

# Table Tennis NEWS



## Georgina Walker star of Novi Sad singles

Page 10-13

**ALAN SHERWOOD  
ONE OF THE GAMES  
GREATEST INNOVATORS  
HAS DIED**

TRIBUTE PAGES 18 & 19



**ALEX PERRY  
WINNER OF THE  
LIVERPOOL GRAND PRIX**

PAGES 20 & 21





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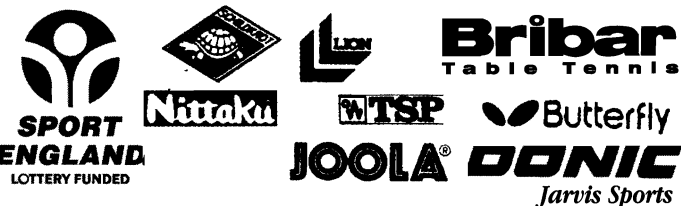
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**FRONT COVER MAIN PHOTOGRAPH**  
GEORGINA WALKER WHO WAS THE STAR OF THE  
SINGLES EVENT, AT THE EUROPEAN YOUTHS

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



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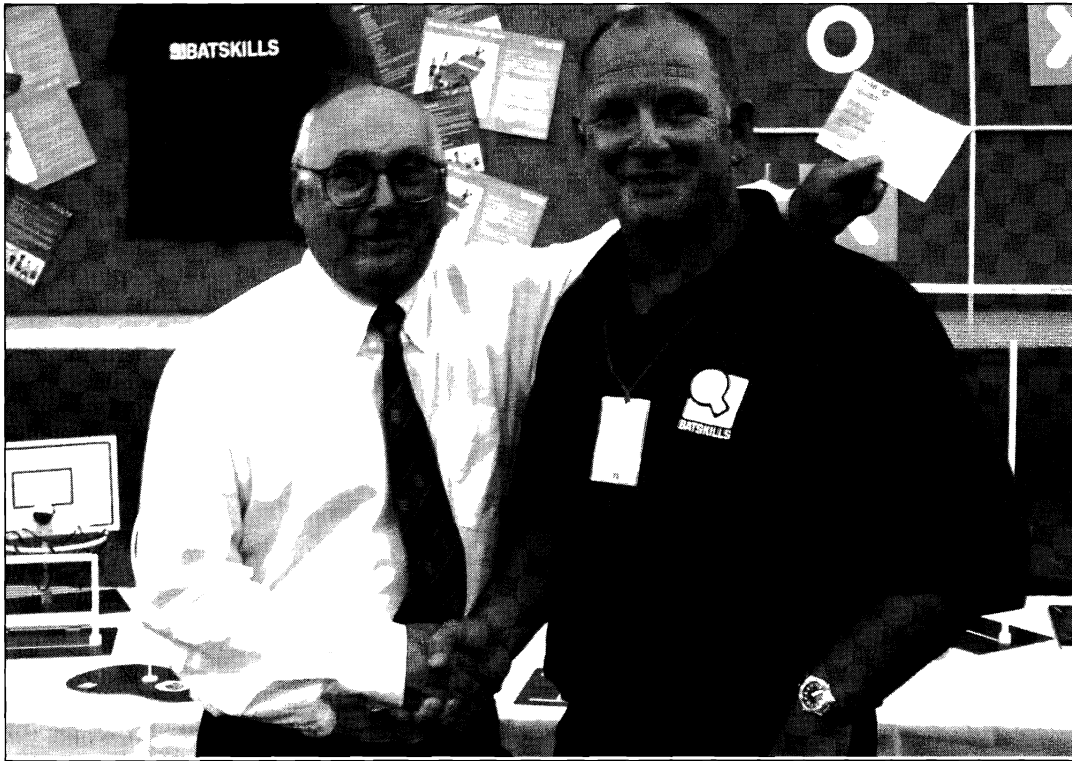
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We ask all members of the association to support the above companies who are in turn supporting table tennis.

# ALEX AT BATSKILLS



**NEW ETTA CHAIRMAN ALEX MURDOCH** is pictured at *The Crucible* when **Batskills PETER AUSTON** presented a cheque to the ETTA for £500.

## MBE FOR PAUL HOOLEY

IN this year's Birthday Honours list Her Majesty the Queen graciously appointed Paul Hooley, to be a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE).

The award has been given to Paul for his many years of service to the community in Bedford where he is a past Mayor, Magistrate, Tax Commissioner' School Governor and where he continues to be involved with numerous charities and other voluntary causes.

Paul has lived in Mursley for the

past two years where he has also involved himself in community service as a Parish Councillor, member of the Village Hall Committee and founding and running the Mursley, Swanbourne and Little Horwood Table Tennis Club which has already attracted nearly 100 local players.

He is also well known in Milton Keynes, Buckingham, Bedford and wider table tennis circles.

## MARK DARE APPOINTED ETTA RDO FOR THE EASTERN REGION

We are please to advise that Mark Dare has been appointed ETTA Development Officer for the Eastern Region. He took up his position on 14th July 2003 and is based at Thorpe St Andrew High School in

## WOODY'S World

WELCOME to a brand new season with a brand new management team, which is introduced by our new chairman Alex Murdoch on pages 5 and 6.

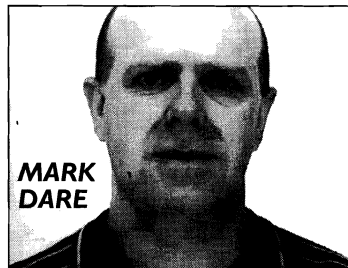
The TTN Extra insert is no longer being published, due to Ken Muhr's departure to pastures new, and the post ceasing to exist.

'County Notes' will now be included into the main magazine, plus as much as can be included in our super new look 40 page magazine.

On behalf of TTN I wish Ken the best of luck with his new chosen career, and thank him on behalf of our readership for his past efforts during his time at Hastings as the ETTA Information Officer.

Ken will not be totally lost to table tennis as he intends to carry on coaching, and I'm sure that he will be contributing articles for consideration, his first is a reader's letter, see 'Mailbox' on page 7.

*John Wood*



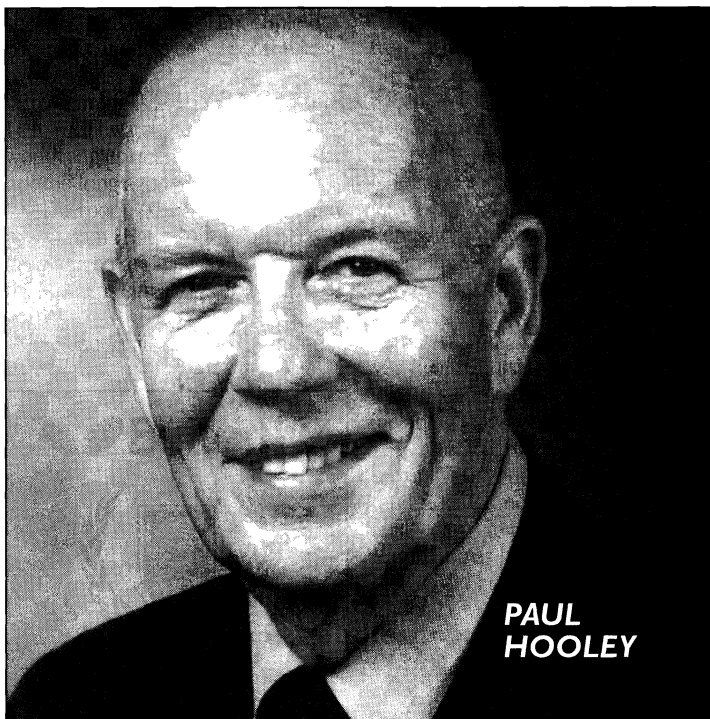
**MARK DARE**

Norwich.

Mark is a player with 25 years experience of local league table tennis in and around the Hertfordshire area and has also represented Hertfordshire at county level. For the past few years he has concentrated more on the development and coaching side of Table Tennis.

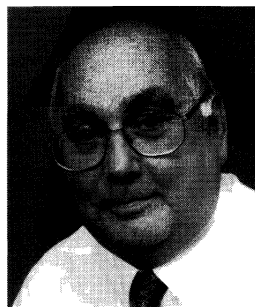
Mark says "I am looking forward to the challenge ahead and meeting and working with players, coaches and administrators at Clubs and Leagues within the Eastern Region".

Mark can be reached on 07971 075598 or by e-mail [markdare.etta@freeuk.com](mailto:markdare.etta@freeuk.com).



**PAUL HOOLEY**

**PLEASE NOTE**  
WOULD 'COUNTY NOTES'  
CORRESPONDANTS PLEASE CONTINUE TO  
SEND YOUR COPY AND PHOTOGRAPHS TO  
LINDSAY SHIPP AT HASTINGS HEAD OFFICE



# THE START OF A NEW ERA

You will see a profile of the ETTA Management team on the next page with photos so you can recognise the faces behind the names. They are:

Martin Clark.	Hon. Treasurer
Mike Johns.	Deputy Chairman & Vice Chairman Selection
John Dignum.	Vice Chairman Administration
Jim Beckley.	Vice Chairman Public Relations
Peter Bradley.	Vice Chairman Competitions
Sandra Deaton	Vice Chairman Marketing
Phil Goulding.	Vice Chairman Development
Gail McCulloch	Vice Chairman Teaching and Training
Di Jermyrn.	Vice Chairman without Departmental Responsibility.

**WE are at the start of a new era for table tennis and if we all work together we shall secure table tennis in the minds and hearts of people in England and generate a better start for those young people who are our future.**

This being my first article for the magazine as Chairman, I hope the following information is of interest and use to you.

## TABLE TENNIS NEWS

You will see in this first issue some changes in particular the front cover and the pages are all of the same quality. During the coming issues we shall be upgrading and modernising the layout adding more articles which will give you an insight into the ETTA organisation and features from players, coaches and local club and league officials.

We are reviewing also the costing of the magazine, the free issue procedure and an incentive programme to clubs and leagues to increase its circulation.

We hope that by the end of the season you will like all the changes and TTN will become the house magazine of our sport in England.

John Wood the Editor and Jim Beckley Vice Chairman Public Relations are more than happy to listen to any suggestions and ideas you have, and look forward to your articles and letters.

Please help us all by getting your friends to subscribe to the magazine

## CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER

The first one was set out in September if you did not receive a copy and want to be on the mailing list please contact the office.

## CONTINENTAL MASTERS AT THE CRUCIBLE

I do understand that the event took place two months ago but we have run a feature on it in this issue as it was so successful and those of you who missed it on television will at least get some background.

## WEBSITE

Details regarding its implementation and operation will be available in the very near future.

## ACADEMY

We have had to make a decision to close the Academy. This was made due to financial constraints and our inability to care for the young players located at Nottingham within the Government guidelines on childcare. A programme

has been established to cover training for the Sport England six nominated players and we shall be expanding our base of coaching etc for many more potential players via newly established Performance Centres.

## 11UP

I await the outcome of how this change in scoring will impact the membership this season when leagues complete and return their registration forms. Despite efforts to reduce the possibility of mass disaffiliation I am sure we shall see some small reduction in our affiliated players base.

## COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The first Management meeting of the new team took place in August and initial changes were made to the committee structure. This has meant a consolidation and reduction in these committees of over 20%. This will not impact our goals for the sport but is part of our modernisation process in line with my stated election aims and with a long-term process of modernisation required of National Governing Bodies by Sport England.

## AROUND THE CLUBS AND LEAGUES

I have made many visits during the last two months to leagues, clubs and tournaments. Talking to the players, officials and parents continues to help Management in their role of communications to the membership and new ideas and inputs are regularly expressed.

## RANKING SYSTEM

Full details will be included in TTN this year and the data sent out to the membership.

## THE FUTURE

With plans in place and future initiatives being reviewed the road ahead is getting clearer. The proposed longer term improvements in TTN, a new structure of Performance Centres being set up around the country, change in the Ranking list, regular newsletters are set to improve communications. Participation at events by our top players, modernisation of our organisation, modified and improved regional strategy and changes in our membership structure, are in the pipeline.

Improvements in our Coaching procedures, development incentives, closer links with the schools organisation, more specialised sports colleges playing TT, all of these and others will help our sport and make it more player friendly.

We have a 4-year development plan to generate for Sport England before the end of this year. This will be our sports first plan since 1997 and future funding is dependant upon it.

Sport England indicate that despite us not meeting the required levels in World Class Performance nor reaching the levels required from our own income generation we still have an opportunity to get more funding from April 2004 albeit it is likely to be at lower levels than in the past.

You can be assured that the plan will be presented on time and encompass all the needs and areas of table tennis in England. We shall of course continue to lobby the governmental bodies for our sport to be recognised as making a significant contribution to "Sport for All" in England and that our sport covers all aspects of the various governmental policies in this regard.

Our goal and strategy will be to START players in the sport. Help them to STAY playing Table Tennis and to ensure that England SUCCEED internationally.

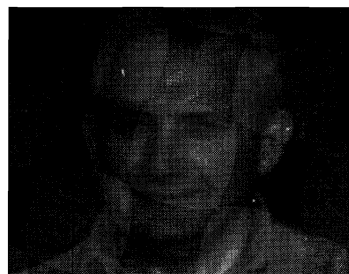
Please get in touch with me if you have any questions.

*Alex Murdoch, ETTA Chairman*

# MEET THE NEW TEAM



**Pictured above are (l. to r.) MARTIN CLARK Hon. Treasurer, ALEX MURDOCH Chairman, and MIKE JOHNS Deputy Chairman & Vice Chairman Selection**



**JOHN DIGNUM - Vice Chairman Administration**

I HAVE worked to promote table tennis in various ways for the last 40 years at local, national and international level. I have served on club and town committees for most of those years and more recently have been involved in ETTA committees and assisting in the running of national and international events.

