

Table Tennis NEWS



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Pages 10 & 11



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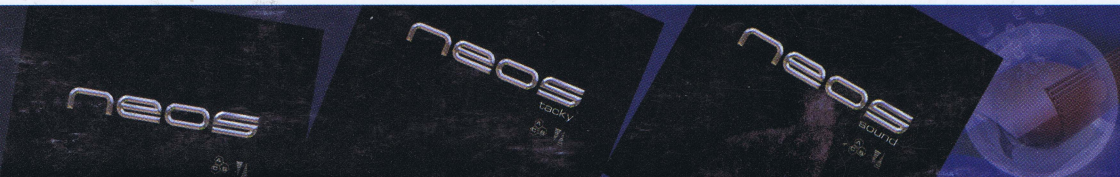




TABLE TENNIS NEWS

The Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association

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CHATTERBOX 04
Table Tennis on TV

STRAIGHT TALK 05
Modernisation & Corporate Governance

POSTBAG 07
Letters to the Editor

OCEAN INTERNATIONAL CUP 10
Sponsorship deal for BBC 1 event

ENGLISH SENIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 18

BRITISH LEAGUE 22
London Progress Simply the Best

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS 24
Clarification of Eligibility ?

COUNTY NOTES 27
A look around the country

WORLD SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS 39

FRONT COVER MAIN PHOTOGRAPH
ALAN COOKE WINNER OF THE SENIOR NATIONAL
MENS SINGLES TITLE AT SHEFFIELD
Picture by Martin Ireland



PAUL ANDREWS MD of Ocean International sponsors the BBC 1 event in Croydon page 10



JOANNA PARKER won a bronze medal at World Schools Championships, page 39



GEMMA HART of Draycott & Long Eaton TTC, assisted in saving a man's life , see page 17

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

GRASS ROOTS

Pages 15 to 17

TABLE TENNIS on TV

'HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU'
THE front cover of TTN October 1998 edition, was featured on the first of the new series of 'Have I Got News For You', on BBC 1 on Friday 16th April 2004.

The front cover pictures Ron Etheridge as World Veteran Over 70 Champion in Manchester 1998.

The question from the same issue was "Long pimples to be (the missing word was shorter).

This question brought the obvious funny comments from the panel's captains, Ian Hislop and Paul Merton, with suggestions like "Long pimples to be squeezed". The viewing time was brief. However, table tennis did gain a mention on a major TV channel.

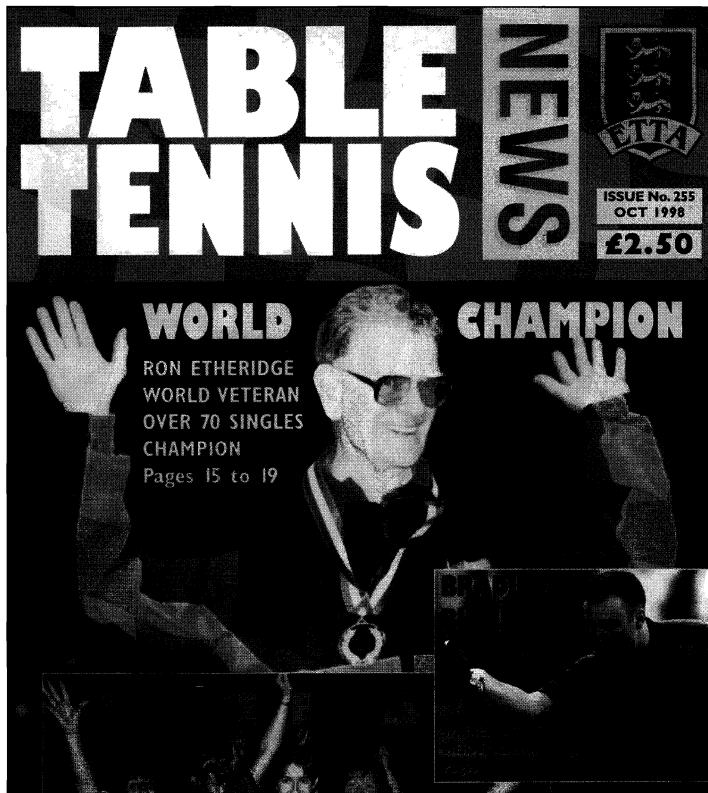
JONATHAN ROSS SHOW

Later on that same evening on the 'Friday Night with Jonathan Ross' Show, Michael of the new rock band sensation 'Busted', stated that he played table tennis to relax.

2004 ETТА CONFERENCE

THE planning of the 2004 ETТА Conference is now well in hand. Peter Sartz, the Swedish coach who works in Denmark will be our main speaker. Peter has wide international experience which he will share with us in both theoretical and practical seminars.

We also have sessions on equipment,



multiball, mental training, physical testing and an evaluation from the European Youth Championships planned, along with a current update on the English Coaching Scheme. We expect uptake to be high, so book your place early. Full details are available from Jill Parker at the Preston office or Caroline Austin in Hastings.

BACKBONE OF TABLE TENNIS

VOLUNTEERS are the backbone of Table Tennis in England. Without them there would be no clubs, leagues or county associations, and no competition structure.

As clubs expand in size, increase their activities or move to multi table facilities, the need to increase the number of volunteers and identify specific roles and responsibilities within a club or league becomes ever more important.

The launch and implementation of the ETТА Volunteer Support Strategy is designed to help proactive clubs and leagues enhance the number of volunteers available to assist with the expansion of table tennis.

Further details are available from Martin Ireland, ETТА National Volunteer Manager: telephone: 07971186405 email: martin.ireland@englishtabletennis.org.uk

WOODY'S World

TABLE Tennis News on Television is the theme of this issue.

Twice in one evening table tennis received publicity, firstly, on the 'Have I Got News For You' BBC 1 Friday night programme, secondly, an hour later on the BBC 1 'Friday Night with Jonathan Ross' show, table tennis was mentioned again, see this page for details.

TTN is pleased to announce that the BBC 1 event 'The Masters' at Croydon, has been sponsored by Ocean International, and will now change it's name to the 'Ocean International Cup', see pages 10 and 11.

Alan Gooke and Andrea Holt are the new National Champions, making it now five singles trophies each, see pages 18 to 21.

This edition also features the story of Gemma Hart's life saving action, see page 17.

John Wood

DAVID WETHERILL BTTAD NATIONAL U18 CHAMPION

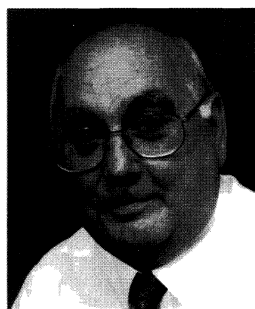


DAVID WETHERILL became the British Table Tennis Association for people with Disabilities Junior Champion, when he beat London's Joe Stotesbury in the final 12-10, 11-7, 14-16, 4-11, 11-6, at Grimsby in March. David, who comes from Torpoint in Cornwall, plays for the Crafhole TTC.

SEE TOP TABLE TENNIS AT THE BRIBAR TOP 12

GREENBANK LEISURE CENTRE LIVERPOOL

21st to 23rd May 2004



MODERNISATION AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

AS I write this article the table tennis season for many leagues are reaching their final matches with promotion and relegation issues still being fought. Irrespective of the final outcome I hope you had a good season, mine was not too bad, albeit with the duties of Chairman I was unable to play as many matches as in previous years. The main local league team I play for with my wife Val, in North Herts, managed to avoid relegation so we are very pleased. This is the third season this league has played up to 11 and we have managed to hold onto our player's base, in fact during this period our registered players base has grown.

Unfortunately across the country a few leagues and their officials are under pressure to revert back to the 21 up scoring system, some considering not affiliating to the ETTA in 2004/5, which I am hoping does not happen.

I have planned in the next two months visits to 12 leagues and I will repeat my offer to visit any league, county or club to discuss any issues relating to table tennis including the scoring system.

I hope the following gives you an update on various matters, which may be of interest.

INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION

Due to printing and circulation problems the document and questionnaire did not go out as quickly as I wanted, the importance of this issue and the need to get involvement from as many people as possible has meant an extension of the return of the questionnaire until mid May.

We have received hundreds of replies to date and a report on the returns will be circulated in the coming months. It is your ETTA and completing the questionnaire with your views is essential. Copies are available from the website on www.englishtabletennis.org.uk.

WEBSITE

The New website has been up and running for 60 days and it is proving to be a very useful tool for communicating with the table tennis fraternity. I am receiving many emails about it and questions from players, officials and parents, which confirms its effectiveness. We still have more to do and will push the programme forward as quickly as possible.

SENIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Details relating to this event will be published in this issue and have already been covered on the website.

I believe the event was a success and the new facilities at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield were superb. We had to face some teething problems but the use of this excellent venue will continue in the future.

My thanks to all those involved in the organisation, the players, coaches and parents and the spectators who came to watch. Congratulations to all the winners and in particular Andrea Holt and Alan Cooke who retained their singles titles. Table tennis is a "Sport for All and for Life" the age spread of players



PAUL DRINKHALL, pictured with ETTA Chairman **ALEX MURDOCH**, at the Junior/Cadets National championships where he created history by winning all four titles. The Junior Boys Singles, Doubles, Cadet Boys Singles and Doubles. A full report on these championships will appear in the next issue of TTN.

who took part in this event shows this clearly.

ENGLAND PERFORMANCES

We have had great success across Europe with our young players, which is great for the sport. The two bronze medals achieved in the World Schools Championships were fantastic results for our players. May these achievements continue and let us see England back again as a top Table Tennis nation.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS (RDO)

We have on board a full complement of RDO's covering the country. They are available to help you at school, club, league and county level, work with them and use them to support of your projects to expand our sport.

MODERNISATION AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

It is essential that in the coming years we modernise the ETTA across certain areas. Many other National Governing Bodies (NGB) have already started this process and the larger ones are already there. Programmes, criteria and guidelines were set some time ago by our funding partners/government and it is very important for our sport that we move this process forward which is in the best interest of table tennis and all those involved.

We have already started working on a programme and I shall be

setting up a small team of people in the coming weeks to push this programme forward.

Let me highlight some areas,

1. We need to have data about who plays or is involved in our sport, how it is structured, its changes and demographic information. This data will ensure our resources are used to the best effect and we can communicate better.
2. Our Regional Structure needs more support and to be expanded; it should be a focus point for growth and planning.
3. Our decision making process, rules and procedures need updating and in line with the present day requirements of a NGB.
4. We live in an age of technology and electronic communications and our systems and procedures should align to these changes. Our "paper" flow must be reduced and our IT hardware and software enhanced.
5. Our volunteers must be used in a more effective manner, supported better, increased and appreciated. They will continue to be the backbone of the ETTA and without them we could not function.
6. Departmental Responsibilities must be linked and the coordination between staff and the volunteer improved.

The ETTA has a strong band of very hard working volunteers and a team of dedicated staff; the goal of modernisation is to help and support them better which will in turn assist the sport as a whole.

TABLE TENNIS NEWS (TTN)

A number of issues were raised in the last issue of TTN and to honour my obligations to the editorial integrity I do not see the contents until it is published, sometimes I consider this strategy may be wrong but it is your magazine and why should I be privileged to comment before publication.

I however wish to make a few comments on a particular issue raised. The Courtside contribution from John Woodford mentioned the Men's Team not going to Doha but failed to praise or mention the success and efforts of our Women's Team. John refers to "English Officials" in attendance at these championships. There were 2 English Delegates, the Team Captain and an Umpire "Officially" representing the ETTA, I was one of those Officials and the few who raised the subject of our non participation in the Men's event, were supportive once they were acquainted with all the facts. It was good to hear that Soren Ahlen was in agreement with the decision, having been involved in the World Class Programme in England he is much more aware of the problems we face than many others from abroad.

The report on the event starts with a negative view about England supporters "having a tough time", I was one of the eight supporters who watched all the matches involving England and the only tough time I had was watching our girls play, supporting and willing them on to win. I am sure the three others who were with me at the time will agree with this.

ONE YEAR SINCE ELECTION

It is exactly a year since I was elected your Chairman and 9 months since the New Team and I came to office. I hope you are starting to notice a difference. We are trying to be more visual, communicate better, listen to you and focus on all areas and levels of our sport.

I have attended meetings with involvement from 55 leagues, 7 counties, 20 large clubs and 18 other organisations. Attended 34 events, which has given me the opportunity to talk to many people and received and answered over 1300 email during the last three months. This added to the major contribution made by the rest of the New Team I hope shows that we are dedicated and determined to turn the sport around. The visit process will continue and although my diary is filling daily, I remain ready and willing to visit your area

We still have a long way to go but with your support and help, together we shall make a brighter and better future for our great sport.

Alex Murdoch, ETTA Chairman

BRIBAR TOP TWELVE

THE FUTURE OF ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS WILL BE ON SHOW AT LIVERPOOL

ENGLAND has some of the most exciting young players in Europe and almost all of them will be coming to the Bribar Top 12 tournament at the Greenbank Leisure Centre in Liverpool later this month, writes Jim Beckley.

Anyone who attends this table tennis spectacular will be getting a glimpse into the future because the future of English table tennis will certainly be on show when these championships get under way on 21/23 May 2004.

Paul Drinkhall, our No.1 junior from Cleveland gets better by the day and clearly has a regular place in the England senior side. And what better place to show that he has what it takes it than the Bribar Top 12 which will also have our best senior players in attendance.

Drinkhall recently had a record breaking weekend when at the Cadet and Junior National Championships in Doncaster, he won both the Cadet and Junior singles events and with Darius Knight won both doubles as well.

His performance at the recent National Senior Championships in Sheffield confirmed, if confirmation were ever needed, that he has a great future. His battle in the under 21 final against Lancashire's seasoned senior international Andrew Rushton was a classic. He only lost in the fifth game after taking Rushton all the way.

And he may well have chance to reverse that result because the 21 year old Lancastrian will be among the invited top players.

And don't forget 14 year old Darius Knight. The cheeky Londoner is a talented player if ever there was one. He and Paul dominate their particular age groups and are among the best players at their age in Europe.

Joanne Parker, our No.1 junior and No.1 senior player won the Junior singles event and on form could turn out to be a popular winner in Liverpool.

Her ambition is to play in the Olympics and whilst this year is out of the question, the future clearly looks good and who knows where the Surrey girl will be in four years time.

At the rate all our junior players are improving a place in the 2008 Olympics is not of the question. Others to watch out for are Georgina Walker, Kelly Sibley and Abigail Embling.

But whilst they are our hopes for the future, they will have some stiff opposition from the more established players before lifting the Top 12 crown later this month..

"Its exciting to be able to watch players like, Paul Darius, Joanna and Kelly knowing that you are probably watching future European and maybe world champions," said organiser Mike Johns.

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 price 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**

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.

PAY MORE THAN PEANUTS

I have not quite lost the energy to fight the kind of narrow-minded attitude expressed by David Martin ('Is the ETTA Value for Money?') in the Jan/Feb edition of TTN that has forever afflicted English Table Tennis. (And blaming the 'ETTA' for confirming, through the democratic process of the AGM, changes made by the ITTF, is just plain ignorance!)

I do not doubt that he is a decent bloke and accurately reflects the view of 90% of affiliated players - that the ETTA (the amorphous governing body) is not value for money - but that does not make him and them right. For the little money the membership provides, the ETTA is incredible value, and members should pay more! I would add that in my experience the professional ETTA staff are very dedicated and hard working, despite poorish pay and conditions.

In the March 2003 TTN I gave in some detail some of the benefits ETTA members can gain for their affiliation fees and I won't repeat all the arguments here. (If you want a copy, e-mail Kenmuhr@btoopenworld.com) However, briefly, there are a range of opportunities within a recognised, regulated, structured framework, and I mentioned the '3 O's' - Organisation, Opportunity and Order - and the '3 R's' - Regulation, Representation and Review.

Without the regulated, organisational structure of the ETTA there would be no commonality of the game of table tennis around the country; no recognised governing body to represent the sport and pull in government and other funding and support; and no opportunity for players and officials to progress, if they want to, beyond a very local level.

I listed many opportunities and benefits, but pointed out that whilst individuals may not take advantage of these, 'in any sporting organisation there must be a certain degree of

altruism and concern for the greater good (e.g. members wanting see table tennis become more popular or juniors having the opportunity to progress) that goes beyond self-interest'.

When I wrote the paper, I pointed out that total affiliations fees plus player license income covered only around 9% of ETTA expenditure, and although with the reduction of Lottery funding affiliation fees now amount to a higher proportion of total income, the ETTA is still largely dependent on other sources (mainly through Sport England). I would roughly estimate that if the ETTA relied on the affiliation fees only, these would be enough to fund only a professional administrative and regulatory secretariat, plus office and on-costs and related financial and democratic processes, without development, coaching (teaching and training), international representation, events and other services.

Table tennis is a fantastic sport, but I want to see it dynamic, developing, expanding, being appreciated, and having a higher profile. And I want to see English table tennis paying and paying its own way and in control of its own destiny, not always so dependent on (the increasingly uncertain) largesse and dictates of Sport England, however benignly they may look down on us.

If we want something that we can be proud of, we must be prepared to pay more than peanuts for it. As the Hon Ivor Montagu said in an article, 'Why an ETTA?' in 'Table Tennis' April 1960, when the ETTA faced similar financial problems and criticism, "If you want an ETTA (and this is the only kind of ETTA worth having) you must interest yourself in it, run it yourself (not leave it to be run for you) and pay for it... if you will the end, you must will the means." (And as I said, misquoting President John Kennedy, "ask not what table tennis can do for you, but what you can do for table tennis"! The governing body can give ideas and models to aspire to, like Premier Club, but the ETTA can't do the work

COURTSIDE



by John Woodford

- **TWO** of my hobby-horses are (a) trying to cut down on the use of the word "closed" for tournaments - it just sounds parochial and parish-pump and (b) the ranking list nonsense where a player can retain his position by not playing.
- **THIS** problem is not confined to table tennis. Players get more money from some sponsors when they head the list. When they retire the gentlemanly thing to do is to come off the list, because it is only fair to those immediately underneath.
- **REGRETTABLY** everything comes down to money these days, even in premiership soccer - 200 foreign players registered for the premiership clubs. We are not the only sport where more money can be earned abroad.
- **PLAYERS** have to look to the future, men probably more so than women. Some coaches can earn lots of money, some can earn a steady income coaching.
- **SOME** players cannot withstand the pressure of training, travelling, coaching that goes hand-in-hand with the efforts to get to the top. Katy Parker I am told, has "no chance" of returning to the England camp.
- **BETTER** news however from Alex Perry and Nicola Deaton. After they have finished their final year at Nottingham University, they will be returning as available for England. They will have their degrees for their future careers and have more time to play table tennis at a high level.
- **WE** are told on an ETTA press release that Steen Kyst Hansen will be watching players at Liverpool, as he was at Sheffield in preparation for the Commonwealth Championships coming up in Malaysia from June 21st 2004.
- **ENGLAND** will need a strong team in Kuala Lumpur as we normally collect a bagful of medals at the Commonwealth tournament. Future funding from national sources may depend on that happening this time.
- **THERE** was a welcome sign out at Sheffield for Matt Kenny. He was the victim of a nasty pub attack, that threatened his eye-sight. He assured me at Sheffield that he is now fully fit and he proved it by reaching the quarters stopping Craig Bryant at 12 in the seventh.
- **OPPOSITION** leader Michael Howard at his constituency home in Kent has revealed one of his exercise routines - "high-speed table tennis" in his garage.
- **MALCOLM FRANCIS**, known to most of us a table tennis coach, has had a long-standing love-affair with greyhound racing. He has now been appointed the Operations Manager at the newly opened greyhound track at Coventry stadium. He is, we are told by the Racing Post - "the business brains of the operation".
- **GUINNESS** Book of Records - The Daily Mail featured recently 78 of the most bizarre records. One was that the longest table tennis rally was in 1977 in New Zealand lasting five hours two minutes and 18.5 seconds.
- **BOXING**, regarded as a major if not elite sport when it comes to media coverage received a set-back when the Press Association agency covered a major event in boxing only on their computers. Further proof that soccer dominates all media outlets and the coverage is increasing, to the detriment of all other sports.

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

for you!)

That most players do not will the means defines and confines table tennis as a mediocre sport in this country, downmarket, piffling, inconsequential - but there is hope! A move towards individual affiliation fees could help put the ETTA on a proper financial footing, particularly if fees are set at a more realistic level (say £20, to include TTN and other benefits?), somewhere nearer what one might expect to pay for other sports, interests or professional associations, or even a good night out.

Blessed will be the day when the likes of David Martin squirm with embarrassment over begrudging the ETTA £4 a player fees per year (a cheapish bottle of wine?), rather than being endorsed by the plaudits of members! Until that paradigm shift occurs, table tennis will be held back by the majority: if they don't change their attitudes, does it deserve to survive?

