

Table Tennis NEWS



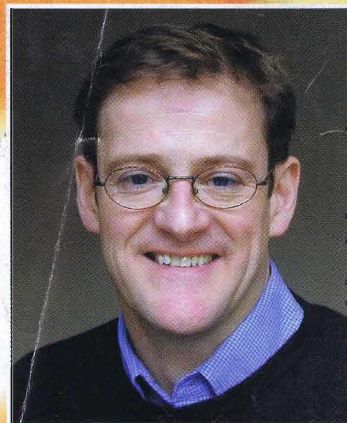
Bradley Billington wins the Clare Pengelly Singles

Pages 20 & 21



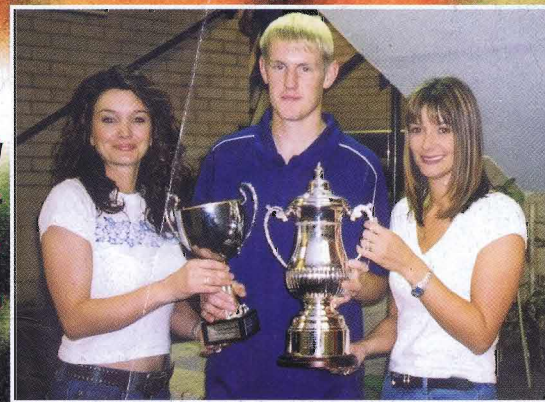
MARTIN IRELAND
THE NEW ETTA NATIONAL
VOLUNTEER MANAGER

PAGE 6



CHRIS BROWN
RECEIVES THE
CLARE PENGELLY TROPHY
AND THE PAT ARCHDALE CUP

PAGES 20 & 21





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FRONT COVER MAIN PHOTOGRAPH
BRADLEY BILLINGTON WINNER OF THE MENS
SINGLES AT THE CLARE PENGELLY MEMORIAL
Picture by John Wood

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



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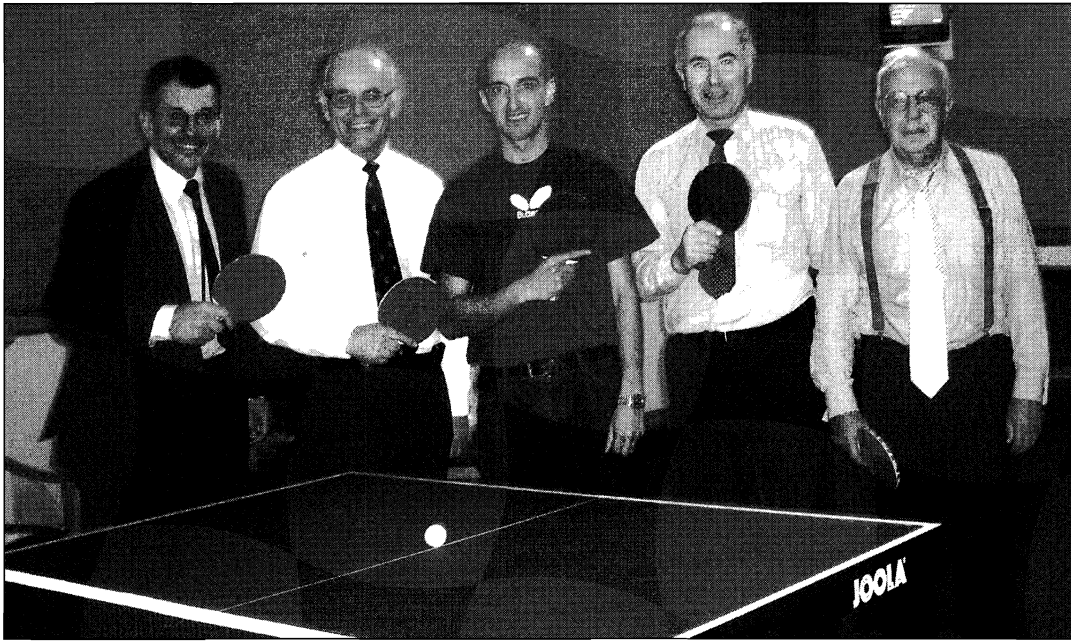
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We ask all members of the association to support the above companies who are in turn supporting table tennis.

BRIAN *in* LONDON



BRIAN SPICER (far left) is pictured with MATTHEW SYED (centre) at the launch of the Houses of Parliament all party table tennis group

BRIAN SPICER, The Association's Commercial Director has become London Development Officer based at London South Bank University, and will also be continuing to handle Commercial Activities within the 33 London Boroughs.

Brian, a Fellow of The Chartered Institute of Marketing, has continued his strategical marketing skills in the Region's development by researching London table tennis, it's strengths and weaknesses, and the past good work done by Jon Kaufman, to ensure that new players, coaches, and volunteers emerge to lift the current profile of our sport.

Development plans so far are impressive.

At The London Youth Games Brian met all the Boroughs sports development units - he hardly saw a game.

A Houses of Parliament all party table tennis group and Premier Club has been set up. MP's will take table tennis matters back to their constituencies, and support our needs in debate.

Key Premier Clubs have been visited, and an offer will be made to

form quarterly meetings to agree school and club needs in defined venues that they will help.

Table Tennis Development Officers will be offered the chance to form a team of activists.

A quarterly newsletter will update on venues, opportunities, and contacts.

Monthly meetings have been set up with the London Coaching Chairman, John Standing to ensure that all needs are met.

At all times equity issues are to the fore, with social inclusion, community, and Premier Club Ability the key issues for immediate success.

Brian is available at the following address:

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email: spicerb@Isbu.ac.uk

TOP SPOT FOR RICHARD

RICHARD SCRUTON has been appointed referee for the table tennis event for next years Olympic Games in Athens.

STOP PRESS

FANTASTIC late news from Europe, where England defeated Holland 3-1.

Matthew Syed sailed through Holland's best, beating World ranked at 21 Trinko Keen and No.32 Danny Heister, both 3-0, with Alex Perry winning the other one.

WOODY'S World

WELL, I hope you like the new look 40 page Table Tennis News. Your opinions would be welcome, so please drop me a line or email.

This issue TTN features on the centre-spread pages 20 to 21, the Clare Pengelly Satellite Open tournament. A Grand Prix that I always enjoy, not only for its close proximity to my home, but for it's excellent organisation and friendly atmosphere.

This season the Clare Pengelly has changed to a 'Satellite' event, but it looked the same as last year, it even increased it's entrants to it's second highest ever, and would have had a record entry had it not clashed with the VETTS Midlands Masters event at Stoke-on-Trent.

With this large entry they raised in excess of £1000 in aid of the 'Children's Hospice South West.'

Even the prize money was increased with the mens singles winner receiving £325, the womens singles £225, which is an extra £50 on last year's prizes.

The Veteran's prizes have also increased to a weekend break for 2 in a resort hotel or holiday village.

Umpires were also in abundance at the Clare Pengelly, with 11 bluecoats on duty both days.

Congratulations to Martin Ireland on being appointed the ETTA National Volunteer Manager. Read his interesting article "Life as an RDO", on page 6.

John Wood



TABLE TENNIS NEWS

is looking for Agents to sell the magazine at tournaments, county matches, British League and domestic league matches. This is a job which will suit someone who regularly attends (or plays) at any of the above events.

Interested? Then contact Jim Beckley, telephone: 0161 439 6001

PLEASE NOTE JOHN WOOD'S AMENDED EMAIL ADDRESS:

johnwood@macace.net



“ENROL A FRIEND” to TTN

IT SEEMS only moments ago that I wrote my first message to members via Table Tennis News.

I hope you were pleased with the changes made in this season's first issue; Jim Beckley and his team will continue to work towards improving the magazine over the coming months.

As a reader of TTN can I instigate an “Enrol a Friend” policy, it is very important that the circulation of this magazine increases, as it is the shop window of our sport. A great start would be for every reader to get a friend to subscribe to the magazine this season, all existing subscribers who do this will receive a 30% reduction for next seasons issues.

Although my workload seems to grow daily, I am enjoying the challenge, honoured that the membership chose me. There is light at the end of the tunnel and the future of our great sport with your help and support is assured.

Let me cover the last 30 days or so with an update for you.

CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER

This was circulated to over 3000 members and even though distribution was a little delayed, it appears to have been received well. I shall continue with this newsletter and the next issue will be in January and on time.

EVENTS

The National Championships will be on 26/27/28 March this season. It will move from the Ponds Forge location to another in Sheffield namely the purpose built EIS centre. Irrespective of whether you intend to enter or not a visit to this centre is worthwhile, it is a fantastic venue with, for example, a 2000 seated indoor stadium for athletics.

WEBSITE

We have encountered some technical problems in getting the website to a standard that we believe is necessary, however, we now have a date of the end of November to press the switch and you can be assured it will be worth waiting for.

HELP

The increases in cost for events to be staged due to venues price hikes are causing us concern. Members who have contacts within local council and leisure centres can help us, if you have any input please contact me.

MEMBERSHIP

The full impact of 11 up should be known when all the returns are in from the leagues mid November. I shall give an update to you all in the next issue, timing problems could impact this.

The Membership Committee had their first meeting last month and initial discussions of the Individual Membership Programme, which was mentioned in my manifesto, took place.

The concept is to cover a number of areas namely:

- All persons involved with the sport and supported by the ETTA

should pay a fee.

- Different levels and benefits will be set.
- The ETTA will get a true record for it's Affiliated Data Base and can monitor the sports growth.
- Direct income must increase to support our funding partners criteria.
- Improve communications and benefits to all Affiliated Persons and assist in making everyone feel they are part of the ETTA.

MAILERS.

We are reviewing a process with our trade partners to circulate via them regular mailers about your sport to increase the communications to all and to update you on what is happening at the ETTA.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2004 - 2008

This is well under way and we are getting inputs from all areas of the sport to support this plan. It must encompass all those involved with Table Tennis in England. It is your plan for the future of our sport.

COMPETITIONS

All this seasons events are under way, although some problems were faced and temporary fixes were made, a review of the structure, programme and criteria is planned for next season.

BRITISH LEAGUE

To support the Premier Division of this league and in an attempt to improve the level of play, an increase was approved in the prize money. This had remained stagnant for many years and we hope the increase will give us the desired effect.

TOP 12

The organisation of this tournament is well under way. It will take place at the Greenbank Leisure Centre in Liverpool on 28-30th May. It is planned that our top 10 Men and Women will take part plus two wild cards and only those players eligible to play for England will be invited to play. It will be the first opportunity for many years to see our top players in action against each other.

We must thank Liverpool City Council for their support.

IN OFFICE

I will have been in office with Mike and Martin for 5 months and my new team have been on board for 4 months. I hope you are seeing the start of the changes we are making, albeit in a controlled way and some may have not noticed anything. We have a long way to go but together we shall achieve our aims at making the sport better for all from grass roots to elite.

*Alex Murdoch,
ETTA Chairman*

LIFE OF AN RDO

AS Regional Development Officer (RDO) for the North West Region I have had the pleasure of working with many table tennis enthusiasts from clubs, leagues and schools over the years, writes Martin Ireland.

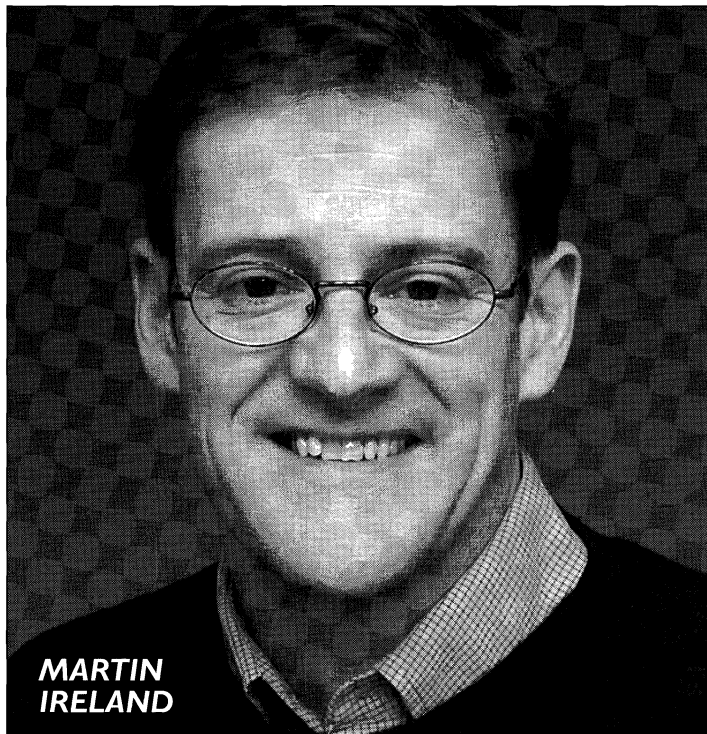
What is most rewarding is seeing a success story, whether it's the success of a new junior league or hearing that a club has just been awarded a Lottery funded grant to develop its own table tennis facilities.

So what exactly does an RDO do? The majority of our work is encouraging club development. With stronger clubs we encourage greater participation, and stronger competition. All successful table tennis activity stems from and is developed within clubs. Some of the best examples of this are in Europe, but steadily more and more English clubs are seeing the bigger picture and tackling the issues to stem the sport's decline.

If a local group has the enthusiasm, the RDO can encourage progression and give guidance and support. This can include facilitating links with local schools, or helping a club progress plans to develop its own table tennis centre. But the key to any development is the volunteers, without their drive, enthusiasm and commitment, progress would come to a grinding halt.

As an example of how an RDO can help, I would like to highlight a club in the NW Region, who over the last few years have changed table tennis in their area out of all recognition.

Table Tennis in St. Helens saw its last league days in the mid nineties. A player from one of the remaining clubs expressed an interest in helping to increase the number of juniors at the club, and was invited



by the club chairman to discuss a way forward with the local authority Sports Development Officer and myself.

Soon becoming the driving force for table tennis in the area, he set up St. Helens Junior Table Tennis Club. The club successfully applied for Awards for All funding to help implement its development plan. The plan included establishing links with local schools, setting up a schools exhibition and taster day, putting on a coach education course for players, parents and teachers, and purchasing new equipment to expand coaching at the club.

The club soon became the victim of its own success and needed larger premises. The local council having

seen the commitment from the club and hearing the needs of the sport, offered the use of the local sports hall at a subsidised rate. More tables were purchased and the session was advertised to local schools, including the high school attached to the sports centre. A junior league was established at the club with 14 teams taking part. More recently, advanced coaching sessions have been set up with the club seeking support from local players. A local top player, was invited to attend the sessions, he took his coaching award and has become a regular part of the coaching set up. The club has three teams in the National Junior League, and is working even closer with the high school, which has recently

become a Sports College. The club is currently looking at the possibility of using a new sports hall linked to a local Primary School, funded by a Space for Sport and the Arts grant.

It sounds great, and similar work is happening in many areas in the NW. It doesn't happen overnight and yes it is hard work, but the club has gone from zero to 50 members, including 9 helpers, in three years and has developed into one of the best clubs in the Region, winning the National Premier Club of the Year Award at Participation level for its achievements in 2002. It has been highly rewarding for everyone involved and is an example I often share with others in the region.

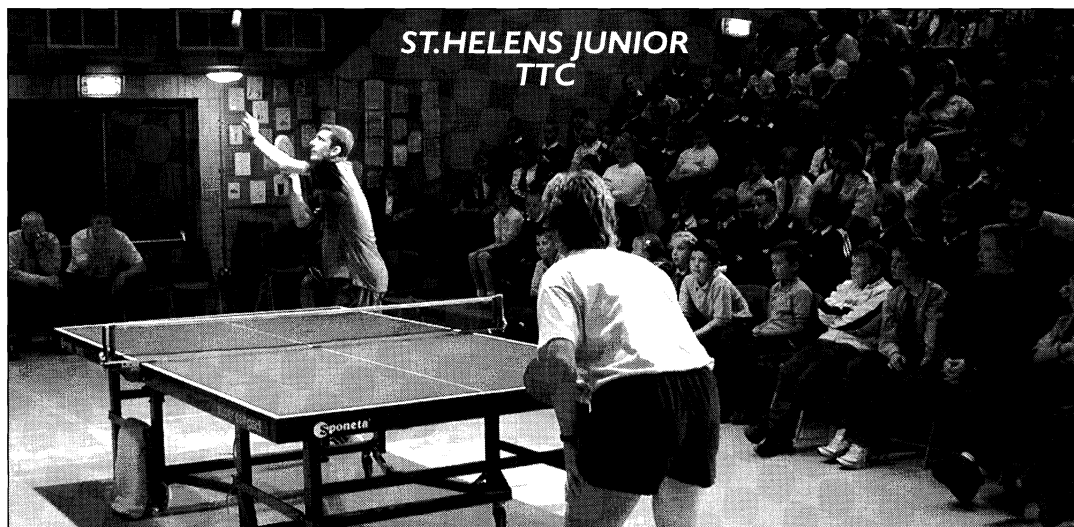
The RDO can help a club with all of the above, and pass on information about schemes, government initiatives and grants that the club can access.

If I had to highlight one area that has had a real positive effect on table tennis, it would be the Awards for All grant aid scheme, funded by the National Lottery. Eighty clubs, leagues and schools have received over £350k in funding to develop Table Tennis in the North West alone.

Probably the most frustrating part of the job is seeing the length of time it can take for facility projects to come to fruition. However, there are many new opportunities, especially with schools looking for community users of new facilities, or with the ever increasing number of Sports Colleges who often provide facilities in return for coaching support. So hopefully this will improve.

After eleven years as an RDO, I will be starting a new role in November, on a two year secondment as National Volunteer Manager. This challenging role will cover a number of areas dealing with the recruitment, retention and recognition of volunteers. Recruiting people to help with an ever increasing workload is an area we must tackle, and I hope to write an article covering the issues involved in a future edition.

I would like to thank all of those I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with in the North West. Thanks to your efforts, Table Tennis in the region is without doubt on the up. The figures for local junior leagues and competitions like the NJL speak for themselves. Whether this will ever translate into league play is another matter. Maybe we need a radical solution, a multi table venue with each division on one night and reduced team sizes, It might just work!



POSTBAG

FAULTY SERVES

ONE aspect of the 11 up game which has not received the full attention that it deserves is the faulty serve.

You would imagine that such hazards would be well known to the world class players like we saw recently at the Crucible, but it doesn't.

Of course the serve is an important part of our game, as many are the rule changes that have occurred over the years, so as not to give too unfair an advantage to the server.

So servers have to think long and hard before they commit themselves to sending the ball on its way.

Certain thought processes complicate the issue as it must cause some anxiety to the server if he finds that his opponent scores winners off his serve and he has to find ways and means of shutting his opponent down.

Should it be short or deep, fast or slow, dipping with deceit or just plain awkward. All of these points must exercise a player's mind as he sets himself up to serve.

Yet listen to this! The first thing to know is to GET THE BALL OVER THE NET.

Obvious? I don't think so!

Jan Ove Waldner against Vladimir Samsonov made two foul services into the net in game one. Two in game two, one in game three and one in game four. Samsonov made none.

Look at the final scores of this match 7-11, 7-11, 13-11, 7-11.

You will see that in the 21up game the foul serve would not have been quite so suicidal, but where we have 11up, a good and safe serve has twice the significance.

Yet Waldner was not alone. In the final match of the evening Samsonov served twice into the net against Timo Boll in the first game.

Guess what the score was? 9-11.

I did not see any foul serves from Chen Weixing, Kalinkos Kreanga or Matthew Syed, but Boll did make one in the third game against Samsonov (his only one of the evening), but still managed a win at 11-9. Put it down to pressure.

My abiding memory of the evening was of Syed playing an attacking game against Boll and actually playing drop shots after driving Boll away from the table. In words of Victor Meldrew - I DON'T BELIEVE IT.

With Matthew missing two backhand winners in the first game at 11 each, this match could have been a turn up for the book as he only lost by 3 games to 2.

A big thank you to the organisers of the Continent Masters which produced such a feast of contrasting styles.

*Stan Johnstone
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire*

GRATEFUL OF GUILDFORD

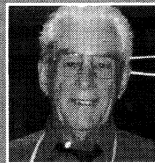
IT was early June, and time for the second of the bi-annual Alan Cooke Master Classes and to this end some 21 players and 4 coaches met at Potters Leisure Resort to undertake some serious, structured table tennis coaching, and have a great deal of fun along the way.

This luxurious venue is situated at Hopton-on-Sea just a few miles along the coast from Great Yarmouth. It is a magnificent facility catering for various sports too numerous to mention, it is worth noting however, that it is the home of many of the top bowls competitions held in this country. The accommodation is either self contained Chalets or the recently extended Hotel. On arriving we found we had been upgraded to the Hotel, no one complained, the hotel rooms are luxurious and very well appointed. I am sure I speak for all my fellow players when I say that the quality of the facility certainly helps in the overall enjoyment of the course. The staff are all very professional and extremely friendly, the whole facility is kept in pristine condition, the entertainment is top class and the food is fabulous.

The course itself was held in a very large airy hall that had a purpose built floor with the use of 12-15 competition tables. The course content was well constructed and followed a very successful formula, as this was the sixth time the course had been run it had been modified and honed to, well if not perfection something very close to it.

The course objectives are set from day one, the first being enjoy your week, this was easy to achieve given the surroundings and the excellent company, although I refer to the week as being a course, an activity holiday is probably a more accurate description. The second objective is to improve your table tennis.

COURTSIDE



by **John Woodford**

• **A POWERFUL** protest by 25 nations that started at the European Championships in Courmeyer last April has it seems, won the day.

• **THE** nations that include England, Scotland and Wales protested by an organised petition that an attempt was made to limit the number of teams (or nations) to play at the next European championships in Denmark to sixteen teams by way of arranging qualification matches long before the tournament took place.

• **THIS MOVE** was created by the ETTU top brass led by Mr Stefan Bosi from Italy, who I am told, lives up to his surname - and that is putting it mildly.

• **HAD** the move succeeded the end result would have been that the tournament could have been made shorter by a day or so, thus cutting expenses.

• **THE ITTF** have succeeded in a similar move by managing to split the world team event from the individual tournament, another success, one might say, down to Adham Shahara the ITTF President.

• **BOSI** arranged for nations to meet to discuss this issue the day before play started in Courmeyer. But a number of nations, some through flight delays - did not make the meeting so it was carried by a single vote.

• **THE 25** nations then tried to get a meeting (an extra one) in Paris but Bosi declined but said that a meeting could be held in somewhere like Rome.

• **THE** protesting nations were then told they would have to wait until Doha, but that would have been too late to alter the arrangements for this season and next.

• **SINCE** then, a revised format has been arranged that has achieved the objective of the protesters. All nations will play in qualifying matches between now and the 2005 Europeans in Aarhus.

• **THE** results will determine the qualifying positions of the nations, no nation will be excluded, making common sense. Otherwise, some nations would not bother to come to Denmark if their teams could not compete.

• **THE** European President, I am informed, had ETTU colleagues shadowing the leaders of the protest group in Courmeyer, watching their every move!

• **HAS** anyone noticed a familiar name currently on the Blackpool soccer bench? It is Craig Hilton (son of John Hilton) who was a defender with Manchester United but has now moved up the road.

STOP PRESS

• **AS** expected, top Chinese seeds, Chen Weixing (Austria) and Tong Feiming (Taipei), dominated the Butterfly Sussex Open Grand Prix at Crawley, 18th/19th October. Chen defeated Ryan Jenkins in the mens final, whilst Tong accounted for Helen Lower in the womens final. Full report in the next issue of Table Tennis News

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

Considering that in Mike Johns, Alan Cooke, Nicky Mason and assistant coach Paul Ingham we probably had the finest array of coaching talent to be found under one roof anywhere in the country, and with a very high ratio of coaches to players, it seemed likely we would succeed in our second objective, and succeed we did. An additional bonus for us was the arrival of Skylet Andrew, he came for a few days to give his own masterclass on one of his specialities "the serve" Skylet also boosted morale by losing to a few of the players in top table.

It is important to stress that with about five and a half-hours of table tennis per day it is physically quite tough going, although you are encouraged to go at your own pace. All players were extremely generous to other players, trying hard to give quality feeding to practice partners when they had the lead exercise, this is a spirit engendered by the coaches and heartily embraced by all participants. It is a spirit of camaraderie that runs throughout the course, both on and off the table. In addition to the sensible warm up and stretching exercises, cool downs etc, we had the benefit of, multi ball, video analysis, and the opportunity to put what we had learned into match situations by playing top table at the end of each session, this also served to set your practice partner for the next session.

A tournament was held mid-week, where all matches were closely contested.

Sadly one of the Guildford contingent let us, and themselves down. To save wear and tear on the back, a very simple device is employed to collect the balls from the multi-ball court. It is only a tube of about 65mm diameter with a single semi-flexible bar fixed across one end, when pushed down on the ball, it passes upwards but cannot fall back down, as a new ball is trapped, it pushes the previous ball up. When the tube is full it is tipped up into the tray. Robin Pretty, who is old enough to know better, and an engineer to boot, spent 25 minutes with the device upside down, trying to pick up one ball, luckily only one person noticed, unluckily that person was Mike Johns.

Sadly, Alan Cooke failed to overcome the Potters Table Tennis Champion thanks to some inspired tactical and innovative play by the Norfolk veteran, the vast crowd of mostly non players enjoyed the spectacle and roared their approval.

