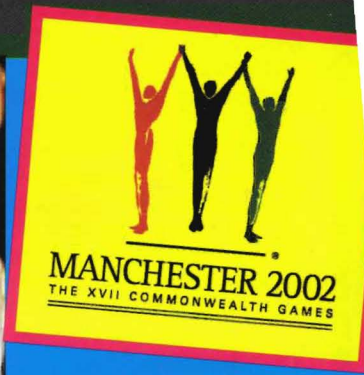


TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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SEPT/OCT 2002



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THE ETTA ANNIVERSARY DINNER

THE ANNIVERSARY dinners roll on. On July 29 at the Clarendon Suites in Birmingham following the ETTA AGM Doreen Stannard masterminded the 80th Anniversary Dinner of the Ping Pong Association, combined with the 75th Anniversary of the ETTA incorporating a dinner for members of The Hundred Club and 25 years work by Doreen organising the club itself.

It was another sparkling evening attended by nearly 90 diners. A mouth-watering four-course dinner followed by four absorbing and entertaining speeches, mainly reminiscences from the past from the former general secretary of the ETTA Derek Tremayne, the present Chief Executive Richard Yule, chairman Alan Ransome and huge portions of humour and fun from Birmingham's own Ralph Gunnion.

The evening was enhanced by the humour coming from the MC another former general secretary of the ETTA, Albert Shipley.

Derek Tremayne recalled with anecdotes, not only the seven years as ETTA General Secretary but also the time spent running the National Sports Training Centre at Lilleshall.

Richard Yule, hours after being made a vice-president of the ETTA and the AGM - the first Scotsman we believe to be accorded that honour - went as far back as his first encounter with table tennis in Scotland when he witnessed an exhibition match between the legendary Richard Bergmann and a Japanese player called Fuji.

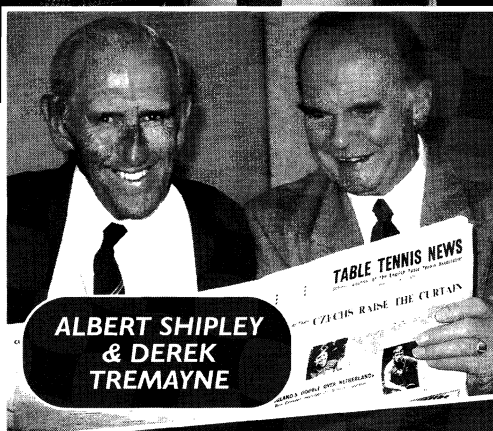
Our chief executive reminded as all of the never-to-be forgotten episode at Crystal Palace when Chester Barnes won the English crown in 1963 leading to Denis Neale jumping off the top board at the swimming pool. The most fervent applause of the evening came when Richard referred to the presence amongst the local contingent of Desmond Douglas.

Alan Ransome came next. He spent sometime on the past but emphasised the need to look forward towards the most promising batch of young players now at Nottingham. Also he emphasised that 2002 will be recorded in ETTA history as the year that we entered the

THE FOUR CELEBRATIONS NIGHT by John Woodford in Birmingham



Pictured above are some of the top players at the dinner, DESMOND DOUGLAS, JILL PARKER, RALPH GUNNION & BARRY JOHNSON



ALBERT SHIPLEY & DEREK TREMAYNE



Pictured left are DOREEN STANNARD and JOSE RANSOME, who were presented with these huge bouquets of flowers. Whilst pictured below is a happy ETTA Management Committee



Commonwealth Games which will surely give table tennis a huge, new major boost. He said "This will enhance the development work undertaken by the ETTA over the last decade and we hope give fresh popularity and impetus as we move into the final quarter of our first century."

The Ralph Gunnion speech was scripted but it was well worth the effort. It was packed solid with dry humour providing a fitting climax to the evening. Ralph was some years ago, a candidate for the ETTA chair. He said "One man and his dog voted for me, but I am not sure that the dog got his vote in!"

Huge bouquets were presented at the close to Jose Ransome and Doreen Stannard, whilst throughout the evening a running display of photographs from the past were projected on a screen, thanks to Don and Jill Parker.

The most important absent friend was president Johnny Leach who was unable to travel after an accident on the golf course, also Mike and Christine Lewis - Mike was in hospital.

Also unable to make the dinner was Don Parker, but Jill Parker was escorted by Steen Kyst Hansen, who I am willing to bet heavily, by the time these words appear in print will succeed Soren Ahlen as England's World Class Performance Director.



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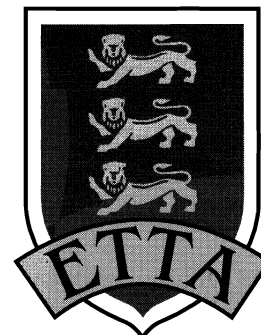


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FRONT COVER

England win Commonwealth Gold Medals in
Manchester - pictures by Jose Ransome



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CHARTERS RECEIVES TORCH TROPHY

Top Coach PETER CHARTERS receives the Torch Trophy Trust Award During Commonwealth Games by Ken Muhr

SIXTY TWO year old retired Reading teacher, Peter Charters, the coach of many top table tennis players, received a Torch Trophy Trust special award from England and Manchester United legend, Sir Bobby Charlton, at Manchester United FC, Old Trafford, on Tuesday, 30th July. The Trust recognises and rewards 'unsung hero' volunteers from all sports for their outstanding contribution to sport in the United Kingdom. It will have been a poignant moment for Charters, whose star pupil, 31 year old Matthew Syed, the 3 times



Pictured above is PETER CHARTERS receiving the Torch Trophy from SIR BOBBY CHARLTON in Manchester

Commonwealth champion, had just led the England team to the Games men's team final where the next day they lifted gold.

Charters has been coaching for 30 years, and his pupils number many former England internationals including Karen Witt (former Commonwealth and national champion), Alison Gordon (former national women's champion), Mandy Smith, David Reeves, Caroline



LOVE SET & MATCH

HARVEY WEBB and DIANE KIRKWOOD pictured at the ETTA anniversary dinner. They met at a Tigers vs Saints league match in Hastings last December

Reeves, Andrew Syed (Matthew's brother), Jimmy Stokes and David Barr. But his most famous star was Matthew Syed, the current England no.1 and 4 times national champion, who he started off as an 8 year old pupil at Aldryton Primary School. As well as running a school club, he set up his own club outside of school for coaching, the Omega Club (now renamed Kingfisher) in Reading. He was also the first head coach at the Reading Centre of Excellence at Bulmershe College (where he trained as a history teacher), helping many other England internationals, including the Scottish head coach/team manager for the Commonwealth Games, Kevin Satchell.

As well as holding many voluntary positions locally in table tennis, Charters became Chairman of the National Selection Committee, and is currently Chairman of the ETTA High Performance Coach Education Focus Group. Furthermore, he has been very active in football as Manager of Reading Schools FA under 12/13/14 and 15 teams and Recruitment Officer for Reading FC Academy, and still holds the Berkshire Schools FA County Secretary and Reading School FA Team Manager posts.

The Torch Trophy Trust was founded in 1962 by the late Commander Bill Collins, the

organiser of the 1948 Olympic Torch Relay from Olympia in Greece to Wembley in London. The Torch Trophy Trust is a charitable organisation, whose main aim is to encourage voluntary work in sport and other related outdoor activities within local communities.

The Torch Trophy Trust not only presents awards, but is also actively engaged in encouraging and helping voluntary workers at club level. The Trust operates a bursary scheme, named after the founder of the Trust, called the Commander Collins Bursaries, to help volunteers overcome financial barriers to improving their skills as coaches or officials.

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NEXT ISSUE OF TABLE TENNIS NEWS NOVEMBER 2002 COPY DATE IS 1st OCTOBER 2002 SEE PAGE 30 FOR ALL OF THIS SEASON'S COPY DATES



**ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION LTD
COMPETITIONS DEPARTMENT**

New ETTA Age Eligibility

Following decisions taken at the Extraordinary General Meeting of English Table Tennis Association Limited, held in Birmingham on Saturday, 29th June, 2002 and a request from National Council I am pleased to give details of the implications for players wishing to enter the various events within our Competition programme. The changes come into effect for the current Administrative Year, which commenced on 30th June, 2002, the day after the ETTA Annual General Meeting.

The Qualifying dates of birth shown below apply for Season 2002/2003.

Juniors – now Under 18

A player entering Junior events must have been born on or after 2nd January 1985.

Cadets – now Under 15

A player entering Cadet events must have been born on or after 2nd January 1988.

It will now be necessary for us to expand our Under 10, 11, 12 Championships by adding Under 13 events.

Under 13 events

A player entering Under 13 events must have been born on or after 2nd January 1990.

Under 12 events

A player entering Under 12 events must have been born on or after 2nd January 1991.

Under 11 events

A player entering Under 11 events must have been born on or after 2nd January 1992.

Under 10 events

A player entering Under 10 events must have been born on or after 2nd January 1993.

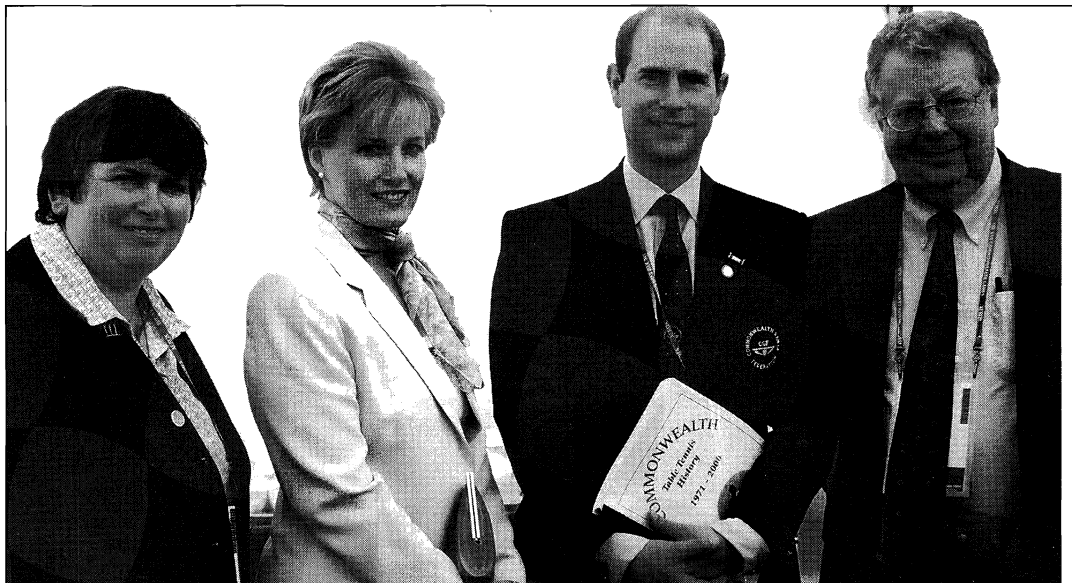
Under 21 and Veteran age limits have not been changed. The qualifying date is 30th June 2002.

Keith Ponting
Vice-Chairman (Competitions)
August 2002

COMMONWEALTH BOOST FOR TABLE TENNIS



Alan Ransome OBE,
Chairman of the ETTA



THE EARL and COUNTESS OF WESSEX, PRINCE EDWARD and his wife SOPHIE, meet KAREN TONGE the Competition Manager, and the ETTA Chairman ALAN RANSOME.

Table tennis received a major boost from being part of the Commonwealth Games which took place in Manchester from 25 July until 4th August, with the England team winning three Gold Medals and the sport enjoying the biggest publicity boost for more than twenty-five years.

Winning gold Medals in Commonwealth table tennis events today is no easy task. Therefore, for England to win the Men's Team event, Gareth Herbert and Andrew Baggaley to lift the Men's Doubles and Sue Gilroy to take the first Wheelchair Gold, is a significant achievement. England's fourth table tennis medal also came in the wheelchair event when Cathy Mitton won the Bronze.

In the Men's team event our team started nervously overcoming a potential crisis with a 3 - 2 win against Trinidad & Tobago. In the quarter finals the team also went the full distance with Australia and relied on Matthew Syed winning two

singles to clinch the medal position. From that point the victories became easier. A 3 - 1 win over India with Gareth Herbert in his best form for over a year to beat the Indian No 1, Chetan Baboor, and then in the final England beat the winners of the last Commonwealth Championships Men's Team event, Nigeria 3 - 0. Again Gareth Herbert was in great form beating the eventual singles Gold Medalist, Segun Toriola, and with Alex Perry winning his singles against Nosiru Kazeem in Gold Medal winning style. Matthew Syed was a tower of strength in the team event where he was unbeaten throughout.

The Men's Doubles was another very exciting win as Gareth and Andrew Baggaley recovered from near defeat in the 5th game in both the semi final against the Indian pair of Baboor and Subramanian and again in the final to beat the gallant Welsh duo, of Ryan Jenkins and Adam Robertson.

The inclusion of the EAD events

was also a big success for table tennis and produced some excellent matches. Sue Gilroy of Yorkshire was a worthy winner beating Alette Moll of South Africa comfortably in the final and team mate, Cathy Mitton, also of Yorkshire, in the semi.

In the Men's Singles England's real chances of a fourth Gold ended when disappointing results followed an unhelpful draw. Three English players, Matthew Syed, Gareth Herbert and Alex Perry all reached the quarter finals. The eventual winner, Segun Toriola of Nigeria, excelled to beat the top seed, Johnny Huang of Canada in the final.

In the women's events, the English players were faced with a very difficult task as all the top eight seeds were former Chinese nationals. In the Team event a medal looked possible when England beat Malaysia to play New Zealand in the quarter finals. The Li sisters, one of whom won the gold Medal in the women's singles, proved too strong. Another medal looked possible in

the Mixed Doubles when Matthew Syed and Katy Parker reached the quarter finals to play the top rated Singapore pair. After a good contest, Duan and Li Jai Wei won through and went on to win the Gold Medal.

An important part of the boost was the television coverage by the BBC who had a full camera crew present throughout the ten days of play and broadcast many hours of coverage on the new BBC Digital service including a number of full matches in the team events. The amount of coverage on the main BBC channel was good although not as extensive as we might have hoped. In particular the Men's Doubles win for Gareth Herbert and Andrew Baggaley received extensive coverage of both the semi final and final matches and Matthew Syed's interview with Steve Rider on BBC 1 following the Highlights of the team victory was very positive for the sport.

The television coverage was broadcast to all 72 Commonwealth countries which spilled over into several other countries, particularly in Asia,

The presentation of the table tennis was applauded by all. The look of the show courts, the precision of the medal ceremonies, the introduction of the participants was all first class and presented the sport in an excellent light. Tickets for all the sessions were sold out although this in itself did not guarantee that all seats were filled as often members of the public bought a ticket for a full day for a number of sports and spent only a few hours at each.

The table tennis competition was visited by a large number of dignitaries, in particular the Earl and Countess of Wessex, Prince Edward and his wife Sophie, the Duchess of Gloucester who

FROM THE CHAIR - 2

presented the medals for the Women's Team event, accompanied by the Duke of Gloucester. The Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, with Nigel Griffiths MP from the Department of Trade and Industry, the Minister of Sport, Richard Caborn MP, the President of the Commonwealth Games Council for England Sir Christopher Chataway, the Chairman of Sport England Trevor Brooking, the Lottery Chairman Bridget Simmons and the Head of Lottery, David Carpenter, BOA Chairman Craig Reddie, CCPR Chairman, Howard Wells and Chief Executive, Margaret Talbot, plus a procession of government ministers and sports chiefs from other Commonwealth countries. The Protocol Team at the table tennis event were certainly kept very busy and did an excellent job for us.

Manchester was the debut for table tennis in the Commonwealth Games and this gave us a clean sheet of paper on which to design the event. Overall the competition was very successful. The entry from over twenty countries in the team events and almost 30 in the individual events was very credible. The look, presentations and perception was first class and this will have helped table tennis to stay in the Games in future years. We are already guaranteed a position with a similar programme in Melbourne, Australia in 2006 and approaches that I made to officials from bidding nations, Singapore, India and Canada indicate that table tennis will be included in 2010 if their bid is successful.

Outstanding at the event was the performance and attitude of the VOLUNTEERS, both from table tennis and from the general public. They received plaudits from many quarters and I am certainly pleased to add my congratulations and thanks to them all. They were challenged with matching the exceptional standard set in Sydney and did so with aplomb. Our table tennis TECHNICAL OFFICIALS also did a first class job with Colin Clemett as the International Technical Delegate and Richard Scruton as

the Referee.

The support that we received throughout from Manchester 2002 was first class with Karen Tonge as Competition Manager and with Brian Stocks, Wendy Walker and Peter Knowles all playing a very important part in the success of table tennis at the Games.

The next possible opportunity for an event of similar stature in England is the possible London bid for the Olympic games in 2012 which is currently under consideration by the BOA. There is no doubt that involvement in the Commonwealth Games build up and the Games themselves has been very valuable to table tennis and if the BOA and the Government can be persuaded to bid for London 2012 this will provide a further boost for our sport. As the table tennis representative on the BOA, I am doing all that I can so far to encourage the BOA to bid for the Olympics. The main factor in the BOA decision to bid will be the level of investment that the Government and London are prepared to commit.

EUROPEAN YOUTH

Shortly before the Commonwealth Games the European Youth Championships were played in Moscow where the young England team showed some overall improvement compared with the previous year. In the team events the best performance came from Katy Parker who was unbeaten with ten wins from 10 matches. The girls improved their European ranking from 18 to 14 and came close to a top 8 position when they had two match points against Sweden for a place in the quarter finals. The junior boys were unable to maintain their improved ranking from last year of eight falling into 16th place. Dale Barham and Matthew Kenney came closest to winning a medal in the boys doubles reaching the quarter finals.

The cadet girls improved their position by one place from last year up to 12th after losing their last two matches to Hungary and Poland both by 3 - 2. Abigail

Embling reached the last 16 of the girls singles. The cadet boys with under 12's Paul Drinkhall and Darius Knight, performed well and improved their position one place to 21st. Adam Bleakley did well in the singles to reach the last 16.

The view of the coaches was that the team would have produced much better results if they had been able to clinch 3 or 4 vital very close matches and that the potential for future success is good.

WORLD SCHOOLS EVENT

With several of the same players competing, the English Schools teams participated in the International Schools' Federation World Schools event in Slovakia and gained very credible results. The boys' team with Craig Bryant, Bryn Drinkhall, Tim Yarnell and Stephen Denny finished 6th, whilst the girls with Kate Steward, Georgina Walker, Joanna Parker and Kelly Sibley, all of whom were in Moscow, finished 4th. In the individual schools' event, Peniel girls finished 6th and the boys 12th. China's domination of the competition was broken by Chinese Taipei who took gold in the boys' team event.

Other good news from the English Schools' Table Tennis Association was presented by their Chairman, John Blackband, at the last meeting of National Council. John reported an increase of one in the number of affiliated counties up to 42 with Oxfordshire and Tyne & Wear re-affiliating. In the national team finals 39 counties entered the competition compared with 37 in the previous year, of which 35 had at least one team in the regional final stage against 26 last year. 79 schools took part at the regional final stage compared with 61 last year. In the finals 14 counties were represented as against 11 in 2001.

The individual championships were also well supported with 40 out of the 42 counties represented. The winners were also well distributed amongst the counties. It is encouraging to see that the joint work of the English Schools and the ETTA is having a

positive effect at schools level.

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

Following the enormous success of the volunteer programme for the Commonwealth Games in Manchester, Sport England are embarking on a major campaign to encourage more volunteering in sport at local level. The ETTA are participating in these initiatives by holding a series of regional conferences to encourage county associations, local leagues and clubs to embark on volunteer training and recruitment programmes.

Talking to many county and local officials throughout the country one of the main concerns that I hear is that too much of the work falls on too few shoulders and that local expansion is limited by the number of people who are willing to undertake the work. These conferences are aimed at promoting programmes that encourage the recruitment of more volunteers from within the table tennis community and to develop programmes to recruit from outside. Following these conferences for coaches, development officers, umpires, referees and tournament organisers are due to take place in each region, local leagues and clubs will be encouraged to identify people within their organisation who can benefit.

The first of the conferences is to be held on 15th September in the West Midlands at Wolverhampton University, Walsall Campus.

Other conferences are scheduled as follows:

Northern Region	28 September
London Region	5 October
South East Region	6 October
North West Region	27 October
Eastern Region	2 November
East Midlands	3 November
South West Region	8 December
Yorkshire Region	TBA

Further information regarding these conferences will be circulated to all counties, local leagues and Premier clubs. Details can also be obtained from Sheila King in the Development Department of the ETTA in Hastings.

*Alan Ransome
ETTA Chairman*

POSTBAG

EXPEDITE

In your answer to "Thai" and in Brian Halliday's report on p15 of the latest magazine, it says that the expedite system came into operation in the game between Hakansson and Wosik at 16-15. The report goes on to say that the law has recently been amended so that expedite is not introduced if the score is greater than 9-9, but this is not so. I would refer you to paragraph 2.15.1 of the 2001 ITTF Handbook, where you will see that this provision was incorporated at the same time as the change from 21-point to 11-point games. If expedite was introduced at 16-15 in this game it was quite wrong, and I'm surprised no-one objected.

Colin Clemett
ITTF

SUPERMAN?

IN response to D.Berriman's letter published in TTN issue 286 I wish to make the following brief and non-personal comments.

I am the National Councillor for Bedfordshire and produce written reports for my county meetings, which Dave now admits was an oversight by him.

I am surprised that Dave considers I would find it a problem attending meetings and taking part in table tennis tournaments, he states I am "Superman" and hence could "fly" from place to place.

Seriously though, I am disappointed that TTN can publish such incorrect facts when they know I am the National Councillor for my County. I hope that in the run up to the 2003 Election for Chairman of the ETTA all candidates will be given equal space in TTN and the agenda used will be about the issues of the future of Table Tennis in England not attempts to discredit any one person.

Alex Murdoch
Letchworth, Herts.

"SAVAGED BY A DEAD SHEEP"

I DON'T know Dave Berriman who tells us he felt "enraged by my factual article in 'Sportbreak'. He does not know me. Since he questions my record as Chairman of the ETTA (1966-91), let me be brief: when I arrived, the Association was in overdraft and near bankruptcy. When I left, the bank account showed a plus of £429,000. Our international teams were regular medal winners, as indeed they had been under my predecessor. In the same time span we won "medals galore" in Junior Europe. This was done on a shoestring. Current poor results are

"achieved" at a cost of several millions of public lottery money since 1997.

Memories are short, but such distortions that "I was in charge when the ETTA coaching dept. was dismantled in the late 80's" really test new barriers of venom and ignorance. The department was certainly reorganised. Don Parker was appointed Director of Coaching as well as National Team Manager in the manner also adopted by the F.A. (at the time when Bobby Robson filled both functions). He was assisted by his wife, the former European Champion Jill Hammersley and he chose coaches like Derek Marples and Kevin Satchell to assist him on certain occasions.

We retained 9 "centres of excellence" all over the country which cost quite a lot of money, where juniors could practice once a week under qualified coaches. All eggs were not put in the basket of one "academy". It was our view that we had emerged with a better and more effective scheme. All such decisions were, of course, endorsed by democratic votes in national Council and Management Committee (of which Alan Ransome was also a member).

I was, I think, the first ETTA Chairman who was also a qualified coach, who coached both league and international juniors, among the latter one who won the European junior singles title.

In short, it was in many ways a golden age, particularly in the light of what followed. This has been, in the main, the "academy" which has existed since 1997 and has not lived up to our best hopes. I judge on results.

Last year our junior boys finished 8th, our girls 18th, our cadet boys 22nd, our cadet girls 13th in the European Youth Championships.

The seniors fared similarly, our men ending in 16th place, our women in 25th. By the end of the first full day all our 10 players had been eliminated from the singles. If I were still chairman, I would indeed ask some stern questions about such truly awful results. Instead of action, from time to time fresh Berrimans are paraded before an incredulous membership pretending that all is well and that only the "awful Prean" and his "poison pen" are clouding an otherwise brilliant horizon.

I like our members to have the facts, but in personal terms it is no problem to be "savaged by dead sheep" to quote Winston Churchill and Lord Healey.

Where I do draw the line, however, is in the further nonsense levelled at Alex Murdoch, who is standing for the post of ETTA Chairman. It seems to offend "Lifelong Table Tennis fanatic" Berriman that Alex actually plays our game and clearly enjoys this. I hope I am wrong, but he seems to think that this is not

continued on page 8

COURTSIDE

by John Woodford

• **PRINCE EDWARD AND THE COUNTESS OF WESSEX** were amongst the VIPs who paid hour-long visits to the table tennis in Manchester. It was a week when this pair of Royals really came under the media spotlights.

• **SCANDAL** seeking writers, staff and freelance were scouring the various sporting venues. Table tennis was one of the targets. A camera caught the Prince talking to Alan Ransome and Sophie watching a game, falsely appearing that they had some disagreement.

• **THE Sunday Express and The Sunday People** carried stories with headings like "Has there been a ding-dong at the ping-pong?" Do we know who wrote the nasty pieces? Yes, we do, the journalist has clashed with our sport in the past and in particular with our chairman. No "by-line" but we know his identity, no prizes for guessing correctly!

• **DID** the gentleman sign in at the Media Centre? You have guessed right again, no.

• **THE ETTA** has nearly 300 registered leagues and around 40 counties. The leagues are the ones with the voting power when the election for the chair arrives next March. Alex Murdoch, now some way down the road challenging Alan Ransome has so far visited by invitation seventeen leagues and three counties including Derby.

• **WILL** Manchester or London ever stage the Olympic Games? Very unlikely is my opinion. London might just stand a chance if they ever get their act together and build a 70,000 seater stadium on the lines of the City of Manchester stadium.

• **THOUGHT** for the new season: It can be revealed that many sports have senior officers and others in positions of power who have commercial interests with equipment and various forms of sponsorship. We are not alone. That is why Sport England, although not keen on top officers being commercially involved, there is little they can do about it.

• **ONE** of the perpetual hazards for journalists is that sub-editors frequently are obliged to shorten the number of words written. This often means that an order for 200 words is re-written down to 100 or less.

• **OFTEN** this means cutting out quotes, leading to complaints that a person's viewpoint or actions are not reported. The latest example of this came when our 13 juniors had to return home in June from Hungary on the last day of the tournament when still challenging - their flight having been booked for finals day.

• **THE** main reason for this I am told, is so that the young players are able to return to their schools on the Monday following the weekend. The counter arguments are strong - the players can learn a lot from watching the players still left in; it is upsetting for the host organisers' especially if they have organised a farewell party.

• **STEEN HANSEN** pleaded in vain with the Hungarian officials, willing to spend an extra £3,000 to re-arrange the flights home and to pay for the extra night's accommodation. This was not reported in my Daily Telegraph story, neither were Steen's quotes used that indicated that he had made great efforts to recover the situation. It has to be understood how the media works. Regrettably Steen has had some difficulty accepting my explanation of an unfortunate event.

• **FIXTURE** lists for this new season are already bulging. At world level we have the European Championships coming up in Italy, the world individual championships in Paris and can Ireland (North and South) cope with running the Home Countries Senior championships (Newtonabbey) in September the Commonwealth championships (Mauritius is out) and their British Grand Prix tournament?

• **FULL** marks to the Irish. I always feel comfortable in Belfast, but I think they may have to off-load one of these three events.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR continued

continued from page 7

what the game is about, rather to sit in endless committees, which is how all too many now see the sport and which has cost the members \$57,000 in "committee costs" last year. Personally, I find Alex Murdoch's enthusiasm both refreshing and inspiring. I have talked to a lot of people who know him well and none have ever said a bad thing about him. He is respected for his energy, administrative talents and love of the game.

John Preat

Chairman ETTA 1986 - 91

*Isle of Wight Coaching Administrator
National Councillor.*

SHORTER EVENINGS & LESS MATCHES ?

I READ with interest John Preat's Isle of Wight 'County Notes' column in the June/July issue, particularly his comments regarding falling numbers in local Leagues, the problems of attracting young players, late nights, and his proposals for shorter evenings, less matches, 11up, etc.

At present local table tennis, in my experience, involves a majority of keen "50 plus" players who enjoy local league play. Then there are various junior coaching and tournament arrangements for youngsters from age 8 upwards. Coaches' views vary on the desirability

(leaving aside the issue of late nights) of their charges playing against wily veterans of hugely different styles and I suspect I may be in the minority of those who advocate their entry into adult Leagues at the age of sixteen, by when y, girl or boy friends, and other widening interests will result in many leaving the sport, but I think the "fall-out" goes beyond that.

Basically is an evening's weekly table tennis is regarded as an attractive pastime for young and even young middle aged adults at local level (whether or not 11up)? Who is prepared to learn how to deal with all the different styles? "Is table tennis -cool"? Who wants to play against the crafty old grandad generation, who still love the game? "Is clubbing" altogether more attractive? Who thinks that to play local League for fifty years like me is (a) great or (b) daft ?

The old social scene of an evening out playing, with a pint or two, and friendly updating chat with the opposition, and with younger players aspiring to becoming part of that scene, has been disappearing for years, and is part of a national social trend amongst other sports in which I am involved.

I don't have the answers, but I suspect the questions go way beyond those at present being raised in Table Tennis News, and we may well be kidding ourselves if we think that 11p or shorter evenings are going to provide much of an answer.

John Knock

Tonbridge, Kent



GOOD GAMES

HOPEFULLY the excellent results in the team and the Mens Doubles at the Commonwealth Games will give a much needed boost to our sport, although I felt the television coverage was not as good as was given to other fringe sports such as Badminton and Hockey. I am fortunate enough to have cable television and we were provided with four extra channels all the while BBC were showing the games and was able to see extended coverage of the men's team event and the men's doubles events. Without stirring up the debate on 11 up I do have to say that the decision to change the scoring system does seem to have been vindicated, judging by the way the spectators reacted with each set getting to an early climax. What was disappointing was the service rule change or did I miss something here as I could see little evidence of the change to that rule at these games. Servers were still able to hide the ball and thus disguise

the spin, but if the reason for this was that the rule does not change until next season then I think some players have some work to do this summer.

A good games for English Table Tennis lets hope it can be used to promote the sport.

Les Maple

Ashford, Kent

Editor's Note: With regard to your comments on the new service not be in evidence at the Commonwealth Games, was because the new rule only becomes law on the 1st September 2002. The new rule is fully explained by Colin Clemett of the ITTF, on page 18 of this issue.

TERRESTRIAL

I AM writing to express my disappointment at the meagre coverage of table tennis on terrestrial TV, at the Commonwealth Games. (There may have been more than I saw, because it was hard to pinpoint screening).

AT the other extreme we had athletics with a vast amount of discussion and re-runs (I used my video and watched it in half the time). Also swimming went on and on!

Table tennis is said to be the world's largest indoor sport. Even in the UK I believe it is much bigger than popularly supposed. Total number of players are generally taken from league registration. Allowing for the fact that even in Somerset we have six Town leagues (compared to one squash County league), this is the tip of the iceberg.

In our small town of Bridgwater (population 30,000), we have 19 school and youth table tennis clubs with almost 400 school age players. Hardly any are registered.