For the last 6 years and currently, I chair our league district development group and firmly believe that the future of our and many other sports, is clearly and simply down to 'recruiting' young people to play, officiate and administer the sport. Table Tennis also is in urgent need of a young national 'hero', in the mould of a David Beckham, Paula Radcliffe, Jonathan Edwards or even our own Chester Barnes.

Although my role as Vice Chairman (Administration) may seem to be a background role, I place huge importance on running the ETTA's affairs in an efficient, timely and cost effective manner and I will be working closely with my colleagues to achieve that and hopefully 'make a difference'. However, I also hope to assist and influence my colleagues in the development of our sport, to increase participation at all levels and to raise the profile with Government, Education, Sport England and other bodies, to ensure adequate support and funding for table tennis in the 21st century.

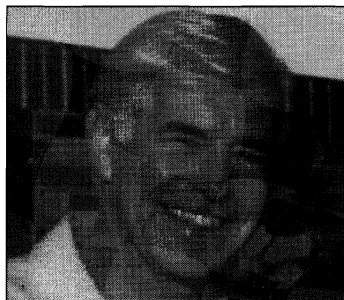
**MIKE JOHNS - Vice Chairman Selection**

I have been elected to the position of Vice Chairman of Selection at a very difficult time. With severe budget cuts to our World Class Performance programme it proved necessary to close down the academy. In spite of this setback I still have a very positive view of the future.

I would like to see the national team back where it was 15 years ago - in the world's top 5, with our leading players vying for medals at international events. To do this I believe we have to encourage our top players to play regularly in this country, giving those coming up the opportunity to both

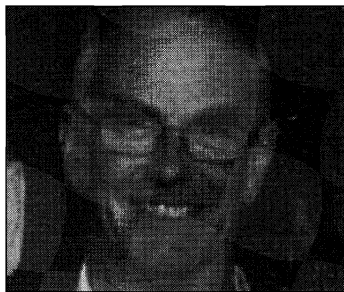
watch and play against them. We also have to spread our net wider. The Academy catered for only a very small number of players. By setting up High Performance Centres throughout the country more promising player's will have the opportunity to reach their full potential and hopefully this will encourage more of them to stay in the game when they leave the junior ranks.

**JIM BECKLEY - Vice Chairman Public Relations**



COMMUNICATION is the lifeblood of any organisation including the ETTA. But its a massive job to keep in touch with 30,000 members. League table tennis is where most of us start playing and will probably finish, the grass roots of our sport is that important. So over the next few months my colleagues and I will be putting plans together to make sure the vast majority of the membership is kept better informed.

**PETER BRADLEY - Vice Chairman Competitions**



IT will take time for me to get to grips with the requirements of all the committees but, hopefully, we can all work together to make our sport even more attractive to the players. You will notice a change in the Ranking Scheme during the coming season starting early in the New Year. I would like to bring about a change in the County Championship format. Several divisions now play over 2 or 3 weekends and I would like to see this extended to all

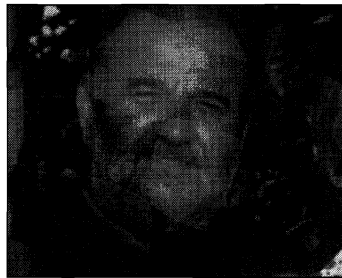
divisions. This would help to free some dates in an already crowded calendar. I would also like to standardise the rules & regulations for all the British Leagues so that they are competing in the same way. I know that it is difficult to get new teams into these leagues and I must try to find ways to overcome this problem. I hope that you will give me the time to achieve this. Your ideas on these and any other competition matters would be appreciated.

**SANDRA DEATON - Vice Chairman Marketing**



THE Marketing and Sponsorship Department is responsible for a number of facets of the Association. The main work involves the introduction and organisation of all the events held throughout the calendar. The establishment of these events involves the sourcing of venues, finance, officials, volunteers and the coordination of all the organisation. The Department also has this level of responsibility for all International events run in this Country. Another major facet of this Department is to source any possible sponsorship which can be introduced into the Association in to enhance, development and performance at all levels. This is along side the continual work undertaken to introduce new promotional events that will be of spectacular interest to the media in to lift the overall profile of the sport.

**Phil Goulding - Vice Chairman Development**



My greatest interest is in developing 'grass roots' Table Tennis. It is very important to the future of Table Tennis:

- That as many people as possible are offered the opportunity to participate in the sport at whatever level they choose within their capabilities.
- That all players have the opportunity to become affiliated to the ETTA and gain access to a developing package of benefits.
- That there is an increase in the number of volunteers in all roles within the sport and that they are provided with greater support and increased opportunities to develop their skills and qualifications.
- That where possible present facilities are improved and new facilities are developed within the Premiere Club model to achieve wider participation in Table Tennis at every level.
- That the Development Department staff have an essential part to play in helping and supporting individuals, clubs and leagues in all aspects of their development.
- That financial self sufficiency and sustainability becomes a goal for all aspects of the Table Tennis community and especially the ETTA.



**GAIL McCULLOCH - Vice Chairman Teaching & Training**

MY aim is to get more people qualified as coaches, umpires, referee's and tournament organisers. Coaching is close to my heart and with Styn Kyst Hansen spending a good percentage of his time improving the knowledge and technique of our coaches throughout the country, I can see a bright future.

I also want to make sure that the education of our volunteers is not used as a profit making exercise and that those taking qualifications are charged fairly.



**DI JERMYN**

"I discovered table tennis at the age of thirty and, in my second year playing, became secretary of my local league, progressing via County administration, to National administration in 1997.

My aim for our sport in the near future is to see individual affiliation for ALL players, with benefits for all in return. We must raise more revenue ourselves to survive."

# POSTBAG

## TWO A SIDE LEAGUES

I WAS interested in John Prean's recent comments (under Isle of Wight news) that two a side leagues were the way to halt the decline in membership but that it would be difficult to get existing players to agree.

In 1997 Leamington League got over this problem by introducing a two a side league alongside the existing three a side. Both leagues start at 7.15pm but because two a side matches are only five sets they finish at around 9pm. In that time a player will have played two singles and a doubles, as opposed to three singles and perhaps a doubles in three a side.

Our experience is that there is considerable demand for two a side table tennis. In its first season this was just a single six team division but it has grown steadily to 22 two a side teams for the coming season. Over the same period Leamington has increased from 48 to 54 teams overall.

In its first season the two a side league was made up almost entirely of juniors. However the number of adults has gradually increased to around 50%. About a third of the two a side teams are wholly adult, a third wholly junior and a third mixed.

Originally some of the two a side teams were made up of players who had transferred from three a side. However players joining now are generally new to table tennis. After a couple of seasons some two a side players transfer to three a side but this is because the standard in three a side is higher at present rather than any dissatisfaction with the two a side format.

Interestingly one of the first youngsters to join the two a side league was Kelly Sibley who now plays for England. Kelly was then about nine and I doubt it would have been feasible for her to join the three a side league which sometimes went on till after 11pm on a weekday evening.

*Estyn Williams*

*Gen. Sec. Leamington & Dist. TTA*

## NO ONE IS INDISPENSABLE

Whilst I feel that the efforts of the previous ETTA management led by

Alan Ransome in keeping alive and developing English table tennis were not adequately recognised, I equally feel that we must give our full support to the new team of Alex Murdoch in giving their best for our sport.

No one is indispensable, and media-wise the ETTA will get by without me (as Information Officer). For the time being John Woodford will continue to provide in the Daily Telegraph the only regular national news coverage (just who will take his place when he retires?), while the multi-talented Matthew Syed will hopefully go on producing high profile features for The Times, as well as being the force behind occasional and hugely successful BBC televised events such as the Ocean International Masters – let us pray he stays loyal to table tennis! But that is almost the limit of national exposure we can realistically expect. The new Vice Chairman for Public Relations, Jim Beckley, a media professional but in table tennis a volunteer, will struggle to make much impact nationally when I, with more time, had great difficulty improving coverage, although indirectly I did have a bigger influence than most people realise.

However, it is possible to control and improve our internal publicity. Where my absence might be most be noticed will probably be in (the lack of) tournament reports, in part in Table Tennis News (though John Woodford and John Wood contribute copy), but more significantly, on the website(s). But if readers could accept reports that don't claim to be entirely neutral or objective, then I think this problem could be partly addressed by asking participating players, parents or coaches to write them. Of course such articles will be written from specific perspectives, but provided the scribes at least try to be fair, such offerings will be much better than nothing, whilst the writing might actually be improved by the passion and insight of involvement. Players deserve recognition for their successes (and I am pleased that as a photographer John Wood is to attend more events).

Good luck to all with the responsibility for taking table tennis forward.

*Ken Muhr  
Hawkhurst, Kent*

## COURTSIDE by John Woodford

• **MATTHEW SYED** has now returned to his homeland from the Japanese professional circuit and is unlikely to return. What are his plans? I don't think he knows himself, apart from running the highly successful Ocean International Masters at Sheffield. It will only happen again next year if the BBC give the green light.

• **YOU** can help by dropping a line to BBC Grandstand appreciating the return of table tennis to our terrestrial screens. Otherwise, the BBC can only go on their viewing figures.

### THE CRUCIBLE CAULDRON

• **THE CRUCIBLE** at Sheffield was a highly unusual venue. I was surprised at the height of the seating. On television (for the snooker) I formed the impression that the spectator seating was less steep. Played on the hottest day and night on record I have never experienced heat of that intensity anywhere except possibly in Singapore when the air-conditioning system failed.

• **ALEX MURDOCH** was the senior ETTA officer present at The Crucible. I was surprised that he was not brought, even briefly, into the arena at presentation time along with Paul Andrews.

• **THERE** was also a problem with the VIP lounge not being found by Mr Murdoch, but members of the old regime had no trouble.

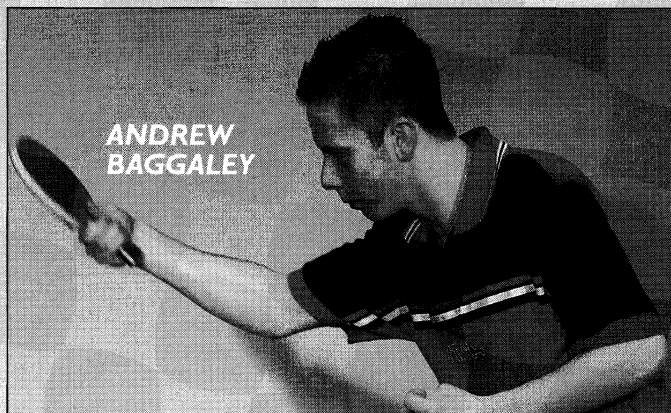
• **CARL PREAN** is re-basing on the Isle of Wight, after playing for a number of clubs in Germany and no doubt earning a nest-egg. What is he going to do now? Again, difficult to forecast. He will certainly coach at the Carl Prean Centre, but he might get offers from the mainland.

• **LOOKING** ahead to this new season - the slimming down of the British League to four weekends for all divisions, instead of fourteen Sundays is one of the main changes.

• **FANS** who would like to watch premier division British League matches are in the main required to travel some long distances. For example Sussex have five British League teams. The nearest premier venue for them will be Harlow, Essex.

• **IT** is the fans who are getting a raw deal. There are no plans to return the English Open to the world circuit until the 2004-2005 campaign, even then it could depend on finding sponsors. Most other countries around the world manage to find a main sponsor except England.

• **EVENTS** on foreign soil for the English teams start in November in Luxembourg with the Olympic Games qualification matches. The two other major events will be the world team championships starting on March 1 at Doha, Qatar and in the last week in June the Commonwealth Championships at a "mountain resort" in Malaysia.



• **ANDREW BAGGALEY** was given special permission by the ETTA to travel to the three consecutive Asian Opens in September - Korea, China and Japan. He travelled with brother Steve as his coach.

• **HALFWAY** to the next general election, many of us in table tennis are wondering if Matthew Syed is going to be offered another chance to win a seat in the House of Commons.

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

## CLEAN SLATE

CONGRATULATIONS to the membership on voting in 11 up as universal. I favoured 21 up but think it vital that we have one scoring system for various reasons; not the least being elimination of wasteful talking shops on the subject.

Hopefully, deaffiliation threats will be more perceived than real. Whatever the short term losses the new ETTA administration will start with a clean slate, can get on with their manifesto pledge of identifying who and how many are members and set about improving matters. A few suggestions (hopefully not too batty!):

1. Review the contents of the impressive looking Premier Club Folder. Ours had scarcely seen light of day since receipt so we had a small club sub-committee look at it recently, it appeared to be unrealistic so we filed it again. We have Premier Club Advanced status by the way. However, my personal view is that it could be simplified and turned into something really useful, member friendly, non elitist and hopefully universally acceptable.

2. Review role of Regional Development Officers. They appear to be low paid for a vital job. An incentivised package geared to high earnings but dependent upon how many new ETTA members are signed up may be an answer to attract the right type of committed applicant (this is not to undermine the work carried out by current RDO's of course).

3. If there is going to be a reduction in central grant funding for the sport, in addition to 2 above, perhaps an in depth look see at local authorities sports and leisure budgets may be a part answer, Our Club has recently done this and as a result joined the local Sports Council and I am now on the committee and we will try to ensure we get our fair share for T.T.

The perspective of the suggestions is to encourage a thrust from and encouragement to grass roots level which is my understanding of a major objective of the new ETTA administration. Good luck.

*David C.Humble, Chairman  
Mossford Table Tennis Club*

## FURTHER PROPOSALS

NOW that the 2003 ETTA AGM has passed - by a majorit 63% to 37% - the proposals to delete the option to local Leagues to play "21-up", will it be time next year to consider further proposals in order to continue bringing the game forward ?

