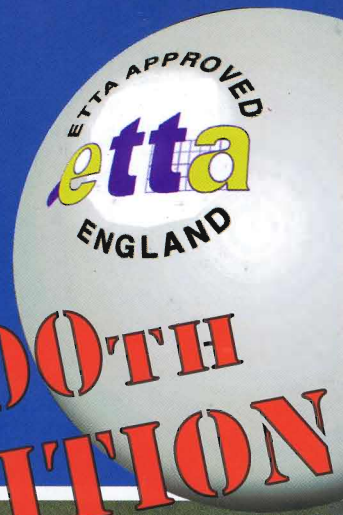


# Table Tennis NEWS

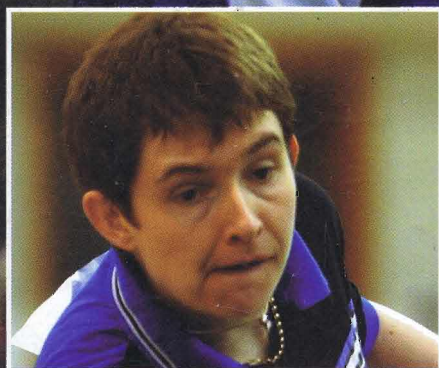


## 300TH EDITION

### COOKE WINS AT NEWCASTLE...

Pages 10 & 11

### ...LOWER TAKES WOMENS TITLE



ENGLAND'S  
WOMEN IN DOHA  
Pages 18 to 21

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# TABLE TENNIS NEWS

The Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association

Issue No.300  
April 2004

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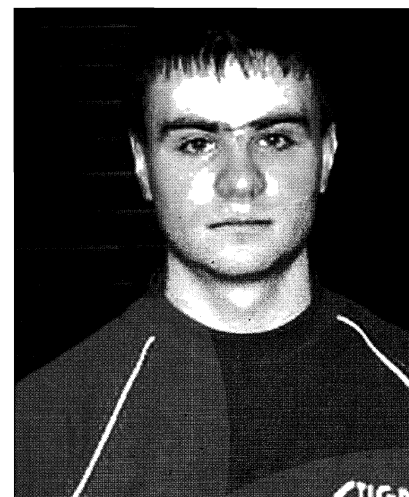
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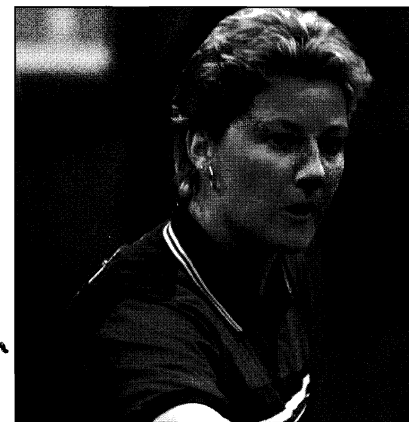
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**ALAN COOKE WINNER OF THE BUTTERFLY NEWCASTLE OPEN GRAND PRIX**  
Picture by John Wood



**JOHN MURPHY U21 winner at the Butterfly Newcastle Open Grand Prix, page 11**



**ANDREA HOLT is expected to play at the Bribar Top Twelve, page 6**

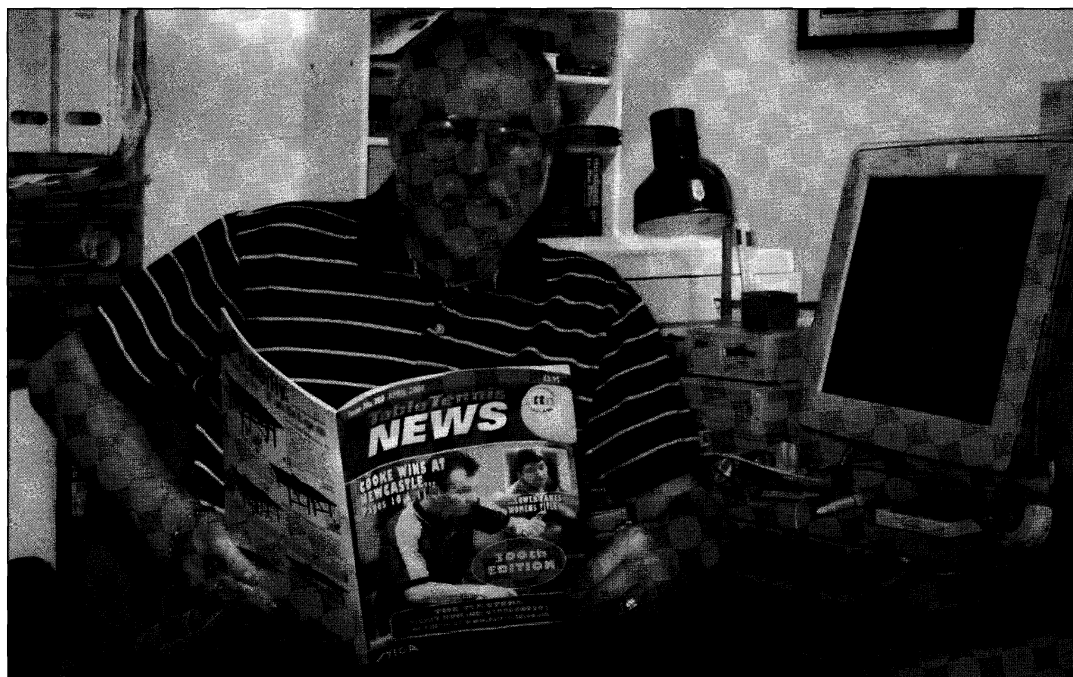


**JOE KENNEDY dominated at the VETTS Northern Masters in Blackpool, page 15**

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

# 300th ISSUE

# TTN'S 300th CELEBRATION



Pictured above is TTN's Editor JOHN WOOD reading the 300th edition of this magazine

Safir, Sweden

## Another small step in the right direction

**ENGLAND once again took part in what is perhaps the best tournament in the world, writes Steen Kyst Hansen.**

Big words, but with the inclusion of the ITTF Junior Circuit as well, are the days in Orebro make for a fascinating festival of table tennis.

The tournament was run for the 32nd time, and it was a very enjoyable time in Sweden. The club have fantastic support from the local community and over two hundred club members give up time on a voluntary basis to make sure that this huge tournament is run very professionally. Many factors will have to function in such a big arrangement, but let me just say that the club get the halls free of charge from the city for a week!! A situation that we can only dream about.

From a sporting view we took another step forward. Many fine results for many of our talented youngsters, but more important are the performances. I strongly believe we have reached a stage in our development, when we are only a

few steps away from having a winning mentality. It is a nice feeling as a coach to be able to watch a group of youngsters, who really try to play to their maximum in all situations, and at the same time play with heart and brain. These are the attitudes we will have and shall build on in the future, and if we can manage that then I am sure our future is looking pretty promising.

Please be aware that all over Europe a lot of emphasis is put into the work with the youngsters, so we cannot afford to relax one minute. Remember also that in most other countries is existing a strong club culture, plus many well functioning regional and national centres. So our work has just begun, and we will always have to look with very critical eyes on our performance and efforts. Quality is a key word, which we will have to take very seriously on our way forward.

To highlight all results is an impossible task, so I will just mention a few:

- U12 Boys - 1. Gavin Evans
- U13 Boys - 1. Paul Drinkhall, 2. Darius Knight, 3. Gavin Evans
- U14 Boys - 1. Darius Knight
- U13 Girls - 2. Lauren Springthorpe
- Women Class 1- 2. Joanna Parker

## WOODY'S World

THIS issue of Table Tennis News, is the 300th edition.

Take a look throughout this magazine at snippets from the very first issue October 1966, the 100th January 1979 and 200th August 1991.

A Champion Alliance. August sees the who's who of table tennis attending the wedding of Nicola Deaton and Alex Perry, in Chesterfield, making this table tennis wedding the occasion of the year.

Congratulations are in order for the England Women's team that really flew the flag for England in Doha, at the Liebherr World Team Championships. See TTN's special report on pages 18 to 21.

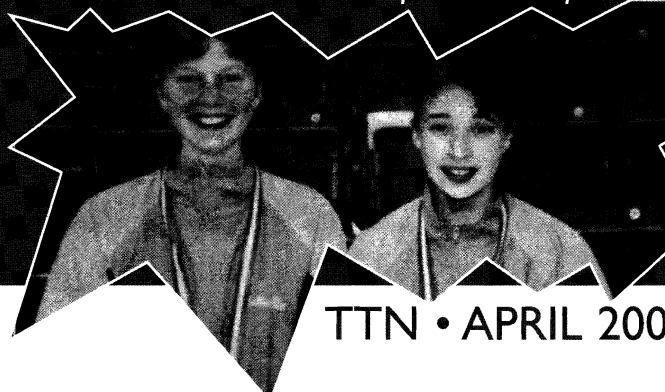
Full details of the Bribar Top Twelve, including sponsorship and advertising packages, appear in this issue on pages 6 and 16.

John Wood

## WEDDING BELLS FOR NICOLA & ALEX



Former National Champions NICOLA DEATON and ALEX PERRY will be getting married in Chesterfield this August, whilst pictured below in the 200th edition of TTN is a very young Nicola with Sally Marling when they won the Cadet Girls Team Bronze Medal at the European Youth in Spain



TTN • APRIL 2004



# CONGRATULATIONS TO ENGLAND'S WOMEN IN DOHA

**IF the April issue of Table Tennis News is late, then it will be a result of my not achieving copy date in time as I have just returned from the World Team Championships in Doha.**

This was the first overseas event I have attended as your Chairman and the ETTA delegate at a number of International meetings.

I am still continuing my process of visits to the grass roots of our sport and have many planned in the future with a number of AGM's to attend, my offer to meet with your League, Club and County remains open, subject to being available on the day.

## INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATIONS

The document and questionnaire will have been circulated prior to this issue of TTN, if you did not get a copy or require more they are available from the office or from the website. Please complete and return as soon as possible, this is a key issue for our sport.

## CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER

The second issue was circulated in March and copies are available from the website and office if required. I hope you find it informative and gives you some background of our aims.

## WEBSITE

The new website is on line, I am getting a lot of positive response about its format and how modern it looks. We shall keep it updated as quickly as possible and add further information from each department.

## FINANCE AND BUDGETS

Martin Clark, the ETTA treasurer, has completed the 2004/5 budgets and it will be submitted for National Council approval in April. We are having to run a tight ship and at the same time meet the needs of our affiliated persons and the criteria set by our funding partners. Sport England has increased our funding for our High Performance Group to £264K from the last reported figure of £176K and we are reviewing other opportunities to increase our income base.

## DOHA - WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

I will not go into detail about our Ladies team's performance at the World Team Championships as it has been already reported. However, I would like to add that the players performed well to improve their World standing from 44 to 38 and their attitude both on and off the court was excellent and my compliments go to the players, Helen, Georgina, Joanna and Kelly plus the efforts of Steen the Team Manager and coach.

I attended with Martin Clark a number of formal meetings, namely the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) AGM, European Table Tennis Union (ETTU) Congress, Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation (CTTF) Congress, Swaythling Club AGM and the ITTF Women's Forum.



**ENGLAND'S WOMEN'S TEAM IN DOHA: Pictured (l.to.r) Georgina Walker, Helen Lower, Joanna Parker and Kelly Sibley**

Here are some brief details of matters which may interest you:

- The proposition to change the service rule, again, was defeated. But new proposals are likely to be submitted for next years ITTF AGM.
- The BOD of the ITTF agreed to set up a working party to consider the use of solvent glues.
- The BOD of the ITTF has agreed to new qualification procedures for players at World Championships. Some discussion took place prior to the BOD meeting involving United Kingdom representatives to ensure our special case was included in these changes.
- Croatia defeated Sweden in their bid to run the 2007 World Individual Championships.
- 135 countries were represented at the ITTF AGM and 49 at the ETTU Congress.
- Serbia & Montenegro have been allocated to run the 2007 European Championships.
- The qualification for European Teams at the European Championships has been changed following submission by various countries including England.
- The CTTF confirmed all the details of the plans for the Commonwealth Table Tennis Event in Malaysia this year and were advised by the Australian representative that all is going well for the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne 2006.
- More efforts are being made by the ITTF and ETTU to support the sport via development and coaching courses.

On a personal note the facilities, support and hospitality given to table tennis from the people of Doha was outstanding and I was honoured to be asked to present the Swaythling Cup to the Men's Team winners China.

## ENGLAND MENS TEAM

I am sure by now most of you are aware of the decision not to send a Men's Team to the World Team Championships in Doha and you may have seen some of the articles in the press relating to this decision. The process of complaint and attempted retribution against those involved in the decision making process will no doubt continue in this

issue of TTN and the matter will undoubtedly be raised at National Council.

The issue from those opposed to the decision appears to be based upon a number of factors. Our history of always having sent a team, using players who were not involved in the senior funding programme, sending our cadets, due process not adhered to, they are professional players and should be treated as such and a lack of communications relating to why this decision was made. I could go through all of these points in detail but consider that the decision not to send a team was based upon other important issues rather than those raised in opposition.

We need players who are willing to go out of their way, want and be proud to represent their country. Honour their agreements and contracts to the ETTA and its membership. Work with and assist the England Performance Group for the good of our sport. Being a Professional means also to be Professional. The players concerned have had large sums of money dedicated to support their progress, however, it should not be a one-way process.

You can be assured that every effort was made up to the last minute to send a team and no stone was left unturned, but to no avail.

Finance was not an issue in this respect, albeit that our High Performance budget has been dramatically cut compared to earlier years.

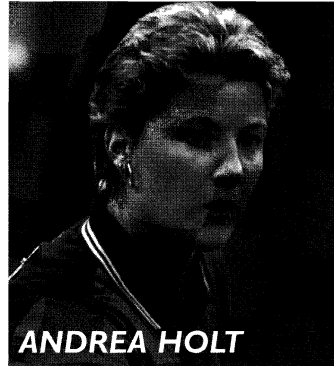
Generally speaking support for the decision made has been positive from discussions I have had on my travels in England and during my visit to Doha, once people were made aware of the facts.

I committed in my manifesto it "was a time for a change" and "fair play for all" and I was elected on this basis. We are bringing this to the table and will continue to do so. Table Tennis is a sport for all and for life, my goal is to get more people participating and to improve our International Teams stature. The decision not to send a team will not impact these goals.

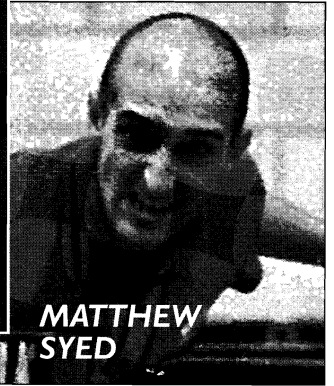
Lets us all put this matter behind us and we must all work together for the future of our great sport, we are moving forward in a positive way and you can be assured that I am committed to see the process of "change for the good" through.

Hope you are all happy with the changes in the magazine and articles are always most welcome. It should be noted that this is an historic time for Table Tennis News as it is the 300th issue.

# BRIBAR TOP TWELVE



ANDREA HOLT



MATTHEW SYED

## ENGLAND PLAYERS LINE-UP FOR LIVERPOOL SHOWDOWN

ENGLAND'S star table tennis players are queuing up for a chance to take part in the revitalised Bribar Top 12 tournament at the Greenbank Leisure Centre, Liverpool, 21-23 May, writes Jim Beckley.

That's the exciting news with both top players Matthew Syed and Helen Lower indicating they want to be part of the action as do some of the North West's leading players.

"We've not sent invites out yet but its very good news that our top players are wanting to take part," said organiser Mike Johns.

One of the reasons for this early enthusiasm is that only weeks after the tournament the Commonwealth Championships in Malaysia will get underway. So also heading for the Liverpool centre will be England coach Steen Hansen who is expected to take a final look at his players before making his final choice..

"The Commonwealth Championships are very important and a popular event. England always come home with some medals, so everyone one will be keen to make the grade," said Johns. "It makes the Bribar Top 12 a vitally important tournament."

Besides a being a popular venue which will hold at least 500 seats, for anyone lucky enough to visit the Masters tournament at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield last year, a giant screen similar to the one used in Sheffield will highlighting all the action .

There will also be a Come and Try it event on the Friday with local schoolchildren as well as adults who may want to try their hand at the worlds most popular sport.

Local players expected to be included in the line-up are Manchester's Andrew Rushton, an England international and former under 21 champion, along with former England player and Commonwealth Games medallist Andrew Eden and Bury's Andrea Holt.

Admission prices have been kept to a minimum with tickets for the three days costing £15 for seniors and £7 for juniors with prices ranging from £4 to £7 (half prices juniors) for individual days. Schools and Clubs as well as Premier Clubs will be able to purchase discounted prices.

Enquiries for tickets should go to Vanda Jones at the ETTA office in Hastings telephone 01424 722525 or Stan Clarke 0151 928 3771

**BRIBAR TOP TWELVE SPONSORSHIP & ADVERTISING PACKAGES APPEAR ON PAGE 16**

### TON UP

This issue of 'TABLE TENNIS NEWS' marks the 100th publication of a magazine that began its life back in October, 1966 — some twelve and a half years ago — rising Phoenix-like from the ashes of its predecessor 'TABLE TENNIS' under the Editorship of W. Harrison Edwards.

That it has survived, and indeed not been an encumbrance on the finances of the Association, speaks volumes for those who have supported it by becoming subscribers, and to those especially who, throughout the years, have supplied editorial matter and photographs free of charge.

The current Editor is much beholden to all such contributors whose numbers increase, season by season, and to his printers who, despite their commercial interest, have shared the rigours connected with such a publication in a spirit far beyond that which could reasonably be expected of them.

At least forgotten are our advertisers whose support from the outset has been a constant reminder that we owe our existence to them. It is to them we owe our gratitude.

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Left is an extract written by the first Editor of Table tennis News, George Yates, which was published in the 100th issue of this magazine

# POSTBAG

**Table Tennis News and the English Table Tennis Association, whilst recognising the right of free speech, reserve the right not to publish letters that may prove to be libellous.**

**The content of the letters published below do not necessarily reflect the views of Table Tennis News or the English Table Tennis Association.**

**TTN has received many responses to Mike O'Leary's letter "Grasped the Nettle", and John Woodford's 'Courtside' column, published in TTN January/February 2004. I feel that both have been succinctly answered by Vernon Hyde's following letter which reflects the other views - Editor.**

## DISCREDIT

IN an astounding sequence of non sequiturs, John Woodford (Courtside, TTN, Jan/Feb 2004) moved effortlessly from news of the World Team Championships in Qatar to the possibility of 'a long jocil [sic] sentence' for Saddam Hussein. If this perplexing irrelevance were not enough, he then began his next Courtside snippet with 'Talking of the people of Islam!!' Could this breathtaking insensitivity be surpassed?

Indeed it could, for he thinks we should know that the last person to have been penalised for a doping infraction was, and can one doubt he uses the word ironically, a 'gentleman' called Ahmed Ali Saleh, a member of the Egyptian national squad and, by implication Mr. Woodford would have us believe, a Muslim.

Unless Mr. Woodford has proof to the contrary, Mr. Saleh could be a follower of almost any faith under the sun, although I would be the first to admit that an adherence to the Plymouth Brethren might be stretching one's credulity somewhat. However, my own credulity is stretched even further by the fact that, not only has Mr. Woodford managed, in a little under three column inches, to imply that Saddam Hussein is somehow an embodiment of the Islamic faith, and that a follower of that faith is more likely than most to ingest illicit substances in order to cheat at Table Tennis, but also by the fact that his column was actually published! His views may not, as stated under his column, be those of Table Tennis News or the E.T.T.A., but this disclaimer is hardly sufficient to excuse the inclusion of

what is, at best, an example of gratuitously slipshod journalism or, at worst, poorly disguised religious/ethnic bigotry.

Mr. Woodford should explain his reasons for writing as he did. I have to say, however, that I can't imagine any justification for the way he chose to express himself in those sections of his column to which I have referred, and I think an apology should be forthcoming. Hopes are often expressed that sport can somehow help to unite people of different races, creeds and cultures. A wildly optimistic ideal maybe, but noble nevertheless, and one which certainly deserves better than the sentiments implicit in Mr. Woodford's ill-connected jottings.

As if the above were not enough, on the reverse side of Mr. Woodford's column could be found the views of MIKO a.k.a. Mr. Michael Joseph Anthony O'Leary (Letters to the Editor 2). Mr. O'Leary's inability to cope with personal names belonging to 'overseas' players leads him to suggest that, in order to accommodate his inadequacies 'every player that has, to our eyes. a complicated name' should adopt a nickname so that we can remember who they are! So, whose eyes are 'our eyes' I wonder?!

If a change of name could bring fame and fortune to the likes of Kirk Douglas (Issur Demsky to his mum and dad) then, Mr. O'Leary suggests, might not players obviously disadvantaged by their unreadable and unpronounceable foreign names benefit equally if they were to assume a different one - just as long as Mr. O'Leary could spell, read, and pronounce it of course?! Perhaps Liu Guoliang could be persuaded that, for the purposes of British consumption, he should play under the name Lou Rowles (a.k.a. Loopy Lou no doubt, were Mr. O'Leary to have his way!). And how could Koji Matsushita possibly resist 'The Big Chopper' for his *nomme de jeu*?! Oh, what fun could be had! Somehow I think not. Mr. O'Leary also instances football's apparent adoption of his simple solution by quoting Pele and

# COURTSIDE



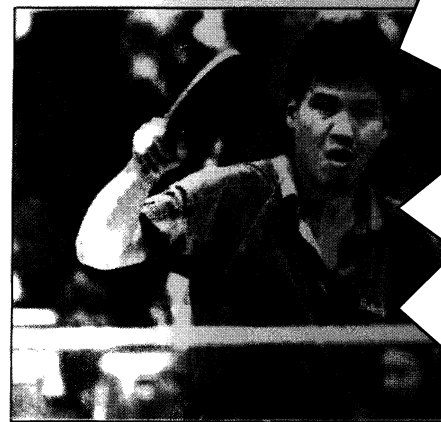
by John Woodford

- **ENGLISH** officials and media people, did not have to ask others what they thought of the ETTA decision not to send a young England mens team to Doha. They came to us. We had to try too explain that the ETTA top men decided to accept Steen Hansen's recommendation that the candidates for a young team were mainly too young.
- **THE** team that might have appeared - Andrew Baggaley, Andrew Rushton, Bryn Drinkhall, Darius Knight - would not in any way be put off by playing against older men and then watching the world's top men in action.
- **SEVERAL** nations with very little chance of success sent young players and dropped their top seniors - Holland was one example. One of the new nations played a 10-year-old girl who looked quite strong for her age on court.
- **ONLY** one person I met thought the ETTA had made the right decision - Soren Ahlen. Every other person I spoke to during the week condemned the ETTA move. One of the most respected persons in the sport - Diane Rowe-Scholer, wife of the ETU president Ebby Scholer, said it was the worst decision on teams made by the ETTA in half a century.
- **STRONG** protests seem certain at the next National Council meeting and probably it will also come up for an attack at the ETTA AGM in June.
- **CHEN XINHUA**, the former Chinese world cup winner and holder of the English men's singles title in 1992 and 1994 will be remembered by many in the sport. He spent some five years in England making many friends, although there was some opposition for his introduction into the England team, especially from the Isle of Wight.
- **HOWEVER**, this human interest story is worth recording. Several years back, Xinhua was walking down a street in a Chinese city. As he passed a rubbish bin he heard human cries of distress. It was a newborn baby boy.
- **HE** rescued the child, took him to a hospital. As its strength increased he visited it every day, for 30 days, in the hospital. He then refused to leave the child which would have been bound for an orphanage. He subsequently officially adopted the boy, who is now the fourth child of his family living mainly in China.
- **THIS** story emerged in Doha via Sheri Pittman the USA president who learnt of this extraordinary happening from Xinhua when he visited the USA late last year for an exhibition match.