On filming, if I may make a constructive point, would it not be an idea to have a roving camera at tournaments - "We are now going to court No...., where the No.1 seed..... is only one game away from being knocked out"? This would make exciting viewing.

I am very glad that wheelchair table tennis was shown, it was one of the great moments.

I sent the above letter to the BBC Comments Dept., PO Box 1922, Glasgow G23 3WT.

I hope it will encourage others to write asking for more (and more creative) Terrestrial TV TT. Having said that what I did see was not specially entertaining (for non TT enthusiasts anyway) - mostly third ball attack. I doubt whether the new service rule will have a dramatic effect any more than the new size ball.

Surely it is not beyond the wit of (TT) man to come up with a radical solution (short of reverting to Dunlop Barna's with pimples out) that will bring back rallies!

Les Bridges

Bridgwater, Somerset



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GOLD MEDALS *for* ENGLAND

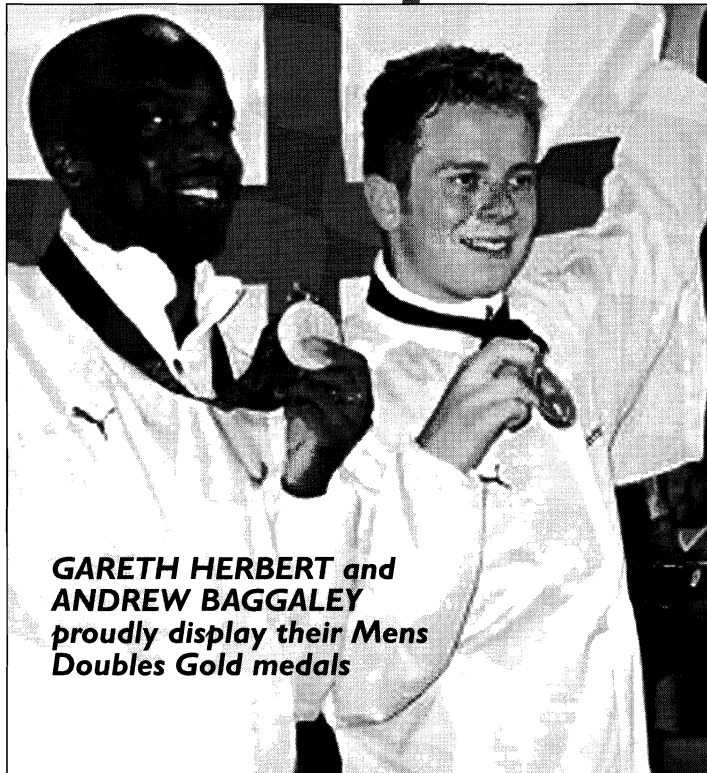
AS all readers will now know, England were victorious in three events - the mens teams, mens doubles and the womens wheelchair tournament. The medal tally for the benefit of Richard Scruton (referee) was three, for the benefit of the media, it was eight medals, three for the mens team event, two for the doubles and one for the superb Sue Gilroy in her wheelchair on the last day, writes John Woodford.

The three England men who exceeded our expectations were Gareth Herbert (my first choice as my man of the Games), Andrew Baggaley and Alex Perry.

Perhaps we were expecting too much of our icon Matthew Syed. It was our greatest disappointment when he was defeated 4-2 in the mens singles quarters by Singapore's Duan Yong Jun; especially after Matthew brought him down in Singapore. Matthew's commitments are so extensive that in the media centre some of us were fearful that he might buckle eventually following the introduction of the larger ball, the change of scoring and changing his bat and the time he spends in Japan, not to mention all the travelling between continents.

Another huge factor is the amount of energy he uses up, dashing from one corner of the court to the other, when the ball is getting higher and higher for his opponents to smash.

There is general agreement amongst those who study his



GARETH HERBERT and ANDREW BAGGALEY proudly display their Mens Doubles Gold medals

technique that his returns now are in some cases higher and often shorter than they were in the days of the small ball.

ENGLISH PROTEST

Apart from Steen Hansen's distress signals on some of the performances of the women's team, I am not engaging in any comment on the

Words by
JOHN WOODFORD
and
BRIAN HALLIDAY

Photographs by
U at the Game

English players who did not do so well. Terry Young was distraught over the decision not to seed himself and Alex Perry at the top following their win in New Delhi. Soren Ahlen, now back in Sweden, protested to the jury but the English protest was over-ruled on the grounds that the Commonwealth Games overall ruling body preferred to use the current world ranking lists when choosing the seeds.

This was another example of our

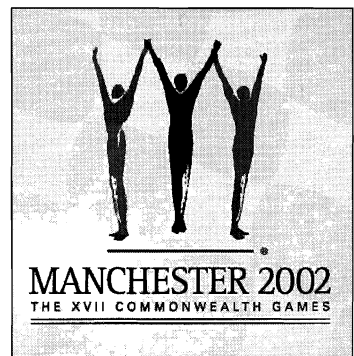


table tennis top people "serving" under two Big Brothers - the main organisation and the BBC who covered quite a fair amount of table tennis although their timing of some of the matches was not ideal.

The best sell-out crowds - 1,500 seats - were present during the day, right through to the 4pm matches. The worst blunder I found, was that some key matches were run as late as 9pm in the evening - fans who had been there all day were on their way home fearful of clashing with 38,000 fans leaving the main stadium who had been watching the athletics and rugby.

Once again my campaign is highlighted to get organisers to run top mens and womens singles matches in the late afternoon and not late at night. It is now happening in on the British Grand Prix circuit - around 200 people can see the finals at tea-time, again, by 9pm they want to be either at home or on the way.

MOMENTS OF GLORY

Back to Manchester. The womens team moments of glory came when they beat Malaysia in a group qualifier, whilst Helen Lower had a fierce battle before losing to the winner Li Chunli. The three teenagers - Katy Parker, Kate Stewart



JUBILANT ENGLAND MENS TEAM with their Gold Medals

and Georgina Walker all put in useful shows in their singles groups but did not qualify. Katy and Matthew Syed stormed into the quarter-finals of the mixed doubles before going under to Duan Yong Jun and Li Jia Wei from Singapore. It was glory all the way for our mens team, especially Gareth Herbert who is now playing for a club in Salzburg, Austria, Andrew Baggaley the England champion and on his 27th birthday Alex Perry who secured England's incredible 3-0 win in the mens team final over Nigeria.

Alex Perry was thrown into the air by his team-mates prior to the victory ceremony and Land of Hope and Glory!

Possibly the biggest shock of the entire tournament was conjured up by the womens singles winner Li Chunli, aged 40 from New Zealand. "I practice almost every day with Japanese men" she told journalists.

Her final victim was over the world No.10 no less - top seed - Li Jia Wei aged 20 from Singapore. She appeared humiliated as she received her silver medal.

The tournament was almost dominated by women of Chinese origin - best example was the mixed doubles quarters - six Chinese players from eight!

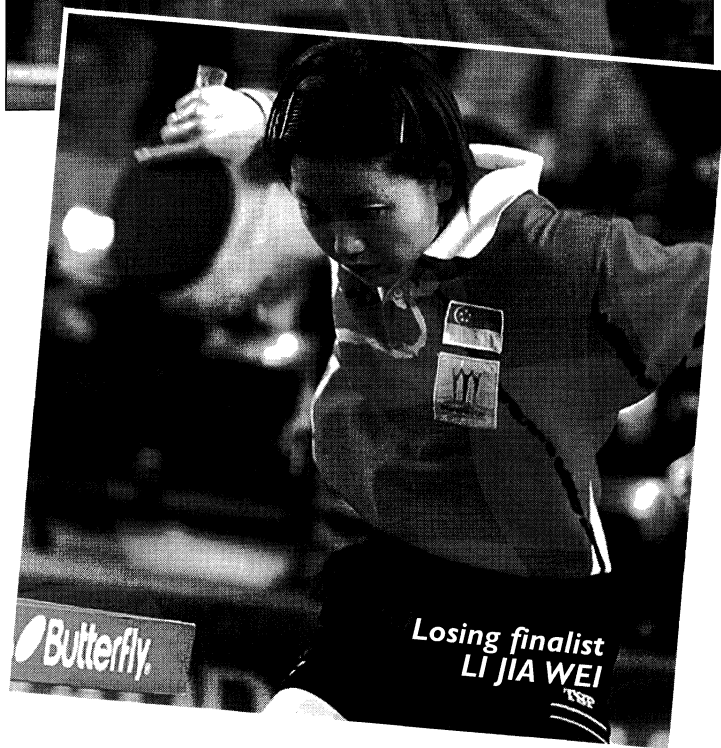
Final look at the completed mens singles - Andrew Baggaley lost to Huang 4-0, leaving three England men in the quarters - Syed losing to Duan (4-2), Perry losing to Toriola (4-1) and Chetan Baboor stopping Gareth Herbert 4-1.

Almost predictably, the four semi-finalists were Huang v Baboor, Toriola v Duan. Huang stopped Baboor (4-1) and Toriola surprised us all by defeating Duan.

Toriola won the final 4-2 with the scores 3-11, 11-9, 6-11, 11-7, 12-10, 11-9, as Huang gradually tired feeling his twelve years older than the man from Nigeria. The Nigerians in the



Mens Singles Champion SEGUN TORIOLA



greatest reward was meeting members of the Royal Family. In due course, Karen could qualify for the 'Lifetime Achievement Award', but at the moment she must be too young!

THE BIG ROW

DURING my half century of writing about our sport, I think this was the biggest and most widely reported explosion" I can recall, writes John Woodford.

Within hours the story was circulated around the world even in the Daily Telegraph in Australia. It was so massive an eruption that my Daily Telegraph colleague Brendan Gallagher was called in to write some 400 words whilst I concentrated on the table tennis.

Johnny Huang (Canada) was furious with Adam Robertson for not acknowledging that his service in the third game had not landed on the correct side of the centre line.

We can all voice our opinions in hindsight of course. What is clear is that Adam's service must have been very, very close to the centre line.

Match Umpire Bill Moran will never admit this of course - his best plan of action would have been to have called a let. As I write, he is no doubt preparing to write to "Table Tennis News" to oppose my theory. It was his decision and his alone, he did not for one moment anticipate the consequences of allowing the point to stand in favour of Robertson and Ryan Jenkins.

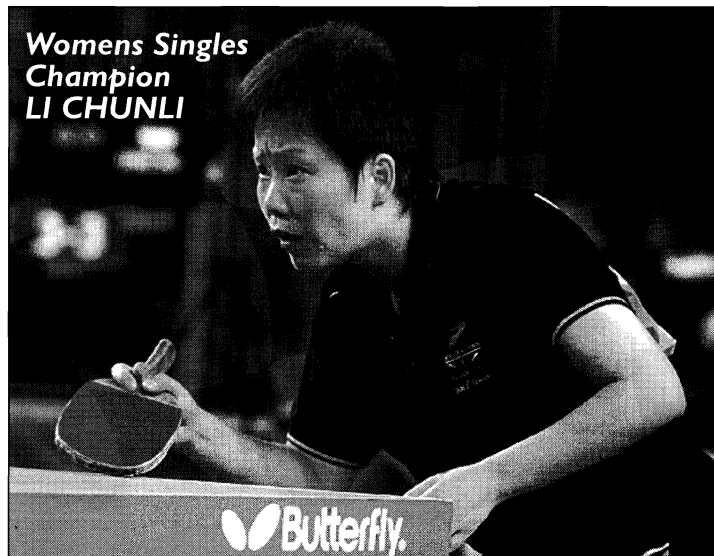
What was so important, after Huang had clashed with an umpire over throwing his service back and not up in an earlier match, was that here was a British umpire giving a very dodgy decision in favour of a British player - that fact fanned the flames of the conflict.

Huang's reactions could have led to a charge of bringing the sport into disrepute. The referees discussed the issue, but it would have been a case of having to contact one of the two, Big Brothers - the Commonwealth Games top organisation.

Johnny Huang is a man of vast experience. At the age of 40 I doubt if he will carry on playing at this level and above for much longer, he is already claiming fatigue late in matches, hardly surprising at 40.

Last call on the dispute from Barry Robertson, Adam's father: "There was a lot of name-calling and swearing in this match. There are a lot of points that go against you. You just have to get on with it."

Ryan Jenkins said "Both Adam and I thought the ball was in - we are honest players, though it means we have won medals, it has taken the shine off it".



Womens Singles Champion LI CHUNLI

crowd then went berserk - it was all over, Gameswise, until Melbourne in 2006.

• THE overall view is that England had a very good tournament, including the eighth gold medal for gallant Sue Gilroy from Yorkshire who won the wheelchair event from the South African Allette Moll.

I filed three pieces on Sue Gilroy, but being on the end of my copy, the words did not see the light of day.

• MANCHESTER hosted the Games admirably. Table tennis was lucky to be a part of it, but I realise that a great deal of hard graft was needed to get in by ETTA top brass and that a great mountain of work was done by Karen Tonge from the ETTA Management Committee, whose

THE MANCHESTER DIARY

PRESS ROOMS at major tournaments are very busy places. At the Commonwealth Games in Manchester there is a staff of nine to look after journalists and photographers from all over the world. The phones rarely stop and our squad deal with a steady stream of table tennis questions and topics. We live a sort of hermit type existence for anything from 8 to 14 hours. We all get by on a mixture of adrenaline and camaraderie, liberally laced with humour - even with some of our more difficult guests.

The following notes, unexpurgated, were made on a daily basis, and I hope convey some of the incidents, problems, and excitements we all faced.

Thursday 25th July: Opening Ceremony good. Offered ticket at £75 so watched it all on TV. Men look sharp and up for it all - a marked contrast to our disappointing Zagreb campaign. Jim Beckley, who leads the Press team spots unclaimed bag in Press Office - results in major bomb scare. Police and SAS men turn up in force, but eventually bag claimed by rather sheepish BBC man.

Meet old friend from India visit, Li Chunli. Ask her if she will win the singles this time. She says she has



The Duke and Duchess of Wessex visiting the table tennis competition at the Commonwealth Games - pictured with officials

A view from the Press Room by Brian Halliday

very good chance as she has trained very hard.

Friday 26th July: The quaintly named Dexter St Louis causes missed heartbeats all round as he takes two

off England men in the first match. Andrew Baggaley comes to our rescue and we are off and running. All a little too close for future complacency, nevertheless there is a real confidence within the squad. Matt Syed drafted in against Northern Ireland. Good 3-0 win and another 3-0 win over Barbados by the women.

Saturday 27th July: Superb performance by Nicola Deaton against Malaysia ably backed up by Katy Parker. This opens up the draw no end and England could get among the medals here. This afternoon Karen Tonge attempted instruction in the intricacies of the sport to Prince Edward and the Countess of Wessex. Whether the Competition Manager managed to recruit Royalty to our cause I was unable to ascertain. Good coverage of the whole of the Malaysia match on TV. Men see off Wales surprisingly easily, but Canada repeated their New Delhi win over the English women. Generally a very good day - the signs look promising.

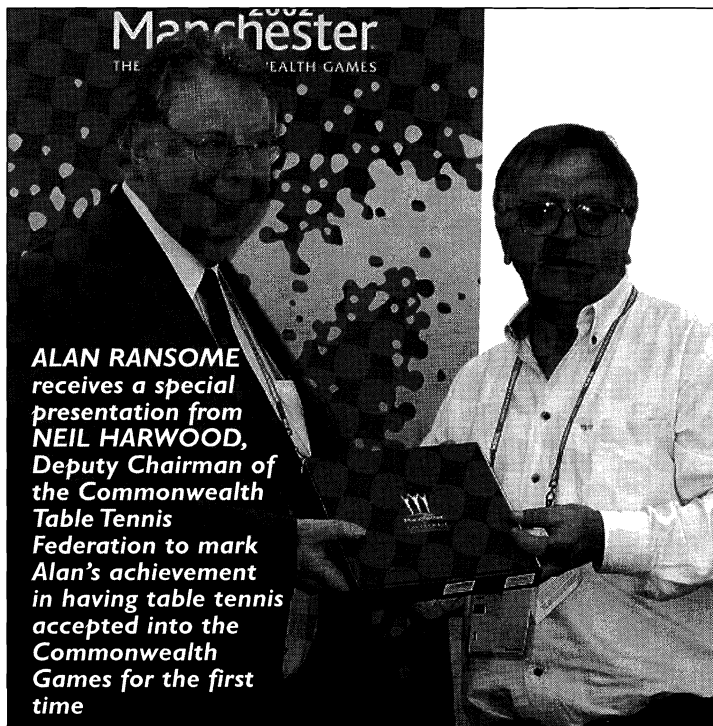
Sunday 28th July: New Zealand won the pre match mind game with England women. They threw their No 2 player in at No 3 against Katy Parker and the play won the day. Li Chunli won her two sets although Helen Lower took her to a fifth game. So the chances of a bronze medal had disappeared. Major controversy in the draw for the mens doubles. Soren Ahlen objected, quite rightly I thought, that defending Gold medallists Terry Young and Alex Perry were only seeded 5 when the defeated finalists

had been seeded 1. All based on ranking I was told but frankly the logic of it all escaped me. Anyway Soren lodged a complaint and a jury had to decide on the rights and wrongs of it all. ITTF instructions adhered to and complaint overruled. I felt sympathy for Terry and Alex. Two Sunday papers produced photographs of our Royal visitors with accompanying copy which was journalistic clap trap at its worst, in fact it was all mischievous and quite untrue. Still I suppose this tabloid rubbish sells newspapers. Large crowd get maximum value as a Matt Syed rescue act sees England squeeze out a win over Australia. His win over the all too aggressive Lavalle was cause for celebration all round. 3-2 to England.

Monday 29th July: Weather still very hot. Wonderful womens final where Li Chunli, that chunky little powerhouse beats World No 9 Li Jia Wei - maybe a pointer to the singles later. Chunli is a remarkable 40 year old (come back Alison Gordon). Mens semi-final and again Matt Syed led the team by example. Baboor who lost 26-28 in the fifth in India again had to give second best, not only to the inspired Syed but also to Gareth Herbert who has re-discovered his Japanese form of last year. Terry Young completed a victorious Kingfisher (sorry I mean England) trio.

Personalities here today included Paul Day, Des Douglas, Mandy Sainsbury, Melodi Ludi, and Jeff Ingber.

Tuesday 30th July: The mens final and what a comprehensive triumph



ALAN RANSOME receives a special presentation from **NEIL HARWOOD**, Deputy Chairman of the Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation to mark Alan's achievement in having table tennis accepted into the Commonwealth Games for the first time

MANCHESTER

it turned out to be. Commitment and team spirit was awesome as England simply romped home 3-0 over Nigeria.

Gareth continued where he left off yesterday with a win over Segun Toriola.

Alex Perry wrapped it all up in the third match - and all on his 27th birthday. Matt has now 11 wins from 11 starts and is rapidly becoming one of England's all time best. Press Room working overtime as home success means more column inches.

Wednesday 31st July: Very mundane day with a load of qualifying matches.

Not too impressed by the President of a visiting Association who nicked all our sponsors free chocolates supplied to the Press Room.

An offer by the lady in the student accommodation flat opposite to wash my official games shirts was gratefully accepted. TT people can be so pleasant.

Thursday 1st August: Heavens open up and its torrential all day. More name dropping as Trevor Brooking, John Prescott all pay us a visit. Racing man Brough Scott borrows umbrella - will we see it again? England women have difficult day with only sporadic success. Mens doubles successes.

Friday 2nd August: Major story in Press Room as Canada's Johnny Huang lives up to a somewhat controversial reputation by walking off in his doubles match with Welsh pair Robertson and Jenkins. Journalists get excited as all sorts of quotes concerning "cheats", "biased umpires" etc., are tossed around like confetti. I thought that the volatile Huang should have been thrown out of the tournament and felt desperately sorry for the Welsh pair. Gareth Herbert continues in sparkling form taking out Robertson in the singles. Deaton and Lower both miss out in the womens counterpart event.

HISTORY OF THE COMMONWEALTH TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION 1971-2001

For anyone interested in purchasing a copy, which was published in time for the Commonwealth Games in Manchester, a few copies are available for general sale at £10.00 each plus postage. Please contact Jose Ransome c/o the ETTA Office in Hastings

Two breathtaking mens doubles go right to the wire, Baggaley and Herbert saving two match points to ease through. The magic of a truly remarkable win over the No 1 Indian pair was captured in its entirety on TV.

Saturday 3rd August: A pretty de-pressed Room as all three Englishmen go out at the quarter final stage. All three of their opponents played clever tactical games and this time our guys were found wanting. Then the sun came out.

Has there ever been a better mens doubles final? English and Welsh supporters at fever pitch.

Gareth and Andrew just about kept their nerve in the deciding game to come through 17-15. 1-5 and 5-9 down, three match points saved. What a battle with much credit going to Robertson and Jenkins for contributing to a magnificent match with huge expertise and sportsmanship. The noise generated by the full house of spectators took me back to the matches in the 1950s and 60s. It really was that good.

Singapore pair win ladies doubles.

Sunday 4th August: Last day and table tennis has played its part in a massive success story.

Everyone has a smile on their face. The doubters, the whingers, the moaners have been routed.

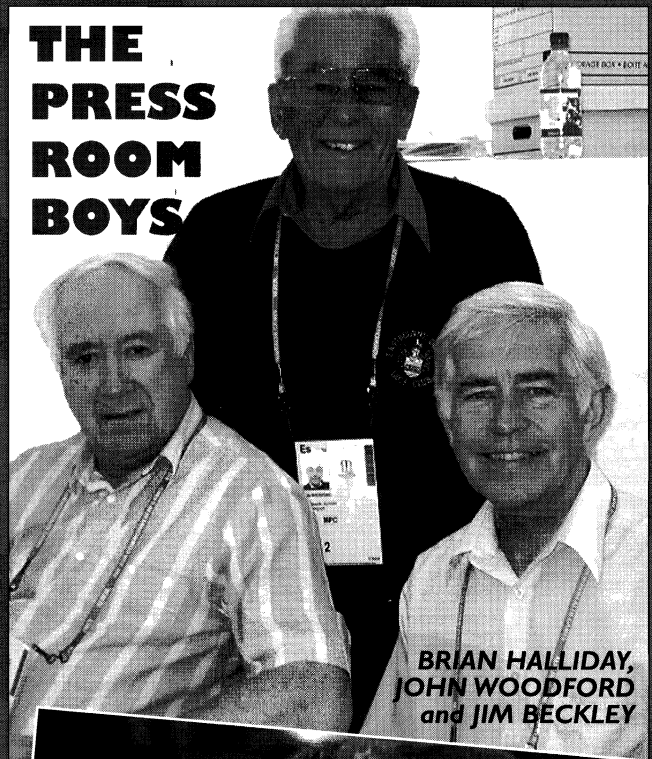
Again some cracking finals. Toriola tore up the form book beating Huang.

Terrific match with the penultimate point bringing a shot of pure brilliance from the Nigerian that brought the house down. Huang called time out - returned to the table and promptly served off. In a way some sort of justice had been served. Second shock was when Chunli accounted for World No 9 Li Jia Wei from Singapore. Tremendous advert for the older brigade. The New Zealander was superb.

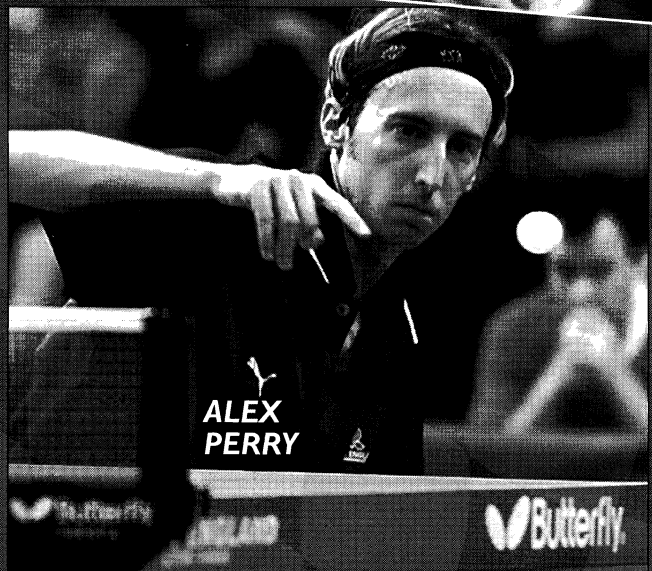
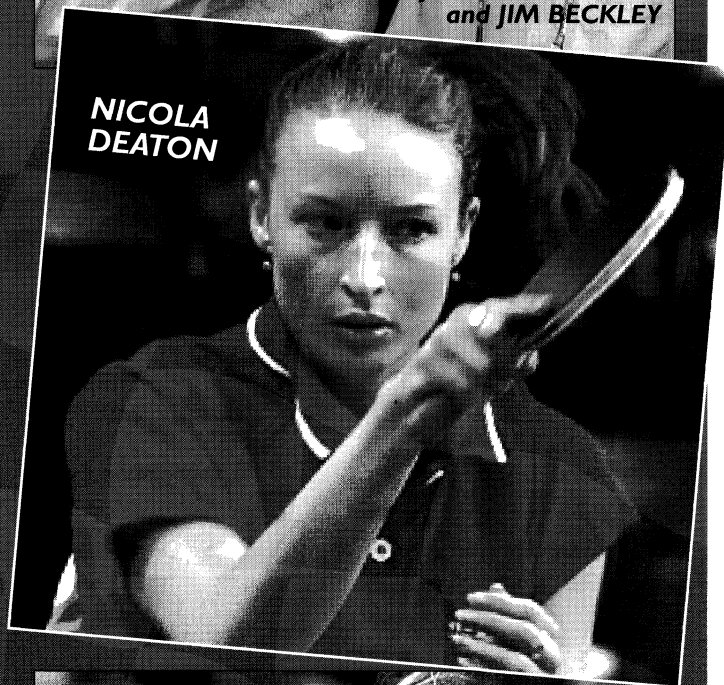
Sue Gilroy won the Gold in the wheelchair event with Cathy Mitton winning Bronze. The disabled events created much interest and support, and the decision to give the athletes equal standing with their able bodied counterparts is to be applauded.

We never did get that broly returned - well it did rain rather a lot in Manchester - but we did manage to secure a sort of duplicate from the BBC!

THE PRESS ROOM BOYS



NICOLA DEATON



BEST EVER COMMONWEALTH GAMES

WE'VE been hearing it for weeks..... these games are known as the "Friendly Games" and are the epitome of everything that is good in sport. The burning question was whether a run-down area of Manchester was up to staging a major sporting event after Britain had pulled out of hosting the 2005 World Athletics Championships at Picketts Lock and remain incapable of even deciding where a National Sports Stadium should be built, writes Steve Kerns.

With 17 sports and 3,500 competitors to cater for Manchester had set themselves a challenge of the highest order and though some sports did have to be held further afield it is fair to say that our Northern friends have coped magnificently. The friendliness of the Manchester people, the beautiful cleanliness of the City, the sheer number of shuttle buses to and from "Sports City", the record size of the crowds, the crowd's support and genuine enthusiasm for all competitors, the complete lack of trouble and violence of any description and the army of 30,000 often unpaid volunteers really made this event a Games to remember.

From an Athletics perspective Britain's haul of 12 Gold medals will take some beating and you have to feel a little sorry for those athletes. To try and pick themselves up for the European Championships next week and repeat this feat will be nigh on impossible. The highlights for the UK - Paula Radcliffe's world class display in the 5,000 metres, Ashia Hansen's last gasp win in the Triple Jump, ditto the Mens Gold medal in the 4x100 metres relay. The least expected victory - surely Mike East's stirring triumph in the Mens 1,500 metres after Tony Whiteman had set the race up for him by breaking with 200 metres to go. And didn't the British Ladies do well, the Great Britain 1-2-3 in the Ladies 1,500 metres was quite exceptional, whilst home-girl Lorraine Shaw's Gold medal in the Hammer brought the adoring Manchester crowd to their



KAREN TONGE WITH THE GAMES MASCOT

**Words by
STEVE KERNS**

feet in an event that many people previously didn't even know existed. But perhaps the moment of the Games came in the last event, an extraordinary Mens 4 x 400 metres relay. Wales's Matt Elias the Silver Medalist in the 400 metres hurdles came within a hundredth of a second of snatching the Gold Medal from England's Danny Caines after running an astonishing 44.1 second final leg. What a race. I'm still hoarse three days later !.

Thanks to Lesley and Lee Richardson for arranging the accommodation and tickets. I had forgotten just how much I enjoy a major games. Lesley also arranged accommodation for Bob Smith, the Team Manager of Newham & Essex Beagles British League Track & Field team. One assumes he was able to "fly" home with his head in the clouds after his athlete's superb win in that Mens 1,500 metres. And we also hope ex-ELR Ken Adams enjoyed himself. He certainly appeared to be doing so when we saw him on the last night.

And for me there was an added

bonus, the Table Tennis event was held on the same site as the Athletics. My two favourite Sports staged within 100 metres of each other !.

These trips always produce the odd incident to savour and these are just a couple of them :

(1) Steve managed to convince a couple of "Officials" to give him a complementary ticket to the Table Tennis and one of those officials politely asked Lee would he like to come along as well. Lee replies "Well actually I'd prefer to go shopping with the wife"..... Steve is left feeling more than slightly red-faced after later explaining to Lee that he has just refused tickets from the Chairman and Chief Executive of the English Table Tennis Association ! In fairness Lee did actually visit Table Tennis a couple of days later and paid for the privilege of doing so !. Perhaps he felt guilty ?.

(2) We're sitting quietly in a pub and some "nutter" from Inverness starts moaning to us that BBC weren't able to show much of the 50km walk because Prince Edward complained that the noise of the helicopters was upsetting his viewing. It later transpired that this gentleman was a leading BBC Cameraman but can he

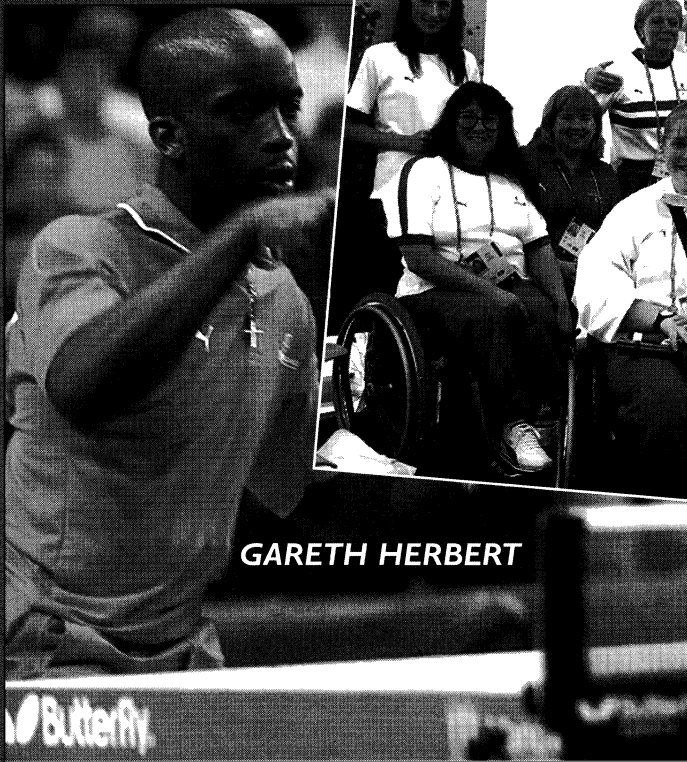
honestly expect us to believe that Prince Edward's opinions would alter the BBC schedules ? On the other hand was there any coverage of the 50km walk ?