Would a reduction to "7-up" bring

even more "pressure points", concentration, excitement, good TV, and shorter evenings ? Would it then bring to heel those who may by then be the subject of the "compliments" of being the "selfish, backward looking" advocates of an out-dated "11-up" ?

Don't laugh ! The new invigorated and acclaimed cricket matches introduced this season are now 20 overs "slogathons" and lasting for less time than a table tennis match.

*John Knock  
Tonbridge, Kent*

## DEPLORES 11up

THE League wishes to advise that at our AGM held on Friday 1 th July 2003, the following motion: "This meeting deplores the action of the ETTA in bringing forward the motion which has resulted in removing the option to play to 21-Up"

The motion received the support of all members present with one abstention.

*Ming Majoe  
Hon. Sec. Tonbridge & Dist. TTL*

## DISAPPOINTED

HAVING started playing the wonderful game of Table Tennis since 1990 and run the Dawlish Club every Tuesday since then, I am most disappointed that the powers that be have now decided to play the game of 11up. It is supposed that the decision regarding this was taken in order to possibly show more table tennis on TV. However, this has not happened and only short shots of any games played are shown, if at all. In my opinion the game as a challenging and one of skill and competitiveness has been totally spoilt. With 11 up it feels as though one is changing positions all the time, particularly in the doubles, and is over before it has begun. It is disappointing to say the least, with there being no possibility of the ordinary player being able to persuade the powers that be to change back. Sorry, I think you have done the game a grave dis-service, possibly lost many loyal long-term players and not even helped the game to return to a position of popularity which I consider it should have. It is such a beneficial game for health as well as social contact for both sexes.

*Val Eaves (Mrs)  
Dawlish, Devon*

## MUSEUM PIECES

IT is suggested that the E.T.T.A. should attempt to assemble a collection of museum pieces of table tennis equipment, dating right back to the ping-pong, flim flam and gossima era of the 1890s.

Tucked away in hundreds of attics and lumber-rooms all over the country, there must be any number of ancient rackets of vellum, parchment, cork, plain wood and sandpapered; and of all kinds of Victorian and Edwardian accessories, such as balls, nets, score cards, match results, souvenir programmes, photographs of bygone stars and teams, trophies, even - possibly - complete tables.

As a founder member of the I.T.T.F., the E.T.T.A. has left it rather late, but an effort to set up a permanent museum at the H.Q. of the Association should be made now. Modern equipment will naturally be included in the display, since what we regard as modern today will all too soon be regarded as antique.

These words (here slightly adapted) were written by C. Corti-Woodcock for Table Tennis in December 1949, over half a century ago. What has been achieved since?

*Gerald Gurney  
Colchester, Essex*

## THE LETTER BELOW WAS SENT ON THE 28th JUNE 2003

URGENT!

FOR THE ATTENTION OF  
RICIARD CABORN SPORTS  
MINISTER DEPARTMENT OF  
MEDIA & SPORT 2-4 COCKSPUR  
STREET, LONDON SW1Y 5DII

Dear Sir,  
I AM writing on behalf of the talented youngsters who live at a Table Tennis Academy at the National Water Sports Centre in Nottingham. Some of these children have been living there between 2 - 4 years and have given up their friends and home life to dedicate themselves to their Sport.

They have now been told by Sport England the funding has been cut by 70%. It was originally £600,000 only to have it reduced now to £160,000. Obviously the Academy can no longer exist on this budget.

Last month the Government announced that it would give London's bid to host the 2012 Olympics Games "It's whole hearted backing". These children who are the English National Team, should be the ones being given the opportunity to compete for these medals. How can they prove themselves when the Academy is now being taken

away??

The Performance Director Steen Kyst Hanson has said "We now have the strongest Cadet/Junior Squad than we have had for the last 20-25 years. This has been proven by the youngsters winning tournaments abroad over the last 12 months. This is also testament to sheer hard work and devotion to the Sport, which has been carried out by players and coaching staff involved at Nottingham.

However, we are told by Sport England the youngsters are being judged on Senior Performances over the last few years. We feel this is totally unjustified as the Senior players were not products of the Academy. When the programme started at the Academy it was not going to be a "Short Term Project". Reason being, the age group involved ranged from 11 years upwards. As stated, previously, now we are competing and obtaining results with the best in Europe, which confirms we have a Squad of youngsters equal to anyone in the world.

How do we tell these children that because of lack of money (Which could be made available), they no longer have a chance to fulfil their dreams?

After the last Olympics, which proved very successful, Mr Tony Blair made a statement that funds would be available to develop talented sporting youngsters. We feel totally disappointed and disillusioned that these youngsters can be cut off in the middle of their Programme and School Life.

HOW CAN THIS BE JUSTIFIED??

We now have 7 days before they depart to Novi Sad, Yugoslavia to take part in the European Championships. Some of which come back for 5 days and go the Paris to take part in the Youth Olympics. Where do they go upon their return??

PLEASE CAN YOU HELP??

I look forward to an immediate response due to the urgency of the matter.

Yours in Sport,

*Lynn Bolitbo  
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire*

**Editor's Note:** Thankyou for giving us permission to publish your letter Lynn. Hopefully TTN will publish the Sports Minister, Richard Caborn's expected reply.

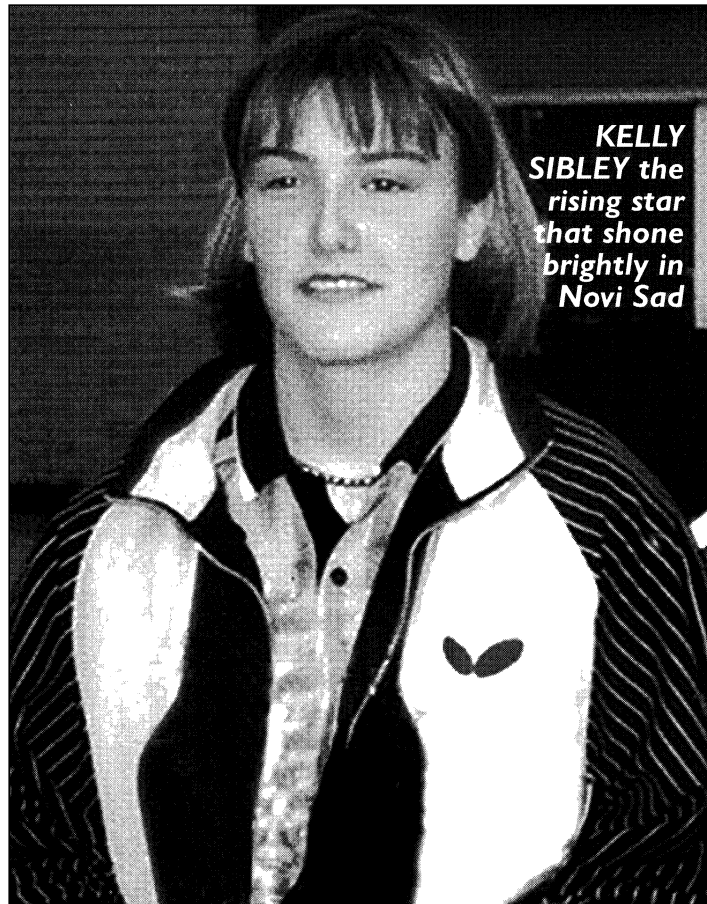


# PROMISING SIGNS FOR THE FUTURE *in* NOVI SAD

The 46th European Youth Championships held in Novi Sad, July 2003.

THE FOURTEEN English players who competed in the 46th European Youth Championships in Novi Sad, Serbia and Montenegro, during July, will have returned with a range of emotions. Some will be disappointed with their performances, some will feel that there were some promising signs for the future, whilst a few will be encouraged by some good individual results. Hopefully, they will all have a positive reaction to do what is necessary to get better, writes Peter Charters.

The European Youth Championships is about future international prospects. Medal winning is one good guide to chances of future international success. In Novi Sad, England never came close to a medal, but there were moments when our players gave the English supporters something to shout about. A number of the players lacked consistency of performance. The England number one Cadet girl, Kelly Sibley, gave us more to shout about than most, clearly showing her ability to respond to the challenge and to the atmosphere of the occasion. The Championships were held in the excellent Sports Hall and Business



**KELLY SIBLEY** the rising star that shone brightly in Novi Sad

Centre, Vojvodina, where a number of major international events, including World and European Championships have been staged. Twenty eight tables, including four

show courts, were used in one arena, with plenty of elevated seating for spectators on two sides. After a relatively quiet start, the atmosphere previously mentioned gradually built

up throughout the five days of the team events. Partisan groups of supporters and players roared, applauded and chanted for their own particular team, accompanied by drums, hooters, whistles and rattles to create a cauldron of noise that inspired some players, whilst seeming to inhibit others. With as many as twenty matches taking place at the same time, focus and concentration were put to the test. England were to have many chances, many opportunities to achieve more, but the story is one of possibilities lost in tight situations. On the completion of the team events, England's overall position of thirteenth was an improvement on the previous year, but there is still clearly a long way to go.

The JUNIOR BOYS' TEAM, starting in the second category, comfortably won their group with straight wins over Macedonia, Cyprus, Bosnia and Norway. Unfortunately, one loss to Spain then put England straight back into playing off for a best possible position of seventeenth. England had their chances against Spain - Bryn Drinkhall lost to Marc Duran, Craig Bryant was two games up, against Garcia, before losing the remaining three games 9-11, 8-11 and 8-11. Peter Cleminson kept his team in the

**Words by  
PETER CHARTERS  
in Novi Sad**

Novi Sad  
2003

46<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN YOUTH  
TABLE TENNIS  
CHAMPIONSHIPS

## ENGLAND TEAMS

**JUNIOR BOYS**  
Greg Baker  
Adam Bleakely  
Craig Bryant  
Peter Cleminson  
Bryn Drinkhall  
**JUNIOR GIRLS**  
Abigail Embling  
Joanna Parker  
Georgina Walker

**CADET BOYS**  
Paul Drinkhall  
Bradley Evans  
Darius Knight  
Tim Yarnall  
**CADET GIRLS**  
Kelly Sibley  
Lauren Spink

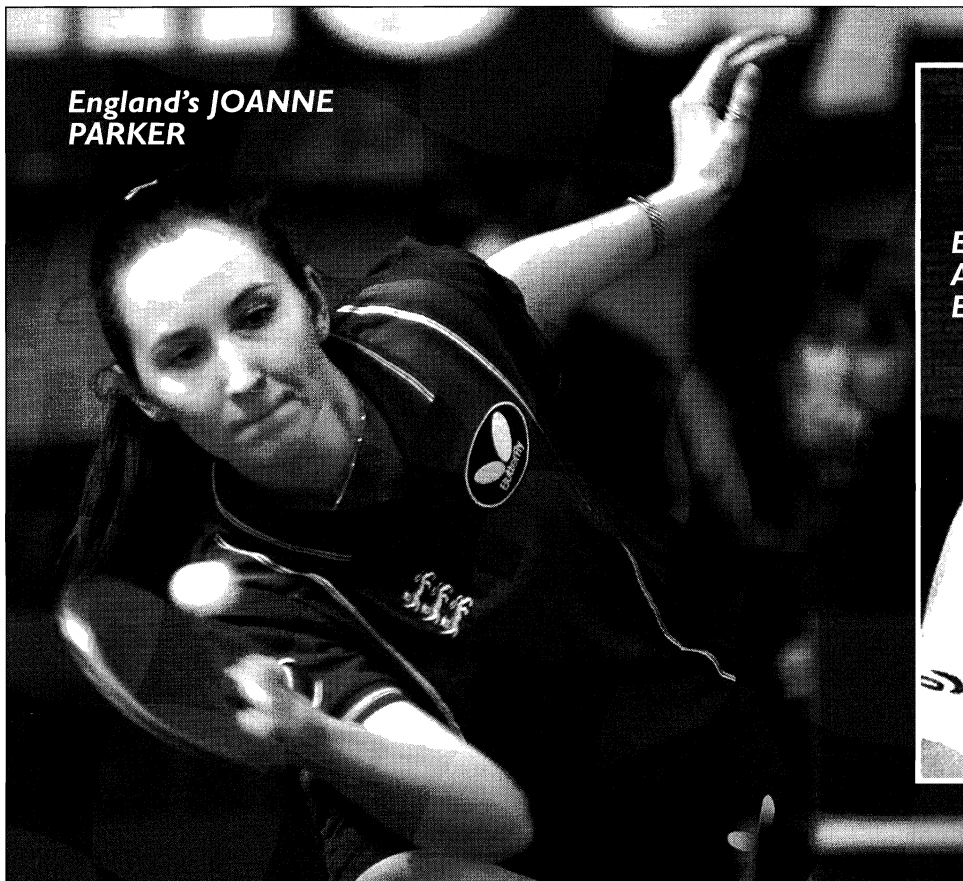
**TEAM COACHES:** Steen Kyst Hansen, Jia Yi Liu, Alan Cooke and Sally Shutt.

tie with a three straight win over Francisco Martin, before Duran clinched it for Spain with a victory over Craig.