To attend a masterclass means you will be meeting old friends and making new ones, most people that attend once do come back. For me

the success of the event is not just the top class facility and coaching, but the people. From the moment you arrive you experience a tremendous sense of fellowship, and this bonding continues throughout the week both on the table and in the bar. When it is time to go the feeling of sadness is almost tangible, Trophies are presented, (the most coveted being the most improved player, won this time by Hugh Slater, a very popular choice) hands are shook, numbers are swapped and arrangements to meet at future tournaments are made. However, by far the easiest way to renew these friendships is to book next year's course as soon as possible.

*Tom Taylor-Woodward
Guildford, Surrey*

REMAINS A MYSTERY

FOR MANY years I have not been able to write freely and often what I submitted was "conveniently" lost or censored. Why the powers that be, or were, were so afraid of the facts or, at any rate, how I saw things, remains a mystery, but perhaps they knew more than I did, that one day their members would throw them out of office.

I was, even before elected Chairman of the E T T A (1986 - 91), according to a survey undertaken by the late Rob Oldfield, the most read contributor of Table Tennis News and also the one to whose work readers turned first. This counted for little, as I went in record time from former chairman and popular writer to persona non grata, as far as this Magazine was concerned.

I mention these things not because they are very important in personal terms, but even today, after so many years, people ask me why I have written so little and why I seemed to have toned down my work so much.

In some respects some members have not seen the whole picture, thinking this was a sort of personal dispute with Brian Halliday, then responsible for TTNews within the ETTA's management committee. This is not really correct. Brian did his best. He was only too willing to publish a couple of articles for which he had asked me, but they were veto'd (banned) by his management committee, chaired by Alan Ransome. Both were in no way directed at them, but by then they seemed to find almost any criticism unbearable, probably sensing impending disenchantment among members and their ultimate and deserved defeat.

Anyway, that's how things were

and, after more than a decade, in exile and with a muzzle, I hope to write more regularly and, above all, more interestingly from now on.

The election literature of the new Chairman allows the hope that his team will come to grips with the sport's undoubted problems. The first must be that the way we are going we shall quite soon run out of members to a point where many local associations are no longer viable.

One hopes therefore, first of all, for an ETTA that is aware of this central problem and will help us address this clear issue. The old regime seemed to claim that "more people were playing table tennis than for some years" for which I could only find selective, not real evidence. Another remedy was seen in making fewer members pay more, generally for less in terms of new stealth taxes like player licence fees. It seemed to me a formula for failure and abject failure at that. As the election showed, I was not alone in thinking that.

An essential part of a more popular sport is Publicity and there the ETTA has to play the major come to play.

Much of the oxygen of publicity must come from a successful national team and players. There again our failure has been total, all hopes centred on an "academy", now closed down, where young, often very young players were to be educated (?) to become table tennis professionals, unfortunately a profession which in England had no future, equating roughly to the earning power and status of the unemployed. No efforts were made to enhance the standing of the professional table tennis player to that of, say, a dentist, let alone a football player. On the contrary, whilst coaches, at any rate those imported from abroad, were paid more than well, players were for long stretches not paid at all.

The remedy was not seen in putting these things right, obvious as they are, but in rubbishing and silencing the few critics, myself always identified as the main enemy (so it was often reported to me).

Our season has not yet begun in earnest and so I am able to write more fully on national matters, if only to put right what has been attributed to me so long and to celebrate my liberation from the illiberal era from which we have at last emerged.

Locally, we expect little from the ETTA. All we ask are conditions

that will enable us to welcome more new members, days when the sport is regarded at least as highly as many others, so that young people will take it up with pride and not as an occasional second best to football or even judo.

If our numbers continue to fall, we shall have failed.

*John Prean
Isle of Wight*

INACCURATE

IT IS not my intention to respond regularly to the actions or articles of the ETTA new Management team through the pages of Table Tennis News. However, the article entitled "World Class Performance" by Mike Johns which was published in the September/October edition of Table Tennis News contained passages that were both ill informed and inaccurate and, therefore, on behalf of the people who were responsible at the time the record needs to be put straight.

The comment that the ETTA World Class Plan was unachievable is not fair comment. The Plan that was presented to and agreed by Sport England was to cover an 8-year period. However, after just one Sport England radically changed the criteria to such a degree that only sports that had players or athletes in the top 20 of the senior world rankings would be eligible for World Class Performance support.

(Everyone appreciates that with the number of countries that participate in table tennis particularly with the strength in depth of the Chinese that we would always have difficulty in meeting this criterion.) The funding tap was slowly turned down, the personal subsistence funding for the players was cancelled and the ETTA were not given the opportunity to prove whether the Plan could be achieved or not.

Attacking Holme Pierrepont as a venue also reflects a lack of knowledge of the circumstances at the time. Holme Pierrepont was recommended to the ETTA by the then Chief Executive of Sport England on the basis that Holme Pierrepont were building a new sports hall that was fully available for priority use by the ETTA and that the accommodation was available on site. No other centre in the country could provide this quality of facility and for it to be available for our use on a full time basis. To say that the Water Sports Centre was questioned by virtually all is also inaccurate. There were some people who were against the whole concept and some who

continued on page 10

were against Holme Pierrepont, but they were in the minority and the majority of those with real experience and knowledge of high performance were fully behind this concept as giving English players the best chance to succeed. As I understand it, the new Management team to their credit followed this principle and did their best to keep Nottingham open.

Mike's comment regarding negotiating a deal at Holme Pierrepont to save thousands of pounds again only reflects part of the picture. It was clear from the outset that the costs of the accommodation at Holme Pierrepont were too high. We tried our best to negotiate for lower prices but were told in no uncertain terms by Sport England that they were providing the Lottery money and picking up all the costs, so we should not complain about the prices that were being charged for their National Centre as the Lottery was picking up the bill. We pushed matters as far as was sensible but had to accept that cheaper rates would not be available to us at that time.

For Mike to suggest that he walked in and due to his negotiating skills that thousands of pounds were saved is obviously misleading. The facts are that with the lower funding that the ETTA is now receiving, the whole basis has changed.

The facts are also that our National Centre has closed and this makes it so much more difficult for English players of the future to reach the standard to enable them to compete successfully for World, Olympic and European honours.

*Alan Ransome OBE
Middlesbrough*

TWO POINTS

WILL people ever stop interfering with the ranking points system? No. Oh well, here is my advice to today's cohort, who, in mistaken awe of their mathematical wit, may develop another set of algorithms for no reason other than vanity...

1. Looking for a more accurate ranking system is a waste of time! The unexpected variations in tournament results provided by:

- luck during individual matches
- weekly random fluctuations in players form are far greater in size than the underlying 'inaccuracy' of the present ranking system or any of its ('unfair') predecessors.

It is a bit like watching a lowly skilled archer missing his target in all directions by over a meter, analysing his average shot and telling him to aim left by 1cm. No one will notice the improvement in his results.

2. I strongly recommend that the

ETTA continues with the system of compiling veteran, junior and cadet ranking lists from the senior list. When combined with the development of 'Banded Events' at senior tournaments, it has promoted wider participation in senior tournaments, and in particular:

a) It provides a greater variety of styles to play against in tournaments. This is especially beneficial to the development of our junior players, who otherwise would only play against the same junior players each week.

b) it provides people of all ages and standards of play an increased choice of competitions/events to enter.

c) it allows different generations of a family to be able to play in the same venue at the same time, thus:

- increases tournament entries in the short term (if a father can take his son to a senior tournament then he can enter too).

- By bringing the family together in this way it will, through mutual encouragement, produce greater participation by all family members in the long term. (People stay keen for longer when supported by a group than they do when left alone.) A good example of this is the recent Clare Pengelly Tournament: Shaun Marples won Band 1, Neil Marples won Band 3. Neil would not have made the 300+ mile journey if Shaun had been forced to play in a junior tournament that day, so as to maintain his junior ranking!

Whilst local league membership is sinking; senior tournaments are buoyed by the present system of banded events and heterogeneous ranking points - let's keep them this way.

*Jack Boulton
Sompting, West Sussex*

GRASS ROOTS ARE THE ETTA

I WISH to make the following response to Ming Majoe's letter in the last issue of TTN.

Firstly you and all other people who pay affiliation fees are the ETTA. The ETTA is not some mysterious body that is run by paid unaccountable officials.

The ETTA is managed and run by appointed representatives from counties via National Council and Mancom in conjunction with the staff members. National Councillors in turn are appointed by the leagues at county meetings.

We have therefore a chain which starts with the players, who should attend their local league meetings and elect people to represent them, the league in turn appoint a League

Represented Member who can vote on behalf of the league, The league appoint and it can be the same person to attend county meetings- counties vary how many league personnel who can attend and vote, but the county appoint by way of these meetings a National Councillor/County Representative Member who votes on behalf of his county and attends National Council Meetings.

So that is the ETTA which includes you and your league.

The change in the laws was brought to National Council via a National Councillor, approved by them for the AGM and voted on by the paying players via the league appointed representative and the county appointed representative. Any change in the rules of the association/company has to be approved by the members.

I understand we have a long democratic process but ultimately any changes including the laws about scoring come from the grass roots players who are the ETTA.

I understand this does not clear your thoughts about 21 v 11 but to deplore the ETTA is in fact against all of us.

We must as an organisation improve communications to the grass roots members, of which I am still one being registered and play when I can in three local leagues. We do not have a direct mailing list to keep players aware of what is happening and we intend to change this, with the approval of the members, via an individual membership package in the future.

I am always available by phone, fax, email and attend many events and league/county meetings across the country.

*Alex Murdoch,
ETTA Chairman*



WANTED TTN AGENTS



TABLE TENNIS NEWS

is looking for Agents to sell the magazine at tournaments, county matches, British League and domestic league matches. This is a job which will suit someone who regularly attends (or plays) at any of above events.

Interested? Then contact Jim Beckley,
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ENGLAND WOMEN WIN, BUT WELSHMEN CRUSH THE OPPOSITION



ENGLAND TEAM IN LARGS: Picture above are (top row l.to.r) **BRYN DRINKHALL, CRAIG BRYANT, and PETER CLEMINSON.** Whilst below are the triumphant women (l.to.r) **HELEN LOWER, GEORGINA WALKER, and JOANNA PARKER.**

BY calling on their two European class men Ryan Jenkins and Adam Robertson, Wales retained their overall domination of the mens events at the tournament held at the Sport Scotland National Centre, Inverclyde, Largs , September 19-21, writes John Woodford.

The Welsh team's key win was 8-2 over England, who once again, used the event to give experience to their young trio - Bryn Drinkhall, Peter Cleminson and Craig Bryant.

I believe that Steen Kyst Hansen would have liked to have fielded a stronger England men's squad, but it was extremely useful to give Drinkhall, Cleminson and Bryant a test against the sort of players they need to beat if they are to move forward - the like of Scottish pair of Gavin Rungay and Stewart Crawford.

England men were beaten by Scotland, who surprisingly lost to Ireland. England women crushed Scotland 5-0. The best win individually for England was by Craig Bryant who brought down the improving Stewart Crawford.

The finishing order for the team event was: Combined - Wales, England, Ireland, Scotland, Isle of Man, Guernsey. Men: Wales, Scotland, Ireland, England, Isle of Man, Guernsey. Women: England, Wales, Ireland, Guernsey, Scotland, Isle of Man.

Before leaving the team event, England women retained the championship with excellent performances by Helen Lower, Georgina Walker and Joanna Parker. At least the England womens team was the strongest available. The most notable absentee in the womens

events was of course, Bethan Daunton of Wales who is said to be taking a year out, but will be back after injury and other problems.

Now to the individual events on the last day, finishing early around 3 pm, including a lunch-break. This was the quarter-finals mens line-up: Jenkins v Owen Griffiths, Drinkall v Jason Sugrue, Rungay v Crawford, Cleminson v Robertson.

Jenkins stormed through three-straight against Griffiths and Irish No.1 Sugrue.

The all-Scottish battle was a stirring five game tussle won perhaps surprisingly by Crawford at 9 in the fifth, whilst in the bottom quarter Robertson accounted for Cleminson 8, 5, 9.

In the semis, Jenkins lost the third game to Sugrue but advanced at 6 in the fourth, whilst Robertson

(coached by his father Barry Robertson) eased home 7,3,5 against Cleminson. The final between the two Welsh aces was a cracker, Jenkins went two one-up, but is was the younger Robertson who finished strongly with many superb drives and a wonderful backhand to win -10, 5, -7, 4, 7.

The womens singles event was dominated by England, with Helen Lower, lifting her game to take Daunton's title -9, 8, -8, 2, 6, against Georgina Walker who is another improving player.

The two-day tournament was a success. Not many spectators of course at a distant venue some way from the madding crowds. All five nations - Wales, Ireland, Scotland, IOM and Guernsey view it with enthusiasm. England did have the excuse that their men were playing

**Words by
JOHN WOODFORD
in Largs, Scotland**

Russia at Cheltenham, two days after the finish in Scotland, but Steen may not have expected the Cheltenham team of Matthew Syed, Gareth Herbert and Alex Perry to travel to Scotland with the Russian match so close. The Scottish Board of Management, under chairman David Clifford provided excellent organisation and the referee Karen Tonge had no major problems to solve. Also present throughout was Helen Hamilton, president of the Scottish TTA, who described Largs as "one of our seaside beauty spots" and she added "Haste ye back to Scotland".

Footnote: A bagpiper failed to arrive at the opening ceremony - he was busy with two kilned weddings at my seafront hotel.

JOINT LEADERS GROVE & IRISH LADIES



Cllr. ROWENA HAY is pictured above (left) presenting the 'Team of the Weekend' trophies to Byng Hall 2, SARAH HUBBARD, EMMA ETHERIDGE & CHLOE DUNMALL, and (right) the 'Player of the Weekend' trophy to NICOLA MASSINGHAM

CHELTENHAM Recreation Centre is the chosen venue for this season's two sessions of the Women's British League, the first getting under way over the weekend of September 6/7th, writes Brian Lamerton.

Such was the quality of entry that a strong premier division of 12 teams was divided into "Red" and "Blue" sections, the top three of each after the first weekend joining together to form THE premier division for the second weekend. So at the halfway stage we effectively have joint leaders in holders Grove and Irish Ladies, both led by Chinese players in Zhao Shuang and Liu Na respectively and both dropping one point as the result of drawn matches with China Fleet (Plymouth) and Cippenham, the latter teams also led by foreign players, Marketa Myskova for China Fleet and Marina Zarzycka for Cippenham. Zhuang and Jose Bongers (Woodfield) were both unbeaten from 4 matches in "Red" whilst the ever present Myskova lost only to Zhuang and in "Blue" Liu Na and Jing Yi Gao (Irish Ladies) both ever present lost only once, Gao to Zarzycka and Na to Abigail Embling (BATT'S Peniel). Newcomers Guernsey did not quite live up to their advance billing (perhaps a rough crossing) but a warm welcome to Kay Chivers, Dawn Morgan and Sam Kershaw who will have returned home all the richer for the experience.

Division 1A leading two teams, Spicer Ladies and Halton Ladies drew with each other, Spicer's recovering

from 3-love down in a match which saw all six players win one set each. Halton themselves recovered from 3-love down to draw with Darlington where again it was a set apiece all round for both teams and Spicer's other dropped point was against Britannia Hanbury for whom Sarah Stedman was twice a winner.

Nicola Massingham (Elgre 1) was one of only two ever-present players to remain unbeaten throughout the weekend and her team from Division 2, the only team with a 100% record. Massingham's 12-10 fifth game defeat of Jane Vickers was the telling point in her sides 4-2 win over second placed Draycott & Long Eaton.

The lead changed hands three times before Darlington 2 and Sutton at Hone settled for a draw in division 3, Kim Mudge of Sutton the other ever present hundred percenter whose team had to settle for second place as the result of a second draw, this time with Byng Hall.

Councillor Rowena Hay of Cheltenham Borough Council presented the "Player of the Weekend" award to Nicola Massingham and the "Team of the Weekend" award to Byng Hall 2.

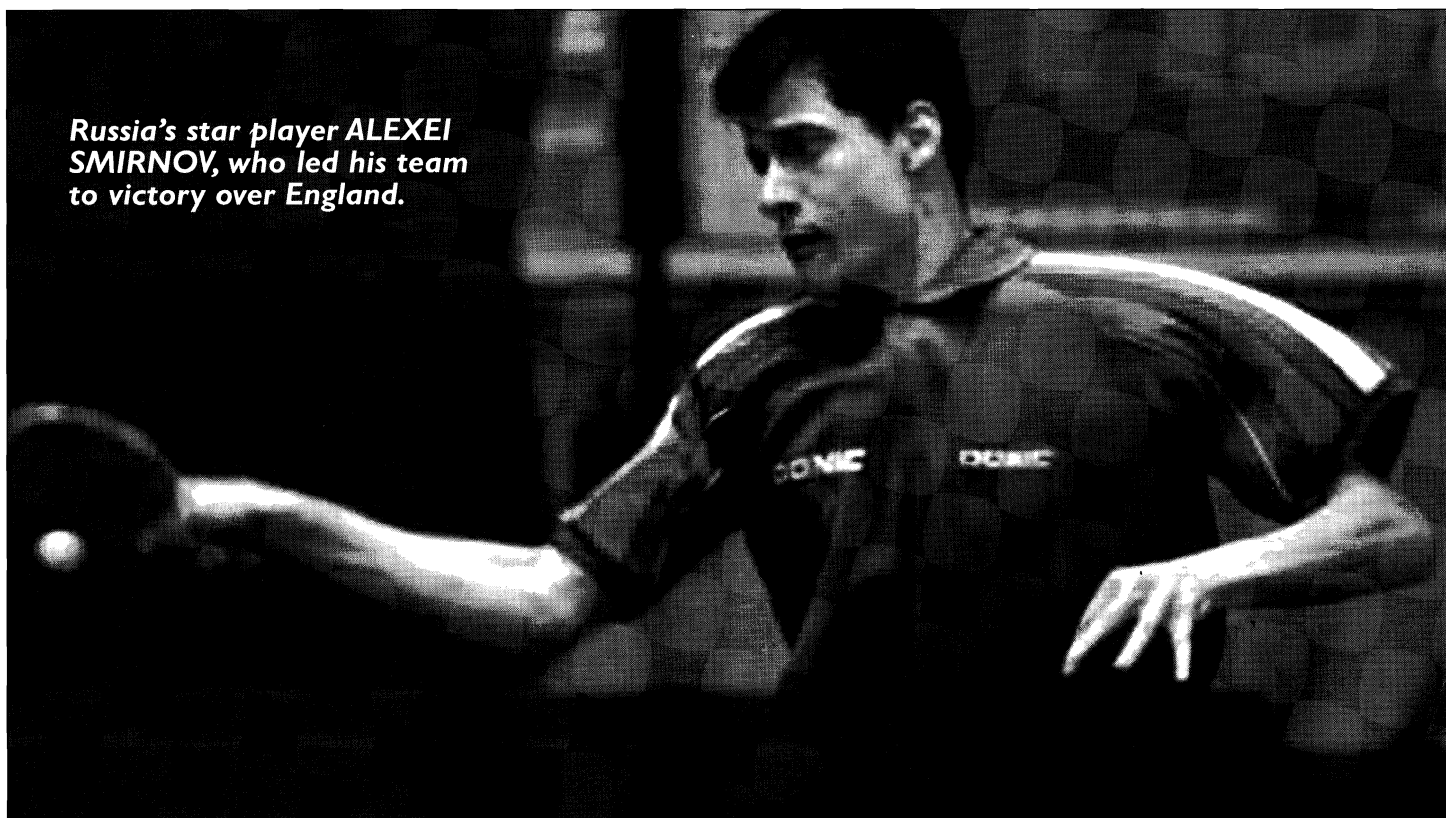
The competition will return to Cheltenham over the weekend of 24/25th January 2004.

Premier Division (Red)	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grove I	5	4	1	0	27	3	9
China Fleet	5	3	2	0	22	8	8
Woodfield	5	3	1	1	19	11	7
Hollington	5	2	0	3	10	20	4
Hull Sandhill	5	0	1	4	8	22	1
Irish Ladies II	5	0	1	4	4	26	1
Premier Division (Blue)							
Irish Ladies I	5	4	1	0	25	5	9
Cippenham TTC	5	4	1	0	22	8	9
Grove II	5	3	0	2	16	14	6
Batts Peniel Team	5	2	0	3	14	16	4
Wirral Ladies	5	1	0	4	10	20	2
Guernsey	5	0	0	5	3	27	0
Division One A							
Spicer Ladies	5	3	2	0	20	10	8
Halton Ladies I	5	3	2	0	19	11	8
Darlington I	5	2	1	2	18	12	5
Britannia Hanbury (FP)	5	2	1	2	14	16	5
Byng Hall I	5	2	0	3	13	17	4
Ashford	5	0	0	5	6	24	0
Division Two							
Elgre I	5	5	0	0	23	7	10
Draycott & Long Eaton	5	4	0	1	23	7	8
Norton Ladies	5	2	1	2	14	16	5
Leeds Ladies	5	1	1	3	12	18	3
Norwich Gels	5	1	0	4	11	19	2
Midland Elgre	5	1	0	4	7	23	2
Division Three							
Darlington II	5	4	1	0	24	6	9
Sutton at Hone	5	3	2	0	22	8	8
Byng Hall II	5	2	2	1	17	13	6
Halton Ladies II	5	1	2	2	14	16	4
Grove III	5	1	1	3	8	22	3
Woodfield II	5	0	0	5	5	25	0

Schildkröt

CHAMPAGNE PERRY - BUT SMIRNOV'S RUSSIANS TOO STRONG

Russia's star player **ALEXEI SMIRNOV**, who led his team to victory over England.



ENGLAND men's team promoted to the premier division of the European Men's League faced six matches - home and away - against three of the strongest teams in Europe: Russia, Germany and Holland, writes John Woodford.

The first match at Cheltenham Recreation Centre (put on at short notice) happened on September 23 when the Russian team after a strongly contested battle emerged victorious with a 3-0 victory, watched by around 300 fans.

With Alexei Smirnov promoted a fortnight earlier from No.18 to No.11 on the world list and the other two men Dimitri Mazunov and the younger Fedor Kuzmin ranked above Matthew Syed, it was obvious that England were to be engaged in a real

struggle.

Gareth Herbert opened for England. He lost the first two games -9, -7, to Mazunov, but he came back strongly in the third with his usual fierce serves and some sweeping drives on both wings to win 8.

The fourth game was tense with Herbert, who had just arrived back from his Austrian club in Salzburg, looking capable of winning, but the experienced Russian eased home winning 11-8.

Syed then faced the world No.11 Smirnov. In the first two games Smirnov only just retained control over the Syed backspin to win 9, 10. In the third game Smirnov piled on more pressure and winning 11-6.

The final clash between Alex Perry and the former European Junior Top-12 winner Fedor Kuzmin was a

battle to be remembered. It was grandstand finish as Perry - due to be married next year to Nicola Deaton - lost the first 8 but came he back to take the second 14-12 with a series of shots backhand and forehand that left the Russian standing.

Perry lost the third 9, but again gallantly bounced back to win the fourth, but in the decider, the Russian stormed through, with Perry gaining only two points.

Cheltenham is becoming a most popular centre for big events - the British Womens League have held one weekend there and the second will also be at Cheltenham. Next May, the Butterfly Open Grand Prix will also be in this excellent hall. Among the front-ranked VIPS at Cheltenham were the ETTA chairman Alex Murdoch and his wife Val and the

legendary Aubrey Simons from the Leach-Barna-Bergmann era. Masterminding the event at short notice was Peter Cruwys, also on the front bench was David Foulser chair of the Cheltenham TTA. The match being over, a reception was held with excellent refreshments and a short speech of thanks by the ETTA chairman Alex Murdoch.

RESULTS:

ENGLAND 0, RUSSIA 3
D.Mazunov b G. Herbert 9, 7 -8, 8 A. Smirnov b M. Syed 9, 10, 6 F. Kuzmin b A. Perry 8, 12, 9, 2, 6.

GASTRONOMIC EXTRAVAGANZA OF TABLE TENNIS

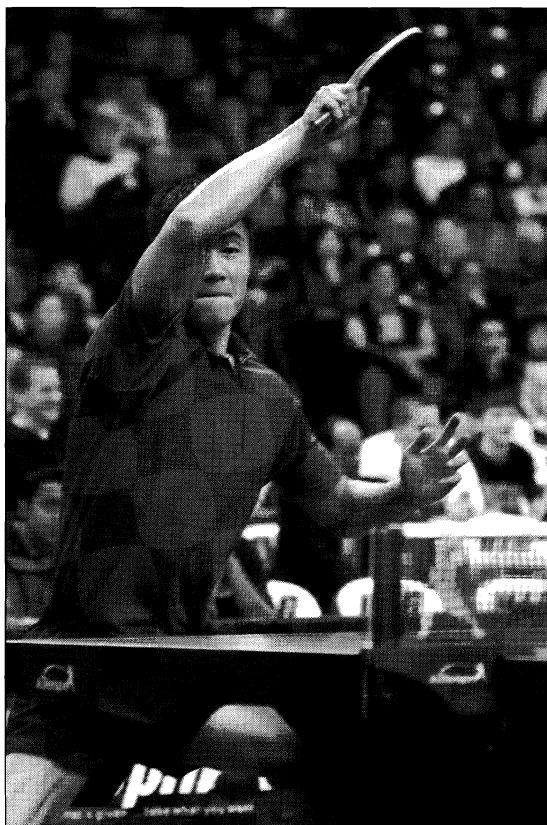
IF YOU are going to do something, do it big. That is the principle underlying one of the most intriguing innovations to hit table tennis for years: the \$350,000 Killerspin Extreme Weekend, taking place in Chicago from 27-29 December, writes Matthew Syed.