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

## Chen's Euro ban is lifted

ENGLAND'S Chen Xinhua has been cleared forthwith to play in European team and individual tennis competitions. who earlier this month ranked at No.14 in the European men's list, received unanimous ball clear at



*Chen Xinhua in Europe*

Brian, renowned for making his plans to attend the European

Didi as examples. However helpful these names proved to the public and press alike, it should be pointed out that they were not adopted in order to assist the linguistically challenged, but acquired naturally in childhood, bestowed by friends and relatives.

Mr. O'Leary's suggestions are so risible that they might almost be taken for satire - a sort of parody on British Colonial attitudes to foreigners with funny names - although sadly I'm sure it was not intended as such. Mr. Woodford's contribution could not be so regarded, unleavened as it was by any hint of humour, intentional or otherwise. What both gentlemen do share however is the discredit they bring to themselves, and their sport.

*Vernon Hyde  
Stockport, Cheshire*

## TTN MAGAZINES FOR SALE

MY husband Reg was for 36 years the secretary of the Northampton TTL, but sadly he died recently.

On sorting out his files I found the 1st to 17th copies of Table Tennis News, dated October 1966 to October 1968. If anyone is interested in buying them please contact me by telephone on 01604 406963.

*Angela M. Allen  
Northampton*

## KEY POINT

In their comments on registration fees (TTN Jan/Feb) David Martin and John Prean miss a key point. Income equals fees times membership. So if membership declines, then fees are almost bound to rise. So the key task is to reverse the decline in membership. But how can ETTA do this when it does not even know how many members it has, let alone who they are!

Individual membership is the only way out of this dilemma. Once ETTA knows who its members are it can set about servicing them properly and recruiting more. For example, we should look at the financial viability of sending Table Tennis News (or a separate newsletter) free to all members. Most production costs are fixed regardless of circulation and advertising revenue would rise with a larger circulation.

A crucial role of a TTN or newsletter sent free to all members would be in recruitment, utilising the present membership to recruit new members. None of this is rocket science. Organisations like the AA and the National Trust do it all the time.

Far from increasing fees, I believe

that individual membership is the only way we will be able to keep fees to a reasonable level in the longer term.

*Estyn Williams  
General Secretary  
Leamington and District TTA*

## NO MEN'S TEAM

THE official reasons for England not sending a Men's Team to The World Team Championships in Qatar have been well documented. I made my opposition to the decision public as I considered that our members, who contribute financially to the E.T.T.A., had a right to know exactly what was going on, especially as no Press Release had been issued.

I recognise, and fully accept, that our Performance Director had every right to recommend a specific plan of action. If he thought players should be disciplined, suspended, or dropped, he was entirely within his rights. It may well have been his own opinion that England should not send a team. The problem lies not with him but with the people to whom he is responsible.

I believe that our Management Committee should have referred to National Council for a ruling on a matter of policy. It defies belief that England's unbroken record of World Team Championship participation should have been shattered. It is common knowledge that the top players signed a contract to play in English Grand Prix events as a prerequisite for international selection. Perhaps the full ramifications of this ruling were not fully understood by players and administrators. Professional players have to earn a living and playing abroad offers opportunity of reasonable remuneration. Overseas club commitments, University exams etc were some of the reasons why players opted out.

The fact remains we could, and indeed should, have sent a men's team to Doha. There are some who consider that tradition plays no part in today's sporting culture. Sorry, but for many of us it is still important. Many past players have taken an enormous pride in playing for their country, and it may surprise the present administration that there are a whole crop of players who could have played with distinction in Doha.

There is also the question of our juniors produced through the Academy system. Why were they not selected? The argument put forward is that they were too young. It is worth noting that the brothers Jean Michel and Phillippe Saive from Belgium went to the Worlds at ages 13 and 15 respectively, to gain

experience and knowledge. The former became World No.1. It certainly did him no harm.

Steen Hansen is an employee of the E.T.T.A. and is doing a good job. His position should remain secure. My view, after visiting Doha and finding out for myself that we were a laughing stock, that whoever has overall responsibility for this truly dreadful fiasco, should consider their own position with care.

*Brian Halliday  
ETTA Vice President*

## DISGRACE OR A SENSIBLE DECISION?

AT last the sport has attracted a little of the publicity we so badly need. Alas, as so often before it was not good. That is not to say that the writers were unkind. They merely recorded the bad news that England, the country that has given our sport to the world, had failed to send a mens team to the World Team Championships. By the time you read this, the event, the most important of the year, will have taken place.

Ours is not a sport in which members get upset very often or very much except about trivia, but, even by such modest standards of involvement, this has generated both interest and heat and journalists could find eminent figures to comment on the decision.

The decision itself seems to have been attributed to the World Class Performance Director and National Coach, whom I do not know and perhaps this was his advice

Our chief executive, Mr Yule, told The Times that, rather than send a team, we would be preparing for the Commonwealth Championships of 2006, which presumably was meant to calm our real fears about today. He did not reveal that the Commonwealth Championships are a minor event. So highly did we rate this that we did not think it worthwhile to send the Commonwealth double champions, Gareth Herbert and Andrew Baggaley to the Olympics doubles qualifying event or, of course, at this time our winning men's team to the World Team Championships, which puts things into perspective and enables us to judge Mr Yule's futuristic tales which we have so far enjoyed since 1997.

It remains difficult to discover why this is so. Of the possible players, the ones who are not strangers to international play, we were told that one is studying, another is deeply

'demotivated', another is reported as not wishing to risk his ranking, having 'progressed to No.1 by not playing, whilst his rivals did play in World, European and National Championships and lost matches and so incurred minus points. One remains mystified by the omission of the national champion, who plays in lots of Grand Prix's, which for the rest is regarded as so important.

I do not know who was available for selection. I do not know how deep are the scars that cause players to turn their back on playing for England in such a big event. The crisis has been coming for a long time. I predicted it and got the usual abuse, even blame after a dozen years out of office. I suspect that at the bottom of it all is officialdom's strange illusion that we can have professional players without paying them or according them the dignity and respect they deserve for being the best players in the country. It was inevitable that other players would one day vote with their feet, as my own son had done some years ago, when he had plenty of years left in the locker.

Be all that as it may, it is a national disgrace for a country of our reputation and status not to send a team. If only countries that have a chance of winning took part, the championships would be a poor event. The Welsh found no difficulty in being there with a fraction of our resources. I have heard that the blame for the decision is placed on the Performance Director and the Chairman and Management Committee merely took his advice.

I cannot accept this at all. He is in the position of the civil servant who offers advice to the minister. The Chairman and Deputy Chairman are the elected 'politicians' who make the decisions, right or wrong.

My feeling is that the membership feels bitter and let down. I accept, of course, that no one will take up arms and that only a few will put pen to paper.

Our sport no longer arouses great emotions, which itself may be one of our problems. However, our members want England to be a top nation on and off the table. This recent decision has not served that cause.

*John Prean  
Isle of Wight*

**DUE TO LACK OF SPACE SOME  
OF THE ABOVE LETTERS HAVE  
BEEN EDITED**



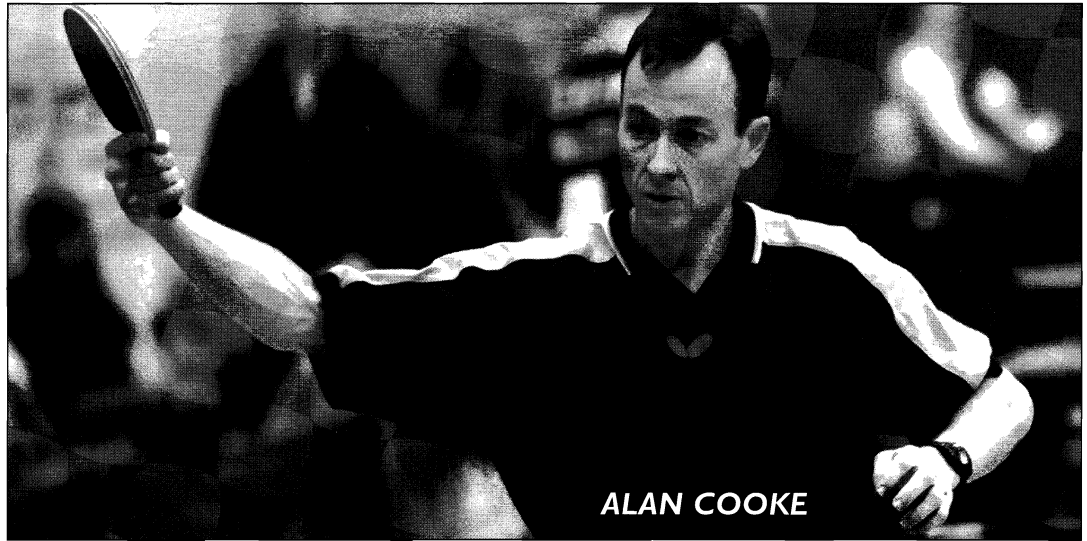
# COOKE WINS THE BATTLE OF THE COACHES - AGAIN...

**YET another triumphant surge of form by Alan Cooke saw the Derbyshire and England coach in sparkling top-spin form, at Newcastle. In the final round of the mens singles he brought down popular fellow coach Bradley Billington 5, 7, 10, writes John Woodford.**

With the notable exception of Helen Lower, most of the England squad continue to refuse the ETTA's top brasses request to play in three tournaments on the tour.

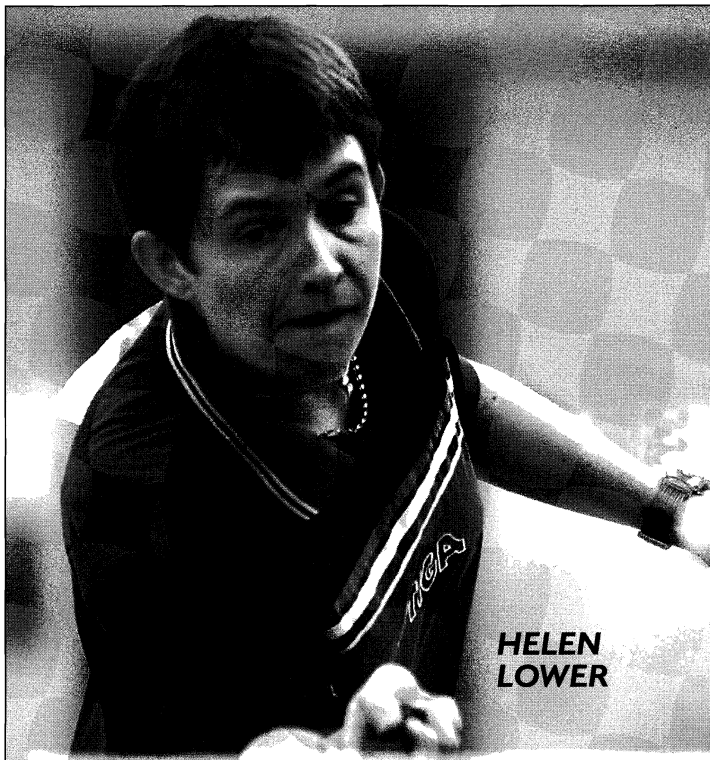
Regrettably the Newcastle entry was down to 130, caused mainly by three clashing events.

The mens singles quarter-final line-up was Cooke v Denny, Gascoyne v Driscoll, Billington v Bryant and Horsfield v James. Cooke and Billington maintained their winning runs with devastating aggression in the semis as Cooke brought down Gascoyne 6, 5, 7 and Billington surging through at the bottom of the draw 5,3,3 against Horsfield the place in the draw that should have been occupied by the second seed Ryan Jenkins. The Welsh ace had to scratch as he missed his flight from Switzerland.



ALAN COOKE

# ...WHILST LOWER WINS A TITANIC STRUGGLE



HELEN LOWER

Words by  
**JOHN WOODFORD**  
and  
**AUBREY DRAPKIN**

## HELEN LOWER'S TITANIC STRUGGLE

The best quality table tennis occurred in the womens singles. Helen Lower come through a titanic struggle in the semis to overpower, mainly by counter-hitting, The Ulster based Jing Yi Gao -10, 8, 10, -1, 8. In the other half Marketa Myskova's splendid defences brought down several opponents including in, the semi-finals Louise Durrant 8, -6, 2.

Marketa's retrieving is first class, except that like Matthew Syed with the new 40 mm ball, she has some trouble keeping the ball low enough,

making it easier for the driving opponent.

## IRISH DOMINANT

The Irish contingent monopolised the Under-21 men's tournament - John Murphy defeated his Irish teammate Connor Nolan -11, -12, 7, 8, 10 in the final. In the semis Nolan defeated Simon Nouch whilst Murphy capsized Tom Page.

This tournament I expect will be looking for another date on next season's calendar to avoid clashing with so many other events that





**MICHELLE  
McGREEVY**



**MARKETA  
MYSKOVA**

robbed them of veterans, juniors, cadets and senior players.

## MENS BANDED EVENTS

THE Band 1 mens singles was dominated by local players with Eddie Smith of Northumberland, Andrew Wilkinson also from Northumberland and Michael Marsden of Durham all reaching the semi-finals stage. Marsden beat top seed Smith and Wilkinson overcame Middlesex's James Sprackling, before defeating Marsden in the final, writes Aubrey Drapkin.

In Band 2 the No.1 seed, John Holland from Essex, lost to William Cooney in his group but came through to take the title, after beating the No.2 seed Stephen Dixon of Lancashire in round one. Cooney took Holland's place in the top half of the knock-out draw and got to the semis, before losing out to Yorkshire's Martin Lowe.

Lowe also reached the final of Band 3 where he was beaten by Evan Sharp of Surrey, who had previously put out the favourite, Charlie Smith of Middlesex.

There was a surprise in the Band 4 event which was won by Lancashire's

Les Richmond, who claimed victories over the two top seeds, John Clark of Yorkshire and James Houghton from south Yorkshire, before defeating another South Yorkshire player, Stephen Crosby in the final.

The local interest was also centred on Bands 5 and 6, where Northumberland's top junior David Graham and Veteran Rod Roberts, reached the semi-finals of both events. Top man however was Keith Weatherby of Lancashire who beat Graham and then Michael Boyce of Cleveland in Band 6. Later in Band 5, Weatherby defeated Roberts and went on to beat Graham again to clinch the title.

## WOMENS BANDED EVENTS

IN the womens events the Irish girl Michelle McGreevy claimed the Band 1 title, beating fellow Irish player Tara Fusco in the semis and then defeating Sarah Nouch of Yorkshire in the fifth 11-7.

Nouch had beaten Zoe Cheesman also from Yorkshire in the semis, but earlier that day Cheesman beat Nouch to take the womens Band 2.

The womens Band 3 was won by Cheshire's Fiona Dennett.

### RESULTS:

*Men's singles: S/f:* Alan Cooke (Dy) bt Craig Gascoyne (Ng) 11-6, 11-5, 11-6; Bradley Billington (Dy) Andrew Horsfield (Ys) 11-5, 11-3, 11-3.  
*Final:* Cooke bt Billington 11-5, 11-7, 12-10

*Women's singles: S/f:* Helen Lower (St) bt Jing Yi Gao (IRE) 10-12, 11-8, 12-10, 1-11, 11-8; Marketa Myskova (Dv) bt Louise Durrant (Ng) 11-8, 11-6, 11-2.

*Final:* Lower bt Myskova 11-6, 4-11, 11-13, 11-8, 11-8.

*Under 21 men's singles Final:* John Murphy (IRE) bt Connor Nolan (IRE) 8-11, 10, 12, 11-7, 11-8, 11-8.

*Under 21 Women's singles Final:* Zoe Cheesman (Y) bt Clare Langford (Ch) 11-7, 14-12, 11-3.

*Veterans Final:* Dave Godbold (Nd) Chris Beckley (Su) 11-3, 11-13, 11-5, 11-5.

*Band 1 Final:* Andrew Wilkinson (Nd) bt Michael Marsden (Du) 8-11, 11-8, 11-8,

13-11.

*Band 2 Final:* John Holland Snr.(E) bt Martin Lowe (Y), 13-11, 11-5, 11-6.

*Band 3 Final:* Evan Sharp bt Martin Lowe 11-9, 12-10, 11-7.

*Band 4 Final:* Les Richmond (La) bt Stephen Crosby (YS) 11-8, 11-8, 9-11, 11-5.

*Band 5 Final:* Keith Weatherby (La) bt David Graham (Nd) 11-4, 12-10, 11-5.

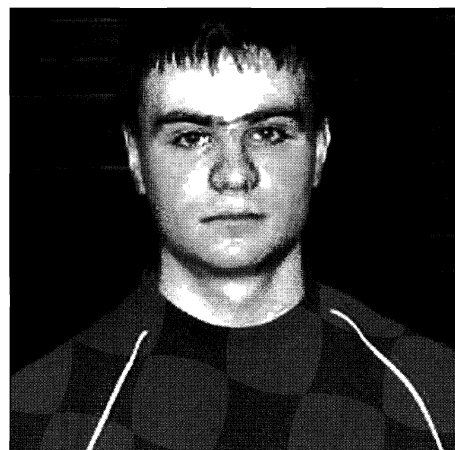
*Band 6 Final:* Keith Weatherby (La) bt Michael Boyce (Cv) 11-6, 4-11, 11-3, 12-10.

*Band 1 Women's Final:* Michelle McGreevy (IRE) bt Sarah Nouch (Y) 11-7, 8-11, 9-11, 11-7, 11-7

*Band 2 Women's Finals: Zoe Cheesman (Y) bt Sarah Nouch (Y) 11-13, 9-11, 11-7, 11-2, 13-11.*

*Band 3 Women's Final:* Fiona Dennett (Ch) bt Lorna Harper (Ch) 11-6, 11-6, 11-8.

**Pictured right is JOHN MURPHY winner of the Mens Under 21 Singles, whilst pictured below is ALAN RANSOME presenting the trophies to Mens Singles semi-finalists ANDREW HORSFIELD and CRAIG GASCOYNE, and (bottom) the Womens Singles semi-finalists LOUISE DURRANT and Ireland's JING YI GAO**



# FIRST VETERANS TITLE FOR TAMESIDE

**MANCHESTER'S** John Hilton led Tameside to their first ever Veterans British League title at the Doncaster Dome - but it was mighty close. The 52 year old finished the competition unbeaten and was the major contributor to the teams triumph which at one stage looked to be under threat, writes Jim Beckley.

A defeat to Ryelands put their winning schedule in doubt until the very last game when Stockport's Mark Ramsbottom stepped up to beat Potters Bar's Ian Girdler in a sensational four game thriller.

But it was Hilton's 20 wins from 20 matches that brought home the title. The former European champion was in scintillating form outplaying his often younger opponents in every corner of the game.

"We knew that John would win most of his matches, so if the rest of the team could win just a few then we would be in with a shout," said captain Phil Biggs.

The plan worked with Mark Ramsbottom finishing on 50 per cent, Phil Biggs on 42 % and Paul Collins on 36%.

Colebridge ladies were always going to retain their ladies title and they did it with 7 points to spare. They dropped a point to BATTs but by then it was all over. Elaine Short, Jan Dunning, Linda Simpson and Eileen Shaler dominated the competition and looked like doing so for some time to come.

Like their men Ryelands ladies had to be content with second place. They did it with one point over Batts PPP. But spare a thought for newcomer to the veterans scene Jill Harris. Jill was the outstanding female player and like Hilton won all her 20 matches. Unfortunately her team Ellenborough came second from bottom and will be relegated. It remains to be seen where Jill will be playing next season.

Thompson Insurance topped the first division and will move up to the premier division next season. With Joe Kennedy, Wayne Percival and David Godbold leading the averages and Malc Lusk and Geoff Salter not far behind, they should be able to hold on to their place in the higher division.

Another side who should do well in their new division are Plymouth Extremes. They completed the two stage tournament with a 100 per cent record - played 10 won 10. Paul Whiting finished with 100% while Paul Giles and Phil Luxon managed 95% and 75% respectively.

There were also useful performances in the third division with Phil Saxby dropping only one match and helping take Jarvis Nomads into the 2nd division next season.

Lillington pair Lindon Douglas and Phil Paine led their team into the 3rd division while Trevor Lloyd won more than enough matches for PSP Westinsure to guarantee them a place in the higher level.

Bribar Ladies are fast becoming known as the yo-yo team. After a season down in the first division, they jumped straight back with Doreen Schofield (100%), Diane Pearce (90%) and Sandra Rider (83%).

But Halton Ladies, welcomed back into the fold after a season in the wilderness, couldn't grab even one point going down in all ten matches with their most successful player Janet Hodgetts coming away with 37%.

The Doncaster Dome was given a vote of confidence by players and officials alike who were adamant that they will be coming back. Chairman of the English Table Tennis Association Alex Murdoch put his playing duties to one side to help present the prizes with Sue Bolton, deputy chair of the local council.

"It's a first class venue," said organiser Gill Smith.. "The lighting and flooring were perfect. You can be sure we will be coming back."