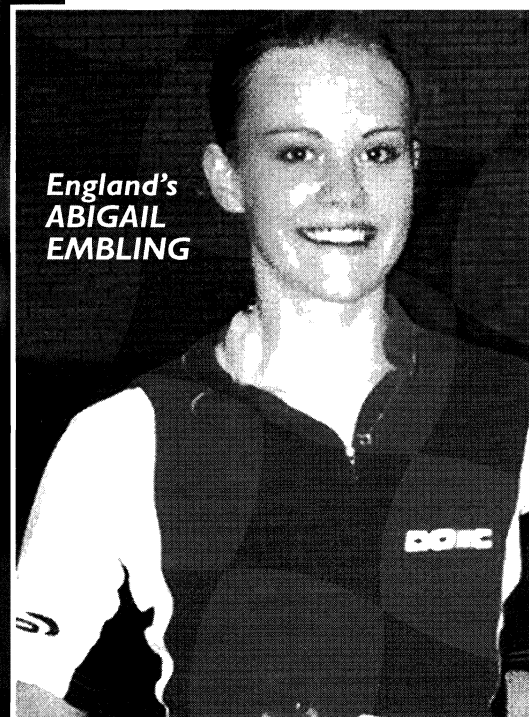
A three one win over Belarus was followed by a disappointing zero three loss to Slovenia, with Bryn going closest for England, before losing 9-11 in the fifth against Janez Tomse. This put England in the position of finishing twenty-first at best, which they achieved with two straight wins over Estonia and Greece.

All of the English Junior boys ended up with a plus factor of wins to losses and only two matches were lost. However, once out of the top sixteen

England's **JOANNE PARKER**



England's **ABIGAIL EMBLING**



team places in one year, the system used makes it very difficult (although possible) to get back into a medal winning chance at the following championships. The match against Spain was the crucial loss.

The JUNIOR GIRLS' TEAM, by

contrast, started in the top category and were thrown into three very tough matches which were all lost. They did, however, win the crucial match which keeps the team in the top flight next year.

Against the Czech Republic,

Georgina Walker lost her first encounter 14-16 in the fifth to Lenka Harabaszova, having been two games to one up. Joanna Parker then lost to the eventual singles gold medalist, Iveta Vacenovska in four, before Abigail Embling went down to

Martina Smistikova, also in four. Georgina and Joanna recorded one win each against Sweden, but this was not enough. Two of the three losses were again in the fifth deciding game. The junior girls continued to suffer deciding game defeats, when all three losses in the one-three reverse to Slovakia were in the fifth game. At the end of the group matches, England needed a victory over Bosnia & Herzegovina to stay in the top sixteen places, which they achieved with a three one win. Zero three losses to Romania and Hungary, however, put England out of medal contention. Joanna then struck twice in England's three two win over the Ukraine, leaving her team in a play off for thirteenth or fourteenth position against Israel. At zero two down, Abigail came to the table and although having played well in patches and at times losing by the narrowest of margins, she had not recorded a single victory. At 9-2 up in the fifth against Michal Argaman, it looked as though Abigail was going to break her duck and get her just rewards for sticking to the task. At 9-9, it seemed as though England were going to have to settle for fourteenth place, but Abigail held her nerve to record her first victory 11-9 in the deciding game. This inspired both Georgina and Joanna to take their reverse singles for a three two team victory and thirteenth place.

England's **GEORGINA WALKER**





**ENGLAND CADET BOYS TEAM: That jumped back to the top sixteen, (l.to.r) BRADLEY EVANS, DARIUS KNIGHT, PAUL DRINKHALL and TIM YARNALL,**

The CADET BOYS' TEAM managed to make that jump from category two into the top level which augurs well for next year. Having moved comfortably past Moldova with Tim Yarnall and Paul Drinkhall doing the singles damage, then Armenia and Lithuania with Darius Knight taking over from Tim, England then had to face Poland. A result here would put England into the top sixteen, a loss and they would go back to the second level. Paul and Darius had remained undefeated in the doubles, a run which they continued against Poland and a win each for both boys gave England the result needed.

Against Russia, these two young players gave everything to stay in the medal hunt. They again took the doubles and Paul beat Artem Outochkin, but the extra win needed remained elusive. Russia went on to win bronze. Two losses followed, to Hungary and Slovakia, the boys losing the doubles in both matches. England returned to winning ways for their final encounter against Belarus, winning three one with a doubles win plus a pair from Paul. The team finished in fifteenth place. Next year, starting in category one, the undoubted talents of Paul and Darius (who each have another two years as cadets) with, hopefully, other young promising players challenging for places, the England Cadet Boys team will attack medals with greater confidence.

The CADET GIRLS' TEAM hung on

to their category one status, but as with the Junior girls, had a difficult start to the campaign. Lauren Spink started the ball rolling against Slovakia with an 11-8 fifth game win over Sona Hudecova. Kelly Sibley put England two ahead and then things started to go wrong. Kelly and Lauren lost the doubles and then the reverse singles to lose the match two games to three. A one three loss to Spain, with Kelly providing the one, left England with a result needed against Croatia to avoid a relegation play-off match. Lauren narrowly went down 8-11 in the fifth to Sanja Paukovic before Kelly struck back with a three straight win over Marena Djurak. The doubles was always going to be crucial to the team result and having been two games up Kelly and Lauren lost it 12-14 in the fifth. Kelly took her second of the match with a win over Paukovic, but Lauren found the occasion too much, losing out in straight games to Djurak.

From the second match on, Kelly, as the more experienced international player and holding the England number one status, was not only accepting the responsibility of her position but at times seemed to relish it. In the crucial category play-off match against Luxembourg, Lauren lost her first outing in five. Kelly steadied the ship with a singles win followed by a doubles victory and finished the job with her second individual result to keep England in the top category for next year. Two

losses followed which put England out of the team medal places in Novi Sad. A one three reverse to the home side, Serbia - England winning the doubles - and a zero three loss to France, left the Cadet girls team with a potential top place of thirteenth. This they achieved with two three one wins over their first group opponents, Croatia and Spain. In these two matches, Kelly remained unbeaten in singles, whilst Lauren got a very much deserved win over Carmen Solichero of Spain, overcoming disappointment by her perseverance.

The team coaches - Steen Kyst Hansen, Jia Yi Liu, Alan Cooke and Sally Shutt did a great job in what is the most tiring of major events in terms of schedule and responsibility. Steen led the party and as with the organisation and preparation of the players for these championships, nothing was left to chance. He travelled to Novi Sad twenty four hours before the main party to make sure that everything was in place. Ben Chell, sports psychologist, joined the party to provide help for the players in their mental preparation.

#### INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

All the singles events in Novi Sad were the best of seven games.

The first two rounds of the junior boys singles saw all of England's representatives out.

Peter Cleminson was the only player to win a match in the singles, beating

# CADET BOYS LEAP TO THE TOP LEVEL

Stavros Tsouderos of Cyprus in the first round.

In the junior girls singles, Abigail recorded confidence-restoring wins in rounds one and two before going out to a good Russian girl in round three. Joanna was eliminated in round two, leaving Georgina to fly the flag, until she in turn went out to one of the Rohr twins from Germany in the fourth round. Georgina's victor, Meike Rohr, was to leave Novi Sad with three gold medals - team, girls and mixed doubles.

Bradley Evans went out of the cadet boys singles in round two to a good Hungarian, Attila Vajda. Paul lost to the Russian, Ramil Moutygullin, in the third round, whilst Darius again beat David Zombori, whom he had defeated in the team event. Tim fought back from love two down against Nadav Rakocz of Israel to reach round four.

Neither Tim nor Darius survived to round five, Tim going out to a Czech whilst Darius exited to a Croatian.

The cadet girls singles event saw Lauren lose out in round two to Pavlina Rezna of Slovakia. After the team event results, much was anticipated of Kelly. She duly powered her way to round three, where she came up against the highly fancied Elizabeta Samara of Romania. Samara already had a gold medal in her pocket from her performance in the team event final and had been included in the European team to play Asia. Kelly's four one win over the Romanian girl must rate as the best singles performance by an English player

Novi Sad. To reach round five, Kelly had to overcome the strong Dutch girl Sandra Leijten and again Kelly triumphed four one to reach the last sixteen. Her loss to Marharita Pesotskaya of the Ukraine - 6-11 in the seventh game having been 3-2 up - was a big disappointment to her, but by her overt fighting spirit, she had enthused the English supporters.

The first two rounds of the junior doubles saw most of the English pairings eliminated. In the girls doubles, Joanna Parker was partnered by another defender, the Ukrainian Ganna Baponova, and they won two rounds before falling to a Swedish pair. Georgina and Abigail also went out in round three, this time to Hungarians. In the mixed, Bryn and Joanna made the third round before succumbing to a Czech team.

In the cadet doubles, Paul and Darius went beyond round three in the boys event, but lost to a French pair in round four. Paul and Lauren went out in round three of the mixed, having beaten a Bosnian pair in the previous round. It took the top combination of Ukrainian boy Zhmudenko and Spanish girl Dvorak to oust the English pair in five games. Darius and Kelly fought their way to round five, where they were beaten by another two country duo, Freitas of Portugal and Dodean of Romania.

Craig Bryant went to round four of the Consolation Junior Boys singles and Bryn Drinkhall to round three, both falling to Czech opposition. Joanna Parker's Consolation run was ended by a Romanian in round three and Bradley Evans won three

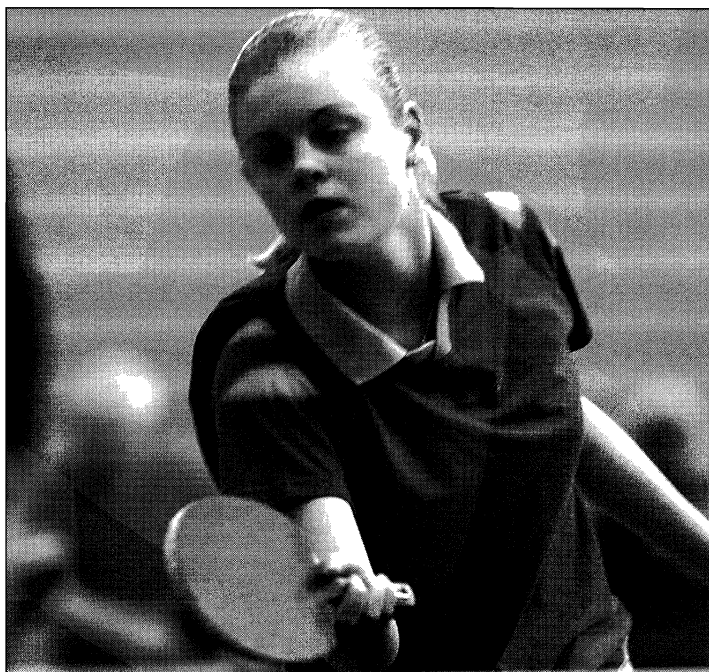
matches in the [adet Boys Consolation before a Russian stopped his run. Paul Drinkhall went all the way to the semi-finals before losing to the eventual winner from Belgium.

Germany were the most successful nation in Novi Sad, winning a medal in each of the four team events including gold in junior girls and cadet boys. The Boris Becker look-alike, Christian Suss, whose hair almost matched the colour of his yellow German national team shirt, took the junior boys singles title, with the cadet boys title going to defender Ruwen Filus. The junior girls and mixed doubles titles also went to Germany.

The exuberant and outwardly enthusiastic Iveta Vacenovska from the Czech Republic was a joy to watch on her way to the girls singles gold medal. Her desire to win and her uninhibited competitiveness at times drove her to victory, when put under pressure.

If the cadet boys is any sort of indicator, defenders may be on their way back. At one point in the team event, with six tables in use, four countries (Germany, Sweden, France and Slovakia) all had a defensive player performing - all four won! Filus from Germany not only won the singles gold medal, but played his part in the winning of the team gold.

The Championship's referee was our own Richard Scruton, so predictably things went smoothly. Margot Fraser and Wilf Rhodes were a credit to England in their umpires' chair.



**GEORGINA WALKER** flew the flag for England in the Girls Singles, reaching round four

## ROLL OF HONOUR GOLD MEDAL WINNERS

### JUNIORS

**BOYS TEAM:** SWEDEN

**BOYS SINGLES:** CHRISTIAN SUSS (GER)

**BOYS DOUBLES:** TOMAS KONECNY (CZE) & LOIC BOBILLIER (FRA)

**GIRLS TEAM:** GERMANY

**GIRLS SINGLES:** IVETA VALCENOVSKA (CZE)

**GIRLS DOUBLES:** GABY & MEIKE ROHR (GER)

**MIXED DOUBLES:** CHRISTIAN SUSS & MEIKE ROHR (GER)

### CADETS

**BOYS TEAM:** GERMANY

**BOYS SINGLES:** RUWEN FILUS (GER)

**BOYS DOUBLES:** TOMIN SCHWARZER (CZE) & MARCO FREITAS (POR)

**GIRLS TEAM:** ROMANIA

**GIRLS SINGLES:** BIN LI (HUN)

**GIRLS DOUBLES:** GALIA DVORAK (SPA) & ELIZABETA SAMARA (ROM)

**MIXES DOUBLES:** DMITRY

BOLTRUSHKO & MARIA VIKTORCHYK (BLR)



England  
Coach  
**STEEN  
KYST  
HANSEN**

# THE LAST 20 YEARS MALMO TO NOVI SAD

**'I want to get better, I can get better and I am going to do everything possible to get better.'**

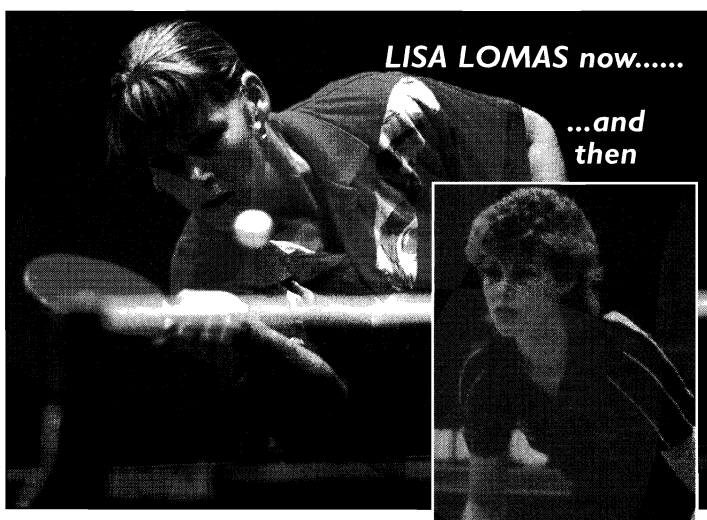
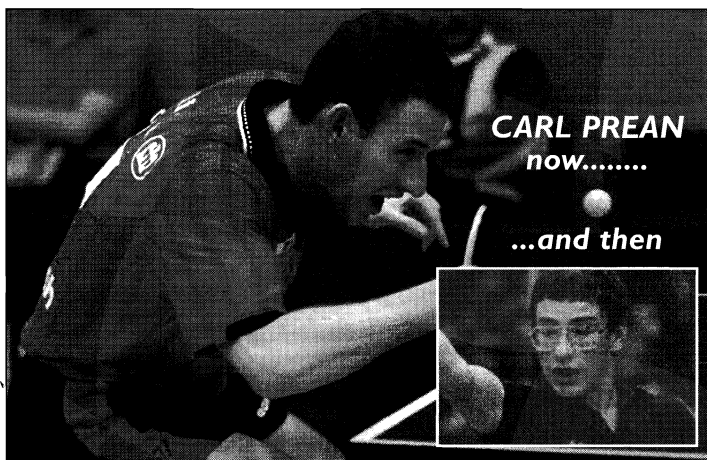
**IN 1983 I attended the European Youth Championships in Malmo Sweden. On that occasion I went as coach to the girls team and was also chairman of the then English selection committee and Vice Chairman of the Association with responsibilities for not only selection but for coaching, writes Peter Charters.**

In Malmo the party was led by the Junior Coach Donald Parker who took charge of the boys teams. Twenty years later in 2003, I experienced my next European Youth Championships in Novi Sad, Serbia and Montenegro.