It is not just the fact that the Killerspin Open boasts twenty-eight separate events and is being staged at McCormick Place, the largest Convention Centre in the world, which will grab the attention of enthusiasts. No, the real fascination lies in the audacious attempt to fuse a mass-participation competition with two high-concept television events, giving players from around the world the opportunity to both to compete and then to settle back and watch the greatest players in the world battle it out for huge prize money. First prize is \$10,000 and there is \$6,000 in prize money just for women.

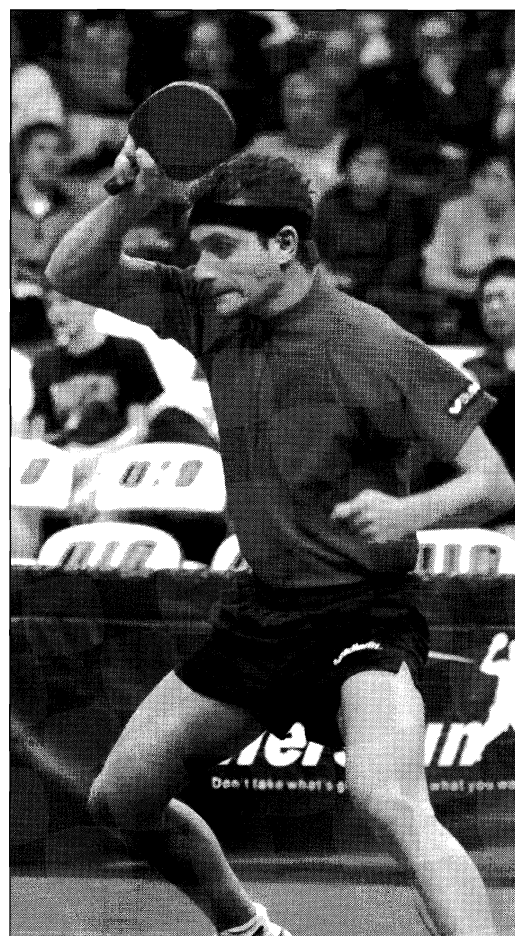
The Killerspin Extreme Championships features a series of challenge matches, including a re-match of the World Championship final in Paris between Werner Schlager of Austria and Se Hyuk Joo of Korea, widely regarded as amongst the most compelling tussles of recent times. Schlager triumphed on that occasion, captured the gold medal and returned to his homeland a national hero he has just become the first living Austrian sportsman to be featured on a national stamp.

But that is not all. The Million Dollar "Super Circuit", which for the past three seasons has taken place exclusively in Japan, will also be staged in Chicago during the course of the weekend. For a nation that, despite having a committed band of table tennis enthusiasts, has not had many opportunities to see the best in action, it must feel as if all three courses of a gastronomic extravaganza have arrived simultaneously.

Taken together the Super Circuit and the Extreme Challenge has enticed a line-up that reads like a



This Killerspin Extreme Weekend will feature a host of super stars, like the two pictured, WANG LIQIN (above) and KALINIKOS KREANGA (right)



who's who of table tennis superstars and will provide a fascinating examination of form in the build-up to the Athens Olympics. It includes Kalinikos Kreanga and Joo Se-Hyuk whose spectacular if contrasting styles make them two of the greatest crowd pleasers in the modern game. Other confirmed players include Timo Boll, Ma Lin, Vladimir Samsonov, Jorgen Persson, Zoran Primorac and Kim Taek Soo.

But for reasons of posterity it is the presence of Jan-Ove Waldner that will, perhaps, provide greatest buzz for the spectators. The Swede, widely regarded as the greatest player of all-time, has been written off

prematurely before, but even his staunchest admirers concede that, at the age of thirty-eight, this season provides a final opportunity to add to his incomparable list of achievements. He faces Koji Matsushita, the defensive ace from Japan in his Extreme challenge match.

The weekend is the brainchild of Robert Blackwell, President of Killerspin, a company specialising in the development of table tennis equipment, apparel, media and events. "I wanted to create a very special type of weekend that provides the best of both worlds to the table tennis enthusiast, with

opportunities to both compete and spectate whilst enjoying the hospitality of one of America's great cities," he said. "This is an event that will take table tennis to new levels of presentational excellence and provide a real opportunity to demonstrate that it is amongst the most spectacular sports on the planet."

More information on how to be a part of the \$350,000 Killerspin Weekend, including a downloadable registration form and details of discounted hotel accommodation can be found at www.killerspin.com

PRESS ASSOCIATION AXE IS POISED ON TABLE TENNIS

MOST readers of TTN will not be aware of the function of PA SPORT the sport branch of the only national news agency in Britain, writes Alex Murdoch.

PA Sport send out all reports and stories to ALL national daily and evening newspapers, almost all provincial daily and evening papers, all TV and radio stations, teletext on TV and most important web-sites.

The Sports Editor, David Balmforth tells us that the reason for this move is because sports editors do not want table tennis. We suspect that this is because the sports editors want more 'space' etc., to report the major sports, especially football.

PA have been given a list of provincial morning and evening papers all of whom are PA subscribers, and all of whom have leading British

To all readers, for the cost of a stamp, please write to David Balmforth, Sports Editors, PA Sport, PA News Ltd., Bridgegate, Howden, East Yorkshire, DN14 7AE, asking for a reversal of his decision.

table tennis players in their areas.

This sample selection include the Reading and Evening Post, Wolverhampton Express & Star, Nottingham Evening Post, Derby Evening Telegraph, Manchester Evening News - there are many others who we

are sure would wish to report successes by our leading players (and others) inside their circulation areas.

We smaller sports desperately need media exposure - the development of table tennis in Britain is threatened - all the work being done around the

country by readers of TTN is being placed in jeopardy.

To all readers, please for the cost of a stamp, please write to David Balmforth, Sports Editors, PA Sport, PA News Ltd., Bridgegate, Howden, East Yorkshire, DN14 7AE, asking for a reversal of his decision.

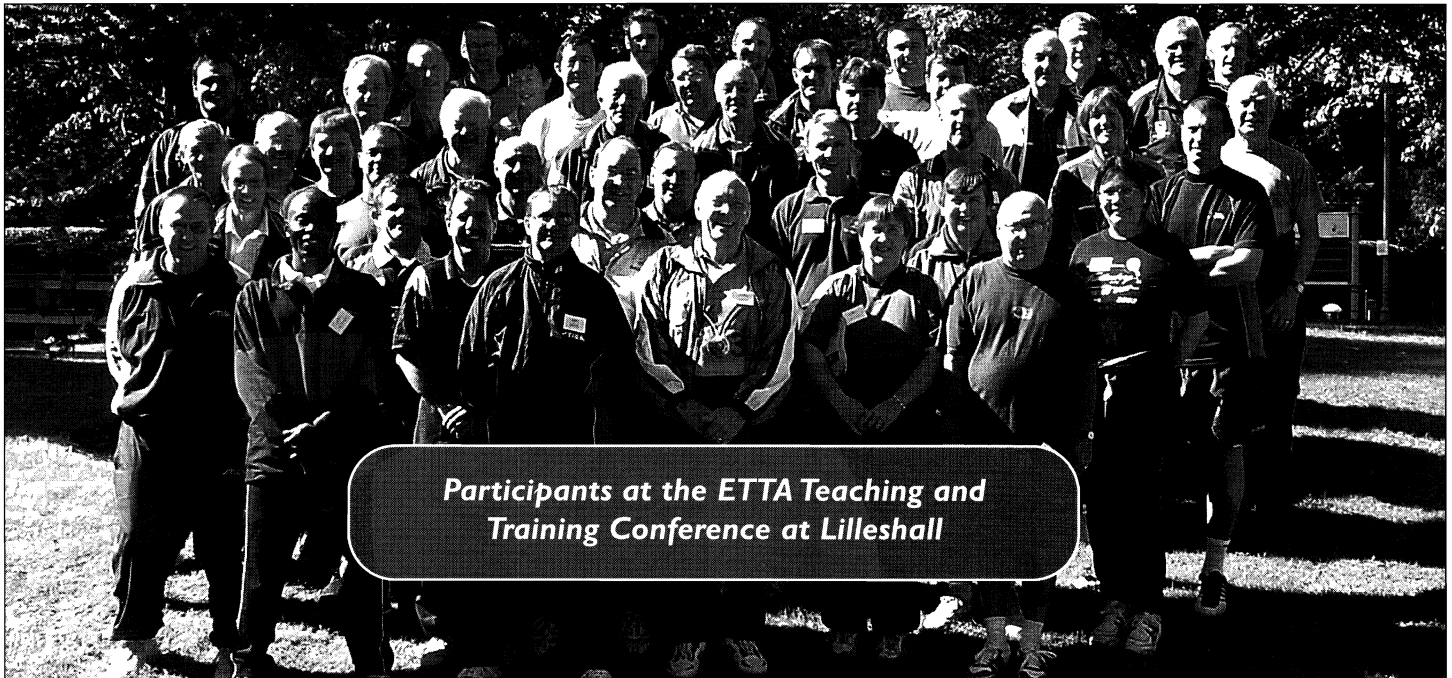
The only concession at the moment is that PA will report on table tennis at the Olympic Games.

It is quite incredible that an Olympic sport can be thrown overboard by the national agency. Please write today to David Balmforth. I as the ETTA Chairman am hoping that over 200 table tennis people will make the effort to save table tennis publicity.

As Chairman, I am already making moves to recover this situation and will report back as soon as possible.



'HAVE A DREAM'



THIS years annual Teaching and Training Conference was a resounding success – so say the 70+ participants, writes Gail McCulloch.

The Conference began with a keynote presentation from former World champion, Stellan Bengtsson. How could the conference fail with such a start?

Stellan gave us an interesting insight into his career, which began when he started playing at the age of 6 years. As a man who played or coached in all the World championships from 1971 to 1993, Stellan has a wealth of knowledge that he shared with us. In particular he related his relationship with Mr Ogimura, the Japanese supreme who had an amazing impact on his life.

From the playing point of view, Stellan stressed the need to 'have a dream' and to 'share the dream'. From the coaching aspect, he told us to look for strengths, not weaknesses, but to set exercises to expose the weaknesses.

Stellan also told us of his responsibilities as a top player: he was not allowed to retire until the next generation of players had been given time to beat him so he put pimples on his backhand to make it more difficult!

Saturday's practical session saw Stellan demonstrate a variety of multi-ball exercises – with Matthew

Stanforth as the 'victim'. The accuracy of the feeding was outstanding. Stellan related each exercise to a portion of his 'table tennis cake'. He pulled out various slices and explained the emphasis of the exercises, before the coaches tried them out for themselves.

Stellan talked about the psychology of winning and playing well and referred to Mr Ogimura's philosophy of table tennis being a simple game where all that was involved was the need to cover the table and to read the speed and spin of the ball.

Saturday afternoon was devoted to club development. Here we heard an in-depth explanation of the growth and development of Falkenburg BT Club (Stellan's club in Sweden). This was followed by Diccon Gray's presentation on the ETTA's Premier Club Programme, incorporating Sport England's 'Starting, Staying and Succeeding in Sport' philosophy. Judy Rogers then gave a short update on Child Protection and Equity issues.

The final session of the day was led by Peter Charters who talked about 'The last 20 Years – Malmö to Novi Sad'. This presentation looked at English performances in the European Youth Championships and tried to find reasons for the varying performances over the years.

Saturday concluded with a most enjoyable Awards Dinner where the

following awards were made:

Young Coach of the Year
Matthew Stanforth
Female Coach of the Year
Sally Shutt
Male Coach of the Year
Bradley Billington
Tutor Coach of the Year
Gail McCulloch
Contribution to Coaching
John Vincent
Special Coaching Award
Mick Travis
Volunteer of the Year
Colin French
Press Officer of the Year
Dennis Millman
Introductory Club of the Year
Penkhull TTC
Participation Club of the Year
Chatham TTC
Advanced Club of the Year
Northfield School TTC
Excellence Club of the Year
Ellenborough TTC

follow.

The second morning session saw Steen Kyst Hansen talk about 'Into the Future'. Steen, in his usual forthright way, laid the cards on the table and told us that our losing culture must change if we are to see success. He said that in his opinion, money had been wasted and direction sadly lacking in the last few years. Steen reinforced Peter Charters' view, that our fear of failure is often greater than our desire to win. He highlighted ways in which coaches and players should move if we are to turn around a rather dismal situation. Steen gave us all food for thought in an excellent presentation that left no doubt that we have a strong captain at the helm. Steen will now be having a greater role in the Teaching and Training department and this can only be a positive move.

The Conference concluded with discussion groups, giving everyone a chance to air their views and give positive suggestions for the Management Committee to consider.

The Conference feedback has been extremely constructive and hopefully everyone gained from attending this 5th Annual Conference.

My personal thanks go to Jill Parker for her excellent organisation – and to those who weren't there, I suggest that you book early for next year.

'INTO THE FUTURE'

Sunday began with an informative session on 'Silicon Coach'. This is computer software that the ETTA World Class Performance coaches use for player analysis. Dafydd Edwards gave a thorough explanation that even those with limited computer knowledge could

HARLOW SPECTACULAR

Essex County Table Tennis Association Vice Chairman and Junior Match Secretary Alan Shepherd reports from a superb Essex 4 Star Junior Open Tournament held at Harlow Sports Centre over the weekend of 27/28 September 2003.

THE BEST FOR YEARS.

With almost 300 entries, and practically every top player in the country entered, this must have been one of the best Tournaments hosted by Essex in many years. It was certainly a great honour for us to have Kou Lei and Zhao Shuang, the two young players who top the English Ranking Lists, playing at Harlow, and we welcomed Sacha Opprecht, the Swiss No.3, and a lively band of young lads from Dublin, led by their intrepid Coach - John, writes Alan Shepherd.

Following the completion of the 29 Under 18 Boys Groups, a field of 58 remained for the knock-out section. Big matches in the early stages saw John Harley (Kent) get past Sacha Opprecht by 6,-8,-11, 8, 9 while Paul Drinkhall (Cleveland) himself aged only 13, eased past 10 year-old prodigy Gavin Evans (Bucks) by scores of 5,-11,-6, 6, 6. Tim Yarnall (Northants) was possibly unlucky to be drawn in the semi-final against Lei Kou, because he was untroubled to



Pictured above is ZHAO SHUANG being presented with the Girls Under 18 prize by BARRY GRANGER

that point, but No.4 seed Darius Knight (Surrey) cruised into the Final with a straight sets win over No.2 seed Craig Bryant (Devon). Lei Kou demonstrated his outstanding qualities by disposing of Darius in the Final without losing a game.

A similar demolition job was performed by Zhao Shuang in the Under 18 Girls contest, although she did surrender one game to Kelly Sibley (Warwicks) in their semi-final. In round one, Sally Smith (Devon) having been reduced to runner-up status in her group by the aforementioned Kelly Sibley, had a great win over the more highly ranked Sarra Wang (Essex) 9,-5,-1, 3, 11. Those sort of scores are usually seen in the Wang versus Lauren Springthorpe clashes, but Sally lost to Lauren in four games. In turn Lauren went out to Joanna Parker (Surrey) in a close match. The semi-final stage saw a fine win for Abigail Embling (Essex) over Joanna, following which Abigail played really well in the Final against the Chinese girl, as the scores of 9, 8, 8 illustrate.

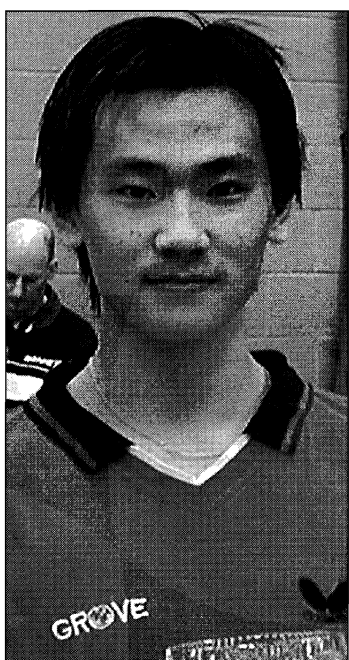
The Under 18 Banded Singles events (for boys having less than 1,500 points and girls less than 2,000 points) saw some doughty battles. There were 50 players in the Boys contest and the odds against the highest ranked players, Andrew Mudie (Lincs - 1,491 points) and Andrew Wilson (Cleveland - 1,455 points) reaching the Final must have been quite high, but nevertheless they did and Andrew Mudie won a thrilling match by scores of 4,-8,-3,6,10! The equivalent Girls event according to my information should have been won by Lucy Weil (Essex), as she appeared to have 1,893 points, although the period 112 Computer Rating List totally omits her! It is just as well, because she did take the title losing only one game throughout, and that in the Final. The theoretical runner-up, Bethany Rees (Essex) lost in the quarter-final to Melanie Farquhar (Berks). Melanie went out in a colossal semi-final to Emma Vickers (Derby) by scores of -6,8,-7,13,-11. Lucy took the final 7,-6, 6, 6. On day two of the Tournament we

started the Under 13 events. This was interesting because one of the entrants (whom I shall not name) stated on his entry form that he was born in May 2003, making him, at four months, the youngest ever player to take part in an Essex Open. Another boy appeared to be only three years old. Even the Evans family cannot beat that! In the event it transpired that these players were a little older than they claimed.

42 boys took part in the Under 13 Singles but it was the top four in the ratings who contested the semi-finals. Gavin Evans had to see off the threat of Worcestershire's only entrant, Benjamin Salisbury, which he did, a trifle uneasily by scores of 3,13,-13, 6. Christopher Doran (Northants) reached the semi-final stage by beating Adam Draper from Wales 11,9,-10, 4. Then he had to give best to Myles Evans but only after a tough match won -12, 6,8, 4 by Myles. Brother Gavin meanwhile was defeating the talented Wing-Yung Chan (Surrey) by 4, 8,-7, 5. Victory came in the Final for the 12 year-old Myles over his 10 year-old brother by 6, 9, 8.

Only 21 girls competed in the Under 13 event. The top 4 seeds got safely through to the knock-out stage as Group winners, but there were some surprises, lower down the order. For instance, unranked Hayley Potts (Herts) relegated no. 5 seed Charlotte Calcutt (Essex) to runner-up in their group as did Megan Sparrey (Middlesex) - boasting a mere 43 ranking points - to Charlotte Jenkins (Wales). The "stars", nevertheless, in the forms of Emma Vickers (Derby) and Rachel Jamieson (Essex), came through to the Final, where Emma was the winner by 7,9,-6,8.

There was a huge entry for the Under 15 Boys Competition - 92 in fact. The groups having been completed with no real surprises, an early casualty in the knock-out section was no. 36 ranked Matthew Ware (Dorset), who was defeated by local boy Joshua Lovett, who is the grandson of former England player Eddie Hodson, and who is coached at the Fellows Cranleigh Club by Peter and Lesley Radford. Joshua himself then bowed out honourably at the hands of the County's great prospect Vytas Rybakas. No. 4 seed David Meads (Durham) got to the quarter-finals at the expense of Myles Evans and by scores of -10,3,2,-9,5



KOU LEI winner of the Boys Under 18 title

while Vytas did so by beating Devonshire's Darren Reed by 9,9, -8,-9,6. A tremendous battle followed with Darius Knight (Surrey) - England's no. 1 Cadet - beating Vytas 11,15,9. In the second quarter-final Bradley Evans beat his younger brother Gavin -7,7,5,9. David Meads put out Daniel Reed (Cleveland) to set up a semi-final against Reed's team mate Paul Drinkhall, who had just beaten Chris Lewis (Surrey). Semi-final victor's were Darius Knight and Paul Drinkhall, making it no. 1 versus no. 2 in the final, but it was Paul who took the title after a cracking match with scores of 11,-5,9,-10,4.

No tournament would be complete without a meeting of Lauren Springthorpe (Lincs) and Sarra Wang (Essex). This duly took place in the final of the Under 15 Girls Singles. Once more Lauren proved the stronger by scores of 8,4,5; but keep trying Sarra !.

I would like to thank our sponsors Jarvis Sports for their excellent support and I must also thank my colleagues Phil and Sue Gower, Barry Granger and Arthur Clark for all the hard work they put in to make our Tournament a success.

Results of all Finals were as follows -

Under 13 Boys Singles - Myles Evans (Bucks) beat Gavin Evans(Bucks) 6,9,8.

Under 13 Girls Singles - Emma Vickers (Derby) beat Rachel Jamieson (Essex) 7,9,-6,8.

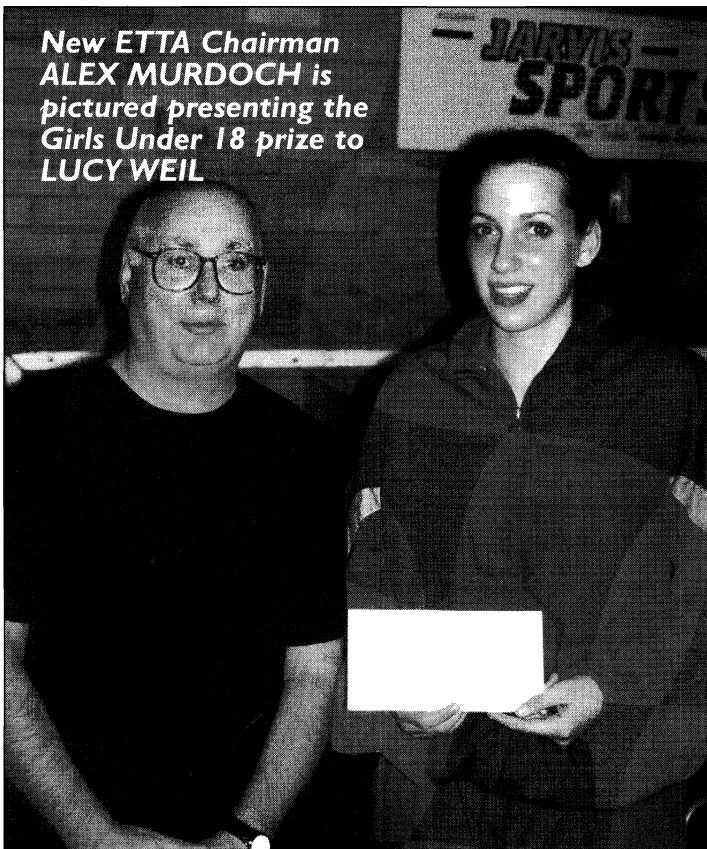
ALAN SHEPHERD is pictured presenting the Girls Under 13 trophy to EMMA VICKERS



Under 15 Boys Singles - Paul Drinkhall (Cleveland) beat Darius Knight (Surrey) 11,-5,9,-10,4.
 Under 15 Girls Singles - Lauren Springthorpe (Lincs) beat Sarra Wang (Essex) 8,4,5.
 Under 18 Boys Singles - Kou Lei (Oxford) beat Darius Knight (Surrey) 5,6,8.
 Under 18 Girls Singles - Zhao Shuang (Shropshire) beat Abigail Embling (Essex) 9,8,8.
 Under 18 Banded Boys Singles - Andrew Mudie (Lincs) beat Andrew Wilson 4,-8,-3, 6, 10.
 Under 18 Banded Girls Singles - Lucy Weil (Essex) beat Emma Vickers (Derby) 7,-6,6,6.
 Under 18 Consolation Boys Singles - Stephen Head (Kent) beat Paul Dewhurst (Essex) 6,9,11.
 Under 18 Consolation Girls Singles - Sylvana Bielec (Bucks) beat Caroline Linz (Bucks) 13,4,9.
 Under 15 Consolation Boys Singles - Quain Shen (Middlesex) beat Matthew Tucker (Bucks) -8,9,6,-9,8.
 Under 15 Consolation Girls Singles - Francis Potjewyd (Somerset) beat Laura Pyman (Essex) 7, 8, -7,10.

**Words by
ALAN SHEPHERD
Pictures by
ARTHUR C. CLARK**

New ETTA Chairman ALEX MURDOCH is pictured presenting the Girls Under 18 prize to LUCY WEIL



MYLES EVANS



ANDRE MUDIE



BILLINGTON & TONG WIN IN PAIGNTON

THE sun was shining for Bradley Billington and Tong Feiming when they won their respective singles titles, at the Clare Pengelly Open, at the Torbay Leisure Centre in early October, writes John Wood.

Billington's passage through to the final was fairly comfortable for a player of his class, but in the semis he was given an almighty scare by Devon's Craig Bryant.

Bryant, who is a rising star on the England scene, pushed Billington all the way to a fifth.

Bradley was looking comfortable leading 2-1 and 9-6 up in the 4th, when Craig's fight-back began winning five consecutive points with superb counter hitting, before going on to take the 4th 12-10.

At 4-4 in the 5th it looked anyone's game, before Billington's greater experience saw him home 11-5.

In the other half of the draw Hungary's Gergely Urban pulled off the shock of the tournament, by beating the No.1 seed from China Che Xiangcheng, in the quarter-finals, 11-7 in the 5th.

Urban went onto reach the final by beating Derbyshire's Andy Henry in the semis 3-0.

The Mens Singles final started off going to plan with the No.2 seed Billington taking the first 11-7 in this all action battle. Urban bounced back to take the 2nd 11-8, after being 5-8 down.