*Ken Muhr
Hawkhurst, Kent*

SPEED, POWER, AGILITY, SKILL & STAMINA

THAT'S IT, I've had enough! I've just opened the 'Sport - recreation and athletic union handbook 2003-2004', turned to the 'Sports Volunteer Scheme' page, only to discover that table tennis is still not listed as a sport that is given priority in terms of funding.

The table tennis world championships have taken place in Manchester; it is a Commonwealth and Olympic sport, yet

We all know deep down that table tennis is a well organised spectator sport with an abundance of interest from 8 to 80 year olds. It's time to literally turn the heat up and transform table tennis from a simmering sport into a prominent

sport, that is at boiling point.

Barry Hearn's serious financial investment into snooker several years ago is the benchmark of what can be done in terms of pulling power a product from the back of the display - blowing the dust off and leaving it glistening in the front row.

Yes! Table tennis needs some serious financial investment to promote the sport thoroughly, with no holding back. Here are a few ideas: Firstly, let's acknowledge the parallels. I'm showing my age by revealing this parallel, there you go. Lucozade was not always as popular as it is now. Do you remember how we only used to drink or buy it when we wanted to visit someone in hospital. That distinctive large orange bottle, with the crackling safety wrap was the chief "get well soon drink".

Well the investors with insight used all the current sporting talent of the time to convince us that you didn't need to recovering from an illness to enjoy Lucozade. So we had Daley Thompson and John Barnes hurling Lucozade into the 80's and 90's and beyond.

Secondly, given that we accept table tennis needs a similar overhaul, I am making the following suggestions. We have a concerted billboard campaign (including bus-stops and the back of buses) with the correct dramatic artwork, with the slogan that epitomises table tennis: "SPEED, POWER, AGILITY, SKILL, STAMINA".

Paula Radcliffe epitomises the word "stamina", which is why she would appear in some of the TV advertisements. We also would have interviews with current football, squash, badminton stars who admit to playing table tennis to keep their reflexes in the best order.

Ultimately all this investment would lead to the national/international matches being shown on BBC TV, and being sponsored by companies like "Lucozade".

Think about where table tennis

could be in three time, with the relevant amount of investment and promotion.

*Leroy O'Connor
Hulme, Manchester*

PERSONAL ATTACK

REGARDING a rather personal attack made on my Courtside column material by Vernon Hydes, I make no apologies but here are some reactions.

That column was written way back in December, when at that time Saddam Hussein was said to be on his way to Qatar to await his trial. Subsequently the world team championships were held there without any problems and where the locals were very friendly.

Mr Hydes seems to object to me following on with the ITTF story of a drugs infraction by an Egyptian player, as if there was some connection, which of course there wasn't.

My Courtside column is made up of various pieces of news, some of which will have no connection with the words following.

Mr Hydes' knowledge of the range of religions is possibly better than mine. I see no reason for him to get steamed up about the words in my column.

Table Tennis News is perhaps a little fortunate that I travel the world at the expense of the Daily Telegraph whose coverage of us smaller sports is commendable - as their correspondent I do not take kindly to attacks like this one that have no substance.

*John Woodford
Eastbourne, Sussex.*

SUPPORT YOUR ORGANISER

WHEN Abdul Wuraola turned up for a tournament in his glorious technicolour dreamshirt he was presumably not intending to cause offence, but to advertise his sponsors. He will, however, have signed a form agreeing to observe the tournament rules, which include complying with clothing regulations. Failure to comply with the rules inevitably causes problems for the organisers who should not have to spend time sorting them out.

Players should try to make life easier for overworked officials, not harder, and should not allow their competitive instincts to degenerate into McEnroe-style tantrums. Over turning tables, and allegedly depositing a presumably unappetising Chinese meal on a coach's head are mercifully rare

events in table tennis, but too often organisers have to spend time dealing with lesser problems.

At a senior tournament I attended before Christmas, play was suspended on nearby tables while an unhappy competitor threw his toys noisily out of his pram, and it took several minutes for a tournament official to calm him down. This should not be necessary.

The behaviour of the vast majority of players, both junior and senior, is exemplary but for those who do transgress perhaps umpires and referees should be a little more willing to hand out reprimands and if necessary, punishments.

I am sure that most players, parents and coaches at tournaments never give a moment's thought to the time and effort involved in their organisation. How is it they receive entry form? How is it the venue is booked? How is it the draw is made, printed out and attached to the walls? How do the tables, nets, scoring machines etc. come to be there, and what happens to them afterwards? These things don't just happen.

So next time you attend a tournament, whether you are a junior, senior or veteran player, a parent or a coach, try to make life easier for those who have made it all possible, and when you leave, why not say "thank you"? It will make you feel good, and the officials feel even better. Go on, try it!

*Alan R. Blears
Stockport, Cheshire*

TABLE TENNIS BADGES, PINS, KEYRINGS, SHIRT & BLAZER

BADGES NEEDED
IS it possible that through your pages of TTN I may make a request to enhance my collection and aid club/association funds.

I am a collector of table tennis badges, pins, keyrings, shirt and blazer badges, and I invite every club, league, County Association, to send me two of each of what ever they have. I purchase and pay the postage etc. I can exchange and will buy full collections.

*David George
Gartoosh, Scotland
Telephone: 01236 872350*



SUMMER HELP NEEDED

A 13 year old French boy, Baptiste Paulet, wishes to spend 2 weeks in England in July or August to improve his English and to play table tennis.

Anyone who can offer accommodation to Baptiste should contact his father (who speaks excellent English) via email thierry.paulet@beru.com

THE OCEAN INTERNATIONAL CUP

OCEAN INTERNATIONAL SPONSORSHIP DEAL FOR BBC 1 EVENT

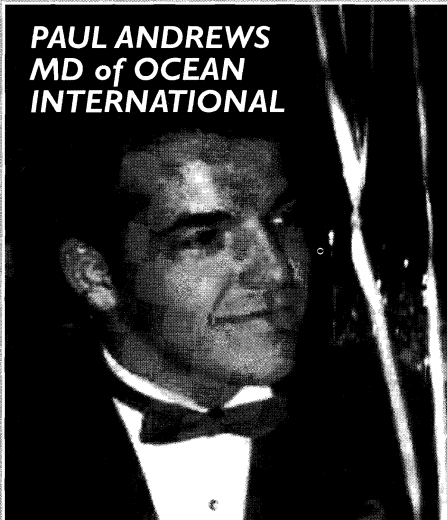
The ETTA is delighted to announce that Paul Andrews from Ocean International Communications has agreed to sponsor the £100,000 BBC1 event at Fairfield Concert Hall in Croydon on July 23rd. He will also be spearheading the overall commercial structuring of the event.

The competition will be exactly as previously advertised but now the name is changed from "The Masters" to "The Ocean International Cup".

Mr Andrews has become one of the most significant supporters of table tennis in recent memory with his sponsorship of both the highly successful Sussex Open and last years Continental Masters at The Crucible. He is the Managing Director of a global television production company as well as a sports marketing guru with a number of major clients.

Alex Murdoch, Chairman of the ETTA was delighted with the deal. "Paul has once again shown that he is one of the games most influential supporters. We will work closely with him to ensure that the Ocean International Cup is the most successful TV event in recent years."

PAUL ANDREWS
MD of OCEAN
INTERNATIONAL



Mr Andrews professed himself to be delighted to be involved in a major event once more. "As a former player I have a deep and strong attachment to our great sport," he said. "I am

thrilled to be sponsoring the event and look forward to working closely with the ETTA to ensure that the Ocean International Cup is an unforgettable experience for the live viewer as well as the millions tuning in on BBC1. I would also like to pay tribute to Matthew Syed who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to bring the event into being. He is an invaluable asset to English table tennis."

In addition to the event sponsorship, Ocean International has been working on a project called The History of World Table Tennis. This will be an in-depth look at the players, the events and the moments that have shaped the modern game, from its humble origins in the parlour, through Nixon's diplomacy and the magic of Waldner to its current popularity in Hollywood. Featuring interviews with Tony Blair and Tom Hanks as well as the world's table tennis greats, past and present, it will capture the imagination of every table tennis fan as well as making compelling viewing for the non-aficionado. It will be released as a DVD and video sometime before Christmas.

FROM PARLOUR GAME TO A WORLDWIDE SPORT.....



A TABLE TENNIS SPECTACULAR AT THE FAIRFIELD HALL, CROYDON

Tickets for The Ocean International Cup

Ticket sales have been incredibly brisk. At time of going to press more than 1000 tickets have been sold for the evening session and 900 for the afternoon session. The capacity at Fairfield Concert Hall is 1700 so there are still plenty of seats available at all prices. The overall presentation of the event will be stunning, the atmosphere electric. A number of celebrities have indicated their desire to attend, so it should also be a star-studded evening.

The ETTA has been informed by a number of members that the telephone box office operates a queuing system that can sometimes take a while to answer. The ETTA has taken this up with Fairfield Concert Hall, but waiting times still average around 4 minutes. If any reader has a complaint or comment please email either Matthew Syed

(matthew@msyed.freemove.co.uk)
or Harvey Webb

(harvey.webb@englishtabletennis.org.uk)

We advise readers who would like to attend only one session to book cheaply and conveniently online at www.fairfield.co.uk

However, the special price for both sessions is not available online and should be booked through the telephone box office, but please be prepared for a small wait. Alternatively the ETTA is pleased to announce that a limited number of tickets can be purchased from Matthew Syed (02089486050 or matthew@msyed.freemove.co.uk).

In addition, Harvey Webb, ETTA Events Manager, will have tickets on sale at the ETTA stand at the following events:

- Cheltenham Grand Prix: 8 and 9 May
- Top 12: (Liverpool) 21, 22 and 23 May
- Derby Grand Prix: 29 and 30 May
- National U11, U12, U13: (Kings Lynn) 5 and 6 June.



Jurys Inn, Croydon is the Official Hotel Partner

The ETTA is delighted to announce that a special rate has been negotiated with the Jurys Inn, Croydon. The price is £57 per night per room (rooms can accommodate up to 2 adults and 2 children, 3 adults sharing, or one person in complete comfort).

The comfortable and professionally run hotel is just a two-minute walk from Fairfield Concert Hall. Almost all of the star players will be staying at the hotel.

For bookings please contact the hotel direct quoting "table tennis" to obtain the special rate (subject to availability).

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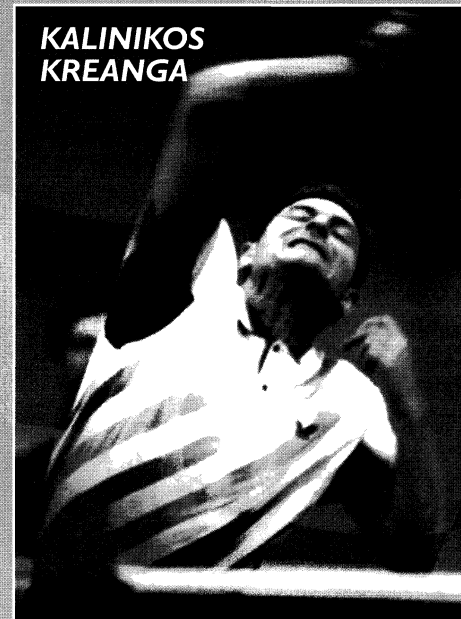
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2* accommodation can be found at the Fairfield Hotel (three minute walk from the Fairfield Concert Hall). Telephone: 020 8681 3381

4* accommodation can be found at the Croydon Park Hotel (four minute walk from Fairfield Concert Hall). Telephone: 020 8401 0900



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- VLADIMIR SAMSONOV (Belarus) • MATTHEW SYED (England) • PLUS 2 WILD CARDS

TICKET PRICES FOR THE OCEAN INTERNATIONAL CUP FRIDAY 23rd JULY 2004

	Afternoon Session		Evening Session		Both Sessions (Special Price)	
	Adults	Child/OAP	Adults	Child/OAP	Adults	Child/OAP
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

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.

JENKINS WINS MENS WHILST THE HARPERS FLY THE LOCAL FLAG

109 competitors (the best entry yet) competed in the fifth North Herts (ASHE CONSTRUCTION LTD) Banded Two Star Open Table Tennis Tournament on 13th/14th March 2004 at the Hitchin Boys' School Sports Centre, Hitchin, Herts, writes Di Jermyn.

Several entrants had multiple successes, the most noteworthy being Solomon Akonor of Essex who won both the Men's Bands 5 and 6, beating Keith Weatherby of Yorkshire in both finals. Akonor was also runner-up in the Under 21 Men's Singles where he lost to Chris Bush of Surrey 9,6,10. Darek Zurowski of Middlesex won Men's Band 1 beating Umai Mauthoor of Essex 9, 6,10. In the Men's Open Singles Zurowski, the No 3 seed, won a hard-fought, well supported semi-final match against No 2 seed Abdul Wuraola of Surrey 9,9,11, before losing in the final to the Welsh No 1, Ryan Jenkins 9, 5, 5. Gavin West of Essex, a scratch entry, beat Kevin Haste of Surrey -8,5,5,7 to win the Men's Band 3 Singles.

The Harper family of Biggleswade kept local interest alive. Sandra Harper (Bd) won both the Women's Open Singles beating Sara Coggon (Sx), but a player at the Hitchin Centre, -5,5,5,6 and the Veteran Women's Singles. Lindsey Dare (Nk), also a Centre player, was runner-up in the Veteran Women's group. Mick Harper (Ca), Sandra's husband, made it a family double when he won the Veteran



ETTA CHAIRMAN ALEX MURDOCH is pictured presenting the trophies to Mens Singles winner **RYAN JENKINS** (above right) and r/lup **DAREK ZUROWSKI** and the Womens Singles to **SANDRA HARPER** (below right) and r/lup **SARA GOGGAN**

Men's Singles beating Steve Davis (Sy) 7,9,7 in the final.

The Tournament Committee would like to thank referee Mick Strode for stepping in at the last minute in the absence of John Jermyn, so helping to make the tournament the success that it was.



RESULTS

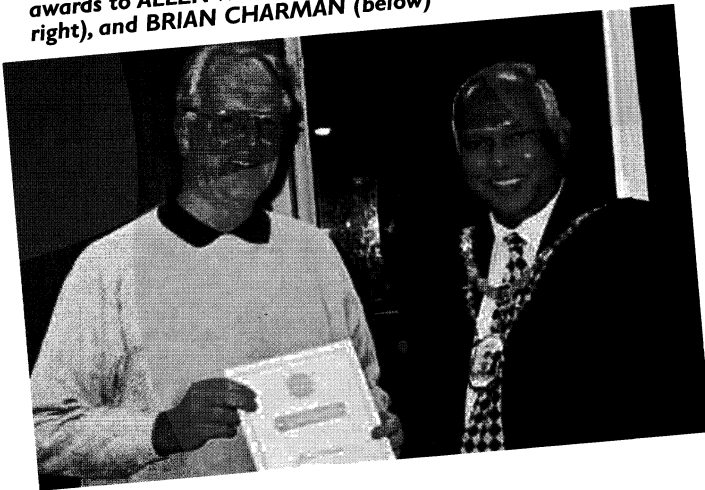
Mens Singles: Ryan JENKINS (WAL) bt Darek ZUROWSKI (Mi) 11-9, 11-5, 11-5.
Womens Singles: Sandra HARPER (Bd) bt Sara COGGON(Sx) 5-11, 11-5, 11-5, 11-6.
Veteran Men: Mick HARPER (Ca) bt Steve DAVIS (Sy) 11-7, 11-9, 11-7.
Veteran Women: Sandra HARPER (Bd) r/lup Lindsey DARE (Nk) Group (r/r)
Under 21 Men: Chris BUSH (Sy) bt Solomon AKONOR (E) 11-9, 11-6, 12-10.
Men Band 1: Darek ZUROWSKI (Mi) bt Umai MAUTHOOR (E) 13-11, 11-3, 7-11, 9-11, 12-10.
Men Band 2: Tony HALLING (E) bt Chris BECKLEY (Sy) 10-12, 11-9, 9-11, 11-9, 11-4.
Men Band 3: Gavin WEST (E) bt Kevin HASTE (Sy) 8-11, 11-5, 11-5, 11-7.
Men Band 4: Leo VEINSREIDER (Sy) bt John CLARK (Y) 11-8, 9-11, 11-5, 8-11, 11-7.
Men Band 5: Solomon AKONOR (E) bt Keith WEATHERBY (Y) 9-11, 12-10, 11-7, 11-5.
Men Band 6: Solomon AKONOR (E) bt Keith WEATHERBY (Y) 8-11, 13-11, 3-11, 11-6, 11-9.
Women Band 1: Sarah HORSNELL (Mi) bt Anusha SENEVIRATNE (K) Group (r/r).
Women Band 2: Anush SENEVIRATNE (K) bt Sarah HUDSON (Bd) 3-11, 14-12, 11-9, 11-8.
Women Band 3: Sarah HUDSON (Bd) bt Sarah HUBBARD (K) 11-9, 11-7, 14-12.

ASHE CONSTRUCTION LTD

GOLD AWARDS for TABLE TENNIS VOLUNTEERS



The Mayor of Harrow Cllr. MANO DHARMARAJAH presents the awards to ALLEN WHEELER (above), GEORGE WALSH (top right), and BRIAN CHARMAN (below)



WEMBLEY & HARROW TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Wembley & Harrow table tennis volunteers have been awarded the London Federation for Sport and Recreation's Gold Award for their service to the sport.

Allen Wheeler (Secretary of the Wembley & Harrow League), George Walsh (vice-president) and Brian Charman (Handbook secretary and League historian) were presented with their awards by the Mayor of Harrow, Cllr. Mano Dharmarajah at a ceremony at the W&H Closed Championships at the Harrow Leisure Centre on recently.

The awards recognise more than 30 years of support and commitment, that Allen, George and Brian have each given to local table tennis.

The event was a double celebration for Wembley & Harrow League chairman Michael Close, who himself received a volunteers' Jubilee Award for 50 years of voluntary service, in a ceremony at the Houses of Parliament last autumn. He commented "These three new awards acknowledge the sterling contribution given by Allen, George and Brian to the administration and development of the sport in our local area and are all extremely well-merited."

The volunteer award has been created to give recognition for service in the volunteer sector in Greater London. Local sport and recreation often depends entirely on such people.

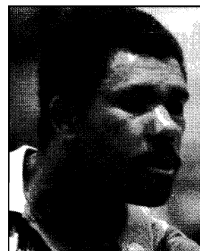
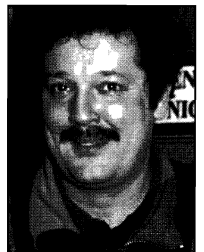


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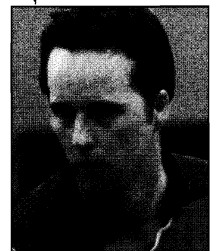
COURSE DIRECTOR
NICKY JARVIS
Professional TT Coach.
Former England No.1, World No.27, & European No.14



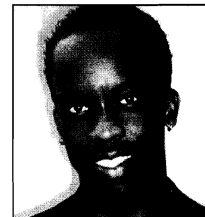
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COACH: ANDREW EDEN Former England No.1 Junior



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5 times Welsh Champion. Welsh No.1 for 8 years. '99 British Champ.



COACH: GARETH HERBERT
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Gold Package: 6 x reserved premium seats for all sessions (up to 12 additional tickets, if required, at half price), 6 x programmes, mention as Gold sponsors in the programme, Table Tennis News and on the ETTA website, a half page advertisement in the programme, 6 x invitations to the post finals reception, 20 x 10sec visual/audio adverts on the venues "big screen". **COST £300**

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For further details, or to purchase any of the above packages, contact Mike Johns on 01606 45766

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Greenbank Sports Center has on site accommodation facilities for the disabled. The following packages are offered for the weekend of 21st to 23rd May 2004:

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There are 6 double rooms available and they will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

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1 night Bed and Breakfast accommodation (Saturday) a ticket for Saturday and Sunday in reserved area. **£40**

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2 nights Bed and Breakfast accommodation (Friday and Saturday), a season ticket in reserved area. **£45**

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 - 2

DANIEL IS BERKSHIRE SCHOOLS CHAMPION

DANIEL HAILE, a pupil of Alfred Sutton Primary School in Reading, is this year's Berkshire Schools' Under 11 Boys' table tennis champion. In an exciting and sporting Round Robin at Our Lady of Peace Community Centre in Earley, Daniel, coming from behind, fought off the challenge of another Alfred Sutton star – Dominic Gosling – to win 3-1. He also beat Rory McGowan, a Caversham Primary pupil, and Alistair Nield from Oldfield Primary, Maidenhead, 3-1, and the eventual runner up and tournament favourite Blair King from St Edwards Royal Free, Windsor, 3-2. Both players had chances in the contest to take the title. Daniel won the first 11-3 only for Blair to storm back to take the second 11-4. The third went to Daniel 11-4 only for Blair to make it all square with an 11-5 win. The decider was a real cracker and with Blair ahead 5-2 and 8-4 it seemed all over for the Alfred Sutton boy. With some brave and steady defence Daniel drew level to take the final game 12-1. Blair went on to take silver by beating Dominic 3-1, Alistair 3-1, and Rory, the morning's most improved player, in an outstanding five game set with an 11-6, 10-12, 3-11, 11-9, 11-5 scoreline. The remaining sets reflected the closeness of the morning's play with each player winning one, to share the joint Bronze position.