The European Youth Championships is an excellent event for both players and coaches and gives the latter a view of the developmental stage of young international players through cadet level to junior. For me as a coach the European Youth Championships is the most informative event in Table Tennis; it is where you can witness a crucial stage of the player as they move towards a senior international career. I recommend any coach to take the opportunity to spend time at a European Youth Championships in the future.

In Novi Sad in 2003 the results of English players, although slightly up on the previous year could not be considered satisfactory. In Moscow in 2002 there had been a slight improvement over the previous campaign so there is some progress being made. In 1983 England returned from Malmo with two gold, two silver, and two bronze medals. England teams finished in fifth position for the Junior Boys, second for the Junior Girls, fifth for the Cadet Boys and eleventh for the Cadet Girls.

In Novi Sad the Junior Boys finished in twenty-first position, the Junior Girls in thirteenth, the Cadet Boys in fifteenth and the Cadet Girls in thirteenth position so the comparison of results is stark. There is no doubt in my mind that other countries in Europe previously thought of as minnows have greatly



## **PETERS CHARTERS' PROPOSED PRESENTATION FOR THE ETTA TEACHING & TRAINING CONFERENCE AT LILLESHELL, SEPTEMBER 2003**

improved. The introduction of academy's or some kind of centralised coaching and training venue has brought the performance level to a higher standard. There are few, if any, easy matches now; certainly this applies to the top 28 sides in each of the four age and gender groups. This is significant and needs to be born in mind when looking carefully at the results, particularly the team results. At the top end however the standard of players in Malmo could never be described as weak. The Junior Boys event for example was won by a player who is popularly regarded as the greatest player of all time - Jan-Ove Waldner. It took the Swedish

star to beat our own Carl Prean in the final and it needs to be remembered that Carl was just out of the cadet age group having won cadet individual gold the previous year. He went on to earn junior individual silver and then gold over the next two years. In Malmo Carl beat a certain Jorgen Persson, a future world champion, in the semi-finals. Waldner had beaten another player who went on to greater things, Andrei Mazunov in the other semi-final.

Olga Nemes of Romania was the girls champion having beaten our own Lisa Lomas (nee Belinger) in the semi-final. Lisa beat Nemes in the team event. The two golds for

England were won by Carl with Nicky Mason in the boys doubles and Lisa with Jean Parker in girls doubles. But it wasn't only about Carl and Lisa although they were clearly our star performers. Playing in his very first European Youth Championships which incidentally was his last as he was in his final year as a junior, Alan Cooke recorded eleven wins as against three losses in the top category for England in the team event. This was a major contribution to their final position and showed what can be done by a young, inexperienced player who responds to the challenge. His character and his competitive spirit at international level first seen in Malmo has held him in good stead as an England senior player and now as a coach. Jean's invaluable contribution in the Junior Girls resulted in her winning gold in the girls doubles and silver in the team. In the Cadet Boys Andrew (not Matthew) Syed and Jimmy Stokes finished in the high position as a team due to solid singles performances and excellent doubles results. In the 5th/6th play-off Andrew beat yet another player who achieved great things later, Zoran Primorac. In the Cadet Girls Jill Powis had nine wins to two losses in the team event, including a victory over Otila Badescu, the individual gold medalist.

A greater number of countries were represented in Novi Sad than in Malmo. In the Junior Boys there was an increase from 24 to 41, Junior Girls 25 to 37, Cadet Boys from 20 to 39 and Cadet Girls 20 to 36. The growth of 'new' countries in Europe and perhaps a spread of the sports popularity makes for tougher competition.

Let's have a constructive look at the interim twenty years and ask ourselves are there lessons to be learnt. Why in 1983 were England so successful? I believe that these lessons may be considered under two headings. There are aspects over which we in Table Tennis have little or no control and others where solutions may be in our own hands to resolve.

I would like to introduce some questions for discussion under the first heading which may be worthy of consideration. The youth culture in this country has most certainly

undergone change over the last twenty years. Is the lack of a competitive spirit in our schools, particularly primary schools, an issue? Do we produce fewer children who respond positively to the challenge of competition? Are parents more indulgent with their children? In an age when parents are bombarded with media advice on caring for their child, are they concerned over the time and the effort required of a young sportsman to achieve success at the highest level. Parents are no more caring now than they were then but they are certainly more aware of dangers both physically and emotionally. Is guiding their child to being independent just too risky? Are they too ready to make excuses when the going on the road to success gets tough. Is it always someone else's fault? As with primary schools can they no longer lose? Does this produce players who cannot accept responsibility for their own actions and will this result in players who lack the mental strength that is required to reach the top level in any sport? Does this also produce players and parents and even coaches who demand immediate rather than deferred gratification? Do we lose players because success is a lengthy process? There seems to be a growth in the more recreational approach to Table Tennis, which is fine except that this attitude to our sport does not produce international players.

Maybe we are selecting from fewer players. There are so many other interests and distractions today, even some of those that take up our sport find difficulty with commitment and later the single mindedness needed to achieve international success.

Apart from boys and girls football, other sports in this country seem to be suffering similar problems. There are clearly young ambitious sportspeople in Table Tennis with parents who provide all the practical and tough emotional support necessary. But are they in the same quantity as 1983?

Is the toughness being drained out of our sporting children? Are coaches now afraid to admonish or even criticise youngsters for fear of upsetting them or worse still be accused of verbal abuse of children? Culture changes such as these are something we in Table Tennis can do little or nothing about.

So what can we do about Factors under the second heading that falls maybe within the control of Table Tennis. Firstly let me discount what I am sure some will consider a possibility for the results in Novi Sad – namely the lack of preparation of

the players for these championships. In 1983 Alan Cooke for example had played in one senior tournament in Israel, one foreign junior tournament and the English Junior Open before he went to Malmo. There had been a two week training camp at Lilleshall at which some of our senior players provided practice for the players. Apart from this, he and Nicky Mason spent six weeks practising in a chicken hut in Preston. At night sleeping on the floor underneath the table. What commitment! In 2003 most of the players who went to Novi Sad had vastly superior preparation in terms of international competitive experience and training at Nottingham with world class Chinese sparring partners. Steen Kyst Hansen the Performance Director is one of those people who makes things happen. He organised the preparation of the team for Novi Sad in such a way as leaving little or nothing to chance. The coaching staff that he took to Novi Sad were of the top quality and the preparation in terms of hotel and practice facilities were as good as anyone could expect.

The preparation for Malmo was as good as finance would allow but Don Parker's budget was restricted and therefore opportunities were limited. The class of '83 would have given the little finger of their non-playing hand to have experienced what their counterparts, twenty years later, were given in preparation for the Championships.

In all sports it is the best prepared performer who achieves most often. 'If you fail to prepare you prepare to fail.' Therefore, I most certainly would not advocate a return to the preparation style of '83 but you can provide every facility, every opportunity for players but still need youngsters with the will, the drive and the ambition to take advantage of it.

Another link with Malmo in '83 was the presence there of a young Danish coach called Steen Kyst Hansen. This was before he formed the academy in Denmark in 1990 where a four year programme produced the winning junior team for Denmark in the European Youth Championships in 1994.

Maybe we need to look at ourselves the coaches. Do we allow players to develop using their natural flair or are we teaching them to conform to a specific style. My reason for raising this is when looking back to '83 Carl and Lisa were talented individuals with positive games who could not be said to conform to a standard coached style of play. Carl in particular was an innovator conforming to point winning

principles but finding new ways of achieving them. Before him Desmond Douglas, fantastic player that he was could not be described as a player who emerged from a coaching manual. Also our former European Champion John Hilton and our top player in recent years Matthew Syed again were and are full of flair and invention. Earlier still Jill Parker (nee Hammersley) was our most successful ever lady player with a game built around solid defence and lightening back-hand attack. Of course we have had what I call conventional top spin attack players who have done outstandingly well in an England shirt at senior level – Alan Cooke, Carol Moore (nee Knight) and Karen Witt for example. These are all individual stylists in their own right and all winners of international, individual titles but out of the first group of players can be seen something different. Maybe we need to coach with more imagination and confidence in our ability to produce players who, whilst conforming to the principles of positive winning Table Tennis, develop their game with flair and inventiveness.

Within Table Tennis we need to have a system of recruiting talented youngsters and identifying them early. We then need to provide the facilities, the coaching, the training, the competitive structure and the motivational factors to give the ambitious ones amongst them every chance of success. A talent identification system has been put in place.

Do we lack the facilities that our rivals enjoy? In Germany, for example the most successful country in Novi Sad they have the big club structure to envy. They have regional training financed by regional government and they have four Table Tennis boarding schools as well as national training camps.

Young players can progress through any or all of these facilities to reach the top. So many other European countries now have academy's or some form of centralised training venue (I counted twenty countries in Novi Sad). Without the big club structure or a regular (twice weekly) regional training system, England need a national training centre. The big issue for young players in the early eighties was the lack of the quality AND quantity of practice. National training camps filled some of the void but more often the players travelled the country to stay with, and practice with sparring partners.

Does the current ranking scheme help or hinder the talented young players and their coaches?

Do the best players compete against each other often enough and is there a link between this and the ranking policy used?

'The Masters Event' is the ideal type of competition needed for our top players.

Does much of our domestic competition encourage negative play?

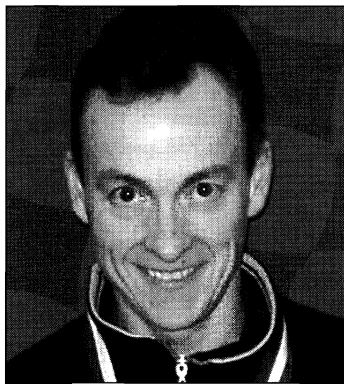
Is the fear of losing overriding the desire to win? Lately I have seen players using long(ish) pimples in what seems to be an effort to emulate Carl Prean; but they use the equipment with a negative, spoiling tactic. Carl was the most positive of players, he would not have become a world class player by relying on his opponents unforced errors.

Some may point to the fact that in 1983 the colour of the two sides of rubber could be the same. In the start of the '84 season the rule change regarding different colours came into being. Both Carl and Lisa used combination bats in Malmo using black rubber both sides. That summer was thought by some to mark the end of the 'funny bats'. Carl got into his stride quickly winning silver in '84 and the top prize in The European Youth Championships in '85. By the end of the decade Lisa had won individual bronze and silver at The European Senior Championships.

Funding, or lack of it, from national government is of course an issue. In many ways the funding issue can be taken under the heading that we as coaches can do little about. Sponsorship is the life-blood of most sports; can we do more to help ourselves in this respect? I note with interest a rise in the number of occasions that parents are asked to finance training activities and the apparent increase in the number of paid coaches.

The rise of VETTS Table Tennis over the last twenty years, whilst good for some may in its self have been detrimental to the junior game. Some of those players who past their peak would previously have fed back their time, energy and expertise into helping the next generation. Now they have other priorities, their competitive career has been extended.

Having looked at differences over the last twenty years and asked questions, I hope Table Tennis can look forward in a positive and constructive manner. With the blame culture in which we now live the temptation may be to throw mud at some particular individual or groups and then step back in the belief that pointing the finger of blame will solve anything. To quote Winston Churchill (twice) 'If the



**ALAN COOKE**

present sits in judgement on the past it will lose the future', and then more directly, 'Criticism is easy, achievement difficult'.

Because there is no chance in the foreseeable future of England having a system parallel to that of Germany, it is up to us, the coaches at all levels with the help of supportive parents to make the difference. Of course we need the full backing and encouragement of the administrators but it is us at the sharp end.

