109

Further details please ring Doreen Nightingale 01424 722525

Senior Men

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(2)	1 BAGGLEY, Andrew (BU.)	4872	
(1)	2 SYED, Matthew (BK) (SY.)	4857**	
(3)	3 HERBERT, Gareth (BK.)	4837	
(4)	4 PERRY, Alex (DV.)	4728	
(5)	5 COOKE, Alan (DY.)	4712*	
(6)	6 YOUNG, Terry (BK.)	4650*	
(8)	7 PREAM, Carl (IW.)	4552***	
(10)	8 RUSHTON, Andrew (LA.)	4479	
(9)	9 BILLINGTON, Bradley (DY.)	4470	
(12)	10 EDEN, Andrew (LA.)	4342	
(15)	11 HOLLAND, John(Dy) (E.)	4022	
(16)	12 KENNY, Mathew (Y.)	3927	
(18)	13 CLEMINSON, Peter (E.)	3916	
(20)	14 BRYANT, Craig (DV.)	3896	
(21)	15 BLAKE, Darren (SY.)	3850*	
(19)	16 TAYLOR, Jonathan (LA.)	3844	
(24)	17 SLADDEN, Kris (E.)	3800	
(23)	18 HAMMOND, Eric (ML.)	3796	
(30)	19 VENNER, Ritchie (SX.)	3783	
(27)	20 BAKER, Gregory (ST.)	3760	
(29)	21 JAMES, Michael (Y.)	3759	
(36)	22 WURAOA, Abdul (SY.)	3717	
(33)	23 DOLDER, Kevin (LA.)	3680	
(31)	24 PYE, Leeroy (NK.)	3680*	
(39)	25 WHITING, Paul (DV.)	3679	
(22)	26 DRINKHALL, Bryn (CY.)	3678	
(32)	27 KNIGHT, Darius (SY.)	3675	
(38)	28 HILTON, John (CH.)	3659	
(47)	29 YARNALL, Tim (NP.)	3639	
(42)	30 MOORE, Adrian (K.)	3630	
(35)	31 CHARLES, Neil (MI.)	3629	
(37)	32 DRINKHALL, Paul (CY.)	3628	
(34)	33 SMITH, Darius (ND.)	3624	
(41)	34 ROGERS, Chris (LE.)	3609	
(65)	35 BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA.)	3604	
(44)	36 MARSHALL, Peter (Y.)	3597	
(45)	37 PAPANTONIOU, Costas (ML.)	3597	
(43)	38 CHAN, Michael (SY.)	3581	
(40)	39 NEIL, Lee (NG.)	3572	
(46)	40 WILKINSON, Andrew (ND.)	3535	
(52)	41 JOHNS, Brian (CH.)	3514	
(58)	42 SMITH, Mark Richard (Y.)	3511	
(57)	43 KENNEDY, Joe (K) (E.)	3504	
(51)	44 HUTCHINGS, Paul (LA.)	3491	
(50)	45 ECKERSLEY, Nigel (SX.)	3490	
(54)	46 BARR, David (BK.)	3489	
(62)	47 MARPLES, Shaun (DY.)	3487	
(56)	48 CUTLER, Tom (MI.)	3472	
(53)	49 WILLIAMS, Keith (LA.)	3460	
(69)	50 TENDLER, Gary (E.)	3445	
(49)	51 GREGORY, Christopher (SP.)	3430	
(60)	52 SATCHELL, Kevin (WI.)	3425**	
(66)	53 MARDEN, Michael (DU.)	3418	
(98)	54 ADAMS, Martin (BK.)	3407	
(55)	55 GREEN, Mark (NG.)	3406	
(61)	56 BROWN, Mark (K.)	3389	
(63)	57 HORGAN, Daniel (CH.)	3384	
(71)	58 BARTRAM, Peter (SX.)	3365	
(105)	59 BAILEY, Steven (CY.)	3364	
(120)	60 DENNY, Stephen (Y.)	3360	
(67)	61 JAMIESON, Christopher (E.)	3358	
(68)	62 GRIFFIN, Darren (GS.)	3357**	
(70)	63 HORSFIELD, Andrew (Y.)	3323	
(80)	64 ATKINSON, David (CA.)	3319	
(78)	65 MCKOY, Nick (ML.)	3317*	
(89)	66 WHITEMAN, James (DV.)	3310	
(72)	67 BEADSLY, Kevin (Y.)	3305	
(73)	68 GANNON, David (LE.)	3305	
(82)	69 ROMANO, Mark (K.)	3296	
(85)	70 POUNTNEY, Robert (SY.)	3296**	
(87)	71 GELDER, Tony (DU.)	3289	
(74)	72 FESEHATSON, Daniel (MI.)	3288	
(88)	73 JOHNS, Mike (CH.)	3280	
(79)	74 CORBIN, Anthony (HE.)	3279	
(113)	75 WALSH, Jimmy (HE.)	3274	
(159)	76 GREEN, Alex (L.)	3274	
(77)	77 JONAH, Jerome (K.)	3270	
(90)	78 YULE, Richard (SX.)	3263*	
(84)	79 HARDING, David (SY.)	3258	
(91)	80 SHORT, Mike (DV.)	3255	
(183)	81 ADEMakinWA, Ayoade (E.)	3250	
(83)	82 HALL, Dominic (K.)	3243	
(99)	83 GODBOLD, David (DU.)	3243	
(94)	84 TILFORD, Richard (HA.)	3240**	
(135)	85 PAYNE, Clive (HA.)	3228	
(95)	86 MEREDITH, Darryl (LA.)	3222**	
(107)	87 GILES, Paul (CO.)	3218	