Berkshire Schools' representative John Cunningham would like to thank the schools, parents and players for contributing to a great morning's play and wishes Daniel the best of luck in the National Schools' Finals on 24th April, 2004.

Roll of Honour:

Champion: Daniel Haile (Alfred Sutton School)
 Runner-up: Blair King (St Edward's Royal Free)
 Joint Third: Dominic Gosling (Alfred Sutton School), Alistair Nield (Oldfield Primary School) and Rory McGowan (Caversham Primary).

YORK GARDENS TTC FINISH IN 3rd PLACE



BRIAN SPICER, London Development Officer, presents Tom Draper, Sue Adamson, and Richard Mac of York Gardens Table Tennis Club with their certificate for finishing third in the Advanced Premier Club of the year competition.

York Gardens based at Ernest Bevin College, Beechcroft Road, Tooting SW17 is the hub club in the area working with Brian's development planning with Partnership Development Manager Nick Miller and his Schools Sports Coordinators, in reaching potentially 11 secondary schools and 51 primary schools.

French coach Eric Du Duc works with coaches and volunteers within the club, and feeder schools and widens the coverage from beginners to advanced players including players with disabilities.

ttkGreenhouse help with attracting underprivileged schoolchildren from the Wandsworth area, with free sessions after school and during school holidays.

GEMMA HELPS REVIVE HEART ATTACK VICTIM

QUICK-THINKING Derbyshire student Gemma Hart has been praised for helping to save a man's life after he collapsed while playing badminton.

Miss Hart (18), Sandiacre, performed mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on the man after he had a heart attack and stopped breathing at Friesland Sports Centre, in Nursery Avenue, Sandiacre.

The teenager, who is in her second year of a BTEC National Diploma in sports science at South East Derbyshire College (SEDC) in Ilkeston, also works part-time as a leisure attendant at the sports centre.

She had been taught first aid techniques, including CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), as part of her course, but on Monday night she had to put the theory into practice.

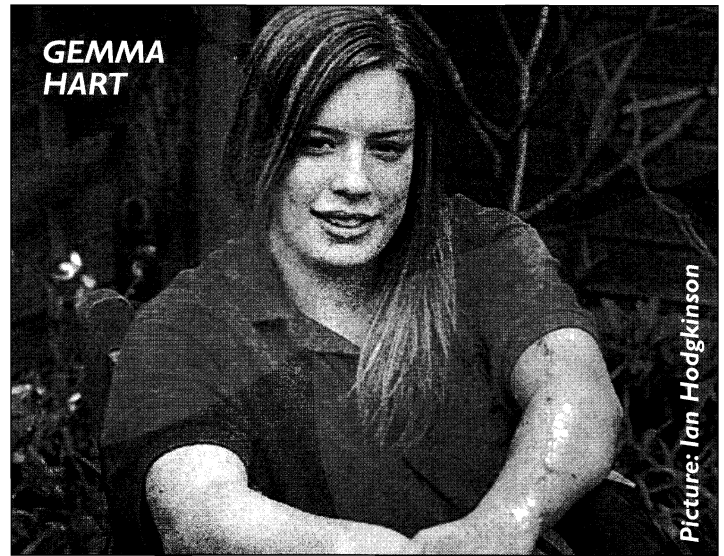
Miss Hart said: "I was playing in a table tennis match for Draycott & Long Eaton in the Derby & District TTL, and I had just gone into the bar to wait for my last game when I turned round and saw the man on the floor.

"Apparently, he had been going for a shot when he just collapsed.

"My duty manager, Helen Smithurst, started performing CPR on him. I could see she was getting tired and I thought I should help because I did know what I was doing."

"It was exhausting and I felt really shaky by the time the man had been rushed off in the ambulance."

"We've now heard that he had a heart attack but is recovering well, which is really good news."



Miss Hart and Miss Smithurst took it in turns to try to resuscitate the man for 17 minutes and started his breathing again by the time paramedics arrived.

Miss Hart, who lives with her proud mother Sheila and 21-year-old brother Darren, said: "I felt very relieved when he started breathing again. I just hope he's all right.

"Once it was over I just sat down shaking. It took all the air out of me and I had a headache.

"At the time I just thought about getting it done, but it affected me afterwards. It was really scary."

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COOKE & HOLT FIVE CROWNS EACH



to the final 4, 7, 11, 10.

Alan Cooke, who has been unable to coach for the England administration for months because of the employment tribunal upset with Denis Neale, has been able to raise his game and as a result win a whole raft of grand prix tournaments.

In the Sheffield final his unrelenting top-spin attack left little hope of success for Young who only scored a

ETTA Chairman ALEX MURDOCH and the Lord Mayor of Sheffield Cllr. Dianne Leak, present the singles trophies to ALAN COOKE (left) and ANDREA HOLT



IT is worrying to record that the average age of the two winners at the splendid English Institute of Sport at Sheffield was 35. Alan Cooke, 38, Andrea Holt, 33, both clinched their fifth England titles, but they had to fight hard and produce breathtaking rearguard actions to retain their crowns, writes John Woodford.

I could write a small book, on the state of affairs that sees coaches like Cooke and Billington, winning tournaments, when the younger men like Bryn Drinkhall should be emerging. However, Alan Cooke's vast experience saw him through.

In the quarters of the mens singles it seemed that Bradley Billington was on the come-back trail. He lost the first to Alan Cooke but snatched the second, third and fourth 6, 6, 10, but, still piling on a unique brand of top-spin Cooke counter-hit his way to take the next three games 9, 5, 9.

Alex Perry, a man battling to forge a career outside table tennis, after stopping Bryn Drinkhall 3,9,8,5 went under 8, 5, 8, 6 to the reigning champion.

Meanwhile, in the other half, there were eyebrow-raising happenings. After reaching the last eight, top seed

Words by
**JOHN WOODFORD
& JIM BECKLEY**
Pictures by
MARTIN IRELAND

Gareth Herbert scratched with back trouble, leaving a grinning Abdul Wuraola through to the semis.

Terry Young, now an amateur who might have made a career in our sport, did not have his own way against Abdul, but with patient driving and tricky serving he came through

single point in the first game. Cooke was not in the mood of taking prisoners. Young tried all he knew, gradually gaining more points but the popular Derbyshire player eased home 1,4, 5, 7.

After his victory he said "Age is no barrier to success. Working hard is the answer and that is the best advice I can give our young players on the way up."

IN FROM THE COLD

This was the time that Andrea Holt, 33 from Manchester came in from the cold.



National Mens Doubles Champions: ALAN COOKE and BRADLEY BILLINGTON



National Womens Doubles Champions: HELEN LOWER and GEORGINA WALKER



Losing singles finalists HELEN LOWER (above) and TERRY YOUNG



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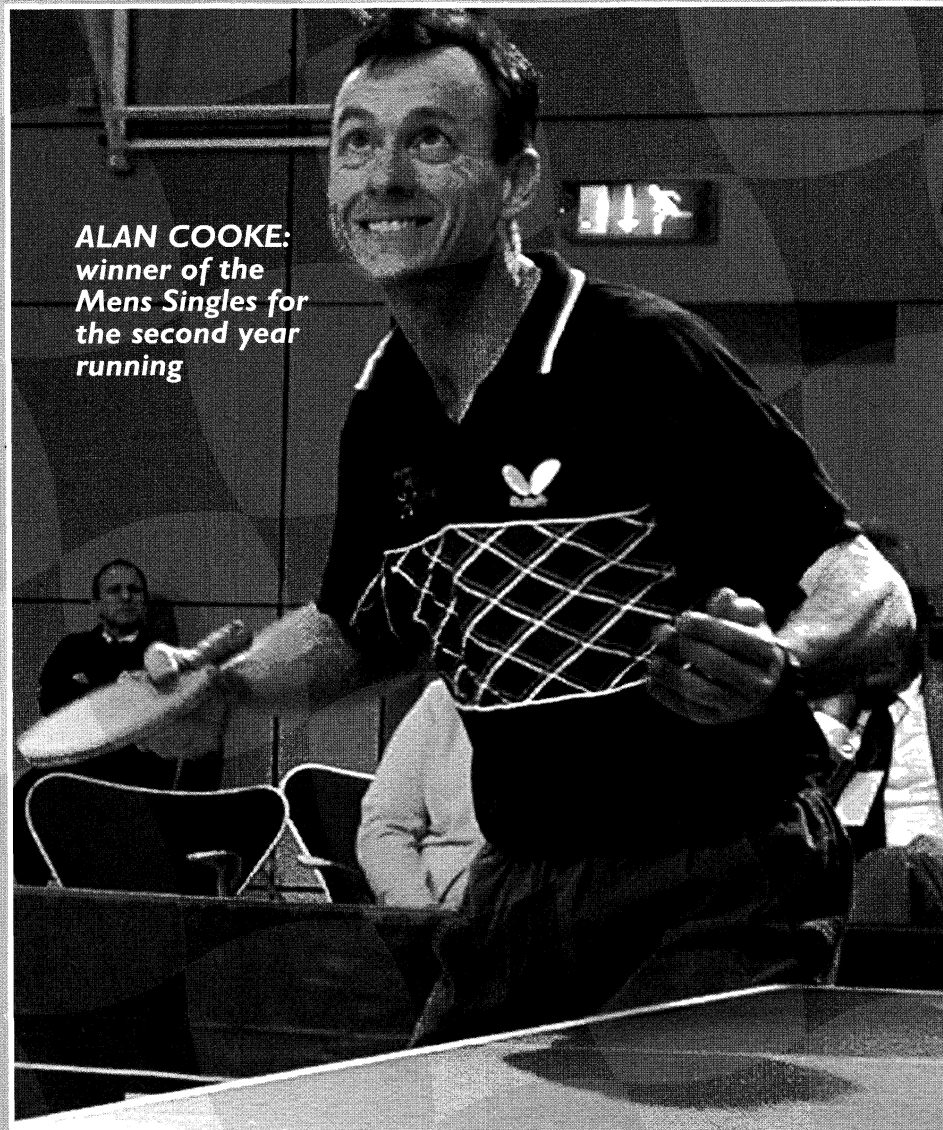
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ALAN COOKE former Commonwealth Champion, 4 times English champion & England National Team coach.
NICOLA DEATON 5 times National Champion, Commonwealth and European medallist & currently one of England's leading coaches.
BRADLEY BILLINGTON Former National Team Coach & National Junior Champion. Currently head coach at Grantham College.
ALEX PERRY Former English National Champion, Commonwealth Team Gold Medallist & current England international.
JOHN HILTON Former European Mens Singles champion & world No.5. One of England's top veteran players. Former National Team Coach.
MARK BAWDEN Qualified Sports Psychologist. Mark has worked with the National Table Tennis Team. Currently working with the English Cricket Board.



ALAN COOKE:
winner of the
Mens Singles for
the second year
running

Playing with a calf injury with only two games before the final she underlined the justified claim that she is the strongest woman player in Britain.

She started at the quarters with a 9,7,4,8 win against Claire Peers (nee News) and a win 4,8,5,4, over the second seed Georgina Walker who impressed in Qatar some weeks earlier.

Meanwhile, in the other half Helen Lower who was the anchor of England's successes in Doha continued her best form. Kubrat Owalabi lost the first but hit back strongly to take the next two -9, -12.

Lower, the Wolverhampton-based hitter, lifted her attack to the highest level to take the remaining three games 9,5,3, to reach the final round.

The womens singles final was one of the finest battles seen for some years. Players who can both defend and attack have obvious advantages. Back-spin alternating with top-spin and laced with straight driving can be

lethal. Some of Andrea's return from the back of the court, would have drawn applause if Matthew Syed had conjured them up. Three at least, of the Holt returns were in the Syed mould and the secret of her success was that she managed to keep the ball low.

The scoreline tells the story, 8 to Andrea, 6 and 6 to Helen leaving the Manchester lady with all to do. She won the next two 7 and 7, faltered slightly 10-12 in the 6th game, before finally getting home 6 in the seventh game of an absolutely enthralling contest.

After winning she said, "After playing for twelve years in France, I am pleased to come back and win although I thought I might have to pull out with my leg injury".

Many of the 500 fans who watched the final left with the thought that she should have been brought in from the cold years ago. An England team of Holt, Nicola Deaton and Helen Lower would have taken some

RUSHTON & BAWDEN UNDER 21 CHAMPIONS

beating.

Helen Lower's aggressive policy paid off in the doubles - she triumphed with Georgina in the womens doubles and with Alex Perry in the mixed against Gareth Herbert and Natalie Bawden, who is another improving player.

Two more hugely experienced players won the veterans singles - Brian Johns and Jill Harris.

SERVICE PROBLEMS

The umpires and referee Mick Strode faced some worrying problems judging services. One umpire was threatened by a player, drawing only a

yellow card, a referee's report and a disciplinary proceeding should have been carried out.

The English Institute of Sport is a spacious, magnificent venue, costing £28 million, part of a national scheme started in the days of John Major.

In the year that it has been opened it has not been used to its full potential. The huge table tennis hall is used only by the Sheffield TT League. Summary: Overall, the three-day event ran smoothly under the new administration. The biggest drawback was the top men's entry had more holes in it than a Swiss cheese!



ANDREA HOLT:
Wins her fifth
Womens Singles
title at Sheffield

Manchester's Andrew Rushton retained his under 21 title when he beat bright, young prospect Darius Knight in a spectacular match that unfortunately ended in dispute when young Darius was yellow carded for a second time, writes Jim Beckley.

Rushton has been on the edge of a regular England place for some time and his showing throughout the weekend must have provided manager Steen Hansen, who spent all weekend at the event, with some really good promise for the future.

Rushton had beaten another young player Paul Drinkhall in the semi-final, a match that produced some sensational table tennis and was nip and tuck all the way. Eventually Rushton playing a more consistent game won the day but Drinkhall, for a player of only 14 years, was outstanding and seems to have a real future.

Afterwards Rushton commented on both his matches saying: "To win the title in the way I did wasn't satisfactory. But I suppose those are rules although I must admit that I hardly heard what Darius said to get his second yellow."

The womens under-21 final was a triumph for Natalie Bawden, The Chelmsford player beat higher ranked Louise Durrant in four games and always looked to be in command. It's a result that will have provided Natalie with a real boost whose main ambition is to become a regular in the England team.

The mens singles veterans event was a triumph for the Johns brothers from Cheshire. First Brian, the younger of the two brothers, climaxed a magnificent weekend by beating John Hilton the No 1 seed in four games. For Brian it was time to celebrate a hat trick of veterans singles wins. He won it for two years in a row in 1995/96 and 1996/97.

The veterans mens doubles was hardly a classic but the end result was a clear win for Mike and Brian Johns over John Hilton and Malcolm Lusk. It was their second win together, the previous time in 1997.

The ladies singles event was predictably won by new super veteran Jill Harris. The Staffordshire player has made a big impact on the over 40s this season, unbeaten in Masters tournaments and now in her first year winner of the National title.

Unfortunately for her opponent in the final Kim Mudge, it was just too

much and she went down 11-6, 11-2, 11-8.

RESULTS:

Mens Singles: s/f: A.Cooke bt A.Perry 8, 5, 8, 6; T.Young bt A.Wuraola 4, 7, 11, 10. **Final:** Cooke bt Young 1, 4, 5, 7.

Womens Singles: s/f: A.Holt bt G.Walker 4, 8, 5, 4; H.Lower bt K.Owalabi 11, -9, -12, 9, 5, 3. **Final:** Holt bt Lower 8, -6, -6, 7, 7, -10, 6.

Mens U21 Singles: s/f: A.Rushton bt P.Drinkhall 4, -9, 8, -10, 8; D.Knight bt C.Bryant 3, 12, 7. **Final:** Rushton bt Knight 10, 4, -9, 8.

Womens U21 Singles: s/f: N.Bawden bt L.Spink -11, 8, -11, 8, 11; L.Durrant bt G.Walker 6, 6, 14. **Final:** Bawden bt Durrant 8, -6, 7, 7.

Mens Doubles Final: A.Cooke/B.Billington bt A.Perry/T.Young 3, -8, 8, -8, 11.

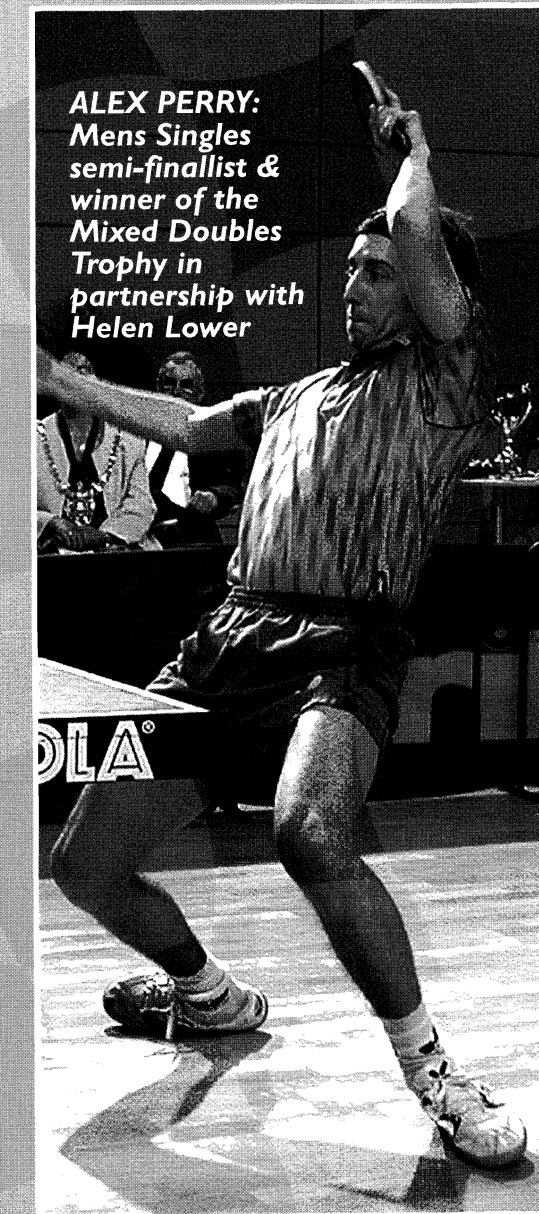
Womens Doubles Final: H.Lower/G.Walker bt N.Bawden/L.Durrant 5, -8, 4, -6, 8.

Mixed Doubles Final: A.Perry/H.Lower bt G.Herbert/N.Bawden 9, -9, 9, 9.

Veterans Mens Singles Final: B.Johns bt J.Hilton 9, 7, -11, 7.

Veterans Womens Singles Final: J.Harris bt K.Mudge 6, 2, 8.

Veterans Mens Doubles Final: B. & M.Johns bt J.Hilton/M.Lusk 7, 9, 11.



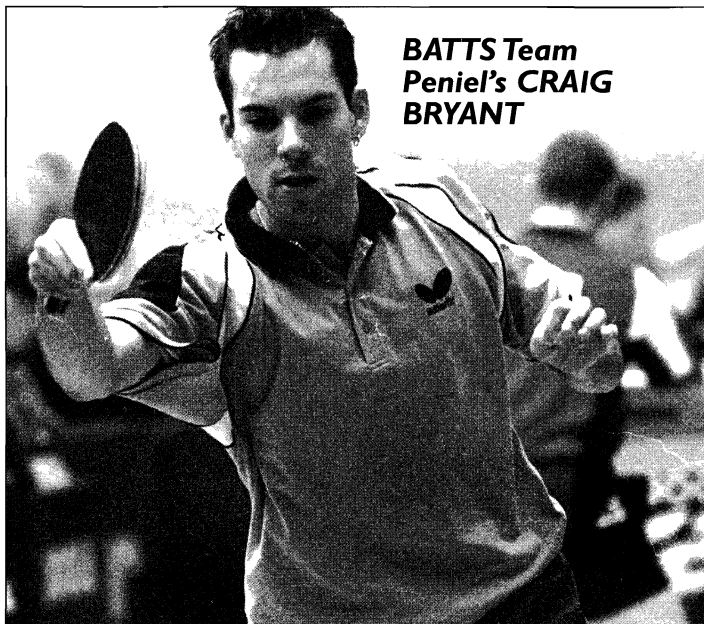
ALEX PERRY:
Mens Singles
semi-finalist &
winner of the
Mixed Doubles
Trophy in
partnership with
Helen Lower

LONDON PROGRESS ARE SIMPLY THE BEST

It might be a tired old cliché but how else can you describe a side who have just won the British Table Tennis League Premier division title for a record-breaking six times on the trot? It didn't turn out to be their best weekend of the Season but with three wins from their four matches London Progress were still comfortable winners of the division. Fittingly the weekend was played on their home territory at the highly impressive new Southall College and Progress now have a base of sufficient quality to enable them to plan for even greater success. Their ambition of winning this title ten times in a row is certainly no idle boast, writes Steve Kerns.