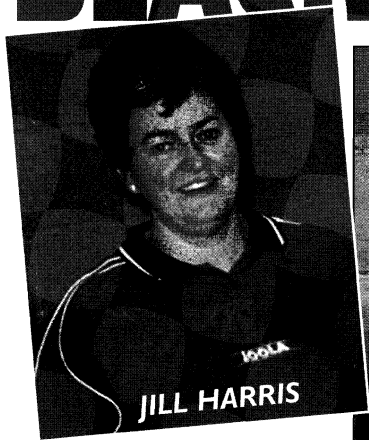


**TAMESIDE CHAMPIONS:** Pictured (l.to.r) PAUL COLLINS, MARK RAMSBOTTOM, PHIL BIGGS, ALEX MURDOCH ETTA Chairman, JOHN HILTON and Cllr. SUE BOLTON Deputy Chair of the local Council

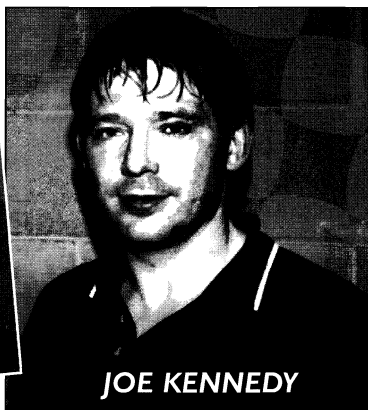
## FINAL LEAGUE POSITIONS

PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tameside	10	6	3	1	37	23	15
Ryelands	10	6	2	2	38	22	14
Potters Leisure Resort	10	6	2	2	36	24	14
PAA1	10	5	3	2	37	23	3
St.Marks	10	1	1	8	16	44	3
Fullerians	10	0	1	9	16	44	1
MENS DIVISION I							
Thompson Insurance A	10	9	1	0	49	11	19
Bat & Ball	10	8	1	1	42	18	17
Cippenham	10	4	0	6	25	35	8
Batts Racquetsports I	10	4	0	6	24	36	8
Graham Spicer I	10	3	1	6	27	33	7
Shamrocks	10	0	1	9	13	47	1
MENS DIVISION 2							
Plymouth Extremes	10	10	0	0	52	8	20
PAA 2	10	4	3	3	32	28	11
Batts Bulldogs	10	4	2	4	29	31	10
Ellenborough	10	2	5	3	28	32	9
Merrow	10	3	2	5	25	35	8
Batts Racquetsports II	10	0	2	8	14	46	2
WOMENS PREMIER							
Colebridge BC	10	9	1	0	48	12	19
Ryelands	10	5	2	3	31	29	12
Batts PPP	10	5	1	4	35	25	11
HEL Ladies	10	5	0	5	22	38	10
Ellenborough	10	3	2	5	28	32	8
Colleens	10	0	0	10	16	44	0
WOMENS DIVISION 2							
Bribar Bramley	10	8	1	1	47	13	17
Worcester Ladies	10	5	3	2	33	27	13
Combined Counties	10	3	4	3	30	30	10
The 4 J's	10	3	4	3	29	31	10
MK Girls	10	3	4	3	27	33	10
Halton Ladies	10	0	0	10	14	46	0

# HILTON, HARRIS & KENNEDY DOMINATE IN BLACKPOOL



JILL HARRIS



JOE KENNEDY

**THREE** players dominated the Veterans Northern Masters at Blackpool. John Hilton, Jill Harris and Joe Kennedy each won two titles in the 40s age group, although there was a family double when the Bax's, Geoff and Sally, also won titles, writes Jim Beckley.

Getting the over 40s men's final on mid-afternoon certainly proved a popular move. A big crowd watched the thrilling encounter between John Hilton and Brian Johns which went all the way to the wire with Hilton refusing to go down finally taking a breathtaking fifth game 16-14.

Then Hilton and Joe Kennedy linked up in the doubles to beat Wayne Percival and Keith Williams in three games.

Newcomer to the vets scene Jill Harris showed that she is going to take some stopping. She beat Sandra Rider 5,6,1 to record her second title in as many vets events before joining Cheshire's Sue Burgess to take the doubles title.

For Jill it was not as one way as had been the singles final. Against Jan Dunning and Brenda Buoey it went to four games with Jill and Sue eventually coming through.

Besides being a more than promising singles player, Joe Kennedy is proving that as a doubles partner he's quite a hit as well. As mentioned earlier he joined Hilton to win the over 40s event and then returned with Marjorie Dawson to beat Brian Johns and Helen Shields in the mixed final.

Into the 50s and Geoff Salter won his first ever vets title when he beat Paul Collins in singles final. Whether it was efforts from a 5 game semi-final against Roy Norton that had taken some sting from Paul we'll never know but Geoff powered home in three games 7,11,9

In contrast to the earlier 40s mens final, this was played out to just six people including Geoff's wife and two youngsters. The atmosphere for such a potential great final was nil which was a great shame.

Some thought must be given to how we can keep the crowds from going home early. Perhaps locking the doors is the answer.

Dave Welshman, who had been knocked out in the singles by Roy Norton, did win a title when he and Graham Outrim beat Ian Robertson and Brian Adams in the final while Sandra Rider and Teresa Devaney won the doubles.

Sally and Geoff Bax both appeared in doubles final and each took back some winners glasswear. Sally linked up with Margaret Dignum in the ladies over 60s final while Geoff along with Cheshire's Terry Donlon came up with the goods against

Les D'Arcy and Bert Levinge.

Full marks to referee Karen Tonge who without her usual aide still managed to get through the two days without any major hitches. With only 18 tables and a growing number of players, Karen was forced to play only three players to a group in the 50s and 60s.

However, next year life should become easier with an extra five tables being brought in and used in the running track next door. It was used for the first time at the Blackpool Grand Prix and came through with flying colours. Lighting was first class and the track floor more than adequate.

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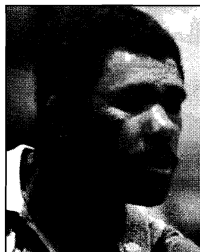
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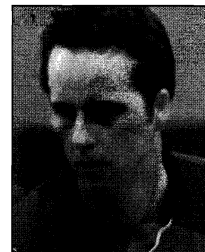
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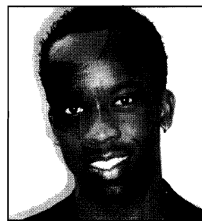
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**1 night Bed and Breakfast accommodation (Saturday) a ticket for Saturday and Sunday in reserved area. £30**

**All bookings to be made through Vanda Jones at the ETTA on 01424 722525**

## GRASS ROOTS - I

## DOVE &amp; DONOVAN

## Cippenham Veterans' 2-Star Open Championships

FRED DOVE, unseeded and ranked only thirteenth of the players in the draw, was the surprise winner of the Men's Singles title at the Cippenham Veterans' 2-Star Open Championships, in January, writes Graham Trimming.

In the final the Suffolk player beat previous champion and second seed Steve Davis of Surrey, reversing the result when the two players also met in the preliminary round groups. Earlier in the day Davis had won three-straight but by the time it really mattered, in the final, Dove had honed his game to top form hitting powerfully on the forehand and using his long-pimpled backhand rubber to interrupt the flow of the usually fluent Davis attack. Dove eventually triumphed by the scores 11-2, 11-8, 4-11, 11-3.

Dove had been largely untroubled en route to the final. After finishing runner-up to Davis in his group he beat sixth seed Tom Carr in the first round and then received a bye. In the quarter-final Dove beat Dave Crowley three-straight and then fended off the challenge of third seed Farhat Rasul in four games in the semi-final. Davis, on the other hand, had a straight-forward win over John McCance but then needed to come back from 2-1 down to beat supreme defender Roy Norton, of Worcestershire, 11-9 in the fifth game of a match that was a marvellous example of attack versus defence, thrilling table tennis at its best. In his semi-final Davis beat Ray Dixon, another player from the Black Country, in three games. Cippenham's last hope Mike Rhodes had succumbed to Dixon one round earlier after a titanic struggle that ended at 11-8 in the fifth game.

As the Men's Singles title had gone east to Suffolk it was fitting that the Women's Singles title should go in the opposite direction. Regina Donovan crossed the border to take the title back to Wales, as she did in the summer of 2003. Donovan's only close match was in the preliminary round group where she had to come back from 2-1 down against Jeanette Maybanks. After that it was plain sailing against Joan West, Cippenham member Muriel Hooker and, in the final, Reading's Sharon Mitchell. Another player who practises at Cippenham, Mary Heffernan, was the second semi-finalist.

Further success came the way of the local club in the Men's Consolation in which Dave Bull, in his second season as a Committee member at Cippenham, reached the final but then succumbed to Gloucestershire's John Fannin.

## Results of finals:

MS: Fred Dove (Sk) bt Steve Davis (Sy) 2, 8, -4, 3  
WS: Regina Donovan (WAL) bt Sharon Mitchell (Bk) 7, 4, 6  
MCons: John Fannin (Gs) bt Dave Bull (Wi) 8, -10, 2, 11  
WCons: Vera Hutchinson (Ha) bt Margaret Thornton (Ha) 8, -8, 9, 6

## Cippenham Under-14/16 1-Star Open

DAVID HAYES and Melanie Farquhar were the stars of the Cippenham Under-14/16 1-Star Open Championships on 10th January. Between them they secured the top under-16 prizes for the host club. Hayes was far and away the highest ranked player in the U16 Boys' Singles and the new Irish number one junior made light work of the field before beating Alim Hirji (Middlesex) three-straight in the final. Two other Cippenham players, Andrew Linz and Matthew Tucker, reached the quarter-finals while William Mitchell was eliminated by Linz one round earlier, writes Graham Trimming.

Farquhar was equally supreme in the U16 Girls' Singles beating Alison Woodland (Sussex) in the final. Cippenham's Jenny Hansell also reached the quarter-final.

The under-14 events were won by Alim Hirji and Rachel Jamieson (Essex) with the best local performances coming from Andrew Linz and Chris Witchell who both reached the last sixteen and Catherine Hayes who made it through to the semi-

final of the girls' event.

Prabdeep Panesar made a name for himself by winning the U16 Boys' Consolation and beat another Cippenham youngster, Michael Steadman, in the final while Katie Rule reached the final of the U14 Girls' Consolation.

Results:

U16BS: David Hayes (Bu) bt Alim Hirji (Mi) 5, 7, 8

U16GS: Melanie Farquhar (Bk) bt Alison Woodland (Sx) 3, 7, 10

U14BS: Alim Hirji (Mi) bt David McBeath (Ha) 7, 3, 10

U14GS: Rachel Jamieson (E) bt Amy Taylor (Bu) 7, 6, 9

U16BCons: Prabdeep Panesar (Bu) bt Michael Steadman (Bu)

-11, 6, 5, -4, 5

U16GCons: Jodie Sparrey (Mi) bt Chelsea Bennett (Sk) 12, 1, -2, 8

U14BCons: Oscar Selfridge (E) bt John Hodge (E) 6, 7, 13

U14GCons: Nicola Brown (E) bt Katie Rule (Bu) -8, 9, 9, 10

## VETERANS ROLL BACK THE YEARS

ASHFORD Table Tennis Centre in Middlesex staged the club's annual Vets tournament on Sunday 4th January 2004. Although the competition was scheduled to run the same day as the London Grand Prix at Crystal Palace organisers Diane Melville and Jim Perry still attracted some 54 men and 16 women to attend.

The tournament's ever increasing popularity is down to the playing format - the competition commences with players participating in groups of three to decide which one of the three knockout sections they proceed into. Any man losing in the first round of the knockout is then invited to play in a mixed doubles format. Hari Gehlot and Derek Holman were installed as No1 and No.2 seeds in the men's section with Muriel Hooker and Shirley Dark No.1 and No.2 in the women's.

So everything was set for an exciting and intriguing day's table tennis and it was not long before the group stages produced

some surprising results... Tony Holmes had an excellent win against Chris Pickard and Simon Barnes pulled off a good win over fellow club member Alan Boyle, but Dave Halfpenny's two wins to top his group was the most surprising of the morning's play.

With all the group play completed the knock out stages were started. The Women's Band 'A' proceeded as the organisers had predicted where Muriel Hooker beat Shirley Dark 11-6 8-11 11-7 12-10

However this was not the case in the men's section and some upsets were produced. In Band 'A' Maurice Isaacs had a good win against Ramesh Bhalla but last years winner John Fannin found No.1 seed Hari Gehlot just too strong and went out in the first round. Men's Band 'B' witnessed the steady progress of Clive Banham and Gordon Shaw who met in the final resulting in a straight sets win for Gordon.

Number two seed Derek Holman made his way into the semi-final but only after a tough five sets against Ray Dixon. Chris Pickard awaited Derek for this battle into the final, Chris constantly hit balls to Derek's backhand thus avoiding the No2's very powerful forehand topspin. This first semi-final ran out a straight sets win for Chris.

The second semi between Hari Gehlot and Steve Davis was much closer than the score suggests, good serving and very consistent attacking table tennis from Hari forced Steve to try and hit big backhand shots from the back of the court. Hari went on to the final with 11-7 11-8 11-5 win. The final between Chris Pickard and Hari Gehlot produced a very high standard of controlled play, Chris tried to punch balls using pimples but the deciding factor to this match was Hari's short serving allowing him to make a third ball attacking shots and control the match. Hari won the match 13-11 11-7 11-9. Well done to both players!

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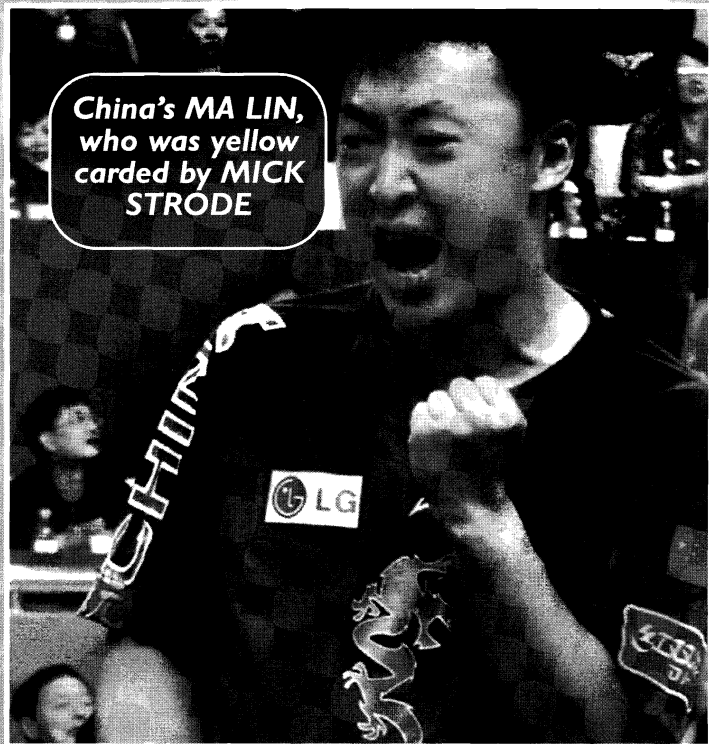
# DOHA MASCOT



## JOHN WOODFORD'S QATAR QUICK NOTES

- **NINETY NATIONS** competed.
- **HELEN ELLIOT**, 77 president of Scotland TT and former world champion was the only Scot present, with the Scotland team absent.
- **WALES**, boosted by Ryan Jenkins and Adam Robertson moved up twelve places at the end of play after beating Indonesia 3-1 in their last match with Jenkins unbeaten.
- **CHINA** brought seven coaches and two physios to Doha.
- **THE** total number of matches played was 463.
- **MICK STRODE**, referee and webmaster, was the only English umpire. He umpired many key matches including the mens team final, where he gave Ma Lin, the world No.1, a yellow card for returning late to the table after a time-out.
- **ZAGREB** will host the 2007 world individual championships. They won the vote by 89 to 49 against Sweden, where many nations clearly felt prices are too high.
- **WALES** did not send a womens team. Bethan Daunton, who was their top performer by far, has retired for good.
- **PLAYERS** in future must have passports for the country in which they live. This brings problems for Hong Kong and might have been trouble for Jason Sugrue - but he has an Irish passport, so he can continue for Ireland.
- **MEDIA** facilities were good although the two Press rooms were not large enough to accommodate 300. The results service was fair but slow at vital times. No telephones, except on fax machines, no ring-back facilities.
- **HOTELS:** All five and six-star; all except one, fairly close to the venue. Transport - buses every half-hour.
- **WEATHER:** Seven days of unbroken sunshine, 80° outside, much lower in the air-conditioned hotels and in the hall.
- **FLIGHTS:** Good service direct from Heathrow, day flights out, night flights back.

China's MA LIN,  
who was yellow  
carded by MICK  
STRODE



# DOHA DIARY

by Brian Halliday

**I WILL admit to a little pre event apprehension, as visits to this part of the world are not without their risks. Only one country, as far as I know, opted out for "terror" reasons, but from a personal standpoint, the lure of seeing the world's best players in action proved irresistible, Brian Halliday.**

Before the interesting table tennis bits a word about Doha. A capital city spread out at all sorts of angles over the sea. Wide and well planned expressways, green spaces, beds of flowers everywhere, and enough fountains to keep Charlie Dimmock inspired for years. White buildings and architecture pleasing on the eye. Mosques and Minarets. Pleasant and hospitable hosts, and everywhere evidence that this is a very rich country indeed. Perfect climate - it was snowing in England at the time, which only added to our enjoyment!

Accreditation at these events can take an age and this necessary chore meant that I missed the England womens first match against Norway. A 3-0 victory was followed by another deserved success over Luxembourg, with Georgina Walker in particularly good form. An easy win over Ireland set the girls up for the crunch match with the unbeaten Moldova.

Day 1 included the Opening Ceremony. Once you have seen one of these you have seen them all. Well not quite. Speeches were made where a round of mutual congratulations predominated. We were then treated to a sort of cultural extravaganza where numerous fierce looking Arabs in snow white robes, brandished swords and rifles while chanting songs from the latest Desert Hit Parade. It was all a bit like Lawrence of Arabia meets The Red Shadow. Pretty impressive stuff only spoiled by a huge sign advertising "Debenhams" on an adjoining building. The climax was quite breathtaking with a Laser and Light show, some rather loud music, and a firework display that must have lit up Qatar. With armed forces still at the other end of the Gulf I kept my fingers crossed that the explosions around the stadium would not attract a reciprocal display from neighbouring countries.

The next few days included meetings at The Swaythling Club and The Commonwealth Table Tennis Association. The AGM of the I.T.T.F. was attended by a very high percentage of the 197 member nations. The proposal from China and Germany to alter the service rule (yet again), this time by sending the ball above head height, was soundly defeated. The German, and World Singles finalist, Ebby Scholer

proposed the motion. He was immediately opposed by Japan's Koji Kimura, another ex World Champion, who pulled out a bat and ball, leapt onto the stage and gave a practicable demonstration as to why the proposal should fail. An interesting facet to this is that the two main protagonists are teaming up to play doubles together at the Veterans World Championships in Yokohama in June!

Back to the girls. A real cracker of a match against Moldova. With Helen Lower playing as well as I have seen her, she set up the final set for Georgina Walker with the match score at 2 games all. This was truly a match Georgina will never forget. She saved three match points, had another seven herself to clinch victory, and then caused English supporters to leap to their feet with a 16-14 in the fifth win over Chirita. The glory to Georgina but the main credit belongs to Helen.

Israel were the opposition in the final match, and medals were at stake albeit in the 3rd Division. Helen Lower again played very well. She had put in some inspired performances during the week but on this occasion could not quite carry the team through. Overall the future for our girls looks bright. Georgina, Kelly and Joanna all had their impressive moments. Team spirit looked good but there is still much work to do.

Major news broke on day 5 with the announcement that solvent based glues are on their way out. A firm decision has been shelved until 2007 and meantime experiments are to continue on water based glues. It is now certain that in a few years time the so called Speed Glues will be a thing of the past. A jolly good thing too! (Comments invited).

The ITTF announced today that negotiations were taking place with The Swaythling Club to take over the organisation of the Worlds Veterans Championships. With numbers approaching 3000 competitors the event is reaching saturation point.

There were some fantastic mens matches during the week. The decision to split the championships into two separate events ie one year individuals and the next team has definitely meant a rise in standards. Players are not so tired and are able to give maximum effort without worrying about individual events. Some countries are on the up, such as Hong Kong and Taiwan, while

others are slipping. France are not the power they were, and although the Swedes fought with their usual passion they may now be in an irreversible decline. Waldner was injured and as hard as Persson and Lundquist fought they were outgunned by Germany and later by the brilliant Korean team. The only slight change in technique that had changed slightly since Paris last year is in the increased speed of the arm movement. Players seem to get faster all the time, or is this observation due to my advancing years?

China duly dispatched Hong Kong in the Womens Final. The destination of the Corbillon Cup was rarely in doubt, in fact so confident were China that they introduced a 15 year old debutant in the final. She won the third match which gave her country the title yet again. Highlight, for me, of a pretty boring match was the Hong Kong No.1 Tie Yana who seemed to enjoy the whole experience. Even when the ball was crashed past her she found a funny side to it. The dour Chinese just grimaced!

China made it a double celebration by winning the Swaythling Cup against a gallant German trio. Never any doubt about the result - it was all a little too easy - especially for the good of the game.

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**MARK BAWDEN** Qualified Sports Psychologist. Mark has worked with the National Table Tennis Team. Currently working with the English Cricket Board.

ENGLAND supporters in Doha had a tough time explaining that England found themselves unable to field a senior team, or a team of younger men, but the pearl in the oyster was a stunning five days play by our womens team that contained three teenagers, won five matches out of six and lifted themselves seven places up the world list to No.38, writes John Woodford.

China of course, retained both the Swaythling Cup (presented by Alex Murdoch) and the Corbillon Cup. China had their strongest possible team led by Ma Lin (world No.1) plus Wang Liqin, Kong Linghui and Wang Hao. The championship format, a new and bizarre effort (dreamed up by China) allowed teams in the top twelve two chances to reach the final. This format is unlikely to be repeated at Bremen in 2006, so I am informed.

No team on the planet stood any chance of bringing down the Chinese mens and womens team. Germany were the surprise mens finalists - they lost twice to China - but got the silver medals by beating Korea 3-1. Back to the English ladies team. Helen Lower - I cannot recall watching her play better. She was full of fight. Her head never dropped for more than a split second when she occasionally lost points. England started off on the opening day slamming Norway and Portugal, both 3-0. Then came Luxembourg, led by the formidable Peggy Regenwetter. She won her two, but England (Lower, Walker,

# HIGH FIVE FOR ENGLAND WOMEN IN DOHA - AS CHINESE TAKE THE TROPHIES

TTN reporting team in Doha:  
JOHN WOODFORD,  
BRIAN HALLIDAY  
& MALCOLM  
MACFARLANE



ENGLAND'S WOMENS TEAM IN DOHA: (l.to.r) Coach STEEN KYST HANSEN, GEORGINA WALKER, KELLY SIBLEY, JOANNA PARKER and HELEN LOWER

Parker) won the rest in a two-hour clash. Georgina Walker is making progress as a senior England player, her footwork needs attention but her concentration is good and the ability to keep cool under pressure is her best asset. In the first of three huge battles during the week Georgina stopped Simone Haan 14-12 in the fifth after surviving match points. Ireland were England's fourth victims. They came bottom of the group, despite having Jing Yi Cao at No.1 - she was defeated 11-9 in the fifth by Georgina, another key win. Kelly Sibley made her Doha debut, winning 6 in the fifth against Michelle McGreevy - a

very promising desert debut for Kelly. She is only 15. England went on to win the group 3-2 against the top seeds Moldova, who fielded Elena Moccusov and Chirita Ludmila. Helen Lower beat both Russians in superb counter-hitting mode. With the score at 2-2 Georgina Walker rose to the occasion - she survived three match points and clinched her seventh, to win 14 against Ludmila. That match won the group for England. In the last second stage match England lost 1-3 to Israel. England's winning streak had ended but not before Helen Lower had defeated Pritula 9 in the fifth.