I have to have a gripe about a Sporting event somewhere and mine concerns the price of the tickets. On some days the morning Athletics sessions cost the same as the evening ones. In view of the fact that the morning sessions only included heats (and the elite athletes often had to do little more than go through the motions) I can't see how this can justify the same cost as an evening session which of course contained finals. This is rather exploiting those people who haven't been to an Athletics Championships before.

Nevertheless there are some really great memories. Thanks Manchester.



THE ENGLAND SQUAD



GARETH HERBERT

GAMES QUOTES

- **TORIOLA:** Following the mens singles final: "Yes, I have enjoyed winning my first Commonwealth gold medal. As I beat Huang in the team event it gave me confidence, I was not too afraid of him"
- **HUANG:** "I was out of control, I had my chances, but after a good start, I did not have enough energy to keep my attack on target. Earlier in the day I had a stomach virus problem, I was not feeling well and considered pulling out of the final. I am happy with a silver medal, but I would have preferred Gold."
- **MATTHEW SYED:** After losing to Duan said "I played poorly, the pressure was significant. I am bitterly disappointed for the sake of English table tennis. Duan was very consistent with his attack, better than in Singapore. I made a lot of unforced errors"
- **STEEN Hansen:** After the defeat of Nicola Deaton and Helen Lower to an Indian pair in the womens doubles said: "A number of English players' performances were unacceptable".
- **NICOLA DEATON** said: "We did not gel, it was of those off-days"
- **ALAN RANSOME:** "To take the gold in both the mens team event and the mens doubles was a tremendous performance".
- **MATTHEW SYED:** after England struck gold in the team event said "This was great team effort. When I am playing well, we need one more player to lift his game - that man was Gareth Herbert who played way beyond what was expected of him. To beat Chetan Baboor and then Toriola was just terrific."

KATY PARKER



RESULTS RESULTS RESULTS

MENS SINGLES

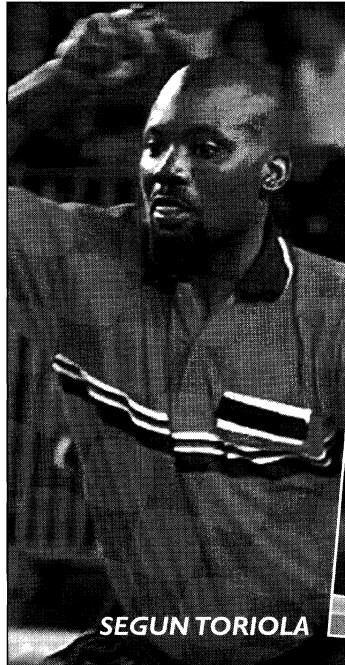
Gold: TORIOLA Segun Moses (Nigeria)
Silver: HUANG Johnny (Canada)
Bronze: BABOOR Chetan (India)
Bronze: DUAN Yong Jun (Singapore)

WOMENS SINGLES

Gold: LI Chunli (New Zealand)
Silver: LI Jia Wei (Singapore)
Bronze: TAN Paey Fern Sharon (Singapore)
Bronze: JIN Jun Hong (Singapore)

WOMENS WHEELCHAIR SINGLES

Gold: GILROY Sue (England)
Silver: MOLL Allette (South Africa)
Bronze: BOYD Joy (Australia)
Bronze: MITTON Cathy (England)



SEGUN TORIOLA



LI CHUNLI

MENS TEAM EVENT

Gold: ENGLAND
Silver: NIGERIA
Bronze: INDIA
Bronze: SINGAPORE

WOMENS TEAM EVENT

Gold: SINGAPORE
Silver: AUSTRALIA
Bronze: CANADA
Bronze: NEW ZEALAND

MENS DOUBLES

Gold: BAGGALEY & HERBERT (England)
Silver: ROBERTSON & JENKINS (Wales)
Bronze:

SUBRAMANIAN & BABOOR (India)
Bronze: DUAN & ZHANG (Singapore)

WOMENS DOUBLES

Gold: JIN & LI (Singapore)
Silver: LI & LI (New Zealand)
Bronze: LAY & MIAO (Australia)

Bronze: TAN & ZHANG (Singapore)

MIXED DOUBLES

Gold: DUAN & LI (Singapore)
Silver: CLARKE & LAY (Australia)
Bronze: JACKSON & LI (New Zealand)
Bronze: ZHANG & JING (Singapore)

FINAL MEDALS TABLE

Place	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	Singapore	3	1	7	11
2.	ENGLAND	3	0	1	4
3.	New Zealand	1	1	2	4
4.	Nigeria	1	1	0	2
5.	Australia	0	2	2	4
6.	Canada	0	1	1	2
7.	South Africa	0	1	0	1
	Wales	0	1	0	1
9.	India	0	0	3	3



WHEELCHAIR MEDALLISTS: CATHY MITTON Bronze (left) and SUE GILROY Gold, with coach Andrew Horsfield

TABLE TENNIS NEWS EXTRA

Issue no. 287 September/October 2002

Editorial

The most significant happening has been the **Manchester Commonwealth Games**, and the vibes received at the far distant Hastings office were **overwhelmingly positive**, both of the Games as a whole and of the table tennis event. Regarding the latter, of course there were some organisational hiccups and the England team could have done even better, but English table tennis can afford to congratulate itself. The support of the table tennis was also very good, both in the size and enthusiasm of the audience, and the media coverage.

England will be pleased with their overall playing performance with 3 golds and 1 bronze medal. The men's team gold was perhaps the most prestigious. **Matthew Syed** was unbeaten throughout and **Gareth Herbert** had some outstanding wins (over India's Chetan Baboor in the semis and Nigeria Segun Toriola, who was to later claim the singles gold, in the final), with **Alex Perry**, on his 27th birthday, being brought in to record a critical win in England's 3-0 finals victory over Nigeria. The team spirit exhibited by all the England players - **Andrew Baggaley** and **Terry Young** also played — was excellent and helped them get through unexpectedly difficult matches against Trinidad and Tobago and Australia — and full credit should go to **England Performance Director Soren Ahlen** for getting them to gel and peak at the right time. The father figure of the team, Matthew Syed, expressed his delight at this success for Soren, a really nice and genuine guy, and our loss is his native Sweden's gain — Ahlen took up a new position in Sweden immediately following the Games.

After the disappointment of England's last 3 men, Syed, Herbert and Perry all going out in the men's singles quarter-finals, an event in which England had had very good medal prospects, there was great consolation for **Gareth Herbert & Andrew Baggaley** in their dramatic, nerve-wracking, needle-edged (17-15 in the fifth) men's doubles finals victory over Welshmen **Adam Robertson and Ryan Jenkins**. Guted by his 4 games to 2 loss to Duan Yong Jun (Singapore), his dream of winning the first Commonwealth Games singles title and a record 4th Commonwealth singles titles shattered, **Matthew Syed** recovered his equilibrium enough to give vociferous support to Gareth & Andrew a few hours later. The 2001 Commonwealth champions, Alex Perry and Terry Young had fallen in the doubles quarter-finals.

29-year-old schoolteacher **Sue Gilroy** gave England's table tennis squad a 3rd Commonwealth Games gold medal when she comfortably defeated South African Alette Moll in the final of the EAD

women's wheelchair singles. She had beaten her Yorkshire and England colleague **Cathy Mitton** in the semi-finals, Mitton gaining a bronze medal.

The main downside was that our able bodied women did not do as well as expected. Although national champion **Nicola Deaton** excelled in the women's team event in taking 5 out of her 8 singles, including 2 in a great 3-1 team victory over Malaysia — England junior no.1 **Katy Parker** (Preston, Lancashire) won the other singles in that match — the squad did not take the opportunity of getting a medals place and disappointed in finishing 7th overall. All the English women went out early in the singles and women's doubles, and an evaluation of what went wrong and how to rectify it seems certain to follow. However, **Katy Parker with Matthew Syed** gave a good mixed doubles showing, in extending the eventual gold medallists, Duan Yong Jun and Li Jia Wei (Singapore) to a deciding game.

By the time you read this the new service law to prevent shielding of the ball will be in force, and it may affect most **Gareth Herbert**, who has (had?) one of the best serves in the world, which he used to such deadly effect in Manchester.

An improvement overall but we should have done better — we failed to take our opportunities — was the verdict of **National Coach Steen Kyst Hansen** of the **English team in the European Youth Championships** in Moscow from 12-21 July. The junior girls moved up from 18th to 14th (an impressive **Katy Parker** was unbeaten), but really should have finished in the last 8, and the cadet girls went up a notch to 12th from 13th last year. The cadet boys also advanced a place from 22nd to 21st but the junior boys slumped from 8th to 18th. The best singles performance was **Adam Bleakley's** in reaching the last 16 of the cadets, and junior boys Dale Barham and Matthew Kenny got the furthest in the doubles (quarter-finals). 12 year old Super kids, **Paul Drinkhall** and **Darius Knight**, played fantastically but it is too soon for them to do really well. But far from being outclassed, the frustratingly oft-repeated story about the English players was being too nervous to win from winning positions.

The **National Training Centre** is providing our youngsters with the practice/coaching/training back-up and the international competitive opportunities that would have been undreamt of a few years ago, but it is ultimately down to the players to take advantage of these opportunities, if they are good enough. Maybe the Centre is cocooning players from the pressures of having to win, and they would benefit — gain mental toughness - from exposing themselves more to the **domestic competitive circuit**, where they would learn to win when they are expected to win.

Darius Knight looks increasingly like a future winner, and his coach, **Gideon Ashison**, appears to be the **coach of the moment**, bringing on cohorts of other York Garden, Battersea (and other) kids with the talent and ambition to follow Darius. But there are still too few coaches that can help gifted youngsters bridge the gap from good local players to challenging for national recognition. The new £7m government programme, **Step into Sport**, concentrating on training a new generation of volunteer coaches, mostly aged 14-19, would seem most opportune.

Western governments are getting increasingly concerned about the poor physical fitness of their populations. Thus we have heard about **President Bush's plans to improve his nation's health through sport and exercise.**

Exercise has to be seen as cool, as a way to a better lifestyle, said president, himself a committed jogger who wants to see sporting role models taking a front line role in promoting sport and exercise.

In England Dr Richard Taylor MP and Dr Ann Redgrave have launched the report **'Saving Lives, Saving Money: Physical activity...the best buy in Public Health'** at the House of Commons. This comprehensive new research from the CCPR (www.ccpr.org.uk) analyses the plans of former Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts in promoting better health through physical activity that in April 2001 they were required to put into place. The report claims that, with obesity alone costing the nation £2.5 billion per year and leading to 30,000 premature deaths, investment in the preventative health benefits of sport can save both lives and money. The Government budget for health is currently 800 times that for sport. A small shift in resources will help re-engage an increasingly sedentary population. Among key recommendations are that there is improved access to training for sports bodies working with at risk health groups, support for exercise in the work place and that all school children must receive two hours quality physical education per week, within the curriculum. This is an **opportunity for table tennis** and we should seriously consider how our sport provides health enhancing exercise.

Ken Muhr

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BEDFORDSHIRE by Peter Clarke

Beds contributed two players to the Eastern Region Schools squad competing in the National Regional Squad Championships against two-player teams from the other eight regional squads.

Rosie Inzani of Leighton Buzzard played for the U14 girls team and Imandeep Sehmbi of Bedford for the U12 boys team. They found the opposition tough, but both fought well and improved over the days competition. Unfortunately, the Eastern Region finished in last place.

At the British Schools International held in Cardiff at the end of June, Hamish Yeung of Bedford played for England Schools in the U16 boys events.

Playing for the England B team in the team tournament, he was partnered by Chris Brown from Devon. In their group matches they beat Wales A, Ireland B and Guernsey, but lost to Scotland A. In the semi-final they had to play Ireland A, who had beaten England A in the group. An impressive 3-1 win took them through to the final against England A, who had beaten Scotland A in the other semi-final.

In a marvellous final, the match score stood at 2-2, with the gold and silver medals to be decided by the final tie between Robert Lemon, Surrey, for the A team and Hamish for the B team. Although he lost the first two games, Hamish fought back to level at 2 games all, before taking complete control in the fifth to secure victory. Gaining the gold medal for England B was a splendid climax to a most successful season for young Hamish.

BERKSHIRE by John Cunningham

Handshake from the Prince

Our Lady of Peace TTC and IMPACT (Institute of Match Play and Coaching Techniques) were invited to represent the sport of Table Tennis at Bisham Abbey in celebration of the Queen's Golden Jubilee 2002. The club's cadets and juniors led by Melanie Farquhar joined over 2000 other youngsters at the Berkshire Golden Youth Festival 2002, which turned out to be a fantastic day for all concerned. John Cunningham, Beryl Cunningham, and Alan Dines organised taster sessions, competitions and demonstrations throughout the day, supported by the youth of table tennis, who also participated in a whole variety of other activities, including bowls, fencing, football and athletics. The

COUNTY NOTES

- A look around the Country

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group met the Queen and the England football squad, and joined all the other youngsters in the Finale Tableau in front of the Queen and Prince Philip.

During their final demonstration session, much to the delight of Melanie and her squad, they received a special visit from the Duke of Edinburgh (Prince Philip). Letters of thanks were received from the staff of Bisham Abbey and the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, Mr Philip Wroughton J.P.

For the OLOP/IMPACT young players the day was a great success with around 200 from other sports trying out table tennis. Alan Dines felt that they had done their schools (St. Dominic Savio, Woodley, Crosfield School and Kendrick School) themselves and table tennis proud. The club presented a Butterfly table tennis table to Bisham Abbey and hopes to keep regular contact with the staff at one of England's top sports arenas.



Team/Squad Captain Melanie Farquhar introduces Beryl Cunningham (Club Treasurer), Alex Curran, Rachel Farquhar and the club's cadet boy player of the year Stephen Ayres, to HRH Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh

Youngsters taste table tennis army-style
Senior Chaplain Rev. PR Boshier

Youngsters from Wokingham, Bracknell and Sandhurst joined a party from Tamworth on an activity-

based week of work experience at the Army Technical Foundation College in Arborfield.

The group were introduced to fire drill, first aid, rock climbing, basic drill, kayaking, raft building, map reading, problem solving, field craft communal tasks and army organisation and deployments.

They were also joined by their parents in a visit to the REME museum and received medals from the college for a table tennis tournament held during the week.

Five groups were formed for the table tennis tournament and played on a round-robin basis, with the participants organising and umpiring each group.

Gold Medallists: Sam Primlove, Kris Warren, Nicholas Smith, Andrew Rooney, Lauren Sansten, Matt Surman.

Table Tennis Ace rewards Reading's best

Carl Prean, the England international star from the Isle of Wight, helped present the trophies when the Reading & District Table Tennis Association held their prize ceremony at Our Lady of Peace Club, Earley.

CHESHIRE by Alan Blears

Top billing this month goes to Stockport veteran Derek Schofield, for his success in the World Veterans Championships in Switzerland. In the O70s section Derek came runner-up in both singles and doubles, an outstanding result, especially as he has only recently returned to serious training following injury.

Two other Stockport veterans deserve credit: Terry Donlon for reaching the quarter-finals of the men's O70 singles and Doreen Schofield who similarly reached the last eight in both singles and doubles in the ladies O60s.

Schools Successes

The English Schools National Individual Championships seem a long time ago now, but Annabelle Sorrentino's success in winning the U19 girls title should not go unheralded. Annabelle has collected a few notable scalps in her time — including that of a well-known lassie from Lancashire named Katy who was painfully scalped twice — but this was her first national triumph.

Following this success she was invited to play for the England A team at the British Schools Home International in Cardiff. Here she won the gold medal in the senior girls

team event, silver in the doubles and a further gold in the individuals.

Playing for England B Katy Ingham made it a great weekend for Cheshire girls, taking gold in the doubles, silver in the team and bronze on the individuals.

Not to be outdone by the older girls, Jordyn Layfield won the girls individual event in the British Primary Schools Championships in Ireland, and Caroline Hallows and Fiona Dennett were joint third in the English Schools U11 girls section.

National U10/11/12 Championships

Stockport's Caroline Hallows overcame some notable opposition to reach three semi-finals in this event. Seeded four at U11, her singles and doubles successes at U12 were less expected.

Another Stockport youngster making an impression was Emma Kelly, who while still very inexperienced took the eventual runner-up Rachel Pilgrim, to five games in the U11s.

CORNWALL by John Wood

This season's Cornwall County Championships saw some exciting table tennis at Tregorrick Park Table Tennis Centre in April of this year, especially in the Men's Singles and the Under 21 Singles finals, where Adrian Noott of Park narrowly defeated Torridge's outstanding junior talent, Chris Brown, in both finals.

The Men's Singles final saw Brown take the first two games 5 and 10, then Noott with his big booming attack fought back to take the crown 7, 10, 2.

In the Under 21 final the early exchanges reversed, with Noott taking the first two, then Brown battling back to take the next two games 7 and 10. This final produced a fantastic deciding game, which saw Noott finally emerge triumphant 16-14.

The Women's Singles trophy was won this year by ace defender Kate Alken of Tregorrick Park, who pushed Metherell's super defender Shirley Luckhurst into second place, in this group competition.

This year's Men's Doubles title was won by the Harris Mill pairing of Graham Reed and Steve Lobb, who beat surprise finalists from People's Palace Bob House and Steve Hunt three straight 6, 6, 5.

Kate Alken won her second trophy of the day when she teamed up with Harris Mill's Michelle Turner, when they won the Women's Doubles final defeating Shirley Luckhurst and Blislands Sally King 9, 9, -9, 3.

Michelle Turner also won her second trophy of these championships when she paired up with fellow Harris Mill clubmate Steve Lobb, who was also picking up his second piece of silverware, when they defeated the North Cornwall pair of Shirley Luckhurst and Launceston's Graham Worth 7, 11, 11 in a tight final.

Steve Lobb then went on to capture his third trophy when he won the Veterans Singles final, beating Roger Jacobs of People's Palace 9, 4, -8, 9.

The Over 55 Veterans Singles title was once again won by People's Palace's Bob House, who pushed Blisland's Bill Pope into second place.

Michelle Turner collected her third trophy when she beat Andrew Broad of Mount Charles in the Consolation Singles final 4, 7, -7, -7, 6.

On the Saturday of this table tennis weekend, Chris Brown triumphed in the Junior Boys Singles final, beating People's Palace's Adam Tatlow 6, -7, 7, 7.

The Junior Girls was won by Harris Mill's Lisa Reed, who defeated Amy Burton of Cape Cornwall 10, 6, -5, 9. Andrew Broad and Adam Tatlow were successful in the Junior Doubles final beating Ben Kessell of Penryn and Nick of Torridge —8, -9, 4, 9, 9, following a seesawing battle.

The Junior Team event was won by Chris Brown and Nick Smale of Torridge A, who beat Adam Tatlow and Jonathan Randall of People's Palace 4-1. Randall, however, did taste success when he defeated Daniel Putt of Siblyback in the final of the Cadet Boys Singles 2, 7, 6.

Amy Burton and Kaye Stenner contested an all Cape Cornwall Cadet Girls Singles final, which saw Amy emerge the winner following a keenly fought battle 5, 9, -4, 11.

Kaye Stenner did bounce back though, when she won the final of the Under 12 Girls event, beating Hannah Luckhurst of Launceston 2, 5, 3.

The Boys Under 12 Singles title was won by People's Palace's Richard Harries, when he beat Matthew Trevorrow of St. Ives 9, -5, 6, 5 in the final.

DEVONSHIRE by John Vincent

Coach Education

I tutored an ETTA level 2/Teachers Student Coaches Course at the Tamarside Community College Premier Club in Plymouth recently with a group of 18 including updates. The following coaches were successful:

CORNWALL: Kate Triscott — Teacher, Marjons; Graham Reed; Michelle Turner; James Martin; Matthew Powell; DEVON: Chris Brown; Derek Bunch; Jacob Kodicek; Ron Jarvis; Neil Sanderson; John Smith; Alan Spencer; Darren Stockton; Michelle Barrett

England Schools International in Wales

Congratulations to Chris Brown for winning two gold medals, one in the Boys U16 individual event and the other for England B in the team event.

Shaun Gibbs also had a good weekend, finishing runner-up in the Boys Under 19 Consolation event.

National Veterans Championships

Elaine and Mike Short had a brilliant tournament, winning three titles between them. Elaine became ladies champion and with her partner, Helen Shields, won the ladies doubles title. She was runner-up with Joe Kennedy in the mixed doubles. Mike and his partner, Dave Welsman, won the men's doubles title.

County Championships

For the coming season Devon will be increasing their number of teams to: Seniors — 3, Veterans — 5, Juniors — 4.

This will give more opportunities to promising juniors.

Craig Bryant

Craig was part of the England junior team which came 18th in the European Youth Championships in Moscow. With his partner Kate Steward he reached the last 16 in the mixed doubles. Craig still has two years more as a junior so hopefully he will benefit from the European experience.

Tamar Cup

Devon will be hosting this match at Okehampton against holders Cornwall in August. These annual matches are good preparation for the coming season.

ESSEX by Steve Kerns

GRANT BACK ON TOP!

Former County no. 1 Grant Solder added a touch of class to an Essex Closed Tournament played at BATTs over the May Bank Holiday weekend in an event again devoid of many of the county's leading senior players. From the moment Grant began his knock-up there was little doubt that he

was still the man to beat despite the fact that he has concentrated on coaching for the last eight years. Grant had to face the dangerous Ayo Ademakinwa in his group but he overcame him 3-0 and he beat Ellenborough British League star Matthew Spero 3-0 in the quarter-final. His semi-final opponent, Keiran Lally, showed real fortitude as he nicked the second game 11-9 but Grant eased home 3-1 and, although John Payne took the third game in the final, Grant closed out 11-8 in the fourth end. Ayo had done well to beat last year's champion Dave Cole but he couldn't find a way past an in form Payne.

Harlow's Nicole Todd took the ladies title despite losing to Sue Body in her group. This meant that Nicole had to face the hard-hitting Gill Locke in the semi-finals and Sue again in the final, she fared much better second time around winning 3-0. The junior events were a personal triumph for the controlled and stylish Sam Cannon and the vastly improved Kelly Skeggs who were both successful at U14 and U17 level. Other players to excel were Tony Halling who was runner-up in both of these age groups and took both the U14 and U17 doubles titles. Selected results included:

Men's Singles — Grant Solder beat John Payne 4, 6, -8, 8; Women's Singles — Nicole Todd beat Sue Body 6, 10, 10; Men's Doubles — Grant Solder/Ian Attridge beat John Payne/Ayo Ademakinwa 10, 10, 11; Mixed Doubles — Nicole Todd/Matthew Spero beat George Reeves/Gill Locke —4, 8, 12, 11; Over 40 Men's Singles — John Payne beat Ayo Ademakinwa 8, 4, 10; Over 40 Men's Doubles — John Payne/Neil Brierley beat John King/Colin Marco 8, 5, 7; Over 40 Women's Singles — Cathy Eakin beat Sue Body —3, 8, 9, -3, 7; Over 40 Mixed Doubles — George Reeves/Gill Locke beat Colin Marco/Sue Hickman —9, 7, 4, 2.; Under 21 Men's Singles — Keiran Lally beat Aaron Fennell —4, 10, 8, 4; Men's Restricted Singles — Andrew Halling beat Ron Wilde 7, -3, 1, 4; U17 Mixed Doubles — Lee Daines/Kelly Skeggs beat Matt Staines/Leanne Bentley 11, 8, -9, 8; U17 Girls Singles — Kelly Skeggs beat Leanne Bentley —8, 8, -6, 5, 6; U17 Boys Singles — Sam Cannon beat Tony Halling 7, -9, 3, 8; U17 Boys Doubles — Tony Halling/Sam Cannon beat Keiran Lally/Matthew Staines 14, -5, 9, -8, 9; U14 Girls Singles — Kelly Skeggs beat Rachel Jamieson 8, -9, 9, 6; U14 Boys Singles — Sam Cannon beat Tony Halling 6, 4, 9; U14 Boys Doubles — Tony Halling/Sam Cannon beat Michael Andrews/Ashley Skeggs 8, 6, -12, -9, 7; U12 Boys Singles —

Christopher Baird beat Philip Hartley 5, -4, 6, -9, 5; U12 Girls Singles — Rachel Jamieson beat Jessica Macken 4, 4, 6.



Ian Aldridge & Grant Solder with ECTTA Veterans Match Secretary Neil Brierley



Left-right: Brian Ward, Maureen Jarvis (Corti-Woodcock Award Winner), Brian Brumwell

Corti-Woodcock Memorial Award

The County Annual General Meeting is traditionally the occasion where the County presents its premier award for service to sport. This year's winner Maureen Jarvis has been involved with the sport for 35 years and her involvement in the running of the closely-knit Becontree League has been quite outstanding. Maureen has organised all the teams that the Questors Club put in the League for as long as anyone can remember and this service also involves arranging all substitutes for the last 16 years as well as the Handbook Editor. Again, this service extends to chasing up on postponements and cancellations and it also covers arranging the cup competitions as well as the league tables. Twice a year the League runs a Quiz Night and yes — it's Maureen who usually arranges it. Even the summer months offer little respite and Maureen organises a Summer League at the Questors Club which is diplomatically open to all other clubs in the League. Maureen's contribution to the Becontree League has been immense and it is fair to say that all a Questors Club Member has to do is turn up and play — Maureen will have taken care of all other matters!

Harry Walker Player of the Year Award

16-year-old Keiran Lally, the County no. 1 Junior, was this year's winner, a just reward after a year in which he captained an Essex Junior first team who, against the odds, retained their Premier Division status. Keiran was a regular member of the De Vere NETTS Senior British League team who won promotion from division 2 (South) behind runaway winners London Progress III. Keiran played magnificently to reach the Men's Singles final at the Southend Closed and was a treble winner at the Chelmsford Closed Tournament with successes in the Under 21 Singles, Junior Boys, Singles and Under 17 Doubles. He completed a memorable year by reaching the Men's Singles semi-final at the Essex Closed as well as taking the Under 21 Singles. Friendly and dedicated and willing to knock-up with all fellow players, he is an excellent role model. In typical modest fashion he paid tribute to the Clacton League who gave me so much encouragement when I was just starting out.

HAMPSHIRE by Jeremy Wilson

The closed season saw one of Hampshire's greatest servants deservedly honoured.

Harold Albery was awarded life membership of the Hampshire Table Tennis Association after clocking up 30 years as county secretary. Virtually every player in the county has benefited from Harold's dedication at one time or another and the honour was unanimously agreed.

President Brian Lamerton proposed the honour and said that much of Harold's work was over and above what was expected of him. He said he had been instrumental in keeping the schools association going for many years and also congratulated him on his tireless work running junior and cadet competitions. Harold, who lives in Gosport, is still county secretary and showing no sign of slowing down.

On the table a summer highlight was the Bournemouth Cadet Open which was staged at Redbridge Community School in Southampton and attracted an exceptional entry of 124. Shaftesbury's Tom Andrew and Plymouth's Sally Smith were the singles winners.

More than a year after it was introduced for national events, the 11-up scoring system continues to create division across Hampshire.

The Portsmouth League has agreed to introduce the 11-up system for all matches but the Hampshire Association has opted to stick with tradition and voted to keep the 21-up system for their inter-town veteran and men's competitions as well as the county senior closed championship. The Southampton League, which stuck with 21-up last season, has gone for a partial change and introduced the new system of scoring for Premier Division matches only.

The top division in Southampton promises to be an exciting race this season with Mark Butler and Lee Dredge rumoured to be joining the Waterside squad.

Hampshire has decided to enter one senior, one junior and four veterans teams in the county championships in 2002-3.

Last season was a difficult one for the county first team in division one and they were eventually relegated despite solid performances from Butler and Dredge.

ISLE OF WIGHT by John Prean

My last notes foreshadowed a lively AGM following a strong campaign to restore the 21-up system after a season of going along with 11-up.

The meeting ended with victory for the 11-up method and the margins were so conclusive that 21-up is unlikely to return. Support undoubtedly existed at one time, but it began to fade as players got to grips with 11-up and opposition melted away. Few, as I reported earlier, felt any need to practice harder, which was the real answer all along.

It gave me no pleasure that there were threats to retire, not least as the ones who felt this way were decent, well-meaning guys. We have few enough members not to take this seriously. I have heard plenty of views which expressed a liking for the system after trying it for a while.

At last we can return to the really big problem which is getting more people to play and join our Association. Long as it has taken, there is a dawning realization that our future is at stake, that we won't survive if we lose a few teams each summer.

Throughout the summer there has been steady improvement in the numbers visiting our centre. Most are learners unlikely to be ready for league play in October and most are casual players whom we see seldom more than once a week. Even at this level the standards are too uneven to encourage a Woolwich type of Junior League. However, in a year's time

things may look rather better with some new players in the league.

My reservations about the late nights produced by our system remain and this state of affairs may defeat all our efforts in the end and all the new youngsters may drift away. Whilst the need is seen, I have not been able to obtain support in our committee for a shorter evening with fewer matches. One wishes there were some support and encouragement from the ETTA leadership.

Our Summer League, played by two-person teams over five matches, was warmly applauded and liked. Matches started at 8, finished before 10 and were played on the same night each week. No fixture was cancelled. It should not be too hard to find a format of shorter duration than nine singles and one doubles, for which method I no longer see a future. Any new system must be acceptable to the new, younger members on whom the sport will depend one day for survival and progress.

We look forward to the county matches and particularly the three we shall be able to stage at home. It would take a miracle to repeat an earlier feat of gaining promotion. Our fears that Lucy Pointer would not be back proved correct. However, Carl Prean should figure in most matches, his duties in the German Bundesliga permitting. His team gained promotion to the top section last season to which Carl will return at the age of 35.



Kent County Table Tennis Association
By Adrian Hall

KENNEDY AND BRISTOW KENT CHAMPIONS

Bromley's Joe Kennedy and Tunbridge Wells' Angie Bristow took the Men's and Ladies Singles titles at the Kent Closed Championships at Canterbury High School on the weekend 4/5 May.

Medway's Christian Thompson and Stephen Beerling, Thanet, both reached the semi-final stage as expected, and produced the best match of the day with Thompson showing some of his old international class, winning 11-7, 7-11, 5-11, 11-3, 11-9. In the other semi-final, top seed Joe Kennedy finally ended William

Power's run 11-4, 11-5, 12-10, and then had a surprisingly easy 11-6, 11-8, 11-5 win over Thompson in the final.

Angie Bristow, fresh from a year touring in Australia, won the Ladies Singles comfortably beating North West Kent's Jackie Mersh in the semi-final 11-4, 11-7, 4-11, 11-9 and in the final Kim Mudge (Bromley) 12-10, 11-6, 11-7.

Medways' John Harley retained the U17 Boys Singles title on the Sunday and Ashford's Anusha Seneviratne repeated her Saturday win in the Ladies Singles over Gemma Yarnley to take the U17 Girls title.