Wins on the Saturday over Darlington I (5-3) and against JAGS (6-2) were enough to see them crowned as Champions and although they were again beaten by Seasiders on the Sunday, this time by a 6-2 margin they were able to complete another memorable season with a workmanlike 6-2 victory over BATTs Team Peniel I. Perhaps the most telling statistic that surrounds Progress's success is the number of players they have used to achieve it. They have created a record which can never be beaten by using the same four players in all fourteen matches. It will come as little surprise to hear that no other winning side in the entire British League managed this. Darren Blake (22 wins/6 losses) fared best as Marco Essomba (18 wins/10 losses), Jason Sugrue (20 wins/8 losses) and Leeroy Pye (19 wins/9 losses) completed what was a very impressive Progress "team performance" over the course of the season. Expect Marco to lose rather fewer games next year when he is free of the pressures that exams bring to a player's ability to find time to practice.

Progress's defeat against Seasiders was probably the most notable result. Seasiders were always calling the shots in this match and their 5-1 lead eventually finished in a 6-2 victory. John Hilton took his two singles gunning down Marco Essomba and Darren Blake (both 3-1) whilst Jonathan Taylor was equally



BATTs Team Peniel's CRAIG BRYANT

impressive in beating both Jason Sugrue and Essomba. John Rankin capped an excellent Seasiders performance by beating Leeroy Pye 12-10 in the decider. Like all great teams Progress put that defeat immediately to the back of their minds and hit back with a 6-2 victory over BATTs Team Peniel. Leeroy Pye avenged his first half of the Season defeat with a 3-0 victory over Neil Charles. The two Peniel successes were both achieved by their rising star Craig Bryant, as he saw off Marco Essomba (3-2) and Darren Blake (3-0). With a record of 22 wins and a mere 6 losses Craig will undoubtedly be a strong contender for the British League Player of the Season Award.

Barnet with seven points out of eight from the weekend finished a clear second with 20 points. Gergely Urban was a superb no. one and when he dropped down to the no. two position to accommodate Tim Yarnall at no. one you have a very strong recipe for success. Gergely matched John Hilton and Craig Bryant in remaining unbeaten over the weekend. The Yarnall/Urban partnership was at its most effective against JAGS I notching up all four singles wins. Gergely hammered Lorestas Trumpauskas 3-0, Tim Yarnall avenged a first half defeat with an 11-8 in the fifth set victory over Abdul Wuraola, Yarnall added a second impressive victory over Trumpauskas (this time 3-1) and

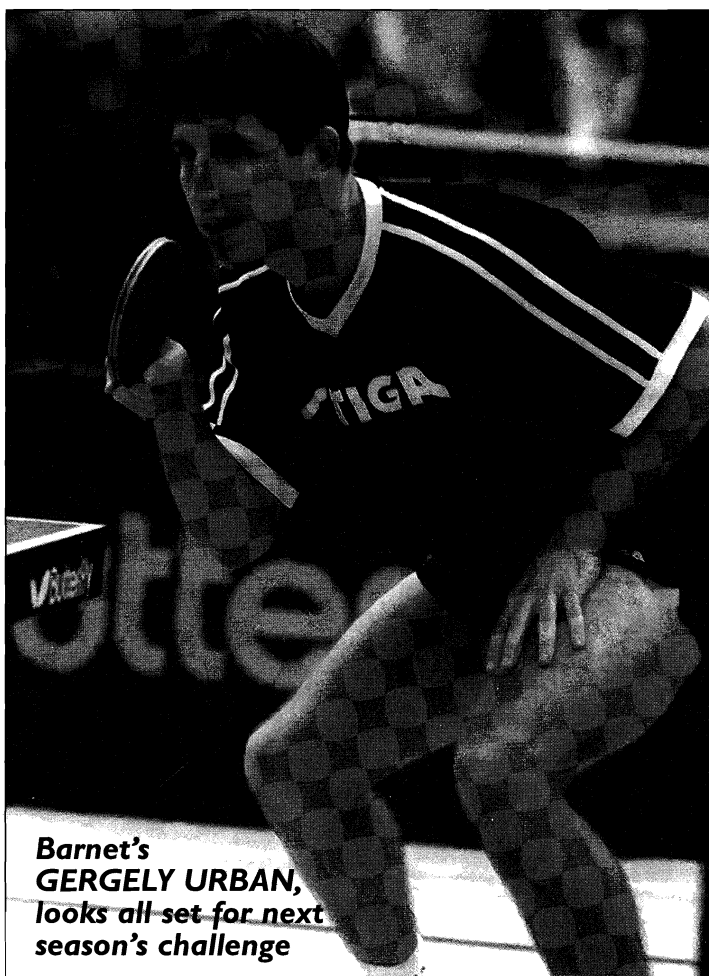
Gergely completed the rout with a hard-fought 3-2 victory over Clive Carthy. Barnet deservedly won 6-2. Barnet had in fact struggled more against Horsham I, in a match that ended all square. Gergely Urban beat both Stephen Beerling and Adrian Moore 3-0 but Horsham were far from finished. Peter Bartram hit back by getting the better of Anthony Corbin (3-0) and then most impressively Costas Papanioniou from 2-0 down. Beerling added a surprisingly decisive 3-0 victory over the tenacious Niall Cameron which meant that Horsham led 4-3. It wasn't to be and Anthony Corbin came through 3-1 against a disappointing Dominic Hall to square the match.

Last year's Runners-Up BATTs Team Peniel I had to make do with fourth place this time. Despite being without John Holland and with the best teams still to play they still managed to hold their own pretty successfully. They produced their best performance against Seasiders where they held the eventual third placers to a draw. Craig Bryant was again on superb form getting the better of both Jonathan Taylor (3-0) and Kevin Dolder (3-1). Peter Cleminson also excelled in beating Taylor 11-9 in the fifth end whilst Neil Charles added a vital early win over John Rankin. It all came down to John Hilton's ability "to ride out a storm when a big-hitter is giving him

a lot of trouble". Only John knows how he does it, but the maestro came from behind twice to get the better of Peter Cleminson -8,-7,8,8,8 and then Neil Charles 6,-7,-4, 5,8. It seems slightly irreverent to say too much about John Hilton after all he is a former European Mens Singles Champion. However I doubt that when he won the European title he could possibly have imagined that he would still be entertaining followers of the sport to such an extent some 24 years later. Long may he continue.

Round 14 saw Horsham facing Darlington with Darlington fully aware that only a victory would enable them to retain their Premier division status. And win they certainly did, as they tore through the games eventually winning 7-1. Matt Kenny's 11-9 in the fifth game opening set victory over Stephen Beerling possibly broke the Horsham resistance but as hard as Horsham tried Darlington always seemed to have that little bit extra. Matt Kenny completed his double by beating Adrian Moore 11-7 in the fifth end and it wasn't until the sixth game when Beerling secured a fine 11-7 in the fifth game win over Eddie Smith that Horsham finally got their names on the scoresheet. Ritchie Venner came out on top in the Sussex player's personal battles with 3-1 victories over Adrian Moore and Peter Bartram. Michael Marsden was also undefeated as he saw off Bartram 3-0 and then the luckless Dominic Hall (3-1). Defeat for Horsham came at a heavy price - relegation.

Derwent were unable to add to their points total and were as expected relegated as well but their players still came away with some impressive wins under their belts. Dave Godbold shone against JAGS beating Abdul Wuraola 3-0, whilst Stephen Horsfield also excelled by beating Clive Carthy 3-1. Trevor Williams added a convincing 3-0 victory over John Dennison. However it was Dennison who proved to be the JAGS saviour as he scored a superb -7,-5, 10,10, 5 win over Richard Smith, a player ranked a massive 162 places above him nationally. Derwent had also held their own against Barnet up to 2-2. Richard Smith came through to beat Anthony Corbin 3-1 and Trevor



**Barnet's
GERGELY URBAN,
looks all set for next
season's challenge**

Williams played superbly as he saw off Niall Cameron 3-1, but Barnet reasserted themselves impressively at that point. Gergely Urban made no mistake in defeating David Godbold 3-0 and then Costas Papantoniou came past Richard Smith 3-1. Niall Cameron more than made up for his early slip with a 3-0 victory over Stephen Horsfield and with the match already won Anthony Corbin showed his colleague Cameron how to deal with Trevor William's cast-iron defence with a commendable 3-0 victory.

With proposals in place to restructure the Premier division next season to include 16 teams it is too early to contemplate the make-up of the division. However you wouldn't be able to get odds on London Progress retaining their title, even at this stage. An outside bet for the title, Barnet, with the two outstanding Juniors Tim Yarnall and Darius Knight on their books, as well as with Gergely Urban playing so impressively must surely be worth a wager.

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PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
London Progress	14	11	1	2	79	33	23
Barnet	14	8	4	2	65	47	20
Seasiders	14	8	1	5	66	46	17
BATTS Team Peniel I	14	7	3	4	63	49	17
JAGS	14	4	4	6	51	61	12
Darlington I	14	4	2	8	54	58	10
Horsham I	14	3	3	8	40	72	9
Derwent I	14	2	0	12	30	82	4
DIVISION ONE NORTH							
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 Phoenix	14	0	3	11	29	83	3
DIVISION ONE SOUTH							
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
DIVISION TWO NORTH							
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
DIVISION TWO SOUTH							
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
DIVISION 3 MIDLANDS							
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
DIVISION 3 NORTH							
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
DIVISION 3 SOUTH							
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
DIVISION 3 SOUTH & WEST							
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
DIVISION 4							
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

CLARIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY ?

THERE are a number of interesting and possibly controversial proposals for alterations to County Championships Regulations submitted for consideration at the Annual Conference in June. Possibly the most interesting proposal is one submitted by the County Championships Committee in an attempt to finally clarify once and for all the knotty problem of players eligibility qualification, writes Stan Clarke.

Since the decision taken two years ago to remove the right of players to choose which County they wished to play for there have been a small number of players who have had problems concerning their eligibility to play for a County with which they have an affinity but do not have the necessary residential or birth qualification. The proposal is not designed to allow a return to the old "County of choice" free for all, but is an attempt to address the problems that some players are experiencing and to define just how County qualification can be obtained. The main problems arise from the changes to County boundaries over the years, which to many people seem somewhat arbitrary and have more of a political motive than anything else, not to mention the problems caused by the introduction of Metropolitan Counties in the 1970's and their subsequent abolition when they proved to be a thorn in the side of those who were so keen to set them up. Fortunately not many Table Tennis areas chose to transfer

their allegiance to the new Metropolitan Counties, although some, such as Avon and Cleveland did and now find that the areas as once defined no longer exist in any meaningful manner, add to that the ETTA map of Counties which was never up-dated as boundaries were changed and has since been lost, and it is not difficult to understand why players are sometimes confused as to which County they are eligible to play for. There are two separate proposals seeking to change regulation to suggest that all County Championship matches must be played on a group basis, the main problem being that they state that the Administrator shall decide the dates and venues for each group. The problem is that it would be an almost impossible task to place on the shoulders of one man who already has the most demanding job in the sport, running thirty four divisions with a minimum of one hundred and seventy players involved, that is the equivalent of staging eight open tournaments each season, only much more complicated. Personally I don't know how Les Smith copes with the workload and if he decides to stand down I very much doubt if we will be lucky enough to find a suitable replacement.

CADET DIVISIONS

PREMIER DIVISION

The final round of matches were staged at Grantham on 28th February and were unfortunately somewhat marred by the non-attendance of Suffolk and Gloucestershire, who

were unable to travel because of bad weather condition, however the remaining six Counties were able to make the journey to enable a conclusion of the division in this it's inaugural season. In this first year Durham has been the dominant force and they arrived as divisional leaders with a 100% success record and despite the fact that they were held to a draw in their first match against Sussex, which was the only point they dropped all season, they quickly bounced back to overcome Lincolnshire 7/3 in their final match, thus ensuring the championship by a three point margin over nearest rivals Derbyshire and Lancashire. The battle for second place could not have been closer, both teams won their first matches 6/4, Derbyshire beating Lincolnshire and Lancashire beating Surrey, in the final matches Derbyshire beat Surrey 7/3 and Lancashire beat Sussex 7/3, leaving both teams tied on eight points, but Derbyshire, by virtue of a single set took second place leaving Lancashire in third place.

Suffolk and Gloucestershire, who were unable to complete their fixtures, are relegated.

DIVISION 1A

The final round of matches was played at Halifax and Suffolk 2nd and Norfolk were unable to attend due to weather conditions. Yorkshire romped home as divisional winners beating Northants 7/3 Warwickshire by the same score before trouncing the unfortunate Leicestershire 10/0 in their final match, ensuring they held on first place by two points over runners-up Cleveland. The team from the North-East also had a successful day beating Leicestershire 9/1, Warwickshire 6/4 and Northamptonshire 8/2. South Yorkshire took third place.

Rather surprisingly Suffolk 2nd avoided relegation despite playing only three of their seven matches,

finishing ahead of Norfolk and Leicestershire.

DIVISION 1B

Playing the final round of matches at Bridgwater, all teams managed to overcome the weather conditions and played four matches on the day to complete their fixtures, how is it that Cadets can play four matches in one day when older players struggle to play two?

Somerset ensured the divisional title with three wins and a draw on the day, starting with a 7/3 win over Glamorgan before being held to a draw by Sussex 2nd, but recording an 8/2 win over Sussex 3rd in their next match and rounding off the day with an 7/3 win against Gwent they finished one point clear of second place Sussex 2nd.

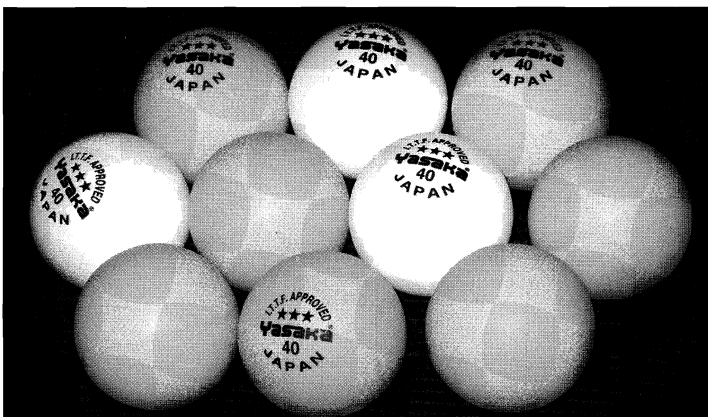
Sussex 2nd could have made things much closer but surprisingly only managed a draw against Surrey 2nd who were a player short and from a position of 5/2 down rallied to win the final three sets and force a draw, denying Sussex 2nd of the point they required to overtake Somerset.

Berkshire managed to avoid bottom place when they beat Sussex 3rd 6/4 in their final match, both teams playing with only one girl, that defeat condemned Sussex 2nd to bottom place.

JUNIORS

DIVISION 2B

How tight can a division be? Three teams finishing with four wins, one draw, and one defeat each with nine points, final positions to be decided on sets difference, Somerset finished in top spot with a sets difference of 41 won to 19 lost, leaving Hampshire with 38/22 in second place and Surrey 2nd with 32/28 in third place, it just proves that every set is important and there is no place for "Easing off" once the match is mathematically won.



**YASAKA
3 STAR BALLS**

VETERANS OVER 60's TABLES

Over 60's Division 1A

Worcestershire	5	4	1	0	37	13	9
Yorkshire	5	4	0	1	37	13	8
Essex	5	3	1	1	32	18	7
Cheshire	5	2	0	3	22	28	4
Norfolk	5	1	0	4	21	29	2
Cheshire 2nd	5	0	0	5	1	49	0

Over 60's Division 1B

Kent	5	5	0	0	42	8	10
Middlesex	5	4	0	1	30	20	8
Berkshire	5	3	0	2	30	20	6
Hertfordshire	5	2	0	3	21	29	4
Surrey	5	1	0	4	13	37	2
Sussex	5	0	0	5	14	36	0

OVER 60's

SENIORS

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Devonshire	6	5	1	0	38	22	11
Surrey	6	3	2	1	33	27	8
Yorkshire	6	2	3	1	34	26	7
Essex	6	3	1	2	31	29	7
Middlesex	6	1	3	2	30	30	5
Leicestershire	6	2	0	4	25	35	4
Kent	6	0	0	6	19	41	0

Glamorgan have withdrawn, their record has been deleted

Division IA

Durham	7	7	0	0	55	15	14
Yorkshire 2nd	7	5	0	2	39	31	10
South Yorkshire	7	5	0	2	37	33	10
Lancashire	7	4	0	3	40	30	3
Lincolnshire	7	3	0	4	38	32	6
Cheshire	7	2	1	4	32	38	5
Worcestershire	7	1	1	5	21	49	3
Suffolk	7	0	0	7	18	52	0

Division IB

Sussex 1st	5	5	0	0	37	13	10
Berkshire	6	4	1	1	34	26	9
Wiltshire	6	2	3	1	33	27	7
Glamorgan 2nd	6	3	0	3	31	29	6
Devonshire 2nd	5	1	1	3	23	27	3
Middlesex 2nd	6	1	1	4	21	39	3
Sussex 2nd	6	0	2	4	21	39	2

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	3
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

Gloucestershire	6	5	1	0	47	13	11
Cornwall 1st	6	5	0	1	41	19	10
Hampshire	6	4	0	2	39	21	8
Isle of Wight	6	2	1	3	30	30	5
Avon	6	2	0	4	21	39	4
Somerset	6	2	0	4	18	42	4
Cornwall 2nd	6	0	0	6	14	46	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

Glamorgan	7	5	1	1	44	26	11
Buckinghamshire	7	4	2	1	47	23	10
Derbyshire	7	4	2	1	35	35	10
Yorkshire	7	1	5	1	36	34	7
Dewnshire	7	3	1	3	34	36	7
Cheshire	7	2	2	3	32	38	6
Lincolnshire	7	1	1	5	27	43	3
Essex	7	0	2	5	25	45	2

Division IA

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 IB

Kent	7	6	1	0	48	22	13
Buckingham 2nd	7	5	1	1	48	22	11
Surrey	7	4	3	0	44	26	11
Sussex	7	4	0	3	38	32	8
Glamorgan 2nd	7	3	0	4	29	41	6
Middlesex	7	2	0	5	25	45	4
Gwent	7	1	1	5	30	40	3
Dorset	7	0	0	7	18	52	0

Division 2A

Northamptonshire	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 19th April 2004

Division 2B

Nottingham 2nd	6	0	2	4	15	45	2
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
Dewnshire 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

Division 3A

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

Division 3B

Durham 2nd	6	5	1	0	51	9	11
Lancashire 2nd	6	4	1	1	36	24	9
Northampton 2nd	6	3	1	2	36	24	7
Staffordshire	6	2	3	1	33	27	7
Worcestershire	6	2	1	3	30	30	5
Northumberland	6	0	1	5	7	53	1
Conwy	6	0	0	6	7	53	0

Division 3C

Cornwall 1st	5	5	0	0	40	10	10
Devonshire 3rd	5	3	1	1	31	19	7
Avon	5	3	0	2	27	23	6
Cornwall 2nd	5	2	0	3	25	25	4
Gloucestershire	5	1	1	3	20	30	3
Dewnshire 4th	5	0	0	5	7	43	0

Division 3D

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	7	6	1	0	53	17	13
Derbyshire	7	5	0	2	44	26	10
Lancashire	7	5	0	2	43	27	10
Sussex 1st	7	4	1	2	44	26	9
Lincolnshire	7	3	1	3	40	30	7
Surrey 1st	7	2	0	5	28	42	4
Suffolk	7	0	1	6	14	56	1
Gloucestershire	7	0	0	7	4	66	0

Division IA

Yorkshire	8	7	1	0	61	19	15
Cleveland	8	6	1	1	53	27	13
South Yorkshire	8	5	1	2	48	32	11
Cheshire	8	4	2	2	51	29	10
Warwickshire	8	4	0	4	46	34	8(161-119)
Northamptonshire	8	4	0	4	46	34	8(160-127)
Leicestershire	8	1	0	7	21	59	2
Suffolk 2nd	8	1	0	7	10	70	2
Norfolk	8	0	1	7	14	66	1

Division IB

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	7	7	0	0	51	19	14
Surrey	7	6	0	1	43	27	12
Cheshire	7	4	1	2	40	30	9
Sussex	7	3	0	4	33	37	6
Lancashire	7	2	2	3	32	38	6
Essex	7	2	1	4	34	36	5
Dorset 1st	7	0	2	5	24	46	2
Yorkshire	7	0	2	5	23	47	2

Division IA

Northumberland	7	6	0	1	46	24	12
Cheshire 2nd	7	4	1	2	41	29	9
Norfolk 4	7	4	0	3	40	30	8
Yorkshire 2nd	7	2	3	2	35	35	7
Hertfordshire	7	2	2	3	33	37	6
Oxfordshire	7	2	1	4	30	40	5
South Yorkshire	7	2	1	4	29	41	5
Leicestershire	7	2	0	5	26	44	4

Division IB

Dewnshire	7	6	1	0	55	15	13
Surrey 2nd	7	5	0	2	41	29	10
Middlesex	7	4	0	3	37	33	8
Dorset 2nd	7	2	3	2	31	39	7
Berkshire 1st	7	2	2	3	33	37	6
Kent 2nd	7	2	1	4	38	32	5
Hampshire	7	2	1	4	25	45	5
Buckinghamshire	7	0	2	5	20	50	2

Division 2A

Worcestershire	7	6	1	0	44	26	13
Essex 2nd	7	5	1	1	47	23	11
Nottinghamshire	7	3	3	1	43	27	9
Bedfordshire	7	3	1	3	37	33	7
Essex 3rd	7	3	0	4	37	33	6
Warwickshire	7	2	1	4	32	38	5
Yorkshire 3rd	7	2	1	4	27	43	5
Durham	7	0	0	7	13	57	0

SUPREME COOKE IS A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

THE STIGA Blackpool Open organised by the Blackpool & District Table Tennis League was held at Blackpool Sports Centre on 3/4 April 2004. It was a feast of top table tennis played on 21 tables and watched by an enthusiastic crowd of local followers, writes Tony Meredith.