So Israel collected the gold medals, but no silvers for England, only one set of medals were given out. Summarising the England four-Lower played almost "out of her skin", Walker has made a lot of progress to securing an England berth on a permanent basis. Sibley and Parker are on a learning curve, Joanna's game needs the concentrated attention of coaches - she has to learn to keep the ball as low as possible and to develop her attack on both wings.



WOMEN'S TEAM PRESENTATION IN DOHA: ETTA Chairman ALEX MURDOCH is pictured second from the far left,

A 'Man of Vision' IVOR MONTAGU reproduced from the 1st issue of TTN



England's only umpire in Doha, MICK STRODE, is pictured officiating the Mens Team Final

Picture: Mariann Domonkos

## TABLE TENNIS NEWS

### THE ARCHITECT RETIRES

A Tribute to the Hon. I. G. S. Montague from Ivor Eyles, Chairman of the E.T.T.A.

Although our President talked over the past few years that it was time he should retire from the presidency of the English Table Tennis Association, it came as rather a shock when we were compelled to accept this at our recent Annual General Meeting.

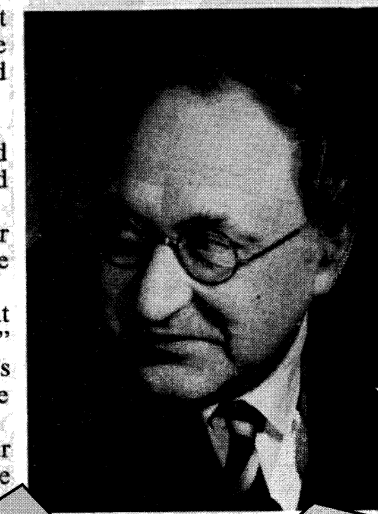
What can I say about a truly great man?

Founder of our Association, and the International Federation, and through some 40-odd years very jealous that our organisation should be both democratic and free.

His wise leadership and vision enabled our game to steer clear from the difficulties of professional and amateur players, whilst the Laws of the game will be for ever a memorial to him.

The clarity and wisdom of guiding and leading a game which at national level comprises some 90 countries, each with its own "power" groups operating, was something that had to be seen to realise Ivor's greatness and whilst no man is indispensable it will be a long time before one sees his likeness.

It is, however, most pleasing to me that as a Life Member of our Association, Ivor Montagu will still be there for guidance and advice and for this your Chairman I shall be for ever grateful.



# LARGER PREMIER NEXT SEASON ?

**THERE are proposals in place to increase the size of the Premier division to 16 teams next season. The focus will inevitably fall on divisions One (North) and (South) to see which teams will get the chance to join the top division next year, if those proposals are passed. With the constitution of all divisions likely to be drastically altered if these proposals go through most sides were keen to finish in as high a position as they could possibly achieve this season. All this led to some interesting debate and a lot of very positive feedback in favour of the proposals, writes Steve Kerns.**

There were no major surprises in division One (North) as Grove I and Ormesby I both won their four matches to stay in the same positions. But division One (South) on the other hand proved far less predictable as London Progress II finished the strongest to overhaul long-time leaders Ellenborough by one point. A rampant London Progress took all eight points from their last four matches whilst Ellenborough tasted defeat twice - 5-3 against Progress and agonisingly 6-2 against OLOP Impact I in the final round of games.

Of those players who have played a sizeable number of games over the season only three players managed to remain undefeated. Grove II's Shuang Zhao (26 wins out of 26) in division three (Midlands) posted the best record of all with Grove I's Wang Yanan in division One (North) and Wirral's Andrew Eden in division two (North) both notching up eighteen wins out of eighteen. The success of these three players will not be seen as a surprise to anyone. Perhaps the biggest shock of the weekend was the failure of Grove's star player Kou Lei to retain his unbeaten record. His 3-2 defeat in division One (North) against fellow Junior Chris Gregory (Coventry Phoenix) in his last game of the weekend must rate as one of the biggest upsets of the year.

**Division One (North):** The two big Guns Grove I and Ormesby I both won their last four matches to finish in first and second positions. A major plus for Grove was the vastly improved form of England No.3 Cadet Bradley Evans who was unbeaten in his seven singles as Grove hammered Wellow House School, Dewsbury I and Norwich Foxwood all by 8-0 margins. The



major shock came in their last match against relegated Coventry Phoenix where Thierry Tran had to concede his second game and England no. 12 Junior Boy Chris Gregory sensationally came back from 2-0 down to beat Kou Lei, a stunning upset which was also Kou Lei's only defeat of the season. Grove No.4 Wang Yanan made it eighteen wins out of eighteen over the course of the season. This match was actually a less than satisfactory affair as three games had to be conceded with Coventry turning up a player short to start with and Thierry Tran having to concede his second singles. Tran was also involved in another of the weekend's best matches, a dramatic encounter against Norwich's David Atkinson where he just came out on top 6,-9,-8, 6,12.

Ormesby were without Keith Rodger although Danny Welsh proved to be a good replacement. In December third-placed Norwich Foxwood had stunned Ormesby by holding them to what proved to be a very costly draw. Despite being pushed hard they made no mistake this time winning 7-1. Paul and Bryn Drinkhall both avenged their defeats against David Atkinson with hard-fought fifth set wins whilst Steve Bailey got the better of Martyn Gray 3-1, sweet revenge for his defeat in the first half. Norwich had to make do with Paul Cichelli's 3-0 win over Danny Welsh. Ormesby were also given a run for their money by Grantham IDS who only succumbed 5-3. Andy Wignall and Stephen Davies both beat Danny Welsh and Dave Harvey beat Steve Bailey 12-10

in the fifth end. But doubles for Bryn and Paul Drinkhall meant that Ormesby had already sealed the match with a 5-1 victory. The talented Paul Drinkhall who won his eight singles must take the Award for being the best player of this weekend and his recent training trip to China looks to be money well spent.

If the Premier division is reformatted to include 16 teams then third-placed Norwich Foxwood and fourth-placed Wellow House School will also be in the line for promotion. When they played each other it was a case of "Honours even" as David Atkinson beat both Mark Green and Lee Neil whilst Trevor Kerry hit back for Wellow House with excellent wins over Paul Cichelli and Martin Gray. Cichelli impressed with his -3, 13, 9,10 victory over Mark Green whilst Martin Gray took the scalp of the higher rated Dave Gannon. Both of these sides will fancy another bash at Premier division opposition next year.

**Division One (South):** This division produced a "grand stand" finish and for long-time leaders Ellenborough it ended in real disappointment. With a three point lead going in to the final weekend Ellenborough started as the favourites to take the title, although with London Progress II and OLOP Impact I left to play they must have known that there was still a lot left to play for. Progress roared back into contention by beating Ellenborough 5-3 on the Saturday afternoon and suddenly the division had taken on a totally different outlook. Gary Tendler got Ellenborough off to a

great start with his 11-9 in the fifth set victory over Nebeel Alzarouni and Simon Phillipz contributed a vital 3-2 success against James Sprackling. But it wasn't enough as a double for Herbert Noah and single wins for Alzarouni, Sprackling and Darek Zukowski saw Progress through to a vital 5-3 victory.

Ellenborough stayed on target on Sunday morning by beating EBS Orange Northants I 6-2 but this was "no stroll in the park" either. Six games went to a fifth end and two of Ellenborough's victories were achieved at 11-9 in the decider as Gary Tendler just saw off Dave Gattis and Matthew Spero scraped home against Ryan Keates. Still "a win is a win" and Ellenborough went into their last match knowing that if they could draw with OLOP Impact I they would be Champions unless London Progress were to beat EBS Northants 8-0. Unfortunately neither David Barr or Nigel Eckersley had read the script and they took their four singles. With Hari Gehlot adding two excellent wins over Matthew Spero (3-0) and Jimmy Walsh (3-2) OLOP ran out 6-2 winners. No doubt aware that their rivals were struggling an ebullient London Progress II left nothing to chance by walloping EBS Orange Northants I 8-0. Herbert Noah, Naheel Alzarouni and Darek Zurowski were joined by Euan Liddle for this match and they raced through their eight singles. This gave London Progress II the title by one point from Ellenborough with DML Plymouth only one further point adrift. Fourth placed Cippenham hung onto fourth place, a finishing position which might be enough to guarantee them Premier division play next year.

DML Plymouth also finished strongly with three victories - beating OLOP Impact (5-3), EBS Orange (7-1) and Byng Hall Farningham Print (8-0). They will look back on their Sunday morning performance against Cippenham I, with disappointment, as Cippenham raced into a 4-0 lead before running out 5-3 winners. Cippenham's Lee Dredge who beat both Marketa Myskova and Kevin Buddell took the Player-of-the-Match Award whilst Mark Butler excelled with his 3-1 victory over Paul Whiting. Ace defender Ms. Myskova made her presence felt in her second singles as she beat Butler 3-2.

**Division Two (North):** Humpty's Club are the new division two (North) Champions. With a two point lead going into the last

weekend of matches they eventually took the title by three points despite losing 5-3 against mid-table Potteries. This defeat certainly seems to have shaken the Humpty's side up as they produced a superb effort in their next match to beat Oakbank Fastbats 6-2. Jason Ramage and Gary Knights both scored great wins over Stephen Denny and Ramage added a second important victory against Andrew Woodhead. The Oakbank reply came from Shaun Marples who beat both Gary Knights and Leigh Jefferies.

It wasn't a happy weekend for Derwent II who started the weekend in second place and eventually finished fourth. They were well off the pace in round 13 against Humpty's Club crashing to an 8-0 defeat. From the first match where Garry Knights beat Chris Nicholls 11-8 in the deciding game to the last game where Paul Wood got the better of Andrew Nicholls. It just wouldn't go Derwent's way as Humpty's clinched the title in style.

**Division Two (South):** There was never any danger that London Progress III were going to be caught and they went on take the title by five points. But this last weekend was their least productive of the season as they were held to a draw by NETTS and well beaten 7-1 by a rampant Generation II. Both of these sides brought in reinforcements to achieve these results. NETTS included David Cole in their line-up and he made his mark by beating Euan Liddle 3-2 although he missed out in the fifth end against an inform Egle Adomelyte. Generation's Sunday line-up which featured the all-action Richard Tilford at no. one gave a glimpse of what they might have been able to achieve had this side played for the whole season. Tilford, Victor Imiseev and Graham Toole were all undefeated as Generation notched up a most emphatic success, Progress's only defeat of the season.

NETTS held onto second place, drawing both games on the Saturday and scraping home 5-3 on both occasions on the Sunday. David Cole held the NETTS side together against Guildford with wins over Jason Tendler and Adam Laws whilst Ramesh Bhalla hit back as he got the better of Fred Dove and Vytas Rybakas. Graham Watts had beaten Steve Kerns comfortably 3-0 and therefore it was a relieved Fred Dove who came back from 1-0 down to get the better of Watts 3-1 to secure NETTS's point.

NETTS had a few moments of real anxiety in their last match of the weekend against relegated EBS Orange II as they fell 3-0 behind. Mark Purcell played superbly to beat Vytas Rybakas 3-0 and further 3-2 wins for Dannel Pang over Steve Kerns and for Toby Wright against Paul Davison left NETTS in real trouble. Fortunately Fred Dove came to his side's rescue with a 3-1 victory over Dickson Pang. With Paul Davison producing his best play of the day to blast his way past Mark Purcell and Rybakas making short work of Dannel Pang it was fitting that it should be Fred Dove (who had been NETTS's most consistent player throughout the season) who was able to secure the victory for his side. Dove made no mistake in disposing of Toby Wright 3-0.

**Division Three (Midlands):** The last round of games failed to produce any major upsets and the two leading teams Bedford Modern I and Grove II both won all their matches. This gave Bedford Modern the title by a single point. Bedford had three relatively comfortable wins and a distinctly tricky 5-3 victory over Kingshurst Bribar I on the Sunday morning. Whether it was a case of Bedford having enjoyed the Wolverhampton Night life on the Saturday evening a little too much or

*continued on page 26*

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London Progress	10	8	1	1	60	20	17
BATTS Team Peniel I	10	6	1	3	46	34	13
Barnet	10	5	3	2	42	38	13
Seasiders	10	5	0	5	42	38	10
JAGS	10	3	3	4	38	42	9
Horsham I	10	3	2	5	32	48	8
Darlington I	10	2	2	6	37	43	6
Derwent I	10	2	0	8	23	57	4
<b>DIVISION ONE NORTH</b>							
Grove I	14	11	2	1	89	23	24
Ormesby I	14	10	3	1	82	30	23
Norwich Todd Foxwood	14	7	4	3	58	54	18
Wellow House School	14	7	2	5	58	54	16
Grantham IDS	14	4	2	8	47	65	10
Dewsbury	14	4	2	8	43	69	10
Halton Croda	14	1	6	7	42	70	8
Coventry Pheonix	14	0	3	11	29	83	3
<b>DIVISION ONE SOUTH</b>							
London Progress II	14	10	2	2	76	36	22
Ellenborough	14	10	1	3	74	38	21
DML Plymouth	14	9	2	3	69	43	20
Cippenham	14	7	2	5	56	56	16
OLOP Impact	14	6	1	7	59	53	13
Byng Hall Farningham Pr't	14	3	3	8	37	75	9
PSP Wiz'n'about.com	14	2	2	10	40	72	6
EBS-Orange Northampton	14	2	1	11	37	75	5
<b>DIVISION TWO NORTH</b>							
Humpty's Club	14	11	1	2	77	35	23
Oakbank Fastbats	14	10	0	4	67	45	20
Blackpool	14	8	3	3	61	51	19
Derwent II	14	8	2	4	62	50	18
Potteries	14	5	3	6	51	59	13
ELGRE Nottingham I	14	3	2	9	50	62	8
Uxbridge Burton	14	3	0	11	38	72	6
Wirral	14	1	3	10	40	72	5
<b>DIVISION TWO SOUTH</b>							
London Progress III	14	10	3	1	72	40	23
NETTS	14	6	6	2	61	51	18
Generation 2	14	5	6	3	59	53	16
Cippenham II	14	5	5	4	56	56	15
Oxford Fireplace Centre	14	4	6	4	59	53	14
Guildford	14	3	6	5	57	55	12
Ashford I	14	4	2	8	51	61	10
EBS-Orange North'pton II	14	1	2	11	33	79	4
<b>DIVISION 3 MIDLANDS</b>							
Bedford Modern	14	12	1	1	85	27	25
Grove II	14	12	0	2	80	32	24
Ajax Wolvey	14	7	5	2	62	50	19
Rotherham Scorpions	14	8	2	4	66	46	18
Kinghurst Bribar	14	4	2	8	50	62	10
Woodfield	14	3	0	11	43	69	6
Birmingham University II	14	2	2	10	37	75	6
Darlington III	14	1	2	11	25	87	4
<b>DIVISION 3 NORTH</b>							
Grove III	14	11	3	0	86	26	25
Darlington II	14	11	1	2	85	27	23
Club Mid-Cheshire	14	9	4	1	80	32	22
Dewsbury II	14	6	4	4	62	50	16
Halton Croda II	14	3	2	9	37	75	8
Barrow	14	1	5	8	34	78	7
Seasiders II	14	1	4	9	40	72	6
Clarks Wakefield	14	1	3	10	23	89	5
<b>DIVISION 3 SOUTH</b>							
York Gardens	14	12	2	0	89	23	24
London Progress IV	14	10	2	2	80	32	22
Horsham II	14	10	2	2	74	38	22
Hastings	14	6	2	6	64	48	14
Guernsey	14	5	2	7	41	71	12
Ashford II	14	4	1	9	45	67	9
Waterside	14	1	3	10	32	80	5
Rok Build	14	0	2	12	23	89	2
<b>DIVISION 3 SOUTH &amp; WEST</b>							
Brighton University	14	11	2	1	82	30	24
JAGS II	14	12	0	2	80	32	24
Guildford II	14	8	2	4	67	45	18
OLOP Impact II	14	8	1	5	65	47	17
BATTS Team Peniel II	14	5	2	7	50	62	12
Horsham III	14	5	1	8	47	65	11
NWF	14	3	0	11	40	72	6
Britannia Notcutts Ipswich	14	0	0	14	17	95	0
<b>DIVISION 4</b>							
Ormesby II	14	13	1	0	94	18	27
Northfield	14	10	2	2	75	37	22
Bedford Modern II	14	8	3	3	71	41	19
Grimsby	14	8	3	3	66	46	19
ELGRE Nottingham II	14	4	1	9	44	68	9
Grove IV	14	4	1	9	43	69	9
Rotherham Scorpions II	14	2	0	12	26	86	4
Isle of Man	14	1	1	12	29	83	3

BRITISH LEAGUE TABLES



**SENIORS**

Premier	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex	3	3	0	0	20	10	6(72-44)
Devonshire	3	3	0	0	20	10	6(66-43)
Yorkshire	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Middlesex	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Glamorgan	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Kent	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Surrey	3	0	1	2	12	18	1
Leicestershire	3	0	0	3	9	21	0

**Division 1A**

Durham	4	4	0	0	36	4	8
Yorkshire 2nd	4	3	0	1	21	19	6
South Yorkshire	4	3	0	1	19	21	6
Lincolnshire	4	2	0	2	22	18	4
Lancashire	4	2	0	2	21	19	4
Cheshire	4	1	0	3	16	24	2
Worcestershire	4	1	0	3	15	25	2
Suffolk	4	0	0	4	10	30	0

**Division 1B**

Berkshire	5	4	1	0	33	17	9
Sussex 1st	4	4	0	0	28	12	8
Wdtsire	4	1	2	1	20	20	4
Devonshire 2nd	5	1	1	3	23	27	3
Middlesex 2nd	4	1	1	2	16	24	3
Glamorgan 2nd	4	1	0	3	18	22	2
Sussex 2nd	4	0	1	3	12	28	1

*Hertfordshire have withdrawn, their record has been deleted*

**Division 2A**

Derbyshire	6	6	0	0	44	16	12
Northumberland	6	5	0	1	43	17	10
Cleveland	6	4	0	2	37	23	8
Warwickshire 1st	6	3	0	3	34	26	6
Leicestershire 2nd	6	2	0	4	21	39	4
Warwickshire 2nd	6	1	0	5	14	46	2
Cumbria	6	0	0	6	17	43	0

**Division 2B**

Cornwall 1st	6	5	0	1	41	19	10
Hampshire	4	3	1	0	25	15	6
Gloucestershire	3	2	0	1	23	7	5
Somerset	3	2	0	1	14	16	4
Isle of Wight	5	1	1	3	21	29	3
Avon	4	1	0	3	13	27	2
Cornwall 2nd	5	0	0	5	13	37	0

**Division 2C**

Nottinghamshire	6	5	1	0	46	14	11
Cambridgeshire	6	5	1	0	41	19	11
Northamptonshire	6	4	0	2	39	21	8
Suffolk 2nd	6	2	1	3	27	33	5
Hertfordshire 2nd	6	2	0	4	22	38	4
Bedfordshire	6	1	1	4	25	35	3
Norfolk	6	0	0	6	10	50	0

**Division 2D**

Buckinghamshire	5	4	1	0	39	11	9
Surrey 2nd	5	2	2	1	31	19	6
Oxfordshire	5	2	2	1	25	25	6(102-90)
Kent 2nd	5	2	2	1	25	25	6(93-100)
Essex 2nd	5	1	1	3	19	39	3
Berkshire 2nd	5	0	0	5	11	39	0

**JUNIORS**

**Premier Division**

Derbyshire	3	3	0	0	19	11	6
Glamorgan	3	2	1	0	18	12	5
Yorkshire	3	1	2	0	17	13	4
Cheshire	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Buckinghamshire	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Essex	3	0	1	2	13	17	1
Lincolnshire	3	0	1	2	12	18	1
Devonshire	3	0	0	3	10	20	0

**Division 1A**

Durham	7	7	0	0	62	8	14
Yorkshire 2nd	7	4	2	1	50	20	10
Nottinghamshire	7	4	2	1	42	28	10
Lancashire	7	3	2	2	38	32	8
Warwickshire	7	2	2	3	27	43	6
Cleveland	7	1	2	4	27	43	4
Essex 2nd	7	1	0	6	17	53	2(80-173)
Cumbria	7	1	0	6	17	53	2(77-174)

**Division 1B**

Kent	6	5	1	0	41	19	11
Surrey	7	4	3	0	44	26	11
Buckingham 2n	6	4	1	1	39	21	9
Sussex	7	4	0	3	38	32	8
Glamorgan 2nd	7	3	0	4	29	41	6
Middlesex	6	2	0	4	24	36	4
Gwent	7	1	1	5	30	40	3
Dorset	6	0	0	6	15	45	0

**Division 2A**

Northampton	6	6	0	0	51	9	12
South Yorkshire	6	5	0	1	39	21	10
Cheshire 2nd	6	3	1	2	33	27	7
Lincolnshire 2nd	6	2	1	3	28	32	5
Shropshire	6	2	0	4	21	39	4
Hertfordshire	6	1	0	5	23	37	2

**COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS TABLES**  
 compiled by Leslie Smith  
 Tables include all results received  
 by 7th March 2004

Nottingham 2nd	6	0	2	4	15	45	2
<b>Division 2B</b>							
Somerset	6	4	1	1	41	19	9
Hampshire	6	4	1	1	38	22	9
Surrey 2nd	6	4	1	1	32	28	9
Buckingham 3rd	6	2	2	2	28	32	6
Devonshire 2nd	6	2	1	3	25	35	5
Oxfordshire	6	1	1	4	22	38	3
Sussex 2nd	6	0	1	5	24	36	1

<b>Division 3A</b>							
Essex 3rd	6	6	0	0	50	10	12
Norfolk 1st	6	5	0	1	48	12	10
Bedfordshire 1st	6	3	1	2	35	25	7
Norfolk 2nd	6	3	1	2	30	30	7
Cambridgeshire	6	1	1	4	17	43	3(75-139)
Bedfordshire 2nd	6	1	1	4	17	43	3(71-138)
Huntingdonshire	6	0	0	6	13	47	0

<b>Division 3B</b>							
Durham 2nd	6	5	1	0	51	9	11
Lancashire 2nd	6	4	1	1	36	24	9
Staffordshire	6	2	3	1	33	27	7
Worcestershire	5	1	1	3	20	30	3
Northampton 2nd	4	1	1	2	16	24	3
Northumberland	3	0	1	2	7	23	1
Conwy	4	0	0	4	7	33	0

<b>Division 3C</b>							
Cornwall 1st	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Avon	5	3	0	2	27	23	6
Devonshire 3rd	3	2	1	0	21	9	5
Gloucestershire	5	1	1	3	20	30	3
Cornwall 2nd	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Devonshire 4th	3	0	0	3	6	24	0

<b>Division 3D</b>							
Kent 2nd	5	5	0	0	39	11	10
Middlesex 2nd	5	4	0	1	40	10	8
Buckingham 4th	5	2	1	2	22	28	5
Surrey 3rd	5	1	1	3	17	33	3
Sussex 3rd	5	1	1	3	16	34	3
Wiltshire	5	0	1	4	16	34	1

**CADETS**

**Premier Division**

Durham	6	5	1	0	43	17	11
Derbyshire	6	4	0	2	34	26	8
Lancashire	6	4	0	2	33	27	8
Lincolnshire	7	3	1	3	40	30	7
Sussex 1st	6	3	1	2	34	26	7
Surrey 1st	7	2	0	5	28	42	4
Suffolk	4	0	1	3	14	26	1
Gloucestershire	4	0	0	4	4	36	0

**Division 1A**

Yorkshire	7	6	1	0	51	19	13
Cleveland	7	5	1	1	43	27	11
South Yorkshire	7	4	1	2	38	32	9
Cheshire	7	3	2	2	41	29	8
Warwickshire	7	3	0	4	36	34	6
Northamptonshire	7	3	0	4	36	34	6
Suffolk 2nd	3	1	0	2	10	20	2
Norfolk	4	0	1	3	14	26	1
Leicestershire	7	0	0	7	11	59	0

**Division 1B**

Somerset	7	6	1	0	46	24	13
Sussex 2nd	7	5	2	0	48	22	12
Worcestershire	7	5	0	2	45	25	10
Gwent	7	4	0	3	37	33	8
Surrey 2nd	7	3	1	3	34	36	7
Glamorgan	7	2	0	5	23	47	4
Berkshire	7	1	0	6	24	46	2
Sussex 3rd	7	0	0	7	23	47	0

**VETERANS**

**Premier Division**

Kent	3	3	0	0	21	9	6
Essex	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Sussex	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Surrey	3	2	0	1	15	15	4
Cheshire	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Yorkshire	3	0	1	2	11	19	1
Lancashire	3	0	1	2	11	19	1
Dorset 1st	3	0	1	2	10	20	1

**Division 1A**

Northumberland	7	6	0	1	46	24	12
Cheshire 2							

# BRITISH LEAGUE

continued from from page 23

that their opponents produced a genuinely inspired performance is open to conjecture but it was clearly a very good effort by the Kingshurst Bribar side and Ian Ferguson in particular. With Ferguson beating both Dave Welsman and Keiron Dabbs Bedford found themselves 2-3 down.