Bradley then went up a gear and produced some super fast attacking play to take the 3rd and 4th both at 11-5.

The Womens Singles event was dominated by Tong Feiming of Taipei, who won her second Grand Prix of the season, when she overpowered the superb defence of

PENNY AYLES a partner of WOOLLCOMBE BEER WATTS, Solicitors, one of the main sponsors of the Clare Pengelly Memorial Open tournament, presents the prizes to the Mens Singles finalist (right) GERGELY URBAN the runner-up and BRADLEY BILLINGTON (far right) the winner, and (below) the Womens Singles finalists, (left) MARKETA MYSKOVA runner-up and (far right) TONG FEIMING the winner



rapidly improving Marketa Myskova.

Tong's backhand and forehand topspin was just too fast and powerful for the girl from the Czech Republic, who now plays for Devon.

The semis saw Tong defeat Hungary's Barbara Kiss in three, whilst Myskova out-defended and could turn on the attack when required, against England's rising star Joanna Parker.

U21 TITLES FOR BRYANT & BAWDEN

Following his disappointment at losing to Billington in the Mens Singles, Devon's Craig Bryant started off slowly in the U21 Mens Singles final to Lancashire's Adam Beakley, losing the first to games 8-11, & 9-11.

Words & Pictures by JOHN WOOD

But Bryant bounced back to take the next three 14-12, 11-5, 11-7.

Natalie Bawden won the U21 Womens Singles title beating her fellow England camp player, Louise Durrant 3-0.

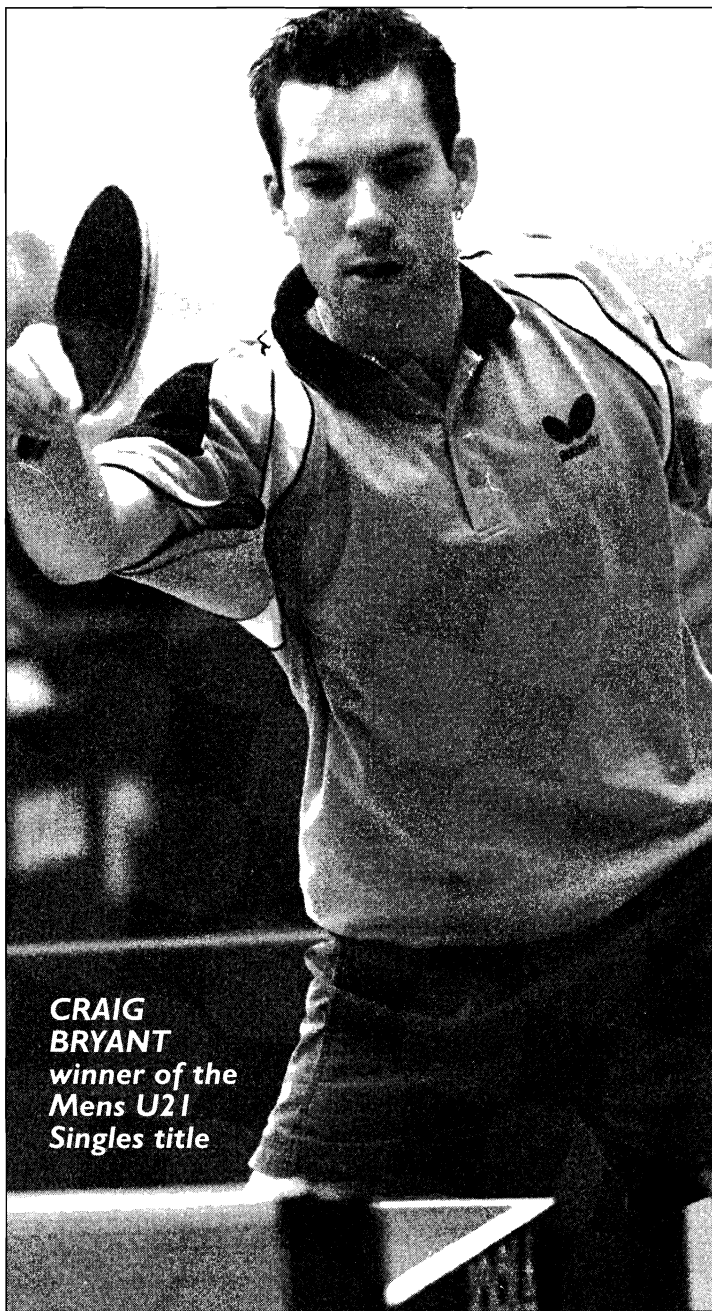
BANDED EVENTS

Young Rory Scott of Sussex claimed the scalp of the new Vice Chairman, of Development, Phil Goulding of Devon, 11-7 in the 5th in the 1st round of Mens band 3. Whilst in Band 2 Devon's Kevin Buddell knocked out Middlesex's John Holland (snr) 3-1, in round 2.

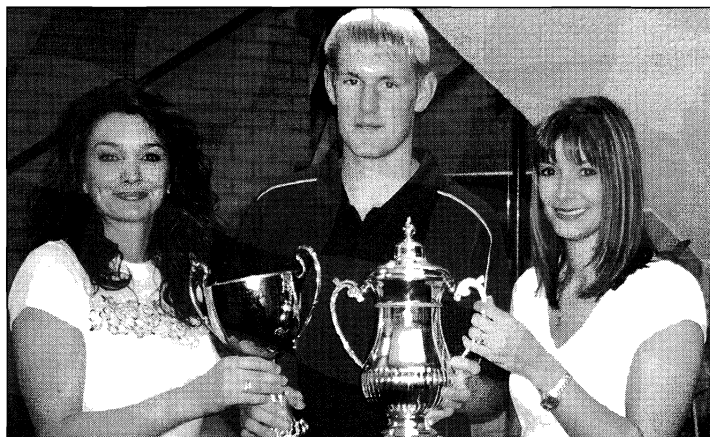
The Reed family from neighbouring Cornwall really flew the flag of St.Piran for their county. Twelve year old Darren, who plays for Devon

NATALIE BAWDEN winner of the Womens U21 Singles





CRAIG BRYANT
winner of the
Mens U21
Singles title



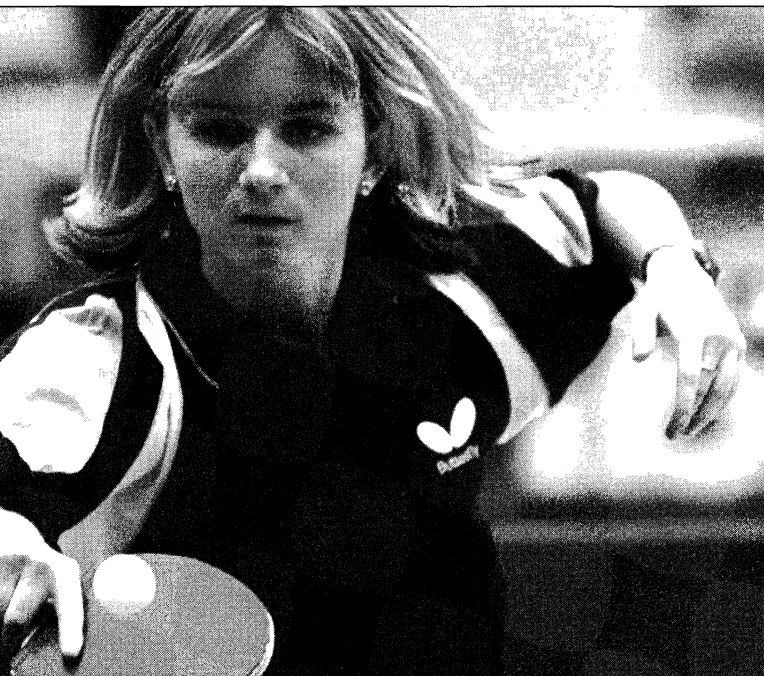
CHRIS BROWN is pictured above being presented with The Clare Pengelly Trophy and The Pat Archdale Cup, by Rachel Pengelly-Bourke (left) and Sarah Pengelly-Jones



THE REED FAMILY: Neville (left) Darren (centre) and Graham. Whilst pictured below are **THE CHESTERFIELD LADS:** Shaun Marples (left), Andy Henry (centre) and Neil Marples



DERRICK MARPLES



juniors, beat the other players in his group, who were all seeded above him, his Dad Neville beat Chris Beckley in his group in Band 2, whilst Neville's brother Graham also beat Chris Beckley in his group in Band 3 on his way to reaching the semis, where he lost to David Owen from Wales 6-11, 11-8, 11-9, 11-2.

But the most outstanding family achievement was performed by the Marples from Chesterfield, Derbyshire, when Dad Neil Marples won the Mens Band 3 and son Shaun won the Mens Band 1, and friend from Chesterfield Andy Henry won the Mens Band 2. All three were coached by legendary former England coach Derek Marples, just to keep it in the family of course.

VETERANS

Devon's Paul Giles majestically

strode to the Mens Veteran final where he despatched Surrey's Chris Beckley 13-11, 11-6, 11-9.

In the Womens Veterans Gloucester's Judy Morley beat Devon's Deborah Parker 11-2, 11-5.

TOP JUNIOR

Chris Brown was awarded two trophies at the tournament, 'The Clare Pengelly', which is presented to the Devon junior who has achieved most during the past year, and 'The Pat Archdale Cup', which is awarded to the a junior who hasn't won it before, for being the highest ranked junior in the south west region.

WHO'S WHO OF BRITISH LADIES

THE first weekend of British League matches produced some great competition with the performances of three teams really standing out. London Progress III look clear favourites to take Division Two South with a team that featured three Irish international squad players - John Murphy, Marcus McDonnell and Damien Lynch. Grove II look determined to win division Three Midlands and their team reads like a "Who's Who" of British Ladies Table Tennis - Shuang Zhao, Georgina Walker, Kelly Sibley, Louise Durrant, Naomi Owen and Gemma Yarnley. Finally the young Grove III side top the table in division three North led by ten year-old Gavin Evans who won seven out of his eight singles, writes Steve Kerns.



**Grove II's
LOUISE
DURRANT**

Division 1 North

Word on the street was that Ormesby would not only take this division by storm but will go on to challenge for the Premier division title next year. On this showing it doesn't look quite so clear-cut because although Ormesby head the table they are tied on six points with Norwich Todd Foxwood and Wellow House School. However there are two things in Ormesby's favour - the fact that they have already beaten third-placed Wellow House School 6-2 and secondly in Steven Bailey they might have discovered another player who people will be talking about in the same breath as the Drinkhall brothers. Bailey's two wins against Halton Croda earned his side a draw as Croda's Adam Bleakley excelled by beating both Bryn and Paul Drinkhall. Saturday afternoon's clash with Grove I also ended in a draw as Lei Kou (the highest ranked male player in the League) took his two singles. Steve Bailey was again the Ormesby hero with wins over Sacha Opprecht and then Bradley Evans. Currently ranked no. 75 in England Bailey will be looking forward to receiving his copy of the next England Ranking List with justifiable optimism.

Sunday morning's match against Wellow House School saw the free-flowing Paul Drinkhall produce some

stunning play to beat Chris Rogers 5,6,7 (how many Premier division players could manage this?) and he also beat Mark Green 3-1. That man Bailey was not going to be outdone and he looked equally impressive with wins over both Dave Gannon and Lee Neil as Ormesby took the match 6-2. Bottom team Dewsbury could not have faced Ormesby at a worst time and they were brushed aside 8-0 in round four as Mark Simon joined his team-mates in staying unbeaten.

Second-placed Norwich Todd Foxwood will be pleased with their showing, but wise enough to realise that their four matches were against the bottom placed teams. Ace defender David Atkinson proved to be a superb no. one taking seven out of his eight singles. His double against Halton Croda set up his side's draw and came about as he saw off Adam Bleakley 15-13 in the fifth end in his second singles. Norwich set their stall out with a 7-1 demolition of Dewsbury in their opening match as only a Richard Lightowler win over Jens Ebbecke escaped them. Atkinson finally tasted defeat against Andy Wignall in his side's last match against Grantham IDS. An informal Wignall produced some sparkling play to complete his double with a 3-0 demolition of Adam Brewer. A determined Norwich fought back

from 2-4 down to earn a draw as Ebbecke saw off Mark Donoghue 3-1 and the unflappable Martin Gray beat Steve Forbes (again 3-1).

Wellow House excelled to beat Grove I, 5-3 as Lei Kou somewhat inevitably stayed unbeaten. It wasn't a good game for Bradley Evans who lost to both Chris Rogers and Mark Green and although Craig Gascoyne hit back with a fine 3-1 victory Dave Gannon Wellow House took the last three games to shade the match. Lee Neil secured a 3-0 victory over Gascoyne and the experienced campaigner Gannon earned his side the win with a tense 11-8 in the final set victory over Sacha Opprecht.

Division 1 South

Last year this division was the closest fought in the whole League, and this year things don't look like being any different. Ellenborough top the table with six points whilst sixth placed OLOP have already scored four points. Ellenborough's opening match saw them lose out 5-3 against Crippenham for whom Clive Payne scored an excellent win over Eric Hammond and an informal Terry Haley an impressive double (12-10 in the decider against Jimmy Walsh and 3-0 against Simon Phillipz). The stylish Mark Butler played his part with a vital success against Gary Tendler. From Saturday afternoon

onwards Ellenborough didn't put a foot wrong as they overpowered Byng Hall 7-1, second-placed DML Plymouth 6-2 and promoted PSP Westinsure 7-1. Jimmy Walsh's five set win over Paul Whiting gave them a great start against Plymouth and Matthew Spero's 12-10 in the deciding set victory over Marketa Myskova cemented their advantage. Although Whiting hit back with an 11-9 in the deciding end victory over Tendler Ellenborough were in no mood to be denied. Wins for Jimmy Walsh (3-0 over Ms. Myskova), Simon Phillipz (3-2 against Mike Short) and Matthew Spero (3-0 versus Kevin Buddell) completed a terrific all-round team effort. "Never say die" Gary Tendler earned the Man-of-the-Match Award the hard way against Byng Hall. He came from behind (some might say "off the floor") to beat Mark Brown -1, -4, 10, 8, 13 and in a near reverse scenario he saw off John Huckle 3, 7, -11, -13, 10. Mark Brown's excellent 3-0 victory over Eric Hammond was all that Byng Hall could muster.

EBS Northampton's eleventh hour signing of England Junior international Joanne Parker raised a few eyebrows, and it certainly seems to have inspired her team-mates. The four points they scored this weekend equals their score for the whole of last season! They excelled by beating OLOP 5-3 with Dave Gattiss's two wins negating Nigel Eckersley's double. Keiron Dabbs played his part with a five set win over David Barr and Joanne Parker added a vital 3-1 victory over Hari Gehlot. Gattiss proved to be his team's strong man and his seven wins out of eight over the weekend brought further wins over John Huckle, Mark Butler, Marketa Myskova and Kevin Buddell. His one defeat came against Terry Haley. Their 3-5 defeat against DML Plymouth perhaps saw the result swing in Plymouth's direction in the third game. Kevin Buddell somehow managed to haul his way back into the match against Stephen Munson to record a memorable -8,-7,10,9,9 success, that turned out to be a very important win indeed.

The ambitious Progress club will be a little disappointed with their showing. An opening 6-2 defeat against DML Plymouth was hardly the

start they were after. Mike Short's superb 3-1 victory Herbert Noah (Marco Essomba's brother) appears to have left his side reeling and although Noah hit back with a 3-0 victory over Paul Whiting the damage had been done. Noah showed his class in Progress's 6-2 victory over OLOP as he beat both Nigel Eckersley and David Barr 3-0 and that loss against Short turned out to be his only defeat of the weekend. Progress added UAE international Nabeel Alzarouni to their side for Sunday's matches in the number three position but even with his unbeaten presence they still found themselves held to a draw by Cippenham I. Excellent wins for Martin Adams and Mark Butler over Progress No.2 - Irish international Andrew Dennison redressed the balance.

It doesn't look too good for promoted PSP Wiz'n.about.com who are yet to get off the mark. Even without their leading player Kevin Satchell they were in contention against Byng Hall throughout the match as five successive games went to a deciding end. PSP certainly could not be faulted for effort as their three wins were all achieved by the closest of margins. Trevor Lloyd saw off Will Power 11-9 in the decider and Dave Richards and Tim O'Mahoney both got the better of John Huckle (11-8 in the decider and 12-10 in the fifth respectively).

Division 1 North

Derwent II lead the way after taking a maximum eight points from their four games. They were lucky to face a Wirral side without Andrew Eden but they took full advantage as Simon Nouch, Chris Nicholls and Andrew Nicholls reeled off a convincing 7-1 victory. Their 5-3 success against a strong Oakbank Fastbats team was arguably a superior performance with Simon

Nouch seeing off Shaun Marples 3-2 and Andrew Nicholls and Richard Moss both securing vital wins over Andrew Woodhead. Andrew Nicholls made no mistake in the last game as he beat Neil Marples decisively 3-0 to secure his side's two points. Oakbank had shown their class in round two as they beat Wirral 6-2. Eden took his two singles (and it wasn't one way traffic against Shaun Marples or Stephen Denny either) but that was as far as the Wirral success went. Andrew Woodhead and Neil Marples both stayed undefeated to cap a great Oakbank performance.

Second-placed Humpty's Club with seven points are also going well despite having had the misfortune of facing Wirral's Andrew Eden in merciless mood. Two wins for Jason Ramage and solitary successes for Paul Wood and Garry Knights meant this match ended all square.

Humpty's were far from broken (there's a truly awful pun in there somewhere!) from their game against Eden's Wirral side and turned in superb performances in their other three matches. Last year's division Three North Champions Blackpool were despatched 6-2, Potteries suffered the same fate and they completed a very impressive showing with a 7-1 victory over bottom side Uxbridge Burton. Garry Knights with seven wins out of eight looks to be the pick of the no. two's in this division and he excelled against Blackpool with three straight victories over both Stephen and Zeke Dixon.

It turned out to be a mixed weekend for Oakbank Fastbats who produced a below par performance in round one, crashing 6-2 against Potteries. A truly awful start saw Oakbank fall 5-0 behind as Potteries No.1 Andrew Rich (ranked No.153 nationally) beat both Stephen Denny (ranked No.49) and Shaun Marples

continued on page 24

PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
London Progress	4	4	0	0	28	4	8
BATTS Team Peniel I	4	4	0	0	23	9	8
Barnet	4	2	0	2	15	17	4
Horsham I	4	2	0	2	13	19	4
Darlington I	4	1	1	2	14	18	3
Jags I	4	1	1	2	14	18	3
Derwent I	4	1	0	3	10	22	2
Seasiders I	4	0	0	4	11	21	0
DIVISION ONE NORTH							
Ormesby I	4	2	2	0	22	10	6
Norwich Todd Foxwood	4	2	2	0	21	11	6
Wellow House School	4	3	0	1	19	13	6
Grove I	4	1	2	1	16	16	4
Halton Croda I	4	0	4	0	16	16	4
Grantham IDS	4	1	1	2	14	18	3
Coventry Phoenix	4	0	2	2	13	19	2
Dewsbury I	4	0	1	3	7	25	1
DIVISION ONE SOUTH							
Ellenborough	4	3	0	1	23	9	6
DML Plymouth	4	3	0	1	18	14	6
London Progress II	4	2	1	1	20	12	5
Cippenham I	4	2	1	1	17	15	5
ESB-Orange North'pton I	4	2	0	2	17	15	4
OLOP Impact I	4	2	0	2	17	15	4
Byng Hall Farningham Pr't	4	1	0	3	9	23	2
PSP Wiz'n.about.com	4	0	0	4	7	25	0
DIVISION TWO NORTH							
Derwent II	4	4	0	0	26	6	8
Humpty's Club	4	3	1	0	23	9	7
Blackpool	4	2	1	1	17	15	5
Oakbank Fastbats	4	2	0	2	16	16	4
ELGRE Nottingham I	4	1	1	2	15	17	3
Potteries	4	1	1	2	13	19	3
Wirral	4	0	2	2	11	21	2
Uxbridge Burton	4	0	0	4	7	25	0
DIVISION TWO SOUTH							
London Progress III	4	4	0	0	24	8	8
Generation 2	4	1	3	0	18	14	5
Cippenham II	4	1	2	1	17	15	4
ESB-Orange North'pton II	4	1	2	1	16	16	4
NETTS	4	1	2	1	14	18	4
Ashford I	4	1	1	2	14	18	3
Guildford I	4	0	2	2	13	19	2
Oxford Fireplace Centre	4	0	2	2	12	13	2
DIVISION 3 MIDLANDS							
Grove II	4	4	0	0	26	6	8
Rotherham Scorpions I	4	3	1	0	23	9	7
Bedford Modern I	4	2	1	1	20	12	5
Ajax Wolvey	4	1	3	0	18	14	5
Kinghurst Bribar	4	1	1	2	13	19	3
Woodfield	4	1	0	3	13	19	2
Darlington III	4	1	0	3	10	22	2
Birmingham University II	4	0	0	4	5	27	0
DIVISION 3 NORTH							
Grove III	4	4	0	0	27	5	8
Club Mid-Cheshire	4	3	1	0	25	7	7
Darlington II	4	3	0	1	22	10	6
Dewsbury II	4	1	2	1	15	17	4
Halton Croda II	4	2	0	2	14	18	4
Clarks Wakefield	4	0	2	2	11	21	2
Seasiders II	4	0	1	3	10	22	1
Barrow	4	0	0	4	4	28	0
DIVISION 3 SOUTH							
York Gardens	4	4	0	0	24	8	8
London Progress IV	4	3	1	0	23	9	7
Guernsey	4	3	0	1	17	15	6
Horsham II	4	2	1	1	19	13	5
Ashford II	4	1	0	3	20	12	2
Hastings	4	1	0	3	16	16	2
Waterside	4	0	0	4	5	27	0
Rok Build	4	0	0	4	4	28	0
DIVISION 3 SOUTH & WEST							
JAGS II	4	4	0	0	26	6	8
Brighton University	4	3	0	1	24	8	6
Guildford II	4	3	0	1	23	9	6
Horsham III	4	3	0	1	19	13	6
OLOP Impact II	4	3	0	1	19	13	6
BATTS Team Peniel II	4	0	0	4	9	23	0
NWF	4	0	0	4	5	27	0
Britannia Notcutts Ipswich	4	0	0	4	3	29	0
DIVISION 4							
Ormesby II	4	4	0	0	28	4	8
Northfield	4	3	0	1	22	10	6
Grimsby	4	3	0	1	20	12	6
Bedford Modern II	4	3	0	1	19	13	6
ELGRE Nottingham II	4	2	1	1	19	13	5
Isle of Man	4	0	1	3	8	24	1
Grove IV	4	0	0	4	7	28	0
Rotherham Scorpions II	4	0	0	4	5	27	0

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(ranked no. 67). Rich pickings indeed !. Rich was awarded the Player of the Match nomination for "closing the match out with his 3-0 victory over Stephen Denny". Oakbank just prevailed 5-3 against Elgre Nottingham in an excellent match where England no. 12 senior lady Natalie Bawden turned in a superb performance with a sensational 7,5,7 victory over Shaun Marples. Producing her best play of the weekend Natalie only succumbed 12-10 in the fifth end in her second game against Denny. A magnificent effort but one that still failed to attract the Player of the Match Award. That went to Elgre no. 4 Adam Frost who also obtained two excellent wins; a fighting 11-9 in the fifth end success over Andrew Henry and a second win, 3-1 over the fast-improving Andrew Woodhead.

Third-placed Blackpool produced a strong performance in disposing of Elgre 6-2. Steve Dixon and Steve Bevan both saw off Natalie Bawden 3-1 as they both stayed undefeated. Adam Frost and Will Cooney both got the better of Zeke Dixon. Cooney after an epic 10, 7, -14, -8, 12 battle.

Division 2 South

It will be a major surprise if London Progress III don't take this division. Indeed without their extra class it would almost certainly be a very evenly matched competition as seven of the twelve games in which they weren't involved finished tied at 4-4 ! Featuring a team of Irish international squad players at nos. 2, 3 and 4, of the type we all hate (younger ... faster better !) they won all four of their matches. Ashford I only succumbed narrowly 5-3 as Ashford's no. 1 player Stefan Edlund beat both John Murphy (the Irish no. 1 Junior) and the talented Umair Mauthoor; whilst the evergreen Henry Buist saw off Marcus McDonnell. Of the three Irish lads it was arguably their No.4 Damien Lynch who impressed most as he stayed unbeaten in his eight singles.

Progress's other close shave came against Guildford where they struggled home 5-3 after trailing 3-2. Damien Lynch's two wins steadied the ship and team-mate Murphy also remained undefeated. Guildford's Adam Laws who went down over five ends against Murphy hit back well with a 3-0 victory over the Progress No. 1 Euan Liddle whilst Phil Snelson excelled with an outstanding victory over Marcus McDonnell. Snelson played bravely in the final match but Damien Lynch's -9, 9,8,9 victory was enough to save his side's 100 % record.

Promoted Generation II occupy

second place with five points. Their 6-2 victory against Ashford I saw Miki Sinanin open proceedings with an excellent win against Stefan Edlund whilst the experienced Graham Toole and Roger Hookey took all four singles from the no's 3 and 4 positions. Generation II were also held to a draw by Cippenham II in a match where all four Cippenham players picked up one singles. Robert Hansell's win over Victor Imiseev, David Hayes's success against Miki Sinanin and Paul Baker's win over Graham Toole all stood out. The reliable Roger Hookey redressed the balance by beating both Hayes and Baker.