(64)	88 CARTH, Clive (E.)	3216
(114)	89 FORD, Christopher (LA.)	3213
(96)	90 HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3213**
(132)	91 HORSFIELD, Stephen (YS.)	3208
(92)	92 ROSENTHAL, Louis (CH.)	3204
(100)	93 CLAYTON, Tony (DO.)	3204
(97)	94 GASCOYNE, Craig (NG.)	3191
(108)	95 BUTLER, Mark (DO.)	3187
(86)	96 RANKIN, John (LA.)	3187
(102)	97 BARATY, Eil (MI.)	3176***
(109)	98 DABBS, Kieron (NP.)	3175
(106)	99 WELSMAN, Dave (NP.)	3159
(104)	100 KERRY, Trevor (NG.)	3151

Senior Women

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 PARKER, Katy (LA.)	4020***	
(2)	2 DEATON, Nicola (DY.)	3987*	
(5)	3 WALKER, Georgina (NG.)	3972	
(4)	4 WELTON, Helen (ST.)	3947	
(6)	5 PARKER, Joanna (SY.)	3850	
(8)	6 SIBLEY, Kelly (WA.)	3841	
(7)	7 HOLT, Andrea (LA.)	3826*	
(11)	8 EMBLING, Abigail (E.)	3739*	
(9)	9 STEWARD, Kate (SO.)	3734	
(12)	10 OWOLABI, Kubrat (MI.)	3652*	
(14)	11 BAWDEN, Natalie (E.)	3598	
(15)	12 DURRANT, Louise (NG.)	3485	
(37)	13 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)	3478	
(17)	14 CLARK, Sally (Y.)	3460*	
(16)	15 THORNTON, Lindsey (LA.)	3434	
(19)	16 SMITH, Karen (LE.)	3388	
(18)	17 SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LI.)	3311	
(20)	18 CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.)	3289	
(22)	19 WESTON, Sally (SX.)	3284	
(27)	20 WHITE, Nicola (Y.)	3280	
(23)	21 HARRIS, Jill (ST.)	3269	
(25)	22 SHORT, Elaine (DV.)	3266	
(28)	23 DUNNING, Jan (WO.)	3259	
(26)	24 NEWS, Clare (CH.)	3249	
(24)	25 COHEN, Michele (AV.)	3235	
(31)	26 SPINK, Lauren (NK.)	3233	
(29)	27 KEAST, Lesley (LI.)	3226	
(30)	28 ROBERTS, Joanna (Y.)	3223	
(33)	29 HARPER, Sandra (BD.)	3186	
(32)	30 YARDY, Hannah (E.)	3167*	
(31)	31 RANTON, Rosemary (SX.)	3166**	
(36)	32 SPARKES, Rebecca (SK.)	3134**	
(38)	33 BONGERS, Jose (ST.)	3122**	
(35)	34 WILSON, Naomi (SO.)	3121	
(40)	35 BALDI, Andrea(Ts) (Y.)	3119	
(52)	36 BRISTOW, Angie (K.)	3098	
(42)	37 HOWARD, Alice (CH.)	3098	
(43)	38 NARENDAN, Aparna (MI.)	3092**	
(41)	39 BUOEY, Brenda (LA.)	3076	
(46)	40 PEARCE, Diane (K.)	3061	
(44)	41 SHIELDS, Helen (Y.)	3061	