Fortunately Mick Harper, Welsman and Andy Trott took their last three singles comfortably to leave them as narrow 5-3 winners. A glance at the current ETTA Ratings List gives a clear insight into the quality of this Bedford Modern side. Andy Trott is ranked at no. 116 in England yet he appears at no. 4 in their line-up. How many first division sides would be happy to have a number 4 player ranked this highly ?

Grove II had to settle for second place but in England No.2 lady Shuang Zhao they had the player with the best record in the whole British League. Undeclared in her 26 sets she will have won many admirers with her willingness to play at this level and for her general sporting demeanour. Fast improving Cadet Ben Barlow (Rotherham Scorpions) who had scored a superb 13-11 fifth set victory over Mick Harper gave her a good run for her money taking her to five sets; as did his team-mate Bill Grant. Barlow also made his mark with his 3-1 win over Kent counter-hitter Keith Yarnley (Grove II), Yarnley's only defeat of the weekend.

**Division Three (North):** Grove III eventually came out on top of this division as they finished stronger than their rivals Darlington IV and Club Mid-Cheshire to take the title by two points. They effectively sealed their victory on the Sunday morning with a hard-fought 4-4 draw against Club Mid-Cheshire. 3-1 ahead and 4-3 down this match produced shocks galore before Grove's Robert Morris earned his side their point with a 3-0 victory against Andrew Davies. Grove's Damien Nicholls scored a superb 11-8 in the deciding set victory over Mike Johns but was found wanting in his second singles, succumbing 3-1 to James Eaton. Club Mid-Cheshire No.2 Wayne Percival took both of his singles and this earned him the Player of the Match Award into the bargain. Grove fully deserved to take the title as they also had to play second-placed Darlington IVs as well. This time they triumphed 5-3 although their opponents were without their no. one player David Meads who was away on international duty. Ashley Nicholls was the Grove match-winner with two excellent wins. He beat Kevin Wilson 3-2 and added a second vital 3-0 success against Andrew Leighton. Nicholls's win over Leighton really seems to have given his side a lift because Myles Evans went onto beat Kevin Wilson 3-0 and Damien Nicholls clinched the Grove victory with a 3-1 win over Philip Robinson.

Darlington's clash with Club Mid-Cheshire also ended all square. And what a tight match it turned out to be. In the most nerve-racking of final matches Chris Close just prevailed -9, 8,12,-5, 16 against a gallant Katy Ingham. They don't come much closer than that ! Andrew Leighton repeated his first half victory over Mike Johns but he was outgunned by Phil Biggs despite racing into a 2-0 lead. Biggs took what was an excellent encounter -6,-9, 4, 8,9. For Darlington there was no reprieve against Seasiders II as they again found themselves involved in a tense hard-fought match. Andrew Leighton and Kevin Wilson both got the better of Seasiders no. one Brian Allison so you might have thought that they should win comfortably. But it wasn't the case as Seasiders hit back with Cherith Graham beating Chris Close 3-1, Ian McElwee getting the better of Philip Robinson 3-0 and Joe Hurdley seeing off Close 12-10 in the decider. Darlington were very relieved to win 5-3.

**Division Three (South):** York Gardens duly took the title but in doing so they dropped points for the first time this season. Both Horsham II (who eventually finished third) and London Progress IV (who stayed above Horsham on games count-back) held the Champions to draws. These three sides finished well clear of fourth placed Hastings in what wasn't a particularly evenly matched division. Peter Barrow was the York Gardens hero against both Horsham and Progress as he took all four of his singles although it was the opposition's Arnaud Cherre who won twice to take the Player-of-the-Match Award in the game against London Progress. "Blast from the past" Steve Holloway also made his mark here with an excellent victory over a "name for the future" - Matt Staines. Horsham II excelled against York Gardens as Chris Mundy made no mistake in beating Richard Mak 3-0 to earn his side a share of the points. Garden's Vola Chornobab produced his best play of the season as he beat both Mayur Mayithia and Barrie Gilbert.

When a player is awarded the Player of the Match Award despite not

winning his two singles it generally means he has played outstandingly well in one of his matches. That certainly appears to be the case with Guernsey's Phil Ogier who scored a superb win over Horsham No.1 Mayur Mayithia in his side's 6-2 defeat. Phil Hunkin also showed up very well with a fine win over Horsham no. 2 Jeremy Wilson although he missed out against their no. 4. Chris Mundy. It was a particularly tough weekend for Guernsey who also faced London Progress IV and York Gardens. They had to make do with Mark Pipet's win over Progress's Dan Canon as they were hammered 7-1 and 8-0 respectively. Ogier's battle with Matt Staines appears worthy of mention as Ogier stormed into a 2-0 lead before his opponent came back to win -9,-5,11, 8,9. Guernsey did taste success against bottom side ROK Build despite a hesitant start where they slipped 2-0 behind. Rory Harries beat Peter Bretel 3-0 and Sam Bruty scored a fine 3-1 win over Phil Ogier before Guernsey rallied to take the next six singles. Phil Hunkin's 12-10 in the fifth end victory over Sam Bruty appears to have been the pick of the action.

**Division Three (South & West):** Tied on 16 points going into the last round of matches JAGS II and Brighton University both picked up a maximum eight points from their last four games. But it was Brighton who took the title as their four successes - three 7-1 wins over Britannia Notcutts Ipswich, Guildford II and Horsham III and a 6-2 success against BATT'S Team Peniel II eventually left them with a record that was superior by two games to their London rivals. Their leading player Jack Boulton won all eight of his singles whilst their No.4 Rory Scott only missed out against BATT'S's Paul Dewhurst and their No.2 Johnny Clarke against Neil Brierley (again from BATT'S). In the match against BATT'S it was their no. 3 Wen Weixu who came to the rescue by taking his two singles, which was enough to earn him the Player of the Match Award. The improved form of Rory Scott undoubtedly played a major part in Brighton's success. Having won 11 out of his 20 singles going into the last round of matches his 7 wins out of 8 made a big difference to his team's ultimate success.

JAGS had never looked quite as comfortable because although they beat BATT'S Team Peniel II 7-1 their other wins were achieved by the following margins - 6-2 against Horsham III, 6-2 versus OLOP Impact II and 5-3 against Guildford II. A very close finish between two evenly matched sides. David Williams proved to be an excellent No.2 for JAGS as he won all eight of his singles.

**Division Four:** There was never any doubt that Ormesby II would take the title. Four points ahead going into the last round of matches they eventually finished five points ahead of their local rivals Northfield. However they did drop their only point of the season on the Sunday morning when Northfield held them to a 4-4 draw. Having surged into a 3-1 lead Ormesby looked to be heading in the right direction, only to run into difficulties for the first time this season. Steve Cooper hit back with a 3-2 victory over Tony Wilson. John Bousfield levelled the scores with his 3-2 success against Andrew Wilson and for the only time this season Ormesby found themselves behind as Mark Walpole got the better of Martyn Clarke at 11-9 in the fifth end. The last match was "touch-and-go" throughout before Tim Surrey secured his second victory at 11-9 in the decider to leave the scores level. Surrey who had also beaten Walpole 11-8 in the fifth end deservedly took the Player-of-the-Match Award. ELGRE Nottingham II also gave a good account of themselves against Ormesby before succumbing 5-3. Ormesby were always ahead but ELGRE finished strongly by taking the last two games. Tim Surrey the Ormesby hero against Northfield drew a blank on this occasion, losing to both Adam and Craig Feargrieve.

Northfield were also held to a draw in their last match by third-placed Bedford Modern II. Despite being 4-2 ahead they weren't able to secure the victory as Hamish Yeung got the better of John Bousfield 3-2 and in a dramatic finale John Alsop just came out on top 6,5, -2,-11, 10 against Nick Corking after the closest of encounters.

As with many of the divisions there was a clear demarcation line between the top teams and the less experienced sides and that was certainly the case with this division. Fourth placed Grimsby who finished strongly with 6 points from the weekend scored a massive ten points more than fifth placed ELGRE Nottingham. Grimsby disposed of ELGRE 6-2 with Bryn Tyler and John Hancock both remaining undefeated.

**BERKSHIRE**

by John Cunningham

THE READING Closed Championships were held over the weekend of the February 14/15 at the Cippenham Club, Slough.

**MENS SINGLES**

Hari Gehlot made it four Reading men's singles titles in a row, while Mary Allan recaptured the ladies crown.

Hari began the defence of his title with an 11-3, 12-10, 11-3 victory over Lee Calcutt in the first knockout round, Lee having earlier defeated Tony Stevens 11-6, 7-11, 11-2, 11-9 in his group. Hari then defeated Nick Heaps in the semi-finals 11-3, 11-7, 11-7.

In the other semi-final, Marks Banks recovered from losing the first game to beat Graham Outrim 6-11, 11-6, 11-5, 11-5.

In the final Mark started brilliantly against Hari, racing 5-1 ahead, and he held on to take the first 11-5.

In the next there was a noticeable change of tactics from Hari as he stopped putting too much spin on the ball for Mark to feed off, before coming in with his kill. Hari this time raced 7-0 ahead and he held on comfortably to win that game 11-3 and level the match.

In the next Hari again got off to a flyer at 3-0 up, but Mark hit back this time to level at four-all. An amazing recovery shot saw Hari pull 9-6 ahead and he then took the next two points to go two games to one in the lead.

Mark did his best to seize the advantage in the next, but Hari was now looking calm and confident and increasing errors from Mark saw Hari quickly ease 7-2 ahead, at 9-3 the writing was on the wall for Mark, and despite a brief rally a final classy forehand from Hari down the Banks backhand court sealed the match and the title 5-11, 11-3, 11-6, 11-6.

**LADIES SINGLES**

The ladies singles also began with a group knockout stage with Mary Allan and Lisa Bosley comfortably qualifying for the final ahead of Diane Taylor and Lyusta Kuzmina.

The eagerly final awaited final looked to be

**COUNTY NOTES**



heading Lisa's way early on as she confidently went 4-1 ahead. Mary soon hit back though to level at four-all and she then took the next six points for a commanding 10-4 lead. After missing with a backhand chance, Mary sealed the first 11-5 at the next opportunity with a terrific forehand drive.

The second game was much closer as Lisa's confidence grew with an 8-7 lead. Mary came back to lead 9-8, only for Lisa to re take the lead at 10-9. A good serve from Mary levelled matters at 10-all and she also took the next two points to close out the game 12-10 against a disappointed Lisa.

A brilliant recovery shot from Mary gave her the first point in the third game and a good low chop saw her 9-5 ahead and on the brink of victory, but a determined Lisa hit back to within a point at 9-8 and again at 10-9, but a superb final point went the way of Mary as she brilliantly blocked Lisa's forehand drive across the table for the winning shot and her fourth Ladies singles title in the past six years 11-5, 12-10, 11-9.

**DOUBLES**

In the men's doubles event, Hari and Ramesh Gehlot proved far too hot to handle for Derek Wood and Nick Heaps and the Gehlot's played

some superb table tennis to win comfortably 11-4, 11-5, 11-5.

In the ladies doubles the experienced pairing of Mary Allan and Wendy Porter took the title ahead of Lisa Bosley and young Ayonija Sundararajan 11-9, 11-4, 11-4.

The mixed doubles saw Mary Allan and Hari Gehlot 9-4 ahead in the first game against Lisa Bosley and Bob Davis and looking all set for a fourth mixed doubles title in a row.

However, Lisa and Bob played some very impressive table tennis to come back to win the first 12-10 and they also took the second game as well, 11-8.

Hari's forehand dominated the third as he and Mary hit back to take that game 11-8.

Great serving and controlled hitting saw Lisa and Bob 10-5 ahead in the fourth, and although Hari and Mary closed to within a point at 10-9, Hari's attempted loop in the next point found the net to give Lisa and Bob the title 12-10, 11-8, 8-11, 11-9.

**VETERAN EVENTS**

In the veteran singles semi-finals Hari Gehlot beat Bob Davis 11-8, 12-10, 11-4 and Graham Outrim came from two games down to defeat David Streak 7-11, 10-12, 11-9, 11-9, 11-4.

In the final Hari beat Graham in three-straight games 11-8 11-8, 11-4. The Senior Veteran's title went to Graham Outrim after he beat David Streak in the final 11-4, 10-12, 11-5 11-9.

**READING SPORTING AWARD**

The 12th Reading Sports Personality of the Year awards were held recently, at the Renaissance Hotel. 150 sports stars and their guests enjoyed a superb evening and it was covered by local TV.

The first award of the evening was the prestigious 'Mayor of Reading Award' which was presented by the Mayoress, Jeanette Skeats to the Waylen Street-based Reading Resource Centre table tennis club. The team's philosophy is 'all for one and one for all' which helps maintain members loyalty and commitment.

Although only formed in December 2002, the Reading Resource team now play in and have quickly reaching the top of Division 6 in the Reading league.

Team captain is Andrew Syed, brother of Matthew. In his own right Andrew is a former England champion and winner of over 40 major titles. Andrew said "All 12 of our team have been honoured to have received this award and to have also won the Cunningham Cup for Courage in the face of adversity from Wokingham District Sports Council makes this year a remarkable and extraordinary year for us".

**CHESHIRE**

by Alan Blears

DESPITE being "squeezed" as usual by the Wirral and Greater Manchester education areas, there was an encouraging entry of younger boys in the Cheshire Schools Individuals, a possibly significant pointer to the future, about which more later. The girls' entry, although of a good standard, was worryingly small.

Girls U-11: W - Corrina Bebbington; R/U - Helen Dennett

Boys U-11: W - Matthew Riley; R/U - Joe Gibney

Girls U-13: W - Fiona Dennett; R/U - Lauren Dempsey

Boys U-13: W - Richard Hague; R/U - Paul Kershaw



**BERKSHIRE: ANDREW SYED is pictured (far left) with the Mayoress JEANETTE SKEATS (centre), and other members of the Resource Centre TTC, CHRIS NORRIS, NICKY PARTON & ANDREW FLINPONY**

## COUNTY NOTES -2

*Girls U-16:* W – Lynsey Pich; R/U – Amy Walker

*Boys U-16:* W – David Billington; R/U – Mark Roscaleer

*Boys U-19:* W – George Yardley; R/U – Philip Weber

### Junior County Championships

Paul Ingham has sent me the results of all the cadet and junior county championship matches from the first round, which while showing that the teams should be secure from relegation, also highlight some problems which need to be addressed.

The prime target of the junior first team was to survive in the Premier Division without Danny Horner, and hopefully this may already have been achieved. Karen Shepherd and Sophie Byron, a late replacement for the unavailable Liz Dennett, were superb, with Sophie beating no. 8 junior Gemma Chapman in straight games. For the boys, Tom Page battled through to three wins.

The junior second team are currently lying fourth in Division 2A, with Fiona Dennett, Hayley Parker and Sophie Byron – who seems to pop up everywhere – all unbeaten.

The cadets in Division 1A still have some work to do, lying sixth out of nine, despite Hayley Parker and – guess who? – Sophie Byron again being unbeaten.

As Paul points out, these results highlight a huge gulf in standard between the boys and the girls. Altogether the girls won a magnificent 43 sets out of 44 (average: 97.72%), while the boys won 10 out of 66 (average: 15.15%).

The problems for the boys will be compounded by the forthcoming loss of Richard and Mitchell Barker, as the family will shortly be off to start a fresh life in New Zealand.

However, as stated earlier, a promising crop of U-11 and U-13 boys showed up in the schools competition and must be actively encouraged. In Stockport, Jacob Crabtree has been around for a few years, but is still U-13 and may yet prove to have the commitment and temperament to make the grade.

Nor is there room for complacency with the girls. Next season the juniors should be able to cope with the ascent to the senior ranks of Karen Shepherd, and the cadets should have another strong squad of Jordyn Layfield, Fiona Dennett and Caroline Hallows, with part-timer Amy Walker a competent reserve.

There are, though, for the first time for many years, no Cheshire girls in the U-13 rankings, and the loss to girl's football of Emma Kelly is an undoubted blow.

However, with their past records, I am sure that Stockport, mid-Cheshire and the Wirral – and hopefully other areas – will unearth some potential stars.

LES JONES, the Wirral's table tennis supreme and former ETTA Coach of the Year, has been forced by health problems to draw in his horns. He is handing over responsibility for the area's elite training sessions on Wednesdays to Andrew Eden. Andrew will be assisted by Katy Parker, a young lady who can play a bit, I believe.

However, Les is certainly not retiring and will still be coaching up-and-coming youngsters umpteen times a week.

Stockport veteran Doreen Schofield had a good time in Hereford at the VETTS Western Masters. She won the O-60 Singles section,



**CORNWALL: Senior Mens & Womens Singles Champions JEREMY WILLIAMS & SHIRLEY LUCKHURST, whilst pictured right is Junior Girls Champion YAINA ANDREW**

beating Mary Sawyer in the final, and was semi-finalist in the O-50s. She and Di Johnson, who is enjoying a table tennis second coming, also won the O-60 Doubles, with Di taking the Consolation Singles.

Also from Stockport, Lorna Harper too is enjoying a much younger second coming, and in the Women's British League helped her team Darlington to the Division 3 title. Now in her second competitive season Lorna has shown herself to be a totally honest and charming competitor, and no doubt contributed to the team being declared Team of the Weekend. Congratulations also to her team-mates Joanne Meads, Kate Vickers and Stephanie Donnelly. Get well soon, Stephanie.

Taking the various members of the United Nations out, I see from the latest ranking list that Karen Shepherd has moved into the top ten for the first time, at No.9, moving up from 14th position. Well done Karen.

Nothing else has come my way, but next time I hope to have a report about the county's junior teams. So, as Bugs Bunny would say—that's all, folks!

## CLEVELAND VIEW

by Alan Ransome

WHILST some of the younger Cleveland players have been hitting the headlines for their performances in this country and abroad, another Ormesby player, 20 year old Steven Bailey, has been steadily climbing the England ranking list and improving his performances. Steven won the Under 21 event in the Butterfly Grand Prix's at Crystal Place and Bath early this season, as well as reaching the finals at Sussex, Stratford and Bournemouth and now heads the Under 21 Grand Prix ranking list. Bailey is second in the Band 1 list having won the Championship in Bournemouth and reaching the final at Crystal Palace and Bath.

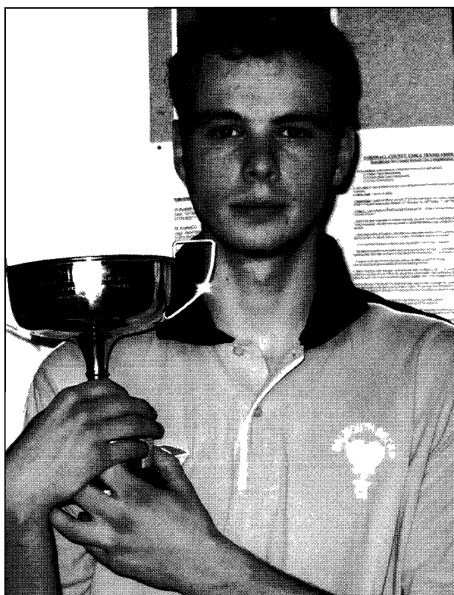
Steven represents the Ormesby Club in the First Division of the British League where the team has finished second for the second year running.



Last year he was the Division One North "Player of the Year". This season his play has again been clearly impressive with 25 wins out of 28 matches, including a victory over Thierry Tran from France who represents the Grove Club. As a result of all this, Steven Bailey has halved his English ranking since Christmas, which now stands at No. 42. The reason for his success is his approach to his training. He works very closely with Ormesby coach, Carole Moore, practices at least six times a week, clocking in more than 20 hours and has withdrawn from coaching to concentrate on improving his playing standard. Steven is a student at Teesside University hoping to gain a degree in Social Science.

In recent years Cleveland and Ormesby have been better known for their male players, but now there is a large number of girls who are making significant early progress in the sport. Four of these, Karina Lefevre, Karen Pennock, Catherine Pillar and Abbie Ibbetson, all attend the Thornaby Village School that made great progress in the English Schools Under 11 Championships, reaching the finals in Leicester only to be defeated by the winners, Penile Academy.

In addition to playing at school, the Thornaby girls are joined in the Ormesby Advanced squad by, Katherine Lefevre, Jennifer Lowther, Emily Greener and Chloe Whyte, coached by Tom Welsh, Neil Bessford and Sandy Whyte, all of whom are making good progress. The best player is 14 year old Rachel Greener who has been doing well on the tournament circuit having reached the final of the Cadet Girls in Cheltenham and the Band 1 at the Derby Junior. In addition to the Ormesby players, the



**CORNWALL: Junior Boys Champion NICK SMALE**

Northfield Club is also doing well under the guidance of Jane Durham where Rebecca Orley and Rebecca Levelle are improving rapidly. With these girls practising and training on a regular basis, the prospects of strong Cleveland teams in the ETTA competitions in the near future is rosy.