MEN'S SINGLES: Semi-final: Joe Kennedy (Bromley) beat William Power (T.Wells) 11-4, 11-5, 12-10; Christian Thompson (Medway) beat Stephen Beerling (Thanet) 11-7, 7-11, 5-11, 11-3, 11-9; **FINAL:** Joe Kennedy (Bromley) beat Christian Thompson (Medway) 11-6, 11-8, 11-5; **LADIES SINGLES: Semi-final:** Angie Bristow (T.Wells) beat Jackie Mersh (NWK) 11-4, 11-7, 4-11, 11-9; Kim Mudge (Bromley) beat Anusha Seneviratne (Ashford) 11-7, 11-3, 11-6; **FINAL:** Angie Bristow (T.Wells) beat Kim Mudge (Bromley) 12-10, 11-6, 11-7; **U21 MEN'S SINGLES:** Stephen Beerling (Thanet) beat William Power (T.Wells) 11-7, 11-9, 11-6; **U21 WOMEN'S SINGLES:** Anusha Seneviratne (Ashford) beat Gemma Yarnley (Folkestone) 11-9, 10-12, 11-3, 7-11, 14-12; **VETERAN MEN'S SINGLES:** Joe Kennedy (Bromley) beat Henry Buist (Bromley) 11-5, 11-9, 11-3; **U17 BOYS SINGLES:** John Harley (Medway) beat William Harrington (Ashford) 11-4, 11-8, 8-11, 8-11, 11-8; **U17 GIRLS SINGLES:** Anusha Seneviratne (Ashford) beat Gemma Yarnley (Folkestone) 9-11, 11-9, 10-12, 11-6, 11-9; **U14 BOYS SINGLES:** Alec Bartlett (T.Wells) beat Nick Mayes (Dover) 11-9, 11-9, 12-10; **U14 GIRLS SINGLES:** Gemma Yarnley (Folkestone) beat Anusha Seneviratne (Ashford) 3-11, 11-6, 12-10, 13-11

MAURICE GOLDSTEIN MERIT AWARD

The ETTA's Maurice Goldstein merit award was presented to John Knock of Leigh RBL Table Tennis Club at a well attended Club Annual Dinner on 3rd May.

John has just completed his 50th season in the Tonbridge League with Leigh and is still actively involved in assisting the juniors. This award is recognition not only for his services to table tennis but for all his other

sporting interests which make John very much part of Leigh.

QUEEN S JUBILEE RUN

Larkfield Table Tennis Club and Maidstone Grammar School had double cause for celebration in June with East Malling's 17-year-old Dominic Hall carrying the Baton as part of the Queen's Jubilee & Commonwealth Games celebrations and later in the week represented England Schools in Wales.

MEDALS FOR KENT PAIR IN SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL

Folkestone's Gemma Yarnley and Dominic Hall (Maidstone Grammar), the Kent Schools U14 and U18 Champions, represented England at the Welsh Institute of Sport, Cardiff, in the British Schools Invitation tournament and won two silver and two bronze medals respectively. Yarnley - U14 Team — Silver, U14 Doubles — Silver
Hall — U19 Team — Bronze, U19 Singles — Bronze.

MEDWAY KENT LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to Medway on winning the Men's Kent League ahead of Dover in second place. Paul Cronin (Medway) finished the season with a 100% record. Thanks to organiser David Cue who makes such an excellent job of administering the league.

HALL ENDS JUNIOR SEASON WITH TWO NATIONAL FINALS

Dominic Hall (17), in his last season as a junior, reached two finals at the English Table Tennis National Championships at King's Lynn on Saturday 18th May. Hall with partner Peter Cleminson (Essex) beat second seeds Dale Barham (Cambs) / Danny Horner (Cheshire) comfortably three straight in the semi-final of the junior doubles but then just lost the final to the top seeds Matt Kenny (Yorks) / Greg Baker (Warks) in five legs despite holding at one stage a 2-1 leg lead and up 5-1 in the fourth leg.

3rd seed Hall beat 8th seed Bryn Drinkhall (Cleveland) in three straight legs in the semifinal but found Dale Barham (Cambs), the England No1, too strong in the final although Hall was able to take the third leg 12-10 to extend the final to a fourth leg.

ENGLAND TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR DOMINIC

Dominic Hall was been selected to represent England in a series of friendly matches and training sessions against Saudi Arabia between 17th—29 July. Despite his success at the National Championships and winning the Jarvis Sports Junior Grand Prix and being ranked No 3 in England, Hall has been overlooked by England for the European Youth Championships in Russia so the call to represent England in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia is something of a consolation.

NORFOLK by Ray Hogg

Although not directly involved any more in the running of the County, I decided to make a comeback only to provide the country with some news from Norfolk as for the last two seasons this has been sadly lacking. We are still reeling from the loss of Mike Watts — luckily Ray Drew, our Chairman and National Councillor, has taken on the role as acting Secretary until we sort ourselves out. We have entered our usual two senior, two junior and three veteran teams. We nearly entered the over 60 veterans but luckily found out that Mick Broughton does not qualify until next season. Ray Gale is our new Junior man who has plenty to choose from as that aspect of the game seems to be booming.

Local Leagues mostly still are keeping to the 21 format: a straw poll at the Norwich AGM showed some 50 for 21 and only 2 for 11-up although we all realise that eventually we will have to go 11-up.

Congratulations to Edna Fletcher on winning the over 75s at the World Veterans Table Tennis Championships to add to her European title. Also to Lauren Spink who at 13 travels the country to maintain her high ranking in both cadets and juniors — she also this season has won all the events she was able to enter at both the Norfolk and Norwich Championships.

NORTHANTS by Dennis Millman

With preparations for the forthcoming campaign not too far advanced, I have little alternative but to turn the clock back and report on happenings from the latter stages of last season.

As usual the Kettering Closed Tournament was well supported with organiser Phil Slade capably dealing with more than 350 matches on a day that saw Ryan Keates regain the men's singles with a resounding win over Mark Nannery, who had reached the final for the first time.

Perhaps Keates' cause was helped by his decision not to play in the

earlier events for Richard Elliott, the pre-tournament favourite, had already fought his way through to the finals of the premier handicap and the hard bat Singles before Keates entered the action.

However, victory in the handicap event, in which Elliott had to concede points to all and sundry, was not emulated at hard bat level, for awaiting him in the final was that redoubtable master of the original technique — Alan Ashberry, whose brick wall defence not only extinguished Elliott's hopes, but gave the Thrapston player his third title in five years.

In the premier event Elliott, though hard pressed by Geoff Atkinson, proceeded to the semi-final where he met his Higham team-mate Mark Nannery, who produced some outstanding form to win a tense encounter.

In the other half of the draw Keates comfortably negotiated the prospective pitfalls until reaching his sixth final in seven years he took a third title with a masterly exhibition of attacking play.

The doubles final was an all-Higham affair and duly provided a third successive win for the Keates/Elliott duo. It was a repeat performance of last year's encounter and featured the same four players who had taken part in 1996, when Elliott and Nannery had proved too good for Keates and Steve Brown.

There was to be no traditional treble for in the mixed doubles Elliott and Muriel Cox were to repeat their only previous success from as far back as 1990, with Keates partnered by Clem Little for once on the losing side.

Helen Watts was the day's unluckiest player going down to Elliott/Cox on three prolonged deuces when partnered by her brother Martin, but then easily beating no. 1 seed Viv Smiley in Group One of the singles. However, with two from each group to qualify, Smiley went through to account for holder Clem Little at the semi-final stage.

The second clash between Watts and Smiley was one of the best games of the day, but though Watts was participating in her seventh final in nine years, Smiley finally turned the tables to take her first title late in the fifth game decider.

The mercurial Watts bounced back in the doubles when partnered by Braybrooke junior Poorna Chaudhuri, her positive approach proved too much for three-times Northants champions Smiley and Little, and the younger pairing playing together for the first time won 11-8 in the fifth in yet another nail-biting finish.

Mike Pond last played in the over 40s event as long ago as 1993 but showed he had lost none of his expertise when he again outplayed Gordon Shaw. Then partnered first by Ian Sclater and then by Atkinson, Pond took both veteran doubles, but was deprived of a clean sweep when Atkinson took the over 50s singles for the fifth time in eight years.

At junior level Robert Williams beat Michael Clarke for a second successive title and it was also a repeat performance as the finalists teamed up together in the doubles. The pair also clashed in the semi-final of the under 30s event when Clarke led 10-5 in the fifth it looked as if he would exact his revenge. However, Williams fought back to take seven points in a row and, suitably inspired, went on to account for Simon Jarvis in the final.

Other junior winners included Stephen Broughton, Simon Bushell, Sam Piranty and the unrelated Samantha and Leanne Johnston, while the remaining handicap events went to Damian Carr, Lee Bunker and Karl Tressler.

Finally, Barry Thompson was an enterprising winner of the over 30 singles, Bunker and Mike Burrows fought hard and long to beat all comers in the mystery doubles and Stephen Woolston became only the second player in almost 30 years to win the consolation singles for a second time.

NORTHUMBERLAND by Pauline Long

I shall start this month by reporting on events and results of which I was not aware at the time of the June/July issue of Table Tennis News.

North Shields YMCA A eventually regained the Northumbria Winter League Premier Division title by six points from previous season's winners Birtley SC A, with St. Gabriel's again finishing in third place.

Division 2 runners-up Cramlington Codgers (Paul Swift, Frank Lasek and Clive Dewison) won the Team Handicap Knockout Cup Competition by 5-0 over Division 3 side Cramlington Knights (Dave Colam and father and son Joe and Robert Swinburn). This is the second season in a row that two Cramlington teams have contested the final of this competition.

The Northumbria League representative side of Malcolm Lusk, Geoff Salter and John Williamson went down by 3-5 to Norwich in the semi-final of the Alec Brook Trophy competition. However, the Wilmott

Cup men's team of Eddie Smith, Andrew Wilkinson and Dave Godbold — for once at full strength — beat Potteries of Stoke 5-0, Horsham Crawley 5-1 and lost only to Wembley Middlesex 1-5, which meant they finished as runners-up in this competition. Congratulations to all on a fine performance.

Dave Godbold also took part in his first veterans tournament at the World Veterans Championships in Lucerne at the end of June, and gave the performance of his life in the over 40s singles, only just missing out on a bronze medal. He easily qualified through his group to go into the main draw, and after easily defeating two Germans and a Hungarian 3-0 came up against the Czech world no. 2 Miroslav Shenk. He sensationally defeated Shenk 3-0 to advance to the last 16, when he came up against the Welsh no. 1 Steve Hall. After beating Hall 3-1, he thought he had finished playing after a long and tiring day, but after a change to the schedule had to play the no. 4 seed, Manfred Neirlinger (Germany) an hour later, and only went down 11-6, 9-11, 9-11, 10-12 at the quarter-final stage.

This was an excellent performance at his first tournament at this level, and Dave is hoping to go one step further next year by being seeded for the European Championships in Italy.

Although Dave is not aged 40 until later this year, he was able to take part in this tournament under the current age rules. What a pity that because of the different age restrictions, he will not be eligible to play for the County Veterans team until September 2003, especially as his experience would have been invaluable in the Premier Division next season. Surely it is time for some uniformity to be considered with regard to the current age restrictions.

Meanwhile the Summer League, in which 32 teams contested four divisions, was due to end on 16th August. Current leaders are:
Division 1 — Washington B;
Division 2 - College Street C;
Division 3 — North Shields YMCA C;
Division 4 — Whitehouse Lane B. We are still looking for new sponsors for both the League and three County teams, and any suggestions or offers would be very welcome.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE by Mike Tunningly

As former Worksop League player Louise Durrant is now an established England international and Craig Gascoyne is knocking on the door of the Scottish national team it was left

to relative newcomers Richard Wesley and Sarah Perks to make their mark on the national scene when they were selected to represent England in the British Schools International Championships which were held in Cardiff on the last weekend in June.

The Worksop based youngsters did themselves and the league proud after picking up the Silver and Bronze awards respectively. Wesley partnered Shaun Rogerson of Grantham and as England "A" they defeated Scotland and Guernsey 5-0 before losing 4-1 to Wales. In their semi-final they defeated England "B" 3-2 only to lose 3-2 in the final against Wales to gain silver. In the doubles they defeated Scotland "A" 3-2 in the quarters, Wales "A" in the semi's and then surprisingly lost to England "B" 3-0 in the final, once again picking up silver. In the individual championships Sarah Perks (England ranked 15) played Gemma Yarnley (England ranked 5) in the quarter-final and after five gruelling sets Sarah came out with her first ever win over the highly talented Yarnley in a thrilling encounter. Following this nerve-racking victory Perks battled hard but went down to the eventual winner Lauren Springthorpe in the semi-final although this also went down to the wire as Lauren won in the deciding 5th set. Sarah can be well pleased with her bronze and all augers well for the future. Along with Sarah Wang and Stella Davis, Perks played as England "B" and finished in third place behind Wales and England "A", once again achieving the bronze award.

The Worksop League finished the season on a high note as they retained the Inter-Town Challenge Trophy after defeating the Mansfield League by a 6-3 margin. Starring for Worksop were veterans Mick Bell and John Hallgarth who each won two while Richard Wesley and Craig Gascoyne each won one. Mansfield replied through Stacey Beastall, Kerry Radford and the doubles pairing of Stacey Beastall and Gareth Godber.

At the annual Worksop League Awards the following were presented with their prizes by the leagues sponsor Mr Robert Hooton of D.T.H Engineering.

Player of the Year-Craig Gascoyne, Junior Player of the Year-Thomas Wesley, Most Improved Player-Lisa Ripley, Best Beginner-Alex Olliffe, Sporting Award-Priory Carpets "A", Youth Team Performance-Worksop Boys National Junior Team, Division One Champions-M.B.E. Division Two Champions-Manton M.W."B", Open Singles Champion-Craig Gascoyne,

Division Two Singles Champion-
Matthew Dodds.

SHROPSHIRE by Terry Ridgway

Official County Ranking List 2002/3 Season

Men

1. Tony Ackroyd (Telford)
2. Dave Elkin (Telford)
3. Nigel Holding (Shrewsbury)
4. Malcolm Langford (Telford)
5. Chris Martin (Ludlow)
6. Terry Ridgway (Bridgnorth)
7. Darrell Corfield (Shrewsbury)
8. Rob Mansfield (Shrewsbury)
9. Mike Dudley (Bridgnorth)
10. John Holding (Telford)

Women

1. Wendy Baggott (Bridgnorth)
2. Jane Bevan (Shrewsbury)
3. Lynne Davies (Bridgnorth)

Veteran Men

1. Dave Elkin
2. Malcolm Langford
3. Chris Martin
4. Terry Ridgway
5. Rob Mansfield

Telford League

Newcomers Idsall proved to be team of the season in Telford's League with the B side winning Division 3 and the A side cruising to the Division 2 title after winning the Telford Handicap Cup. With Chris Tarr's guidance the Shifnal based side of top county juniors are getting better with every match and could be a good outside bet to take next season's Division 1 title.

Shrewsbury League

Cricket Club A finished the season unbeaten and retained the Premier trophy. Their side of Rod France, Nigel Holding and Matt Croft were given a good run by Pontesbury A but their final 9-1 victory over Railways A clinched the trophy.

Pontesbury C and Cricket Club D gained promotion to the Premier Division at the expense of Telepost and Unison B were unable to fight off relegation. The closest battle came in the second Division 2 as Rushbury B took the trophy by a one set difference over Hospitals D.

After last season's enjoyable run in the County Championships Shropshire have now entered a B side who will also be competing in Division 4C with the current A side.

Shrewsbury Vets

Shrewsbury's A side comfortably won Division 2 of the Midland League, having won all six matches. Rod

France took the individual honours with 15 out of 18 — equal to Mike Meredith of runners-up Kidderminster — Rob Mansfield and Mike Dudley made up the side who will compete in the top division next season. Taking their place in the second division are Shrewsbury's B side of John Holding, Graham Phillips and Terry Ridgway, who won the Division 3 trophy surprisingly in the last round of matches. Individual honours to Ridgway with 14 out of 15 wins.

SUSSEX by John Woodford

A brand new season and Sussex have a new chairman — Keith Jackson, who was in the chair for seven years from 1994 to 2001. He has made a comeback from retirement with two passions — table tennis and bowls — he is chairman of Hurstpierpoint Bowling Club.

Also playing an increasing role in Sussex administration is Chris Newberry (Chichester) — he continues as Sussex development officer and he is now vice-chairman of the county. One day he may move even higher.

National Councillor Dave Berriman is driving forward with his plans for coaching and for county training sessions. He has persuaded his committee that greater efforts must be made from now on to get larger number of young players to the junior squad training sessions.

He announced that local league matches would not be an excuse for players not attending the county sessions. Players who wish to be considered for the five Sussex junior and cadet teams must attend county training at least once a month.

That's putting county before local leagues and will not go down well in some towns. Berriman failed in a bid to compel all county players to purchase ETTA Player Licences.

There will be no Sussex Open Grand Prix this year; plans to run it at a north Sussex public school fell through because the two possible weekend dates did not suit the stadium.

However, plans are going ahead to stage the event in October 2003 at the Crawley Leisure Centre on 18 tables. The new criteria for Grand Prix events is now a minimum of 18 tables — this was never met at Hastings where it was difficult to fit in 12 tables.

News from the British League — Horsham have doubled the strength of their top team in Division 1 (South) with the return of Sussex Champion Mayur Majithia and Terry Haley — they will join Andy Walker and Peter Bartram; these four will take some beating, even with the two relegated teams from Reading and Tunbridge

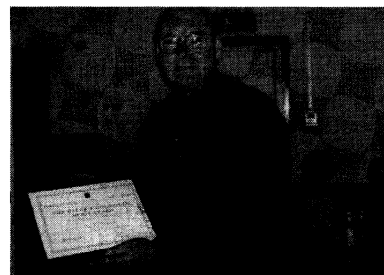
Wells possibly holding onto former Horsham stalwarts Nigel Eckersley and Adrian Moore.

WARWICKSHIRE by Caroline Williams

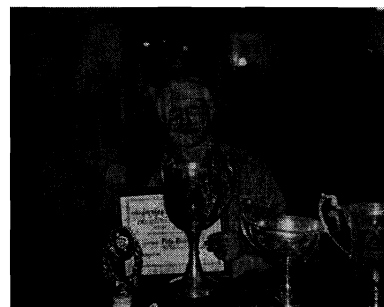
Maurice Goldstein for fantastic 8

No less than eight Warwickshire members have been awarded this year the Maurice Goldstein Merit Award by the ETTA for devoted service to table tennis. Warwickshire nominated Bob Montgomery and Frank Stevens, in recognition of their 40 years of service particularly to umpiring. Coventry League recognised the amount put in by three of their members: Don Richards, Gordon Gear and Allan Stockham were all honoured. These presentations were made at the Coventry AGM in July.

In Leamington certificates were presented at the League's Presentation Evening in May to Derek Harwood, Phil Paine and Hazel Higgins. Derek had served the Association for over 20 years as Coaching Officer, League Secretary as well as Treasurer from 1986 to 2000. Phil is now in his 30th season as Representative Match Secretary whilst Hazel has been part of the Association since 1959, with stints as Chairman and Secretary during her 40+ years and is still Vice-Chairman at present.



Derek Harwood (red shirt) with his Maurice Goldstein Award



Phil Paine (blue shirt) with his Maurice Goldstein Award plus various trophies. He was part of the team that won Division 1, plus he had won the Veteran mens singles and the Grade 1 singles at the Leamington Closed Championships.

Brum ready for new season

Birmingham decided to prepare for the new season well in advance by holding their Junior Ranking Trials in July. Accordingly, a good entry was obtained with the following results:-

Under 17:- 1. Peter Kirkham, 2. John Harrison, 3. Omar Benares, 4. Sammy Sandhu, 5. Navinder Matharu, 6. Phuc Huynh, 7. Yaqoub Mohammed, 8. Paul Leck.

Cadet:- 1. Sammy Sandhu, 2. Navinder Matharu, 3. Paul Leck, 4. Scott Danter, 5. Alan Caffery, 6. Tom Leck, 7. Lee Egan, 8. Ryan Hall, 9. Thomas Parker.

Under 12:- 1. Alan Caffery, 2. Jordan Armstrong, 3. Charlotte Caffery, 4. Lauren Danter.

Leamington continues to grow

Leamington is one of the few leagues not to be hit by falling player numbers and will continue with its two league system the same as last year. It runs three 12-team divisions of 3-a-side and three 6-team divisions of 2-a-side. The 2-a-side attracts a number of younger (and older) players who appreciate the earlier finishes, with 2 competitions over the year with promotion and relegation at Christmas aiding the rapidly improving younger players to gain the correct experience of league play.

At the top of the league, Leamington has always attracted teams from far afield. Coventry and Colebridge teams have been regular entrants, last year Nuneaton joined in and now Spa have attracted two teams from Banbury. The Banbury teams like Nuneaton will play home matches at a Leamington area venue.

Cippenham Veterans Summer 2 Star Open Championships

Top seeds Dave Harvey (Glos) and Sheila King (Sussex) were the winners of the Cippenham Veterans Summer 2-Star Open Championships in June. Neither was troubled too much although King did drop a game to runner-up Jackie Wood, a local player from Windsor.

Harvey's opponent in the men's final was third seed Chris Pickard (Middlesex) after the latter had disposed of second seed Derek Homan (Surrey) in the semi-final. Harvey's victim in the semi-final was fourth seed Henry Buist (Kent). Although all the top four seeds took up their positions in the semis it was not so clear-cut in the quarters. Fifth seed Steve Davis (Surrey) lost in the last

sixteen, at deuce in the fifth, to Hampshire's Charlie Childs, while eighth seed Tom Carr (Herts) lost his position in the preliminary round group to Mike Wilkins of Bucks. Carr went through his group in second place but then lost to Dave Crowley (Middx) in the first round before Crowley became a victim of Pickard one round later. Wilkins was upended in the first round by surprise package Geoff Ware (Hants) who had also had an impressive win over Chris Gibbons (Northants) in the groups. Tony Brown (Berks) followed up his first round win over John Barclay (Bucks) by beating Ware to set up a quarter-final meeting which he lost to Harvey.

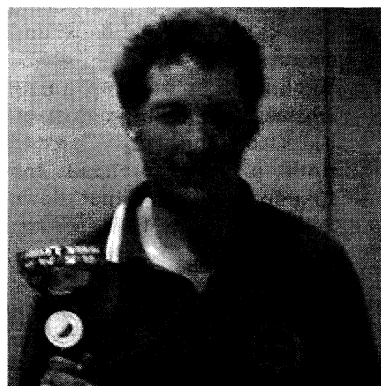
The last surviving Cippenham members were Mike Rhodes, who survived until the quarters where he lost to Buist, and Ken Philipson who went out at the same stage to Holman. The other Cippenham player to make it through to the groups was tournament organiser Graham Trimming. He then lost in the fifth game to previous champion Davis.

The women's event was played in two groups of four players with the top two progressing into a final group of four and the others playing off in a consolation group. Apart from King and Wood, the other players to make it into the competition proper were Sue Adamson (Surrey) and Lorna Slifkin (Middx).

A good entry of 72 players were attracted to the tournament and, surprisingly, did not fall behind schedule despite the counter-attraction of the England v Denmark World Cup match on television in the adjoining lounge. Ken Phillips was the able Referee who ensured that the tournament finished exactly on schedule.

Results:

MS: Dave Harvey (Gs) bt Chris Pickard (Mi) 9, 6, 9; WS: 1. Sheila King (Sx), 2. Jackie Wood (Bk); MCons: Ray Dixon (Wo) bt Chris Gibbons (Np) —9, 6, -9, 9; WCons: 1. Audrey Robinson (Bu), 2. Flavia Wade (Mi).



Cippenham Young Players Summer Festival (1-2.6.02) By Graham Trimming

Last weekend saw the biggest ever event yet staged at Cippenham Table Tennis Centre as the Cippenham club reached the end of its sixth season in the magnificent purpose-built facility. 180 players, all aged 15 or younger, came together for the two-day Cippenham Young Players Summer Festival. They provided a total of 326 entries and played about 850 matches keeping 16 tables busy for around 20 hours to get through the ten events, each with their own consolation event attached. Organizer and Referee Ken Phillips deserved all the plaudits he received for his handling of the tournament that ran like clockwork.

The Cippenham players did not let their Club down either, winning five of the events and being runner-up in four. Dorian Robinson was the local star in the boys events, winning the U11 and U13 titles and being runner-up in the U12. In the girls events it was Sylvana Bielec, one of the stars of Slough's national Hammersley Cup success the previous weekend, who was most successful, winning both the U13 and U15 titles while Melanie Farquhar took the U12 title and was runner-up in the U13. Cippenham's other successful players were Caroline Linz and Marc Armstrong who were runners-up in their U15 events, and Sebastian Bielec, who won the U15 boys consolation.

Essex players stole many of the rest of the honours: Paul Dewhurst underlining his top seeding in the U15 while Billy Deville did likewise in the U10. Jessica Macken and Rachel Jamieson won the U10 and U11 titles respectively for the same county. The other title also went eastwards when Lee Barnes (Suffolk) won the U12 boys event.

The incredible entry may have been due to the long bank holiday weekend because such an assembly of players has not been seen previously at Cippenham. As a 1-star event (the lowest grading), it attracted a lot of new players but others were prompted to travel from such faraway places as Durham and Wales to play.

Results:

U15BS: Paul Dewhurst (E) bt Marc Armstrong (Mi) -3, -5, 13, 6, 3; U15GS: Sylvana Bielec (Bu) bt Caroline Linz (Bu) -8, -5, 9, 5, 9; U13BS: Dorian Robinson (Sy) bt Andrew Merrick (Gs) 8, 6, -8, 3; U13GS: Sylvana Bielec (Bu) bt Melanie Farquhar (Bk) -0, 8, 6, -7, 4; U12BS: Lee Barnes (Sk) bt Dorian Robinson (Sy) 9, 5, -9, 5; U12GS: Melanie Farquhar (Bk) bt Rachel Jamieson (E) 12, 7, -11, 9; U11BS: Dorian Robinson (Sy) bt Billy Deville (E) 8, -8, 2, 5; U11GS: Rachel Jamieson (E) bt Rachael Pilgrim (Wa) -7, -8, 5, 10, 5; U10BS: Billy Deville (E) bt Adam Draper (WAL) 11, 4, 2; U10GS: Jessica Macken (E) bt Charlotte Callcut (E) 4, 9, -8, 6; U15BCons: Sebastian Bielec (Bu) bt Andrew Merrick (Gs) 12, -10, -9, 5, 8; U15GCons: Claire Groome (E) bt Sophie Willsher (Ha) 15, 10, 9; U13BCons: Suchira Gauge (Mi) bt Chatura Gauge (Mi) 5, -11, -7, 7, 6; U13GCons: Rachel Greener (Du) bt Sophie Willsher (Ha) 8, 10, -10, 7; U12BCons: William Maybanks (Ha) bt Richard Kelly (Mi) 5, -6, 10, 8; U12GCons: Rachel Greener (Du) bt Amy Wilkinson (E) 6, 2, 8; U11BCons: John Bispham (K) bt Zane Smythe (Sy) 6, 6, 9; U11GCons: Jacqueline Lau (Mi) bt Tamsin Holland (He) 9, -9, 4, 7; U10BCons: Alexander Grima (Bu) bt Gregory Beckett (Bk) 9, -9, 9, 15; 10GCons: Tamsin Holland (He) bt Briony Fisher (K) 2, 7, 5

Eurokids — Under 12 Training Camp — Istanbul — 20th-27th February 2002 By Bradley Billington

This was the fourth Eurokids training camp and my first one. Paul Drinkhall and Lauren Springthorpe were the two England players selected to attend the camp. The ETTU developed the concept of the European U12 training camps to create grounds for young players in order to enable them to challenge world top players in the future. It is also an opportunity for coaches to coordinate opinions in order to establish a common programme for further training. One boy and one girl from 16 countries were in attendance at a sports training centre in Istanbul. Head coaches for the training were Lescek Kusharski (Pol) and Phillipe Molodzoff (Fra).

Some general principles were applied to the training camp:

- a. Girls and boys play together depending on their technical level. The whole group divided

into two with 2, 3, 4 players changing groups every day (depending on level, motivation, behaviour)

- b. Giving — players are asked to glue only three times during the week — at the beginning, in the middle and before the final competition on the last day - the principle being that the speed glues often replace the good basic technical skills, especially in spin and control, by more speed
- c. After lunch players must be in their own rooms resting for one hour followed by a one hour English lesson
- d. Players to wear name sheets on their back (as in competition) during all sessions

The following general training principles were applied:

- a. 2 or 3 playing sessions planned every day. The first 2 sessions were 3 hours duration and the third about an hour
- b. Group 1 generally practices more tactical and moving exercises. Group 2 more technical
- c. Play is forbidden before warming up and during breaks
- d. Each country's player/coaches to lead a warm-up/down in turn for 10-15 minutes.

The knocking up time for every session was the same, with 5 structured exercises (below), each about 3-5 minutes long (editor's note: Bradley had supplied diagrams but I attempt to describe each exercise in words. KM).

1. Forehand to forehand drive crosscourt, but with each player hitting the ball alternately wide to the partner's corner, and then to nearer the middle of the table.
2. Forehand top spinning from forehand corner, alternately to partner's forehand block and backhand block.
3. Both players driving alternately with forehand and backhand crosscourt down backhand diagonal.
4. Backhand top spinning crosscourt to backhand block on backhand diagonal.
5. Both players forehand top spinning to each other down middle of table from off the table.

Day 1

Session 1: 9.00 — 12.00

30 minutes following the five common exercises followed by 1 hour individual exercises. After the break,

1 hour top table competition to decide the groups. Paul Drinkhall was on the top two tables all session. Lauren Springthorpe moved up two tables, but not far enough to make group 1.

Session: 15.30 — 18.30

Group 1 — 1 hour of footwork exercises, mainly involving counter hitting from early. Some exercises involved counter hitting, then the second time around spin attacks. General idea was to work on taking ball early and footwork (ball stays in play more with counter hits).

Group 2 — multi-balls in 5 groups of 3, with a coach working on basic topspin skills against backspin.

After the break with this reversed — group 1 on multi-ball — mainly focusing on backhand topspin and in/out movements. Group 2 looked at variations of the block and control.

Session 20.15 — 21.90

Top table mixed doubles with your own team-mate. Basic principles of doubles explained, e.g. which corners to play to when playing with a left or right-hander. Which type of serves are more effective against certain players, where to stand on receive with a left/right-hander, etc.

Day 2

Session 4: 9.00 — 12.00

Group 1 — main focus on blocking and counter attack. Main principles — not standing too close to the table on backhand corner and counter attacking early on forehand; more backswing and smooth stroke on backhand, focusing on soft through-contact, with slight use of wrist.

Group 2 — multi-balls — continuing focus on touching (thin contact of) ball with spin.

Group 1 — physical — involving sprints and football.

Group 2 — 3 exercises looking at flat block, topspin block, side block.

Session 5: 15.30 — 18.30

Group 1 - 3 exercises working on backhand topspin against backspin and then block. Main focus - to get arm, elbow and wrist to turn away from the ball, to lift spin; then on second ball against block, to topspin over the ball, not standing too close.