On the bright side England have – in my and most observers opinion – at least three outstanding young prospects. Paul Drinkhall, Darius Knight and Gavin Evans (and after Novi Sad I would add Kelly Sibley to that list) have the talent to put England back into the higher reaches

of European and World Table Tennis IF they have the attitude to fight their way there AND if they are given every chance by us as an association. We have other prospects; as with Carl and Lisa in '83 strong back up is needed. More players are needed who have the potential to push and even overtake these talents of the moment. Competition for the England shirts will ensure that the strongest players mentally, technically and physically will emerge. We need players whose reaction to not being selected is 'I'll show then they are wrong' and work hard to prove it. Do some of our youngsters give up too easily? Remember Cookie in '83! In his last year as a Junior – under 17 then – his first European Youth Championships and he proved to be made of the stuff for a long and successful Table Tennis career. May be he suffered from hungry fighter syndrome.

Do we need to re-focus on excellence? Do we need to streamline our efforts to find young talent and then concentrate our efforts on those who have a chance? To me it seems that we must find our own way, compensating for any shortcomings in our culture and our Table Tennis system. We are able to improve and we must not feel that the challenge is too great.

## OPPORTUNITY AT TEES SPORT

Due to expansion, TEES SPORT is recruiting an Assistant Sales Manager to work full time at the company's head office in Middlesbrough.

The ideal applicant should have:

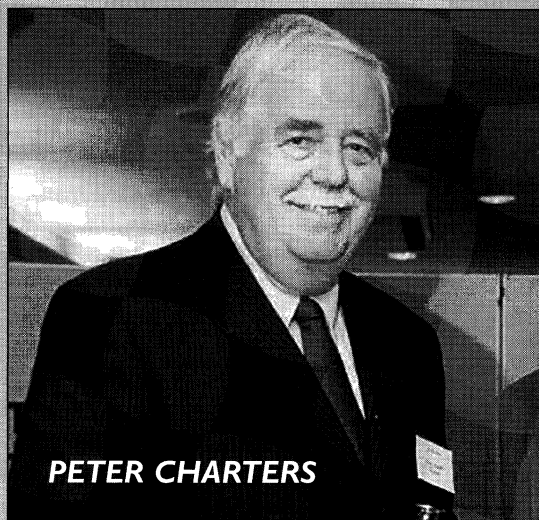
- a good knowledge of the sport
- an outgoing personality
- a pleasant telephone manner
- good IT and communication skills, and
- enjoy working in a congenial team atmosphere

Apply in writing with full CV and references to:

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Zetland Place, Middlesbrough TS1 1HJ  
E mail: [tabletennis@tees-sport.com](mailto:tabletennis@tees-sport.com)

## FEEDBACK TO PETER CHARTERS' PRESENTATION TO COACHES AT THE ETTA TEACHING & TRAINING CONFERENCE



**PETER CHARTERS**

MANY interesting and relevant points were raised following Peter's presentation. Peter claimed to be 'unashamedly elitist' and he wanted an indication as to how the coaches out in the field were dealing with any highly talented youngsters that appeared at their sessions.

The following factors were raised:

- A structured pathway from club to national squad needs to be published
- Better feedback from national/regional squad training sessions to the club coaches needs to be established
- Extra effort is needed to find and keep girls
- Increased guidance and support along side in service training for coaches is required
- A national strategy and implementation plan for talented players is needed
- Coaches need to be more aware of talent potential and how to get players to individually reach their full potential
- Communication problems were highlighted

Further points of general relevance to the development of table tennis were raised and more time is required to discuss and work on these points.

# WORLD CLASS PERFORMANCE

**SOME six years ago the ETTA, with funding of £1.2 million from the Lottery via Sport England, set up the National Academy at Holme Pierpont, Nottingham. Initial reactions from the table tennis community were mixed. Some were completely against the idea, feeling it was too much money being spent on so few players. Others, like me, were supportive of the concept, but virtually all questioned the suitability of the Water Sports Centre to house our academy. Not only was the hall too small for the full squads but there was no suitable place to run and the proximity of so much water to a number of very young players was also a worry. Add to which the cost was far too high in comparison to other National Training Centres, writes Mike Johns.**

To trigger the funding from Sport England the ETTA submitted a plan promising future success at various major events. Unfortunately for us this was unachievable, and in subsequent years our funding was cut. Last year we received funding of £650,000 for our junior development squad. Again we failed to deliver, which resulted in this year's grant being reduced to £160,000.

This was one of the major problems facing Alex, Martin and myself when we were appointed as officers of the association. We undoubtedly have a great deal of young talent coming through and we did our utmost to keep a reduced form of the Academy running. Unfortunately, in the end we were beaten by new child care regulations which were impossible for us to conform to.

## Where do we go from here?

Over the course of the summer Steen Kyst Hansen (Acting Performance Director), Jill Parker (WCP Administrator), Alex and I, worked on a contingency plan for use should we be unable to continue the Academy. The grant to be received from Sport England is to be spent on 6 to 8 players. Steen has selected a squad of 6 with 2 more players to be added later in the year. The 6 selected are: Georgina Walker (Notts.), Joanna Parker (Surrey), Kelly Sibley (Warks.), Darius Knight (Surrey), Paul Drinkhall (Cleveland

and Gavin Evans (Notts.). These players, who were all part of the Academy last year, have now moved back home and Steen is working on individual training programmes for each of them.

We have renegotiated our deal with Holme Pierpont, saving thousands of pounds and regular training camps for these players will be held there. They will also be involved in a reduced programme of overseas tournaments and training camps.

Staff costs have also been cut with Steen taking a dual role as Technical Director which encompasses both high performance and the training of coaches. Jill is to spend her time administrating both high performance and Teaching and Training Department. Jia Yi Liu has been retained as a national coach.

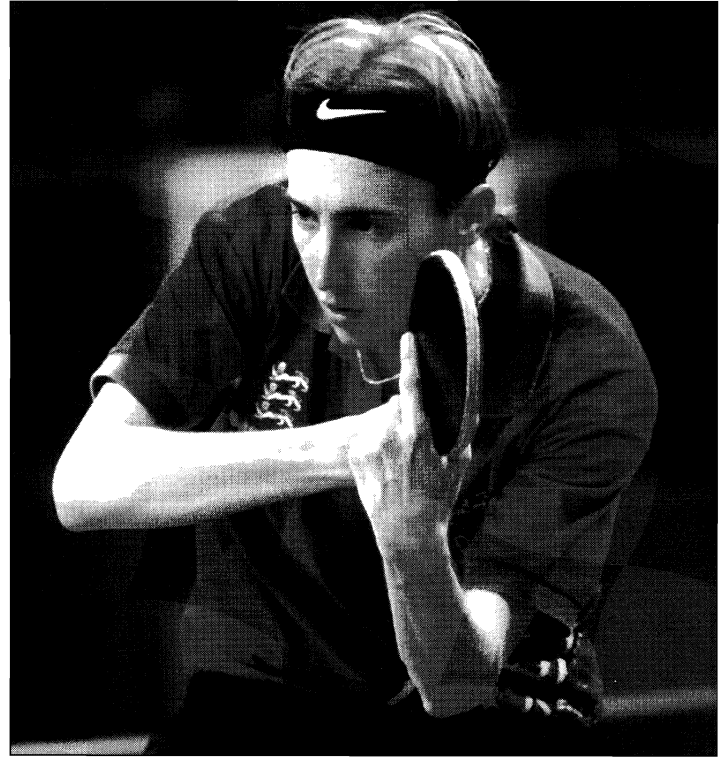
## HIGH CLASS PERFORMANCE CENTRES

**ONE of my biggest concerns when the National Academy started was that there was no structure below academy level to develop other players. No matter how good the coaches were at the academy if they were not getting good quality players coming through to them they could not produce champions.**

During the 70's and 80's many of our top players came up through regional Centres of Excellence and starting in the next few months we will be launching a similar concept. Titled "ETTA High Class Performance Centre's" these will be under the control of Steen Kyst Hansen, who will select the coaches and set the basic training programme. Players who are currently in England squads will receive a direct invitation to their nearest centre. An appraisal day will be held at each centre, when any junior can attend (subject to space) and Steen and the centre coach will offer the remaining places to players who impress them on that day.

Each centre will run two, 2 hour sessions per week, with each player paying £5 per session. Additional training days may be held at weekends with some of the more promising players being invited to England training camps.

It is our intention to set up at least



**ALEX PERRY** who won the opening Grand Prix of the season, is one of the England internationals who has signed the agreement to play in at least three tournaments

12 centres throughout the country within the next 2 years. The first centres are likely to be in Sunderland, Halifax, Halton, Nottingham, Banbury and South London.

## SENIOR DEVELOPMENT

**IT IS impossible to argue against the fact that our senior results are the worst in living memory. It would be easy to blame the players but they have done their best. I believe it is the system that has let us down.**

If we look at the past, all our world class players, from Johnny Leach to Matt Syed, developed through a strong English tournament system. For some years now our leading players have been allowed to play for England without making any commitment to play in the country they represent. I find it amazing that one of our top players has never played in a senior open tournament in this country. For our promising young players to become world class they need the opportunity to watch and play against today's leading players. If the top 8 players only play

overseas how can the number 9 improve?

After consultation with Steen Kyst Hansen, all of last seasons squad players, who wish to represent England this season have been asked to sign an agreement by which they will play in a minimum of 3 Grand Prixes, The National Championships and, if we are able to resurrect it, the National Top Twelve. If they fail to do so, they will not play for England.

At the time of writing the following players have signed the agreement: Matt Syed, Andrew Baggaley, Gareth Herbert, Alex Perry, Terry Young, Andrew Rushton, Bryn Drinkhall, Peter Cleminson, Georgina Walker, Joanna Parker, Kelly Sibley and Helen Lower.

This should help strengthen this seasons Grand Prix Series.

We will also be increasing the prize money in the British League in the hope that the clubs will be able to entice some of the top players to play for them. This will also give table tennis enthusiasts further opportunities to watch our top players in action.

Mike Johns

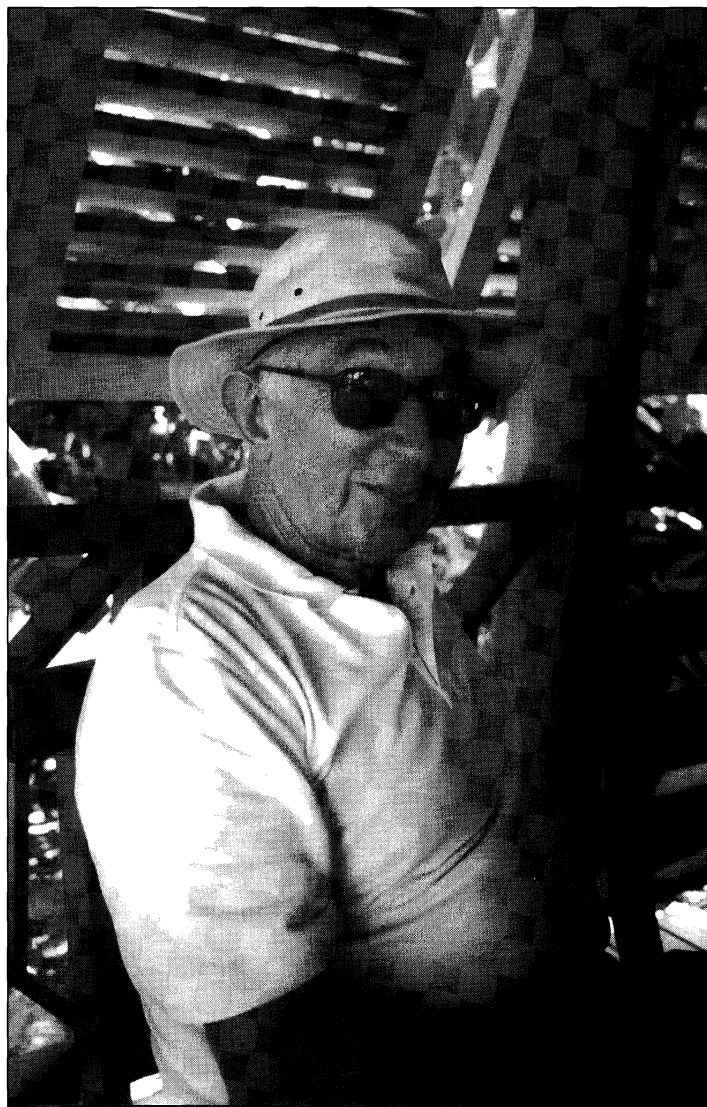
# A TRIBUTE TO ALAN SHERWOOD

Alan Sherwood, Visionary and Table Tennis Benefactor, tragically died on 25th August.

Tribute by  
Matthew Syed

**ALAN SHERWOOD first emailed me on 10 September 2001 in response to an article in The Times. We had never met before. He said he had some ideas that could help table tennis, a sport he had played in the era of Leach and Bergmann. My expectations were not high. But when he died almost two years later, he had transformed the sport in this country beyond recognition.**

And this was primarily because of his personal qualities. Alan was a man of towering integrity. He dealt with others with courtesy and respect, and with an overarching desire to foster a spirit of inclusiveness and teamwork. His presence at meetings was a guarantee of their effectiveness. It was not long before he had become one of my closest and most trusted friends. I shall never forget his example.



**Alan Sherwood, Visionary and Table Tennis Benefactor**



**DUAN YONG JUN winner of the Commonwealth Masters**

But more than anything else, Alan was a man of action. His achievements in the small period of his involvement with the sport are breathtaking. By helping to initiate and then financing the Commonwealth Masters event at Wembley, he brought table tennis back to terrestrial television when it seemed that the sport was about to disappear from view forever. Alan was intimately involved in all aspects of the organisation and presentation of the competition, one which was pivotal in transforming the attitude of BBC executives towards table

tennis and which paved the way for the acclaimed Ocean International Continental Masters at The Crucible. If the sport can continue the good work and complete the painstaking process of transforming itself into a major sport, Alan's intervention will come to be seen as the moment that arrested the sports long-term media decline.