## CORNWALL

by John Wood

### 12th TITLE FOR JEREMY WILLIAMS

CORNWALL's biggest entry for years in the County Closed Table Tennis Championships, sponsored by Jim & Sonia Broad Cornwall Wedding Hire, saw Jeremy Williams from Falmouth win his 12th Mens Singles crown, whilst Shirley Luckhurst won her 2nd Womens Singles event, at Tregorrick Park Table Tennis Centre, St.Austell, in the the first weekend of March.

Williams, who's greater experience saw him fight off the challenge of inform star of the tournament, Graham Worth of Launceston, 11-9, 11-6, 11-5, to be within one title of levelling the county record of 13 wins by St.Ives legendary player John Bassett.

Pre-tournament favourite Andrian Noott from St.Austell, lost to Worth in the semi-finals 9-11, 11-5, 11-4, 13-11, following a classic battle of the young gladiators which saw Worth bristling with confidence going for the big shots, which paid off.

Worth's scintillating form came to light in his tremendous victory over Bridge Table Tennis Club's star player Graham Reed.

Williams beat, the surprise package of the tournament, Gary Tresadern, in the other semi 11-9, 7-11, 11-3, 11-1.

Shirley Luckhurst of Metherell, is this years Womens Singles champion, following her extremely tough battle with Michelle Turner of Redruth, whom she beat 11-9, 5-11, 11-6, 7-11, 11-9.

Luckhurst, who has reached many County Womens Singles finals, has surprisingly only just won her 2nd title.

This year's Under 21 mixed singles title was won by Nick Smale, Falmouth Docks, who defeated Matthew Trevorror of St.Ives, 11-3, 5-11, 11-6,

11-6.

On Saturday, the day of the Junior Championships, Smale also won the Boys Under 18 title beating a gallant young James Broad of St.Austell in the final, 11-4, 8-11, 11-9, 11-6.

Losing under 21 finalist Matthew Trevorror, did however taste success when he won the Boys Under 15 title beating People Palace's Richard Harries in the final, 11-6, 11-6, 9-11, 11-7.

The Over 40 Veteran title was won for the first time by St.Austell's Gary Hall, who defeated a very experienced Steve Lobb from Falmouth Docks, 9-11, 12-10, 11-8, 10-12, 11-5.

Bob House of Peoples Palace retained his Over 55 Veteran's trophy when he won the battle of the 'combination bats' battle with Falmouth's Dennis Williams 11-9, 12-10, 11-9.

The Mens Doubles title was won this year by St.Austell's left and right hand pairing of Adrian Noott and Gary Hall, when they won an exciting five setter, 3-11, 11-9, 6-11, 12-10, 11-7, beating Nick Smale and Graham Worth.

There was a big upset in the earlier rounds of the Mens Doubles, when Bill Pope and John Thorpe beat the tournament favourites Jeremy Williams and Kevin Fudge. Thorpe then went on to win the Consolation Singles beating St.Austell's Reg Drew.

The Ladies Doubles was retained by Michelle Turner and Kate Alken of St.Austell with Shirley Luckhurst and Elaine Lewis of Crafhole the runners-up.

In the Mixed Doubles Adrian Noott and Shirley Luckhurst teamed-up to retain the trophy, beating Bridge's Graham Reed and Georgina Credland.

### JUNIOR SUCCESS

Falmouth's Docks Yaina Andrew in winning the Girls Under 18 event, won her first ever county title, when she beat Bridges' Georgina Credland in a very tight final 11-8, 11-9, 13-15, 7-11, 11-3.

The Cadet Girls Under 15 title went to National Under 11 Champion Martha Travis of Bridge, who beat Yaina Andrew 4-11, 11-7, 11-5, 11-3, in the final

This year's under 12 titles went to Ryan Reed of Bridge who defeated Ryan Bowler of St.Austell in the Boys' 11-5, 11-8, 11-8, whilst Martha Travis won her 2nd trophy of the day beating Rachel Trevorror of St.Ives in the Girls'.

The Junior Doubles was won by Falmouth Docks' pair Neil Phillips and Nick Smale, who beat Peoples Palace's partnership of Jonathan Randall and Jack Jeans 11-9, 9-11, 11-9, 11-5.

This year's Junior Team trophy went to St.Austell's James Broad and Daniel Putt, when they defeated Peoples Palace's Jonathan Randall and Jack Jeans 3-2.

A very worthy mention of this Junior tournament goes to David Wetherill of the Crafhole club, who reached the Boys Under 18 semi-finals where he lost to the eventual winner Nick Smale. David's tremendous effort and attitude, playing with a disability, showed courage as well as talent. A fantastic example to all players.

## CUMBRIA

by Gordon Brown

ALL but two of the 39 entries in this year's Cumbria Closed Table Tennis Championships came from the host league, Kendal. The other two were from Barrow and of them county and Barrow League Chairman Keith Mallinson was in

the winning men's doubles partnership with Kendal's Chris Knowles, and 11-year-old Matthew Bruce collected the under-12 singles.

Knowles was also in the mixed doubles winning partnership with Cumbria and former Yorkshire county player Julie Stitch, who won the women's singles, Zeke Dixon got the men's singles, Anthea and Louisa Bevan the women's doubles, Bob Bagot the veterans' singles, Liam Regan the junior boys, Matt Regan the under-15 with Bruce runner-up and Roger Pimblett and Luke Biggins the junior doubles.

### Results:

*Men's singles* – first round: Steve Dixon beat Sam Wates; Chris Knowles beat Tom Salter; Jason Million beat Keith Mallinson; Dave Archer beat Josh Morris; James McGrath beat Roger Pimblett; Mark Ashburn beat Matt Regan; Liam Regan beat Bob Bagot; Zeke Dixon beat Chris Carradice. Quarter-finals: Steve Dixon beat Knowles; Million beat Archer; McGrath beat Ashburn; Zeke Dixon beat Regan. Semi-finals: Steve Dixon beat Million; Zeke Dixon beat McGrath. Final: Zeke Dixon beat Steve Dixon 10-12, 11-9, 11-6, 7-11, 11-8.

*Women's singles*: (two entries) – Final: Julie Stitch beat Louisa Bevan 11-2, 11-6, 11-1.

*Men's doubles* – first round: Steve Dixon and Peter Rushton beat Ben Shaw and Russell Cooper; Liam Regan and Clyde Johnson bye; Charles Usher and James McGrath beat Sam Wates and David Crierie; Bob Bagot and David White beat Roger Pimblett and Luke Biggins; Chris Carradice and Oliver Maberley beat Josh Morris and Sam Dixon; Chris Knowles and Keith Mallinson beat Tom Salter and Mark Ashburn; Zeke Dixon and Matt Regan beat Geoff Biggins and Craig James; Dave Archer and Jason Million bye. Second round: Steve Dixon and Rushton beat Regan and Johnson; Bagot and White beat Usher and McGrath; Knowles and Mallinson beat Archer and Million; Steve Dixon and Rushton beat Bagot and White. Final: Knowles and Mallinson beat Steve Dixon and Rushton 13-11, 11-9, 4-11, 5-11, 11-8.

*Women's doubles* (three entries) – Semi-finals: Anthea and Louisa Bevan beat Rosie Dunk and Sue Biggins; Julie Stitch and Sue Kennedy bye. Final: Bevan and Bevan beat Stitch and Kennedy 11-6, 5-11, 11-7, 11-6.

*Mixed doubles* – first round: Anthea Bevan and Robin Langstaff beat Sue Kennedy and Craig Harby. Semi-finals: Stitch and Knowles beat Bevan and Longstaff; Louisa Bevan and Jason Million beat Sue Biggins and Ben Shaw. Final: Stitch and Knowles beat Bevan and Million 11-6, 10-12, 11-3, 11-1.

*Junior boys' singles* – quarter-finals: Liam Regan beat Josh Morris; Oliver Maberley beat Matt Regan; Luke Biggins beat Tom Salter; Roger Pimblett beat Matthew Bruce. Semi-finals: Regan beat Maberley; Pimblett beat Biggins. Final: Regan beat Pimblett 0-11, 11-5, 11-7, 11-5.

*Under-15 singles* – semi-finals: Matthew Regan beat Oliver Maberley; Matthew Bruce beat Liam Gannicliffe. Final: Regan beat Bruce 11-6, 11-5, 9-11, 6-11, 13-11.

*Under-12 singles* – final: Matthew Bruce beat Jordan Archer.

*Junior doubles* – first round: Roger Pimblett and Luke Biggins beat Craig James and Liam Gannicliffe; Matthew Bruce and Joe Jamieson beat Ben Shaw and Russell Cooper; Matt Regan



**ESSEX: Winner of 4 titles, CATHY EAKIN dominated the Southend Closed ladies events**

and Josh Morris beat Sam Wates and David Crierie; Liam Regan and Clyde Johnson beat Chris Carradice and Oliver Maberley. Semi-finals: Pimblett and Biggins beat Bruce and Jamieson; Matt Regan and Morris beat Liam Regan and Johnson. Final: Pimblett and Biggins beat Matt Regan and Morris 11-6, 11-7, 11-7.

**NATIONAL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Cumbrian schools did well in reaching regional finals of the Jarvis Sports National Schools Championships.

Askam under-11 boys and girls' teams and Dowdales (Dalton-in-Furness) under-13 and under-16 girls and under-16 boys advanced after battling through the North West zone.

The Askam girls go through as best runners-up to regional finals at Grantham, where Dowdales under-16 boys and girls will also compete.

In regional finals at Blackburn will be Askam under-11 boys and Dowdales under-13 girls, who got a walk-over.

**DERBYSHIRE**

*by Colin Deaton*

THE annual Derbyshire Closed Champions were held at the Staveley Middlecroft Leisure Centre.

A good entry was received with County Secretary, Lewes, officiating.

Derby's Emma Vickers was the most successful

player on view, winning 5 titles in the day, which is quite an achievement.

There was the usual quota of shocks which included Chesterfield's seeded Geoff Gill in the men's singles losing to Jonathan Bayliss from Long Eaton.

Shaun Marples was defeated in the men's singles by Adam Frost but again the championship honours in the men's singles went to Andrew Henry who held on to his title by beating Frost in straight games in a very convincing manner.

Shaun Marples did get some revenge on Frost as he beat him in the Junior Boys title.

Perhaps the most entertaining final of the championships was the Boys Under 12 singles, where Chesterfield's Liam Pitchford overcame Derby's Mark Naylor in a thrilling encounter by three sets to one.

Full championship results were:-

Men's singles – Andre Henry (Chesterfield) beat Adam Frost (Derby)

Women's singles – Emma Vickers (Derby)

Men's Doubles – S Marples and E Vickers (Derby)

Mixed Doubles – R Frost and E Vickers (Derby)

Women's Doubles – J Vickers and E Vickers (Derby)

Veteran's singles – Geoff Gill (Chesterfield)

Junior Boys Singles – Shaun Marples (Chesterfield)

Junior Girls Singles - Emma Vickers (Derby)

U15 Boys – Jamie Smith (Chesterfield)

U15 Girls – Emma Vickers (Derby)

U12 Girls – Lucy Davidson (Chesterfield)

U12 Boys – Liam Pitchford (Chesterfield)

The Derby League's newly acquired venue, The Littleover Community Centre, has certainly been the centre of activity since the beginning of the year. Whilst the lighting at this venue leaves a lot to be desired, the League are currently having plans drawn up and discussions with Paul Baker.

This venue could well be staging One Star Tournaments in the future and thus become a big asset to the area.

Burton continues to provide a good supply of coaching classes and are trying to organise a Level 2 Coaching Course in the area.

Neil Houghton, Keith Bird and Robert Parsons are putting in time with Burton young prospects at the local primary school.

Traditionally all Burton players have gone on to represent Derbyshire at County standards but the recent change in rules now means that they have to play for Staffordshire. That is a very interesting point had the Burton League continues to register with Derbyshire.

The Derbyshire U11 schools championships staged in Dronfield at the Henry Fanshaw School, boosted over 100 entries. This being a record entry.

As expected, nine year old Lucy Davidson won the girl's but there was a surprise in store in the boy's under 11, which witnessed Dronfield's George Young out hit the highly rated Liam Pitchford in the final.

George was bang on form and looks to have a good future in the game. He is coached by his father, ETTA player and coach, Steve Young.

Chesterfield's Brimington Junior School Boys team are the new National U11 Boys School Champions.

Their team comprising of, Liam Pitchford, Daniel Lowe, Shaun Cullen and Ben Weaver brushed aside all the opposition to emerge as champions, winning all their matches.

In cognition of this tremendous performance the Brimington Parish Council are to feature a presentation evening in recognition of this wonderful achievement.

Interest in Matlock seems to be maintaining with several youngsters looking very promising, including 9 year old Ben Goodwin, who leads a group of under 12's under the watchful eye of newly qualified coach Warren Slaney.

Matlock's Second Division is topped by a team of veteran players, lead by 75-year-old Norma Smith, representing the Fire Station.

Apparently the average age of the team is 65 years of age and I am reliably informed that the veterans are still improving and are a very hard nut to crack.

Matlock also have a new Ladies Champion, Caroline Mellor. Their number one lady player of course is Pat Thorley but Pat was so busy running the annual champions in Matlock she decided not to enter the tournament this year.

Favourites to win Matlock's top division are B.R. Insurance represented by Steve Porter, Stuart Morris and Andy Burton and Jane and Emma Vickers.

Finally it was good to see Nicola Deaton back in action after a back injury.

Although still only in light training, the 5-times National Champion is currently taking her final year at Nottingham University studying Psychology. She hopes to be back in the game next season with her studies behind her.

Last Month she played in the Women's Singles British University title, losing in the final to Nigerian Katto Bosse, deuce in the deciding game.

**ESSEX**

*by Steve Kerns*

**SOUTHEND CLOSED**

RYAN SAVILL showed some of the class that took him to the European Junior Championships a decade ago as he dominated the Mens Singles, taking the title without dropping a game. Equally impressively Ryan joined forces with League stalwart Bill Smith and captured the Mens Doubles title after they had scored excellent wins over three top-class pairings - Ray Murray/Peter Ballard (3-2), Duncan Taylor/Rob Harris (again 3-2) and in the Final - Fred Dove/Andrew Halling (3-1). Grand Prix regular Cathy Eakin dominated the Ladies events taking four titles for the second year running. Results were as follows :

*Mens Singles* - Ryan Savill bt John Holland 4,3,10.  
*Ladies Singles* - Cathy Eakin bt Linda Murray 6,2,9.

*Mens Doubles* - Ryan Savill/Bill Smith bt Fred Dove/Andrew Halling -7,9,8,8.

*Ladies Doubles* - Cathy Eakin/Linda Murray bt Janet Finch/Ann Lane 5,9,7.

*Mixed Doubles* - Ray Sutton/Cathy Eakin bt Kevin Read/Linda Murray 8,6,9.

*Veterans Singles* - John Holland bt Hamish Innes 5,-10,8,9.

*Veterans Doubles* - Hamish Innes/Ray Murray bt Dave Jacobs/Jamie Wilson 8,-7,9,9.

*Veterans Ladies Singles* - Cathy Eakin bt Linda Murray 3,3,6,4.

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*Under 18 Singles* - Josh Lovett bt Daniel Nunn 11,6,1.

*Under 21 Singles* - Josh Lovett bt Daniel Nunn 8,4,11,

*Over 60s Singles* - Peter Ballard bt Ray Murray -6,-9, 7,4,12.

*Over 70s Singles* - Dave Green bt Ron Schwendener 4, 9,-6,1.

*Premier Division Restricted Singles* - Steve Edwards bt Colin Chatfield 8,0,7.

*Division 1 Restricted Singles* - Gordon Swan bt Mike Worship 8,5,-5,-5,9.

**Chelmsford Closed**

14 year-old Vytas Rybakas made history by becoming the youngest ever winner of the Mens Singles title. In a thrilling final the canny cadet had to use all his guile and experience to come back from 2-0 down to beat his team-mate John Holland on Finals Night played in front of a capacity crowd. Rybakas retained his Junior Boys Singles title although he again had to pull back a 2-0 deficit against Tony Halling in a spell-binding final. John Holland created a record that cannot be beaten as he was successful in the Over 40s, Over 50s and Over 60 Singles Finals whilst Julie Vansertima (nee Dowsett) annexed the Ladies Singles for a record thirteenth time after a hard-fought final encounter against Cathy Eakin. Selected results include:

*Mens Singles* - Vytas Rybakas bt. John Holland -5,-7, 6,7,7.

*Ladies Singles* - Julie Vansertima bt Cathy Eakin 6,-4, 6,-6, 7.

*Mens Doubles* - David Cole/Matt Staines bt Keiran Lally/Fred Dove 5,-4,7,-6,11.

*Mixed Doubles* - David Cole/Julie Vansertima bt Cathy Eakin/Ray Sutton 7,6,6.

*Veterans Singles* - John Holland bt Hamish Innes 6, 7,7.

*Under 21 Singles* - Matthew Staines bt Vytas Rybakas 7,7,7.

*Junior Boys Singles* - Vytas Rybakas bt Tony Halling -9,-10, 10,14,1.

*Under 15 Singles* - Vytas Rybakas bt Tom Hill 7,4,8.

*Under 13 Singles* - Rykki Vansertima by Haydn Upson 8,9,9.

*Junior Girls Singles* - (1) Laura Pyman (2) Lorna Staff.

**HAMPSHIRE**

**Jeremy Wilson**

SOUTHAMPTON table-tennis players are off to a storming start in the latest round of matches in the county cadet inter-town league.

The team of Alistair Jones, John McBeath, Lloyd Jameson and Jonathan Pearce defeated Portsmouth B 10-0 and then Bournemouth 9-1.

The victories put them three points clear of Portsmouth at the top of the table, whose team of Connor Shipp, William George and Scott Tucker beat Southampton B 9-1.

Still unbeaten in the competition this season are Southampton's Jones, Anthony Howarth from Bournemouth as well as Gosport and Fareham's Ashley Willetts.

Southampton C lead the way in Division Two of the county cadet league following close-fought wins against Winchester and Basingstoke.

Winchester's Garth Kinlocke and Southampton's Sarah Warwick are all unbeaten so far.

Hampshire schools performed well in the recent regional English schools finals held at Redbridge Community School in Southampton. Blackfield Junior (Southampton) were runners-up in the boys under-11 category, while Holbury Junior (Southampton) were victorious in the girls under-11s.

Southampton's King Edwards VI school were runners-up in the boys under-13 category, while Romsey's Mountbatten School were finalists in both the boys and girls under-16 event

Callum Shipp was victorious in the Hampshire junior table tennis championship - after he beat Pompey team-mate Mike Gibbs in a thrilling five-set under-18 final.

Shipp took the first two games and looked to be coasting to the title before Gibbs fought back to take it to a decisive fifth set, which Shipp eventually won 11-7.

Eight-seeded Gibbs, though, was the surprise package in the tournament by beating top seed and reigning champion Alex Garlick from

Basingstoke in the semi-final.

Shipp had earlier toppled number two seed David Woodacre in the other semi-final in four games.

Younger brother Connor Shipp almost made it a family double in the under-15 boys' singles, but was beaten 11-3, 11-9, 11-13, 11-9 in the final by Southampton's Matt Ware.

Thirteen-year-old Ware enjoyed an outstanding day by also adding the under-13 crown to his trophy collection.

He beat Southampton team-mate David McBeath 11-9, 11-5, 4-11, 11-5 in the final and beat 12-year-old Lloyd Jameson in the semi-final of the under-15 event.

Connor Shipp beat Ashley Willetts in the other under-15 semi-final.

The girls' events were dominated by Gosport and Fareham's Annabelle Morle, who beat Portsmouth's Katie Bradford in the under-15 final and then Nicola Whitcher in the under-18 event.

The under-13 girls was an all Southampton affair

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and proved to be one of the hardest fought matches of the day, with Katie Bradford edging out Hayley Nicholas 6-11, 11-8, 12-14, 11-9, 11-9.

The under-15 doubles event was won by Ashley Willetts and Ross Saxby, while Callum Shipp and David Woodacre took the under-18 title.

Hampshire rankings:

Senior men - 1: Clive Payne. 2: Mark Butler. 3: Lee Dredge. 4: Victor Imiseev. 5: Jeremy Wilson.  
Senior women - 1: Maria Taylor-Woodward. 2: Barbara Savage. 3: Anne Longland. 4: Jenny Dobson. 5: Sarah Whithorn.  
Veteran men - 1: Clive Payne. 2: Chris Wilshere. 3: Keith Childs. 4: Graham Outrim. 5: Ramesh Bhalla.  
Veteran women - 1: Barbara Savage. 2: Gill Larking. 3: Sandra Simpson. 4: Anne Longland. 5: Sue Hibberd.  
Junior boys - 1: Alex Garlick. 2: David Woodacre. 3: Callum Shipp. 4: David McBeath. 5: Matthew Ware.  
Junior girls - 1: Jenny Dobson. 2: Annabelle Morle. 3: Sue Tompsett. 4: Nicola Whitcher. 5: Davina Roberts

## HERTFORDSHIRE

by Doug Tomsett

### HERTFORDSHIRE CLOSED

THIS turned out to be a Veteran's tournament. Out of all who entered only four men and one lady were under the age of 40.

This goes to show the apathy of the Senior players. It resulted being a tournament of 4 players, Mark McCarthy, Derek Balding, Denis Robinson and Janice Laing, who are all veterans.

#### Results:

*Mens Singles:* Winner Derek Balding, runner-up Mark McCarthy.

*Ladies Singles:* Winner Janice Laing, runner-up Jackie Channell.

*Mens veterans Singles:* Winner Mark McCarthy, runner-up Ken Stonebridge.

*Senior Veteran Singles:* Winner Derek Balding, runner-up Denis Robinson.

*Ladies Veterans Singles:* Winner Janice Laing, runner-up June Nelson.

*Mens Doubles:* Winner Mark McCarthy/Alan Phipps, runner-up Trafford Coker/Denis Robinson.

*Veterans Doubles:* Winner Trafford Coker/Denis Robinson, runner-up Mark McCarthy/Alan Phipps.

*Ladies Doubles:* Winner Janice Laing/Sue Felstead, runner-up Helen Kent/Mary Nicholls.

*Mixed Doubles:* Winner Derek Balding/June Nelson, runner-up Mark McCarthy/Helen Kent.

As this was Brian Gale's last year of organising the Herts Senior and Junior tournaments, it was a great shame that the Senior men and ladies of top ranking, did not show the same enthusiasm as Junior and veteran players have done.

At the age of 70 he feels that he has done enough organising of tournaments and inter-league to let someone else do it.

The two results of Veteran County Championships matches played recently; Herts 2nd's drew 5-5 with Devon 2nd's, where Gary Morgan won two, whilst Herts 3rd beat Bedford 2nd's 8-2, where all three men won two each.

## LEICESTERSHIRE

by Derek Butt

Just five games left of the season in the Leicester and District League Division One, and there is no change at the top between Leicester Electricity 1sts and Knighton Park 1sts, the Sparks now look

favourites having a five point lead. A long way behind in third and fourth places are County Hall and Holwell both twelve points behind second placed Park. Karen Smith lost her unbeaten tag when she lost to Mark Woolerton of Park's 2nds, the match ending in a draw. A performance probably will be the best of the season was when Tony Smith of Desford scored a brilliant maximum against the leaders Electricity. At the opposite end of the table Thringstone and Electricity 2nds remain in the drop zone along with Northwood who are also in the frame now.