National Champion Alan Cooke 38 and from Chesterfield beat Craig Howieson (Scotland), beat Alex Green (Lincoln), beat Shaun Marples (Chesterfield) – grandfather Derrick had problems – he has been Alan Cooke's coach for many years. Now to the semi where Alan demolished former European Champion John Hilton of Manchester. Gergely Urban from Hungary beat Mark Jackson (Buckingham), beat Aaden Makinwa (Essex), beat Abdul Wuraola (London) and in the semi beat junior David Meads from Darlington.

In the final Alan Cooke continued his successes by dismissing Hungarian Urban in straight games thus completing the day without the loss of a single game.

In the women's event Wang Ya Nan (Chinese) beat Clare Langford (Birkenhead), and beat Gemma Chapman (Buckingham) in the semi. National Champion Andrea Holt from Bury beat Elizabeth Dennett (Northwich), and beat England player Natalie Bawden from Essex in the semi.

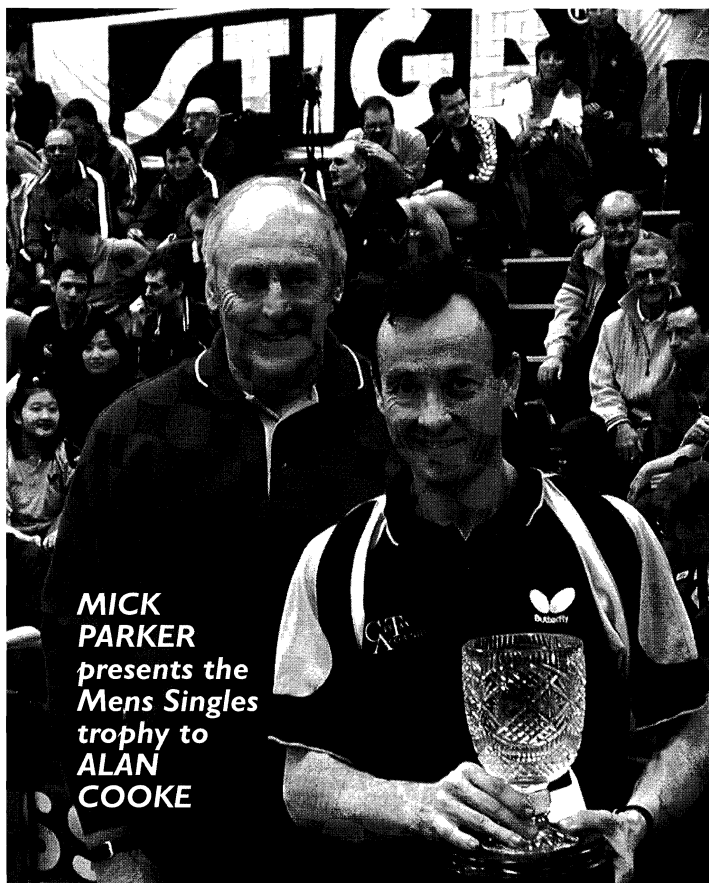
The final was a comfortable win for sixteen year old Wang over Holt with the latter taking the third game for consolation. Miss Holt commented after her defeat "I'm not sure how good she is". Probably fair comment as the young Chinese player hasn't really been extended by any of her opponents in this country.

The under 21 events produced one or two interesting results. No.1 seed Stephen Bailey from Middlesbrough went out in the opening round to funny-batter Andrew Leighton (Darlington) who is still in the junior ranks. Craig Gascoyne from Nottingham beat Ashley Nicholls (Bridgnorth), beat Craig Howieson (Scotland) and ended Andrew Leighton's run in the semi. Stephen Denny of Bingley beat Lee Davies (Wales), beat Danny Reed (Middlesbrough) and beat Danny Welsh also of Middlesbrough in the semi.

No.2 seed Denny was surprisingly beaten in the final by an inspired Craig Gascoyne.

Wang Ya Nan continued her success in the under 21 women's when she beat Caroline Hallows (Stockport) and Gemma Chapman in the semi. Karen Shepherd of Stockport beat Joanne Meads (Darlington), Karin Eggar (Scotland) and Clare Langford in the semi.

Wang proved too strong for Miss Shepherd in the final but



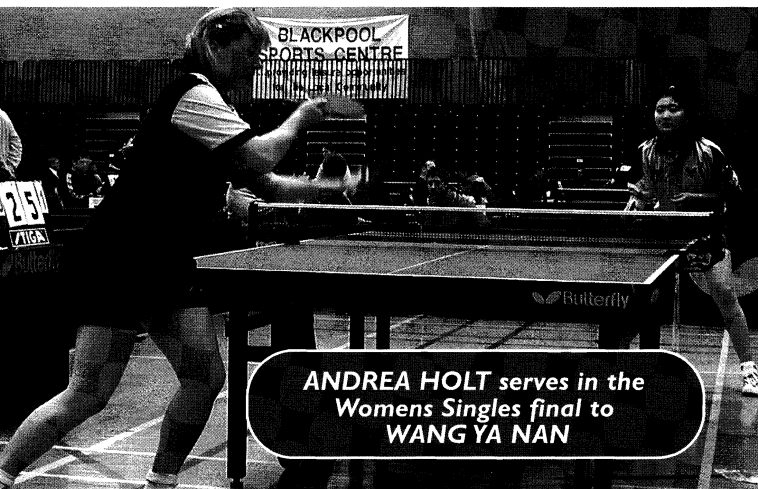
MICK PARKER presents the Mens Singles trophy to **ALAN COOKE**

credit to the Cheshire girl for taking the second game as consolation.

Blackpool player Tamar Seymour excelled in the women's band 1 singles. She overcame the skills of Cheshire girl Elizabeth Dennett in a very well contested final. She had earlier beaten no.1 seed Joanna Roberts (Leeds) in the semi-final.

All the results:-

Men's Singles: Alan Cooke bt Gergely Urban 4, 4, 1. Women's Singles: Wang Ya Nan bt Andrea Holt 5, 6, -6, 9. Veteran Singles: John Hilton bt Dave Godbold (Durham) 6, 9, 5. Under 21 Men's Singles: Craig Gascoyne Bt Stephen Denny 10, 6, 3. Under 21 Women's Singles: Wang Ya Nan bt Karen Shepherd 7, -9, 3, 3. Men's Band 1 Singles: Andrew Leighton bt Craig Gascoyne 8, -8, 6, 8. Men's Band 2 Singles: Danny Reed bt Chris Beckley 9, -11, -11, 4, 10. Men's Band 3 Singles: Craig Howieson bt G. Wilson 7, 9, 7. Men's Band 4 Singles: John Clark bt Aaron Beech (Hawarden) 4, 6, 8. Men's Band 5 Singles: J. Weatherby bt M. Porter -9, 8, 10, 9. Men's Band 6 Singles: K. Weatherby bt G. Young 6, 8, -6, 3. Women's Band 1 Singles: Tamar Seymour bt Elizabeth Dennett 7, 10, -4, 11. Women's Band 2 Singles: Rebecca Russell (Scotland) bt Jane Dickens 9, 7, 8.



ANDREA HOLT serves in the Womens Singles final to **WANG YA NAN**



BERKSHIRE

by John Cunningham
YOUTH LEAGUE

IMPACT Trojans maintained their unbeaten record in the Youth League Division One at the Army Technical Foundation College, Arborfield. David Fudge had a hundred per cent record and received good support from fellow Reading schoolboy Ravinder Dosanjh. Daniel Goslin and Dominic Hale steered Warehouse Trojans into second place.

Arborfield Warriors won the Division Two title. Warriors represented by Eddie Marriott and Steven Adleigh won their last three matches beating Arborfield Challengers 3-1, Arborfield Chinooks 4-0 and Arborfield Apaches 4-0 to secure the title. Arborfield Strikers led by the Gouldsmith twins held on to take second place.

FARQUHAR SISTERS STARS OF BERKSHIRE

Rachel Farquhar, a St Dominic Savio Primary School pupil, is this year's Berkshire under 11 table tennis champion. In a hard fought selection competition Rachel won through to qualify for the National Championships in Stoke on Trent on 24th April. At the Round Robin Stage qualification looked a formality as she beat Emma Ashley (Park Lane Primary) and Ayonija Sundarajac (Abbey), all in straight sets. In then second group Chen Chen Wang (Redlands Primary) progressed at the expense of Jade Fudge (St Mary and All Saints). The contest for second place in this group produced a fantastic contest as Isobel Wise (Caversham Primary) beat Jade 10-12, 11-7, 9-11, 11-6, 11-7. At the semi-final stage Ayonija beat Chen Chen 3-1 while Rachel defeated Isobel 3-0. The final between Rachel and Ayonija was a match worthy of any final. Ayonija, whom Rachel had so easily disposed of in their group match, came out fighting to take the first set 11-5. Rachel fought back to win the next 13-11 and the third 11-8 only for the Abbey girl to make it all square by winning the next 11-9. In the decider Ayonija looked to have the edge – leading 5-3 at ends. From then on it was nip and tuck with both girls giving their all. In the end it was Rachel who held her nerve to win 11-7 and 3 games to 2. Jade won the Under Eleven Girls Plate by beating Emma 13-15, 11-5, 11-8, 13-11.

It was a great day for the Farquhar family as

COUNTY NOTES



elder daughter Melanie (Kendrick School) beat Emma Kusta (Little Heath School) in the under 16 final.

Berkshire Schools' Table Tennis Association Roll of Honour

Under Sixteen Girls:

Champion: Melanie Farquhar (Kendrick School)
Runner-up: Emma Kusta (Little Heath School)

Under Eleven Girls:

Champion: Rachel Farquhar (St Dominic Savio Primary School), runner-up: Ayonija Sundarajan (The Abbey School)

Joint Third: Chenchen Wang (Redlands Primary School) and Isobel Wise (Caversham Primary School)

Under Eleven Plate Girls:

Winner: Jade Fudge (St Mary and All Saints School), runner-up: Emma Ashley (Park Lane Primary)

CHESHIRE

by Alan Blears

National Junior League

ANOTHER N.J.L. season has flown by at terrifying speed. Why does time accelerate so rapidly as one approaches middle age ---?

Stockport 'A' are the N.W. South area champions by 16 points from Tameside 'A'. They have fought many a five-game battle against other teams' players and it has been their ability to win most of these that has earned them the title.

Topping the averages was George Yardley:- p.38, w.37, ave. 97.4%, with Ryan Costello in second place:- p.34, w.31, ave. 91.1%. Congratulations also to Adam Slater and Ajai Singh.

This was George's last appearance, as next season he will be too old, but he hopes to gain a coaching qualification. A great team person, George has played for four seasons without missing one.

In the lower division, the three girls of Stockport 'B' – Amy Walker, Charlotte Baker and Jenny Mawson – plus Paul Kershaw, comfortably avoided relegation, with Amy having a 59.4% average. The older Cheshire team, Halton 'B', are relegated but this very young team should soon be back.

Stockport Junior Tournament

This tournament, restricted to children with some connection to Stockport, attracted a superb entry of 36 from four local leagues. Hot favourite for three singles titles was cadet squad member Caroline Hallows. She did not disappoint, but was pushed hard by three boys, especially Ryan Costello who held one match point against her in the Youth Cup final.

Another star was 9 year old Josh Boulton, who comfortably won the U-12 drawn doubles with Natalie Dodd, also 9, and was runner up in the U-15 Consolation.

In the U-18 drawn doubles, with equally inexperienced Matthew Ricketts, Josh inflicted a remarkable first-round defeat on Caroline Hallows and her partner Charlotte Baker. Cloud Nine has a habit of evaporating rapidly however, and the pair fell to earth in the next round against eventual winners Matthew Weatherby and Amy Walker, both 13, with Amy retaining her title.

Score Results:

U-12 Boys: Winner - Jacob Crabtree, r/u - Jake Barrett. 4, 8, 5.

U-12 Girls: Winner - Amy Craddock, r/u - Natalie Dodd. 7, -12, 5, 6.

U-12 Drawn Doubles: Winner - Joshua Boulton & Natalie Dodd, r/u - Jacob Crabtree & Amy Craddock. 6, 5, 7.

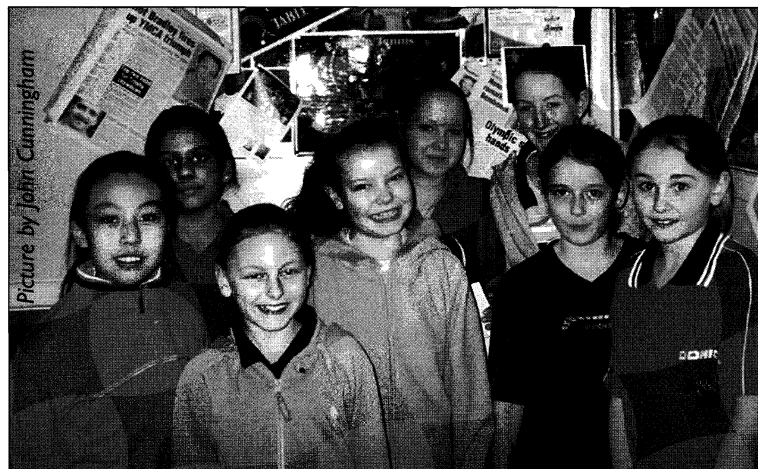
U-15 Cadets: Winner - Caroline Hallows, r/u - Daniel Shaw. 12, 4, 7, 5.

U-15 Consolation: Winner - Jordan Booth, r/u - Joshua Boulton. 6, 5, 2.

U-18 Juniors: Winner - Caroline Hallows,



BERKSHIRE: IMPACT Trojans' David Fudge and Ravinder Dosanjh, in foreground



BERKSHIRE: Berkshire Schools Girls (l.to.r)(back row): Ayonija Sundarajan, Emma Kusta & Melanie Farquhar (Front Row): Chen Chen Wang, Jade Fudge, Emma Ashley, Isobel Wise, Rachel Farquhar



STOCKPORT'S NATIONAL JUNIOR LEAGUE TEAMS: (Back row):The new N.W. South Area winners (l.to.r) Ryan Costello, George Yardley & Adam Slater. (Front row) The 'B' Team: (l.to.r) Amy Walker, Charlotte Baker (of broken wrists fame), Jenny Mawson & Paul Kershaw

r/u - Peter Jackson. 4, -8, 10, 9.
U-18 Drawn Doubles: Winner - Amy Walker & Matthew Weatherby. R/u - Ryan Costello & Shawn Dobson. 6,-5, 6, 5.
Youth Cup: Winner - Caroline Hallows. R/u - Ryan Costello. -10, 6, -9, 10, 6.
36 entries - 29 Boys, 7 Girls.

Doreen Scholfield

Congratulations to Stockport's Doreen Schofield, who had a 100% record over the two days of the VETTS British League in Doncaster, and led her team to the title and promotion to the Premier Division.

Junior British League

To conclude this Stockport edition, it is also congrats to Karen Shepherd for her win against Welsh International and Commonwealth Games star Naomi Owen, as her team finished runners-up in the girls' Premier Division.

Correction

In the March edition I mistakenly listed Kate Vickers as a member of the Darlington 2nd Women's British League team. It was in fact Bethany Rees. Apologies to both young ladies.

CLEVELAND VIEW

by Alan Ransome

OUR County is delighted with the performance of 14 year old Ormesby youngster, Paul Drinkhall, who became the first player in the history of the sport in England to win both the English Under 15 Cadet and Under 18 Junior Singles and Doubles Championships when the National Junior Championships were played in Doncaster on 17/18 April.

The last player to produce a similar achievement was Carl Prean in the 1981/82 season when, according to records provided by Doreen Nightingale, Carl won the Junior and Cadet Singles and the Junior Doubles in the National Junior Championships.

In addition Paul created another record by being the first player to win his age group competition for five years in a row, having won the English Under 10, 11, 12, 13 and now the Under 15 championships with a year to spare in five successive years.

To clinch the two singles Championships, Paul beat his close rival and doubles partner, Darius Knight of London, in both finals. On Saturday, Paul was very dominant in the Under 18 (Junior)

National final, crushing his opponent 11-5, 11-5. On Sunday, in the final of the Under 15 (Cadet) singles, the match was a much closer affair. Darius won the first game 11-9, and took Paul to 14-12 in the second, but from that point it was downhill all the way for Paul, winning the remaining two games 11-4, 11-3. Paul and Darius combined to win both the Junior and Cadet Boys' Doubles.

Whilst Paul was outstanding, it was also good to see that a number of other Ormesby youngsters did well in the championships with Danny Reed and Nicky Skipp reaching the Cadet Boys Doubles final only to lose to Paul and Darius. In fact all five Ormesby cadets won through their groups to play in the competition proper: Paul Drinkhall, Danny Reed, Nicky Skipp, Jonathan Durham and Anthony Wright.

Paul's success is a result of talent and hard work by both himself and with significant support from his parents, Andy and Karen. Paul has been coached for the full period by Ormesby's former English and Commonwealth Champion, Carole Moore, who devotes an average of 40 hours a week to coaching, and helping the local youngsters both at the Club and on the tournament scene.

Carole links very closely with the England coaches and has done so throughout Paul's development so far and credit should also go to Michel Gadal, Zoran Ahlen, Steen Hansen, Denis Neale and Jai Li. The latter has focussed strongly on helping Paul and Darius Knight to maximise their improvement over the last couple of years. It is in fact the harmony between the Club and the ETTA National Team Programme which has been so important in Paul's development.

The possibility of Paul achieving his historical quadruple was almost destroyed by an entry form mix up which meant that Paul was not included in the initial Cadet boys singles draw. When this became apparent, swift action by ETTA Vice Chairman, Sandra Deaton, and English Championships chairman, Doreen Stannard, rectified matters. Common sense prevailed and this gave Paul the chance to achieve these remarkable results.

The only downside to the weekend in Doncaster was the lack of attention and importance given at the end of the day to the presentation of the finals. One of the benefits

from an international perspective from the National Championships is that it gives our youngsters a chance to perform in a staged match situation which is invaluable should they win through to the finals of international competitions, but this was not present in Doncaster. The finals area looked more like a local youth club tournament than the finals of the English Junior Championships. The tables were higgledy-piggledy and the spectators were strewn around the court wherever they decided to put their own chairs. It is disappointing for the youngsters and their parents who have worked so hard to reach this stage to find that the finals are played in such modest circumstances.