Top table with backhand open up.

Group 2 — movement exercises from three different distances. Close (speed), mid (fast spin), off table (slow spin) to develop different movement patterns and different contacts on the ball.

Session 6: 20.00 — 21.00

Group 1 - full session of serve and receive and flick, focusing on the

technique of the flick. Not just flicking the wrist, but timing the movement so that you are moving slightly forwards on contact. Also using elbow and a bit of wrist (slightly open) to guide ball.

Group 2 - Looking at basic spin and spin control techniques of serve and receive. Bat angles and thin contacts on the ball.

Day 3

Session 7: 9.00 — 12.00

Group 1 — main focus was on co-ordination and movement exercises. Most of the exercises were control from one position with one or two shots to different positions, e.g. one or two to backhand, one or two to forehand — continual.

Group 2 — multi-balls — in and out movements, taking care to ensure good balance, i.e. knees bent and weight even on toes, not too much on toes or heels.

Group 1 — did physical and group 2 continued to develop block variations.

Session 8: 15.30 — 18.30

Group 1 did a full session of multi-ball, focusing on first spin and next attack, developing movement patterns to allow weight to transfer forwards in the stroke.

Group 2 — a general session of footwork on serve/receive exercises, followed by a selection of physical tests — power, speed, strength.

Day 4

The rest day — which was an organised trip to visit various places of interest in Istanbul.

Day 5

Session 9: 9.00 — 12.00

Group 1 did very basic exercises, but with towels positioned, a) across the middle of table leaving 10-12 inches at the baseline free, and b), down the centre of table leaving 14 inches or so in either half. Then open play top table, with the towels in various positions. The exercises were not very productive in the play, but the players had to concentrate harder, and it showed how short their attacks and blocks are in open play.

Group 2 — regular exercises from different distances and to three different block positions — backhand, middle, forehand. The second half of session was individual exercises set by the each player's own coach. Note: Lauren had made it into group 1 on this day, which showed her efforts were being rewarded. Paul continued to show his strengths as one of the better players. The session concluded with shadow play training — focusing not on speed, but on ensuring basic movements were correct.

Session 10: 15.30 — 18.30

Group 1 - focus of the session was a lot of exercises with quick changes in direction, e.g. one player across (X s), the other plays straight (H s), then between one and four shots, the player playing diagonal plays straight — then it s reversed. Then some games with two balls — when one missed, play the (other) ball as normal.

Group 2 — focus on movement, especially turning from the backhand corner with the forehand, stepping around the corner with both feet and not just pivoting on left leg for right-handers or right leg for left-handers.

Sessions 11, 12 & 13

Team & Individual Competitions

(Editor's note: I have cut this from Bradley's report. KM)

General comments

1. In my opinion, from the camp and watching many young players play at this level and below, far too many players are using woods, rubbers and glues which are way too fast. I wouldn't expect a 12-year-old boy or girl in tennis to have a racket that is faster and more highly-strung than that of Pete Sampras. I have seen many young players in table tennis with bats faster than the top world players. Whilst short term, these rackets may help them to lift the ball against chop and play hard, it doesn't develop their finer ball skills or footwork techniques long term. Certainly the rubber has to be quality in order to develop spin, and to counter spin with skill rather than dead rubber, but if it is too fast, too early (in the player's career), the skills to develop spin are reduced.
2. The concept of these camps — to pool Europe's young players and coaches in order to compete against potential Asian domination — is a good one and needs to continue through the various age groups.
3. The general consensus of opinion of the most important factors to focus upon with beginners was: 1) position of legs, 2) backhand technique, 3) forehand technique, 4) grip.

My personal opinion is that the grip is the most important, with the position of the legs second. The style of grip has a definite impact on the technique and ball skills: if incorrect it is difficult to change from very early and

to develop the correct techniques for that individual.

NATIONAL JUNIOR LEAGUE 2002-03

The National Junior League (NJL) was first run in season 1997/8 to fill the gap between the Woolwich Junior British League and Woolwich Junior Leagues. The NJL was formed in response to demands for local competition by grass roots players and by the reluctance of some juniors to play in leagues. Last season almost 200 teams played in centres all over the country on 4 days.

Competition this season is planned to take place on the following dates:

30th November 2002,

14th December 2002

8th February 2003

29th March 2003

However these dates are nominal and can be changed to meet local requirements.

Amendments already notified are:-

North West first date moved to 2nd November.

Ledbury first date moved to 9th November.

Wednesbury first date moved to 9th November, second date to 7th December, third to 1st February

Rugby first date moved to 23rd November, second to 7th December.

Hillsborough second date cancelled — new date to be advised

Cippenham/Chesham first date 12th October (hence early closing date for entries), third date to be chosen between 11th January, 8th February and 15th February

Clubs apply to enter teams of 3 to play in venues closest to their club's location, thus saving travel and accommodation costs. The preferred option is graded divisions for boys and girls. Mixed teams and divisions are acceptable but these do bring some problems of equating standards. The schedule of play guarantees a full day's participation with each match consisting of a 6 or 9 singles/team match dependent on the make-up of the divisions. Winners of the top division at each centre may apply for promotion to the JBL and medals will be awarded to winners and runners-up in all divisions.

Players who have played in the Junior British League in the current season will not be eligible to play. This is a self-help event under the overall control of a local organiser. The ranking weighting is 1.0.

Each player must have a Player Licence valid for the season 2002-03. Details can be obtained from Doreen

Nightingale at ETTA Head Office - telephone 01424 722525.

There is no sponsorship for this event. The halls are being booked and the entry fee will be £68 per team of 3 players (more can be registered) made up of £10 per team computer levy, £5 for each player and £43 per team registration.

Should you be interested in entering a team(s), please contact Graham Rogerson at the address and telephone number below or by e-mail at graham@grahamrogerson.com Closing date for entries are given below, but early returns would be appreciated.

Chesham HS and Cippenham Mike Atkinson

01494 785609

Closing date 12 Sept 2002

35 Poles Hill, Chesham, Bucks. HP5 2QR

North West

Ken Armson

0151 4863073

Closing date 30 Sept 2002. Armscot Place, Hunts Cross, Liverpool. L25 0NX

All other venues

Graham Rogerson

01553 670016

Closing date 30 Sept 2002

33 Temple Road, King s Lynn, Norfolk. PE30 3SQ

Sportbreak Summer Junior and Cadet Open Egerton Youth Centre, 3rd August 2002

Results: Junior Boys Singles: Winner — Ashley Nicholls (Sp), RU — Mark Davies (Ch); Junior Girls Singles: Winner — Louise Proctor (La), RU — Sally Smith (Dv); Cadet Boys Singles Russell Nicholls (Sp), RU — Matthew Dodds (Ys); Cadet Girls Singles: Winner — Sally Smith (Dv), RU — Cheryl Collier (St); Best Performance Boy — Andrew Davies (Ch); Best Performance Girl — Emma Kelly (Ch)

Saudi-British Sports Co-operation Programme Table Tennis

Coach Report by Derrick Marples.

The visit to Saudi Arabia took place from Tuesday 16th July until Monday 29th July, and consisted of a part of seven junior and one senior player. Daniela Horner, Chris Gregory, Dominic Hall, Alex Green, Stephen Denny, Simon Noutch, Martyn Clarke, Jason Sugrue. Together with Mike Lewis — Manager and Derrick Marples — Coach.

On reaching the accommodation at Jeddah, the players to be in bed by 01.30h. They attended the first training session at 09.30h on Wednesday, shaking off the effects of travel.

All training on Wednesday took place under the direction of the Saudi coach 1/c Ola Werner from Sweden: he determined all the exercises and games.

For the following morning I thought we had better have an individual training session and accordingly we trained separately. Friday being the Sabbath, we trained both sessions without Saudis. From Saturday until Tuesday, we had integrated training and games were being played.

On Wednesday, Ola developed a problem with his ear and neck such that he was unable to take further training sessions. Additionally, the main hall was being prepared for a wrestling match. This caused the camp to be divided between the Saudi seniors and Saudi juniors, and training took place in two separate halls. I took the Saudi seniors together with Jason, Dominc and Daniel whilst Ramy, the Saudi i/c junior coach, worked in a separate hall with the Saudi/English juniors. This arrangements lasted until Saturday, when Ola decided he had improved in health sufficiently to take over the final day of training. There were no staged matches and the training camp concluded on Saturday evening.

Everyone appeared to have benefited from the training, both technically and socially, giving rise to a lot of goodwill. I would like to congratulate all the English players on their attitude and industry; not only did they work very hard to improve their abilities, but the attitude displayed made working with them a delight.

I believe that as well as for news and views, Table Tennis News should be a magazine of record. Therefore, I shall publish below some of the detailed major tournament results from last season that could not be fitted in the magazine at the time. KM.

National Senior Championships, Sheffield, 2/3 March, 2002

Men s Singles: Quarter-finals: Matthew Syed (Surrey) bt Bradley Billington (Derbyshire) 11-9, 11-8, 11-5, 11-7; Andrew Baggaley (Buckinghamshire) bt Carl Prean (Isle of Wight) 9-11, 7-11, 11- 8, 12-10, 11-9, 11-7; Alex Perry (Devonshire) bt Dale Barham (Cambridgeshire) 11-7, 10-12, 11-7, 11-9, 11-9 Gareth Herbert (Berkshire) bt Terry Young (Berkshire) 13-11, 11-8, 11-3,

8-11, 13-15, 7-11, 11-9; Semi-finals: Andrew Baggaley (Buckinghamshire) bt Matthew Syed (Surrey) 11-9, 11-7, 11-9, 11-9; Alex Perry (Devonshire) bt Gareth Herbert (Berkshire) 11-7, 9-11, 10-12, 7-11, 11-9, 11-2, 11-9; Final: Andrew Baggaley (Buckinghamshire) bt Alex Perry (Devonshire) 11-5, 17-19, 11-9, 11-5, 11-9; Women's singles Quarter-finals: Nicola Deaton (Derbyshire) bt Louise Durrant (Nottinghamshire) 11-7, 11-5, 12-10, 11- 4; Andrea Holt (Lancashire) bt Joanna Roberts (Yorkshire) 12-10, 11- 4, 11-5 , 1 1 - 6 Katy Parker (Lancashire) bt Judy Morley (Gloucestershire) 11-5, 11-6, 1 1 - 7 , 1 1 - 8 Helen Lower (Staffordshire) bt Lindsey Thornton (Lancashire) 11- 8, 11-5, 11-13, 11-13, 11-7, 11-3; Women's Singles Semi-finals: Nicola Deaton (Derbyshire) bt Andrea Holt (Lancashire) 11-7, 11-9, 11-9, 9 -11, 6 - 1 1 , 1 1 - 5 Helen Lower (Staffordshire) bt Katy Parker (Lancashire) 11-5, 11-6, 11-0, 14-12; Final: Nicola Deaton (Derbyshire) bt Helen Lower (Staffordshire) 11-8, 11-5, 11-9, 11-9

Midlands Open Butterfly Grand Prix, Wolverhampton, 27/28 April 2002

Finals results: Men s singles (from semi-finals): Gergely Urban (Hungary) bt Taju Agunbiabe (Nigeria) 11-8, 11-3, 11-9. Gavin Runggay (Scotland) bt Marco Essomba (Surrey) 11-9, 9-11, 11-6, 11-7; Final: Gergely Urban (Hungary) bt Gavin Runggay (Scotland) 12-10, 12-10, 11-9; Women s singles (from semi-finals): Helen Lower (Staffs) bt Kubrat Owolabi (Middlesex) 11-8, 11-5, 11-3. Joanna Parker (Surrey) bt Barbara Kiss (Herts) 11-6, 12-10, 11-8; Final: Helen Lower (Staffs) bt Joanna Parker (Surrey) 11-5, 11-5, 11-8; Men s doubles: Gergely Urban (Hungary)/Abdul Wuraola (Surrey) bt Gavin Runggay/Niall Cameron (Scotland) 11-7, 5-11, 11-6, 11-9; Women s doubles: Helen Lower (Staffs)/Kubrat Owolabi (Middlesex) bt Barbara Kiss (Herts)/Lindsey Thornton (Lancs) 11-5, 10-12, 7-11, 12-10, 11-9; Men s under 21 singles: Gavin Runggay (Scotland) bt Rob Pountney (Surrey) 11-8, 6-11, 11-8, 12-10 ;Women s under 21 singles: Joanna Parker (Surrey) bt Naomi Owen (Wales) 10-12, 11-9, 14-12, 11-4; Veteran Men s Singles: Brian Johns (Cheshire) bt Chris Beckley (Surrey) 11-7, 11-2, 11-6; Veteran Women s Singles: Jan Dunning (Worcs) bt Jane Durham (Cleveland) 8-11, 11-9, 11-5, 11-4; Men s band 1 singles: Bryn Drinkhall (Cleveland) bt Craig Bryant

(Devon) 11-6, 5-11, 11-6, 11-8; Men s band 2 singles: Tony Isaac (Staffs) bt Chris Beckley (Surrey) 11-7, 11-9, 6-11, 11-8; Men s band 3 singles: Owen Clutterbuck (Wales) bt Lee Davies (Wales) 11-6, 11-9, 8-11, 11-9.

Men s band 4 singles: Mark Newns (Oxon) bt Keith Lesser (Essex) 8-11, 11-8, 5-11, 11-8, 11-3; Men s band 5 singles: Keith Bird (Derbys) bt James Brown (Yorks) 10-12, 11-3, 2-11, 17-15, 11-7; Men s band 6 singles: Tom Filmer (Oxon) bt James Brown (Yorks) 13-11, 14-12, 11-8.

Women s band 1 singles: Clare Newns (Ches) bt Jane Durham (Cleveland) 11-8, 11-6, 11-7; Women s band 2 singles: Stephanie Matthew (Scot) bt Karin Eggar (Scot) 11-8, 12-10, 15-13; Women s band 3 singles: Helen Parton (Devon) bt Gail Davey (Sussex) 8-11, 11-9, 13-15, 11-8, 12-10.

PPP healthcare Commonwealth Masters, Wembley, 17 May 2002

Results (from semi-finals); Matthew Syed (England) bt Adam Robertson (Wales) 11-8, 11-7, 8-11, 8-11, 11-7; Duan Yong Jun (Singapore) bt Chetan Baboor (India) 11-6, 11-8, 11-7; Final: Duan Yong Jun (Singapore) bt Matthew Syed (England) 11-6, 9-11, 11-6, 11-6; Under 12 challenge: Darius Knight (Surrey) bt Paul Drinkhall (Cleveland) 11-9, 12-10.

Table Tennis Association of Wales Cymdeithas Tennis Bwrdd Cymru British Schools Championship 28th-30th June

Medals

	Gold	Silver	Bronze
England	9	12	14
Wales	7	2	11
Scotland	2	2	4
Ireland	0	2	4
Iceland	0	0	1

Individual Tournament

Senior Boys

Winner — Adam Robertson (Wa) ; RU - Gavin Runggay (Sco); 3rd — Owen Griffiths (Wa)/Dominic Hall (Eng)

Senior Girls

Winner — Annabelle Sorrentino (Eng); RU — Kerry Radford (Eng); 3rd — Katy Ingham (Eng)/Gemma Thomas (Wa)

Intermediate Boys

Winner — Chris Brown (Eng); RU — John Murphy (Ire), 3rd — Robert Lemon (Eng)/Stephen Gertsen (Wa)

Intermediate Girls

Winner — Nicola White (Eng); RU — Gemma Chapman (Eng); 3rd — Naomi Wilson (Eng)/Laura Hall (Wa)

Cadet Boys

Winner — Liam Thomas (Wa); RU — Harry Shahlaei (Eng); 3rd — Peter Graham (Ire)/Daniel Rees (Eng)

Cadet Girls Singles

Winner — Lauren Springthorpe (Eng); RU — Naomi Owen (Wa); 3rd — Sarah Perks (Eng)/Laura Runggay (Sco)

Team Competition Final Places

Senior Boys

- 1.Wales A
- 2.Scotland A
- 3.England A D. Hall — A. Green
- 4.Ireland
- 5.Wales B
- 6.Iceland A
- 7.England B G. Yarnall — S. Gibbs
- 8.Iceland B
- 9.Scotland B
- 10.Guernsey

Senior Girls

- 1.England A A. Sorrentino — K. Radford
- 2.England B K. Ingham — C. Wilson, D. Hall
- 3.Wales
- 4.Iceland
- 5.Ireland
- 6.Guernsey

Intermediate Boys

- 1.England B C. Brown — H. Yueng
- 2.England A S. Marples — R. Lemon
- 3.Scotland A
- 4.Ireland A
- 5.Wales A
- 6.Ireland B
- 7.Wales B
- 8.Scotland B
- 9.Guernsey

Intermediate Girls

- 1.England A C. Chapman — N. White
- 2.England B C. Graham — N. Wilson
- 3.Scotland A
- 4.Wales
- 5.Ireland
- 6.Scotland B

Cadet Boys

- 1.Wales A
- 2.England A S. Rogerson — R. Wesley
- 3.England B H. Shahlaei — D. Rees — B. Barlow
- 4.Ireland
- 5.Wales B
- 6.Scotland
- 7.Guernsey B
- 8.Guernsey A

Cadet Girls

1. Wales A
- 2.England A L. Springthorpe - G. Yarnley
- 3.England B S. Wang — S. Perks — S. Davis
- 4.Scotland A
- 5.Scotland B
- 6.Wales B
- 7.Ireland
- 8.Guernsey A

9.Guernsey B Doubles

14G - 1st England A (L Springthorpe — G Yarnley); 2nd - Wales

14B — 1st England A (H Shahlaei — D Rees) ; 2nd - England B (R Rogerson — R Wesley)

16G — 1st England A (G Chapman — N White); 2nd — Scotland; 3rd — England B (C Graham — N Wilson) - Wales

16B — 1st Scotland; 2nd - Ireland

18G — 1st England B (K Ingham — C Wilson); 2nd — England A (A Sorrentino — K. Radford)

18B — 1st Wales; 2nd — Wales — 3rd England A (D Hall — A Green).

PREMIER CLUB CONFERENCE, 25TH MAY, JUDGED A HUGE SUCCESS

The 2nd National Premier Club Conference attended by over 110 (81 male, 20 female) delegates representing 58 clubs, plus 50 players, at the National Training Centre, Holme Pierrepont National Water Sports Centre, Nottingham on Saturday 25th May, has been deemed a huge success following analysis of the evaluation forms.

There was a mix of presentations and workshops, led by Alan Ransome (ETTA Chairman), Steen Kyst Hansen (ETTA National Coach), Chris Earle (Director, Institute of Youth Sport) and ETTA staff (Richard Yule, Chief Executive; Diccon Gray, Director of Development; Judy Rogers, National Development Officer for People with Disabilities; and Jon Kaufman, London Regional Development Officer all gave presentations to the plenary session), with a feature being a live interview of 5 times national women s champion Nicola Deaton by Diccon. Peter Hirst, ETTA Director of Teaching & Training, led the junior players training session, with Steen Hansen giving a presentation on advanced level coaching and Ben Tan of the Youth Sport Trust taking them for a Lifestyle Management Awareness workshop. An ETTA travel subsidy was provided.

Delegates feedback was overall very positive:

Well presented, informative and enjoyable. Inspired thought and future action.

Thank you for an enjoyable and informative day. Well done.

Well worth the 400 mile round trip.

A very good day full of ideas to go away with and implement. Thanks to all of you.

Interview with Nicola Deaton — informative and well conducted.

PremierClub national competition: a great idea — so go for it!

However, there were some criticisms, mainly organisational and procedural:

Sessions too rushed — trying to pack too much into the day?!

Rushed — perhaps fewer sessions with more time for discussion.

Lunch was very nice but lunch facilities were non-existent.

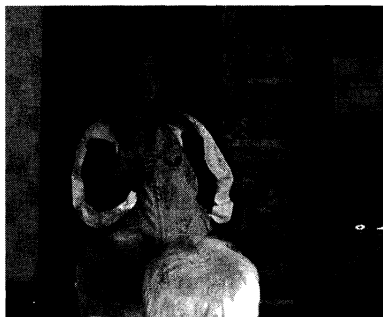
Domestic arrangements, i.e. booking in and lunch, need speeding up.

Venue too hot.

ETTA Director of Development Diccon Gray commented:

We are very encouraged by the response of the clubs who attended. Clearly there is a tremendous amount of great development work going on at local level. This bodes well for a bright future for table tennis.

Footnote: The PremierClub Club of the Year awards scheme has received a record entry of 37, with the regional decisions having been made and presented, and the national awards to be announced at the Awards Dinner on 7th September, during the ETTA Coaches Conference, Lilleshall National Sports Centre. Of the 37 entries, 33 clubs declared comparative membership figures for the seasons 2000/01 and 2001/02. Of these, 30 (out of 33) clubs had increased their membership in season 2001/02. In total, 331 clubs have now applied for PremierClub status.



Nicola Deaton

National Cadet League

Mike Atkinson is the new organiser of the league and can be contacted at: 35 Poles Hill, Chesham HP5 2QR,

Buckinghamshire. Tel: 01494 785609 (h). Fax: 01494 775414 (Mon-Fri). E-mail:

mikeatkinson12@hotmail.com

(Mon-Fri). Completed team entries should be returned to him by 12th September together with the appropriate payment. Registered players will need a current Players Licence — contact Doreen Nightingale at the ETTA office (Tel. 01424 722525) for details.

The dates currently scheduled for this season's competition are: Sunday 20th October 2002, Sunday 15th December 2002, Sunday 9th March 2003 and Sunday 23rd March, with the National Final on Saturday 10th May.

Famous People Who Played Table Tennis

Some anonymous person gave me (KM) an un-referenced newspaper cutting from just before the Wimbledon tennis final in July, stating that the about to be champion, Lleyton Hewitt from Australia, has been honing his competitive edge by playing table tennis. Apparently he and his Belgium girlfriend had been regular visitors at house rented by his management company, Octagon, a few minutes drive from Centre Court, and played all-comers at table tennis. He's hot at that, too, the article claimed.

A full page colour photo of attractive 15 year old new Russian tennis star Maria Sharapova in casual blouse and shorts, tapping a table tennis ball on a bat, with inset photographs playing on a Stiga table, appeared at the front of a 3 page feature on her in the Mail On Sunday supplement, Night & Day on April 21st.

A Daily Telegraph report stated that New Zealand golfer Craig Perks, who had just won the Players Championship (PGA Tour) in Florida, was a former New Zealand table tennis champion. And Alan Blears wishes to point out that former Lancashire and England junior international Geoff Pullar was not only Lancashire's opening (cricket) bat, but also England's. Alan says that he has been told that arguably the best batsman since Bradman, Sachia Tendulkar, plays a lot of table tennis to sharpen his reactions and is very good at it. However, he asks if others can confirm this. I have previously reported that Brian Lara plays table tennis for the same reasons.

Peter Forrest, perhaps the most prolific contributor to this feature, e-mailed the following on 24th July: I don't make a habit of watching the Kerrang satellite music channel, but my son dragged me in to see the

second half of a video by the metal band P.O.D, for a track called Boom. The theme of the video is totally table-tennis, with some good trick shots, and (in keeping with the musical style) the P.O.D. guys winning against Sweden, loads of arguing, and finally a big brawl. Good fun.

Peter then added that more information was available with photographs from the San Diego TTC newsletter (pages 6 and 7) on website <http://www.ttsd.org/newsletter2002-2.pdf>

A few paragraphs taken from a P.O.D fan website, April 11th said:

THIS WEEK - P.O.D.'s new single BOOM hits radio as the #1 MOST A D D E D s o n g ! !

Recently, in San Diego, P.O.D. took time out of their insane schedule to film the BOOM video. MTV was also there to do a MAKING OF THE VIDEO..... which we expect to air on MTV the end of the month.

A table tennis tournament sets the tone for the clip, which was filmed by director Gavin Bowden (Red Hot Chili Peppers, Lifehouse) Tuesday and Wednesday in San Diego. Set in the Cox Arena, the quartet is shown competing in the ping-pong play-offs against teams from China, Sweden and France.

What you may not know is that P.O.D. invited BLINDSIDE to be the starring role opposite them in this video!! You won't believe this video, so be sure to stay tuned for the World Premier on MTV.

Rob Worrall also advised us about this video, pointing out that both the band and the fictional Swedish opposition team were wearing the latest Butterfly gear. He also mentioned that the other music-table tennis video being shown on MTV was Kelly watch the stars by the group Air, showing two identical girls playing each other and using the 11-up scoring system. Peter Forrest has previously informed us about this 1990s video, but it is interesting that it is still being broadcast.

On British TV (Channel 4 and ITV), Ramgarhia Club head coach Shu Huang has been one of the Chinese women players appearing on the Ikea advertisement, playing on an Ikea kitchen table with a wooden spoon as a bat.

It was also interesting that one of our own, 1978 national champion Paul Day, made the national press (Sunday Times, 7th April) for, with his family, being the equal 432nd richest person in the country with an estimated £80m. However, Paul, a most unflashy, modest living person, reinvests almost

all the profits back into the family business, Turners Transport of Soham, and as part of the community will be devastated by the tragic and evil murder of the local 10 year old, Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman.

Allen Roper Receives Hillingdon Achiever in Sport Award

Allen Roper, the Wembley & Harrow League Development Officer, received a Sports Coach of the Year silver salver from the Mayor of Hillingdon, Cllr Catherine Dane, at the Hillingdon Achievers in Sport presentation evening 22nd March.

Allen has been playing table tennis since he was 15 and has been very active as a coach in recent years. He produces a great Hillingdon Table Tennis Newsletter. Two and a half years ago he set up a club for juniors at Hayes Stadium which has grown very popular, and several members have represented the borough of Hillingdon in the London Heathrow Youth Games.

At about the same time, Gary Howes and Nicola Howes of the Byng Hall TTC received similar volunteer certificates from the Deputy Mayor of Tunbridge Wells, Stan Ward, for the work they had done with young people in the community over the last 10 years. The editor is aware that these are only a few of the many examples around the country where table tennis stalwarts have received their just recognition from local authorities.

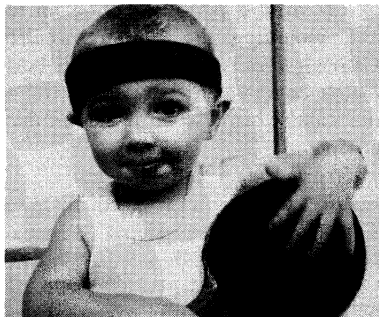


Alan Roper receives his award

Junior Talent

Murray Glover, Gen. Sec. Staines DTTL and quite a mean photographer himself, in April sent me this cheeky and charming picture of his Aussie granddaughter, Lola (born during the Sydney Olympics, and thus named Lola Olympia Glover!), taken by his son, Henry at their home in Sunshine Beach, Queensland. Henry was apparently one of the top Surrey under 14s in 1981, but then gave up competitive play when going to a

school that did no table tennis. Murray sent Henry a bat to influence him to join the flourishing club in Noosa, and get in a bit of practice before his next visit.



Lola

Johnny Leach Junior

I read in the USA Table Tennis Magazine (Nov/Dec 2001) of the exploits of the namesake of our own 1949 and 1951 world champion, Johnny Leach. The 12 year old Johnny Leach from Erie, Colorado, reached no 1 in the American under 12 ranking list at the beginning of 2001 and is apparently working on his defensive game. He has set his sights on making the National team by 2004, and being in the Olympic team in 2008, and has a talented 15 year old sister, Laura.

Nigerian Players Wishing To Play In England

I have anxieties over the number of enquiries I get on playing in England, as I do not know how I can help them. However, if you or your club may be able to help, please read on:

Tunde Adelodun is the manager of Durotimi Dorcas Strong, a Nigerian woman international who represented her country at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester. She wants to train and compete in England. For further information, contact Tunde: E-mail: anitunde@hotmail.com

Bayo Ifakiekiti (who may be the same or related to Tunde above, because his E-mail is anitunde@yahoo.com), looks after the interests of who he says is the Nigerian no.3 woman, Anike Durotimi, who also was in the Nigerian Commonwealth squad and would like to play for a club in England.

Joe Adebayo (bayo999@yahoo) has just made a general plea for English clubs to help fix up talented Nigerian players in clubs and competition.

University of Manchester Athletic Union, Excellence in Sport Programme

The University of Manchester is the latest university offering support services, expertise, facilities and practical solutions to enable talented and committed students to combine study with competing and developing in their chosen sport. The support available for successful applicants includes individual cash grants of up to £2,000, privileged access to University sports facilities, physiotherapy, nutritional & physiological assessments and direct links with professional sports clubs in Manchester. For further information, contact Andrea Jones, Sport Development Officer, Tel. 0161 275 5304 website: www.sport.man.ac.uk/excellence

Websites

Sport England have launched their English Institute of Sport website www.eis2win.co.uk which give the general public, sport and the media an insight into how to create an elite athlete.

The BBC has launched its online Sports Academy www.bbc.co.uk/sportsacademy, designed to motivate and encourage future sporting stars of the 21st century. It is aimed specifically at 10-20 year olds. Note that the Grantham College Table Tennis Academy (15 hours a week coaching under head coach, Bradley Billington, former international player and national coach) has website pages on: www.grantham.ac.uk/Sports_Ac/Images/Table-home.html

Bob Johnson reckons that the Oldham TT League website www.tabletennis.co.uk and then click Oldham) is probably the most comprehensive website in the country!

Bromsgrove, Redditch & District Table Tennis Association — The First Fifty Years

John Bromhead, a retired librarian, is the author of this very thoroughly researched and referenced 135 page history of the Bromsgrove, Redditch & DTT Association, and while it is daunting in its detail (with so much information on players and personalities, teams and clubs over the 50 years) it remains well written throughout and with many interesting asides. John has the knack both of looking minutely at the very particular, but at the same time being able to see the wider context, and

while locals will be fascinated by the inside knowledge, I enjoyed his insights on the broader picture — e.g. how our sport is doing and how others perceive us. In the end, this limited edition book confirms what we already know: table tennis is about the people who play and administer it, and everyone is important in his or her way.

Commonwealth Table Tennis History 1971 — 2000

It has often been difficult to find out information on Commonwealth table tennis, particularly on all the Commonwealth Championships held under the auspices of the Commonwealth TT Federation since the inaugural championships in Singapore in 1971, but now, just has table tennis has been featured for the first time in the (Manchester) Commonwealth Games, this has been rectified in this fat A4 publication. As the current CTTF Chairman Alan Ransome acknowledges in his forward, thanks should go, particularly to Margaret Walden of Canada who has undertaken the majority of the research and documentation for this publication, to Keith Bowler of Australia and the late Denis George of Scotland, and to Detlev and Sheila von Nottbeck of Canada for their valuable typographical assistance. Really, virtually everything is included from statistical information on results and tournaments, to minutes and decisions of the main meetings and recognition of the most significant officials. Probably the only major omission I (KM) could see is profiles of the most significant players: the history is from an official's perspective and the circulation is limited to officials and official organisations.

Another niggling omission is the lack of a CTTF contact point (no designated name, address, telephone, fax or e-mail etc.) published in the book. Presumably those who receive copies of this book know who to contact and how! However, there is an e-mail contact (web@cwttf.org) in the new but under publicised and visited website www.cwttf.org I know that the Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation is run by volunteers, but they should promote themselves more! To conclude, this history is welcome, and it is pleasing that the intention is to keep it up to date.