At the top of Division Two Loughborough Kingfishers have opened up a gap, with Goons and Knighton Park 3rds their nearest rivals, still no predictions to who might win this division. Arnesby's Darren Bramhall still leads the individual averages. At the bottom Birstall are looking relegation candidates unless other teams above them drop points.

The cup competitions have progressed steadily, one final to have been played was the Lillian Williamson Memorial Trophy where Abbots Road beat Leicester Electricity 5-3.

The Leicester Closed Championships have been played over two days at the Rushey Mead School and there was a good turn out. Well done to the organisers Peter Wilson, Tony Lapworth and Bill Newbold for making the whole weekend a success.

Winner of the Men's singles went to Electricity's Matt Hobday who beat team mate Dave Grundy. The doubles were won by Dave Grundy and Andy LeButt. Andy walked away with four winning trophies as he also won the Vets, the under 300 and 400 grading events. Well done Andy.

The Rose Johnson Challenge Bowl, the competition where any team from the county may enter, was ably run by Gordon Sanders. This competition is a four-a-side team handicap event in which every point counts, and still continues to attract clubs throughout the county. It has now reached the semi-final stage, where Great Glen will play Abbots Road 2, and Knighton Park 2 will play Regents Sports.

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

by Dennis Millman

WELLINGBOROUGH League's Annual Closed Tournament, held at Rushden & Diamonds Nene Park, provided an excellent day's play despite a relatively low entry.

Initially the absentees captured the headlines with League Chairman Arthur Palmer, recovering from a major operation, missing the event for the first time in forty years, while Ken Marchant, who has served the league in a variety of capacities for as long as one can remember, was unable to officiate due to pressing family commitments.

Additionally the day started in calamitous fashion when the popular Mike Hawes dislocated a knee before the first match had got underway. The latest news bulletin indicates that he should be fit to resume at the start of next season.

Our best wishes go to Mike, Arthur and Ken for a speedy return to health and action.

Tournament Organiser Phil Slade presided as Richard Elliott regained the Men's Singles he had lost last year, with Steve Silk the beaten finalist after taking the first game 11-9. Elliott's main opponent en-route to the final was Chris Gibbons, while Silk had rather more difficulty

against Michael Edwards and Gordon Shaw.

Elliott and Silk then combined to take the Men's Doubles with the Shaw/Geoff Atkinson duo their final opponents.

It was all change in the Ladies' Singles with the recent regular winner Muriel Cox failing to survive a five strong round robin, while last season's losing finalist Denise Barnett was gallantly superseding a defective P.A. system.

Deirdre Kiziak, Denise's sister played superbly to reach the last two but then went down to Clare Coles who after several near misses was taking the title for the first time.

In the doubles Coles and Cox beat Kiziak and Raylee Burton and at veteran level, Mrs Cox made it four singles in a row to add to the five successive victories she recorded more than a decade ago.

John Fuller and Sam Piranty who had come close to topping Elliott and Silk at the semi-final stage of the doubles were equally unfortunate at the penultimate stages of the Veteran Singles and the Rod Marchant Memorial Trophy for Under 18's respectively. Here the winners turned out to be Gibbons and the previous night's Top 12 winner Keith Lucas.

Gibbons went on to retain the Over 40's Doubles in tandem with Edwards, while the latter joined the Gwil Evans Memorial Trophy Over 50's Singles winner Shaw to add the corresponding doubles.

Lucas teamed up with the younger generation of the Gibbons family – David, to take the Junior Doubles, but lost out to his O.G.'s team mate Martyn Hancox in the Consolation Singles final.

Raunds Woodbine no. 1 Ron Biggs, who would undoubtedly have won an Over 70's event if there had been one, had to settle for the Over 60's where to his, and his final opponent Geoff Atkinson's surprise, his early ball attack enabled him to emerge triumphant – tactics that also brought success in the First Division Handicap.

Steve Silk displayed untapped talent in the hard bat event, but at the end of the day he had to admit defeat at the hands of regular champion Alan Ashberry.

Additional winners were Under 15's Trevor Mumford Memorial Trophy – Daniel Smalley, Under 13 Singles – Grant Stevens, Mystery Doubles – Chris Gibbons/Barry Stringer, Premier Division Handicap – Richard Elliott and 2nd/3rd Division Handicap – Deirdre Kiziak.

Northampton's Keith Lucas was a surprise winner of the Northants Junior Boys Top 12. After nine rounds both he and the top seed Dickson Pang had unblemished records, but when they met it was Lucas who gained a comfortable 11-3, 11-9 verdict in a best of three format.

There was no way back for Pang, although he beat Kettering's Sam Piranty in the final series and Lucas fell victim to Ben Starmer. Level with ten wins each the result between the two protagonists was taken into account, so Lucas took the title.

Final placings: 1 – Keith Lucas; 2 – Dickson Pang; 3 – Ben Starmer; 4 – Sam Piranty; 5 – Simon Bushell; 6 – Nick Howard; 7 – Matthew Carter; 8 – Aron Chan; 9 – Matthew Burgess; 10 – Michael George; 11 – Sean Oliver; 12 – Matthew Horrocks.

The Top 8 for Girls contained few surprises, though Carla Grady's fifth end win over Beth

Walter and Katy Armstrong's success at the same stage against Shonah Keeling are worthy of mention.

In a Northampton dominated entry Katie Mansfield and Sarah Hollis stood out and it wasn't until round six that either dropped an end – Mansfield to Melissa Price and Hollis to Keeling.

The unbeaten players met in the final series and Hollis gained the ascendancy 11-6, 11-7. She was on the brink of victory at 10-8 in the third, but Mansfield not only saved two match points but added two more for good measure to earn an improbable respite.

She then played superbly to take the fourth end 11-3 and finally with a beleaguered and bemused Hollis unable to stop her, Mansfield raced through the deciding end 11-0. Mansfield had triumphed by taking 26 of the last 29 points – a tremendous way to end an excellent event.

Placings: 1 – Katie Mansfield; 2 – Sarah Hollis; 3 – Melissa Price; 4 – Katy Armstrong; 5 – Shonah Keeling; 6 – Carla Grady; 7 – Beth Walter; 8 – Anna Hobson.

## SHROPSHIRE

by Terry Ridgway

### SHREWSBURY LEAGUE - Premier Division

SHREWSBURY Cricket Club A have returned to the top of the Premier Division after impressive results against title challenging Pontesbury A (5-5) and Cricket Club B (7-3) having caught up their fixture backlog. Last season's runners-up seem to have the title in their sights. The team of county no. 3 Nigel Holding, Matt Croft and top Shropshire veteran star Rod France are currently unbeaten in the top division and it is hard to see anyone denting that record! The race for second spot appears to be between the above mentioned sides.

#### Division One

Kinnerley have a 100% record in the second division and are runaway leaders in the two horse promotion race. Nearest rivals Cricket Club D are 15 points behind and require snookers!

#### Telford League - Division One

Favourites and 2002 winners Albrighton A are setting a fast pace and with Shropshire's top two players (Tony Ackeroyd and Dave Elkin) in their squad, there are no surprises. However, competition is hotting up for second place as Industrial Bearing, Albrighton B and Bridgnorth A are not too far off the pace.

#### Division Two

GPO seem to have the divisional trophy wrapped up, with Bridgnorth C settling for the runner-up. County Chairman and Junior Coach Geoff Bristows, Bridgnorth D are holding onto third spot and hoping for a remote outside chance of promotion.

### English County Championships – Veterans Division 4C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shrops 2nds	4	3	1	0	27	13	7
Devon 4th	4	3	1	0	27	13	7
Shrops 1st	4	2	2	0	26	16	6
Wilts 4th	5	2	0	3	26	16	4
Somerset 4th	4	1	0	3	15	25	2
Devon 5th	4	1	0	3	13	27	2
Hereford 3rd	3	0	0	3	4	26	0

Both Shropshire veteran teams continued their unbeaten runs with impressive wins this weekend. The first squad stormed into a 5-1 lead against a strong Wiltshire side with wins by top Shrewsbury's players Rob Mansfield, Mike Dudley and Jane Bevan, but the visitors hit back with three victories to set up the final doubles decider which saw the Jane Bevan and Rob Mansfield partnership grab the 6-4 victory with an 11-9, 11-5, 11-9 win. Shropshire second team climb to an equal top position with their 8-2 win over Somerset 3rd team. Bridgnorth club mates Wendy Baggott, Chris Tarr and Terry Ridgway picked up vital wins for the county's over 40 squad and Albrighton's captain Dave Elkin's stunning 11-4, 11-9, 11-5 win against the highly rated visitors. With no. 2 Steve Lewis now set, the Shropshire side only need two more wins to take the title.

### Midland League – Veterans Division 2 (up to date)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shrewsbury A	5	4	1	0	31	19	15
Leominster A	4	3	0	1	25	15	11
Stafford A	4	2	1	1	22	18	9
Shrewsbury B	4	1	2	1	21	19	8
Kettering A	4	1	1	2	21	19	8
Walsall A	4	1	1	2	19	21	7
Nottingham B	4	0	0	5	11	39	2

An inspired performance from Shrewsbury veterans champion Rob Mansfield gave Shrewsbury's A side the edge in this weekend's top of the table clash with Leominster A. The left handed defender grabbed an unbeaten triple as the town side snatched a 6-4 victory that almost confirms promotion for the over 40 squad. Rod

France and Mike Dudley also worked hard for vital wins in a tight battle.

At the foot of the Division Two table the Shrewsbury B squad dragged themselves out of the relegation dog fight with an impressive 7-3 win against Walsall A. Graham Phillips produced a superb display of blocking and counter hitting to win three matches with Terry Ridgway and team captain John Holding winning two each.

## SOMERSET

by Martin Rumary

THE inter-county season finished wonderfully for our youngsters with both the juniors and cadets winning their respective divisions.

At New Malden the juniors had three impressive wins but one loss against Hampshire. The final match of the season went to Surrey 2nds 6-4 over Hampshire leaving Somerset top on sets difference and they now move to a higher division for the new season.

John Hughes remained unbeaten for the season and had great support from Marc Jenkins, Takuya Takaishi, Claire Howe and Carley Roper.

#### Results:

Oxford 1, Somerset 9 (J. Hughes 2, M. Jenkins 1, T. Takaishi 2, C. Howe 2, C. Roper 2)  
 Bucks III 1, Somerset 9 (J. Hughes 2, M. Jenkins 2, T. Takaishi 1, C. Howe 2, C. Roper 2)  
 Somerset 2, Hampshire 8 (J. Hughes 2, M. Jenkins 0, T. Takaishi 0, C. Howe 0, C. Roper 0)  
 Devon II 1, Somerset 9 (J. Hughes 2, M. Jenkins 1, T. Takaishi 2, C. Howe 2, C. Roper 2)

Playing at home in Bridgwater the cadets lost Frances Potjewyd to an injury early on, but the team of Geoffrey Potjewyd, Jamie Hutchinson, Jo Seal, Craig Robertson, Alex Johnson and Ceri Maltby held things together and came out on top.

Somerset 7, Glamorgan 3 (G. Potjewyd 2, J. Hutchinson 2, C. Robertson 0, A. Johnson 2, F. Potjewyd 1)  
 Sussex II 5, Somerset 5 (G. Potjewyd 1, J. Hutchinson 0, J. Seal 0, A. Johnson 2, C. Maltby 2)  
 Somerset 8, Sussex III 2 (G. Potjewyd 2, J. Hutchinson 2, J. Seal 0, A. Johnson 2, C. Maltby 2)  
 Gwent 3, Somerset 7 (G. Potjewyd 1, J. Hutchinson 1, C. Robertson 1, A. Johnson 2, C. Maltby 2)

The seniors have a shortage of players at the

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TABLE TENNIS NEWS

OCTOBER, 1966

# AROUND THE COUNTIES

## SUSSEX NOTES by John Woodford

### Beasley Prefers Football

After running two senior sides last season Sussex return to the County Championships fray with one team in Division II (South) and

high hopes of promotion once again.

They retain the services of the two ranked players Roger Chandler and Judy Williams—the Sussex champions. The composition of the rest of the team is uncertain with Sam Ogundipe, Peter Williams and John Beasley almost certain contenders for the top places in the events.

Junior Girls

Pos	Name	Rating	Flag
(3)	1 PARKER, Joanna (SY.)	4190	
(4)	2 EMBLING, Abigail (E.)	3938	
(5)	3 SIBLEY, Kelly (WA.)	3893	
(7)	4 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)	3535	
(6)	5 SPINK, Lauren (NK.)	3508**	
(8)	6 WHITE, Nicola (Y.)	3505	
(9)	7 SPRINGHORPE, Lauren (LL.)	3391	
(10)	8 CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.)	3288	
(11)	9 WILSON, Naomi (SO.)	3241****	
(12)	10 WEIL, Emma (E.)	3062	
(13)	11 LANGFORD, Clare (CH.)	2922	
(15)	12 WILSON, Claire (DU.)	2754	
(17)	13 YARNLEY, Gemma (K.)	2691	
(16)	14 HOWARD, Clara (CH.)	2655	
(18)	15 BROWN, Sarah (E.)	2648	
(19)	16 MEADS, Joanne (DU.)	2626	
(20)	17 WANG, Sarra (E.)	2572	
(22)	18 PERKS, Sarah (NG.)	2482	
(21)	19 TUCKER, Emily (BU.)	2444	
(23)	20 SENEVIRATNE, Anusha (K.)	2360****	
(24)	21 WALLER, Tanya (Y.)	2307****	
(28)	22 VICKERS, Emma (DY.)	2302	
(25)	23 FARQUHAR, Melanie (BK.)	2144	
(29)	24 DONNELLY, Stephanie (CV.)	2098****	
(30)	25 DAVIS, Stella (GS.)	2007	
(31)	26 RADFORD, Lisa (DU.)	1983	
(26)	27 CRAVEN-GRIFFITHS, Kelly (LE.)	1979	
(27)	28 BYRON, Sophie (CH.)	1969	
(32)	29 WEIL, Lucy (E.)	1935	
(34)	30 PARKER, Hayley (CH.)	1861	
(36)	31 SMITH, Sally (DV.)	1859	
(38)	32 HALLOWS, Caroline (CH.)	1824	
(35)	33 REES, Bethany (E.)	1794	
(42)	34 BIELEC, Sylvana (BK.)	1738	
(37)	35 STEEPLES, Susie (LL.)	1733	
(33)	36 LAYFIELD, Jordyn (CH.)	1680	
(39)	37 BOSLEY, Lisa (BK.)	1641	
(40)	38 LIGHTOWLER, Katie (Y.)	1634	
(41)	39 JAMIESON, Rachel (E.)	1592	
(58)	40 O'SULLIVAN, Emily (DY.)	1427	
(45)	41 STRINGER, Jodie (K.)	1404	
(43)	42 SKEGGS, Kelly (E.)	1383	
(44)	43 HOWE, Claire (SO.)	1378	
(47)	44 BAYLISS, Sarah (NG.)	1362	
(44)	45 ROGERS, Gina (SX.)	1360	
(46)	46 PINNELL, Amanda (ST.)	1340	
(57)	47 CUNNINGHAM, Jeana (YS.)	1298	
(55)	48 DUNMALL, Chloe (K.)	1296	
(50)	49 HALL, Jessica (LA.)	1247	
(49)	50 PILGRIM, Nikki (WA.)	1234	
(51)	51 LINZ, Caroline (BU) (SY.)	1232	
(54)	52 PILGRIM, Rachel (WA.)	1204	
(62)	53 GREENER, Rachel (DU.)	1174	
(53)	54 STANDEN, Lisa (SX.)	1151	
(52)	55 DENNETT, Fiona (CH.)	1128	
(56)	56 POTJEWYD, Frances (SO.)	1103	
(56)	57 WHITEHORN, Joy (DO.)	1073*	
(65)	58 FURNIVAL, Stacey (SX.)	999	
(59)	59 HUBBARD, Sarah (K.)	989	
(60)	60 RIPLEY, Lisa (NG.)	988*	
(61)	61 JOBANPITRA, Alpa (WL.)	966**	
(63)	62 DUNCLIFFE, Sally (LA.)	905	
(64)	63 HOLLIS, Sarah (NP.)	840**	
	64 WALDEN, Kelly-Jayne (WA.)	837*	
(66)	65 MANSFIELD, Katie (NP.)	827*	
(67)	66 SHADBOLT, Lisa (SY.)	824**	
(78)	67 TAYLOR, Amy (BU.)	804	
(73)	68 CRAWFORD, Helen (CU.)	783	
(69)	69 PROCTOR, Louise (LA.)	764	
(71)	70 TARR, Michelle (SP.)	760	
(70)	71 ROPER, Carley (SO.)	755	
(72)	72 DOBSON, Jenny (HA.)	752	****
(68)	73 SHEPHERD, Nicola (Y.)	741	
	74 JACKSON, Becky (E.)	721	
(81)	75 CURRIE, Francesca (Y.)	715	

Cadet Boys

Pos	Name	Rating	Flag
(2)	1 DRINKHALL, Paul (CV.)	4364	
(1)	2 KNIGHT, Darius (SY.)	4023	
(3)	3 EVANS, Bradley (BU) (NG.)	3633	
(4)	4 MEADS, David (DU.)	3469	
(5)	5 EVANS, Gavin (NG.)	3202	
(7)	6 REED, Daniel (CV.)	2906	
(8)	7 NICHOLLS, Damien (SP.)	2642	
(9)	8 BARLOW, Ben (YS.)	2352	
(11)	9 LEWIS, Christopher (SY.)	2254	
(15)	10 REED, Darren (CO.)	2046	
(13)	11 REES, Daniel (E.)	2023	
(16)	12 SIMPSON, Mark (DU.)	1947	
(12)	13 EVANS, Myles (NG.)	1930	
(14)	14 BARNES, Lee (SC.)	1921	
(17)	15 ROBINSON, Dorian (SY.)	1855	
(18)	16 DORAN, Christopher (NP.)	1607	
(19)	17 DODDS, Matthew (YS.)	1542	
(21)	18 CHAN, Wing Yung (SY.)	1541	
(26)	19 MAYBANKS, William (HE.)	1455	
(23)	20 MUIR, Stewart (LI.)	1409	
(20)	21 HURDLEY, Joseph (SP.)	1383	
(22)	22 DURHAM, Jonathan (CV.)	1247	
(27)	23 HIRJI, Alim (MI.)	1242	
(30)	24 HARVEY, Michael (GS.)	1233	



**MATTHEW TREVORROR** moves up to No.13 U13B

(29)	25 DEVILLE, Billy (E.)	1222
(28)	26 BROWN, Edward (E.)	1169
(25)	27 SKIPP, Nicholas (CV.)	1168
(24)	28 JOHNSON, Paul (LI.)	1166
(31)	29 IVES, Daniel (K.)	1158
(34)	30 PIPER, Damien (YS.)	1048
(47)	31 BARKER, Mitchell (CH.)	1048
(32)	32 SWART, Ben (HE.)	997
(35)	33 CHACHOLIADES, Joseph (MI.)	965
(33)	34 POYNER, Simon (DV.)	915****
(36)	35 WARE, Mathew (HA.)	913

Junior Girls

Pos	Name	Rating	Flag
(1)	1 SPRINGHORPE, Lauren (LL.)	3391	
(2)	2 WANG, Sarra (E.)	2572	
(5)	3 VICKERS, Emma (DY.)	2302	
(4)	4 FARQUHAR, Melanie (BK.)	2144	
(6)	5 DAVIS, Stella (GS.)	2007	
(4)	6 BYRON, Sophie (CH.)	1969	
(8)	7 PARKER, Hayley (CH.)	1861	
(9)	8 HALLOWS, Caroline (CH.)	1824	
(11)	9 BIELEC, Sylvana (BK.)	1738	
(7)	10 LAYFIELD, Jordyn (CH.)	1680	
(10)	11 JAMIESON, Rachel (E.)	1592	
(16)	12 O'SULLIVAN, Emily (DY.)	1427	
(14)	13 DUNMALL, Chloe (K.)	1296	
(13)	14 PILGRIM, Rachel (WA.)	1204	
(17)	15 GREENER, Rachel (DU.)	1174	
(12)	16 DENNETT, Fiona (CH.)	1128	
(20)	17 POTJEWYD, Frances (SO.)	1103	
(15)	18 WHITEHORN, Joy (DO.)	1073*	
(18)	19 FURNIVAL, Stacey (SX.)	999	
(23)	20 TAYLOR, Amy (BU.)	804	
(19)	21 CRAWFORD, Helen (CU.)	783	
(21)	22 WILKINSON, Hayley (LA.)	714	
(22)	23 MCCORMICK, Samantha (DU.)	673	
(25)	24 MACKEN, Jessica (E.)	607	
	25 LOVE, Felicity (E.)	601	
(24)	26 TRIMNELL, Jessica (SY.)	601*	
(26)	27 PINNELL, Emily (ST.)	544	
(28)	28 YARNLEY, Laura (K.)	544	
(30)	29 RULE, Katie (BU.)	539	
(33)	30 CALLCUT, Charlotte (E.)	497	
(35)	31 HUGHES, Sally (SX.)	453	
(31)	32 BROWN, Nicola (E.)	423	
(29)	33 STANLEY, Rebecca (DY.)	420	
(27)	34 FULLER, Mary (Y.)	410	
(32)	35 TRAVIS, Martha (CO.)	401	

Under 13 Boys

Pos	Name	Rating	Flag
(1)	1 EVANS, Gavin (NG.)	3202	
(3)	2 EVANS, Myles (NG.)	1930	
(4)	3 DORAN, Christopher (NP.)	1607	
(5)	4 CHAN, Wing Yung (SY.)	1541	
(7)	5 MAYBANKS, William (HE.)	1455	
(6)	6 MUDIE, Stewart (LI.)	1409	
(8)	7 DEVILLE, Billy (E.)	1222	
(13)	8 BARKER, Mitchell (CH.)	1048	
(9)	9 WARE, Mathew (HA.)	913	
(12)	10 KEARNEY, Alex (AV.)	762	
(10)	11 SMITH, Christopher A L (DV.)	727	
(12)	12 BLEAKLEY, Joshua (LA.)	682	
(23)	13 TREVORROR, Matthew (CO)	628	
(15)	14 MCBEATH, David (HA.)	625	
(14)	15 GALLAGE, Suchira (MI.)	625	
(17)	16 SELFRIDGE, Oscar (E.)	622	
(16)	17 MAYNARD, Tom (BK.)	598	
(19)	18 MARSHALL, Richard (DV.)	580	
(18)	19 WRIGHT, Anthony (CV.)	533	
(20)	20 DAYBELL, Kim (YS.)	494	
(21)	21 SALISBURY, Ben (WO.)	436	
(22)	22 LINZ, Andrew (SY.)	435	
(27)	23 POTJEWYD, Geoffrey (SO.)	420	
(24)	24 KINLOCKE, Garth (HA.)	373	
(28)	25 PITCHFORD, Liam (DV.)	373	