(45)	42 HURLING, Emma (HE.)	3058***	
(54)	43 MALTBY, Margaret (NP.)	3053	
(47)	44 WANG, Lucy (E.)	3043	
(57)	45 LLOYD, Gemma (CH.)	3027	
(49)	46 LAMBERT, Helen (DV.)	3023**	
(48)	47 MORLEY, Judy (GS.)	3011	
(50)	48 DURHAM, Jane (CY.)	2997	
(51)	49 SIMPSON, Linda (Y.)	2987	
(53)	50 HURRELL, Rebecca (ML.)	2978*	
(56)	51 BROWN, Grace (E.)	2976	
(58)	52 BAWDEN, Marilyn (E.)	2954*	
(59)	53 INGHAM, Katy (CH.)	2943*	
(60)	54 MARLING, Samantha (MI.)	2942**	
(153)	55 WILSON, Claire (DU.)	2934	
(55)	56 RIDER, Sandra (Y.)	2922	
(65)	57 DEARING, Emily (Y.)	2918	
(77)	58 GRAHAM, Cherith (LA.)	2909	
(61)	59 HORSWELL, Sarah (MI.)	2908	
(62)	60 HARRISON, Jennifer (E.)	2905	
(64)	61 PERRY, Lucy (DV.)	2897***	
(67)	62 PERRY, Penny (DY.)	2873	
(70)	63 COGGON, Sara (HE.)	2868	
(64)	64 SCHOFIELD, Doreen (CH.)	2866**	
(71)	65 SHALER, Eileen (LE.)	2853	
(63)	66 SEYMOUR, Tamar (OX.)	2837	
(74)	67 SWABEY, Jane (DV.)	2822**	
(76)	68 FLOWERDAY, Anne (E.)	2811	
(66)	69 DENNETT, Elizabeth (CH.)	2810	
(75)	70 KING, Sheila (SX.)	2808	
(73)	71 DAWSON, Marjorie (E.)	2807	
(79)	72 WHEALY, Jennifer (E.)	2802**	
(68)	73 ROBINSON, Suzanne (GS.)	2798	

(84)	74 BURGESS, Suzanne (CH.)	2789
(80)	75 HALES, Linda (DO.)	2787**
(81)	76 CRICK, Lisa (BK.)	2787***
(82)	77 DIGNUM, Margaret (WO.)	2783
(115)	78 LANGFORD, Clare (CH.)	2783
(83)	79 KNIGHTLEY, Gillian (BK.)	2782
80	SORRENTINO, Annabelle (CH.)	2780
(78)	81 GELDER, Shirley (DU.)	2777
(86)	82 STEDMAN, Sarah (SX.)	2761**
(87)	83 BROWN, Janet (OX.)	2758
(89)	84 WHITE, Jean (LI.)	2756**
(101)	85 WILLIAMS, Jackie (K.)	27431
(90)	86 VICKERS, Jane (DY.)	2737**
(91)	87 BENTLEY, Ruth (NG.)	2735
(92)	88 SPARKES, Anusha (SK.)	2714
(105)	89 CHEESHAM, Zoe (Y.)	2713
(93)	90 MAY, Elizabeth (DV.)	2705**
(88)	91 BROWN, Sarah (E.)	2704
(99)	92 MUDGE, Kim (E.)	2704
(95)	93 STEWART, Tina (K.)	2703***
(96)	94 SEAHOLME, Sarah (HE.)	2702***
(97)	95 JUDSON, Carol (Y.)	2696**
(94)	96 TODD, Nicole (E.)	2694
(118)	97 STEEL, Pauline (SX.)	2686
(100)	98 STITCH, Julie (CU.)	2680****
99	GRAHAM, Sylvia (LA.)	2679
(98)	100 REID, Lynda (WO.)	2676