MUHR S MEMO: Information Officer Messages from Ken Muhr

Short of time and space with so much to say from a period (leading up to and including the Commonwealth Games) when we have had our best media coverage for several years: I just cannot begin to do justice in this edition.

If, apart from a near full page feature by Matthew Syed in The Times, national newspaper coverage for the PPP healthcare Commonwealth Masters at Wembley on 17th May, was a little disappointing in number of words devoted, national radio made up for this (Matthew was interviewed on most national and major London stations) and the 1 hour 10 minutes of excellent and generally well received exposure on BBC terrestrial TV (Grandstand) was the real prize. There was also excellent coverage in the ethnic press and websites, as well as local media coverage.

Several table tennis people — I noted Des Douglas, Dominic Hall, Helen Lower, Adam/Don/Gill/Katie Parker and Mike Wilson, but I am sure there were others — ran in the Queens Jubilee Baton Relay. We also got much national newspaper coverage in the build up to the Commonwealth Games: for example, a quality feature, An Unlikely Hero, by Howard Jacobson on Matthew Syed, in the Independent on Sunday; a quirky 4 page feature by Will Buckley on Katie Parker in the Observer Sport monthly magazine in which he mentioned that Henry Miller (writer), Bobby Fischer (chess master) and Chairman Mao all played and referred to many stars of the pimple bat era but no-one current; and one on Nicola Deaton in the Independent. Andrew Baggaley, looking like a pin-up, was featured in the Express, Independent, Sunday Times and in the Sun! Quite a coup, the latter — a success for the Baggaley family publicity machine (?) because I had given up on the Sun. Kate Steward was televised at a launch of the Games stamps. All the England players, I am sure got good local exposure.

There is just too much I could say about media attention during the actual Games — even in Hastings, during and immediately following them, I constantly had national (and regional) radio, TV and newspaper journalists on to me asking for information and wanting to contact, in particular, Matthew Syed, Gareth Herbert, Alex Perry, Andrew Baggaley, Nicola Deaton and Katie Parker. Mathew Syed wrote 3 big pieces for The Times over the period

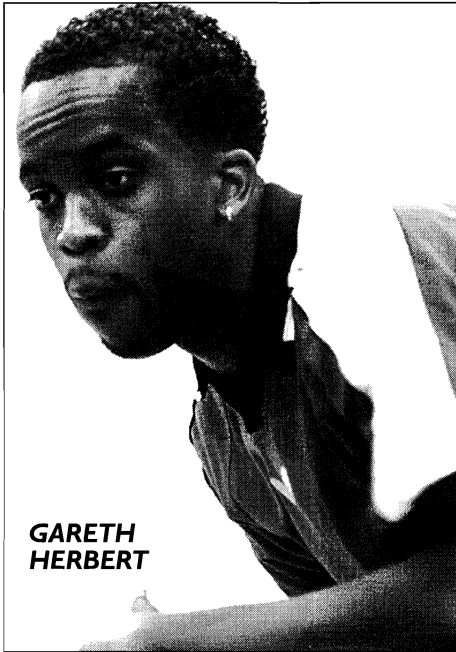
of the Games, the first, on being in the Games Village, appearing on the front news page of The Thunderer on 27th July. Although John Woodford kept up constant Daily Telegraph reports, the biggest day to day coverage on the table tennis was Richard Eaton's reports, plus the results service, in The Times (Richard also had some reports in The Guardian).

Most of the nationals carried results, and reports on the table tennis at key times. Matthew Syed got most headlines and was featured in The Independent. However, other English players also received attention. For example, most (even the Sun — again!) focussed on Alex Perry, who, on his 27th birthday, took the decisive singles against Nigeria to give England the team gold. And Andrew Baggaley and Gareth Herbert got appropriate attention for their doubles triumph. The papers as usual also homed in on controversy, particularly Johnny Huang's dispute over an Adam Robertson serve in the men's doubles, and (contrived) photograph, originally printed in the Sunday Express, purporting to show Prince Edward (Earl of Wessex) and Sophie (Countess) bored at the table tennis - No fun at the Games.

Those able to get BBC Digital TV could watch table tennis continuously, but their coverage of the table tennis on terrestrial TV was disappointing in the first few days compared with other sports, but thereafter improved considerably — as a result of consumer complaints? The website coverage on www.commonwealthgames.com and on the BBC's own www.bbc.uk/sport3/commonwealthgames2002 was generally pretty good, although, regarding the latter, some TT fans were irritated that we were included amongst other sports rather than having our own sport specific billing.

I apologise for only being able to mention a tiny fraction of the Games media coverage, let alone anything else. But finally, I slip in mention of two amusing/trivia items: a photograph of a bat wielding Sunderland TT Closed winner Dave Godbold, Champion Godbold, sharing top of the page billing in the Sunderland Echo with David Beckham; and an Observer (14.4.02) mention of a Franz Kurzbauer Austrian table tennis champion 1950-53, resident of Vienna homeless hostel, about to close, which Adolf Hitler was a former inmate of in his failed artist down-and-out years.

NEW SERVICE RULE



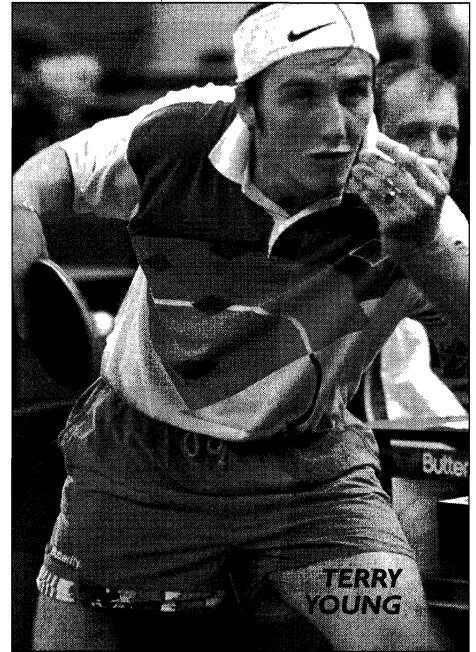
GARETH HERBERT

By the time this magazine drops onto your doormat the new service rule will be in place.

(Effective from the 1st Sept.02) This will affect all players from local league to top internationals like Gareth Herbert and Terry Young, England's two most effective servers, with Herbert being probably the best in the world. (Details of new rule on page 18).

Are you for it or against it? Will it be better for the sport as a whole, you can have your say by voting in this email poll. Table Tennis News invites you to email us. All you need to do is type 'For new rule' or 'Against new rule', in the "Subject" box, and email us at: johnwood@macace.co.uk

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TERRY YOUNG

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THE NEW SERVICE LAW

AT ONE TIME service was regarded just as a means of putting the ball into play. Serving in such a way as to score a point directly would probably have been regarded as unsporting, but this soon changed, writes Colin Clemett.

Ever since, players have continually sought ways of gaining an advantage through serving, and each time this advantage appeared to be too great the legislators have tried to devise ways of controlling it. Thus the devastating finger-spin services of the 30s were tamed by the introduction of the "flat hand" rule. Later, the extra speed and spin by gained by throwing the ball sideways on to the racket were outlawed by requiring the ball to be thrown near-vertically upwards and to be falling when struck. The introduction of the combination racket led to the "red-black" rule, to enable the receiver to see which side of the racket was used to strike the ball. This in turn prompted players to conceal the ball by striking it behind the body, and this was countered by restricting the space within which the ball could be struck. More recently, servers have taken to shielding the ball at the moment of striking by shielding it with the free arm or shoulder, and it is this action that the revised service law is designed to prevent.

It is easy to over-react and to make laws too restrictive. There should be no objection to a clever server gaining some benefit from his or her skill, but it is not good for players or spectators if the advantage is so overwhelming that the majority of rallies are over in one, or at best three, strokes. The challenge is to devise a law which will give the receiver a fair chance of returning the ball while still allowing the server some scope for exploiting his or her ingenuity. This may be why the often-proposed principle of requiring the ball to be struck between the server's body and the end line has not attracted sufficient support to be adopted, because it would virtually preclude any advantage to the server.

The aim of the new law is to redress the balance between server and receiver without removing entirely the server's advantage. The original wording, submitted to the 2001 ITTF AGM, referred to a triangular area bounded by the net and two imaginary lines between the ends of the net and the ball, and the requirement was that this area and all the space above it must be kept completely clear during service. It was soon recognised that this was an unnecessary limitation, and that anything which was above the height at which it might impede the receiver's view of the ball could be ignored. The wording was, therefore, amended but the resulting law still looked complicated and many people found it difficult to visualise the hypothetical space which had to be kept

New Service Rule effective 1 September 2002, as approved at the ITTF's AGM on 5 April 2002 in Zagreb, Croatia:

2.6 A GOOD SERVICE

2.6.1 Service shall start with the ball resting freely on the open palm of the server's stationary free hand.

2.6.2 The server shall then project the ball near vertically upwards, without imparting spin, so that it rises at least 16cm after leaving the palm of the free hand and then falls without touching anything before being struck.

2.6.3 As the ball is falling the server shall strike it so that it touches first his court and then, after passing over or around the net assembly, touches directly the receiver's court; in doubles, the ball shall touch successively the right half court of server and receiver.

2.6.4 From the start of 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 by any part of the body or clothing of the server or his doubles partner.

2.6.5 It is the responsibility of the player to serve so that the umpire or the assistant umpire can see that he complies with the requirements for a good service.

2.6.5.1 If there is no Assistant Umpire, and the umpire is doubtful of the legality of a service he may, on the first occasion in a match, warn the server without awarding a point.

2.6.5.2 If subsequently in the match a service by that player or his doubles partner is of dubious legality, for the same reason or for any other reason, the receiver shall score a point.

2.6.5.3 Whenever there is a clear failure to comply with the requirements for a good service, no warning shall be given and the receiver shall score a point.

2.6.6. Exceptionally, the umpire may relax the requirements for a good service where he is satisfied that compliance is prevented by physical disability.

clear. The final version of the law, which was agreed at the 2002 ITTF AGM, abandons this concept in favour of a simpler statement of the law's intention.

The essential requirement is that the server, and in doubles the server's partner, must do nothing which would prevent the receiver from seeing the ball from the start of service until it is struck. If the receiver can see the trajectory of the ball, the side of the racket with which it is struck and the direction in which the racket is moving, he or she can judge the effect on the ball and the contest becomes more even. (It should be noted that this is not quite the same as saying that the ball must be visible to the receiver. It could be hidden by, for example, the receiver's doubles partner or, to take an extreme case, the receiver may deliberately stand in a position from which the ball is not visible and then try to claim a point. Such actions are not under the control of the server, who should not be penalised for them.)

For the umpire the task is to judge whether the serving player or pair hides

the ball from the receiver. This is not easy from a position at the side of the table, but it is probably less difficult than judging whether the ball is struck behind the rearmost part of the server's body, which the umpire has been required to do since 1983. It is, of course, easier when there is an assistant umpire. If either official believes that the ball is hidden from the receiver by any part of the body or clothing of the server or the server's doubles partner, the service is illegal and the receiver scores a point. Under another change made to the service law at the 2002 ITTF AGM, no warning can be given when there are two umpires; a service is either legal or illegal, and it is the responsibility of the player to serve so that it can be seen to be correct.

In the much more usual situation where the umpire is operating alone, the provision for a warning is retained, although the onus is still on the player to be seen to serve legally. Although there is no specific requirement for the ball to be visible to the umpire, he or she must

be able to see it that it is resting freely on the palm of the server's free hand, that it is projected near-vertically at least 16 cm, that it is not struck until it is falling and that when struck it is behind the server's end line. If the umpire can see the ball clearly at all these stages, it should not be too difficult to decide also whether or not the server is hiding the ball from the receiver, especially if players make sure that the free arm is well above or well below the receiver's line of sight to the ball. There remains the risk that, with only an umpire officiating, a service which is clearly legal when the player is at one end of the table may not appear so when he or she is at the other. However, it is at least possible that, in order to comply with the requirements of the new law, servers will not stand with the body turned as far sideways as many of them have been used to, and this would greatly ease the task of an umpire working without an assistant.

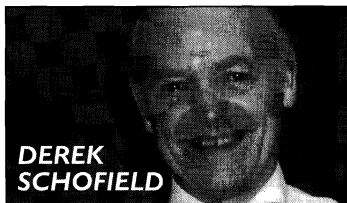
There are two other differences between the new law and the old one, both intended as simplifications. First, there is now no requirement for the server's free hand to be flat at the start of service. What the umpire has to ensure is that the hand is open, with the ball resting freely on it, rather than just conforming to a particular geometrical shape which is, in any case, not really possible. Second, the racket need not be above the level of the playing surface throughout service, although it obviously must be when the ball is struck. When the working party set up to revise the service law asked a number of players how important it was for the racket to be above table level, the almost universal view was that it did not matter provided that the ball, and hence the racket, was clearly visible at the moment of striking. These changes will have to be kept under review but it is to be hoped that the law can be kept as simple as possible.

It would be foolish to pretend that the new law is perfect and it may well be necessary to make adjustments over the next few years as experience is gained. But at least it tries to address what is seen as a serious problem without placing inordinate demands on players to modify their game or on umpires to attempt the impossible. With so many suggestions for improving the service law having been put forward, it is not surprising that some of those whose pet ideas have not been adopted are not wholly enthusiastic about this version. However, it is worth remembering that the proposal did attract a substantial majority of the votes at the ITTF AGM, and it is up to players and officials to do their best to make it work effectively. If successful, it should allay much of the present concern about the dominance of service and this would enhance the sport for the benefit both of those who play and of those who watch.

ENGLAND LIFT FOUR GOLD MEDALS

ENGLISH players returned with 4 gold medals (5 gold medals if you count individually the people who won them) from the World Veterans' Championships in Lucerne, Switzerland, from 24-29 June, which had 2,700 participants. The English players did particularly well in the older age group categories.

Les Darcy (Yorkshire) won the men's over 80 singles, by defeating Takumi Kono (Japan) 11-5, 11-3, 11-5. Kono had put out Ron Etheridge (Kent) 11-5, 11-7, 11-8 in the semi-finals. Edna Fletcher (Norfolk) became women's over 75 singles champion with her 11-9, 11-2, 11-6 win over Sonia Fynn of Canada. Derek Schofield (Cheshire) was the silver medallist in the men's over 70 singles, losing 1-11, 2-11, 7-11 to Sweden's George Karlsson, who had put out Fred Lockwood (Essex) 11-9, 11-6, 11-4 in the semi-finals. Pam Butcher (Kent) had lost 11-6, 9-11, 1-11, 9-11 at the same (semi-final)



DEREK SCHOFIELD

stage to the ultimate gold medallist, Akiko Tosa (Japan), in the corresponding women's over 70 singles.

Ron Etheridge combined with Louis Ramel (Switzerland) to take gold in the men's over 80 doubles, defeating the English pair Les Darcy and John Husbands (Buckinghamshire) in the final. Another English partnership of Geoffrey Brook (Yorkshire) and Henry Buist (Kent) lifted the men's over 65 doubles with their 11-9, 11-4, 11-9 triumph over Ernst Wagner (Austria) and Dieter Lauk (Germany). Derek Schofield reached a second final when with Uno Hedin (Sweden) he overcame the Surrey pairing of John Harrington & Michael Willimott 11-6, 11-7, 11-6 in the men's over 70 doubles semi-finals. The English/Swedish combination then fell 6-11, 9-11, 6-11 to Swedes George Karlsson & Glenn Kindsdadt.

Partnering Reina Wetterstrom (Sweden), Pam Butcher was an unlucky losing women's over 70 doubles finalist, going down very narrowly, 7-11, 9-11, 11-9, 11-7, 10-12 to Germans Martha Wilke and

Waltraut Zehne.

Other English bronze doubles medallists were: Brian Allison (Lincolnshire)/Keith Powell (Yorkshire) in the men's over 60s; Nigel Eckersley (Sussex) with Dr

Herbert Neubauer (Switzerland) in the men's over 50s; Doris Penny (Surrey) with Betty Gray (Wales) in the women's over 80s; and Edna Fletcher with Elliska Ktsjcova (Czech Republic) in the women's over 70s.



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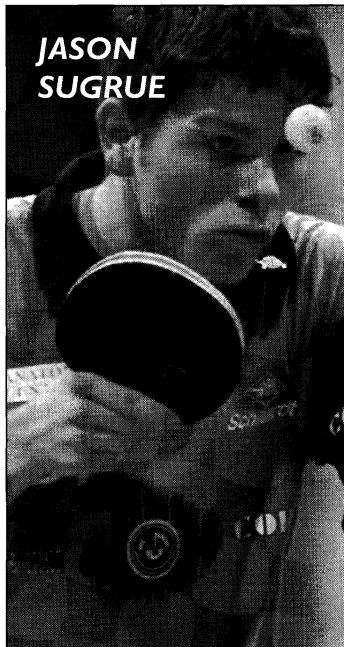
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SUGRUE & KISS LIFT GILLINGHAM TITLES

THE 3rd seeded Jason Sugrue (Middlesex) was the surprise men's singles winner of the South Eastern Open Butterfly Grand Prix, Black Lion Leisure Centre, Gillingham. In the final Sugrue, a former England junior international with aspirations of playing for Ireland, overcame the powerful two wing topspins of Hungarian student Gergely Urban, the second seed, 12-10, 8-11, 11-13, 11-8, 11-9, with fierce attack of his own, combined with excellent serves and blocking play all round the table. He won a crucial point at 8 all in the deciding game with a clean ace serve that left his opponent stranded, writes Ken Muhr.

In the quarter-finals Sugrue had comfortably beaten local star Dominic Hall (Kent), 11-6, 12-10, 11-6, Hall having outgunned the fifth seed, England junior champion Matt Kenny (Yorks) 11-8, 11-9, 11-9 in the previous round. Sugrue then edged through his (British League Champions) London Progress Club colleague Marco Essomba (Surrey), the top seed, 11-8, 5-11, 7-11, 11-4, 11-9 in the semi-finals. Urban reached the final by putting out another former England junior international, Adrian Moore (Sussex), 11-9, 11-7, 11-5. To reach the semis, Moore had survived a 3rd round epic (11-4, 10-12, 12-10, 10-12, 11-9) with the England junior no.4 Gregory Baker (Warwicks), before knocking out 4th seed Cris Sladden (Essex), 11-6, 9-11, 6-11, 11-5, 11-6 in the quarter-finals.

Barbara Kiss (Herts) outplayed Kubrat Owolabi (Middlesex) 11-7, 11-



4, 11-7 to lift the women's singles. Seeded 2nd, she had a tougher time in the semi-finals when matched for speed by the left-handed 4th seed Lindsey Thornton (Lancs), Kiss finally winning 7-11, 11-7, 6-11, 11-6, 11-7. In the other semi-final, Owolabi had demonstrated too much forehand topspin power for the Swedish top seed, Sofia Westholme, coming through 11-6, 11-7, 9-11, 11-4.

The biggest shock in the women's singles came when (2nd round) the England no.2 under 14 girl Lauren Spink (Norfolk) put out 5th seed Dorka Nagy, 11-5, 12-10, 11-13, 7-11, 11-9. Spink played punched backhands and strong forehand loops to pressure the Hungarian, and showed great resilience in winning the match on her 7th match point after failing to capitalise on 4 match points in the 3rd game. However, the youngster found Barbara Kiss too strong in the quarter-finals.

Barbara Kiss combined with Lindsey Thornton to take a second title when they beat Kubrat Owolabi and Dorka Nagy 11-3, 11-8, 11-9 to win the women's doubles. In the men's doubles Gergely Urban and Abdul Wuraola (Surrey) defeated the London Progress Club pair of Marco Essomba and Jason Sugrue 5-11, 11-

6, 11-8, 14-12.

Sofia Westholme, made amends for her semi-final exit in the women's singles when she fairly comfortably took the under 21 singles, putting out England cadet girls Lauren Spink 11-8, 12-10 in the semi-finals and Abigail Embling (Essex) 11-7, 11-5, 9-11, 11-9 in the final.

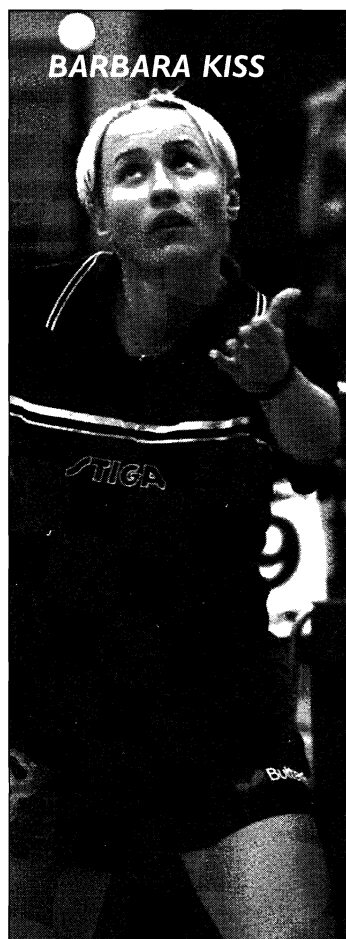
Peter Cleminson (Essex) was the surprise winner of the men's under 21 singles. Ranked no.11 junior in England, he narrowly beat top seed and England no.3 junior, Craig Bryant (Devon), 11-7, 15-17, 11-6, 8-11, 12-10 in an exciting semi-final, before putting out James Whiteman (Devon) 11-6, 11-5, 8-11, 11-7 in the final.

The 2001 national veteran (over 40) champion Clive Carthy (Essex) won the veteran men's singles, but was made to work hard by one the

world's best exponents of 'hard bat pimples', Henry Buist (Kent), 67, who took Carthy to 16-14, 11-7, 14-12!

Local junior John Harley was the only Kentish title winner of a banded singles. In the band 5 men's singles final Harley contained the left-handed power of Nigerian Ayoade Ademakinwa (Essex) to win 11-7, 3-11, 11-7, 11-9. However, the battling Harley was fortunate to reach the final, having lost to Gary Wilson (Sussex) in the groups, struggling through 5 setters with Alistair Dawson (Herefordshire) and Earl Sweeney (Warwickshire) in the earlier rounds, and saving 6 match points before putting out Kent colleague Richard Oppenheim 6-11, 11-9, 8-11, 15-13, 11-8 in the quarter-finals. Harley had also reached the band 4 singles final, before being defeated 11-6, 11-4, 11-13, 11-8 by Paul Jablon (Middlesex), while Ademakinwa got consolation by lifting the band 6 singles with his 5 game defeat of Peter Barrow (Surrey).

The big shock of the women's band 1 singles was the quarter-final 8-11, 11-9, 13-11, 8-11, 11-9 loss of top seed Rose Rainton, the Sussex senior no.1, to the England no.4 under14, Gemma Yarnley (Kent). But then Yarnley fell in the semi-finals to Lauren Spink, who in turn was beaten 12-10, 8-11, 11-6, 11-5 by Becky Fisher (Middlesex) in the final. The women's band 3 final was fought by junior girls, Claire Wilson (Durham) getting the narrowest verdict, 11-9, 5-11, 8-11, 11-3, 12-10, over Jo Hubbard (Kent)



RESULTS

Men's singles: (from semi-finals): Jason Sugrue (Middlesex) bt Marco Essomba (Surrey) 11-8, 5-11, 7-11, 11-4, 11-9. Gergely Urban (Hungary) bt Adrian Moore (Sussex) 11-9, 11-7, 11-5. Final: Jason Sugrue bt Gergely Urban (Hungary) 12-10, 8-11, 11-13, 11-8, 11-9

Women's singles: (from semi-finals): Kubrat Owolabi (Middlesex) bt Sofia Westholme (Sweden) 11-6, 11-7, 9-11, 11-4. Barbara Kiss (Herts) bt Lindsey Thornton (Lancs)





Kent's hard working HENRY BUIST

7-11, 11-7, 6-11, 11-6, 11-7.

Final: Barbara Kiss (Herts) bt Kubrat

Owolabi (Middlesex) 11-7, 11-4, 11-7.

Men's doubles: Gergely Urban (Hungary)/Abdul Wuraola (Surrey) bt Marco Essomba (Surrey)/Jason Sugrue (Middlesex) 5-11, 11-6, 11-8, 14-12

Women's doubles: Barbara Kiss (Herts)/Lindsey Thornton (Lancs) bt Kubrat Owolabi (Middlesex)/Dorka Nagy (Hungary) 11-3, 11-8, 11-9

Women's under 21 singles: Sofia Westholme (Sweden) bt Abigail Embling (Essex) 11-7, 11-5, 9-11, 11-9

Men's under 21 singles: Peter Cleminson (Essex) bt James Whiteman (Devon) 11-6, 11-5, 8-11, 11-7

Veteran men's singles: Clive Carthy (Essex) bt Henry Buist (Kent) 16-14, 11-7, 14-12

Veteran women's singles: Winner – Judy Morley (Gloucs); Runner-up – Tina Stewart (Kent)

Men's singles band 1: Leeroy Pye (Norfolk) bt Abdul Wuraola (Surrey) 11-8, 11-9, 13-15, 11-5

Men's singles band 2: John Dennison (Essex) bt Simon Philipsz (Kent) 11-8, 12-10, 11-7

Men's singles band 3: Keith Lesser (Essex) bt Roy Norton (Worcs) 10-12, 11-5, 11-7, 9-11, 11-8

Men's singles band 4: Paul Jablon (Middlesex) bt John Harley (Kent) 11-6, 11-4, 11-13, 11-8

Men's singles band 5: John Harley (Kent) bt Ayoade Ademakinwa (Essex) 11-7, 3-11, 11-7, 11-9

Men's singles band 6: Ayoade Ademakinwa (Essex) bt Pete Barrow (Surrey) 8-11, 11-5, 6-11, 11-8, 11-7

Women's singles band 1: Becky Fisher (Middlesex) bt Lauren Spink (Norfolk) 12-10, 8-11, 11-6, 11-5

Women's singles band 2: Tamar Seymour (Oxon) bt Jackie Mersh (Kent) 11-6, 8-11, 11-8, 12-10

Women's singles band 3: Claire Wilson (Durham) bt Jo Hubbard (Kent) 11-9, 5-11, 8-11, 11-3, 12-10



The following Policy document was approved by the National Council at their meeting on Saturday 20th July, 2002:-

NATIONAL TRIALS AND JUNIOR/CADET MASTERS

POLICY FOR SEASON 2002-2003

Junior Select 4 Star Tournaments

These are confirmed as follows:-

Essex, 28th/29th September, 2002 – Entries to Mr. Phil Gower, 63 Heybridge Road, Ingatestone, Essex CM4 9AQ. Telephone: 01277 353174. Closing date: 1st September, 2002.

East Midlands, 26th/27th October, 2002 – Entries to Mr. Steve Welch, 48 Church Lane, Laceby, Grimsby DN37 7BW. Telephone: 01472 870368. Closing date: 28th September, 2002.

Stockton-on-Tees, 16th/17th November, 2002 – Entries to Mr. Dave Hutchinson, 5 Thompsons Close, Wolviston, Billingham, Stockton-on-Tees TS22 5LR. Telephone: 01740 644447. Closing date: 11th October, 2002.

Stiga Blackpool, 11th/12th January, 2003 – Entries to Mr. Martin Ireland, 18 St. Luke's Road, Blackpool FY4 2EJ. Telephone: 01253 313196. Closing date: 6th December, 2002.

Derby, 8th/9th March, 2003 – Entries to Mr. Brian Webster, 141 Station Road, Mickleover, Derby DE3 5FL. Telephone: 01332 518007. Closing date: 1st February, 2003.

There will be NO automatic entry into the Junior and Cadet Masters. Players will qualify via the National Trials or via points accrued from the Select Tournaments. **Players funded via the World Class Performance Programme will be directed by the Performance Director to play in at least 3 of the 5 Select Tournaments.** (Exceptions to this will only be for players on International duty or playing in other such events as agreed by the Performance Director).

The top eight points winners from the Select Tournaments, **providing they play in at least three**, plus the eight highest players from the National Trials, will be invited to the Masters.

The Select Tournaments will again be subject to a points system as follows:-

Winners 150 points
Runners-up 100 points
Losing Semi-Finalists 50 points
Losing Quarter-Finalists 25 points
Losing last Sixteen 15 points.

In the event of a tie on points gained from the five 4 Star Select Tournaments, the positions for entry into the Masters will be decided by the placings on the latest ETFA Ranking List. This will be the one that comes out in March.

A running total record will be kept by Doreen Nightingale at Head Office and will also be available on the ETFA website.

Regional and National Trials

Exempt players

The following players, as ranked on the August, 2002 National Ranking List will be exempt from the Regional Trials and will receive an automatic invitation to the National Trials:

The top 10 Junior Boys
The top 10 Junior Girls
The top 10 Cadet Boys
The top 10 Cadet Girls

The position on the August National Ranking List will apply.

At the conclusion of the Final Regional Trials the following players will receive an invitation to the National Trials:-

Junior Boys – Top 5 players from each region plus the 4 highest nationally ranked reserves from any of the regional lists
Junior Girls –)
Cadet Boys –) as above
Cadet Girls –)

The ranking list to determine the reserves will be the one published in December, which should include all the results from the Regional Trials.

Confirmed dates:-

Junior/Cadet Preliminary Trials
21st/22nd September, 2002

Junior/Cadet Regional Trials
23rd/24th November, 2002

Junior/Cadet National Trials
22nd/23rd February, 2003.

Junior and Cadet Masters

It has been decided to retain invitations to 16 players and to continue with a two day event being played in two stages. The first stage will consist of two groups of 8 players (7 matches each) all on the first day. The two players who finish 7th and 8th will be eliminated. The top six players in each group will qualify for the second stage on day two. All results recorded by the players who qualify for the second stage will be carried forward from the first stage and will count in the final 12 player league table. All of the players in the final 12, who did not play each other in the first stage, will play in stage 2, so producing an all play all final league table. All the players who qualify for the second stage of the competition will, therefore, play six matches each on the second day.

Reserve lists will be produced on completion of the National Trials from players eliminated in the last 16 of each event. Any vacancies in the Masters, either occurring through dual qualification or non-acceptance of invitation, will be filled from the relevant reserve list in National Ranking order using the list published in March which should include all the results from the National Trials.