Oxford Fire Place Centre foot the table with two points. They missed out narrowly 3-5 against NETTS where the unbeaten Fred Dove and Vyta Rybakas held the NETTS side together. England no. 6 Cadet Rybakas came back from 2-0 down to beat the experienced Karl Bushell. Dove came through a titanic struggle against newcomer Craig Campbell 15-13 in the fifth end and excelled in his second game with a superb 3-1 win over Bushell, the first time in his team mate's memory that Bushell had lost both his games in a British League match. Oxford hit back well in the fourth round to earn a draw against EBS-Orange Northants II, and after trailing 3-1 they surged into a 4-3 lead. Oxford's Ian Packford stayed unbeaten but found that he had to share the Player-of-the-Match Award with Dickson Pang who came through 3-1 in the last match against Craig Campbell to earn his side a draw.

Division 3 Midlands

Grove II may not have been the first side to field an all female line-up in the Senior British League. BATTs Team Peniel II managed it last year but one imagines that Ian Marshall's all-star Grove II side are going to attract a huge amount of plaudits by the end of the season. I would have thought that an article in Marshall's excellent Table Tennis Illustrated magazine might be a starting point !. With wins over Kinghurst Bribar (6-2), Birmingham University (7-1), Bedford Modern I (5-3) and Darlington III (8-0) they are going to take some beating. Bedford Modern were bolstered by the inclusion of Dave Welsman at no. 1 and he must have fancied his chances. Justifiably so. However he couldn't match Georgina Walker in open play and eventually went down somewhat exhausted 11-1 in the fifth end. The redoubtable Mick Harper was no match for current England no. one

lady Shuang Zhao (losing -6,-4,-4). Andy Trott pulled one back with a win over Louise Durrant and he added a second victory with an even more impressive success over Georgina Walker. With Harper showing his class by beating Sibley 3-1 it was left to Louise Durrant to seal her side's victory. Her match against Steve Silk was close throughout before Durrant "escaped" at the start of the fifth end. Her early advantage was enough to enable her to pull off a match-winning victory 11-7 in the fifth end.

Bedford Modern were also held to a draw in round one by Ajax Wolvey, a result they will certainly feel disappointed with as they had led 4-1 at one stage. The rot set in when Rob Dynes lost 3-0 to Dave Grundy. By this time Ajax really had the bit between their teeth and Matthew Hobday secured an excellent win over Mick Harper to put the pressure on. Andy Le Butt was in no mood to be denied and he saw off Steve Silk 3-1 to complete an excellent all-round team performance.

Improving Rotherham Scorpions (third to bottom last season) have started better this time round and are currently lying second with 7 points. An improvement yes, but as they played the bottom sides not quite as dramatic an improvement as might have been the initial indication. They came back from 4-2 down to secure a draw against Ajax Wolvey, as Ben Barlow completed his double with a victory against Dave Grundy. Steve Crosby won the last game as Andy Le Butt went down in his second match-deciding game of the day. Scorpion's 6-2 victory over Kinghurst Bribar was a top class effort as Kinghurst's successes were restricted to Ian Ferguson's two wins. Barlow and Crosby dominated affairs from the no's three and four positions as they stayed undefeated.

Hosts Woodfield made no mistake in round three as they secured their first win of the season, an important 6-2 success over bottom side Birmingham University. Woodfield's no. 1 Matthew Squires and no. 4 Jason Jones were both unbeaten. Tamar Seymour was the best of the University players and certainly got her money's worth. She lost an epic battle against Matthew Squires -7,9, -8,11, -9 but rallied herself to get the better of Andy Seward 6, 4,-6, -12, 13 in game number seven.

Division 3 North

The young Grove III team are the early leaders with a very impressive games difference of 27-5. With a 5-3 victory over third-placed Darlington II under their belts they have already laid down the gauntlet to last year's

second placers Club Mid-Cheshire. The prodigious Gavin Evans (certainly one of the youngest players ever to play in the British League) proved to be a brilliant no. one with seven wins out of eight. His one defeat came against the canny Brian Allison (Seasiders) whilst his more notable victims included fellow Junior stars David Meads and Andrew Leighton (both Darlington) as well as the reliable Darren Lindley (Clarks Wakefield). The game against Darlington was a good one with David Meads opening proceedings with a 12-10 in the fifth set victory over Ashley Nicholls and Kevin Wilson giving Darlington a 2-1 lead with a 3-1 victory against Robert Morris. Evans's second victory, his success over Meads proved vital as Wilson again hit back, getting the better of Ashley Nicholls over three tight games. With his side 4-3 ahead Robert Morris became the Grove hero by sealing victory by coming from behind to beat Philip Robinson -6,-6,4,8,9.

The experienced Club Mid-Cheshire line-up slipped up against an inspired Dewsbury II in the second round. James Brown's superb win over Mike Johns in the second game seemed to inspire his team-mates as Mike Thornley got the better of James Eaton and Mark Land added an excellent victory over Wayne Percival. Johns inspired a Mid-Cheshire fight back by beating Darren Page but even though his team moved into a 4-3 lead it wasn't enough. Mark Land made no mistake to earn Dewsbury their point as he beat James Eaton 3-0. Club Mid-Cheshire made no mistake in their other three matches demolishing Seasiders II, Halton Croda and Barrow all by 7-1 margins. Their clash with Grove III in round six should be well worth watching.

Clarks Wakefield's two points came from draws against the higher-placed Dewsbury II and against Seasiders II (below them in the table). Darren Lindley was never in real trouble in taking his two singles against Dewsbury and solitary wins for Jason Dickinson and Andrew Thornhill gave them their point. Lindley was again unbeaten against Seasiders making light work of Brian Allison. Joe Hurdley proved a useful No.4 for Seasiders beating both Byron Francis and Jason Dickinson whilst Dickinson played his part by beating Cherith Graham -8, -4, 6,6,11.

Division 3 South

Last year's second placers York Gardens showed their intentions of going one better this time; but second-placed London Progress IV won't roll over without a fight. Again it is "early days" in this division as

York Gardens faced the four bottom placed teams. Mark Smith (no one's idea of a third division player) stayed unbeaten and his presence ensured that there was never any doubt that York Gardens would take maximum points from their four matches.

An understrength Horsham II put a lacklustre 7-1 defeat against Hastings on the Saturday morning firmly behind them with a terrific display on the Sunday morning against Progress. Sally Weston saw off Tony Halling 7.5, 23 (the third game was highlighted in pink on the blue scoresheet !!) and sealed her side's draw with a 3-1 victory over current Ilford League Mens Singles Champion Ray Lam. Progress's very promising Samuel Cannon excelled with wins over Jeremy Wilson and Graham Carter. Their 5-3 win in round four over Guernsey was later amended to 7-1 after it was found out that Guernsey had played out of order. Which ever way you look at this result it was a good one with Jeremy Wilson and Chris Mundy both beating Guernsey No.1 Phil Ogier.

Guernsey with six points are placed third and they did well to get the better of Ashford II 5-3. With the score poised at 3-3 it was anyone's game but Pete Bretel with a 3-1 win over Keith Foot and Mark Pipet with a 3-1 victory over Anthony Johnson ensured that Guernsey came out of the match with the victory. Phil Ogier held the Guernsey side together with his wins over Winston Wong and Keith James.

Hastings had the galling experience of losing three matches 5-3. They will be relieved that they beat Horsham 7-1 on the Saturday where only Sally Weston's victory over Nick Standen escaped them. Otherwise it was a case of "so near yet so far" as they missed out against Progress, York Gardens and Guernsey. Again they

appear to have produced their best performance against London Progress. Their no. 1 player Paul Barry beat Sam Cannon 3-0 but couldn't contain the all-action Matt Staines whilst Stuart Hobden put his 12-10 in the fifth end defeat against Staines to the back of his mind to score a decisive 3-0 win over Ray Lam. Nick Standen played his part with his 3-1 win over Daniel Cannon. With games against the lower placed teams to come Hastings should score well in their second round of matches.

For those of us who look out for the unexpected at sporting events Referee Mick Strode has come up with the following observation - "In this division two teams were predominantly red, two sides predominantly green, two teams predominantly blue and two teams predominantly black. Round 4 saw both blue shirted teams on table 1, both red shirted teams on table 2, the green shirted teams on table 3 and the black shirted teams on table 4". Odds on this happening are approximately 50,000 to 1. OK..... I made the last bit up, but it is still quite unusual isn't it !.

Division 3 South & West

JAGS with a 100 % record lead the way in a division where four teams follow them with six points and three teams foot the table; yet to get off the mark. You have to conclude that the division is yet to sort itself out !. Another feature which makes it difficult to judge is the fact that almost every team in this division changed their line-up dramatically over the two days of play. Are the JAGS players are fans of Chelsea ? More likely they are trying to ensure that all of their players get a lot of

games. Whatever, a squad comprising Farhat Rasul, David Williams, Martin Smith, Rodney Farquharson, Emmanuel Osunkayo, Rohan Lewis and Everton Waite (all who played) is rather large. However it does have strength in depth and will almost certainly be there or thereabouts. Their toughest clash came against Brighton University where JAGS were always ahead but came very close with having to settle for a draw. Brighton's no. 1 Jack Boulton (Sussex via Derbyshire) made amends for losing to Martin Smith by getting the better of Farhat Rasul 3-0, and Rory Scott and John Clarke both beat Emmanuel Osunkayo. In a tense finale Waite just took the fifth game 12-10 against Scott to seal the JAGS victory.

In the other games between those teams with six points Guildford saw off Horsham III 6-2, Brighton saw off OLOP II 6-2 and OLOP beat Guildford II 5-3. Guildford's game against Horsham III was a good one. Horsham's Andy Castle went down over five strangely low -scoring games against Steve Woodgate but redeemed himself with a fine 3-1 win over Tim Heaps in his second singles. However it wasn't enough because a second win for Steve Woodgate and two successes for Devesh Shete meant Guildford stayed in control. Brighton impressed with their determination in their win over OLOP. Four games went to a deciding end and Brighton took the lot. Brighton no. 2 Johnny Clarke deservedly took the Player-of-the-Match Award for his two 11-9 in the fifth set victories; Tony Reynolds and Graham Outrim being his victims. Devesh Shete didn't deserve to be on the losing end in his side's defeat against OLOP. He came back from two games to one down to beat Graham Outrim 11-8 in the fifth end and he repeated the feat in the "dead" last game to get the better of Bob Davies 11-9 in the decider. OLOP's Tony Reynold's two three straight wins from the no. one position undoubtedly made a difference as he outplayed both Steve Woodgate and Tim Heaps.

JAGS may have been slightly flattered by the scoreline in their 7-1 victory over BATTs Team Peniel II. They won all four games that went to a deciding set. On the other hand they might argue that any team that takes two games off Peniel's Abigail Embling deserves their success. David Williams and Farhat Rasul both clearly played very well to beat the current England no. seven ranked lady player. JAGS II's clash with Britannia Notcutts Ipswich saw both sides fielding players by the surname of Lewis. Rohan from JAGS came off

best beating Mark 3-1, and he completed his double with a victory over newcomer Paul Broxton. Mark's dad Ken was Britannia's only winner, with a 3-1 success over Rodney Farquharson.

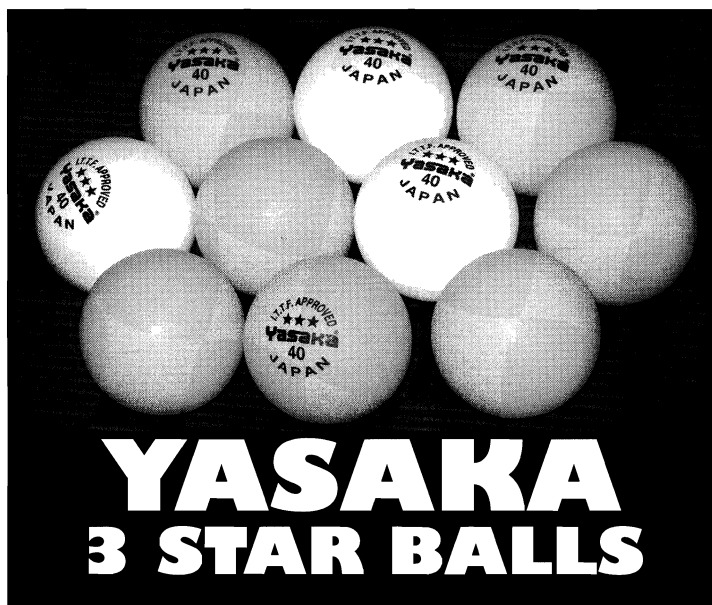
Division 4

A new division made up of some very famous names and it is perhaps the most illustrious of them all that leads the way. Ormesby II with the best games difference in the whole League - 28-4 have made it quite clear where they hope to finish this season. Newcomers Grimsby featuring brother and sister combination Lesley Keast and Bryn Tyler (that's a name from a few years back !!) put up a good show and gave Ormesby their toughest game. Tyler's two wins over Danny Reed and Tim Surrey couldn't prevent Ormesby winning 6-2. Danny Welsh and Martyn Clarke were both undefeated. Ormesby's 7-1 demolition of Bedford Modern gave further indication of their credentials (if any were needed) as Martyn Clarke, Danny Welsh and Andrew Reed stayed unbeaten. As is often the case when a team wins 7-1 it is the game that escapes the winners that catches the eye most. Here Hamish Yeung's win over Danny Reed captured the plaudits as well as the Player-of-the-Match Award. It's a hard life when you play for a good side !

Another set of newcomers Northfield are tied in second place on six points with Grimsby and Bedford Modern II. The match between Grimsby and Northfield was as you would expect a good one and Grimsby's three fifth set wins made the difference. Lesley Keast produced a superb display beating both Steve Cooper and Nick Corcking and Bryn Tyler sealed Grimsby's 5-3 victory by beating Tony Langley 3-1.

Northfield were hard pushed to get the better of Elgre Nottingham II 5-3. Ace defender Steve Cooper was a class apart taking his two singles easily (which gives further credence as to the quality of Lesley Keast's performance), and his team-mates Mark Walpole, Nick Corcking and Tony Langley all chipped in with one win.

Bedford Modern II didn't have it all their own way in beating Grove IV 6-2. John Camilleri and John Alsop took their four singles from the no one and two positions. But it was Grove's Russell Nicholls who took the Player-of-the-Match Award with the glowing comments "Russell Nicholls - good temperament, stayed calm throughout. Would make a good poker player". Beats the more usual "John Smith for his two good wins.....".



DAVID HAYES, the in form Slough League Men's Singles champion, won another title on the day that he was awarded the Leo Thompson Memorial Trophy for the most improved junior in Slough. Hayes, already the Cippenham Junior Open champion in April, won the Under-16 Boys' Singles title at the hugely successful Cippenham Young Players' Summer Festival weekend, writes Graham Trimming.

The two-day event, which attracted 152 players in 308 separate entries competing at five age levels, brought the best out of Hayes who, despite being top seed, had enormous competition from the rest of the field. Indeed, the top four seeds were all highly ranked England cadets and all from the Cippenham club. However, the player who came through a congested field to face Hayes in the final was Surrey's Chris Bush. The sixth seed beat second seed Gavin Evans in the quarter-final and then James Milton in the semis. In the top half of the draw Hayes beat the other Evans, Myles, in the penultimate round. A fifth Cippenham player, Ashley Shaw, also got through to the quarters by virtue of a good win over fifth seed Michael Harvey.

In the Under-14 Boys' Singles top seed Myles Evans was beaten in the final by Edward Brown of Essex. Evans had six match points altogether including two in the

HAYES SHINES AT SUMMER FESTIVAL

fourth game and then led 10-6 in the decider. However, Evans committed the cardinal sin of serving off the table at 10-9 and the greater consistency of Brown eventually won the day. The semi-finalists were Alex Kearney (Avon) and Michael Harvey (Gloucs.)

Cippenham's other big success was Melanie Farquhar who beat her club colleague Sylvana Bielec 11-8 in the fifth game of a titanic Under-14 Girls' Singles event. Bielec had beaten another Cippenham player, Catherine Hayes, in her semi while Farquhar was successful against Frances Potjewyd (Somerset). Potjewyd did better in the U16 event and reached the final by reversing her earlier defeat at the hands of Farquhar. In the final Potjewyd lost to Devon's Sally Smith who had got

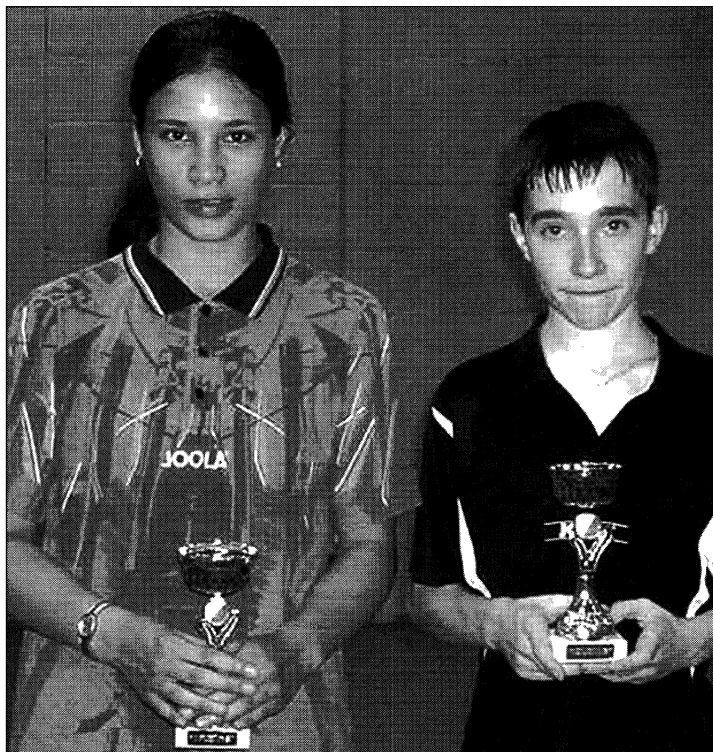
the better of Sylvana Bielec one round earlier.

The three younger events, U11, U12 and U13 were played on the Saturday and did not yield a title for the home players. Essex players took three of the titles in the form of Billy Deville (U13 boys) and Rachel Jamieson who won both the U13 and U12 girls' titles, beating the same county's Jessica Macken on both occasions. The other Saturday winners were William Maybanks (Herts) in the U12 boys, David McBeath (Hants) in the U11 boys and Haylee Potts in the U11 girls.

The event required sixteen tables to be busy throughout the two days but was completed on schedule thanks to Organizer and Referee Ken Phillips with his helpers, notably Robert Hansell and Sue Hayes.

Results:

- U16BS: David Hayes (Bu) bt Chris Bush (Sy) 4, -5, 3, 6
- U16GS: Sally Smith (Dv) bt Frances Potjewyd (So) 9, 3, 2
- U14BS: Edward Brown (E) bt Myles Evans (Bu) -9, 10, -6, 10, 10
- U14GS: Melanie Farquhar (Bk) bt Sylvana Bielec (Bu) 6, 12, -9, -10, 8
- U13BS: Billy Deville (E) bt Matthew Ware (Do) 6, 6, 10
- U13GS: Rachel Jamieson (E) bt Jessica Macken (E) 6, -11, 4, 4
- U12BS: William Maybanks (He) bt Billy Deville (E) -6, -11, 9, 8, 3
- U12GS: Rachel Jamieson (E) bt Jessica Macken (E) 10, 4, 6
- U11BS: David McBeath (Ha) bt Adam Draper (WAL) -8, 8, 8, 5
- U11GS: Haylee Potts (He) bt Katie Rule (Bu) 9, 6, -7, -7, 9
- U16BCons: John McBeath (Ha) bt David Hunt (E) 11, 11, -8, 7
- U16GCons: Sarah Smith (E) bt Katie Rule (Bu) -10, -9, 4, 6, 5
- U14BCons: Chris Dye (K) bt Jake Collins (Sk) -5, 10, 9, 9
- U14GCons: Katie Rule (Bu) bt Haylee Potts (He) 7, 6, 6
- U13BCons: Geoffrey Potjewyd (So) bt Matthew Lloyd (Wi) 3, 9, 8
- U13GCons: Hayley Nicholas (Ha) bt Stephanie Mitchell (Bu) -8, 9, 6, 3
- U12BCons: Lloyd Jamieson (Do) bt Alex Polding (Bu) 9, 7, 10
- U12GCons: Rachel Farquhar (Bk) bt Katie Bradford (Ha) 9, 3, 8
- U11BCons: Jonathan Hockings (Bu) bt Dominic Wilson (Be) 5, 8, 9
- U11GCons: Joanne Hiley (Li) bt Rebekah March (E) 9, 11, 9



Pictured above are the Under 16 Singles winners SALLY SMITH and DAVID HAYES, whilst pictured right are the Under 14 Singles winners EDWARD BROWN and MELANIE FARQUHAR



CHESHIRE

by Alan Blears

THE J.M. Rose Bowl, the Women's National Inter-League Championship, dates back to 1938, but the 2003 final between Liverpool and Wirral was special and not just because the two teams were Merseyside neighbours. All eight ladies had been coached at some time in their careers by Les Jones, for long the driving force behind Wirral table tennis.

Victory came in the final set, when with the score at 4-4, Annabelle Sorrentino defeated Terri-Ann Nolan to bring success to Liverpool for the first time, leaving the Wirral ladies as proud runners-up.

City of Liverpool Grand Prix

There were no Cheshire finalists in this excellent event, though an unwell Karen Shepherd reached the U-21 semi-final. Lorna Harper, Sophie Byron, Fiona Dennett and Caroline Hallows all scored at least one "maximum pointer" against more experienced opposition.

Other events

Lorna Harper's good form continued in her first appearance in the Women's British League. Playing at no. 1 for Darlington 2nd - logical, as she is a Hartlepoolian refugee from the Cleveland Riviera - she won six out of eight.

Caroline Hallows, a permanent fixture in the Stiga Hyndburn Junior Grand Prix series, won the junior section in the September event, despite losing to her "bogey", Helen Crawford of Cumbria. Helen herself fell victim to newcomer Rebecca Yip, who is training with the Hillcourt Club in Stockport as well as in her native Thameside.

Cheshire Junior & Cadet Trials

The results have not reached me in time, but hopefully they will appear in the next report.

CORNWALL

by John Wood

THE South West Regional Cadet & Junior Preliminary Trials were held at the St.Austell Table Tennis Centre, Tregorrick Park, on Sunday 21st September, and were a great success for Cornwall.

Five Cornish players were successful in reaching the Regional Finals in Cirencester on the weekend of 22nd/23rd November 2003.

The famous five are Matthew Trevarrow - Cadet Boys, Yaina Andrews in both the Cadet & Junior Girls, Martha Travis - Cadet Girls, and Adam Tatlow & Nick Smale - Junior Boys.

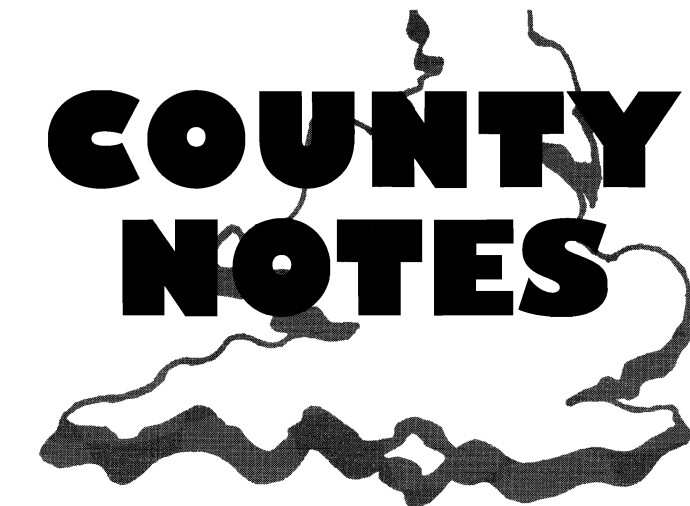
In the Junior Boys there was an outstanding performances by Adam Tatlow and Nick Smale in the Junior boys, who finished with a 100% record.

Included in Tatlow's maximum was a huge win over Devon's Chris Brown.

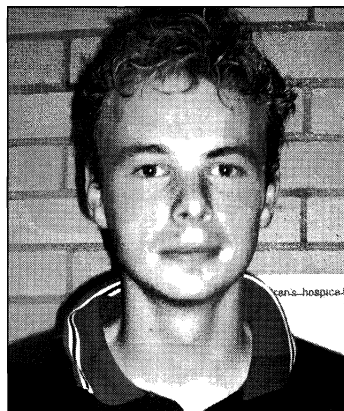
The efforts of all five were brilliant, and on behalf of Cornish table tennis I wish you the best of luck for Cirencester, in November.

Falmouth TTC ran a very successful table tennis marathon in September, raising close on £1500.

Flying the flag for Cornwall at the Clare Pengelly Memorial tournament in Paignton, on the weekend of 4th/5th October, were four Cornish umpires Fred Ingram, Roger Vardon, Dennis Williams



CHESHIRE'S Annabelle Sorrentino, Cherith Graham, The Mayor of Knowsley, Clara Howard and Alice Howard, winners of the 2003 J.M. Rose Bowl.