Junior Boys

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(2)	1 CLEMINSON, Peter (E.)	3916	
(3)	2 BRYANT, Craig (DV.)	3896	
(5)	3 BAKER, Gregory (ST.)	3760	
(4)	4 DRINKHALL, Bryn (CY.)	3678	
(7)	5 KNIGHT, Darius (SY.)	3675	
(6)	6 YARNALL, Tim (NP.)	3639	
(8)	7 DRINKHALL, Paul (CY.)	3628	
(12)	8 BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA.)	3604	
(10)	9 MARPLES, Shaun (DY.)	3487	
(10)	10 GREGORY, Christopher (SP.)	3430	
(11)	11 HORNER, Daniel (CH.)	3384	
(13)	12 DENNY, Stephen (Y.)	3360	
(16)	13 GREEN, Alex (LI.)	3274	
(15)	14 EVANS, Bradley (BU) (NG.)	2895	
(14)	15 NOUTCH, Simon (Y.)	2853	
(18)	16 BROWN, Christopher (CO.)	2847	
(20)	17 MEADS, David (DU.)	2807	
(23)	18 LEIGHTON, Andrew (DU.)	2728	
(19)	19 LALLY, Keiran (E.)	2675	
(29)	20 HARLEY, John (K.)	2675	
(21)	21 MOSS, Richard (Y.)	2641	
(17)	22 CARTWRIGHT, Neil (DO.)	2598	
(54)	23 PAGE, Tom (CH.)	2572	
(26)	24 PANG, Dannel (MP.)	2546	
(27)	25 LEMON, Robert (SY.)	2486	
(24)	26 HAYES, David (BU.)	2405	
(36)	27 COONEY, William (DY.)	2368	
(25)	28 NICHOLLS, Ashley (SP.)	2366	
(33)	29 STAINES, Matthew (E.)	2339	
(30)	30 REES, Daniel (E.)	2319	
(28)	31 EVANS, Gavin (NG.)	2314	
(41)	32 ARMSTRONG, Marc (MI.)	2282	
(31)	33 PEEBLES, Robin (NG.)	2257**	
(34)	34 HALLING, Tony (E.)	2242	
(32)	35 SHAHLAEI, Harry (GS.)	2235**	
(34)	36 MOORE, Paul (SY.)	2207*	
(42)	37 SHARP, Evan (SY.)	2180	
(37)	38 POWELL, Neil (CH.)	2159	
(40)	39 KODICEK, Jacob (CO.)	2158	
(35)	40 WOODHEAD, Andrew (Y.)	2150	
(61)	41 ROBERTS, Stephen (YS.)	2108	
(47)	42 REED, Daniel (CY.)	2101	
(43)	43 GIBBS, Shaun (DV.)	2099**	
(45)	44 MILTON, James (BU.)	2073	
(46)	45 FROST, Adam (DY.)	2036	
(39)	46 CANNON, Samuel (MI.)	2031	
(51)	47 WESLEY, Richard (NG.)	2007	

Junior Girls

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(2)	1 WALKER, Georgina (NG.)	3972	
(3)	2 PARKER, Joanna (SY.)	3850	
(4)	3 SIBLEY, Kelly (WA.)	3841	
(6)	4 EMBLING, Abigail (E.)	3739*	
(5)	5 STEWARD, Kate (SO.)	3734	
(12)	6 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)	3478	
(7)	7 SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LI.)	3311	
(8)	8 CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.)	3289	
(9)	9 WHITE, Nicola (Y.)	3280	