CORNWALL

by John Wood

WEST CORNWALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE West Cornwall Table Tennis League held its annual closed championships at the County Table Tennis Centre in St.Austell, in March.

The Premier Division Mens Singles final was a family affair, with uncle Graham Reed facing his nephew Darren, both of the Bridge TTC.

Graham's far greater experience saw him overcome the youthful exuberance of up and coming star Darren 3-1.

Graham and Darren teamed up in the Mens Doubles to beat David Plumb and Bob Bridges of the Mylor TTC, 3-0 in the final.

Other results: Division 1 Singles: N.Thomas (Peoples Palace) bt C.Vincent (St.Ives) 3-1. Division 1 Doubles: D.Williams/Y.Andrew (Falmouth) bt C.Salway/M.Credland (Bridge) 3-0. Division 2 Singles: H.Baker (Falmouth) bt D.May (Cape Cornwall) 3-1. Division 2 Doubles: D.May/T.Rashleigh (Cape Cornwall) bt K.Ali/S.Hosking (Redruth) 3-0. Division 3 Singles: L.Trehwela (Peoples Palace) bt R.Bannister (Penryn) 3-2. Division 3 Doubles: A.Cooper/L.Trehwela (Peoples Palace) bt K.Norcross/M.Norcross (Mylor) 3-0. Handicapped Singles: (open to all players): P.Jenkin (Bridge)+21 bt K.Fudge (Falmouth)+7, final score 57-50.

MID-CORNWALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Mid-Cornwall Table Tennis League held it's annual closed tournament a week after West Cornwall, also at the County Table Tennis Centre in St.Austell, where the Mens Singles title was won by Andrew Broad for the second year.

In a classic final of topspin attack, Broad eventually overwhelmed Daniel Putt 3-2, after taking an early 2-0 lead, but Putt fought back winning the 3rd and 4th, to set up a tense 5th which Broad won 11-8.

Broad and Putt teamed-up for the Open Doubles competition, and beat Bill Pope and John Thorpe 3-2 in the final.

Daniel Putt also won the Junior Singles title when he beat Andrew's younger brother James Broad into the runners-up spot in a round-robin.

Putt added another trophy to his collection when in partnership with Mike Tregunna they won the Handicapped Doubles event, beating Tim Bowler and Peter Knight in the final 3-0.

This years womens singles title was won by Kate Alken when she beat Sally King 3-1 in the final.

The Second Division Singles was won by Guy De Konnick who beat Andrew Bunce 3-0 in the final.

Peter Knight won the Over 55 Singles title when he defeated Eddie McNary 3-1 in the final.



CORNWALL: This year's Mid-Cornwall League's champion is **ANDREW BROAD (left)**, whilst pictured below is this season's County Cadet Champion **MATTHEW TREVORROW**



DURHAM

by Keith Wilson

HIGHLY IMPRESSIVE CADETS

Durham's senior team clinched the Division 1A title at Halifax with three more victories to add to the four gained in Wolverhampton last October. The county's Vets side are very much a social team but the record of the other four is a superb testimony to the long hours of development work of the past few seasons.

Premier County weekends now beckon for the senior side, and also for the Junior 1st team who claimed their Division 1A title, also with seven straight wins. The Junior 2nd's also move up a division after winning Division 3, and the Cadet team took the Premier title to provide the county squad with a highly impressive record of four titles, Played 26 Won 24 Drawn 2 Lost 0!

At Halifax, Durham overcame a difficult start, winning 6-4 against Lincolnshire. Tied at 4-4, a gutsy win by Claire Wilson over Lesley Keast gave Andrew Leighton the chance to win the match which he duly did 3-1 against Alex Green. The senior side included four of the successful juniors (David Meads 14, Andrew Leighton 16, Claire Wilson and Joanne Meads both 17) in addition to "born again" Michael Marsden. First Year Vett, Dave Robson pushed up the average age of the team to 21 but he must be thinking he'd found the secret of eternal youth playing in such a young side.

The successful junior 1sts were David Meads, Andrew Leighton, Joanne Meads and Claire Wilson again, with great support from Mark Simpson (13) and Simon Donnelly (17).

Simon played in the 2nd team too along with Phil Robinson (17), Chris Close (15), Sarah Robinson (13) and Samantha McCormick (14), and the Cadet side had the Dixon brothers Chris and Philip (14); added to David Meads, Mark Simpson, Sarah Robinson and Samantha McCormick.

For many years regional coaching has always been Cleveland based and Durham's decision to provide their own training camps to provide top coaching for their undoubtedly talented players has proved fruitful. Desmond Douglas, Carl Prean, Jason Sugrue, John Hilton, Kevin Satchell, Bradley Billington, Matt Kenny, Nicola Deaton, Alex Perry, Fabio Mantegazza, Michael Marsden, and Andrew Wilkinson is an impressive list of players and coaches who have attended Durham's camps.

The regional problems have always been a major factor in Durham's young players not getting national attention. However things seem to be changing. David Meads is now a member of the national junior squad and it was superb to see the Darlington boy win the cadet Singles title in his first England appearance in Denmark.

Underneath the current squad is more talent and Graeme Barella has been selected for the ESTTA Under 11 England team to play in Guemsey.

Individual performances of note recently include Claire Wilson reaching the quarters of the National Womens singles in Sheffield after great wins over Louise Durrant and Gemma Chapman, David Meads representing England at the World Schools in Germany and travelling back to reach the semi finals of the Mens Singles at the Blackpool Grand Prix. In the same tournament,

DEVON

by John Vincent

THE Plymouth Schools League has completed its fixtures for 2003-2004 season with TAMARSIDE 'A' becoming Champions.

LEAGUE TABLE

School	Played	Won	Points
Tamarside 'A'	12	10	91
Combined Schools	12	12	89
Torpoint	12	10	70
Tamarside 'C'	12	8	70
Tamarside 'B'	12	6	63
Ivybridge 'A'	12	7	61
Egg Buckland	12	6	58
Ivybridge 'B'	12	5	43
Coombe Dean	12	1	33
Tamarside 'D'	12	4	30
Ivybridge 'C'	12	2	25

The Plymouth Schools Handicap Cup was won by the COMBINED SCHOOLS team of Richard Marshall, Elliot Goss and Freddie Cutler with TAMARSIDE 'A' as runners up. The Plymouth Schools Championships provided a high standard of play with the trophies presented by Chris and Sue Higgins of BEACON ELECTRICAL, the Plymouth League sponsors.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Under 14 – Richard Marshall (Champion)
David Wetherill (R/u)
Over 14 - Chris Warn (Champion)
Mark Ross (R/u)

OPEN DOUBLES

Winners - Chris Warn & Steve Colwell
Rs/up - Gareth & David Wetherill

MASTERS FINAL (Under 14 & Over 14 winners in playoff)

Richard Marshall defeated Chris Warn in an excellent final 13-11, 8-11, 13-11, 11-6

MOST SPORTING PLAYER

Jake Taylor-Elson (Coombe Dean)

LEADING PLAYER

Richard Marshall (Combined Schools)

DEVON JUNIOR CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

These were well run by Brian Worts and his helpers at Exmouth Community College when

the winners and runners-up all received lovely framed certificates in addition to their Devon Perpetual Cups.

RESULTS:

BOYS Under 11: winner: Dominic Sussex

r/up: Ben Taylor

BOYS Under 13: winner: Chris Smith

r/up: Richard Marshall

BOYS Under 15: winner: Darren Reed

r/up: Chris Smith

BOYS Under 18: winner: Darren Reed

r/up: Chris Smith

BOYS Doubles: winners: Darren Reed/Chris Warn. r/up: Chris Smith/Richard Marshall

GIRLS Under 11: winner: Vicky Smith

r/up: Alice Phillips

GIRLS Under 13: Winner: Laura McLeod

r/up: Vicky Smith

GIRLS Under 15: winner: Lucy O'Callaghan

r/up: Laura McLeod

GIRLS Under 18: winner: Sally Smith

r/up: Lucy O'Callaghan

GIRLS Doubles: winners: Sally & Vicky Smith

Lizzie Binks/Lucy O'Callaghan

COUNTY PREMIER WEEKEND

Our Senior team of Craig Bryant, James Whiteman, Kevin Buddell, Marketa Myskova and Liz May are to be congratulated on becoming Champions. A magnificent achievement.

Juniors – after a disastrous first weekend our team of Craig Bryant, Chris Brown, Sam Bruty, Simon Fellowes, Lisa Radford and Sally Smith brilliantly salvaged a mid-table position with three wins and a draw. "Well done team!"

Our new sponsor Andy Botteril of DREW & CO, ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS, is delighted with the County's achievements.

COUNTY NOTES - 4

Andrew Leighton reached the quarter finals, semi-finals of the Under 21 Singles (after beating No 1 seed Steven Bailey), and won the Band 1 Mens event 3-1 in the final against Craig Gascoyne.

With Darlington trying to take more national glory in the Leach and Carter Cups, and aiming to win the Bromfield Trophy for the third year running, those involved, coaches, county officials, and parents can be proud of the county's young players.

Finally, it was nice to see a get well message to Stephanie Donnelly in the Cheshire notes of the last TT News. Steph is hopefully on the way back to playing after a season long illness that kept her away from school let alone playing for Darlington. If she could be fit to help her team win the Bromfield Trophy again, now wouldn't that be a dream ending to the season.

ESSEX

by Steve Kerns

BASILDON CLOSED

County Veteran star John Monk scored a great double as he took both the Veterans Singles and Mens Singles titles by beating fellow County Veteran star Terry Guymer in both Finals whilst Cathy Eakin that most prolific of Closed Tournament winners retained her Ladies Singles title beating Linda Murray in the Final. In a Tournament which was dominated by Veterans the young pairing of Kevin Read and Charles Sweeney excelled by taking the Mens Doubles title. Read and Sweeney were also the losing Mens Singles Semi-Finalists.

Results were as follows:

Mens Singles - John Monk beat Terry Guymer 6, 8, 10.

Ladies Singles - Cathy Eakin beat Linda Murray 10, 8, 6.

Mens Doubles - Charles Sweeney/Kevin Read beat John Monk/Geoff Morgan 10, 8, -11, 9.

Ladies Doubles - Cathy Eakin/Linda Murray beat Sue Reece/Pam Swan 5, 9, 11.

Mixed Doubles - Cathy Eakin/Ray Sutton beat Linda Murray/Kevin Read 9,-9, 6,-7, 9.

Mens Veterans Singles - John Monk beat Terry Guymer 7,10, -10, 4.

Ladies Veterans Singles - Cathy Eakin beat Linda Murray 4, 9, 11.

Veterans Doubles - Keith Phillips/Steve Woodley beat Terry Guymer/Bill Smith 8, 7,-6, 3.

Restricted Singles - Peter Saunders beat Gordon Swan 6,-12, 9, 6.

COLCHESTER CLOSED

David Cole retained his Mens Singles title as he beat Rik James in a classic five game Final. Cole

has now won this title six times, whereas James has been Champion seven times in the past. Sue Welham won the Ladies Singles for an astonishing eighteenth time against Syrian Essex University student Thana Zhaiy after another hard-fought five game Final where Sue was in real danger of losing 3-0. Other players who impressed were Tom Elder who won the Over 50s and Over 60s Singles and Essex Junior star Holly Stubbings who was successful in the Cadet Singles and Division 4 Singles. Current Essex Junior first team member Anthony Greenwood dominated Saturday's play winning an unprecedented four Handicap titles (Senior and Doubles and Junior and Doubles) and he could well be the player best equipped to break the Cole and James monopoly on the Mens Singles. Selected results were as follows -

Mens Singles - David Cole beat Rik James -5, 6, 9, -8, 5.

Ladies Singles - Sue Welham beat Thana Zhaiy -5,-7, 10, 5, 8.

Junior Boys Singles - Anthony Greenwood beat Michael Andrews 9,-11, 7, 7.

Mens Doubles - David Cole/Fred Button beat John Andrews/David Moss 8,-5, 9, 3.

Mixed Doubles - Sue Welham/Rik James beat David Cole/Hazel Hume 9, 6, 5.

Veterans Singles - Andy Holmes beat Ian Whiteside 9. 7,-4, 6.

ISLE OF WIGHT

John Preat

WE concluded our county matches with a 9 -1 home win against Cornwall 2.

Even with Carl Preat on the bench, it did not prove a competitive match, although I give our visitors full marks for making the trip. They were one lady short, a topic on which I wrote last time and on other occasions.

The previous match, away to Somerset, we lost 4-6 with Carl Preat on a coaching assignment, Danny Burns unable to get time off from work and Lucy Pointer retired. Under the circumstances it was not a bad result with Roger Hookey, Alex Rorke and debutant Dean Hume all winning one and Jill Fothergill adding the fourth.

The future of our county team remains in some doubt, as our ladies do not wish to make the long trips of the Western section and most find the local league as far as they want to go in the course of their table tennis. Life was easier in the Southern section, the transfer a mystery.

Newport Vics have won our first division, the usual result, as they have Danny Burns and Roger Hookey in the side. But for an unexpected result in two remaining matches, another Vics team will win the Division 2 title and Ray Ferris will rather sensationally play his first Division 1 season in his 65th year!

The most interesting division proved the third, although won by Havenstreet "B" who were relegated the previous season. A team of veterans, they were able to counter the new youngsters' top spin with consistency and old, dead bats.

I thought the new system a success, at last something new to write about in my weekly reports on the league in the local paper. You will recall that all matches consisted of three games and that each counted towards the final result. We did have a few 16-14 scorelines and even a

couple of 19 all, unfortunately also one or two of 29-1, indicating a couple of weaker teams at the bottom.

There may be a move towards the old system of all matches played to best of five and the late finishes that this usually brings. An unofficial poll indicates a fairly close split, the younger players (or their Parents) favouring the shorter format, the older ones the late nights, unperturbed that there may be fewer players around, if 11 o'clock finishes are imposed on 12 and 13 year olds with the odd midnight ending perhaps causing, parents to call it a final day.

There is a great deal of opposition to the latest idea making the rounds, that of individual affiliation. whilst such a method of collection is no problem per se, except to the ETTA. If the fees are also collected individually, there is widespread suspicion that this will be a cover for vastly increased total affiliation fees. If so, it will go down very badly and disaffiliation is talked about by some, as indeed it is in other leagues according to reports I receive.

Some say that this breaks election promises on the basis of the "...at no extra cost" item I quoted in my last notes. I can only advise the utmost care to the leadership. ETTA services, as the result of the last elections indicated, are not highly regarded and so far few have detected signs that much has changed. It is not the time to charge more. Most will wish to see a vastly improved "product" before the higher bills come in.

NORFOLK

by Ray Hogg

COUNTY CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

AS usual a busy March starting with the County Championships. Philip Logsdon marked his return to the County by winning the singles showing he is still the one to beat. Lauren Spink entered six events and won them all but had to pull out all the stops in the Ladies doubles as with up and coming Amy Ajeto, just beat the very experienced Mary Sawyer and Lindsey Dare 15 in the 5th. Held at Kings Lynn this year, the event still only attracted approximately 40 players in each. We were able to include the schools event though - I wonder that in 5 years time there will be no such championships as we are getting older.

Results:

Mens singles: Philip Logsdon bt Steve Sadd 7,3,8.

Womens singles: Lauren Spink by Lindsey Dare 5, 7, 5.

Mens Veterans: Steve Sadd bt Russell King 6, 10, -14, -11, 9.

Womens veterans: Lindsey Dare bt Mary Sawyer from round robin

Restricted singles: Wayne Mason bt Nigel Houseago 5, 9, -14, -14, 8.

Ladies doubles: Lauren Spink/Amy Ajeto bt Lindsey Dare/Mary Sawyer 9, -11, 10, -11, 13.

Mens doubles: Gary Hewitt/Wayne Mason bt Hilary Howlett/Steve Barber 6, -4, -9, 7, 8.

Mixed Doubles: Gary Hewitt/Lauren Spink bt Mats Olsson/Lindsey Dare 6, 7, 6.

NORWICH CLOSED

Philip Logsdon continued his domination of the local scene by winning both singles and doubles at the Norwich Closed. Without Lauren Spink (at Sheffield) the other ladies were given a chance to shine. Juniors Lee Barnes and Adam Gigli met 4

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times – 3-1 to Lee.

Senior Results:

Mens singles: Philip Logsdon bt Mats Olsson 4, 10, 3.

Womens singles: winner Lindsay Dare (round robin)

Veterans O40 singles: Mats Olsson bt Russell King -13,-11, 8, 8, 3.

Veterans O50 singles: David Henderson bt Robert King 3, 4, -10, 4.

Open Doubles: Logsdon/Henderson bt R.King/Shawn Molloy 12, -6, -5, 7, 9.

Juniors Results:

Boys singles: Lee Barnes bt Adam Gigli -12, 9, 6, 4.

Boys Cadet Singles: Lee Barnes bt Adam Gible 9, -4, 11,-9, 9.

Girls Singles: (round robin) winner Amy Ajeto
Doubles: Lee/Adam bt James Baldock-Yaxley/Alex Spragg 6, 5, 6.

COACHING AT WENSUM

Mark Dare and Dale Ajeto arranged a demonstration/coaching weekend with Alan Cook and Nicola Deighton at their new Wensum T.T. Club. This is to be the beginning of a programme for all grades of talent in the County. The future looks bright.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

by Dennis Millman

ALTHOUGH Kieron Dabbs retained his Open Singles title at the Unison sponsored Northampton Closed Tournament, it was Katie Mansfield who won most events taking the Ladies Singles, the Girls Under 18 Singles and both corresponding doubles in tandem with Melissa Price.

Dabbs final opponent was Richard Elliott, who had eliminated No.2 seed Ryan Keates at the semi-final stage. Dabbs, who won by three games to one, also featured in the Mens Doubles final in which he and Adrian Roper took five ends to gain a decision over Elliott and Gary Webb. It was so near and yet so far for Webb who also ended in second place in both the Mixed Doubles, partnered by Mansfield, where Dabbs and Sarah Hollis won in five ends, and also in the veteran doubles, when, partnered by Clem Little, he was unable to prevent Chris Gibbons and Michael Edwards from again taking the major honours.

Edwards was also successful in the Over 50 Singles and the same age Doubles, in which Little provided enough doubles experience to relegate Greg Dobrowolski and Jim Brogan into second place. However it was the Dobrowolski/Brogan duo in the Over 60 Doubles, with Pete Tomlinson and League Chairman Gwyn Powell the beaten finalists, while Dobrowolski got the better of his partner in the Over 60 Singles.

There was a surprise winner in the Veteran Singles with John Alsop knocking out No.1 seed Roper in the first round before moving on to a final where he beat Chris Gibbons in straight games.

Gibbons reached two further finals, displaying fine technique to account for Turvey's John Shouler in the Hard Bat final, but partnered by young Danielle Prenderville finishing second best to Matthew Burgess and Ben Starmer in the popular Mystery Doubles.

It was a tale of two families at junior level with Chris Doran taking the Bert Fawcett Memorial

Cup for the Under 15 Boys Singles, then adding the Under 13 Singles before joining Katie Hancox to make sure of the Under 13 Doubles. However he lost out to Dickson Pang in the Boys Singles but sister Katherine made her mark, when partnered by Mark Judd, she took gold in the Under 15 Doubles.

The Hancox clan also had a successful day, though Katie had to settle for second place behind sister Sophie in the Under 15 event, to Beth Walter at 11-5 in the fifth in the Under 13 age group and to Burgess in the Division Three Singles. However Martyn Hancox evened the trophy tally when he teamed up with Keith Lucas to take the Junior Boys Doubles with David Gibbons and Dickson Pang filling the minor role.

Ryan Haskins became the day's youngest winner when he beat Jonathan Andrews in the Under 11 final, while other winners were Sarah Hollis, who got the better of Clem Little in the Division One Singles and Sue Moloney who edged out Ian Carter in Division Two.

So ended an excellent day's play made more memorable by some outstanding personal performers. Many of these came from an enthusiastic junior element carefully nurtured during the past few years by a group of dedicated coaches.

Rushden's Tim Yarnall, currently England's No.2 junior and No.13 on the senior men's list, continues to excel. Together with Koe Lei and Bradley Evans of Notts the trio won the Premier Division of the Junior British League coming from two nil down to beat Ormesby with Yarnall gaining the vital win.

He then teamed up with Notts' Gavin Evans to win a doubles event in Denmark but misfortune struck in the singles. Yarnall won his group and four succeeding rounds to reach the semi-final but with the event running late and a flight already booked he had to settle for a share of the prize money.

Yarnall's next event is representing England in the World Schools Championships in Germany,

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COUNTY NOTES - 6

while Koe Lei, who has provided valuable practice throughout the season, has now returned to China.