CORNWALL'S Nick Smale



CORNWALL'S Kate Alken



CORNWALL'S umpiring foursome (l.to.r) Roger Vardon, Dennis Williams, Fred Ingram and Martin Adams, who were on duty at the Clare Pengelly Open tournament

and Martin Adams. Meanwhile on the table at Paignton Kate Alken did the county proud by reaching the Womens

Band 3 final, where she lost to Berkshire's Melanie Farquhar 11-7, 9-11, 4-11, 8-11.

CLEVELAND VIEW

by Alan Ransome

ORMESBY'S WOMEN AND GIRLS PROJECT

SUPPORTED by a Sport England Lottery "Awards for All" grant, the Ormesby Table Tennis Club arte organising a four day concentrated Girls and Women's promotional programme in the Middlesbrough and South Cleveland area from 5 - 8 November.

Five times English Champion, Nicola Deaton, will be the main personality of the promotion with exhibitions taking place over the first three days in 8 primary and 2 secondary schools in the club's catchment area. The club's Head Coach, Carole Moore, will introduce the exhibitions and either Bryn or Paul Drinkhall, the National Junior and Cadet champions will partner Nicola. Each evening coaching for girls will take place at the new club headquarters on Cargo Fleet Lane, Middlesbrough, with Carole and Nicola.

On Saturday, 8th November, a major Women and Girls' Promotional Day will take place at the club, preceded by a strong promotional campaign encouraging women and girls to take up the sport of table tennis and to visit the club. The campaign will be carried out through press releases, interviews, poster and leaflet campaigns throughout the Cleveland County area. Women and girls who visit the Ormesby Table Tennis Club on the promotion day will have the opportunity of fitness and coaching sessions as well as playing table tennis for fun.

Tom Welsh who will be offering to provide coaching at each of the schools to follow up the exhibition matches, is carrying out the organisation of the exhibitions in the schools. The Promotional Day is being organised by Brenda Stephenson and Jose Ransome. The objectives of the exercise are to:

1. Boost the participation of girls within the local schools.
2. Increase the number of girls training regularly in the club's coaching squads.
3. Establish women's table tennis sessions in the daytime twice a week at the club.
4. Increase the number of women attending the club coaching and practice sessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

In addition, a long-term objective is the development of very strong female players from the club who will reach England standard and beyond.

GOOD START TO THE SEASON

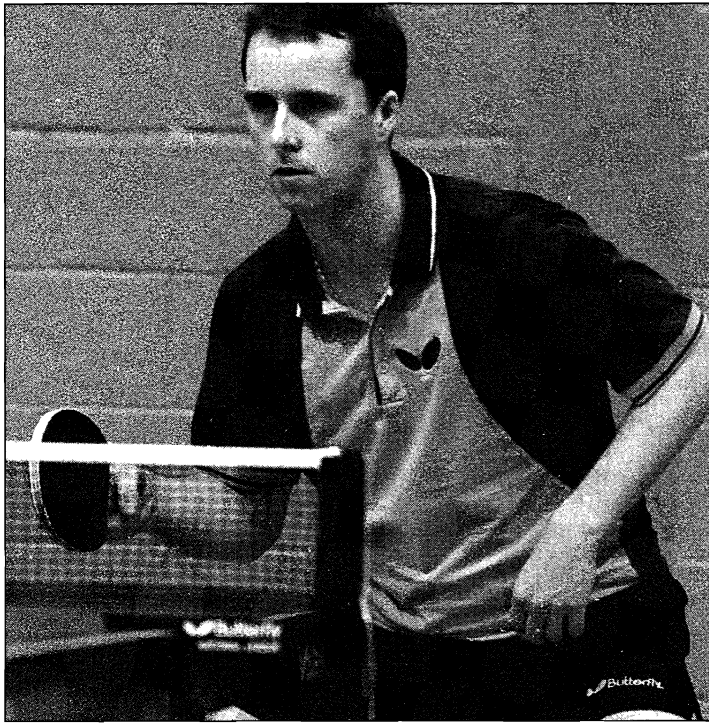
The season has started well for Cleveland Players. Paul Drinkhall won the Cadet Boys singles beating his rival, Darius Knight of Surrey, in the final at the Essex Junior Open at the end of September. Paul also won the Under 21 Men's Singles at the Liverpool Butterfly Grand Prix.

The Ormesby 1st team in the British League are top of the first Division after the first four matches which were played at Grantham. Steven Bailey was unbeaten in all four matches.

CUMBRIA

by Gordon Brown

SO great is opposition in Barrow-in-



Welsh international RYAN JENKINS has been regularly coaching in Hampshire

Furness to the new 11-up and beat five rule that half the league's players have packed up. The league has been reduced from four to two divisions and further mutterings being voiced indicate a possible further reduction of teams next season.

Barrow were forced to play 11-up otherwise they would not be able to be affiliated to the ETTA.

League Chairman Keith Mallinson, who is also Chairman of Cumbria County Association, said; "This season we have two senior divisions and two junior divisions. I can't say more than that."

Barrow traditionalists were never happy with the International Federation's departure from 21-up two years ago. In line with ETTA instructions Barrow League started playing 11-up at the start of the introductory season.

Halfway through, however, they reverted by popular demand to 21-up which continued throughout last season. But the ETTA stepped in and told Barrow they could not affiliate unless they made a decision to play 11-up in all their league matches this season. Hence a special Barrow League meeting at which those present voted two to one "reluctantly" to go along with 11-up.

There is also opposition to 11-up at the affiliated Premier Club I run at Whitehaven, where the general opinion is that a game is over before the players realise it has started and changing serve every two services is a niggling nuisance.

I feel the change is more appropriate at international, county and British League level where the rallies are longer than at grass roots (youth clubs, schools, sports centres, local clubs and district leagues) with occasional departures.

ESSEX
by Steve Kerns
SIMPLY THE BEST

THANKS are extended to John Spero,

Treasurer of the Ilford & District TTL for submitting the following article on his League.

The claim that the Ilford & District TTL has the best playing strength of the 15 Essex Leagues is no idle boast. Last year their Men's first team won Division One of the Essex Inter-League represented by a squad combining youth and experience – County players Matthew Spero, Robin Glassberg, Ray Lam, Roland Zaubmayr and Gavin West.

Last season Langdon Community Club making their debut; and represented by Joe Kennedy, John Payne and Jason Clark and backed up by a medley of home grown players coached by Joe and Steve Tatam took the first division title. Mossford I finished runners-up for the second successive year, staffed mainly by a team of home grown ex-Essex Junior first team players – Matthew Spero, Robin Glassberg and Shelley Ruocco. They have added Keith Lesser (who is back from Sheffield University) to their team this season.

The 2003-04 season promises many exciting games with several newcomers entering the fray. Langdon, have added Ghanaian Internationals Eric Hammond and Solomon Okonor to their squad. Dagbury I are led by Dave Randall, with support from Neil Brierley and Paul Sayer whilst Frenford I comprise the Tendler family – John, Jason and Gary, backed up by the rapidly improving Umair Mauthoor. Heathcote field three highly rated Polish players – Ivan Stefanou, Krys Laskoloski and Bernedeta Potkoszck, whilst St. Marks are led by the evergreen Clive Carthy with support from Morris Greenberg, Jim Hopley, Joe Andrews, Clive Carpenter and Daniel Spurling. Frenford II with Gavin West, Roland Zaubmayr, Adrian Davis and Ray Lam should certainly finish in the top half as well. Ramgharia TTL with a squad of Keiran Lally, Hamish Innes, Shu Hueng

and Steve Kerns deserve special mention for no other reason than the distance their team are having to travel.

International Coach Shu lives closest to their venue and she comes from Crystal Palace! The recent clash between St. Marks and Frenford I was a thriller. Umair Mauthoor scored a sensational 3-2 win over Clive Carthy but he couldn't get the better of an in-form Morris Greenberg who took his three singles. Clive hit back by downing Gary Tendler 3-0. Jason Tendler played his part with a vital win over the big-hitting Clive Carpenter to leave the score tied at 5-5.

Junior coaching activity within the area is thriving, with top-notch schemes run by Mossford, Langdon, Heathcote and the Ramgharia clubs. Mossford have produced many players over the years who have represented Essex, and in the last nine years their squads have represented the London Borough of Redbridge at the London Heathrow Youth Games at Crystal Palace. They have achieved Bronze, Silver or Gold medals in each of the nine years of competition. The Mossford Coaching Scheme was started by newly appointed Essex Development Officer Dave Humble some thirteen years ago, and is currently run by ETTA Level III Coach Phil Ashleigh. Support from the Jack Petchey Foundation has enabled the scheme to extend its activities to run teams this year in the National Cadet League, the National Junior League and the Junior British League and it has also enabled the junior members to own a personalised Stiga Club kit.

On an entirely different note table tennis has hit the front pages of the Chelmsford local papers when the Braintree Athletics Club complained that they were unable to book sessions at the state-of-the-art Melbourne Athletics Stadium in Chelmsford. With the fantastic £2.2m Lottery funded facility not being used to anything like its full potential the Baddow Village Table Tennis Club booked the venue from 19.00 hours to 22.00 hours every Friday right through the winter months. Gripes that such a facility should be solely for the use of athletics appear ill-founded. A Chelmsford Borough Council spokesman has admitted "It just isn't possible to keep the facility on standby for occasional use by athletics when there are other local sports clubs who can make full use of the facility". Full marks to the Baddow Village Table Tennis Club for taking the initiative of approaching the Local Council and let us hope that their thriving coaching and club nights are allowed to retain their presence there. Watch this space!

HAMPSHIRE

by Jeremy Wilson

FAREHAM-based Generation II have made an unbeaten start to life in Division Two South of the British League, drawing three matches and winning one in the first weekend of matches.

Southampton champion Victor Imiseev won six out of eight as did Roger Hookey, while county champion Graham Toole won three out of four.

Waterside, captained by Ken MacLeod, have also entered a team in the British

League, but had a tough time in their opening round of matches in the third division and are still searching for their first win.

In the county championships, the Hampshire senior team will be looking to gain promotion from Division 2b, while the juniors are also in 2b. The veteran's team is in Division 1b.

Welsh international Ryan Jenkins has made a few welcome appearances in Southampton during the past few months, coaching pupils at Blackfield School and also taking national league club Waterside through their paces in training sessions.

In other news, Hampshire umpire Mick Strode has been presented with the Ivor Montagu Award for services to the administration of table tennis.

He was recognised for his work managing the ETTA website and his contribution towards the success of the ETTA Grand Prix.

Mick has been a member of the national team competitions committee since 1988.

He qualified as a county umpire in 1980, a national umpire in 1986, an international umpire in 1988, a tournament referee in 1987, a national referee in 1993 and as an international referee in 1997.

As well as being the most regular referee on the Grand Prix circuit, he has also officiated as a referee and umpire at numerous overseas open championships.

He has also been Hampshire's county umpires secretary since 1986.

ISLE OF WIGHT

by John Prean

OUR first county match of the new season ended in a resounding win against Avon, who were below full strength and so the 8-2 victory is not perhaps as impressive as it reads on paper. Their top lady Natasha Lake, (Williams) was absent, a victim of the recent county rule, as she is no longer resident in Avon. Our opponents' men's contingent was also below strength. Our men, Danny Burns, Roger Hookey and Carl Prean won their six matches and only Jo Burt lost twice. Lucy Pointer won 18-16 in the 5th against Jessica Orlik, but 3-0 against Carey Barrett in the No.1 spot.

Carl has now gone 21 years without defeat in a county match for the Isle of Wight. The last occasion was, curiously, against Avon's Andy Creed when he was 14 and Paul Hooper, who played this time, was also in the side then. He enjoyed an epic against Danny Burns which he lost 11-0 in the 5th, but did not get quite as many against Carl, who looked pretty sharp even without the famous pimples, trying sponge on both sides.

He did not take up any of the offers he had in Germany. The recession there has hit the minor sports hard and the pay on offer did not justify the wear and tear of constant travel. The English scene, which is virtually an amateur situation, does not encourage professionalism, either in application or eventual rewards.

Prize money is now less than it was a decade ago, often much less and the British League is now a gathering of hobby players over four weekends.

I have, of course, read that our international results are the worst in our history despite the millions of public money spent. I do not really agree that the players have somehow failed, all else being well. We could have done a lot better, if things had not been so ineptly handled for so long. I noted that a previous performance director felt that English players should not be paid for playing for England, i.e. when at the top of their profession. That may sound wonderful to Joe Bloggs in the local league, but what are these chaps, who play for England and have to practise all day, supposed to live on? The director himself was certainly very well paid.

The main problem of our players is the lack of respect accorded, the complete disregard of the reality that they have to work as hard as any dentist or plumber, but earn much less, often nothing, with any income usually coming from abroad.

This is not a scene Carl proposes to re-enter at the age of 36. He has nothing to prove. He is already an excellent coach and no one in England has enjoyed a more successful career in Junior Europe. However, as our only European Junior singles champion, there are no signs that he will be called to assist our efforts in this field.

I can only end these observations by stating that we had players of good potential, but that we failed them in our support system. In six years the "academy" failed to produce medals in the European Youth Championships, the definitive event. As Peter Charters' excellent article reminded us, we won six medals in one year in 1983 and that by no means the end or the beginning. I can only marvel that we got things so wrong

so often over the last few years.

To revert to local matters, my hopes that we would increase the number of teams this season did not materialise. We merely held our own, still with 29 teams. That is desperately disappointing in the light of the efforts made by four coaches two nights each week, three in summer. The Carl Prean Centre in Ryde, where all this work takes place, produced three new 4 person teams, two players joined the local club which saved one of their teams from oblivion. Three whole teams were lost and the battle continues.

Our club nights remain full, sometimes overfull, with a former English Champion in attendance at least twice a week, but the transition to local league play remains a difficult process. It is hoped that the shorter format introduced into our third division, which has brought shorter evenings, will attract the young players we need. I cannot shake off the fear that the die-hards will gather at our next AGM to restore the old order and the late finishes, which saw 12 year olds return home at midnight and so helped our decline to where we are today.

There is, of course, a real need for reforms of the ETTA, but there are clear alarm signals at the grass roots, the evidence of the relentless decline in numbers of those playing league table tennis. This basic activity also needs urgent reforms. Alternatives must be tried, so that the sport retains its members and moves forward from there.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

by Dennis Millman

THE colourful banner of the East Midlands branch of the Unison Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Trust

that illuminated the stage at Wellingborough's Glamis Hall was matched only by some tremendous table tennis from the six participants as the Union Masters ran its unpredictable course for a second year.

With Tim Yarnall and Andy Trott not in contention, the top five from last year's competition were again involved with former county men's singles champion Kieron Dabbs replacing Richard Elliott.

It was Daventry's Dabbs who made an immediate impact as he took control in the second series of matches. Last year's runner-up David Gatiss was his opponent but Dabbs' all-round attacking game combined with his familiar high thrown services gave him the narrowest of winning margins at -9, 10, -6, 12, 10.

From that point onwards neither player was to lose although both were taken the full distance by Dave Welsman who needed both scalps if he was to take the title. The Surrey veteran played well but not well enough, as forced away from the table by both Dabbs and Gatiss he suffered marginal defeats.

Perversely the defining moment came when he went down 14-12 in the deciding end to Gatiss - a result that gave Dabbs the title, even though Welsman remained as his final opponent. By then Dabbs already had four victories under his belt and he made it all five when after coming under pressure in the middle three games, he came through with a great finish to account for Welsman 5, 13, -9, -12, 2 and so took the Unison title with a 100% record.

Last season's winner Ryan Keates started well with fifth end decisions against Dickson Pang and Welsman, but went down in four ends to Dabbs, and in

the surprise of the day and much the longest encounter he failed to beat Dannel Pang who came back from a two game to one deficit to win -9, 10, -6, 12, 10. Dannel then gained revenge on younger brother Dickson who had finished above him last time round, and had started well on this occasion by taking both Keates and Welsman to deciding ends.

With one game to play - Keates against Gatiss, only Dabbs and Dickson Pang knew their finishing positions and organiser Ken Marchant had to begin some hasty calculations. If Gatiss won he would again be runner-up with Keates finishing fourth or fifth, but if Keates gained the verdict he would be in second place with Gatiss third.

With everything but the title at stake the two contestants fought out an epic finale with Gatiss making the early running taking the first two ends 14, 8, but Keates then finding his form to level with 11-8, 11-4 scorelines. Keates appeared to be in the ascendancy but it was Gatiss who ran away with the final end for the loss of a single point.

So ended an afternoon of terrific table tennis in which eight of the fifteen rubbers went the full distance and only two ended in straight games. With Yarnall, Trott and Graeme McKim all eligible to challenge Dabbs next season, the third Unison Masters can't come soon enough.

Final positions: 1. Kieron Dabbs
2. David Gatiss 3. Dave Welsman
4. Ryan Keates 5. Dannel Pang
6. Dickson Pang

Kettering was the first of the county leagues to get underway with fifty teams facing the starter, compared with the meagre thirty that contested three divisions just five years ago.

With Graeme McKim and Andy Trott returning to league play some tremendous individual battles are anticipated. McKim was swiftly into the action, his hat-trick for league sponsors Burton Latimer Baptist Church A against last year's runners-up SAS Thrapston including a four end decision against Ken Philipson, but a while later McKim lost 14-12 in a decisive fifth end to Corby's Chris Ross.

However with Trott, Keates, Elliott, Mark Nannery and Steve Silk on their books, and the enthusiastic Steve Brown pulling the strings, Higham Band must be hot favourites to retain the Premier Division title.

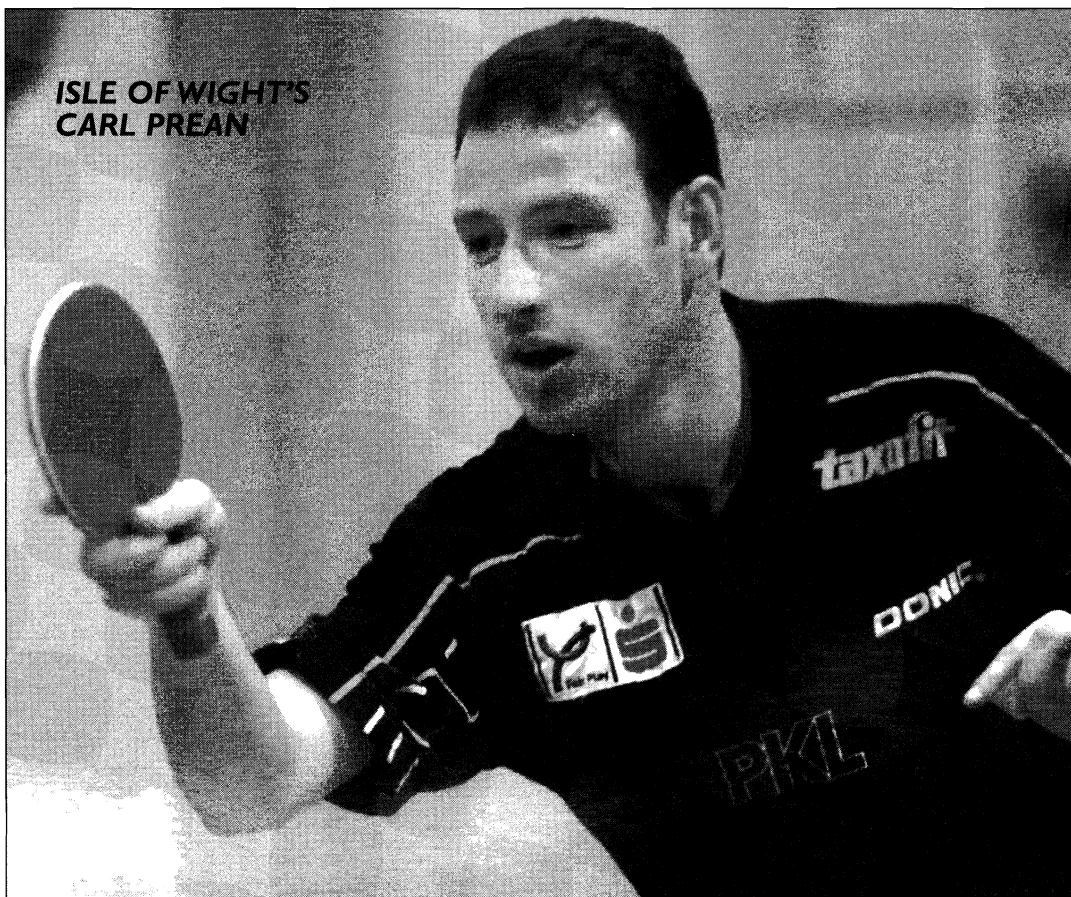
NORTHUMBERLAND

by Pauline Long

THE North Shields YMCA 'A' team of Andrew Wilkinson, Malcolm Lusk and Michael Dam were eventual winners of the Northumbria Summer League Division 1 Championship by ten points from Silksworth C.C.

Other winners and runners-up were: Division 2, St. Jude's and College Street 'A'; Division 3, Oxhill Y.C. and Ouston C.C.; Division 4, Saints and Byker C.C. 'B'.

The Winter League commenced on Monday 15th September, with 60 teams - one less than last season - contesting five Divisions. Last winter's champions, Birtley 'A' will again be competing with



the YMCA 'A' team for the Premier Division title, but surprisingly, third-placed St. Gabriel's have not entered this season. Much, as usual, will depend on how often their top players are available.

Cramlington Table Tennis Club has added a further two new teams – Magpies and Juniors – to take their total of competing teams to twelve, ten of whom will be playing at the Sporting Centre of Cramlington and two at Shanklea School. Newton and YMCA have the next largest entry with six teams each. The only new entry in Division 4 is Fatfield Amateur Table Tennis Society, (FATTS) who will play their matches at their local Community Centre.

The County senior, junior and veteran teams have again been entered in their respective Divisions. Both the seniors (Division 2A) and the veterans (Division 1A) – the latter led by new veteran Dave Godbold – will be hoping for a successful promotion campaign this season, with the veterans having been relegated from the Premier Division and the seniors just missing out by finishing as runners-up in Division 2A last time round. The juniors, again led by David Graham are gradually improving with a win and a draw in Division 3B last season and will be hoping to build on this during the coming campaign.

Teams have also been entered in all cup competitions apart from the Bromfield Trophy – there was also a possibility that we might take part in the Rose Bowl, subject to availability of women players of a reasonable standard.

Our veteran players had an early season taste of competitive play in the second North-East Masters Tournament, which took place at Seaburn Centre over the weekend of 6th – 7th September. The total entry was again slightly disappointing, with several players choosing not to make the long trek to the North-East. However, we did have some local success, with Dave Godbold and Keith Rodger (Cleveland) winning the O-40 men's doubles title against Malcolm Lusk and Joe Kennedy (Kent). Geoff Salter and Derek Holman (Surrey) were the O-50 men's doubles winners, while Pauline Long was runner-up in the O-50 women's singles plate competition.

The following weekend Geoff was again selected to represent Scotland in the Six Nations Veterans' Tournament on the Isle of Man against teams from England, Ireland, Wales, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

The weeks free from League Matches have thankfully returned for the Team Handicap Knockout Cup Competition, and the first round was due to be played on week commencing 27th October.

The County Board of Directors was re-elected unchanged for the season. It was pointed out at the monthly meeting that as the date set aside for the Newcastle Grand Prix had now been confirmed as the weekend of 21st – 22nd February 2004, the date of the County Closed would have to be changed to probably sometime in March or April.

Best wishes go to all County and League players for a successful season.

SHROPSHIRE

by Terry Ridgeway
2002-2003 RANKING LIST

AFTER successfully defending their county inter-league trophy Telford league players now add to their achievements by dominating the county ranking list for the 2003 season.

No major surprise to see Stirchley based former Yorkshire star Tony Ackroyd hold the No 1 position for the third consecutive year- his accumulated points total of 156 is the highest recorded for any season, having won the county closed tournament, topped the divisional averages in Telfords division One and not losing a single match in the county inter-league the Albrighton "B" looks set to defend his position for years.

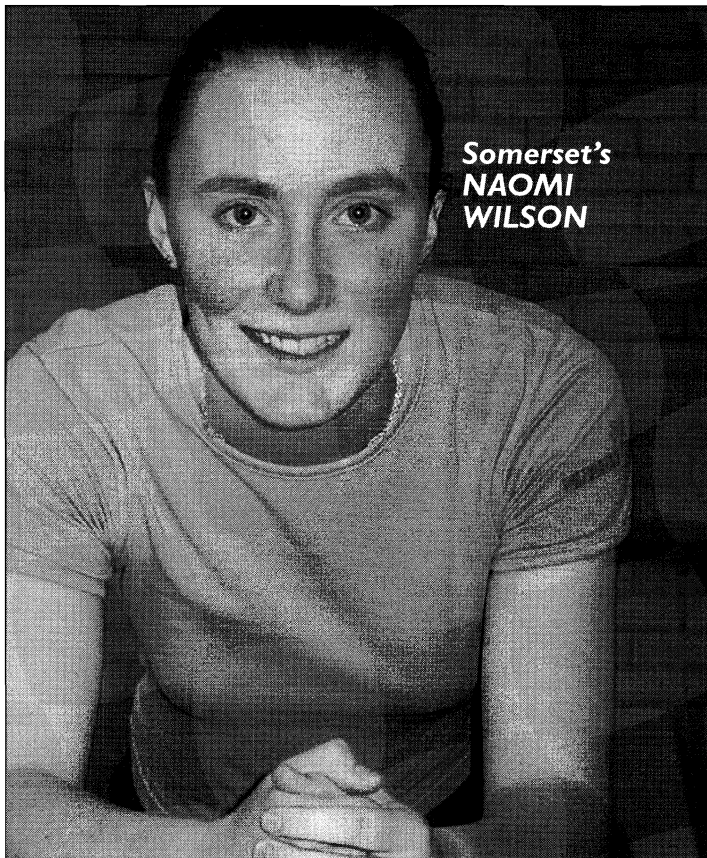
Second place remains with Tony's Albrighton B teammate and doubles partner Dave Elkin who achieved the highest points total in the inter-league event and also lost in the county closed singles final, a fellow county veteran and clubmate Malcolm Langford takes third place in this seasons list to complete the top three for the Albrighton club.