(10)	10 SPINK, Lauren (NK.)	3233
(11)	11 WILSON, Naomi (SO.)	3121
(20)	12 WILSON, Claire (DU.)	2934
(15)	13 GRAHAM, Cherith (LA.)	2909
(14)	14 DENNETT, Elizabeth (CH.)	2810
(18)	15 LANGFORD, Clare (CH.)	2783
(16)	16 BROWN, Sarah (E.)	2704
(17)	17 WEIL, Emma (E.)	2606*
(19)	18 YARNLEY, Gemma (K.)	2529
(21)	19 HOWARD, Clara (CH.)	2460
(27)	20 WALLER, Tanya (Y.)	2358
(28)	21 WANG, Sarra (E.)	2357
(23)	22 SHUTT, Heather (Y.)	2346
(22)	23 SENEVIRATNE, Anusha (K.)	2313
(24)	24 HUBBARD, Joanne (K.)	2272**
(29)	25 TUCKER, Emily (BU.)	2258
(25)	26 BELL, Amanda (Y.)	2250
(26)	27 CRAVEN-GRIFFITHS, Kelly (LE.)	2216****
(32)	28 PERKS, Sarah (NG.)	1997
(31)	29 PARTON, Helen (DV.)	1996
(30)	30 RADFORD, Lisa (DV.)	1986
(36)	31 BALDI, Rachel(Ts) (Y.)	1926
(32)	32 BARRETT, Michelle (DV.)	1894
(35)	33 DAVIS, Stella (GS.)	1854**
(34)	34 DONNELLY, Stephanie (CV.)	1853
(41)	35 MEADS, Joanne (DU.)	1840
(37)	36 VAJDI, Christina (SY.)	1831
(39)	37 HEARD, Gemma (E.)	1713*
(40)	38 REES, Bethany (E.)	1674**
(46)	39 BEASTALL, Stacey (NG.)	1593
(42)	40 LIGHTOWLER, Katie (Y.)	1563**
(43)	41 PARKER, Hayley (CH.)	1549
(44)	42 SKEGGS, Kelly (E.)	1509
(45)	43 BOSLEY, Lisa (BK.)	1467**
(48)	44 ROGERS, Gina (SX.)	1422
(56)	45 FARQUHAR, Melanie (BK.)	1409
(49)	46 SMITH, Sally (DV.)	1397
(47)	47 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1349
(54)	48 BYRON, Sophie (CH.)	1348

Cadet Boys

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(2)	1 KNIGHT, Darius (SY.)	3675	
(3)	2 YARNALL, Tim (NP.)	3639	
(1)	3 DRINKHALL, Paul (CY.)	3628	
(4)	4 EVANS, Bradley (BU) (NG.)	2895	
(5)	5 MEADS, David (DU		

“ATHENS”

DEFENSIVE table tennis players such as myself tend to get, well, defensive when it is pointed out that we are on the verge of extinction. There are no defenders left in the world's top 40 and there has not been a single world champion since the postwar triumphs of Richard Bergmann and Johnny Leach. Sensible coaches refuse even to teach the technique any more. And yet those of us who still compete at international level have stuck resolutely to our chosen craft, vainly attempting to triumph through guile and subtlety rather than brute force, writes Matthew Syed.

Until now. With the qualifying competition for the 2004 Olympic Games looming, the penny has finally dropped. The Olympics is like that—as with impending death, it focuses the mind. And my mind has grasped the brutal fact that has been obvious to everyone since the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) brought in the 40mm ball two seasons ago: stick to defence and kiss goodbye to any prospect of going to Athens.

And the upshot? Instead of retiring at the end of the season, as many have advised in recent months, I have decided to experiment with speed glue in one last-ditch—many would say futile—attempt to qualify for the Games.

This may not sound all that remarkable, but a defender using speed glue is the table tennis equivalent of a Trotskyite joining the Conservative Party. Even as I applied the very first layer of the odoriferous liquid last weekend I became burdened by a sense of treachery, relieved only by the slow and rhythmical chanting of “Athens . . . Athens”.

Speed glue has been responsible, more than any other technology, for cementing the ascendancy of attackers. Spread liberally between blade and rubber, it mysteriously transforms the bat into a trampoline—a ball dropped from six inches rebounds past your ears before doing a double somersault with half-twist. In the hands of a world class attacker, a freshly glued bat can propel the ball at velocities upwards of 100mph.

What hope for guile against such legalised brutality? Well, until 1999, there remained a glimmer. Despite the glue, defenders could retreat to the back of the court and ensnare impetuous opponents in a web of backspin. Even the most accomplished offensive players had to fence for an opening, spreading the defender around the court—heedful of the disguised variation in spin—before trying to unleash a winner. It was a compelling spectacle. Audiences loved it, novelists wrote about it.