Late news from the Kettering League indicates that Higham Band's Steve Brown, Richard Elliott, Mark Nannery, Steve Silk and Ryan Keates, with only occasional help from Andy Trott, have taken the Premier Division title for the seventh successive time.

NORTHUMBERLAND

by *Pauline Long*

SUCCESS AT NEWCASTLE

THE Newcastle Open Grand Prix Tournament, held over the weekend of 21st and 22nd February at Eldon Leisure Centre, turned out to be a great success, both from the competitors' and spectators' points of view. Full details will presumably have been published elsewhere in the magazine, but it is worth recording that Alan Cooke and Helen Lower won the men's and women's singles respectively, and John Murphy and Zoe Cheeseman the under-21 events.

There was local success for Dave Godbold, who won the men's veterans' singles, and for Andrew Wilkinson, who beat Durham's Michael Marsden to take the Band 1 singles title.

Thanks go to all involved with the organisation of the event, in particular referee Aubrey Drapkin.

Meanwhile, at the Northern Masters in Blackpool – held over the same weekend – Malcolm Lusk produced an excellent performance in the men's veterans' over-40 singles. On his way to the semi-final, he scored notable victories over David Harding (Surrey) and fourth seed Keith Williams (Lancs); before falling to top seed John Hilton (Cheshire). He also reached the semi-final of the over-40 doubles with a scratch partner. "Benny" Robertson was runner-up at the same tournament in the men's over-50 doubles, also with a scratch partner.

The County junior team were supposed to play their second series of matches on the following Saturday, 28th February, but unfortunately were unable to travel owing to severe weather conditions in the North-East at that time.

A weakened Northumbria League Men's representative side of Malcolm Lusk, Michael Marsden and Gary Sangster narrowly failed to qualify for the second stage of the Wilmott Cup competition. They beat Liverpool 5 – 3, thanks to Malcolm taking three sets and Michael two, but lost 3 – 5 to both Hull and Huddersfield.

Unfortunately, the Alec Brook men's veterans' team – which had already qualified for the second stage of the competition, despite a weakened team on that occasion – had to be withdrawn from the competition due to a clash of fixtures. Questions must surely be asked if it is worth entering these competitions if players are unable to make themselves available for this reason.

Although the League season was supposed to have been completed by the end of March, there are still a few matches outstanding at the time of writing. Birtley 'A' must be odds-on favourites to retain the Premier Division title, with North Shields YMCA 'A' as runners-up. Other current leaders are as follows:-

Division 1 – North Fire 'A'

Division 2 – North Fire 'B'

Division 3 – DWP 'B'

Division 4 – Cramlington Colts

All divisions are still represented in the quarter-finals of the Team Handicap Knockout Cup competition, which were as follows:

Cramlington Colts versus Cramlington Spartans (both Division 4)

North Shields YMCA 'C' (Division 1) versus DWP 'B' (Division 3)

Oxhill YC 'B' (Division 3) versus Whitehouse Lane 'B' (Division 2)

Newton 'A' (Premier) versus ABB (Division 1)

These were due to be played during week commencing 29th March.

Details of the County Closed Championships, which were due to be held at the Sporting Centre of Cramlington on 21st March, will appear in the June/July issue of TT News.

SHROPSHIRE

by *Terry Ridgway*

DOWN TO THE WIRE

SHROPSHIRE'S veterans look for their first trophy next weekend in the final Saturday of the English County Championships Division 4C. The County second side need only to win against leaders Devon 4ths to take the title, should the match end in a draw the highly experienced first team will take the winners medals if they beat bottom side Hereford 3rds. The over 40s squads have been a credit to the county this season both on and off the table and any success would be well deserved.

DIVISION 4C Table (top three)

	P	W	D	F	A	Pts
Devon 4ths	5	4	1	37	13	9
Shropshire 2nds	5	4	1	36	14	9
Shropshire 1sts	5	3	2	35	15	8

TELFORD LEAGUE Division 1

Albrightons A side took the honours by a wide margin, County No.1 Tony Ackeroyd and No.2 Dave Elkin teaming up with Pete Fowell to improve on last years runners up slot, the champions only losing one match (to Bridgnorth A) and drawing with Albrighton B all season. Second place is a tight battle with Industrial Bearings, Albrighton B and Bridgnorth A all in contention in the last week.

Top Four

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Albrighton A	14	12	1	1	101-39	
Industrial Bearings	13	7	0	6	76-54	
Albrighton B	12	8	1	3	71-49	
Bridgnorth A	11	8	1	2	70-40	

Division 2

GPO proved that they were far too good to be relegated last season by storming through the second division and winning the title by 27 points, with Pete Collins unbeaten with 48/48 in the individual honours. Bridgnorth's C team of Bob Vaughan, Wendy and Clive Baggott have worked hard to gain second place and promotion.

Division 3

Abbey B finished the season as Telford's only team with a 100% perfect record, the Ironbridge based side inspired by Steve James and Kevin Hitchin look a good match for most division two teams next year.

SHREWSBURY PREMIER

Cricket Club A have led the table all season but a knee injury to Nigel Holding has caused them to fade slightly in their last few matches (a strange rule in the Shrewsbury league means that they can call up players from their second and third teams who are also in the title race!!).

Pontesbury A have been inspired by leading veteran Rob Mansfield and Darrell Corfield in recent weeks and are within four points of catching the leaders in the weeks ahead.

Leading Averages

Darren Corfield	42-45
Rod France	41-45
Rob Mansfield	39-45

MIDLAND LEAGUE

Shrewsbury's veterans returned to the top division after an excellent season, Mike Dudley, Rod France and Rob Mansfield topped the second division with 19 points followed by Kettering, Stafford A and Leominster. Shrewsbury's second team settled for a mid table position for the second year running.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE

by *Alan Dunn*

THE hard work, and commitment give by the Barlow family seems to be paying off with the news that Ben has received full kit and equipment sponsorship from Table Tennis supplier 'Tees Sport'. The expense of producing a player of Ben's pedigree has to be seen to be believed. The Barlow's spend a king's ransom on their youngsters sport. The inclusion of Ben in the regular National training squad seems to be proving their belief in his future prospects were correct. Another member of the England training camp is Sheffield's Melissa Wright, she has been produced by the Abbeydale Club, coach Phil Wright can be very proud of this hard working young lady.

The Rother Valley & District TT league Div.1 was won by Piranha School, congratulations to the club. At the time of writing our other county leagues are still in progress.

National Cadet (u.15) League Champions Yorkshire Region.- 3rd year in a row.

Pictured above on the next page, Div 1 Champions Top Row James Grayson Joe Dunn Stephen Arliss.

Bottom row - Div 2 Champions Robert Murray Mark Johnson Rahul Napatla- Tom knowles not in picture.

The event was held at Dewsbury Table Tennis Club over 4 weekends.

DIV 1. ROTHERHAM SCORPION 'A'	82
HARROGATE SPA	80
OAKBANK BRADFORD 'A'	60
BRAMLEY (LEEDS)	58

DIV 2. ROTHERHAM SCORPIONS 'B'	69
PONTEFRACT ST MARY'S	67
OAKBANK 'B'	54
OAKBANK 'C'	37
OAKBANK 'D'	27
ROTHERHAM SCORPIONS 'C'	21

The Nat Junior League competition which is held over 4 days at the new English Institute of Sport is currently in the balance with Stavelly,

YORKSHIRE CHAMPIONS



Castle or Scorpions possible champions with one day to play.

Results of the Sheffield Closed Championships were:

- Mens Open Finals Winner: Steven Horsfield,
- Runner-up: Darren Lindley
- Ladies Winner- Helen Rhodes,
- Runner-up: Andrea Baldi
- Junior Boys Winner: Luke Carrington,
- Runner-up: Jack Grant
- Veterans Finals Winner: Richard Shirt,
- Runner-up: Trevor Williams
- Doubles Winner: Stephen Horsfield/Richard Shirt,
- Runner-up: Shaun Bibby/Cliff Glaves jnr.

I've not received reports from county team secretaries, but hopefully these will be included in the next report.

Mark Willerton the newly installed RDO has been heavily involved in all areas of the county and with his help things are looking up for TT in the future. Please send any future info on T.T news in S.Yorks to aldunntt@hotmail.com

SUSSEX

by John Woodford

TWO Sussex teams have already passed through the promotion gate - Sussex senior team (Venner, Moore, Eckersley, Rainton and Weston) have regained their position in the premier division of the county championships. Brighton University captained by Rory Scott have won promotion to the second division of the British League. Ritchie Venner's team, with Venner, himself unbeaten all season, were elevated when they crushed Berkshire 9-1 at Reading. Venner and Adrian Moore beat the major home threat defender David Barr.

Brighton students relied fairly heavily on Jack Boults long string of successes in the British League - as they won their last four matches. Horsham III were among the losers.

There are a couple of budding stars amongst the junior ranks - Stacey Furnival is pulling some trees up at various events and in the very low age

group - 10-year-old Sarah Russo from Heathfield is starting to steal Youth in Action headlines - she was a winner at the Derby Select in the 13-year-old event.

Nigel Eckersley, just 52, from Uckfield is ending the season in style - I lost count of the people he defeated at Sheffield at the English National Championships it was not far short of a dozen. He reached the semis in the veterans singles and the quarters in the main event where his star victim was the No.9 seed Greg Baker of Warwickshire.

YORKSHIRE

by Barry Snowden

WHITE ROSE AFFAIRS

THE Mens and Veterans Yorkshire Clubs finals were recently held at the excellent Dewsbury Table Tennis Centre and featured two thrilling matches as in the mens event Hull YPI were looking to retain the title they won last year against first time finalists, home club Dewsbury whilst in the veterans their was going to be a new winner as Huddersfield' Brook Manor faced Xystus.

Mick Stead gave Dewsbury an opening set lead when he beat Hulls' rising star junior Luke Carrington in four after Carrington had taken the first game 11-7 8-11 6-11 3-11.

Yorkshire's number 1 player Michael James brought the sides level but not without a fight as he just edged home against James Brown by the narrowest of margins 9-11 12-10 11-9 7-11 11-9 and it was James's brother Simon who put the YPI ahead when he survived a first game reversal against county second teamer Richard Lightowler to storm back and record a 9-11 11-8 11-7 11-7 victory as Hull moved into a 2-1 lead.

Stead brought the sides level when he produced the first shock of the night when he turned the form book upside down as he beat Mike James 11-8 in the fifth and it was Lightowler who gave Dewsbury the lead one again when he comfortably beat young Carrington in three.

Simon James brought the sides level once again when he beat Brown in four but the second shock of the night was just around the corner as Lightowler gave his side a 4-3 lead as he beat the counties premier player Mike James in three and it was Stead who completed victory for Dewsbury when he beat Simon James in three to give Dewsbury the cup.

The veterans event was equally as close as Brook Manor started strongly with Russell Senior coming from two games down to beat Barry Snowden in five and when Stuart Sykes just beat Davis Adams 15-13 in the fifth things looked rosy for the Huddersfield team.

The arrival of county first teamer Tim Dyson brought a sigh of relief for Brook Manor who had been on the brink of fielding a reserve but Dyson's early exit from that afternoons English closed had allowed him sufficient time to make the journey to Dewsbury in order to take up his allotted place on the team sheet.

The third set of the match saw Dyson beat county colleague Steve Kosmowsky in three but Xystus were not done despite Dysons arrival and took the next two sets as firstly Snowden beat Sykes 12-14 11-5 11-6 11-3 which was followed by another four games as Kosmowsky beat Senior to bring the sides to within a set.

The next two sets were shared as Dyson beat Adams and Kosmowsky beat Sykes but it was Dyson who completed victory for Brook Manor as he recorded an 11-7 11-9 11-3 victory over Snowden as Brook Manor took the trophy 5-3.

The event as ever was superbly organised by Yorkshire officer Brenda Hudson and umpired on the night by match officials John Hardcastle and Barry Johnson. There were a good number of spectators present to make a fine atmosphere for the players and a number stayed behind to sample the fine buffet Brenda had prepared.

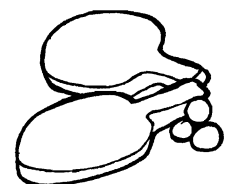
County chairman Bevan Walker ended the night with a short speech offering thanks to teams, spectators, match official and organiser inviting all winners and runners up to buy tickets to the Yorkshire dinner where their trophies will be presented by the ETTA chairman Mr Murdoch. Halifax over 50's and Halifax Summer Veterans open.

After the success of last seasons Halifax Veterans summer open, the Halifax League have had two events approved by the ETTA during the summer.

The first event is an over 50's tournament over the weekend of 19th/20th March 2004 followed by the second Halifax Summer Veterans open over the weekend of 14th/15th August 2004.

Play will be in groups so there will be plenty of sets for all players. Each event will have a mens and ladies singles and doubles.

Entry forms are available from the ETTA website or from organiser Barry Snowden 0113 2040859 or 0774 5018836 or Barry.Snowden@dwp.gsi.gov.uk





NETA NATIONAL RANKING LIST

TOP OF THE TABLE

5th April 2004 - Period 119

Further details please ring Doreen Nightingale 01424 722525

Senior Men

Table with 3 columns: Pos, Name, Rating Flag. Lists 87 senior men with their positions and ratings.



BYRN DRINKHALL moves 14 places up the Senior Mens list to No.19

Table with 3 columns: Pos, Name, Rating Flag. Lists 87 senior men, including Bryn Drinkhall at position 19.



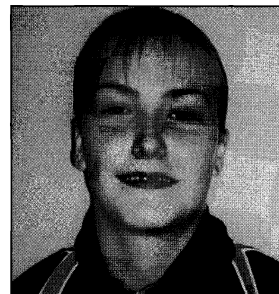
ANDREA HOLT jumps back on the list at No.6

Table with 3 columns: Pos, Name, Rating Flag. Lists 19 senior women.

Senior Women

Table with 3 columns: Pos, Name, Rating Flag. Lists 87 senior women.

Table with 3 columns: Pos, Name, Rating Flag. Lists 19 junior girls.

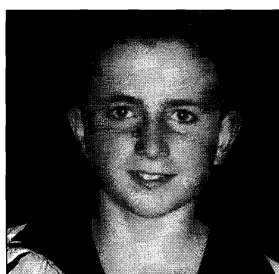


KELLY SIBLEY No.2 on the Junior Girls list

Table with 3 columns: Pos, Name, Rating Flag. Lists 87 junior girls, including Kelly Sibley at position 2.

Junior Girls

Pos	Name	Rating	Flag
(1)	1 PARKER, Joanna (SY.)	4246	
(2)	2 SIBLEY, Kelly (WA.)	3974	
(3)	3 EMBLING, Abigail (E.)	3955	
(4)	4 WHITE, Nicola (Y.)	3520	
(5)	5 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)	3514	
(6)	6 SPINK, Lauren (NK.)	3508***	
(7)	7 SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LI.)	3439	
(8)	8 CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.)	3291	
(9)	9 WEIL, Emma (E.)	3028	
(10)	10 LANGFORD, Clare (CH.)	2835	
(11)	11 WILSON, Claire (DU.)	2718	
(12)	12 YARNLEY, Gemma (K.)	2691*	
(13)	13 HOWARD, Clara (CH.)	2655**	
(14)	14 MEADS, Joanne (DU.)	2613	
(15)	15 BROWN, Sarah (E.)	2612	
(16)	16 WANG, Sarra (E.)	2610	
(17)	17 PEAKS, Sarah (NG.)	2446	
(18)	18 TUCKER, Emily (BU.)	2387	
(19)	19 SMITH, Sally (DU.)	2380	
(20)	20 SENEVIRATNE, Anusha (K.)	2360****	
(21)	21 VICKERS, Emma (DY.)	2355	
(22)	22 WALLER, Tanya (Y.)	2307****	
(23)	23 FARQUHAR, Melanie (BK.)	2263	
(24)	24 RADFORD, Lisa (DV.)	2121	
(25)	25 WEIL, Lucy (E.)	2079	
(26)	26 DAVIS, Stella (GS.)	2007*	
(27)	27 CRAVEN-GRIFFITHS, Kelly (LE.)	1979*	
(28)	28 BYRON, Sophie (CH.)	1921	
(29)	29 PARKER, Hayley (CH.)	1867	
(30)	30 REES, Bethany (E.)	1805	
(31)	31 STEEPLES, Susie (LI.)	1803	
(32)	32 LIGHTOWLER, Katie (Y.)	1762	
(33)	33 HALLOWS, Caroline (CH.)	1759	
(34)	34 BIELEC, Sylvana (BK.)	1682	
(35)	35 O'SULLIVAN, Emily (DY.)	1676	
(36)	36 LAYFIELD, Jordyn (CH.)	1646	
(37)	37 BOSLEY, Lisa (BK.)	1641*	
(38)	38 JAMESON, Rachel (E.)	1599	
(39)	39 PINNELL, Amanda (ST.)	1470	
(40)	40 SKEGGS, Kelly (E.)	1465	
(41)	41 STRINGER, Jodie (K.)	1392	
(42)	42 ROGERS, Gina (SX.)	1360**	
(43)	43 BAYLISS, Sarah (NG.)	1349	
(44)	44 CUNNINGHAM, Jeana (YS.)	1318	
(45)	45 HOWE, Claire (SO.)	1318	
(46)	46 LINZ, Caroline (BU) (SY.)	1289	
(47)	47 GREENER, Rachel (DU.)	1261	
(48)	48 DUNMALL, Chloe (K.)	1260	
(49)	49 HALL, Jessica (LA.)	1247*	
(50)	50 PILGRIM, Nikki (WA.)	1234*	
(51)	51 PILGRIM, Rachel (WA.)	1177	
(52)	52 STANDEN, Lisa (SX.)	1146	
(53)	53 DENNETT, Fiona (CH.)	1120	
(54)	54 WHITEHORN, Joy (DO.)	1073**	
(55)	55 POTJEYD, Frances (SO.)	1071	
(56)	56 HUBBARD, Sarah (K.)	989*	
(57)	57 RIPLEY, Lisa (NG.)	988**	
(58)	58 JOBANPUTRA, Alpa (WI.)	966***	
(59)	59 DUNCLIFFE, Sally (LA.)	905**	
(60)	60 FURNIVAL, Stacey (SX.)	881	
(61)	61 TAYLOR, Amy (BU.)	859	
(62)	62 RULE, Katie (BU.)	853	
(63)	63 HOLLIS, Sarah (NP.)	840***	
(64)	64 WALDEN, Kelly-Jayne (WA.)	837*	
(65)	65 MANSFIELD, Katie (NP.)	827**	
(66)	66 DOBSON, Jenny (HA.)	824	
(67)	67 SHADBOLT, Lisa (SY.)	809	
(68)	68 LOVE, Felicity (E.)	792	
(69)	69 PROCTOR, Louise (LA.)	764*	
(70)	70 TARR, Michelle (SP.)	760*	
(71)	71 ROPER, Carley (SO.)	746	
(72)	72 CRAWFORD, Helen (CU.)	744**	
(73)	73 SHEPHERD, Nicola (Y.)	741*	
(74)	74 WILKINSON, Hayley (LA.)	727	
(75)	75 JACKSON, Becky (E.)	721	



MYLES EVANS No.2 on the Under 13 Boys list

(30)	25 JOHNSON, Paul (LI.)	1212
(31)	26 DURHAM, Jonathan (CV.)	1209
(32)	27 HIRJI, Alim (MI.)	1199
(33)	28 LOVETT, Joshua (E.)	1161
(34)	29 BROWN, Edward (E.)	1157
(35)	30 IVES, Daniel (K.)	1152
(36)	31 SPART, Ben (HE.)	1142
(37)	32 SUIVER, Damien (YS.)	1056
(38)	33 BARKER, Mitchell (CH.)	1019
(39)	34 CHACHOLIADES, Joseph (MI.)	965
(40)	35 SHAW, Ashley (BU.)	926