OFFICIAL SHROPSHIRE RANKING LIST:

- 1 TONY ACKROYD (TELFORD) ALBRIGHTON B
- 2 DAVE ELKIN (TELFORD) ALBRIGHTON B
- 3 MALCOLM LANGFORD (TELFORD) ALBRIGHTON A
- 4 CHRIS TARR (TELFORD) IDSALL A
- 5 ANDREW GRADWELL (TELFORD) IDSALL A
- 6 TERRY RIDGWAY (TELFORD-BRIDGNORTH) BRIDGNORTH A
- 7 DARRELL CORFIELD (SHREWSBURY) PONTESBURY A
- 8 NIGEL FORESHEW (LUDLOW)
- 9 NORMAN MERCHANT (LUDLOW)
- 10 PAUL CORFIELD (SHREWSBURY) PONTESBURY A
- 10 ROB DAVIES (TELFORD) BROSELEY A

SOMERSET

by Martin Rumary
THE passing of Les Bridges, our county coaching officer, was a great loss to Somerset table tennis. For many years he had been instrumental in bringing youngsters into the local scene especially via the Chilton club in Bridgwater. Many



Somerset's
NAOMI
WILSON

went on to play for the county and figure prominently at national level.

The preliminary regional trials at St. Austell were a great success for our girls. Claire Howe, Carly Roper and Frances Potjewyd reaching the final eight of the junior girls. In the cadets, Frances along with Ceri Maltby and Alex Johnston are through to the second phase.

Only Geoffrey Potjewyd came through for the boys. He came second in his group and will travel to Cirencester for the cadet final regionals. John Hughes made a disastrous start but rallied to fight his way through to the first reserve spot, so may still have a chance of getting to the national finals again.

Early season tournaments saw Frances Potjewyd win a title at Knutsford and she also won the consolation final at the Essex four star in the cadets.

The recent Clare Pengelly Grand Prix brought an early season boost for Claire Howe who picked up two great wins in the women's band 3 before losing in the semi-final.

Naomi Wilson reached the final of the band 1 but went down to Angie Bristow, the number two seed.

SUSSEX

by John Woodford

MANY counties I hear, are having the same problems as Sussex finding umpires willing to travel away at weekends to officiate in groups of matches sometimes on one day but often over two days.

Sussex have possibly three umpires, two of them wearing international badges who may be able to fit in weekends, but there are four more who will not travel.

When the counties and the British League decided to go for weekends instead of 14 Sundays as it was with the British League premier division last

season, they may not have considered the difficulties in getting umpires to travel.

We have in Sussex ten county championships teams, too many for most people including the treasurer. Maybe some of the lower teams will not get umpires and the players will have to take the umpires seats as they had to in the early and middle stages of the grand prix tournaments.

I find that most counties only pay expenses for no more than two veterans teams - Sussex have four and wanted five. I am hoping that Sussex will follow suit next season.

Meanwhile, Carol Beames is back on National Council, following the upheaval on the ETTA Management Committee. She is still very busy with events in Sussex, but setting up a Sussex Super League is proving difficult.

Sussex juniors first team matches will not start until December. Michael Simpson is the new Sussex No.1 junior boy.

The Brighton league have had some trouble finding a new secretary. But now they have found one - Tony Parsley from the BACS club. England ranked 12 year old James Denman is out for six weeks with a broken wrist, sustained on a bouncy castle!

From Hastings comes the news that the that the Association have a new lady chairman for the first time - Diane Kirkwood. Rose Rainton is the Hastings secretary - two ladies in top posts in a league, fairly rare, I would say.

The Sussex Open Butterfly Grand Prix will be over when this column appears. Weeks before the event to be run by the Crawley league at Crawley Leisure Centre, the plan was to rule out any exhibitions by foreign star players.

**PLEASE
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YORKSHIRE: A hat-trick of awards for Brenda Hudson

Yorkshire Inter League Events
 The popularity of all things veteran shows no sign of abating as an entry of 28 teams have been received for this seasons inter league events. This seems to have been at the expense of the mens senior competition where only 4 entries have been received.
 The four entries have been from Castleford/ Pontefract, Keighley, York and Scarborough, all of which are successful development areas but it is interesting that none of the major West Yorkshire towns/ cities have been able to enter a mens team.
 The cadets and juniors competitions have each received a healthy entry of 16 teams but with a poor entry for the Yorkshire clubs competitions the future of that and the mens division for future seasons must be in doubt.

YORKSHIRE
 by Barry Snowden

A HAT TRICK OF AWARDS
 It was in 1974 that Brenda Hudson was persuaded to help run the Humberside 3 Star Table Tennis tournament at the YPI in Hull and since then her name has hardly ever been missing from the list of officials of the Hull & District Table Tennis Association.

She was the Tournament Secretary for 11 years, part of which time she was also the administrator, a job she also held for 11 years. Her current position is that of General Secretary and this coming season will be her 9th in that job and she has also held the jobs of Minute Secretary and Registrar. Last season she was also responsible for organising the Association's 75th Anniversary celebrations. Brenda has also been in charge of the handbook preparations and has taken on a similar role for the Yorkshire Table Tennis Association, for whom she is the Competitions Secretary.

A major heart by-pass operation in 1998 only slowed her down a little, the preparations for the 1998/99 season were still in place for the start of the season.

Brenda was instrumental in forming the Monday Afternoon League at the Hull-YPI Table Tennis Centre. This is open to any one who wishes to play table tennis in a jovial (and semi serious) atmosphere. The average age of the members must be over 60 but to hear the noise generated you'd have thought it was a youth club. It is, however, a great way to get, and keep, people involved who might not be able to play on a regular basis in the league.

This year the Hull Association awarded her the John Butcher Memorial Award for her continuing outstanding service to the Association. On the same evening she received the the Maurice Goldstein Merit Award. This is an award presented by the English Table Tennis Association in recognition of outstanding service to table tennis at local league level. To complete her hat trick of awards the Yorkshire Table Tennis Association presented her with the Leslie Forrest Award for Outstanding Service to table tennis.

Hull is proud and honoured to have her as it's principal officer and look forward to her being at the helm for a few more

years to come.
Halifax Veterans Summer Open 2003
 Brenda was also involved in the highly successful veterans tournament played in August at the splendid Halifax Table Tennis Centre. Tournament organiser Barry Snowden quickly stepped in to run the event when it was decided not to run the annual York summer tournament.

An excellent entry enjoyed the two days play and many making their first visit to the centre made complementary comments about the Halifax venue. Organiser Snowden commented "I really didn't have a great deal to do over the weekend as the majority of the administration work had been done beforehand by Paul Stansfield".

With Brenda Hudson and Referee John Hardcastle expertly running control without a hitch and Halifax league treasurer Steve Hanson keeping busy in the canteen Snowden even found time to play "I even found time to nip home for my kit and let Roy Norton down in the doubles when Fred Lockwood was forced to drop out through injury."

"It was always my intention to show off the centre and try to make some money as well which I think we achieved on both scores, as together with entry fees, raffles and canteen takings we made a tidy much needed profit for the centre"

Snowden went on "Events like this don't just happen. It was a great team effort and would not have run half as smoothly as it did had it not been for the work put in by Paul, John, Brenda and Steve."

"This was our first effort staging an open tournament and are thankful of the support we received from the ETTA and having learned a few things as well are looking forward to staging more events in the future."

ETTA Chairman's visit to Yorkshire
 Alex Murdoch joined members of the Yorkshire TTA management committee at their first meeting this season held at Batley Sports Centre.

Joined by his lovely wife Val, Alex enjoyed an hours' question and answer session on subjects as varied as regional development officers, ranking lists, ESTTA, subscription rates to name but a few. Alex impressed all the local league representatives with his honest answers to their questions.

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LONDON JUNIOR RATING TOURNAMENTS

WHY are the London Junior Table Tennis Rating Tournaments successful? Its not because of the prize money! All a youngster gets at the end of the day is a certificate and a London Rating writes Len Piffold.

What it does offer is regular competition from the absolute beginner to potential county player without the need for that initial long-term commitment!

For too long now our sport has concentrated its efforts on competitions for the established young player. The only competitions a beginner is offered are a local team competition or Open tournaments, both of which require player and/or parental commitment. The result is that too many of the young people who come to our clubs for coaching fall through the net.

I have always believed that children thrive on competition. It matters little how good they are or how long they have been playing table tennis. Unless we give them competitions that they can enjoy at a very early stage we wont get that vital commitment. Without commitment coaching becomes meaningless and

youngsters will drift away to take up other sports that satisfy their competitive needs.

So what are the benefits of LJTTTS type tournaments?

(1) It offers the real beginner lots of games - at their own level - in a local competition - at a reasonable cost.

(2) Unlike team competitions an individuals' lack of commitment does not directly affect anyone else.

(3) It enables coaches to recognise and monitor a players' potential at a very early stage.

(4) Most important of all it gives a player a reason for a commitment to being coached.

As we all know well, getting commitment from today's youngsters with all the other opportunities open to them is a difficult task. As anybody from the Top Premier Clubs in London will tell you, the success of the LJTTTS Rating Tournaments are that they do just that.

The result; between 700 and 800 young players throughout London play in the LJTTTS Rating Tournaments each year. So how does it work?

London Tournament Programme

A maximum of 44 Tournaments, 40 Zone Tournaments spread around

London. 10 Zone Tournaments in each of the following months, September, November, February & April. With 4 All London Tournaments, one per month during the months of October, January, March & May.

The top 120 players from each series of Zone Tournaments being invited to take part in the All London Tournament that is held during the following month.

All results from the Tournaments are put into our Computer Rating System, players gaining points according to their wins and losses. Thus enabling us to produce a Rating List for all the players who take part.

Tournament Structure

(A) A singles competition designed to provide competitive play for all levels of ability.

(B) All matches are played on a group system. Each player playing in 2 rounds of groups. Nobody is knocked out.

Note: Too many age groups can cause logistical problems resulting in players having fewer games, especially at Zone Tournament level.

(C) The aim is to give players a minimum of 5 and maximum of 8 matches in a day at a reasonable cost and without the need to travel long distances.

(D) The tournaments are banded by age and ability. Age groupings: Under 13 & Under

18. Bands: Advanced, Intermediate, Novice.

(E) Initially we have to rely on the information given on a players entry form plus, if available, a report from their coach. Once a Player has taken part, they are given a rating based on their first tournament match results. From then on, their ratings will decide in which band they should compete.

(F) Each player receives a Certificate.

(G) A Rating List is issued after each series of tournaments. There are Rating Lists for Boys and Girls in Under 18, 15, 13 & 11 categories.

Finally, a question that I am continually asked is: Why do we allow the better established players to take part? The answer is in two parts,

(1) We want the beginner to see what can be achieved if they are willing to try.

(2) What do we do with the better players who through no fault of their own are unable to play in local leagues or Open Tournaments, throw them on the scrap heap? I think not!

I believe coaching without a competitive structure to back it up is non-productive.

PS: the new Kent committee have asked me to organise 4 London Junior type Rating Tournaments.

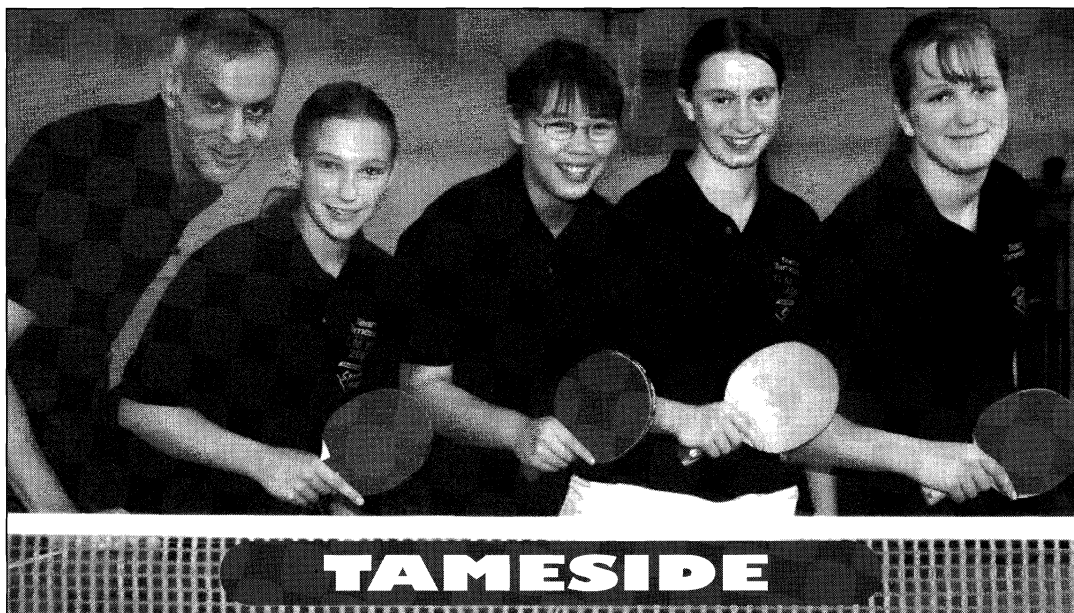


TABLE TOPPERS

TEAM TAMESIDE, pictured below, (l.to.r) Joe Beadle, Leanne Greenwood, Rebecca Yip, Kate Quinn and Kayleigh White, recently competed in the Greater Manchester Table Tennis Girls Challenge match, held at Droylsden High School, losing 2-1 to Manchester, in an exhibition match.

However, the girls were still celebrating after the news of a bumper Sports Match Government grant to improve facilities and equipment.

Tameside Development Officer Joe Beadle said, "Eight schools in the borough will share £29,500, as part of the Awards for All Scheme. We are all delighted."

"BRIAN WORTS" CRAZY TEAM EVENT IN SUNNY EXMOUTH

The Exe Table Tennis Club at Exmouth provided another opportunity on July 5th for people of all ages and abilities to compete in a less than conventional manner. It was advertised as a "Brian Worts" Crazy Team Event. At the outset team names were drawn from the sixteen picture card options of a pack of playing cards. The pack became the days major control tool at the eight-table venue. All players wore their team playing card badge.

A total of sixteen teams entered from Plymouth, Exeter, Bridgwater and Exmouth. Each team comprised an "A" player of any age, whilst the "B" and "C" members were only eligible if their aggregate age was 26 years or less. Twelve of the teams qualified for a 3 point bonus for including a female in their team.

The whistle sounded the "off" just before ten a.m. 25 minutes later the central scoreboard showed 7 teams with 11 points, whilst the lowest, Jack of Hearts, was only 5 behind. The core game of "triples", but with no net and the two halves of the table 3 metres apart, was an immediate success and the large out-of-town contingent, playing this for the first time, took to it with ease. As the ball travels further before hitting the target, players quickly found they were able to counter hit kills that normally may have whistled past them!

At 11 o'clock only 7 points separated the 16 teams. Four were on 14, King Clubs (the Plymouth Smith family), Jack Diamonds (Don Beesley Dawlish, with Exmouth's Martin Atkin and Kate Wilson), Queen Hearts (Plymouth's Ian MacLeod with daughter Laura and Richard Marshall), and King Spades (Harry & Freddie Cutler with at "C" Vicki Smith).

Three events later at 12.30 pm, players took a half hour break in the lounge of the tennis centre adjoining the venue, leaving a scoreboard showing the King Clubs team out on their own with 24; two ahead of the improving Queen Diamonds (Bridgwater's Mike Hurley, with brother and sister Frances and Geoffrey Potjewyd).

After lunch the 3pm finishing line was less than 2 hours distant. During the three following time checks King Clubs maintained a lead that was never better than precarious. In close contact were most of the aforementioned teams. With ten minutes left five teams could have caught the leaders whilst a further five had an opportunity to take the runners-up honours.

First place with 43 points, was taken by King Clubs; John Smith with daughter Sally and son Christopher. Second was King Spades with 38 points whose team of Harry & Freddie Cutler with Vicki Smith had sprinted from the pack during the last event.

The "F" word

A strategy was to encourage the "F" word. "F" being for "family". Five dads and two mums took part with their offspring and several brothers and sisters were evident. The youngest player aged 9 and the oldest somewhere beyond 60 years of age.

Information

Other than the age requirement for the B & C players there was no eligibility restrictions. Several parents and a few of the "C" players had never competed previously. The Exe TTC is directly affiliated to Devon County TTA and to the Exmouth League. Thus a group of newcomers here - probably as many as ten - were not affiliated players. The varied events included target and skill demands, maintaining rallies whilst coping with another activity or sharing a bat, normal singles contests keeping apart the "A" "B" "C" categories and a handicap adventure requiring some players to use the small bats.

PLEASE NOTE

Would correspondents to 'County Notes' please continue to send their copy to Lindsay Shipp at Hastings

OAKBANK FASTBATS

Ping Pong Merrily On High!



SEE THE CARD IN COLOUR ON PAGE 39

THE newly formed Oakbank Fastbats Premier Club has come up with a novel fund-raising scheme to raise money for club funds, writes Jeremy White.

The club has produced a table tennis themed Christmas card, available in packs of 10, complete with envelopes. The cards feature Santa Claus and Rudolph, in full colour, playing table tennis, with the slogan 'ping pong merrily on high'. The cards have been designed so that they are also likely to appeal to non table tennis players. They are ideal to send to friends who do not play the game, but know that you do. The packs of 10 cards are available mail order and cost £3.00 including 50p postage and packaging.

Please send a cheque or postal order to : J White, 27 Ghyllwood Drive, Bingley, West Yorkshire. BD16 1NF. Telephone: 01724 563781.

The Oakbank Fastbats Club has come to fruition as a result of a recent merger between Bradford Fastbats and Oakbank Table Tennis Club. Both clubs were previously designated as Premier Clubs at Advanced Level and it is anticipated that with the forthcoming enhanced facilities on the Belle Vue School Campus in Bradford, the new club will be redesignated at the Excellence level.

Oakbank Fastbats currently has 10 teams playing in the Bradford & District Table Tennis Association League and teams entered in the British League and Junior British Leagues.

Current club members include : Vets Helen Shields, Richard Priestley and England Junior Internationals Nicola White, Stephen Dehny, Heather Shutt as well as current England Coach Sally Shutt.

CIPPENHAM OPEN

A MASSIVE entry of 111 players contested the 7th Cippenham Cadet 2-Star Open Table Tennis Championships on 5th October but to the credit of Organiser Robin Farquhar and Referee Mick Strode the competition finished early, writes Graham Trimming.

Fourth seed William Maybanks (Herts) showed his improvement during the summer as he eclipsed the field finishing with three-straight wins over eighth seed Stephen Cooper in the quarters, top seed Bill Deville (Essex) in the semis and sixth seed Peter Winzeler in the final. Winzeler had ended the aspirations of the host club's last two remaining players, William Mitchell in the quarters and Ashley Shaw in the semi-final, that after Shaw had stormed to the first game with a great display of attacking table tennis. Other Cippenham players who made it through the groups

into the competition proper included Prabdeep Panesar and Matthew Tucker.

Cippenham's Sylvana Bielec, the second seed, came back from two games down in the final to level at 2-2 against Rachel Jamieson. However, the top seed from Essex held her nerve and played some glorious table tennis in the final game to finish off the local girl. Cippenham gained further success however in the girls' consolation event which was won in a canter by Katie Rule, the latest player from the Cippenham coaching scheme to show international class promise.

Results:

BS: William Maybanks (He) bt Peter Winzeler (Sy) 7, 9, 9
GS: Rachel Jamieson (E) bt Sylvana Bielec (Bu) 8, 2, -9, -8, 6
BCons: Ryan Collins (Sk) bt Nick Rate (Ca) 7, 9, 7
GCons: Katie Rule (Bu) bt Caroline McNeil (E) 4, 4, 4