And then the ITTF destroyed it. Two asinine rule changes—the reduction in the length of long pimples in 1999 and the increase in the diameter of the ball in 2000—critically reduced the quantity of spin, leaving defenders hopelessly exposed. The mesmerising, 70-year conflict of attack versus defence was transformed into a turkey shoot.

But having recognised that I am doomed never to beat them, how then to join them? The problem is that it is

practically impossible to effect a wholesale conversion from defence to attack—attempting to stay close to the table after a quarter-century in the deep would be tantamount to learning a new sport. No, the plan is to use glue on the forehand side, while retaining long pimples on the backhand; to become an all-rounder in the manner pioneered by Chen Xinhua, the former China player who spent the final part of his career playing for England.

Yet that is not quite how it worked out during the first practice session at the weekend. My shot selection was hideous. Twice I fell over attempting to deliver a power-topspin at precisely the wrong moment; later, my training partner could

barely keep a straight face when I hurtled in for a forehand winner, lost my balance and dispatched the ball over his head. At times it felt more like slapstick than table tennis. But more unnerving was the deterioration in control caused by the speed glue. My forehand chop lacked sensitivity: the ball sprang away before I could cradle it. For the first time in years, the bat no longer felt like an extension of my living body.

Steen Hansen, the England performance director, from Denmark, is convinced that I must persevere. “The only way to qualify for Athens is to attack whenever possible,” he said. “I know that it is both tough and very risky to make the change after all these years. You have

to change both your mindset and technique. But the greatest risk of all would be to change nothing.”

Only the top 20 or so in the world rankings are spared the ordeal of having to win through to the Olympics via the continental qualification competitions and, unlike in 2000, I will not be among them. A mere 11 places are up for grabs at the European event in Luxembourg in November, which leaves barely seven months in which to prepare. So here goes the unlikeliest twist in a career nearing its conclusion: a defender using speed glue.

Bergmann will be spinning in his grave. *Reproduced by kind permission of The Times newspaper*

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BRITISH LEAGUE WEEKEND (4)

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into the no. 1 position and securing vital wins over Peter Allister (11-8 in the fifth end) and Steve Cullis (3-1). Mature student Tamar Seymour also impressed with excellent wins over Jason Jones (3-1) and Peter Allister (11-9 in the fifth). Rotherham Scorpion's no.1 Bill Grant provided the main opposition in Birmingham's 6-2 win as he beat both Peter Dasher (3-1) and Earl Sweeney (again 3-1) as the Birmingham girls Jane Dickens and Tamar Seymour stayed undefeated.

Darlington's hopes of moving off the foot of the table vanished after their narrow 5-3 defeat against Grove III, a close match which was poised at 3-3. Grove's Matthew Squires came up trumps against Robin Donnelly which enabled Joe Higgs to clinch the victory for his side with a 3-0 victory over Stephanie Donnelly. Grove also gave a great showing against Woodfield and their 6-2 defeat hides the fact that they lost two games by the narrowest margin in the deciding end. Robert Morris just missed out 12-10 in the fifth end against Peter Allister and Matthew Squires only succumbed 13-11 in the final game against Andy Seward.

Division Three (Midlands & South) - This turned out to be the closest division of all as Generation 2 and Birmingham University were tied on 23 points and also on their Sets records of 83-29. It was Generation who finally took the title by virtue of having a superior Games record of 285-139 as opposed to Birmingham's 272-136. Rather like losing one of those photo-finish races by less than a hundredth of a second. Birmingham may be disappointed as they won all four matches convincingly, beating Guildford II (8-0), Grove II (8-0), Ashford II (7-1) and finally BATTs Team Peniel II (6-2). It is so easy to reflect that had they managed just one more win they would have been Champions but you could argue that they did well to restrict a strong BATTs Team Peniel side to two games. Stuart Seaholme did very well to beat Ayo Ademakinwa 3-0 and Glen Wilkes had his work cut out in beating Daniel Rees 11-8 in the fifth end. Rees hit back with a 3-0 victory over Tim Seaholme so they can't feel too dissatisfied with this result.