Under 13 Girls

Pos	Name	Rating	Flag
(1)	1 VICKERS, Emma (DY.)	2302	
(2)	2 JAMIESON, Rachel (E.)	1592	
(3)	3 MACKEN, Jessica (E.)	607	
(5)	4 RULE, Katie (BU.)	539	
(7)	5 CALLCUT, Charlotte (E.)	497	
(8)	6 HUGHES, Sally (SX.)	453	

(4)	7 FULLER, Mary (Y.)	410
(6)	8 TRAVIS, Martha (CO.)	401
(9)	9 SPARRIE, Rachel (MI.)	327
(20)	10 RUSSO, Sarah (SX.)	257
(18)	11 AJETO, Amy (NK.)	239
(10)	12 POTTS, Haylee (HE.)	237
(11)	13 ARDESHANA, Reena (LA.)	231
(16)	14 BAKER, Rachel (LA.)	224
(12)	15 DHARMAISHI, Nurin (LE.)	200 1**
(13)	16 FARQUHAR, Rachel (BK.)	178
(17)	17 OWEN, Kirsty (Y.)	163
(14)	18 WALTER, Beth (NP.)	162**
(15)	19 BREWIN, Hannah (LI.)	155**
(21)	20 ROBINSON, Sarah (DU.)	142
(19)	21 AIREY, Charlotte (NG.)	130
(22)	22 TOWEY, Emma (K.)	117 1**
(23)	23 HOLLAND, Tamsin (MI.)	109
(43)	24 WRIGHT, Melissa (YS.)	80
(25)	25 MCLEOD, Laura (DV.)	71

Veteran Men

Pos	Name	Rating	Flag
(1)	1 HILTON, John (CH.)	3839	
(2)	2 WHITING, Paul (DV.)	3676	
(4)	3 KENNEDY, Joe (K) (E.)	3585	
(3)	4 PAPANTONIOU, Costas (MI.)	3583**	
(6)	5 ECKERSLEY, Nigel (SX.)	3577	
(5)	6 ROGERS, Chris (LE.)	3563	
(7)	7 JOHNS, Brian (CH.)	3527	
(8)	8 BARR, David (BK.)	3508**	
(9)	9 SATCHELL, Kevin (WL.)	3439	
(10)	10 BROWN, Mark (K.)	3429**	
(12)	11 GODDOLD, David (DU.)	3422	
(19)	12 CATHRY, Clive (E.)	3422	
(11)	13 GILES, Paul (CO.)	3413	
(13)	14 HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3395**	
(15)	15 BEARDSLEY, Kevin (Y.)	3393***	
(18)	16 BARTRAM, Peter (SX.)	3347**	
(17)	17 WILLIAMS, Keith (LA.)	3339	
(20)	18 MCLEAN, Ian (NK.)	3317*	
(16)	19 HALEY, Terry (SG.)	3308	
(24)	20 KERNY, Trevor (NG.)	3288	
(23)	21 ROOFE, Eddie (WL.)	3287	
(21)	22 GANNON, David (LE.)	3285***	
(22)	23 FORD, Christopher (LA.)	3281*	
(25)	24 ROMANO, Mark (K.)	3257	
(27)	25 GELDER, Tony (DU.)	3253	
(26)	26 CHADWICK, Jim (LA.)	3251 1***	
(27)	27 ADEMANIWA, Ayocade (E.)	3236	
(30)	28 RANKIN, John (LA.)	3224**	
(34)	29 WIGNALL, Andy (LI.)	3222	
(31)	30 JOHNS, Mike (CH.)	3213	
(29)	31 SHORT, Mike (DU.)	3210	
(33)	32 CLAYTON, Tony (DO.)	3199*	
(35)	33 WILLIAMS, Trevor (YS.)	3176**	
(36)	34 PAYNE, John (MI.)	3171*	
(32)	35 GIRDLER, Ian (SY.)	3168	
(49)	36 LUSK, Malcolm (ND.)	3166	
(37)	37 ISAAC, Anthony (ST.)	3160**	
(40)	38 WELSMAN, Dave (NP.)	3158	
(38)	39 PAYNE, Clive (HA.)	3154*	
(46)	40 RICH, Andy (ST.)	3150	
(41)	41 HARDING, David (SY.)	3144	
(41)	42 MEDELLIN, Henry (SY.)	3124*	
(43)	43 ROBSON, Dave (DU.)	3110	
(42)	44 BOWEN, Philip (LA.)	3101	
(44)	45 BIGGS, Phil (CH.)	3062	
(54)	46 RAMSBOTTOM, Mark (LA.)	3042	
(47)	47 RANDALL, David (E.)	3036	
(48)	48 GEHLOT, Hari (BK.)	3028	
(49)	49 HOLLAND, John (Snr) (E.)	3025**	
(51)	50 HARPER, Mick (BD.)	3018	
(52)	51 PICKARD, Chris (HE.)	3015	
(48)	52 KING, Russell (NK.)	3012	
(62)	53 HOLMAN, Derek (SY.)	3009	
(55)	54 PERCIWAL, Wayne (CH.)	3003	
(56)	55 BUSHELL, Karl (OK.)	2979	
(50)	56 DUROSE, Ronnie (LA.)	2975 1***	
(57)	57 SALTER, Geoff (DU.)	2965	
(60)	58 CARSLAKE, Colin (E.)	2952	
(61)	59 DOBBINS, Steve (CH.)	2933	
(63)	60 GARRAWAY, Brian (DO.)	2933	
(58)	61 BREWER, Chris (NK.)	2920	
(53)	62 COLLINS, Paul (CH.)	2908	
(64)	63 BECKLEY, Chris (SY.)	2903	
(59)	64 RADFORD, Peter (E.)	2900	
(65)	65 SEAHOLME, Stuart (HE.)	2882	
(91)	66 BALDING, Derek (HE.)	2880	
(66)	67 GRANT, Bill (YS.)	2875*	
(67)	68 BUIST, Henry (K.)	2869**	
(70)	69 LLOYD, Trevor (WL.)	2868	
(68)	70 DENNISON, John (E.)	2865**	
(69)	71 REEVES, Dave (BK.)	2865***	
(76)	72 DAVIS, Steve (SY.)	2860	
(74)	73 BURN, Brian (DO.)	2849	
(75)	74 RASUL, Farhat (SY.)	2842	
(71)	75 CRAIGHILL, Jeffrey (CH.)	2841	
(72)	76 FELLOWES, Keith (LE.)	2821	
(77)	77 NEWMAN, Maurice (LE.)	2818*	
(79)	78 BROWNE, Michael (WA.)	2817**	
(83)	79 ROBINSON, John (SY.)	2812	
(78)	80 BRISTLEY, Neil (E.)	2806	
(80)	81 PRIESTLEY, Richard (Y.)	2803*	
(73)	82 ROBERTSON, Ian (ND.)	2799	

(81)	83 SHIRT, Richard (YS.)	2787*
(85)	84 DOVE, Fred (E.)	2774**
(82)	85 SWIFT, Norman (BD.)	2772
(90)	86 RHODES, Mike (BU) (BK.)	2769
(87)	87 BALDWIN, Gary (WL.)	2769**
(98)	88 GUYMER, Terry (E.)	2752
(89)	89 COOPER, Stephen (CV.)	2751***
(84)	90 MCEVOY, Malcolm (CH.)	2747
(93)	91 YARNLEY, Keith (K.)	2746
(92)	92 RICHARDSON, Nathaniel (OK.)	2741
(86)	93 NORTON, Roy (WO.)	2737
(97)	94 ALLISON, Brian (LI.)	2733
(100)	95 OUTHRIE, Graham (SY.)	2726
(9		

continued from page 33

moment and a couple of late inclusions were necessary for the matches at St. Austell, but the team did beat Cornwall 2 although Cornwall 1 proved too strong.

A 'Carl Preenless' Isle of Wight came to Yeovil where Somerset won, helped by two each from Steve Joel and Christine Cowell.

**Results:**

Somerset 6, I.O.W. 4 (S. Joel 2, A. Hewitt 1, J. Glover 0, C. Cowell 2, J. Swain 1)  
 Cornwall I 8, Somerset 2 (R. Jones 0, J. Hughes 1, A. Hewitt 0, C. Cowell 1, F. Potjewyd 0)  
 Cornwall II 4, Somerset 6 (R. Jones 1, J. Hughes 2, A. Hewitt 1, C. Cowell 1, F. Potjewyd 1)

Vets I lost to a very strong Wiltshire team (Kevin Satchell, Eddie Roofe and company) while the third team lost by the same margin to Shropshire 2nds, but Alan Maidment won his matches.

Somerset I 2, Wiltshire I 8 (S. Dark 1, mixed doubles 1)

Somerset III 2, Shropshire II 8 (A. Maidment 2)

The Final Trials at Hereford featured some Somerset juniors. Frances Potjewyd came through her group in the cadets before meeting top seed Sara Wang who she played very well against. Ceri Maltby won two matches but as expected didn't make the knock-out stage.

Of the juniors, John Hughes returned from holiday in Portugal the day before and probably wished he'd stayed there, while Claire Howe played well to meet highly rated Claire Wilson who beat her in four in the first round.

At Cheltenham in the Cotswold Junior Select, Frances Potjewyd lost in the final of the class 1 cadet singles and over the two days claimed a few notable scalps.

**SUSSEX**

by John Woodford

BRIGHTON UNIVERSITY are the first Sussex team to win promotion. With Jack Boulton unbeaten in the last session at Harlow on March 6-7, the University side are up.

The University team masterminded by Rory

Scott, will now be promoted to Division 2 after beating Ipswich 7-1, Peniel Acadmey 6-2, Guildford 7-1 and Horsham III 7-1, John Clarke and Rory Scott won seven from eight. Scott is the most keen table tennis player and organiser in Sussex. He plays in seven local leagues, almost every Butterfly Grand Prix but was turned down to play in the English Nationals because he has only an Irish passport.

He is studying chemistry at Brighton University. He also tells me that he is intending to enter an extra university team in the British League next season, now that the present team has moved up.

Sussex officials have visited the King Alfred sports complex at Hove to study plans for the new multi-sport centre which will include a hall big enough to hold 24 tables and host international matches. Work is now going at Hailsham Community College where a new sports centre will be completed next year holding up to 16 tables under the leadership of coach Jim West who has re-created the Hailsham TTC.

**WILTSHIRE**

by Noel Sewell

**SATCHELL SENIOR & VETS CHAMPION**

KEVIN SATCHELL continued his impressive run of recent weeks when he added the VETERANS' title to the SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP won three weeks earlier. Again the losing finalist was Eddie Roofe who went down 8-11, 3-11, 5-11 and looking rather weary after a very tough semi-final against Trevor Lloyd which needed a 13-11 in a fourth game to avoid a decider.

Roofe and Satchell beat Lloyd and Terry Parkins to take the MEN'S VETERAN DOUBLES 11-5, 11-6, 11-6. Earlier Dennis Coombe and Peter Epps of the Bradford club impressed by beating the Swindon pair Basil Thompson and Ray Hughes with scores 11-8, 16-14, 11-4 before tackling Satchell and Roofe who looked decidedly worried after going two games down before forcing a decider in which at one stage they were four points down. Class told in the end!

The VETERAN LADIES' title was won by Chris

Manson (Swindon) with 11-5, 11-3, 11-4 against former champion Sylvia Morse, far from fit after recent health set-backs, but keen to return.

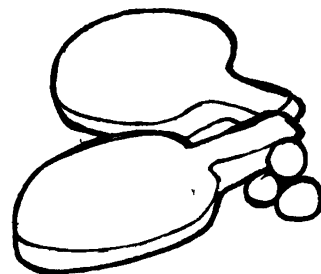
The UNDER 18 BOYS' event was won by the ever improving Andrew Hodges (Hilperton) who beat Ashley Hilton (Swindon) 11-6, 11-8, 6-11, 11-7. Andrew reached the final after a five game struggle with Will Silto 9-11, 11-9, 11-6, 3-11, 11-4.

Andrew Hodges and Matthew Lloyd won the final of the BOYS' DOUBLES 11-6, 4-11, 11-5, 11-7 against a useful pairing of Justin Shoemark (Pigheldean) and Jacob Holland (Swindon).

Jason Viola (Swindon, previous champion) lost the UNDER 15 BOYS' final to Matthew Lloyd with scores 7-11, 11-8, 2-11, 7-11. Only two entrants contested the UNDER 15 GIRLS' event when at least we saw an excellent clash when Catherine Johnson (Swindon) fought back from two games down against Rebecca Ashworth (Melksham) to win the decider.

Subject to commitments as Scottish National Coach, Kevin Satchell is enjoying his return to regular appearances for Wiltshire teams. Newly qualified as a Veteran along with Eddie Roofe, Satchell has given a massive boost to the West Wilts team's hopes in the Alex Brook Trophy finals. Trevor Lloyd is quite happy to be no. 3 in this powerful line-up.

West Wilts reached these new heights of success with a pair of 5-1 wins against the Aldershot and Crawley teams following the unfortunate withdrawal of Reading.



**TICKET PRICES FOR THE MASTERS AT CROYDON  
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PLEASE NOTE THAT THE SPECIAL RATE FOR BOTH SESSIONS CANNOT BE OBTAINED ONLINE AND SHOULD BE REQUESTED AT THE TELEPHONE BOX OFFICE

	Afternoon Session		Evening Session		Both Sessions (Special Price)	
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A (Front stalls and Choir)	£11.00	£7.50	£18.00	£12.50	£22.50	£15.50
B (Upper Stalls/Front Balcony)	£7.00	£5.00	£12.00	£8.00	£15.00	£10.50
C (Rear Balcony)	£5.00	£3.50	£8.00	£5.50	£10.00	£7.00

Ticket Hotline: 0208 6889291 or you can buy online at [www.fairfield.co.uk](http://www.fairfield.co.uk)

The Afternoon Session commences at 1pm and will finish at approx. 5pm and features the two last sixteen matches and the first three quarter-finals.

The Evening Session commences at 6.30pm and will finish at approx. 10pm and features the last quarter-final, the two semi-finals and the final.

# CALENDAR



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## APRIL 2004

10th	County Championships (7) Junior, Senior & Veterans	
10th	Chandlers Cadet & Junior 1 Star	
10th-11th	Regional Training - Cadet & Junior	
11th	Stiga 3 Star Cadet & Junior GP	
11th	Wilmott Cup R2, Rose bowl R2	
17th-18th	National Cadet & Junior Championships	Doncaster
17th-18th	British League (4) Premier Division	
24th	ETTA Individual Championships	
24th-25th	Wolverhampton Butterfly Grand Prix	
25th	National Regional Squad Championships	Fenton Manor
25th	Hyndburn Junior 2 Star	
30th April -3rd May	Cadet & Junior Six Nations	Isle of Man
<b>MAY</b>		
1st	Chandlers Cadet & Junior 1 Star	
1st	Hollington Cadet & Junior 1 Star	
1st	Gainsford (R1) & Ormesby (R2) Cups	
1st-2nd	Junior Masters	Cippenham
2nd	Leach Cup (R2)	
2nd	Hollington Senior 1 Star	
2nd	Evoca Veterans 2 Star	
8th	National Cadet League Finals	
8th	British League Conference	Birmingham
8th-9th	Cheltenham Butterfly Grand Prix	
9th	Lancashire Cadet & Junior 3 Star	
15th-16th	Cadet Masters	Cippenham
15th-16th	VETTS Nationals	Thornbury
21st-23rd	Bribar Top Twelve	Liverpool
23rd	Whitchurch Cadet 2 Star	
29th-30th	National Team Finals	

# TTN

## 2003/2004 SEASON COPY DATES

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

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# TABLE TENNIS NEWS

Official Journal of the English Table Tennis Association

Edited by GEORGE YATES

No. 1.

OCTOBER, 1966.

Price 1/-

## NEW SECRETARY

MR. DEREK RUPERT TREMAYNE has been appointed the new Organising Secretary of the English Table Tennis Association and will take up duty on December 1.

From Sutton Coldfield, Mr. Tremayne will vacate the position of Administrator to the Midland Counties A.A.A. on November 30.

Married, with three children, the new secretary has seen service with the R.A.F. and prior to his A.A.A.'s appointment was National Coach to Nyasaland.

Mr. Tremayne holds a Teacher's Certificate and a Diploma in Physical Education.

Meanwhile, subject to approval by the National Council at the next meeting, Mr. Harry Walker has been appointed as an Assistant Secretary and will staff the office with Mrs. Martin. All correspondence should be addressed to:

The Secretary  
English Table Tennis Association  
26-29 Park Crescent  
London, W.1

## CZECHS RAISE THE CURTAIN

CZECHOSLOVAKIA will provide the opposition to ring up the curtain on England's home international programme when, from Utrecht following the Netherlands Open, they will fly in a mixed (2 men, 2 women) team for a short 3-match tour starting in the North-east on Tuesday evening, October 18.



Marta Luzova

Photo by Michael Maclaren

County Durham provides the venue for the opening clash at the Sports Centre, North End Recreation Ground, Norton Road, Stockton-on-Tees. Ticket enquiries should be made to the Organising Secretary, Mr. C. Davison, 1 Burnside Court, Hartburn, Stockton.

The second match is scheduled for the following night, October 19 (7.15 p.m.) at the spacious St. George's Hall, Hall Ings, Bradford. Yorkshire's county secretary Walter Mitton will have charge of arrangements here and tickets can be obtained from him at 16 The Whins, Newby, Scarborough.

Finally, on Thursday, October 20, all roads should lead to the

Corn Exchange, Newbury, for which match Mr. A. A. J. Mosson of 29 Croft Road, Newbury, has charge of ticket sales.

### MIKO AND LUZOVA LEAD

European mixed doubles title holders, Vladimir Miko and Marta Luzova will spearhead the Czech team otherwise comprising two of the up-and-coming school in A. Dvorak and Miss I. Vostova.

Few who were privileged to witness the dramatic women's singles final at the last English Open at Brighton will forget the fighting

qualities of Marta Luzova who brought the crowd to its feet in acknowledgement of her glorious victory over Maria Alexandru of Rumania.

From that point of view spectator interest should be assured and more so at Stockton whose officials have prevailed upon the E.T.T.A.'s Management Committee to request the selectors to include Chester Barnes in the team previously announced which they have agreed to do.

Individually or collectively the Czechs should prove a great attraction and to oppose them England have chosen the following teams:

### October 18 at Stockton

Chester Barnes (Essex), Denis Neale (Yorks), Stuart Gibbs (Essex), Mary Shannon-Wright (Surrey) and Maureen Heppell (Northumberland).

Non-playing Captain: Johnny Leach (Essex).

### October 19 at Bradford

Chester Barnes, Dennis Neale, Mary Shannon-Wright and Lesley Bell (Essex).

Non-playing Captain: Johnny Leach.

### October 20 at Newbury

Chester Barnes, Stuart Gibbs, Mary Shannon-Wright and Pauline Hemmings (Herts).

Non-playing Captain: Ron Crayden (Surrey).

## ENGLAND'S DOUBLE OVER NETHERLANDS

Ron Crayden describes the Summer Successes

### LONDON

At the National Recreation Centre on a glorious June afternoon and under television lights, a strong England team had a comfortable win over the top ranking players from Holland.

Although all but the final singles went to three, the result of the credit is due to the Dutch players for fighting every inch of the way.

For the home side, Pauline Martin showed particularly fine form and in the opening singles accounted for the experienced and awkward Ria Bogmans. This opener set the pattern for the afternoon and brought the best out of the normally volatile Connie Warren. Connie played with great gusto and behaved with laudable restraint.

Ian Harrison came through in fine style in his singles against the redoubtable Frans Schoofs and our other featured player Mary Shannon-Wright, did all that was expected of her.

The match was terminated after seven sets as members of the teams had to catch a train from Euston to Blackpool. Result:

### ENGLAND 6 NETHERLANDS 1

Miss P. Martin beat Miss R. Bogmans 14, -17, 17; C. Warren beat B. Schoofs -17, 15, 13; Mrs. M. Shannon-Wright beat Miss A. Wijnants 11, -21, -11; I. Harrison beat F. Schoofs 13, -11, 12; Shannon-Wright/Martin beat Bogmans/Wijnants 17, -19, 13; Warren/Harrison lost to F. Schoofs/B. Schoofs 14, -16, -13; Miss M. Shannon-Wright beat Miss R. Bogmans 10, 15.

### BLACKPOOL

At the well appointed Pontin's Holiday Camp, Lytham-St.-Annes, England completed the double against Holland, but only just. After the conclusive victory over the same Dutch team on the previous day, everything pointed to another easy England win, particularly as on team. We reckoned, however, without the fighting spirit of our opponents who raised their games for this occasion. At one stage we were trailing 4-2 and only a tremendous effort in the home straight brought us the expected victory.

Both Lesley Bell and Denis Neale seemed to be lacking in match practice, but we must not detract from the skill of their opponents, Ria Bogmans and Frans Schoofs.

Miss Bogmans whose style strongly resembles that of Agnes Simon, blotted out Lesley's quick fire attacking sorties with her efficient half volley game. Although Denis Neale was noticeably slower than usual, he fought tenaciously but was rather nonplussed by the speed of shot and movement of the ubiquitous Frans Schoofs.

It was left largely to Mr. and Mrs. Wright to shoulder the burden of responsibility and this they did with skill and composure winning two singles each. Results:

### ENGLAND 6 NETHERLANDS 4

Miss L. Bell lost to Miss R. Bogmans -15, -15; B. Wright beat B. Schoofs 15, -19, 11; Mrs. M. Shannon-Wright

beat Miss A. Wijnants 13, 12; D. Neale lost to F. Schoofs -20, -12; Bell/Shannon-Wright lost to Bogmans/Wijnants 14, -19, -18; Wright/Neale lost to F. Schoofs/B. Schoofs -13, 18, -12; Miss L. Bell beat Miss A. Wijnants 18, 13; B. Wright beat F. Schoofs 18, 14; Mrs. M. Shannon-Wright beat Miss R. Bogmans 12, 15; D. Neale beat B. Schoofs 16, 19.



Vladimir Miko

Photo by Michael Maclaren

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### Obituary

#### Norman Cook

It was with a very deep sense of personal loss that I received the news, on the evening of Monday, August 8, that Norman, who had been in poor health for some time, had passed away.

The Association has lost a most valuable worker who, since 1948 when he became Secretary of both the Lancashire and Cheshire Associations and a member of the old National Executive Committee, has been on every conceivable occasion at the forefront of our affairs.

Never one to be in the limelight of debate, but a worker, he never gave up. His organisation of International matches and English Opens in Manchester was first class. With a cheery nod to all and sundry and a welcome that made you feel at home, that was Norman.

I shall always remember him for that all-important cup of tea at the hotel after our long meetings in London. This was an occasion when he was well and truly "in the chair" and his kindly actions certainly made our day.

His work as Secretary of the Junior Selection Committees was excellent.