But it is Table Tennis for Kids, now called TTK Greenhouse ([www.ttkgreenhouse.org](http://www.ttkgreenhouse.org) <<http://www.ttkgreenhouse.org/>>) that will forever remain his greatest legacy. Alan recognised that table

tennis was an ideal tool with which to realise the social and community benefits that can be provided by sport. And he was determined to realise his ambition of creating an institution that could effectively put his vision for the sport into practise. Driven by Alan and Michael de Giorgio, the project, started in October last year, has now grown into a registered charity supporting 18 clubs in socially deprived communities across the capital. With the endorsement of the Prime Minister and with partnerships including the police, TTK Greenhouse has brought table tennis to hundreds of youngsters, in the process enhancing educational attainment and fighting crime. The Directors of TTK Greenhouse are already formulating plans for an inter-club competition that will be held in his memory.

Alan had a wonderfully close relationship with his family and our thoughts and prayers are with them at this time.

I hope that Alan recognised the esteem in which he was held by all who knew him. I believe he did. We will forever cherish his memory.

## Alan Sherwood's Legacy by Michael de Giorgio of TTK Greenhouse

"Increasing the number of sporting opportunities available to young people is important to me. The Government is putting more money into sport and PE within schools but we cannot drive that cultural change alone. We need coaches, clubs and volunteers too. TTK is a great way to harness those talented coaches and ensure they have the money, equipment and support they need to do even more for young people."  
*Tony Blair, March 2003*

TTK Greenhouse is an entirely new project that is enhancing the aspirations and life-chances of young kids from deprived areas.

Sport has the potential to improve health, raise educational standards, fight crime and build strong communities. Table tennis is an ideal tool with which to realise this potential: it is a game with an engaging combination of strategy and speed, and many tables can be accommodated in a relatively small amount of space, providing sporting opportunities for the many rather than the few.

TTK Greenhouse is operating by forging links between clubs, coaches and schools. Talented coaches with strong leadership skills have been identified and are creating vibrant, sustainable clubs in schools located in areas of economic deprivation.

Well equipped, local table tennis clubs provide positive direction for talented and enthusiastic youngsters, and budgets are being used to finance weekend trips to competitions to enhance participation and commitment.

Ranking lists have been utilised to inspire progress. Leadership courses, with the opportunity to obtain CCPR approved coaching certificates are providing a much-needed boost in self-esteem for the 15 and 16 year olds.

A key objective for TTK Greenhouse is to use sport as a tool to improve educational attainment. In the existing schemes, results have exceeded our expectations. The

schools are enthused and have reported improved behaviour and academic work.

Each school's business studies class will have the opportunity to undertake a multi-media project, with the support of TTK Greenhouse examining the impact of their table tennis club upon the students and their community.

TTK Greenhouse has recruited some of the most talented and enthusiastic people from within the sport together with experts from the voluntary sector and the media. It is backed by the English Table Tennis Association and Matthew Syed, the English table tennis number one.

It is with great sadness that we will have to undertake this project without Alan's invaluable advice but we are determined to build something that he would have been proud of. To date we are operating in 18 schools providing after school and holiday programmes. We would

like to expand on this and are looking for suitable schools and table tennis coaches that can help us achieve our goals. We are creating a ladder system in each school and the aim is to encourage the top ten young people on the ladder at each school to come together on a regular basis to challenge the other participants from the other schools participating with TTK Greenhouse schools to play for the Alan Sherwood Cup.

The project is expanding rapidly and we would like very much to have input from all. The website is located on [www.ttkgreenhouse.org](http://www.ttkgreenhouse.org) and regular updates concerning the project will be made. We would very much encourage your feedback in order to help us build an organisation that Alan would have been proud of.

Please either contact me, Michael de Giorgio, on 020 7243 6280 or Greg Jarvis on 020 7603 8844

## Tribute by Alex Murdoch, ETTA Chairman

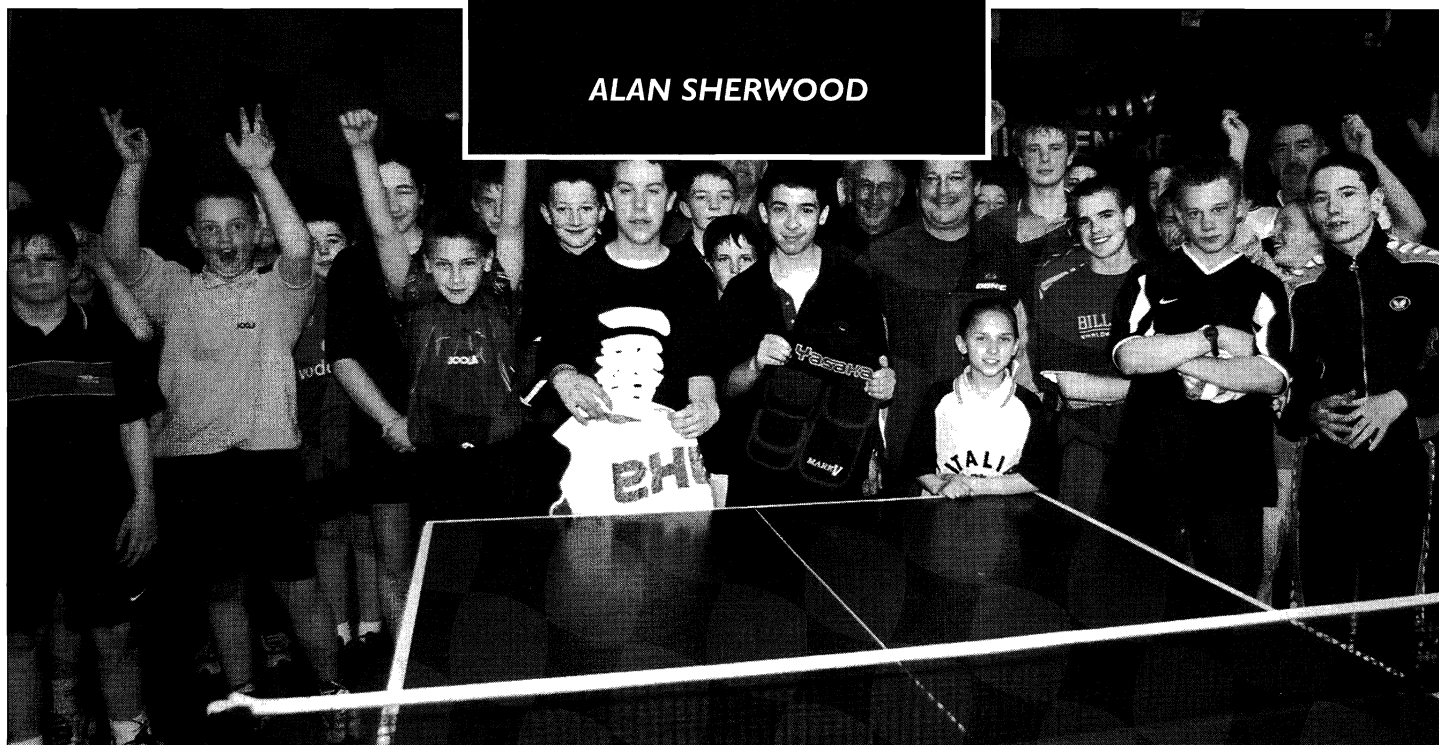
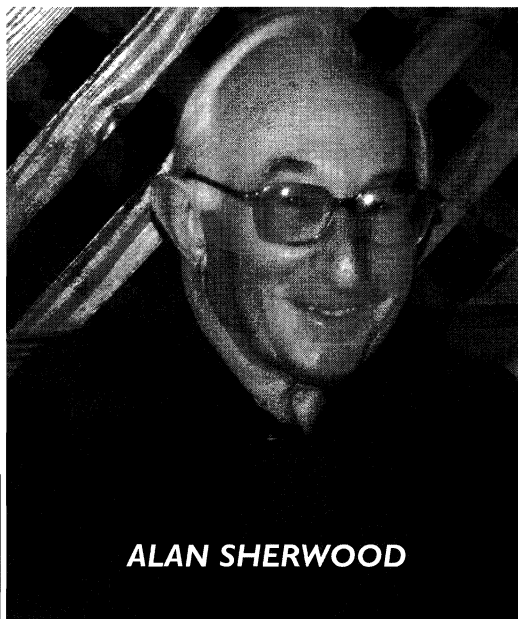
Although I have only been Chairman for a short time I believe it is very important for the ETTA to express their gratitude, but with great sadness, to Alan's family for the immense contribution he made to our sport.

I have had the opportunity to meet with those involved in the TTK Greenhouse project, which was Alan's brainchild, and have been impressed with the dedication and efforts made to bring table tennis to hundreds of young people from deprived communities.

It is a concept that needs and will receive our continued support and involvement, not just for the social aspects but in the expansion of people playing our sport in England. This project will be included in our future Development plans and I am sure expanded by the charity into other fields and areas.

Without Alan's dedication, expertise and vision this project would not have started and he will be remembered for this within table tennis circles long after my time as your Chairman.

On behalf of the ETTA membership our thoughts go out to Alan's family at this time. His work will never be forgotten.



# VINTAGE ATTACK BY ALEX PERRY

**ALEX PERRY** unleashed his lethal backhand and forehand attack to win the City of Liverpool Open at the Liverpool Tennis Centre, the curtain-raising event of the new season. His final victim after stopping Irish No.1 Jason Sugrue in the semi-finals was Bradley Billington from Derbyshire. Billington who won this tournament last year, made his mark in the semi-finals when he outgunned the No.2 seed Ryan Jenkins. 6, 10, -2, -13, 4, writes **John Woodford**.

In the final, Perry, 28, originally from Devon but now of Nottingham, breezed home 4, 6, 7.

The Welsh No.1, who won five GP titles last season did not reach his very best form. This showed when he only beat the improving Peter Cleminson (Essex) 3-1 in the quarters.

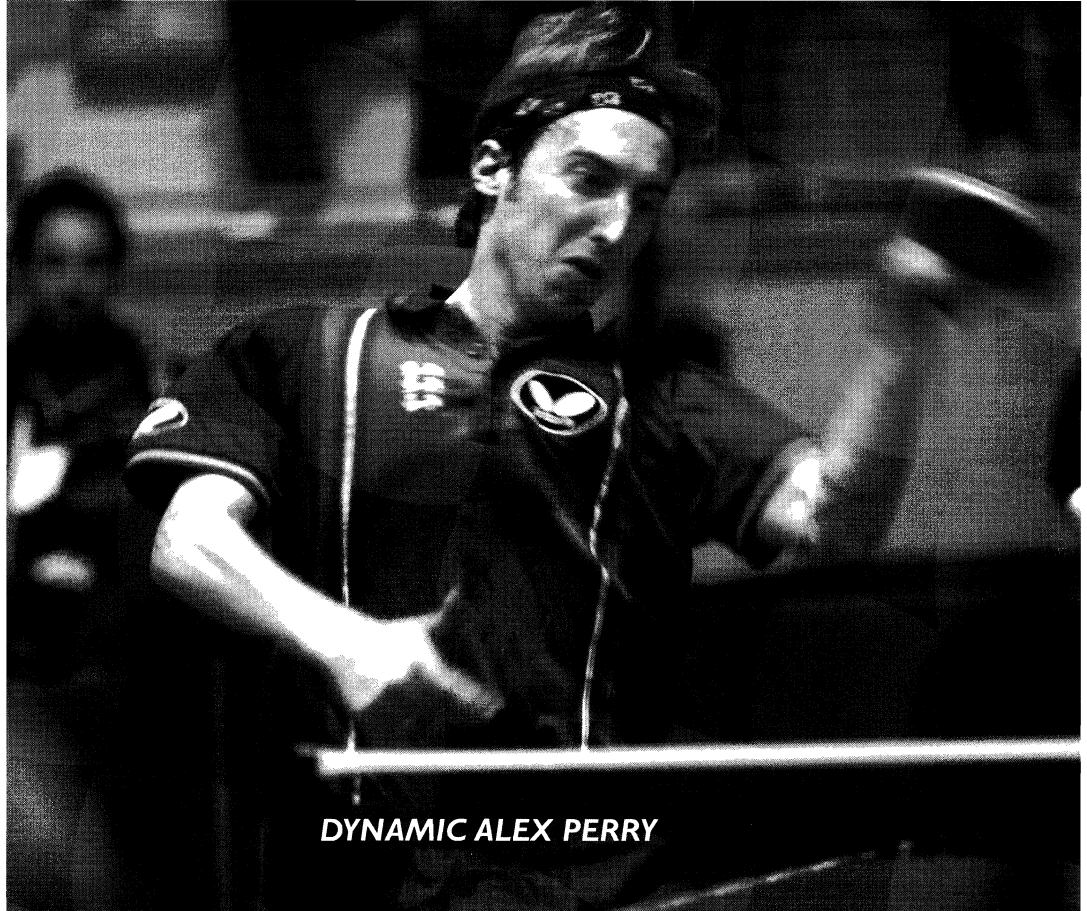
Further proof that Perry is starting the campaign with confidence came when he won the new (experimental) "Star singles" event, stopping Ryan Jenkins 7, -6, 7, 7 in the final.

Spectators eyebrows were raised by the score when they noted who was to be the No.2 womens seed - Feiming Tong from Taipei. The sceptics said "She won't turn up" as she has been absent on a couple of occasions at GP events over the past two seasons.

But Feiming is a world-class player. I can recall watching her reach the world singles quarter-finals in Japan not too long ago.