Generation 2 amassed seven points out of a possible eight over the weekend, their blip coming against London Progress V, a fiercely contested match where they had to retrieve a 4-2 deficit to secure a

draw..Progress's Daniel Cannon played superbly to beat both Graham Toole and Miki Sinanin and Yucheng Zhang also weighed in with two wins from the no. 1 position beating Sinanin and Victor Imiseev, this victory coming at a tantalising 15-13 in the final set. The Generation 2 victories came from Roger Hookey who won twice (which included a 13-11 fifth set victory over Matt Staines) with Graham Toole and Victor Iniseev winning once. Bottom side Grove II also picked up two sets against the Champions as Gordon Shaw got the better of Sinanin 3-1 and Damien Nicholls scored an excellent -3, 7,-7, 13,11 victory over Hookey.

A couple of other results stand out as having gone very much against the form-book. London Progress who started the weekend on 15 points saw their chances diminish when they lost 6-2 against an inspired BATTs Team Peniel II, on this occasion looking a lot more BATTs than Peniel. Harlow veterans Neil Brierley and Dave Wright took all four singles from the no. 1 and 2 positions with Wright in particular excelling by beating Ray Lam 12-10 in the decider and Sam Cannon 3-0. Aaron Fennell completed a first class team performance by winning twice, beating Matt Staines 11-8 in the fifth end and then getting the better of Daniel Cannon by a surprisingly convincing 3-0 margin. The other result that definitely went against the form-book came in the last round of matches where Grove II won their first match of the season, 5-3 against Ashford II. Damien Nicholls won twice from the no. 3 position and solitary wins for Gordon Shaw, Paul Rowan and Russell Nichols gave Grove the edge. Russell Nicholls kept his nerve in the vital last game by beating Leyon Joseph 11-9, 11-9, 11-9.

Division Three (North) - Club Mid-Cheshire did everything in their power to close the gap on leaders Blackpool and they couldn't have made their point more emphatically when the two teams met. Club Mid-Cheshire's 7-1 victory was a fair reflection of their level of domination as Keith Williams, Mike Johns and Wayne Percival carried all before them. Blackpool's Martin Ireland saved the whitewash with a 3-1 win over Alec Johns. However Blackpool didn't falter in any of their other matches winning all three games easily 8-0 against Dewsbury II, Halton Croda II and Isle of Man. Fielding an unchanged side throughout the weekend the Blackpool team of Steve Dixon, Steve Bevan, Zeke

Dixon and Martin Ireland knew what they had to do and their haul of six points meant they took the title by a single point. Forget the decisive defeat against a very strong Club Mid-Cheshire team; Blackpool look perfectly equipped to do very well in division two next season.

Darlington III finished an isolated third but their young side will have impressed many with their determined play. They took seven points out of eight as their games were punctuated with good individual performances. Highlights included a superb individual win for Claire Wilson over Seasider's Brian Allison and an 8-0 drubbing of fourth-placed Halton Croda II as David Meades, Kevin and Claire Wilson and Andrew Leighton all stayed unbeaten.

Barrow's match against Seasiders can possibly take the plaudits as the best game in this division as all bar one game was decided in a fourth set and three matches went all the way to deuce in the fifth end. The canny Brian Allison had to use all his experience to hold off Harry Carter 12-10 in the fifth whilst Cherith Graham also scraped home, 13-11 in the fifth end against Jon Crawford. It all came down to Barrow's Jason Million's match against Brendan McAleese and it was Jason who sealed the 5-3 victory for his side as he won 13-11 in the decider. An excellent match.

Division Three (South) - Ashford, one of the Clubs with a real British League tradition (older players will remember that a fairly reasonable player named Jean Michel Saive used to play for them in the 1980s!) played superbly to take the title and their 5-3 victory over York Gardens also featured an act of outstanding sportsmanship on their part. Mark Smith's car broke down and he had to catch a taxi from Wandsworth to Ashford. Not turning up until half-way would have been too much for many teams, but it was no problem to the Ashford side who were keen to win the title on the table. They will have won many friends with their attitude although they showed less compassion on the table. Tomas Svensson played superbly to beat Smith 3-0 (having earlier retrieved a 2-0 deficit to get the better of Steve Holloway) and Henry Buist, Dave Crowley and Nic Ravalec completed a great team effort with a win apiece.