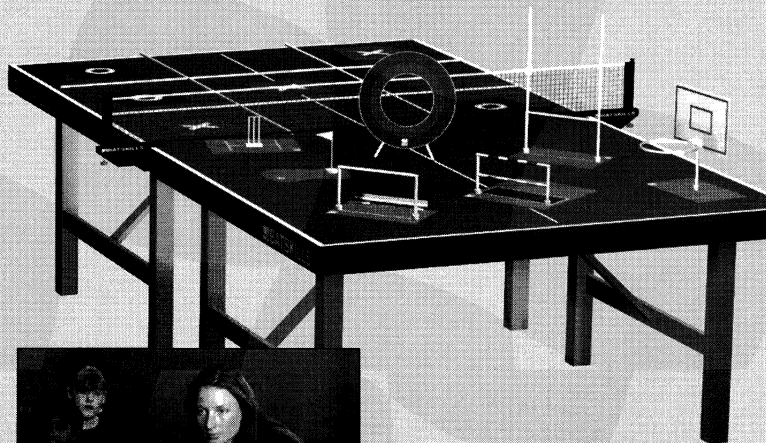
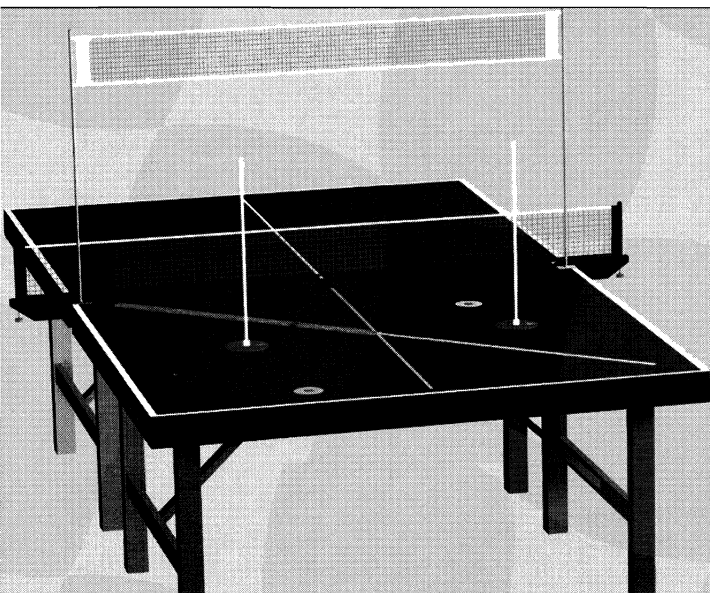
Confirmed dates:-

Junior Masters 5th/6th April, 2003
Cadet Masters 12th/13th April, 2003.

All this information will be published on the ETFA website.

KEITH PONTING
Vice-Chairman (Competitions).

THE FUN WAY TO LEARN



© BATSKILLS

BATSKILLS – ‘The Fun Way To Learn Table Tennis Skills’. Reviewed by Ken Muhr.

In July I visited a school, Ryelands Middle, in Northampton to try out for myself the new range of Batskills skills games that have been devised and introduced, ‘not only to improve skill level while having fun, but also to attract and retain players in competition with more popular sports’. I was following an illustrious path because 5 times national women’s champion, Nicola Deaton, had already been to the school to coach and to test the games.

First, a bit of history given to me by the inventor of the games, Dave Rees. Dave qualified as a table tennis coach in 1997 – he is now Northamptonshire County Coaching Officer - and in order to provide enjoyment and to hold youngsters’ interest in competition with other sports, he constructed a series of on-the-table targets based on other sports: a football goal, a basketball net, rugby posts, an archery target, a golf green and flag, cricket stumps and finally a horse jump. He also introduced a separate game of ‘Noughts and Crosses’, in which two teams, each with a pile of noughts or crosses, competed to return his serves into the appropriate box [of nine boxes] on his side of the net in order to complete a line of three noughts or crosses. The children were clearly motivated by the games, and their control in serving or in playing basic strokes improved the more they concentrated on hitting precise targets.

In 1999 Dave contacted Ryelands Middle School Head of PE Peter Austen, who was having considerable success in table tennis, and tried out the games on his pupils. The games were so successful that Peter introduced a skills circuit in which the pupils played all eight games, a scoring system being devised for each target, and the winning team being the one that achieved the highest aggregate number of points. A

teacher could occupy 50+ children at a time in the circuit! With the commercial possibilities of the games becoming apparent, the Head of Design Technology at Ryelands, John Francklow, produced attractive prototypes which were taken to various companies with a view to bulk production, whilst together with Dave’s son Andrew, an expert in website design – see www.batskills.com - Dave, Peter and John formed the company Batskills Ltd.

And so on Sunday morning 21st July, I met up at the school with Dave and Peter, both bubbling with enthusiasm for table tennis and justifiably proud of their products, to see and try out Batskills for myself. I was impressed! The ‘other sport based’ targets are eye-catching and very attractively produced, and, with Peter serving to me and insisting I start from a ready position, I found myself, motivated and fiercely concentrating, trying hard to hit them.

There were two ways you can try to hit the ball into the Football net target, either straight in before/as the ball bounces, or (when the target is at the end of the table), on the second bounce, as with a short (touch) push or service. With the Basketball hoop, the ball can go straight into the hoop, or in on the rebound from the board behind the hoop: either way, it is easier (but not easy!) if you push. The challenge (for me) with the Archery target was to drive the ball through the (hollow) middle but you might just as well serve through it. The task was similarly to drive the ball between the high Rugby posts but here touch in addition to accuracy is required, as the ball must then land on the playing surface. Good touch is also necessary to push or drop shot the ball gently over the Horse jump bar and onto the ‘grass’. Pushing or driving the ball onto the Cricket stumps or the Golf green flag demands accuracy, as does pushing the ball onto the right squares of the Noughts and Crosses game. The latter



NICOLA DEATON receiving service through the target

Picture by Davies Sports

game is such a simple but ingenious concept! The 9 targets are also very valuable for practising service. Indeed, practising hitting to all the squares (except the middle one) would be useful for a range of shots.

That is really the point about these targets – they can be used flexibly. As the blurb on the Batskills brochure says, “Changing the position of the targets on the table can provide a challenge whatever your level and careful positioning of the targets develops accurate placement of strokes. Each of the targets has been designed to encourage accuracy with a variety of strokes, and the variety of different targets available allows a large number of players to be meaningfully occupied whilst developing skills in a coaching or teaching situation.”

I said that the Noughts and Crosses idea was ingenious, but even more so are the Rally Games accessories, which could be invaluable for coaching. By raising the Rally Net (which is a second, height adjustable net placed above the table tennis net) to its highest position, the player can learn to keep the ball low by hitting it between the two nets. If the Rally Net is dropped lower still, the player is forced to keep the ball even lower. By placing the Rally Net in its lowest position, the player then learns to be able to hit higher over it, as with a high topspin loop or roll. The Rally Posts are two vertical posts, which can be placed wider or closer apart to increase

control in directing the ball in services or in returns to the feeder.

The Rally Lines – fully extendible and adjustable lines that can be placed anywhere on the table – can be used to mark off/limit playing space (the part of the table that the player is allowed to hit the ball to), so that precision of placement can be further improved. For example, by excluding the rest of the table, players can be encouraged to angle drives wide of the table corner. The playing surface of the table can also be reduced, say to two thirds, so, for example, only forehand strokes can be played in games, to improve mobility and anticipation. Batskills are also marketing Spots as smaller targets that can be placed on the table to increase concentration and thereby control in training exercises.

Batskills are working closely with the Youth Sport Trust to ensure that the games can be used by people of all abilities, and some of the targets can be used alongside Polybat equipment. Each relatively inexpensive game is approved by the ETTA and comes with a coaching card, on Top Sport lines, suggesting teaching points and differentiated skills practice ideas. In fact, I see Batskills as something of an extension of Top Sport, and I know that Dave and Peter are constantly dreaming up new innovations. Batskills are official suppliers of the ETTA.

Batskills products and philosophy can be viewed on their website: www.batskills.com For further information, contact Batskills Ltd, 90 Martins Lane, Hardingstone, Northampton NN4 6DJ, Tel. 01604 762771 E-mail. info@batskills.com However, the best way to judge how good they are is to see them in use, and if a cluster of 5 or more clubs can come together, Batskills say they will provide a demonstration/training session. It would be well worth taking them up on this.

BEST WIN SINCE DAVID DEFEATED GOLIATH

FOUR AGES OF TABLE TENNIS MAN by
John Prean

BRIAN HALLIDAY's excellent article in TTN on Waldner and his undoubted claims to be the greatest table tennis player of all time prompts me to add a few further thoughts. The first is that there have been such vast changes in equipment that comparisons may be both difficult and unfair. The game changed completely with the invention and development of the sponge bat.

The hard bat era itself may be seen as two parts, the first from 1926, when the first world championships took place, to 1937 when the net was lowered to its present height. That first era was dominated by Victor Barna, who won five world titles at a time when this was an annual event. The second era, still that of the hard bat, was dominated by Richard Bergmann, who won the world title for the first time in 1937 at the age of 17 and then three more times. It was a time of very great players, the best perhaps Vana, Leach and Andreadis. The latter, who won no singles titles, achieved one of the great team feats of all time, when he defeated all three Japanese in 1954. They had arrived with sponge about 8mm thick, whilst Andreadis played with a hard bat, perhaps the best win since David defeated Goliath, certainly in terms of beating the odds.

That second period ended in 1954, when the sponge era began. Again, I feel this divides into two parts, that before "glue" which I would place as beginning in 1975 or so, when Jonyer won using glue, although few were aware of it at the time. It was still a well guarded secret. In this non-glue sponge era Chuan Tse Tung certainly has an excellent case. He won in '61, '63' and '65. In each of the finals he defeated his compatriot Li Furong. Matches between Chinese players are notoriously difficult to assess, since all too often they are decided by officials. The Chinese view, insofar as I try to understand it, seems to be similar to that cycling teams in the Tour de France. The top man is decided before the start and the rest of the team will assist his victory. Taking orders to lose is seen as submission to the greater good, the latter often seen as official decisions. It has been put to me that Li Furong was indeed the better player, but that he had to accept defeat as a result of official decisions. Chuan was the favourite of the establishment at the time, notably the Gang of Four. Later, long after their playing days were over, there appeared to be a dramatic reversal of fortunes, as Li became a leading figure in Chinese Table Tennis,



IVAN ANDREADIS, of Czechoslovakia, probably the greatest player never to have won the World Mens Singles title, but in the 1954 Team event he had the best win since 'David beat Goliath', when he defeated all three Japanese players with his hard bat, whilst the Japanese played with 8mm thick sponge.

which is a vast industry and Chuan disappeared, as did the Gang of Four. We shall probably never know the full facts, but there are clouds we cannot penetrate and which cast doubts on most Chinese victories, although this is the greatest table tennis nation the world has known. We cannot be sure whether Chuan or Li was better, but one of them probably deserves to be nominated in the top spot of the pre-glue period.

Thereafter Waldner has a superb case. He has been at the very top for 20 years starting at the age of 16 with silver in the European Championships. It was nearly gold, as he led Appelgren 2-0 in the final. Since then all titles have come to him, including World and Olympic. Always he had to contend with a large world class Chinese contingent as well as numerous Europeans and Asians capable of beating him on their day. It was an age when professionalism finally entered table tennis on a large scale, as business and government subsidies were available in most countries which enabled their

players to play and train full time and that was the biggest change from the other three eras.

In short, Waldner remained at the very top in the face of much deeper competition than had ever assembled before.

Although excellent services and third ball attacks were in his repertoire, he would play with resource and style and "genius" was justly attributed to him. It was one of his charms that he could lose to lesser players, perhaps more often than his main rivals, yet on the big occasion there was no more reliable performer.

Samsonov and Boll may yet prove plausible rivals, but not until they have another decade at the top. Surbeck and Klampar also had long and distinguished careers, but neither has matched Waldner's big wins. Jonyer was wonderful at his best, but his career, was far shorter.

There are only two players I would submit as possible challengers to Waldner, both Chinese and therefore cloaked in mystery. The first is Gua Yua Hua. I find plausible claims that in both 1977 and 1979 he was ordered to lose against Japanese opponents in both finals. In 1981 and 1983 he did win the world singles titles. Even then doubts surfaced, as he defeated another Chinese, Cao Yanhua, in both finals. Some said Cao was really the better player, but Gua was "rewarded" for his earlier sacrifice and "devotion" to official orders, that he was by then past his best. However, it is also possible that Gua would have won four world titles, had it not been for official intervention and, if so, this would have been a feat very hard to equal in an age when world titles are contested only every two years. As you can see, once again the Chinese situation is obscured by rumour and doubt.

I throw one more possible rival into the arena, one who won no singles titles, indeed retired early, because he did not enjoy the tension and stress of competition, departments in which Waldner excels. The player is the Chinese Xie Saike and many good judges tell me that he was the best they have ever seen.

Both he and Waldner were the No.1 players of the German Bundesliga Club ATSV Saarbrücken in different seasons and regulars have been quite clear that Xie Saike was the better player. Conventional judgements, notably results give the title to Waldner, but leave plenty of speculation about what might have been, if only.....

KAMEO bpa: the blade with an extra edge (Patent Application No: 02 15474.8)

AS the focus for improving table tennis blade performance moves away from materials, Mark Bellamy, blade designer at YLT, explains how bpa technology (blade performance adjusters) in the new Kameo range further extends this performance improvement by providing the first blade with adjustable control characteristics.

For many years, blade manufacturers and table tennis players explored a variety of materials to improve performance. However, over recent years, it has been various changes in the handle – slots, balsa inlays, foam-filled cavities and so on - that have had the most impact on performance.

One technique, hollowing out the handle, moves the blade's centre of gravity to the point where contact with the ball is made, allowing the player to generate more power from the sweet spot. Being lighter, these blades allow faster recovery - giving the player more time to shape the next stroke - and improve touch sensitivity. Without doubt, many of these blades are exceptionally fast but the reduction in ball/face dwell time makes the generation of spin much more difficult.

The problem facing many players and coaches is managing the switch to this faster blade technology. For the club player or coach, the need to get comfortable with a new blade and to learn to exploit its different performance characteristics envelope can result in a return almost to square one. Table tennis players require a single blade with a built-in set of 'gears' that provides the ability to adjust and control performance characteristics: the Kameo range with bpa technology.

Extensive research

The Kameo range of conventional format blades follows extensive collaboration with several well-known players and coaches, and many hundreds of hours working with specialist material technicians and skilled manufacturing craftsman. The result is a range of unique top quality, multi-laminated blades handcrafted from carefully researched American and European woods, each with its own characteristics – and each incorporating bpa technology.

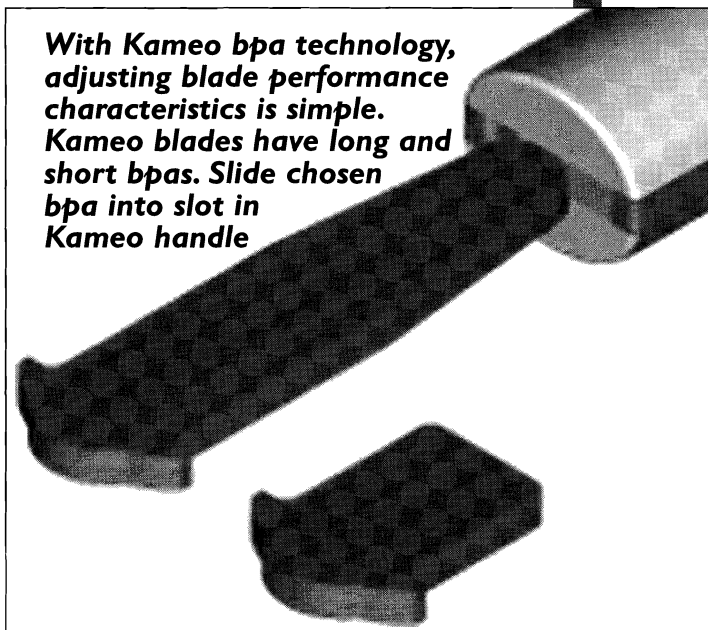
Kameo bpa technology is the first to allow players to adjust and control the performance characteristics of their blade by providing long and short blade performance adjusters that insert into the hollow handle (see graphics above). Precision machining the slot in the handle removes some six grams (approximately 6%) in weight; the long bpa weighs approximately 6.5% of the blade weight (effectively replacing the removed wood) while the short bpa weighs around 3.55%.

- with the long bpa inserted, the blade effectively returns to its basic performance characteristic: controlled power - ideal for the modern spin offensive player who relies on maximum spin and controlled power strategies to win points.

- inserting the short bpa increases the

KAMEO bpa

With Kameo bpa technology, adjusting blade performance characteristics is simple. Kameo blades have long and short bpas. Slide chosen bpa into slot in Kameo handle



speed/power ratio whilst maintaining touch and control, ideal for the modern vari-offensive player who relies on dynamic power from all areas of the table to win points.

- removing the bpa completely creates a blade with speed as its primary characteristic for the modern speed offensive player who relies on maximum speed and power to win points.

- interestingly, either bpa can be partially inserted, offering players the facility to vary the centre of gravity of the blade, changing the trajectory of the ball and the speed/control ratio of the blade. This, almost infinite range of performance adjustment makes it possible, through practice against different styles, to determine the best bpa playing characteristics of the blade to exploit an opponent's weakness.

Blade performance adjustment is the next technology step in ever-improving blade design, offering all levels of table tennis player the ability to adjust and fine-tune blades to suit their individual requirements without the inconvenience – and expense - of changing equipment. YLT's bpa technology is also available in the Cameo asymmetric format. For more information, contact Mark Bellamy, tel: 01379-854604, e-mail: mark@yltonline.co.uk, web site: www.yltonline.co.uk

TTN BAT TEST

THIS revolutionary but quite simple idea by Mark Bellamy, of a blade with adjustable control characteristics, is quite fun to play with, and definitely an added advantage in this era of table tennis.

Without a bpa (weight), in its defensive role, plays much more direct and its much easier to control the ball.

Using the short bpa it becomes an allround blade. In this mode it was slightly harder to control the ball, but when hitting it had a much greater variation than without a bpa.

With the long bpa inserted it had less control than the other two tests, but it was a lot faster, an all out attackers blade.

The tests performed by myself and Bob House were with long pimples, short and defensive rubbers.

NEW HALLMARK PRODUCTS

Dr. NEUBAUER

COMBINATION

THIS season sees another new innovation from the Hallmark stable.

Following on from their highly successful Stragety Blade, they have introduced the Dr. Neubauer Combination blade.

This new 5 ply blade has been developed by Hallmark Table Tennis Ltd for combination bat players. Dr Neubauer Combination is a lightweight blade of only 75g, it has a balsa core with a different combination of laminates on the forehand to the backhand. It is available with straight, anatomic or conical handles. The defensive backhand and offensive forehand makes it suitable for players who block and chop on the backhand but like to attack on the forehand. Good disturbing effects are obtained when used in conjunction with Dr Neubauer Super Special.

TTN BAT TEST

Whereas their Stragety blade suits most rubbers, this Combination blade which is extremely light, being balsa wood, is definitely more suited to long pimples Ox on the much slower backhand side, improving its control and obstruction effect. Whilst the attacking forehand side, which is marginally faster than the Stragety blade, had good control when attacking.

The above test used Dr. Neubauer

Super Special OX on the backhand and Dr. Neubauer Magic Pips 1mm on the forehand.

Dr NEUBAUER REVOLUTION

AS the result of a one year research and development program Hallmark Table Tennis Ltd have produced a new racket covering which has been called Dr Neubauer Revolution. Revolution is an anti spin type rubber which possesses good control when blocking and chopping but also has significant disturbing properties for players who like to attack. Revolution is only available in black with 1.5mm sponge for defensive players and 2.0mm sponge for more offensive play.

TTN RUBBER TEST

THIS Revolution anti spin rubber was easy to play with very good control when defending, and superb when attacking creating disturbing dipping no spin effects. A must for attacking anti spin players.

Hallmark products are available from both Bribar Table Tennis and Tees Sports.

NEW PIMPLES FROM DONIC

PIRANJA ORIGINAL

THIS season sees the return of the once popular Piranja.

The dangerous Piranja Original long pimples rubber is back in production - extreme effect and huge problems for your opponent.

TTN RUBBER TEST

PIRANJA ORIGINAL OX is relative easy to control, varying unpredictably for the opponent as it is not always obvious what the ball will do. Two identical shots, one will float and the other will dip. It's easy to attack with and with practice will be very good to block with. Look forward to testing the Piranja Formula in the next issue.

Donic products are available from Jarvis Sports.

NEW PIMPLES FROM TIBHAR

GRASS DEVIL

TIBHAR GRASS DEVIL is the new weapon for a tricky game with long pimple. Tibhar used a few innovative solutions while developing Grass Devil.

Smooth top of pimples has more surface than any other comparable rubber - the diameter of the pimples is 1.6mm. That is why the ball glides even more effectively. The pimples 1.7mm long. The natural rubber mixture is made especially soft and therefore the pimples can easily bend.

TTN RUBBER TEST

GRASS DEVIL is easy to play with, lots of control, unpredictable for the opponent, as you hit it the ball sinks rapidly after hitting the table and shoots through.

Most of the effect happens after the ball hits your opponents' half of the table.



ETTA NATIONAL RANKING LIST

TOP OF THE TABLE

AUGUST 2002 - List 101

Further details please ring Doreen Nightingale 01424 722525

Senior Men

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 SYED, Matthew (Bk) (SY)	4851	
(2)	2 BAGGALEY, Andrew (BU)	4728	
(3)	3 HERBERT, Gareth (BK)	4721	
(4)	4 PERRY, Alex (DV)	4718	
(5)	5 COOKE, Alan (DV)	4639**	
(6)	6 PREAM, Carl (IW)	4546****	
(7)	7 YOUNG, Terry (BK)	4509	
(8)	8 RUSHTON, Andrew (LA)	4432**	
(9)	9 BILLINGTON, Bradley (DY)	4403**	
(10)	10 BARHAM, Dale (CA)	4190	
(11)	11 EDEN, Andrew (LA)	4125****	
(12)	12 BRYANT, Craig (DV)	4008	
(13)	13 SUGRUE, Jason (MI)	3976*	
(14)	14 KENNY, Mathew (Y)	3962	
(15)	15 HOLLAND, John(Dy) (E)	3942**	
(16)	16 ISHERWOOD, Michael (DY)	3936****	
(17)	17 SLADDEN, Cris (E)	3909***	
(18)	18 MOORE, Adrian (K)	3775**	
(19)	19 DRINKHALL, Bryn (CV)	3773	
(20)	20 TAYLOR, Jonathan (LA)	3749**	
(21)	21 VANNER, Ritchie (SK)	3702*	
(22)	22 PYE, Leeroy (NK)	3683***	
(23)	23 GOODALL, Justin (K)	3668**	
(24)	24 JAMES, Michael (Y)	3660*	
(25)	25 ROGERS, Chris (LE)	3638**	
(26)	26 WURAOA, Abdul (SY)	3623*	
(27)	27 CHARLES, Neil (ML)	3604*	
(28)	28 MARSHALL, Peter (Y)	3588**	
(29)	29 CHAN, Michael (SY)	3573***	
(30)	30 BARR, David (BK)	3556**	
(31)	31 SMITH, Eddie (ND)	3546**	
(32)	32 BAKER, Gregory (ST)	3534	
(33)	33 ECKERSLEY, Nigel (SK)	3500*	
(34)	34 KENNEDY, Joe (K) (E)	3496*	
(35)	35 BROWN, Mark (K)	3495**	
(36)	36 WHITING, Paul (DV)	3481**	
(37)	37 POUNTNEY, Robert (SY)	3474**	
(38)	38 CATHY, Clive (E)	3471**	
(39)	39 JOHNS, Brian (CH)	3472*	
(40)	40 NEIL, Lee (NG)	3465**	
(41)	41 DOLDER, Kevin (LA)	3440**	
(42)	42 WILKINSON, Andrew (ND)	3434**	
(43)	43 GANNON, David (LE)	3410**	
(44)	44 BEERLING, Stephen (K)	3406**	
(45)	45 PAPANTONIOU, Costas (MI)	3403**	
(46)	46 HILTON, John (CH)	3393**	
(47)	47 HALL, Dominic (K)	3367**	
(48)	48 CUNNINGHAM, Andy (K)	3358**	
(49)	49 GRIFFIN, Darren (GS)	3349**	
(50)	50 JOHNSON, Ben (BK)	3344****	
(51)	51 YARNALL, Tim (NP)	3333	
(52)	52 HUTCHINGS, Paul (LA)	3327**	
(53)	53 RANKIN, John (LA)	3311*	
(54)	54 MCKOY, Nick (MI)	3308**	
(55)	55 SLEATHSON, Peter (E)	3302*	
(56)	56 SHORT, Mark (YS)	3296**	
(57)	57 HORNER, Daniel (CH)	3291*	
(58)	58 BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA)	3291	
(59)	59 HARVEY, Dave (GS)	3278	
(60)	60 CORBIN, Anthony (HE)	3271**	
(61)	61 JAMIESON, Christopher (E)	3270**	
(62)	62 ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA)	3267**	
(63)	63 GREEN, Mark (NG)	3265**	
(64)	64 WILLIAMS, Keith (LA)	3261	
(65)	65 TENDLER, Gary (E)	3244**	
(66)	66 MCLEAN, Ian (NK)	3241**	
(67)	67 BARATY, Eli (MI)	3238**	
(68)	68 CLAYTON, Tony (DO)	3235*	
(69)	69 GIRDLER, Ian (SY)	3213*	
(70)	70 BRIDGETT, Gregory (DV)	3210**	
(71)	71 WALSH, Jimmy (HE)	3200**	
(72)	72 DABBS, Kieron (NP)	3198**	
(73)	73 LOGSDON, Philip (NK)	3197**	
(74)	74 WIGNALL, Andy (LI)	3191*	
(75)	75 JOHNS, Mike (CH)	3180**	
(76)	76 GASCOINE, Craig (NG)	3172**	
(77)	77 BARTRAM, Peter (SX)	3162**	
(78)	78 GOODBOLD, David (DU)	3160**	
(79)	79 COX, Philip (K)	3159**	
(80)	80 CAMPBELL, Selwyn (SY)	3157**	
(81)	81 GELDER, Tony (DU)	3156	
(82)	82 WHITEMAN, James (DV)	3151*	
(83)	83 ADAMS, Martin (OX)	3149**	
(84)	84 JONAH, Jerome (K)	3146**	
(85)	85 HORSFIELD, Andrew (YS) (Y)	3137**	
(86)	86 BUTLER, Mark (DO)	3125	
(87)	87 SMITH, Richard A (Y)	3122**	

(99)	88 DENNISON, John (E)	3113**
(100)	89 BAILEY, Steven (CV)	3113**
(101)	90 ROOFE, Eddie (WI)	3111*
(102)	91 WELSMAN, Dave (NP)	3105*
(103)	92 FORD, Christopher (LA)	3099**
(104)	93 MAITHA, Mayur (SX)	3096*
(105)	94 MARSDEN, Michael (DU)	3096**
(106)	95 CICHCELLI, Paul (SK)	3087**
(107)	96 DRINKHALL, Paul (CV)	3084
(108)	97 HARBING, David (SY)	3084
(109)	98 WALKER, Andy (SX)	3063**
(110)	99 ROMANO, Mark (K)	3056**
(111)	100 PHILLIPS, Simon (SY) (K)	3039**

Senior Women

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 DEATON, Nicola (DY)	4014	
(2)	2 LOWER, Helen (ST)	3923	
(3)	3 STEWARD, Kate (SO)	3857	
(4)	4 PARKER, Katy (LA)	3813	
(5)	5 PARKER, Joanna (SY)	3805	
(6)	6 HOLT, Andrea (LA)	3744**	
(7)	7 MARCH, Linda (HE)	3715**	
(8)	8 BAWDEN, Natalie (E)	3656	
(9)	9 WALKER, Georgina (NG)	3656	
(10)	10 OWOLABI, Kubrat (MI)	3653**	
(11)	11 EMBLING, Abigail (E)	3494	
(12)	12 DURRANT, Louise (NG)	3445	
(13)	13 THORNTON, Lindsey (LA)	3363*	
(14)	14 SMITH, Karen (LE)	3314*	
(15)	15 ROBERTS, Joanna (Y)	3250*	
(16)	16 WESTON, Sally (SX)	3225**	
(17)	17 HARRIS, Jill (ST)	3223*	
(18)	18 DUNNING, Jan (WO)	3220*	
(19)	19 KEAST, Lesley (LI)	32031**	
(20)	20 NARENDRA, Aparna (MI)	3202**	
(21)	21 RUOCCO, Shelley (E)	3187**	
(22)	22 HARPER, Sandra (BD)	3185*	
(23)	23 CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK)	3182	
(24)	24 WHITE, Nicola (Y)	3175	
(25)	25 LOCKWOOD, Karen (CH)	3162**	
(26)	26 NEWNS, Clare (CH)	3149**	
(27)	27 SHORT, Elaine (DV)	3147*	
(28)	28 YARDY, Hannah (E)	3131***	
(29)	29 SIBLEY, Kelly (WA)	3129	
(30)	30 COHEN, Michele (AV)	3127*	
(31)	31 SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LI)	3097	
(32)	32 BLOOR, Trudie (SP)	3095****	
(33)	33 SPINK, Lauren (NK)	3093*	
(34)	34 RAINTON, Rosemary (SX)	3089**	
(35)	35 DURHAM, Jane (CV)	3088*	
(36)	36 ASHSON, Glenda (SY)	3087****	
(37)	37 HURLING, Emma (HE)	3064**	
(38)	38 BUEY, Brenda (LA)	3061*	
(39)	39 SMITH, Angela (MI)	3055**	
(40)	40 HOWARD, Alice (CH)	3045**	
(41)	41 SMITH, Sarah (NG)	3039**	
(42)	42 BONGERS, Jose (ST)	3035*	
(43)	43 HURRELL, Rebecca (MI)	3002*	
(44)	44 HALTBY, Margaret (NP)	2975*	
(45)	45 LLOYD, Gemma (CH)	2972*	
(46)	46 BALDINI, Suzanne (GS)	2965*	
(47)	47 ROBIN, Andrea (YS) (Y)	2959***	
(48)	48 WANG, Lucy (E)	2958**	
(49)	49 BAWDEN, Marilyn (E)	2946**	
(50)	50 SHIELDS, Helen (Y)	2939**	
(51)	51 MARLING, Samantha (MI)	2928**	
(52)	52 KING, Sheila (SX)	2924	
(53)	53 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH)	2903**	
(54)	54 PERRY, Lucy (DV)	2900*	
(55)	55 PEARCE, Diane (K)	2893**	
(56)	56 WILSON, Naomi (SO)	2892	
(57)	57 RIDER, Sandra (Y)	2886**	
(58)	58 HARRISON, Jennifer (E)	2873*	
(59)	59 MORLEY, Judy (GS)	2859**	
(60)	60 BENNETT, Teresa (SX)	2847*	
(61)	61 SIMPSON, Linda (Y)	2841*	
(62)	62 PERRY, Penny (DV)	2836**	
(63)	63 TODD, Nicole (E)	2834**	
(64)	64 BURGESS, Suzanne (CH)	2834**	
(65)	65 SCHOFIELD, Doreen (CH)	2817	
(66)	66 COGGON, Sara (HE)	2811*	
(67)	67 KNIGHTLEY, Gillian (BK)	2808**	
(68)	68 SORRENTINO, Annabelle (CH)	2800	
(69)	69 SEMOUR, Tamara (OX)	2799**	
(70)	70 WALKER, Georgina (NG)	2785**	
(71)	71 SAVER, Elaine (E)	27731**	
(72)	72 INGHAM, Katy (CH)	2772	
(73)	73 GELDER, Shirley (Y)	2771	