ETTA NATIONAL RANKING LIST

TOP OF THE TABLE

1st October 2003 - List 113

Further details please ring Doreen Nightingale 01424 722525

Senior Men			Senior Women			Junior Boys			Cadet Boys			Cadet Girls		
Pos	Name	Rating Flag	Pos	Name	Rating Flag	Pos	Name	Rating Flag	Pos	Name	Rating Flag	Pos	Name	Rating Flag
(1)	1 SYED, Matthew (Bk) (SY.)	4857	(2)	1 WALKER, Georgina (NG.)	4036	(2)	1 BRYANT, Craig (DV.)	4062	(2)	1 DRINKHALL, Paul (CV.)	3919	(1)	1 SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (Ll.)	3486**
(2)	2 BAGGLEY, Andrew (BU.)	4844*	(3)	2 PARKER, Joanna (SY.)	3951	(3)	2 YARNALL, Tim (NP.)	4011	(1)	2 DRINKHALL, Paul (CV.)	3919	(2)	2 WANG, Sarra (E.)	2576**
(3)	3 HERBERT, Gareth (BK.)	4829	(4)	3 LOWER, Helen (ST.)	3944	(4)	3 DRINKHALL, Paul (CV.)	3919	(3)	3 EVANS, Bradley (BU) (NG.)	3746	(3)	3 VICKERS, Emma (DY.)	2137
(4)	4 PERRY, Alex (DY.)	4767	(5)	4 SIBLEY, Kelly (WA.)	3882	(5)	4 KNIGHT, Sharon (Bk.)	3867*	(4)	4 MEADS, David (DU.)	3178	(4)	4 MEADS, David (DU.)	3178
(8)	5 BILLINGTON, Bradley (DY.)	4516	(8)	5 EMBLING, Abigail (E.)	3790	(6)	5 BAKER, Gregory (ST.)	3766	(5)	5 EVANS, Gavin (NG.)	2783	(5)	5 EVANS, Gavin (NG.)	2783
(7)	6 RUSHTON, Andrew (LA.)	4474*	(10)	6 STEWARD, Kate (SO.)	3712**	(7)	6 EVANS, Bradley (BU) (NG.)	3746	(6)	6 REED, Daniel (CV.)	2422	(6)	6 REED, Daniel (CV.)	2422
(10)	7 EDEN, Andrew (LA.)	4348	(13)	7 BAWDEN, Natalie (E.)	3627	(8)	7 BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA.)	3686	(7)	7 REES, Daniel (CV.)	2239	(7)	7 REES, Daniel (CV.)	2239
(13)	8 BRYANT, Craig (DV.)	4062	(14)	8 SPINK, Lauren (NK.)	3572	(9)	8 DENNY, Stephen (Y.)	3459	(8)	8 BARLOW, Ben (YS.)	2051	(8)	8 BARLOW, Ben (YS.)	2051
(14)	9 HOLLAND, John (DY) (E.)	4040	(15)	9 DURRANT, Louise (NG.)	3546	(10)	9 GREGORY, Christopher (SP.)	3407	(9)	9 LEWIS, Christopher (SY.)	2020***	(9)	9 LEWIS, Christopher (SY.)	2020***
(17)	10 YARNALL, Tim (NP.)	4011	(16)	10 SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (Ll.)	3486**	(11)	10 MARPLES, Shaun (DY.)	3324	(10)	10 NICHOLLS, Damien (SP.)	1899	(10)	10 NICHOLLS, Damien (SP.)	1899
(16)	11 CLEMINSON, Peter (E.)	3938	(17)	11 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)	3440	(12)	11 MEADS, David (DU.)	3178	(11)	11 SIMPSON, Mark (DU.)	1886	(11)	11 SIMPSON, Mark (DU.)	1886
(23)	12 DRINKHALL, Paul (CV.)	3919	(19)	12 THORNTON, Lindsey (LA.)	3434***	(13)	12 NOUTCH, Simon (Y.)	3040	(12)	12 REED, Darren (CO.)	1826**	(12)	12 REED, Darren (CO.)	1826**
(20)	13 KENNY, Mathew (Y.)	3893	(20)	13 SMITH, Karen (LE.)	3374	(14)	13 BROWN, Christopher (CO.)	3005	(13)	13 BARNES, Lee (SK.)	1618***	(13)	13 BARNES, Lee (SK.)	1618***
(15)	14 DRINKHALL, Bryn (CV.)	3878	(29)	14 SHORT, Elaine (DV.)	3338	(15)	15 EVANS, Gavin (NG.)	2783	(14)	14 DODDS, Matthew (YS.)	1470	(14)	14 DODDS, Matthew (YS.)	1470
(22)	15 KNIGHT, Darius (SY.)	3867*	(21)	15 CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.)	3338	(16)	16 LALLY, Keiran (E.)	2707	(15)	15 EVANS, Myles (NG.)	1414	(15)	15 EVANS, Myles (NG.)	1414
(24)	16 TAYLOR, Jonathan (LA.)	3858***	(22)	16 DUNNING, Jan (WO.)	3326***	(17)	17 PAGE, Tom (H.)	2659	(16)	16 EVANS, Myles (NG.)	1414	(16)	16 EVANS, Myles (NG.)	1414
(25)	17 BLAKE, Darren (ST.)	3830	(23)	17 PEERS, Clare (CH.)	3275**	(18)	18 LALLY, Keiran (E.)	2707	(17)	17 HURDLEY, Joseph (SP.)	1388	(17)	17 HURDLEY, Joseph (SP.)	1388
(28)	18 SLADEN, Kris (E.)	3800***	(24)	18 WHITE, Nicola (Y.)	3275**	(19)	19 PAGE, Tom (H.)	2659	(18)	18 EVANS, Myles (NG.)	1414	(18)	18 EVANS, Myles (NG.)	1414
(27)	19 BAKER, Gregory (ST.)	3766	(27)	18 HARRIS, Jill (ST.)	3269***	(20)	20 WESTON, Sally (SK.)	3262	(19)	19 HURDLEY, Joseph (SP.)	1388	(19)	19 HURDLEY, Joseph (SP.)	1388
(31)	20 HILTON, John (CH.)	3760	(28)	20 WILSON, Naomi (SO.)	3246	(21)	21 WILSON, Naomi (SO.)	3246	(20)	20 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(20)	20 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(30)	21 VENNEDY, Ritchie (SX.)	3752	(28)	21 WILSON, Naomi (SO.)	3246	(22)	22 COHEN, Michele (AV.)	3230	(21)	21 PILLGRIM, Rachel (WA.)	1239**	(21)	21 PILLGRIM, Rachel (WA.)	1239**
(32)	22 WURAOA, Abdul (K.)	3749	(30)	22 COHEN, Michele (AV.)	3230	(23)	23 KEAST, Lesley (Ll.)	3224	(22)	22 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(22)	22 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(26)	23 EVANS, Bradley (BU) (NG.)	3746	(31)	23 KEAST, Lesley (Ll.)	3224	(33)	23 KEAST, Lesley (Ll.)	3224	(23)	23 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(23)	23 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(33)	24 JAMES, Michael (Y.)	3744***	(32)	24 ROBERTS, Joanna (Y.)	3223***	(33)	24 ROBERTS, Joanna (Y.)	3223***	(24)	24 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(24)	24 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(29)	25 HAMMOND, Eric (Ml.)	3740	(35)	25 BONGERS, Jose (ST.)	3171	(11)	11 MARPLES, Shaun (DY.)	3324	(25)	25 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(25)	25 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(35)	26 GOODALL, Justin (K.)	3686	(35)	26 RAINTON, Rosemary (SX.)	3156	(12)	12 MEADS, David (DU.)	3178	(26)	26 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(26)	26 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(34)	27 BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA.)	3686	(36)	27 HARPER, Sandra (BD.)	3156**	(13)	13 BROWN, Christopher (CO.)	3005	(27)	27 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(27)	27 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(38)	28 DOLDER, Kevin (LA.)	3674	(37)	28 YARDY, Hannah (E.)	3152	(14)	14 LEIGHTON, Andrew (DU.)	2791	(28)	28 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(28)	28 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(36)	29 WHITING, Paul (DV.)	3670	(37)	29 BRISTOW, Angie (K.)	3130	(15)	15 EVANS, Gavin (NG.)	2783	(29)	29 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(29)	29 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(37)	30 PYE, Leeroy (NK.)	3647	(38)	30 LAMBERT, Helen (DV.)	3124	(16)	16 FROST, Adam (DY.)	2764	(30)	30 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(30)	30 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(42)	31 ROGERS, Chris (LE.)	3639	(39)	31 BALDI, Andrea (YS) (Y.)	3119****	(18)	18 MOSS, Richard (Y.)	2764	(31)	31 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(31)	31 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(41)	32 SMITH, Eddie (ND.)	3632	(40)	32 RUOCCO, Shelley (E.)	3118**	(16)	16 LALLY, Keiran (E.)	2707	(32)	32 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(32)	32 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(39)	33 CHARLES, Neil (Ml.)	3612	(41)	33 MOLEY, Judy (GS.)	3100	(21)	21 CARTWRIGHT, Neil (DO.)	2561***	(33)	33 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(33)	33 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(40)	34 MOORE, Adrian (K.)	3605	(38)	34 HOWARD, Alice (CH.)	3096	(22)	22 CARTWRIGHT, Neil (DO.)	2561***	(34)	34 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(34)	34 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(43)	35 MARSHALL, Peter (Y.)	3597****	(35)	35 BLOOD, Trudie (SP.)	3093	(24)	24 KODICEK, Jacob (CO.)	2449**	(35)	35 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(35)	35 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(44)	36 CHAN, Michael (SY.)	3581***	(42)	36 MALTBY, Margaret (NP.)	3060***	(24)	24 KODICEK, Jacob (CO.)	2449**	(36)	36 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(36)	36 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(51)	37 KENNEDY, Joe (K) (E.)	3569	(43)	37 WANG, Lucy (E.)	3043****	(23)	23 MAUTHOUR, Umaid (E.)	2441	(37)	37 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(37)	37 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(38)	38 BEERLING, Stephen (K.)	3537	(44)	38 PEARCE, Diane (K.)	3038***	(34)	34 WOODHEAD, Andrew (Y.)	2423	(38)	38 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(38)	38 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(47)	39 WILKINSON, Andrew (ND.)	3533***	(45)	39 SHIELDS, Helen (Y.)	3035**	(25)	25 REED, Daniel (CV.)	2422	(39)	39 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(39)	39 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(45)	40 JOHNS, Brian (CH.)	3519	(46)	40 DURHAM, Jane (CV.)	3034	(28)	28 LEMON, Robert (SY.)	2384	(40)	40 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(40)	40 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(50)	41 SMITH, Mark Richard (Y.)	3518	(47)	41 LLOYD, Gemma (CH.)	3029	(26)	26 ARMSTRONG, Marc (Ml.)	2290*	(41)	41 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(41)	41 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(52)	42 ECKERSLEY, Nigel (SX.)	3514	(51)	42 HORSNELL, Sarah (Ml.)	3019	(27)	27 HALLING, Tony (E.)	2243	(42)	42 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(42)	42 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(53)	43 BARR, David (BK.)	3488	(49)	43 SIMPSON, Linda (Y.)	3007	(29)	29 REES, Daniel (CV.)	2239	(43)	43 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(43)	43 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(48)	44 PAPANTONIOU, Costas (Ml.)	3482	(46)	45 BUOY, Brenda (LA.)	2985	(30)	30 MILTON, James (BU.)	2213**	(44)	44 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(44)	44 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(55)	45 HUTCHINGS, Paul (LA.)	3480**	(46)	46 MARLING, Samantha (Ml.)	2982	(33)	33 SHARP, Evan (SV.)	2180****	(45)	45 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(45)	45 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(46)	46 NEIL, Lee (NG.)	3477	(55)	47 BROWN, Grace (E.)	2951	(39)	39 CANNON, Samuel (Ml.)	2172	(46)	46 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(46)	46 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(63)	48 GREEN, Mark (NG.)	3464	(76)	48 LANGFORD, Clare (CH.)	2946	(32)	32 ROBERTS, Stephen (YS.)	2153	(47)	47 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(47)	47 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(54)	49 TENDLER, Gary (E.)	3464	(52)	49 BAWDEN, Marilyn (E.)	2935	(37)	35 WESLEY, Richard (NG.)	2065**	(48)	48 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(48)	48 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(58)	50 WILLIAMS, Keith (LA.)	3464	(58)	50 DEARING, Emily (Y.)	2918****	(42)	42 PANG, Dickson (NP.)	2057	(49)	49 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(49)	49 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(49)	51 DENNY, Stephen (Y.)	3459	(63)	51 SEYMOUR, Tamar (OX.)	2904	(41)	41 BARLOW, Ben (YS.)	2051	(50)	50 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(50)	50 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(62)	52 MARSDEN, Michael (DU.)	3453	(57)	52 GRAHAM, Cherith (LA.)	2904	(38)	38 YEUNG, Hamish (BD.)	2044	(51)	51 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(51)	51 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(65)	53 ADAMS, Martin (BK.)	3443	(59)	53 HARRISON, Jennifer (E.)	2901	(40)	40 ROBERTSON, Shaun (SY.)	1945	(52)	52 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(52)	52 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(64)	54 BROWN, Mark (K.)	3439	(56)	54 RIDER, Sandra (Y.)	2898	(43)	43 NICHOLLS, Damien (SP.)	1899	(53)	53 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(53)	53 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(75)	55 BAILEY, Steven (CV.)	3436	(60)	55 KING, Sheila (SX.)	2898	(49)	49 SIMPSON, Mark (DU.)	1886	(54)	54 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(54)	54 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(92)	56 GODDOLD, David (DU.)	3428	(65)	56 COGGON, Sara (HE.)	2897	(45)	45 REED, Darren (CO.)	1826**	(55)	55 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(55)	55 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(99)	57 HORSFIELD, Stephen (YS.)	3416	(54)	57 WILSON, Claire (DU.)	2888	(46)	46 WHITEHORN, James (DO.)	1749***	(56)	56 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(56)	56 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(60)	58 GREGORY, Christopher (SP.)	3407	(72)	58 DENNETT, Elizabeth (CH.)	2888	(47)	47 ROBINSON, Dorian (SY.)	1717***	(57)	57 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(57)	57 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(73)	59 ATKINSON, David (CA.)	3400	(62)	60 PERRY, Penny (DV.)	2877***	(45)	45 ROBINSON, Dorian (SY.)	1717***	(58)	58 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(58)	58 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(98)	60 CARTHY, Clive (E.)	3383	(53)	61 INGHAM, Katy (CH.)	2865	(56)	46 WILSON, Andrew (CV.)	1671	(59)	59 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(59)	59 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(66)	61 WHITEEMAN, James (DV.)	3379***	(81)	62 NOLAN, Terri-Anne (CH.)	2858	(51)	47 CRAWFORD, Jonathan (CU.)	1656	(60)	60 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(60)	60 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(72)	62 HORSFIELD, Andrew (YS) (Y.)	3363	(64)	63 BENNETT, Teresa (SX.)	2854***	(50)	48 DEWHURST, Paul (H.)	1650	(61)	61 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(61)	61 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(63)	63 CUNNINGHAM, Andy (K.)	3358	(64)	64 VAJDI, Carmen (SY.)	2851	(48)	49 BARNES, Lee (SK.)	1618***	(62)	62 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(62)	62 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(77)	64 BEADSLY, Kevin (Y.)	3356	(75)	65 STEEDMAN, Sarah (SX.)	2841	(69)	50 MACLEOD, Gavin (Ll.)	1572	(63)	63 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(63)	63 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(69)	65 BARTRAM, Peter (SX.)	3354	(66)	66 WEIL, Emma (E.)	2839	(71)	67 FLOWERDAU, Anne (E.)	2811***	(64)	64 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(64)	64 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(61)	66 HORNER, Daniel (CH.)	3339	(78)	67 GELDER, Shirley (DU.)	2829	(71)	67 FLOWERDAU, Anne (E.)	2811***	(65)	65 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(65)	65 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(90)	67 JONAH, Jerome (K.)	3338	(71)	71 PEERS, Clare (CH.)	3275**	(88)	69 BROOKS, Diane (SY.)	2809	(66)	66 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**	(66)	66 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU.)	1295**
(70)	68 ZUROWSKI, Darek (Ml.)	3338**	(72)	72 HALES, Linda (DO.)	28									



THE NEW BATTs SUPER LEAGUE

Neil Brierley reports on the first round of matches held at BATTs, Harlow in their new Super League.

"It's Tuesday 21st October 2003 and I'm waiting at Harlow Town Station to collect Abdul Wuraola for the first round of Super League matches, a new high-tech singles League with around £1,440 prize money for the winner and £800 for second place. I have to pinch myself to believe that Abdul, ranked 22 in England, is only seeded to get the sixth and last share of the prize money.

As we drive to BATTs, I start wondering if Welsh no 1 and the overall Grand Prix winner for the last two years, Ryan Jenkins, will really make the trip from Cardiff, and will England no 6 Terry Young travel over from Surrey. I'm in "dreamland" when I enter our friendly club and see Ryan and Terry chatting away and about to warm up.

What next, I think, maybe Carl Preat will have come along to watch! Well, as the picture proves, I kid you not, the former European Junior Champion and several times conqueror of Jan-Ove Waldner, had come along to see what all the fuss was about.

If he had any doubts, I don't think he was too disappointed. The cream did rise to the top and the best eight players in the field of 32 duly won their three singles. Yet the story of the night was the thrilling way in which many of the lower-ranked players stretched them all the way. Clive Carthy had a magnificent game with England No. 11 John Holland

and only bowed out after holding game points in every game. Costas Papanoniou led 10-8 in the fourth end against Ryan Jenkins before losing 12-10 and Gary Tendler fought bravely before losing to Terry Young in four.

Clive and Gary were not the only Essex players to trouble their more celebrated opponents. Peter Radford only lost 12-10 in the fifth to Peter Cleminson, the England no. 13, whilst Ayo Ademakinwa, fresh from his victory over England no. 12 Bryn Drinkhall (Cleveland) at the Sussex Grand Prix found Neil Charles and Colin Carslake too strong on the night.

In summary, eight players won all three matches, Ryan Jenkins, Terry Young, Peter Cleminson, Neil Charles, John Holland, Gergely Urban, Abdul Wuraola and Joe Kennedy, whilst Gary Tendler, Dave Randall, Colin Carslake, Roland Zaubmayr, Clive Carthy, Mark Romano, Steve Rand and Keith Lesser all picked up two wins. Note the strong representation of Essex players in the band of players who won twice.

Admission is free and the next rounds of matches will take place on Tuesdays 04 November 2003, 18 November 2003, 02 December 2003 and 16 December 2003.

And finally I am sure Carl will forgive us our small slice of artistic licence. He had been practising during the day with Ryan and Terry and generously agreed to come along to watch in the evening".

NATIONAL TEAM FINALS

LIVERPOOL lifted two titles at the National Team Championship Finals, held at Halewood Leisure Centre, Knowsley, supported by Knowsley Council.

Their women's side of Alice Howard, Cherith Graham, Annabelle Sorrentino and Clara Howard beat Wirral (the runners-up) 5-4, North Herts 5-3, and Bromley 5-3 to take the Rose Bowl - replacing Wolverhampton, who had been champions for 16 years! - while their veteran men Paul Hutchings, Keith Williams, John Rankin and Chris Ford, triumphed in the Alec Brook Trophy competition, beating Thames Valley the runners-up 5-1.

NOTTINGHAM won The Wilmott Cup, which ended with 3 teams on level points, a count-back on games revealed that Nottingham had slightly better average, with Liverpool second and West Middlesex third.

CIPPENHAM, Slough: Gemma Chapman, Sue Hayes and Jane Dickens, retained the Gainsford Cup, with Bath Street, Liverpool runners-up.

DARLINGTON Boys and Girls teams won a trophy each when David Meads, Mark Simpson and Chris Close won the Leach Cup, whilst the Girls, Claire Wilson, Stephanie Donnelly and Joanne Meads retained the Bromfield Cup.

NORFOLK County Council: Paul Cicchelli, Martin Gray and Steve Annison, broke the five year run of the London Progress Club in securing, just, the Ormesby Cup, with successes over Merrow (Guildford), the runners-up, 5-4.

PLYMOUTH boys: Chris Brown, Jacob Kodicek and Darren Reed, won the junior boys' Carter Cup, defeating holders Chesterfield the runners-up, 5-3,

BRADFORD Helen Shields, Sandra Rider, Carol Judson and Louvin Smith, (pictured below) beat the holders North Herts 5-4, to gain the veteran women's Pat Archdale Cup.



ANDREW WOULD LIKE TO ACHIEVE MAJOR HONOURS

UPON being offered the opportunity to write an article on Andrew, I was conscious of being accused of nepotism. When I asked Andrew about his future ambitions it was no surprise to me that he wanted to achieve major honours for England, including medal successes at future Olympic and World Championships. What did come as a surprise, however, is that he would prefer to play for his own Club Greenleys of Milton Keynes in the British League. In order to do that, however, and win major honours for England, the British League would have to be on a par with the Swedish and German Leagues, where it is possible to play as a professional.

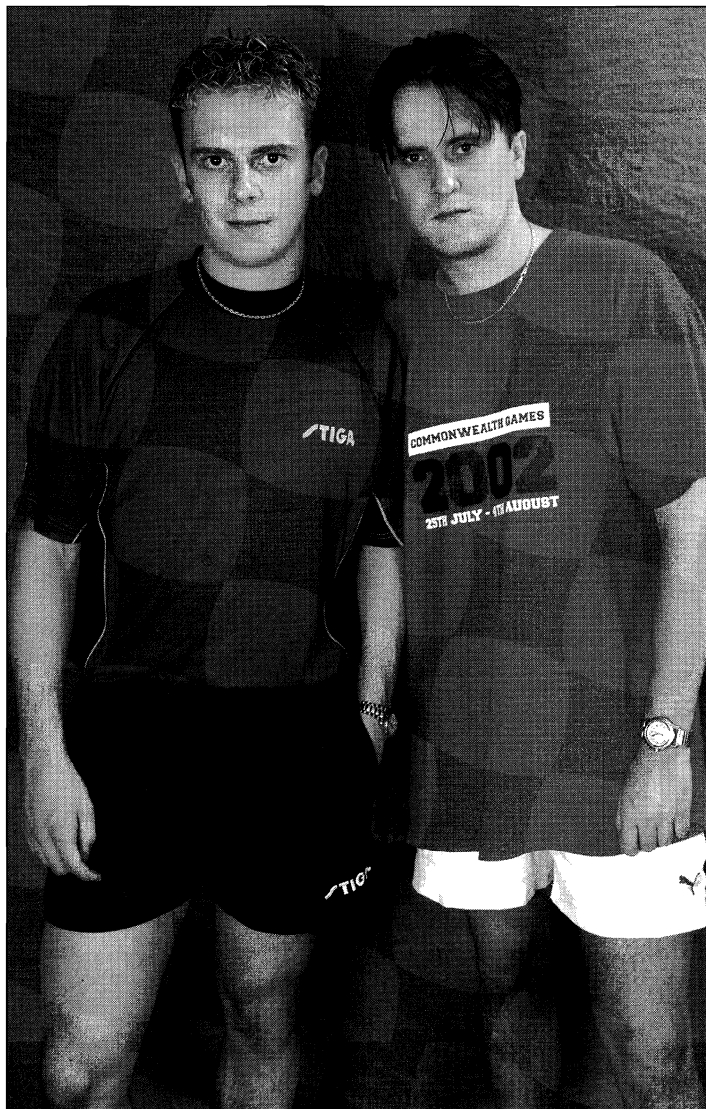
Andrew's admission that he would love to represent an English Club, I found surprising until it suddenly occurred to me that he has been representing foreign Clubs for seven years and is still only 20! Initially, as a 13 year old, he represented a Brussels based Club and thus becoming the youngest player to sign on professional terms in a foreign National League. A year earlier, Andrew enjoyed the perfect situation when he represented Greenleys of Milton Keynes (an off-shoot of Greenleys TTC) in the 3rd Division of the British League. Unfortunately, in order to maximise his potential as a player, he has since had to compete in foreign leagues, not simply because of the level of play and the need to earn a livelihood but also in order to be part of practice groups where he could be regularly stretched.

Following his spell in Belgium, Andrew has competed in the German Bundesliga and the Elite Division of the Swedish National League. Andrew has often told me how much the experience in these leagues has helped his game and his performances for England.

It occurs to me now just how much the sport in England could benefit if their top players could still maximise their potential while competing in (their own) British League and how much in turn this could help England to be a major force in Table Tennis.

Everybody's dream is to play for their country and Andrew has told me on many occasions how satisfying it is. He has regularly represented England at Junior and Senior level and played his role in helping England retain its status in the top 16 nations in Europe at the recent European Championships in Italy. Undoubtedly his best result to date came in the singles event when he defeated the 2000 European Champion Peter Karlsson (World No.11) arguably the best player in Europe.

In his Table Tennis career so far, winning two Gold Medals for England at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester (Team and Mens Doubles) are the highlights followed closely by



ANDREW BAGGALEY (left) and his brother STEPHEN

winning the English Senior National title at the age of (just) 19 making him the youngest English Senior Champion for 40 years. Prior to that Andrew made history by becoming the youngest British Home Countries Singles Champion at 15 (regarded by many as the unofficial British title) and at 16 beat Duan Yong Jun in the Team final of the Commonwealth Championships against Singapore to help England win a Gold medal and stun the partisan Singaporean crowd. Duan Young Jun was the Singapore No1 at the time and recently won the Commonwealth Masters event in England.

An old table in our back garden was Andrew's starting point in Table Tennis. As all our family play the sport, it was natural, with bats and balls lying around that Andrew would like to try his hand at it. As a 5 year old, our mother, Yvonne played with him for hours on

end and even at such a young age an amazing focus and high levels of concentration was noticeable.

Yvonne and Stuart (our father) and our sister Esther, all competed in the local league and Esther and myself became Buckinghamshire County Champions. Our background in the sport certainly helped Andrew on his way.

Although, Andrew enjoyed Table Tennis in those days he spent as much time playing Tennis, winning a number of VW National Tournaments, including the Sheffield Open at the tender age of ten. It was in Table Tennis, however, that he went on to win a record breaking 23 National Junior titles. His other love outside the Table Tennis arena is music. He is a keen singer/guitarist and only recently played with his band at the Thames Valley Police Annual Party playing to a packed audience. The band came on last at 11.30 pm before Andrew

caught an early morning flight to compete in a Swedish National League match! Not normally good preparation but as a one off (and for a good cause) was still able to win his matches comfortably.

During Andrew's career so far, he has competed in six European Youth Championships winning medals at both Junior and Cadet levels, and has been ranked No 1 at every age group from a ten year old culminating in becoming the sports youngest Senior No 1 in twenty years earlier this year.

During the last year Andrew has received many honours including meeting Prime Minister Mr Tony Blair in London, was made the youngest ever Patron of the Sports Aid Foundation (which was covered by TV) and was given a Civic reception in the company of the Mayor of Milton Keynes to honour his achievements at the Commonwealth Games (covered by TV). Furthermore, Andrew attended the BBC Sports Personality of the Year awards.

I have tried to publicise Andrew's success as much as possible with the hope that it would benefit his career and create more interest in our sport. Articles have appeared in the Sun, The News of the World, The Times, The Sunday Times, The Express, The Mail, The Daily Mirror, The Independent and The Star. Andrew has had plenty of TV / Radio coverage, including two appearance on "Blue Peter", "Under the Moon" and "They Think It's All Over".

Although it is not my brief to handle the England team, I felt it was particularly important that the entire team appear on "They Think It's All Over" (BBC1). Sadly, in my view, England's team Gold Medal success was not sufficiently capitalised upon by English Table Tennis.

The new administration have a massive job on their hands and all factions of the sport should do their utmost to stem the downward spiral of membership. It is in everybody's best interest that we all pull together.

It will take a combination of greatly increased publicity to back a well thought out strategy if the new administration are to stem the membership decline. They will need courage, tenacity and vision if they are to succeed. Which I trust they will. Both Andrew and myself will do all we can to help English Table Tennis.

Written by Stephen Baggailey (Andrew's brother and Personal / Professional Coach)

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

1st-2nd	County Championships Junior Premier (1)	Cippenham
2nd	Cirencester 1 Star U13/U15	
6th-9th	ITTF Pro Tour German Open	Bremen
8th	Junior National League (1)	
8th-9th	County Championships: Senior Premier (1) Veterans Premier (1)	BATTS, Essex Ashford, Middx
9th	Stiga 3 Star Cadet & Junior GP	
13th-16th	ITTF Pro Tour Danish Open	Aarhus
15th	Chandlers Cadet & Junior 1 Star	
15th-16th	Bath Butterfly Grand Prix	Bath
15th-16th	Stockton-on-Tees Cadet/Junior 4 Star	
20th-23rd	ITTF Pro Tour Swedish Open	Vasteras
22nd-23rd	Regional Trials	
22nd-23rd	British League (2) Premier Division	
22nd-23rd	Veterans British League (1)	Stoke-on-Trent
22nd-23rd	Veterans British Feeder League (1)	Halifax
27th-30th	European Olympic Singles Qualification Tournament	Luxembourg
29th-30th	Stiga Blackpool Cadet & Junior 4 Star	
29th-30th	Stratford Butterfly Grand Prix	Stratford-on-Avon
29th-30th	VETTS Eastern Masters	Norwich
29th-30th	Cadet & Junior Regional Trials	Local Sports Centres
30th	Cirencester U11/U13 1 Star	

DECEMBER

6th	County Championships (3) Cadet, Junior, Senior & Veterans	
7th	Stiga 3 Star Cadet & Junior GP	
7th	Cippenham Senior 2 Star Banded	
11th-14th	ITTF Pro Tour Finals	Guangzhou, China
13th-14th	British League Weekend (2)	
14th	Cadet & Junior National League	
14th-21st	Junior World Championships	Santiago, Chile
17th-19th	Womens World Cup	Hong Kong
20th	Chesham Junior 2 Star	
20th-21st	Cheshire 2 Star Satellite Grand Prix	Knutsford
20th-21st	Regional Training	
27th	Nima U12/U15 2 Star Open	
28th	Nima Junior 2 Star Open	
28th	Chesham U13/U15/U16 2 Star	
30th	Chesham Junior 2 Star	

TABLE TENNIS NEWS 2003/2004 SEASON COPY DATES

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

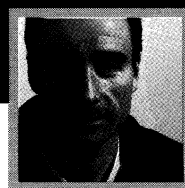
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