Ashford had also been pushed hard by JAGS II who weren't too far away from taking a point. Tomas Svensson missed out against Farhat Rasul 11-8 in the fifth end and Rodney Farquharson scored a superb 3-1

victory over Henry Buist. It was left to a relieved Nic Ravalec who kept their challenge on course with his 3-0 victory over Neil Stewart in the last game to give his side their 5-3 victory. York Gardens managed to beat Guernsey 6-2 but this wasn't plain sailing either. Steve Holloway was pushed to the fifth end on two occasions; by both Lucas Waring and Phil Ogier whilst Vlodymyr Chodnabad was at pains to see off Dipan Shah, which he eventually managed at 11-7 in the fifth.

This division quickly became a competition of two "halves" as Champions Ashford down to the fifth placed team (Horsham III) all scored well whereas the bottom three sides all finished the season on six points. With seven of the sixteen results this round being decided 7-1 or 8-0 it wasn't ultimately as competitive as some of the other divisions either. Possibly due to the quality of the better players playing for the Ashford and York Garden sides; but may be also because the British League is achieving its main objective, to encourage as many players as possible to take part in a higher level of Team-play than is usually available at Local League and Inter-League level.

Horsham III had a tough weekend having to face Ashford, York Gardens and Guernsey but they did manage to add another two points to their tally by beating London Progress V 5-3. Doubles for Simon Pink and Andy Castle gave them the edge. Guernsey proved too strong on this occasion as Ogier, Waring and Richard Veale raced to a 7-1 victory. Peter Bretel found himself outgunned 3-0 by Graham Faulkner but he hit back well with a 11-9 in the deciding game win over Andy Castle.

The bottom team Britannia Hanbury Ipswich did well to win twice, beating Byng Hall Farningham Print II emphatically 7-1 and following this up with a very good 5-3 win over high-riding JAGS II. Ian Brown, David Henderson and Ken Lewis were all undefeated against Byng Hall and Ken Lewis and David Henderson followed suit against JAGS.

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CALENDAR

MAY		
17th-18th	English National Cadet & Junior Championships	Kings Lynn Thornbury
17th-18th	VETTS National Masters	
19th-25th	Liebherr Individual World Championships	Paris, France
24th-25th	National Team Finals	Knowsley
25th	Whitchurch Junior 2 Star	
31st/1st	Cippenham 1 Star Young Players Festival	
JUNE		
7th	County Championships Conference	
7th-8th	English National U10/11/12 Championships	
14th-15th	Regional Training	
15th	Egerton 2 Star Veteran	
15th	Cippenham 2 Star Veteran	
22nd	Whitchurch Junior 2 Star	
26th-29th	ITTF Pro Tour - Brazil Open	Rio De Janeiro
28th	ETTA AGM	Milton Keynes
28th-29th	British Schools International	Largs, Scotland
29th	Whitchurch 2 Star Senior Super 8	
JULY		
3rd-6th	USA Open	Fort Lauderdale
12th-13th	Regional Training	
13th	Whitchurch 2 Star Senior Super 8	
20th	Whitchurch Junior 2 Star	
26th	National Council	
AUGUST		
7th-10th	ITTF Pro Tour - Malaysia Open	
9th	Continental Masters - The Crucible	Sheffield
14th-17th	ITTF Pro Tour - Singapore Open	
16th-17th	Regional Training	
19th-23rd	ITTF World Junior Circuit	Taiyuan, China
31st	British League (1) Premier Division	
SEPTEMBER		
4th-7th	ITTF Pro Tour - Korea Open	Seoul, Korea
4th-7th	ITTF World Junior Circuit	San Diego, USA
6th-7th	Womens British League (1)	
6th-7th	VETTS North Eastern Masters	
11th-14th	ITTF Pro Tour - China Open	
13th	Cheshire Junior 2 Star	
11th-14th	ITTF World Junior Circuit	Brazil
13th-14th	Regional Training	
13th-14th	British League Weekend (1)	

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

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