(83)	74 GARLICK, Helen (K)	2765*
(84)	75 DAWSON, Marjorie (E)	2745**
(85)	76 BRISTOW, Angie (K)	2745**
(86)	77 DEARING, Emily (Y)	2735**
(87)	78 BROWN, Janet (OX)	2735**
(88)	79 VICKERS, Jane (DY)	2728***
(89)	80 SEALOHME, Sarah (HE)	2722**
(90)	81 VAJDI, Carmen (SY)	2717**
(91)	82 ECKERSLEY, Carol (SX)	2713*
(92)	83 MERSH, Jackie (K)	2710***
(93)	84 MUDGE, Kim (E)	2695***
(94)	85 HALES, Linda (DO)	2688**
(95)	86 GRAHAM, Sylvia (LA)	2685**
(96)	87 FLOWERDAY, Anne (E)	2680*
(97)	88 MAY, Elizabeth (DV)	2679****
(98)	89 STEWART, Tina (K)	2679***
(99)	90 SHALER, Eileen (LE)	2671
(100)	91 BENTLEY, Ruth (NG)	2666**
(101)	92 JUDSON, Carol (Y)	2665**
(102)	93 YARNLEY, Gemma (K)	2656
(103)	94 JOHNSON, Susan (BK)	2656****
(104)	95 KENNARD, Nikki (E)	2650***
(105)	96 HICKMAN, Susan (E)	2644*
(106)	97 BUTCHER, Pamela (LA)	2619*
(107)	98 HOOKER, Muriel (BU)	2617***
(108)	99 MITCHELL, Sharon (BK)	2614*
(110)	100 DARE, Lindsey (HE)	2613*

Junior Boys

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 BARHAM, Dale (CA)	4190	
(2)	2 BRYANT, Craig (DV)	4008	
(3)	3 DRINKHALL, Bryn (CV)	3773	
(4)	4 BAKER, Gregory (ST)	3534	
(5)	5 YARNALL, Tim (NP)	3333	
(6)	6 CLEMINSON, Peter (E)	3302*	
(7)	7 BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA)	3291	
(8)	8 HORNER, Daniel (CH)	3291*	
(9)	9 DRINKHALL, Paul (CV)	3084	
(10)	10 NOUTCH, Simon (Y)	2989*	
(11)	11 KNIGHT, Darius (SY)	2939	
(12)	12 GREEN, Alex (LI)	2818	
(13)	13 DENNY, Stephen (Y)	2738*	
(14)	14 GREGORY, Christopher (SP)	2636	
(15)	15 MOSS, Richard (Y)	2585*	
(16)	16 MARPLES, Shaun (DY)	2570	
(17)	17 CARTWRIGHT, Neil (DO)	2476*	
(18)	18 EVANS, Bradley (BU) (NG)	2423*	
(19)	19 HALTER, John (K)	2396*	
(20)	20 PEEBLES, Robin (NG)	2330***	
(21)	21 LALLY, Keiran (E)	2423**	
(22)	22 LEIGHTON, Andrew (DU)	2150*	
(23)	23 LEMON, Robert (SY)	2121	
(24)	24 BROWN, Christopher (DV)	2064	
(25)	25 SHAHAEI, Harry (GS)	2064	
(26)	26 REES, Daniel (E)	2043	
(27)	27 NICHOLLS, Ashley (SP)	1981**	
(28)	28 BROOKS, Warren (BU)	1977***	
(29)	29 MILTON, James (BU)	1959**	
(30)	30 POWELL, Neil (CH)	1940	
(31)	31 MEADS, David (DU)	1921	
(32)	32 CANNON, Samuel (MI)	1924	
(33)	33 GIBBS, Shaun (DV)	1931	
(34)	34 STAINES, Matthew (E)	1914*	
(35)	35 COONEY, William (DY)	1886*	
(36)	36 ROGERSON, Shaun (LI)	1864	
(37)	37 HAYES, David (BU)	1786**	
(38)	38 ARMSTRONG, Marc (MI)	1784	
(39)	39 KODICEK, Jacob (CO)	1748**	
(40)	40 BRADFORD, Leigh (WA)	1745**	
(41)	41 HALLING, Tony (E)	1735	
(42)	42 WESLEY, Richard (NG)	1679	
(43)	43 PAGE, Tom (CH)	1660	
(44)	44 YEUNG, Hamish (BD)	1634	
(45)	45 WOODHEAD, Andrew (Y)	1616**	
(46)	46 SHUTES, William (NK)	1588****	
(47)	47 PANG, Dannel (NP)	1550**	
(48)	48 EVANS, Gavin (NG)	1512**	
(49)	49 WILSON, Gary (SX)	1510**	
(50)	50 DEWHURST, Paul (E)	1509	

Junior Girls

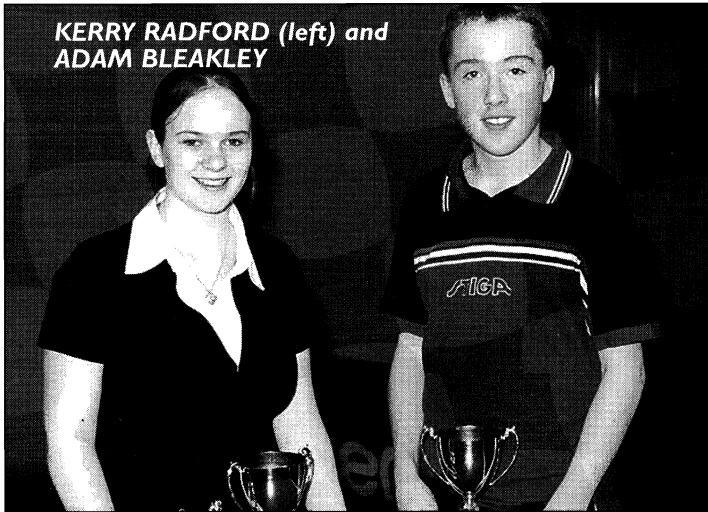
Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 STEWARD, Kate (SO)	3857	
(2)	2 PARKER, Joanna (SY)	3805	
(3)	3 WALKER, Georgina (NG)	3656	
(4)	4 EMBLING, Abigail (E)	3494	
(5)	5 CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK)	3182	
(6)	6 WHITE, Nicola (Y)	3175	

(9)	7 SIBLEY, Kelly (WA)	3129
(10)	8 SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LI)	3097
(11)	9 SPINK, Lauren (NK)	3093*
(12)	10 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH)	2903*
(13)	11 WILSON, Naomi (SO)	2892
(14)	12 YARNLEY, Gemma (K)	2656
(15)	13 LANGFORD, Clare (CH)	2576*
(16)	14 BROWN, Sarah (E)	2572*
(17)	15 GRAHAM, Cherieh (LA)	2492
(18)	16 DENNETT, Elizabeth (CH)	2368
(19)	17 WEIL, Emma (E)	2338*
(20)	18 WILSON, Claire (DU)	2293
(21)	19 CRAVEN-GRIFFITHS, Kelly (LE)	2221*
(22)	20 HUBBARD, Joanne (K)	2144**
(23)	21 BELL, Amanda (Y)	2125**
(24)	22 HOWARD, Clara (CH)	2013*
(25)	23 TUCKER, Emily (BU)	1997*
(26)	24 VAJDI, Christina (SY)	1927****
(27)	25 WEIL, Lucy (E)	1893*
(28)	26 HOLLETT, Gemma (SY)	1856***
(29)	27 SHUTT, Heather (Y)	1829*
(30)	28 WALLER, Tanya (Y)	1822***
(31)	29 SENEVIRATNE, Anusha (K)	1770*
(32)	30 BARRETT, Michelle (DV)	1754**
(33)	31 PARTON, Helen (DV)	1733*
(34)	32 BALDI, Rachel (YS) (Y)	1728***
(35)	33 WANG, Sarra (E)	1667*
(36)	34 MEADS, Joanne (DU)	1667**
(37)	35 HEARD, Gemma (E)	1565***
(38)	36 DAVIS, Stella (GS)	1497
(39)	37 RADFORD, Lisa (DV)	1483*
(40)	38 CLEMINSON, Jessica (E)	1454*
(41)	39 ROGERS, Gina (SX)	1436***
(42)	40 LIGHTOWLER, Katie (Y)	1411*
(43)	41 BOSLEY, Lisa (BK)	1359**
(44)	42 REES, Bethany (E)	1286
(45)	43 PARNELL, Francesca (BU)	1277***
(46)	44 GASSON, Faye (CU)	1269***
(47)	45 SKEGGS, Kelly (E)	1265**
(48)	46 DONNELLY, Stephanie (CV)	1254**
(49)	47 STRINGER, Jodie (K)	1249*
(50)	48 PERKS, Sarah (NG)	1249
(51)	49 SHEPHERD, Nicola (Y)	1248*
(52)	50 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU)	1136**

Cadet Boys

Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 YARNALL, Tim (NP)	3333	
(2)			

BLEAKLEY & RADFORD LIFT PRIZE MONEY



KERRY RADFORD (left) and
ADAM BLEAKLEY

BLEAKLEY & RADFORD LIFT ALMOST £500 IN PRIZE MONEY

The Stiga Junior Grand Prix, staged at Hyndburn Sports Centre, Accrington, reached its climax on Sunday 7th April after a very competitive series of six tournaments. The events were played in groups of eight on eight tables followed by knockouts one and two in both the boys and girls sections. As the season progressed the events became more and more popular and on some occasions entries had to be returned. The format, a minimum of eight matches per player, has proved very popular and is ideal for the improver who is looking for his or her first taste of tournament play, writes Tony Meredith.

England No.2 cadet, Adam Bleakley from Manchester, was the boys overall winner and lifted a handsome cheque for £325. It was just reward for Bleakley as he had beaten the higher ranked Stephen Denny (Bingley) on two occasions. Nottingham's Richard Wesley was runner up and received a cheque for £180. Wesley had also lost to Bleakley in two final encounters. Kerry Radford, also from Nottingham, and an ever-present, lifted the girls overall title and a cheque for £160. Local girl Louise Proctor showed a marked improvement throughout the series and was a worthy runner up.

Barrow's Helen Crawford, another ever-present, edged out Bury's Jessica Hall in the cadet girls and pocketed a cheque for

£140. Hall had beaten the seeded Irish girl Linda O'Sullivan in her group and only needed to dispose of the lesser-ranked Irish girl Sabrina Conway at the knockout stage to lift first prize. However, on this occasion she was unable to reproduce her earlier form. Paul Johnson from Gainsborough was the worthy winner of the under 12 boys prize and is certainly a name to look out for in the future.

Thanks must go to Stiga (Sweden) and Bill Thornton of Thorntons Sport & Leisure for sponsoring the prize fund of £1750. Referee Ken Armon MBE, assisted by partner Faith Moore, did a fantastic job as did all the various umpires. Thanks must also go to the management and staff of Hyndburn Sports Centre and the officials of the East Lancashire League for their help and co-operation.

Final Results:- Overall Boys Winner: Adam Bleakley, runner up Richard Wesley. Overall Girls Winner: Kerry Radford, runner up Louise Proctor. Cadet Boys Winner: Adam Bleakley, runner up Richard Wesley. Cadet Girls Winner: Helen Crawford, runner up Jessica Hall. Under 12 Boys Winner: Paul Johnson, runner up Matthew Regan (Northants). Under 12 Girls Winner: Helen Crawford, runner up Sophie Byron (Ches). Stiga vouchers, valued at £20, £30 and £40, were also awarded to Jonathan Crawford (Cu), Aaron Beech (Wales), Adam Slater (Ch), David Patterson (La), Adam & Craig Feargrieve (Ng), Daniel Russell (Ch), Jane Easley (St), Stacey Beastall (Ng), Helen Crawford, Jessica Hall, Sophie Byron, Sally Dunccliffe (La), Linda O'Sullivan (Ireland), Peter Denness (Cu), Thomas Bray (La), Caroline Hallows (Ch), Amy Walker (Ch), Matthew Knott (Ch) and Joshua Bleakley (La).

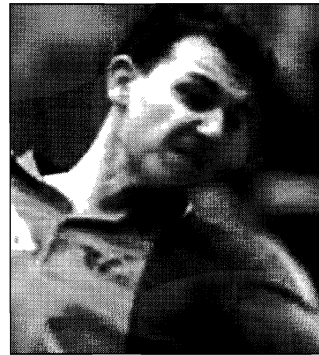
All the winners received a trophy and replica. Also, Aaron Beech for being the highest placed junior boy and Jessica Hall for being the highest placed cadet girl.

WORLD TOP TEN

1st AUGUST 2002

MEN			WOMEN		
1	(1)	2246 WANG Liqin CHN	1	(1)	2415 WANG Nan CHN
2	(2)	2196 MA Lin CHN	2	(3)	2118 ZHANG Yining CHN
3	(3)	2132 SAMSONOV Vladimir BLR	3	(2)	2100 BOROS Tamara CRO
4	(8)	2086 SCHLAGER Werner AUT	4	(5)	1985 RYU Ji Hae KOR
5	(4)	2082 BOLL Timo GER	5	(4)	1980 NIU Jianfeng CHN
6	(5)	2062 KONG Linghui CHN	6	(8)	1963 LIN Ling HKG
7	(7)	2003 WALDNER Jan Ove SWE	7	(6)	1962 Li Ju CHN
8	(6)	1997 SAIVE Jean-Michel BEL	8	(7)	1946 LI Nan CHN
9	(9)	1988 LIU Guoliang CHN	9	(12)	1888 STEFF Mihaela ROM
10	(13)	1945 KIM Taek Soo KOR	10	(9)	1885 Li Jia Wei SIN
74	(75)	1422 SYED Matthew ENG	191	(194)	1057 LOWER Helen ENG
142	(139)	1145 HERBERT Gareth ENG	193	(194)	1056 DEATON Nicola ENG

TIMO BOLL PROFILE



THE NEW European Singles & Doubles Champion of 2002, Timo Boll, won his titles in Zagreb, Croatia, earlier this year.

Table Tennis News are pleased to publish the following interesting look at Timo Boll, on and off the table:

Name: Timo Boll
Birthday: 8th March 1981
Birthplace: Erbach, Germany
Height: 1,81m
Club: TTV Goennern
National Ranking: No. 1
Main Singles Titles: European Champion 2002, Europe Top 12 in 2002, Austrian Open in 2002, Brazilian Open 2001
Coach: Helmut Hampl
Table tennis started: At home, aged four.
Influenced by: Father, Helmut Hampl
Ambition: Top 10 in the world. (No. 5 as of 1st March 2002)
Practice hours: 20 hours per week
Where: Hoechst & Frankfurt
Sponsors: Butterfly
Blade: Butterfly Timo Boll Spirit Offensive

Rubber foreband: Butterfly Sriver L max red
Rubber backband: Butterfly Sriver L max black
Other sports: Golf, Diving, Billiard
Hobbies: Video, Reading
Music: Black Music, Hip Hop
Favorite film star: Denzel Washington
Favorite TV: TV Total
Favorite food: Pizza, Chinese
Favorite drink: Water

SCHLAGER FROM TROUBLES TO TITLES

SAO PAULA, Brazil, 14 July 2002. What are champions made of? Among other things the ability to win when he/she doesn't play well.

Werner Schlager is such a player. In the early rounds of Mens Singles at the Brazil Open he was in deep trouble, but he survived.

On Sunday when he won the final and the Brazilian title he was back on top, playing the fast moving Ryu Seung Min with the right strategy and finishing the match 4-1, before Ryu could find his rhythm.

"It is true that I did not play well early in this tournament, but in the final everything went very well. I now know how to play a fast player like Ryu. I just tried to keep the ball on the table until he made mistakes", said Schlager after the final.

Schlager also took the Doubles title partnered with Karl Jindrak. They won the Mens Doubles final against Zoltan Fejer-Konnerth/Torben Wasik (GER). The Austrians started out very strongly and the Germans actually never got into the match before it was over 4-0.



WALKER & KENNY WIN JUNIOR MASTERS

GEORGINA WALKER from Kirkby in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire and **MATTHEW KENNY** from Sheffield, Yorkshire, retained their junior girl and boy singles titles at the English National Junior Masters competition held at the Cippenham Table Tennis Centre, Slough.

Walker, the England junior no.2 and national under 21 champion, beat Katy Parker (Preston, Lancashire), the England junior no.1, 7-11, 9-11, 11-5, 11-6, 11-6 in the last match to top the girls' singles. After surrendering leads in the first two games, Walker's slick forehand topspin got increasingly stronger and more consistent against Parker's chop defence and she ended up a comfortable winner, Parker too belatedly risking attack to break the game up. Up to that point Katy Parker had been unbeaten, only once being taken to a fifth game (by Nicola White of Yorkshire). Walker lost just once, 8-11, 11-8, 9-11, 5-11 to the heavy top-spinning national cadet no.1, Abigail Embling (Brentwood, Essex), who finished 4th overall with 7 wins and 4 losses.

The greatly improved national cadet champion Joanna Parker (Chertsey, Surrey), whose mixed defence and backhand hit game has improved to such an extent that she reached the Midlands Open Butterfly Grand Prix women's singles final at Wolverhampton the previous week, came third, losing only to Walker, Katy Parker and Embling in the final group (of 12). Possibly her best and most critical result was her 11-9, 8-11, 6-11, 11-7, 11-5 success over the combination bat attack of national junior champion, Kate Steward (Taunton, Somerset). Top under 12, Lauren Springthorpe (Lincolnshire), impressed in coming 6th.

Matt Kenny, the national junior champion, duly took the boys' singles, but it was not easy as he was twice taken to a 5th game in his first group and 4 times to a 5th game in the stage 2 group. Kenny's toughest match was his last one with the on-form England junior no.7, Bryn Drinkhall (Loftus, Cleveland), who up to that stage was also unbeaten. Drinkhall used tight serves, heavy topspin opening shots and powerful



follow-ups to storm into a 2 games and 8-5 lead. He then momentarily tightened up, which was enough for Kenny to come back 11-9. Kenny then raised his game, demonstrating his versatility and full range of attacking shots, keeping slightly ahead to win 12-14, 4-11, 11-9, 11-8, 11-9, the last point, unfortunately for Drinkhall, being with a 'net' ball.

Craig Bryant, the talented England junior no.5 from Cullompton, Devon, came third with just two losses in the stage 2 group. He was one of the few players to take Kenny the full distance, his other loss being to Drinkhall. His toughest final group wins were 7-11, 11-7, 14-12, 21-23, 11-6 over Adam Bleakley (Lancashire) and 15-13, 11-9, 6-11, 8-11, 12-10 over Greg Baker (Warwick). Peter Cleminson (Brentwood, Essex) came 4th with 7 wins and 4 losses in his final group.

Final Top 10 Positions:
Boys: 1 – Matt Kenny (Yorks); 2 – Bryn Drinkhall (Cleveland); 3 – Craig Bryant (Devon); 4 – Peter Cleminson

ETTA Vice-Chairman KEITH PONTING (Competitions), presented the medals to Boys (l.to.r) BRYN DRINKHALL, MATTHEW KENNY & CRAIG BRYANT, and to the Girls GEORGINA WALKER, JOANNA PARKER & KATY PARKER.

(Essex); 5 – Tim Yarnall (Northants); 6 – Danny Horner (Ches); 7 – Adam Bleakley (Lancs); 8 – Louis Rosenthal (Lancs); 9 – Greg Baker (Warwick); 10 – Dominic Hall (Kent).

Girls: 1 – Georgina Walker (Notts); 2 – Katy Parker (Lancs); 3 – Joanna Parker (Surrey); 4 – Abigail Embling (Essex); 5 – Kate Steward (Somerset); 6 – Lauren Springthorpe (Lincs); 7 – Kelly Sibley (Warwick); 8 – Nicola White (Yorks); 9 – Lauren Spink (Norfolk); 10 – Naomi Wilson (Somerset).

JARVIS SPORTS JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

THE OVERALL winners of the Jarvis Sports sponsored circuit of Grand Prix junior open tournaments were presented with their prizes at the National Junior and Cadet Masters Tournaments.

England junior no.2 boy Dominic Hall (Kent) had some consolation for coming only 10th in the Junior Masters, by being awarded £200 for topping the Jarvis Sports Grand Prix. Cadet Lauren Spink (Norfolk) was presented with £200 for taking first place in the corresponding girls' singles, while Niv Bogan (Middlesex) and Lauren Springthorpe (Lincs) each took £100 for coming top in the cadet boys and girls' singles.

Top 10 Jarvis Sports Grand Prix Positions:

Junior boys' singles: 1 – Dominic Hall (Kent), 2 – Adam Bleakley (Lancs); 3 – Daniel Horner (Ches); 4 – Paul Drinkhall (Cleveland); 5 – Simon Nouch (Yorks); 6 – Craig Bryant (Devon); 7 – Bryn Drinkhall (Cleveland); 8 – Peter Cleminson (Essex); 9 – Stephen Denny (Yorks); 10 – Niv Bogan (Middx).

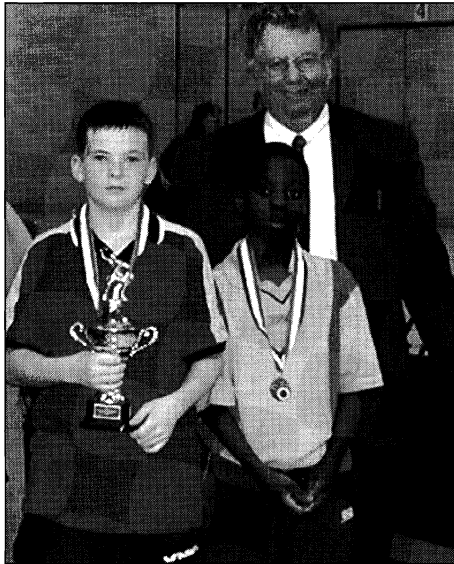
Junior girls' singles: 1 – Lauren Spink (Norfolk); 2 – Joanna Parker (Surrey); 3 – Georgina Walker (Notts); 4 – Abigail Embling (Essex); 5 – Sarah Brown (Essex); 6 – Gemma Chapman (Bucks); 7 – Natalie Bawden (Essex); 8 – Nicola White (Yorks); 9 – Lauren Springthorpe (Lincs); 10 – Kelly Sibley (Warwick).

Cadet boys' singles: 1 – Niv Bogan (Middx); 2 – Adam Bleakley (Lancs); 3 – Darius Knight (Surrey); 4 – Tim Yarnall (Northants); 5 – Daniel Rees (Essex); 6 – David Hayes (Bucks); 7 – James Milton (Bucks); 8 – Samuel Cannon (Essex); 9 – David Meads (Durham); 10 – Shaun Rogerson (Lincs).

Cadet girls' singles: 1 – Lauren Springthorpe (Lincs); 2 – Lauren Spink (Norfolk); 3 – Kelly Sibley (Warwick); 4 – Anusha Senevirantne (Kent); 5 – Sarra Wang (Essex); 6 – Abigail Embling (Essex); 7 – Bethany Rees (Essex); 8 – Gemma Yarnley (Kent); 9 – Elizabeth Dennett (Ches); 10 – Sylvana Bielec (Bucks).

NATIONAL UNDER 10/11/12's

NATIONAL UNDER 12 CHAMPION: PAUL DRINKHALL (left), and runner-up PAUL DARIUS, pictured with the ETTA Chairman ALAN RANSOME, at the presentation ceremony



DRINKHALL BEATS KNIGHT IN NATIONAL U12's

Paul Drinkhall, from Loftus, Cleveland, the no.1 seed, duly avenged his PPP healthcare Commonwealth Masters 'Super Kids' loss to Darius Knight (Battersea, Surrey), by beating his main rival 8-11, 12-10, 11-9, 6-11, 11-6 to win the under 12 title, at the English National Under 10/11 & 12 Championships held at Kingsway Leisure Centre, Widnes, supported by Halton Borough Council.

Drinkhall usually does have a slight edge over the left-handed Knight, as he proved again in the under 12 boys' singles final at the recent Italian Open Youth tournament in Terni. It was the same in the National Championships: a close, hard fought match but with the powerful hitting Drinkhall having the stronger finish. The adversaries combined to overcome David Meads (Durham) and Harry Shahlaei (Gloucs) 13-11, 11-5, 9-11, 11-3 to win the boys' doubles.

Lauren Springthorpe (Grantham, Lincolnshire) also fulfilled her top seeding, but had to come from 2 games to 1 down to beat Sarra Wang (Braintree, Essex) 11-9, 6-11, 5-11, 11-7, 11-2 to claim the under 12 girls' title. In probably the most exciting match of the championships, Wang got some

consolation, when, partnered by Rachel Jamieson (Essex), they pipped Springthorpe and Laura Yarnley (Kent), 10-12, 11-7, 5-11, 11-7, 13-11 to lift the girls' under 12 doubles.

Gavin Evans, whose parents have moved from Buckinghamshire to Nottinghamshire to be near to the National Training Centre where their eldest son (Bradley) trains, demonstrated that he is an outstanding prospect by both retaining the under 10 boys' singles (beating Billy Deville from Essex 11-3, 11-1, 11-8), and winning the under 11 boys' singles (beating Darren Reed 11-7, 11-7, 11-8). And he still has 2 more seasons as an under 10!

Finals results:

Girls' under 12 singles: Lauren Springthorpe (Lincs) bt Sarra Wang (Essex) 11-9, 6-11, 5-11, 11-7, 11-2.

Boys' under 12 singles: Paul Drinkhall (Cleveland) bt Darius Knight (Surrey) 8-11, 12-10, 11-9, 6-11, 11-6.

Girls' under 12 doubles: Sarra Wang/Rachel Jamieson (Essex) bt Lauren Springthorpe (Lincs)/Gemma Yarnley (Kent) 10-12, 11-7, 5-11, 11-7, 13-11.

Boys' under 12 doubles: Paul Drinkhall (Cleveland)/Darius Knight (Surrey) bt David Meads (Durham)/Harry Shahlaei (Gloucs) 13-11, 11-5, 9-11, 11-3.

Girls' under 11 singles: Emma Vickers (Derbys) bt Rachel Pilgrim (Warwicks) 11-9, 11-2, 8-11, 8-11, 11-4.

Boys' under 11 singles: Gavin Evans (Notts) bt Darren Reed (Devon) 11-7, 11-7, 11-8.

Girls' under 10 singles: Jessica Macken (Essex) bt Katie Rule (Bucks) 11-9, 11-9, 11-3.

Boys' under 10 singles: Gavin Evans (Notts) bt Billy Deville (Essex) 11-3, 11-1, 11-8.



WHO'D BE A PARENT ?

The alarm goes off on a Sat/Sun morning at 5.00am. You fall out of bed hollering at the kids to 'Get up NOW' and asking them in the nicest possible way to check on their equipment (bat, balls, towels, glue etc) while you run round the kitchen like a headless chicken getting breakfast, sorting out sandwiches, drinks, music (for car), games to play (if they get knocked out), swimming cossies (if there is a swimming pool). Finally, you give a cursory glance at the map and then the family - consisting of me and my 2 sons (12 & 10 years old respectively) and a daughter (6 years and along for the ride) are ushered, bleary eyed, into the car and we are off - heading hopefully in the right direction. When we eventually arrive, the sprint is on to look at the draw which is greeted with either whoops of delight or groans of despair. Then off to the tables to get in a few minutes of practice before the matches, writes Dilys Syed.

For the next 10 years or so this was my life most weekends. One week Cleveland, the next Gloucester, the next Middlesex, and so on. Cadets, Juniors and Senior tournaments. What a life! Would I have changed it - maybe some bits but in general I don't think so.

On the plus side my family did get to become intimately acquainted with many of the sports halls of England - not the most educational and scintillating of pastimes you might think but you never know when this might come in useful. Soon there may be a market for specialist holidays like Tours of The Sports Halls of England and the Syed family would proudly step in claiming its superior knowledge!

Also I would never have got to meet the other parents. Raving loonies most of them, me included. I mean who would ever consider living the sort of life we did? Tearing around the country chasing those elusive computer points - a venerable travelling circus. But what camaraderie was discovered. We commiserated with each other on our (oops - our children's) defeats, congratulated each other on victories and endlessly philosophised on life, death, work, school, love and, of course, table tennis - it was all there. Or perhaps could it be because there was so much damn time to kill between matches?

But, be honest, we were mostly in it for the sheer joy of winning. Whether it be that one magnificent forehand down the line, a backhand smash, forehand chop, an unreturnable serve that came off after hours of practice, a first round unexpected victory or getting to the finals, it was that wonderful heady cocktail of winning or the prospect of it that kept us going.

Sometimes we would leave at around 10.00pm having waited a few hours to play in the final (if we were fortunate enough to get there) in front of a dozen or so stalwart fans. We would then get to play 'spot the KFC' or MacDonalds on the way home which was often 5 or so hours drive, arriving home around 2.00am and all of us having to go to work or school the next day mentally and physically exhausted.

There comes a time when our children no longer need us and drive off as men/women to tournaments in their own cars. Your job is done and you are left with your memories. I want to salute all you stout hearted and brave fellow parents - both past and present. Good on you!

But is there life after table tennis for us? Of course there is. There is a big wide world out there (honestly). I somehow mustered enough energy to take a degree and have compiled a completely new set of memories. What about you?



On the road again - NEVILLE REED and his 12 year old son DARREN, who was rrup in the Boys U11 singles at Widnes

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

1st	British League (1) Premier Division	
5th-8th	ITTF Pro Tour	Korea
6th-8th	ETTA Teaching & Training Conference	Lilleshall
7th-8th	Womens British League Weekend (1)	
7th-8th	VETTS North Eastern Masters	Sunderland
7th-8th	Cadet/Junior Regional Training	
12th-15th	ITTF Pro Tour	Japan
13th-16th	Veterans Home Countries International	Largs, Scotland
14th	County Championships (1) Cadet, Junior, Senior & Veteran	
15th	British League (2) Premier Division	
21st-22nd	Cadet/Junior Preliminary Trials	
28th-29th	Essex Cadet/Junior 4 Star	
29th	British League (3) Premier Division	
29th	Sportbreak Veterans 2 Star Open	Knutsford

OCTOBER

5th	Chesham Junior 2 Star Graded	Chesham
5th-6th	Clare Pengelly Memorial Tournament	Paignton
5th-6th	Stiga Blackpool Cadet/Junior 4 Star	Blackpool
5th-6th	Cadet/Junior Regional Training	
8th	European Mens League v Norway	
12th-13th	Junior British League (1) Weekend	
12th-13th	VETTS Midlands Masters	Stoke-on-Trent
17th-20th	ITTF Pro Tour	Germany
19th	County Championships (2)	
20th	National Cadet League (1)	
20th	Bribar Junior Open	
20th	British League (4) Premier Division	
20th	Cippenham Senior 2 Star	
20th	Whitchurch Senior 2 Star	
24th-27th	ITTF Pro Tour - Dutch Open	
26th-27th	East Midlands Junior/Cadet 4 Star	
26th-27th	County Championships Veterans Premier Weekend (1)	
30th-3rd	Mens World Cup	

NOVEMBER

2nd	County Championships (3)	
2nd-3rd	County Championships Junior Premier (1)	
3rd	Cirencester 1 Star Under 12/14	
3rd	Knutsford 2 Star Open Cadet & U12	
3rd	British League (5) Premier Division	
3rd	South of England Cadet & Junior 3 Star	

TABLE TENNIS NEWS COPY DATES

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

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