Cadet Girls

Pos	Name	Rating	Flag
(1)	1 SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LI.)	3439	
(2)	2 WANG, Sarra (E.)	2610	
(3)	3 VICKERS, Emma (DY.)	2355	
(4)	4 FARQUHAR, Melanie (BK.)	2263	
(5)	5 DAVIS, Stella (GS.)	2007*	
(6)	6 BYRON, Sophie (CH.)	1921	
(7)	7 PARKER, Hayley (CH.)	1867	
(8)	8 HALLOWS, Caroline (CH.)	1759	
(9)	9 BIELEC, Sylvana (BK.)	1682	
(10)	10 O'SULLIVAN, Emily (DY.)	1676	
(11)	11 LAYFIELD, Jordyn (CH.)	1646	
(12)	12 JAMESON, Rachel (E.)	1599	
(13)	13 GREENER, Rachel (DU.)	1261	
(14)	14 DUNMALL, Chloe (K.)	1260	
(15)	15 PILGRIM, Rachel (WA.)	1177	
(16)	16 DENNETT, Fiona (CH.)	1120	
(17)	17 WHITEHORN, Joy (DO.)	1073**	
(18)	18 POTJEYD, Frances (SO.)	1071	
(19)	19 FURNIVAL, Stacey (SX.)	881	
(20)	20 TAYLOR, Amy (BU.)	859	
(21)	21 RULE, Katie (BU.)	853	
(22)	22 LOVE, Felicity (E.)	792	
(23)	23 CRAWFORD, Helen (CU.)	744	
(24)	24 WILKINSON, Hayley (LA.)	727	
(25)	25 MCCORMICK, Samantha (DU.)	621	
(26)	26 PINNELL, Emily (ST.)	610	
(27)	27 TRINELL, Jessica (SY.)	601**	
(28)	28 MACKEN, Jessica (E.)	589	
(29)	29 YARNLEY, Laura (K.)	544*	
(30)	30 MORLE, Annabelle (HA.)	510	
(31)	31 CALLCUT, Charlotte (E.)	481	
(32)	32 HUGHES, Sally (SX.)	438	
(33)	33 STANLEY, Rebecca (DY.)	430	
(34)	34 FULLER, Mary (Y.)	426	
(35)	35 TRAVIS, Martha (CO.)	422	

Under 13 Boys

Pos	Name	Rating	Flag
(1)	1 EVANS, Gavin (NG.)	3593	
(2)	2 EVANS, Myles (NG.)	1916	
(3)	3 DORAN, Christopher (NP.)	1636	
(4)	4 MAYBANKS, William (HE.)	1593	
(5)	5 CHAN, Wing Yung (SY.)	1568	
(6)	6 MUDIE, Stewart (LI.)	1481	
(7)	7 DEVILLE, Billy (E.)	1221	
(8)	8 BARKER, Mitchell (CH.)	1019	
(9)	9 WARE, Mathew (HA.)	913*	
(10)	10 MARSHALL, Richard (DV.)	877	
(11)	11 SMITH, Christopher A L (DV.)	861	
(12)	12 KEARNEY, Alex (AV.)	762*	
(13)	13 MCBETH, David (HA.)	745	
(14)	14 WRIGHT, Anthony (CV.)	704	
(15)	15 BLEAKLEY, Joshua (LA.)	684	
(16)	16 MAYNARD, Tom (BK.)	636	
(17)	17 TREVORROW, Matthew (CO.)	628*	
(18)	18 SELFRIEDGE, Oscar (E.)	622*	
(19)	19 GALLAGE, Sushira (MI.)	592	
(20)	20 DAYBELL, Kim (YS.)	525	
(21)	21 PITCHFORD, Liam (DY.)	514	
(22)	22 SALISBURY, Ben (WO.)	504	
(23)	23 KARMAZIN, Nadav (HE.)	470	
(24)	24 LINZ, Andrew (SY.)	446	
(25)	25 POTJEYD, Geoffrey (SO.)	439	

Under 13 Girls

Pos	Name	Rating	Flag
(1)	1 VICKERS, Emma (DY.)	2355	
(2)	2 JAMESON, Rachel (E.)	1599	
(3)	3 RULE, Katie (BU.)	853	
(4)	4 MACKEN, Jessica (E.)	589	
(5)	5 CALLCUT, Charlotte (E.)	481	
(6)	6 HUGHES, Sally (E.)	438	

(7)	7 FULLER, Mary (Y.)	426
(8)	8 TRAVIS, Martha (CO.)	422
(9)	9 ARDESHANA, Reena (LA.)	414
(10)	10 ROUSO, Sarah (SX.)	404
(11)	11 SPAREY, Megan (MI.)	333
(12)	12 POTTS, Haylee (HE.)	266
(13)	13 BREWIN, Hannah (LI.)	266
(14)	14 AJETO, Amy (NK.)	239
(15)	15 OWEN, Kirsty (Y.)	232
(16)	16 BAKER, Rachel (LA.)	224*
(17)	17 FARQUHAR, Rachel (BK.)	195
(18)	18 WALTER, Beth (NP.)	163
(19)	19 ROBINSON, Sarah (DU.)	140
(20)	20 DAVIDSON, Lucy (DY.)	136 I
(21)	21 JONES, Dominique (LI.)	131
(22)	22 AIREY, Charlotte (NG.)	112
(23)	23 HOLLAND, Tamsin (MI.)	109*
(24)	24 DHARANSHI, Nurin (LE.)	101 I
(25)	25 WRIGHT, Melissa (YS.)	93

Veteran Men

Pos	Name	Rating	Flag
(1)	1 HILTON, John (CH.)	3845	
(2)	2 WHITING, Paul (DV.)	3676*	
(3)	3 JOHNS, Brian (CH.)	3635	
(4)	4 ECKERSLEY, Nigel (SX.)	3593***	
(5)	5 PAPANTONIOU, Costas (MI.)	3583***	
(6)	6 KENNEDY, Joe (K) (E.)	3572	
(7)	7 ROGERS, Chris (LE.)	3563*	
(8)	8 BARR, David (BK.)	3508***	
(9)	9 SATCHEL, Kevin (WL.)	3459	
(10)	10 GILES, Paul (CO.)	3456	
(11)	11 BROWN, Mark (K.)	3429***	
(12)	12 GODBOLD, David (DU.)	3422*	
(13)	13 CATHRY, Clive (E.)	3418	
(14)	14 HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3395***	
(15)	15 BEADSLY, Kevin (Y.)	3393***	
(16)	16 BARTRAM, Peter (SX.)	3347***	
(17)	17 WILLIAMS, Keith (LA.)	3339*	
(18)	18 MCKEAN, Ian (NK.)	3317**	
(19)	19 HALEY, Terry (SY.)	3308*	
(20)	20 KERRY, Trevor (NG.)	3297	
(21)	21 GANNON, David (LE.)	3285***	
(22)	22 FORD, Christopher (LA.)	3281**	
(23)	23 ROOFE, Eddie (WI.)	3280	
(24)	24 ROMANO, Mark (K.)	3257*	
(25)	25 GELDER, Tony (DU.)	3253*	
(26)	26 CHADWICK, Jim (LA.)	3251****	
(27)	27 WIGNALL, Andy (LI.)	3243	
(28)	28 ADEMANIWA, Ayosade (E.)	3232	
(29)	29 JOHNS, Mike (CH.)	3227	
(30)	30 RANKIN, John (LA.)	3224***	
(31)	31 SHORT, Mike (DY.)	3210*	
(32)	32 CLAYTON, Tony (DO.)	3199**	
(33)	33 LUSK, Malcolm (ND.)	3191	
(34)	34 WILLIAMS, Trevor (YS.)	3172	
(35)	35 PAYNE, John (MI.)	3171**	
(36)	36 GIRDLER, Ian (SY.)	3168*	
(37)	37 ISAAC, Anthony (ST.)	3160***	
(38)	38 WELSMAN, Dave (NP.)	3158*	
(39)	39 PAYNE, Clive (HA.)	3154**	
(40)	40 RICH, Andy (ST.)	3150*	
(41)	41 HARDING, David (SY.)	3144*	
(42)	42 MEDELLIN, Henry (SY.)	3124**	
(43)	43 ROBSON, Dave (DU.)	3110*	
(44)	44 BOWEN, Philip (LA.)	3101*	
(45)	45 BIGGS, Phil (CH.)	3062*	
(46)	46 RAMSBOTTOM, Mark (LA.)	3042*	
(47)	47 RANDALL, David (E.)	3036*	
(48)	48 HARPER, Mick (BD.)	3033	
(49)	49 GEHLOT, Hari (BK.)	3028*	
(50)	50 HOLLAND, John (SR) (E.)	3025***	
(51)	51 PICKARD, Chris (HE.)	3015*	
(52)	52 KING, Russell (NK.)	3012*	
(53)	53 HOLYMAN, Derek (Y.)	3009*	
(54)	54 PERCIVAL, Wayne (CH.)	3003*	
(55)	55 BUSHELL, Karl (OX.)	2979*	
(56)	56 DUROSE, Ronnie (LA.)	2975****	
(57)	57 SALTER, Geoff (DU.)	2965*	
(58)	58 CARSLAKE, Colin (E.)	2952*	
(59)	59 DOBBINS, Steve (CH.)	2933*	
(60)	60 GARRAWAY, Brian (DO.)	2933*	
(61)	61 BREWER, Chris (NK.)	2920*	
(62)	62 COLLINS, Paul (CH.)	2908*	
(63)	63 BECKLEY, Chris (SY.)	2903	
(64)	64 RADFORD, Peter (E.)	2900*	
(65)	65 DYSON, Tim (Y.)	2886	
(66)	66 SEAHOLME, Stuart (HE.)	2882*	
(67)	67 BALDING, Derek (HE.)	2880*	
(68)	68 GRANT, Bill (YS.)	2876	
(69)	69 LLOYD, Trevor (WI.)	2875	
(70)	70 BUIST, Henry (K.)	2869**	
(71)	71 REEVES, Dave (BK.)	2865***	
(72)	72 DENNISON, John (E.)	2865***	
(73)	73 DAVIS, Steve (SY.)	2865	
(74)	74 RASUL, Farhat (ST.)	2849	
(75)	75 BURN, Brian (DO.)	2849*	
(76)	76 CRAIGHILL, Jeffrey (CH.)	2841*	
(77)	77 FELLOWS, Keith (LE.)	2821*	
(78)	78 NEWMAN, Maurice (LE.)	2818**	
(79)	79 BROWNE, Michael (WA.)	2817***	
(80)	80 ROBINSON, John (SY.)	2812*	
(81)	81 BRIERLEY, Neil (E.)	2806*	
(82)	82 PRIESTLEY, Richard (Y.)	2803**	

(83)	83 ROBERTSON, Ian (ND.)	2799**
(84)	84 SHIRT, Richard (YS.)	2791
(85)	85 BALDWIN, Gary (WI.)	2782
(86)	86 DOVE, Fred (E.)	2776
(87)	87 SWIFT, Norman (BD.)	2772*
(88)	88 RHODES, Mike (BU) (BK.)	2769*
(89)	89 MCEVOY, Malcolm (CH.)	2768*
(90)	90 GUYMER, Terry (E.)	2752*
(91)	91 COOPER, Stephen (CV.)	2751****
(92)	92 NORTON, Roy (WO.)	2747
(93)	93 RICHARDSON, Nathaniel (OX.)	2741*
(94)	94 OUTRIM, Graham (SY.)	2726*
(95)	95 KOSHOWSKY, Steve (Y.)	2724*
(96)	96 GRAHAM, Cosmo (Y.)	2720*
(97)	97 ALLISON, Brian (LI.)	2718
(98)	98 YARNLEY, Keith (K.)	2716
(99)	99 CLEMENTS, Brian (LA.)	2715*
(100)	100 SAXBY, Phil (K.)	2711

Veteran Women

Pos	Name	Rating	Flag
(1)	1 HARRIS, Jill (ST.)	3466	
(2)	2 SMITH, Karen (LE.)	3370****	
(3)	3 SHORT, Elaine (DV.)	3304*	
(4)	4 DUNNING, Jan (WO.)	3297	
(5)	5 KEAST, Lesley (LI.)	3248***	
(6)	6 HARPER, Sandra (BD.)	3203	
(7)	7 MALTBY, Margaret (NP.)	3137*	
(8)	8 DURHAM, Jane (CV.)	3075	
(9)	9 BUOYEY, Brenda (LA.)	3073	
(10)	10 KING, Sheila (SX.)	3061*	
(11)	11 PEARCE, Diane (K.)	3055*	
(12)	12 WANG, Lucy (E.)	3055****	
(13)	13 SIMPSON, Linda (Y.)	3051*	
(14)	14 SHIELDS, Helen (Y.)	3050*	
(15)	15 RIDER, Sandra (Y.)	3009*	



KIM MUDGE No.20 on the Womens Veterans list

WE NEED MORE UMPIRES

In the meantime if you would like to register interest on how to get yourself on to the first rung of the ump

HAIRPIECE



STEVEN BAILEY with new patriotic hairdo

HAD he appeared at the 2004 National Championships in Sheffield, Matthew Syed would have been completely outclassed, writes Jose Ransome.

The "In Fashion" at the event was the attractive and varied hairstyles sported by the young male players, perhaps led by Gareth Herbert with his sleekly plaited locks. A close second was the blonde Steven Bailey from Ormesby with a red St. George's Cross shaved above his right ear. Michael Marsden (Du) had the most delicate highlights, whilst Steven Beerling (K) looked good in a soft, hippie style complete with bandanna. A complete contrast was the dark,

long sideburns, brooding style favoured by Andrew Rushton (La) and to a certain extent by Craig Bryant (Dv), whilst Nicky Skipp (Cv) wore his hair in a short and spiky cut. Adam Bleakley (La) wore his crowning glory softly streaked, whilst many others including Shaun Marples (Dy), Matthew Stanforth and Bryn Drinkhall (Cv), Stephen Davies (Li) must surely have been to the hairstylists in preparation for the event. Right or wrong, boys?

I wonder, could the hairstyles reflect the style/temperament of the player, and have they thought about a sponsorship agreement with their hairstylist? This might be quite lucrative for both parties if properly approached.

And what about the girls? It is not my style to write negatively on this subject, but the fact that seven out of the 8 women's doubles semi-finalists wore plain ponytails, sums up their fashion statements.

Conclusion: However, based on the fact that the Men's Singles title was won by a 38 year old with short back and sides, perhaps more time at the table and less in the chair may pay off!

QATAR EXPERIENCE

WHEN I found out I had been selected to go to Qatar I was really excited. I had never been to a World Championships before and so I didn't really know what to expect, but at the same time I was sure it would be a brilliant experience, writes Joanna Parker.

Although I was excited I was also slightly puzzled. I had never even heard of the country Qatar before and no one that I asked could tell me where it was. In the end I had to look it up in an atlas from school only to find that it borders

with Saudi Arabia! At first, I have to admit, I was slightly worried knowing that there was just one country between us and the war in Iraq, however it did not last long and my excitement soon returned.

I really did not know what to expect of Qatar. I had heard that it was extremely wealthy but when we got there I was amazed. Our hotel was massive. It was a large pyramid shaped building and was covered in lights. Inside was just as stunning. As I looked around it made me feel almost important just to be standing there. While we were there the Women's Tennis Open was also being played. This meant that we shared the hotel with top tennis players such as J.Capriati and J.Hennin! We regularly saw them wandering the hotel, waiting for cars and sunbathing.

And finally, about the table tennis! The table tennis hall was very big, no exception to its surroundings. Despite it being very warm the conditions were good. As a team we did very well winning five out of six matches, finishing second in our category, and eight places higher than when we started. We all felt that the team spirit within the group was especially good and perhaps made the difference when the games got close.

As we only played one match per day it gave us chance to watch some of the top players. Personally I found it particularly inspiring to watch the defenders play (being one myself). It was strange to see faces, that we would normally only see in magazines or on TV, just walking amongst us. I think sometimes we forget that they are only human, just like us!

Overall it was undoubtedly a fantastic experience that I'm sure none of us will forget.



DIETMAR MOHR is pictured sitting in front row centre, with players visiting from Tonbridge in 1998, and from Heusenstamm TTC

DIETMAR MOHR

1943-2004

A TRIBUTE FROM TONBRIDGE

WE have been very saddened to hear of the death of Dietmar Mohr. We first met in 1986, when table tennis teams from Tonbridge travelled to Heusenstamm for the town's 775th Anniversary Celebrations. Further visits followed in 1988 and 1998. In 1987 (on the dramatic

weekend of the "Hurricane") and again in 1997 teams from Heusenstamm were welcomed here in Tonbridge.

Lasting friendships developed between us, and many competitive but very friendly matches took place. Always Dietmar, meticulous, courteous and cheerful, masterminded the arrangements, and in Germany arranged the entertainment for us including barbecues and sightseeing visits to the

Rhine Gorge and Odenwald Forest.

Now on this side of the Channel those of us who enjoyed those happy times together are grieving, together with our friends from Heusenstamm. Dietmar did not just serve the sport of table tennis, but was a great ambassador for international friendship. We shall miss him sadly.

John Knock

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Grand Prix 2000-2005
Junior/Vets/Womens British League 2000-2005

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Donic Equipment
ETTA National U10/11/12/13 Championships
2003-2005
ETTA National Team Finals 2003-2005

Schildkröt

Ball Supplier - Grand Prix 2000-2005
Junior/Vets/Womens Brit. League 2000-2005
Junior/Cadet National League 2002-2004

Yasaka

Ball Supplier
County Championships 2002-2005

MAY

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
20th-23rd	ITTF Pro Tour VW Open	Korea
21st-23rd	Bribar Top Twelve	Liverpool
23rd	Whitchurch Cadet 2 Star	
26th-29th	ITTF Pro Tour VW Open	Singapore
29th-30th	National Team Finals	

JUNE

5th	County Championships Conference	
5th	National U/10, U/11, U/12 & U13 Championships	Kings Lynn
	Cadet 6 Nations	England
11th-13th	Cadet & Junior Regional Training	
12th-13th	Hyndburn Senior 2 Star	
13th	Cippenham U/11, U12, U/13, U/14, & U/16 - YPSF 1 Star	
19th-20th	Commonwealth Championships	Malaysia
21st-27th	ITTF Pro Tour Brazilian Open	
24th-27th	British Schools Home Counties Championships	
26th-27th		

JULY

1st-4th	ITTF Pro Tour USA Open	
3rd	ETTA AGM	Hinkley
4th	Cippenham Summer 2 Star	
10th-11th	Cadet & Junior Regional Training	
16th-25th	European Youth Championships	
17th	Whitchurch Cadet 2 Star	
18th	Whitchurch Junior 2 Star	
31st	National Council	

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

THE ETTA WEBSITE

www.etta.co.uk

JOANNA PARKER WINS A BRONZE MEDAL

The English Schools Table Tennis Association sent a full delegation of 16 players, 4 coaches, 2 umpires and a Head of Delegation, to compete in the International Schools Federation, World Schools Championships in Germany over the period from March 24th to April 3rd, writes Gail McCulloch.

21 countries competed in a week of high level competition which was ably organised by the Chairman of the ISF Technical Commission, Mr John Arnold.

The competition is divided into 2 parts, the team competition and the individual competition. The team competition is also divided into the School Team and the National Team sections.

England was represented in the School Team competition by Peniel Academy in both the boys and girls team sections. (Daniel Rees, Paul Dewhurst, Edward Brown, Stephen Cooper, Abigail Embling, Emma Weil, Lucy Weil, Bethany Rees, NPC Nick Jarvis and Justin Goodall). These teams performed well fin-



JOANNA PARKER ON THE PODIUM



ENGLAND'S SCHOOLS PLAYERS

ishing in 11th and 8th places respectively. The girls were unlucky to lose a close quarter final match to Poland.

The National teams fared better. The boys (Paul Drinkhall, Tim Yarnall, Bradley Evans, David Meads, NPC Paul Birch) had close fought matches with Germany, Israel, Slovakia and France before being given a table tennis lesson by Chinese Taipei. They finished in 6th place, which considering that 3 of the 4 players will still be eligible in 2 years time, was creditable.

The girls team (Jo Parker, Kelly Sibley, Nicola White, Lauren Springthorpe NPC Gail McCulloch) excelled. Despite an early defeat by 4-3 to Germany, the girls played exceptionally well beating France,

Greece, Poland and Slovakia. They lost to China but not without a strong fight, taking games in each match. However, the highlight of the competition was their amazing defeat of Chinese Taipei by 4 games to 3. This was an exceptional result as no European team has ever beaten an Asian team in this competition. The result was due to outstanding performances by Jo who won both of her singles and Kelly who combined with Jo to win the doubles and then won the deciding singles match. Jo and Kelly were ably supported throughout by Nicola and Lauren.

The Individual Competition saw 11 of the 16 players reach the main draw from the group stages. Of the Peniel players in the Consolation Event, Edward did well

to reach the quarter finals. In the main knock-out, Bradley fell at the first hurdle with Tim, Emma, Abigail and David losing in the second round. The last 32 was the end for Lauren, Emma, Nicola and Kelly. Paul went one round further by reversing a team event result against the German number one. Jo continued with her good form by beating strong opposition to reach the semi final. At this stage she succumbed to a very good Turkish defender in a five game thriller, having again taken out Chinese opposition on the way. This gave England its first ever individual medal.

And Jo Parker made the following comments: "When I was selected to go on this trip, I found out that it clashed with the Senior Nationals. I then had to decide which tournament that I would play in. I decided that the World Schools would be more beneficial as I would gain experience against players from all over the world. I know that several other players were in the same position and I think that I can say that none of us regret our decision. It was a great tournament both competitively and socially."