At Liverpool, (she is resident mainly in Fareham (Hampshire) and plays in the French national league) she won the womens singles and the Star event.

She is not quite as sharp as in the



**DYNAMIC ALEX PERRY**

past, as she cannot be not far away from playing in veterans events.

In the semi-finals she took out Helen Lower who was playing well 8, 6, 3. In the final Feiming lost quite a few points against the excellent defences employed by Marketa Myskova from Devon and the Czech Republic, who was beaten 8, 9, 4.

Feiming's strength is in her very speedy backhand and forehand attack. This makes her easily the strongest woman player in Britain at this time - and she is intending to play in a number of GP events including Paignton and Crawley.

Paul Drinkall (Cleveland) was possibly the youngest ever winner of the Under-21 mens singles with a final victory 10 in the fifth against Liam Thomas from Wales.

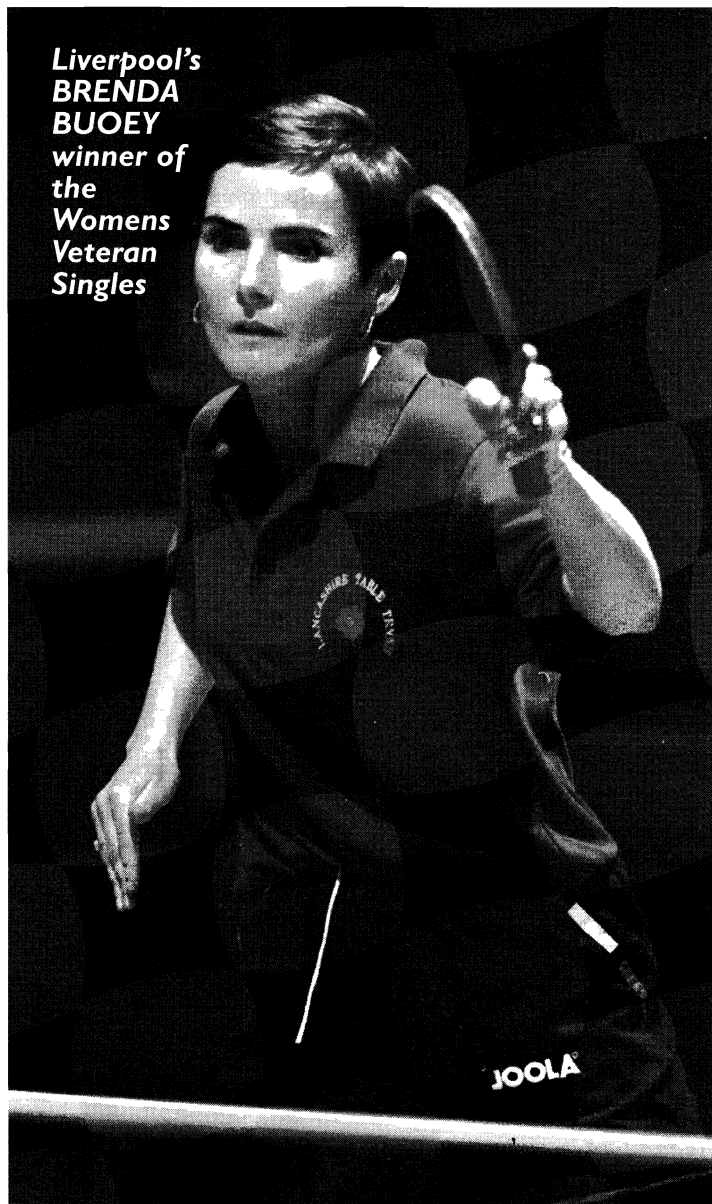
Wales did however score in the Under-21 womens singles - Naomi Owen brought down Louise Durrant (Notts) 8, 6 -11, 8 in a brilliant final.

The entry was in excess of 260 with over 30 tables. These tournaments





**TONG FEIMING**  
a world class player



**Liverpool's  
BRENDA  
BUOEY**  
winner of  
the  
Womens  
Veteran  
Singles



**Losing mens singles finallist  
BRADLEY BILLINGTON**

continue to receive record entries, except for womens veterans - the entry that included the chairman's wife Val Murdoch was down to five. This was played as a round robin group that ended with Brenda Buoey (Lancashire) winning the event with her 8,7,8 victory over Judy Morley from Gloucestershire.

The veterans mens singles that included the ETTA chair Alex Murdoch was won by Ian Girdler (Essex) with an extraordinary win over Dave Godbold (Northumberland) in the final. Girdler looked a certain loser in the first half of the last game -at least five points in arrears - but the wily Northumberlander let Girdley off the hook - Girdler triumphed 12, -7, 5, 8, 9.

The Band 1 mens winner was Craig Gasgoyne (Notts) with a 6 in the fourth success over the young Durham prospect David Meads who according to coach Keith Wilson, is destined for stardom.

Ireland got a look-in from Michelle McGreevy when she overpowered Sarah Noutch, a late entry from Yorkshire, 8, -8, 5, 8, in the womens band one final.

- Liverpool officials now have the record for the best turnout of bluecoat umpires - 13 on the first day, 16 on the Sunday.

This makes the whole thing look more professional. When players are umpiring, they are not in fact doing that, they are scoring.

The Liverpool League maintained their excellent reputation for organisation - the main team was Arthur Garnett, Don Davies, Ken Armson MBE and Steve Welch.

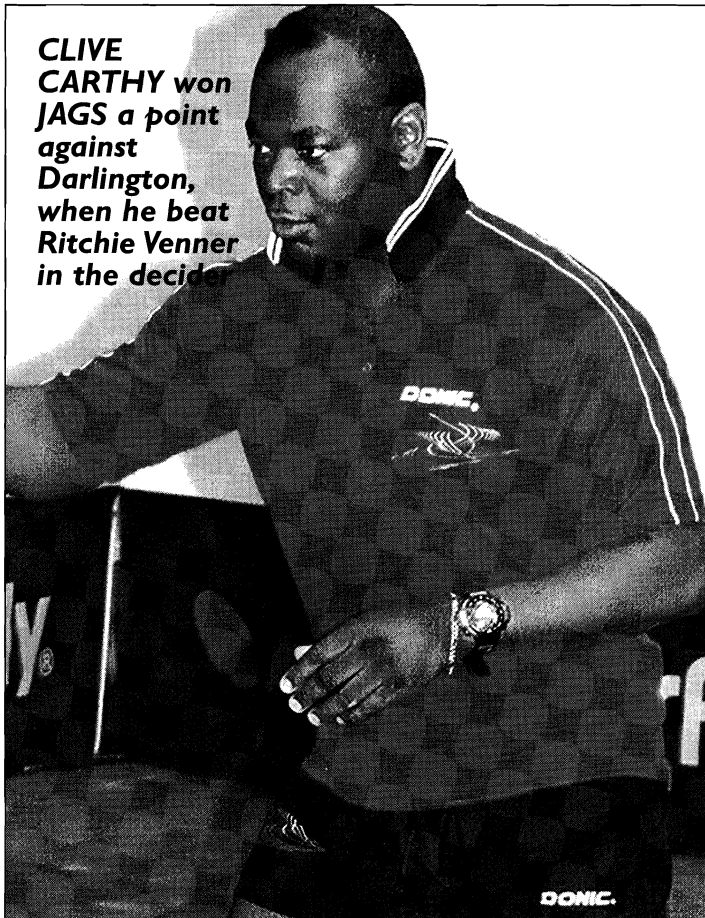
The timing and scheduling at Liverpool was excellent - 7.30 pm. finish on the Saturday and and 7pm on Sunday. Full marks to Liverpool officials and their helpers.

# NEW FORMAT - SAME TEAMS CHALLENGING

Last years Champions London Progress I and runners-up BATTs Team Peniel I both made unbeaten starts to the inaugural weekend of British League Premier division matches (played at BATTs in Harlow) by taking eight points out of eight. However it wasn't a good weekend for last season's third placers Seasiders who weren't at full strength and lost all four of their matches and already you have to say that is impossible to imagine anyone other than Progress or Peniel realistically challenging for the title, writes Steve Kerns.

Players who made their mark included last years overall British League Player of the Season John Holland (eight wins out of eight), and perhaps inevitably the Progress trio of Marco Essomba (seven victories in eight starts), Darren Blake (unbeaten in his eight matches) and Leeroy Pye (only one defeat in his eight games). However the form of two of the divisions younger players proved to be quite exceptional and Craig Bryant (Peniel's new signing) and 15 year-old Tim Yarnell (Barnet) really caught the eye. Both players are already highly ranked (Craig at No.13 in England) and Tim at No.17 and on this showing both will be eyeing the form of those players ranked above them with keen interest. Tim's seven wins out of eight included a double over Progress's Marco Essomba (Marcos' only loss of the weekend) and Jason Sugrue and an 11-9 in the deciding set victory over Peter Cleminson (Peniel). His only defeat came at the hands of Peniel Captain John Holland. Craig has already shown that he is going to be a great signing and his seven wins took in a variety of styles (Darlington's Ritchie Venner being a 3-0 victim whereas the more flamboyant Michael Marsden only perished at 13-11 in the fifth end). He also saw off the JAGS duo of Abdul Wuraola and Clive Carthy. His only loss was at the hands of Barnet's new signing Niall Cameron. The other player who excelled was Horsham's new signing 21 year-old Steve Beerling, an England top 10 Junior some four or so years ago who has enjoyed a spell

**CLIVE CARTHY won JAGS a point against Darlington, when he beat Ritchie Venner in the decider**



playing in France. Highlights for him included terrific wins over Abdul Wuraola and Greg Baker.

In the first round of matches Progress breezed past Horsham 8-0. Two great efforts - Adrian Moores 11-8 in the deciding set defeat against Jason Sugrue and a 11-6 in the fifth end loss against Marco Essomba being enough to earn him the Man-of-the-Match Award. BATTs Team Peniel were also relatively untroubled racing home 7-1 against Derwent I. Simon Noutch, another player who always seems to raise his game against higher-ranked opposition doing very well to get the better of Chris Jamieson. Seasiders were given an early warning that it wasn't going to be their weekend as they missed out 5-3 against Barnet, Tim Yarnell's two victories ensuring that Barnet stayed on top. The final match in this round - JAGS versus Darlington produced an absolute "corker" and JAGS will have to concede that they really cannot work

out how they emerged with a point. Darlington will certainly feel they were "robbed". The scorelines in all four of JAGS wins tell their own story Tommy Cutler beating Matt Kenny 11-9 in the decider, Clive Carthy edging out Eddie Smith 11-9 in the fifth, Jerome Jonah securing a superb 11-9 in the deciding set victory over Ritchie Venner and with the score at 4-3 to Darlington Clive Carthy earning JAGS their point by beating Michael Marsden 12-10 in the decider. A match of the highest drama.

The big surprise in the second round of matches was Horsham's superb 5-3 victory over JAGS, even more so after JAG's epic performance in the morning. Steve Beerling's double set Horsham on their way and two excellent wins for Andy Walker over Jerome Jonah and Clive Cathy reinforced what was an excellent Horsham team performance. Progress were never troubled in beating Derwent 7-1

although Stephen Horsfield stole the show with a truly outstanding victory over Jason Sugrue at 11-9 in the fifth game. Dave Godbold also came close to pulling off a sensational win; just missing out at 11-9 in the decider against Darren Blake. BATTs raced into a 5-1 lead against Barnet before Niall Cameron brought some degree of respectability to proceedings by beating Craig Bryant and Anthony Corbin ended the show with a 3-1 victory over Neil Charles. Darlington always had the upperhand against a below par Seasiders and doubles for Matt Kenny and Michael Marsden ensured they took the match 6-2.

Last years division One (North) Champions Derwent excelled in round three with their 5-3 victory over last years Division One (South) winners Horsham. Dave Godbold (ranked a relatively lowly no. 92 nationally) produced a performance far above that level as he beat both Adrian Moore and Peter Bartram and his team-mates chipped in with a win apiece for a very well earned victory. Andrew Horsfield beat Adrian Moore 11-9 in the decider, brother Stephen scored an excellent 3-1 win over Dominic Hall and Richard Smith sealed the victory with a 3-1 success over Hall. London Progress showed their class in disposing of Barnet as Tim Yarnell sensationally beat both Marco Essomba and Jason Sugrue yet Progress still won the match comfortably 6-2. BATTs's 5-3 victory over Darlington hides the fact that they had already moved into a 5-1 lead before Eddie Smith beat Peter Cleminson 3-2 and Michael Marsden saw off Justin Goodall 3-1 to bring some degree of respectability to the match score. JAGS on the other hand had to endure a nerve-racking last set before John Dennison saw off Ian Girdler at 11-8 in the fifth end to seal their 5-3 victory. Dennison's superb win allied to a double success for Clive Carthy (who beat both Girdler and Kevin Dolder) and single wins for Tommy Cutler and Abdul Wuraola leaving a luckless Seasiders without a point.

Round four proved no better for Seasiders as they succumbed 5-3 against Horsham I. Steve Beerling's double gave the Sussex side the ascendancy and singles wins for Adrian Moore, Peter Bartram and

**Table toppers**  
**London Progress'**  
**MARCO**  
**ESSOMBA had a**  
**very good**  
**weekend, despite**  
**losing to Barnet's**  
**Tim Yarnell**



Andy Walker meant they eventually took the match. "Big John" Rankin showed up well with a surprisingly convincing 3-0 win over Andy Walker and he only went down 11-9 in the decider against Beerling. Kevin Dolder's "Yellow card" summed up his sides frustration Dolder actually won both of his singles - 3-1 versus Moore and 3-1 against Bartram ! Peniel excelled to beat old rivals JAGS 6-2 (to whom they had actually lost twice last year). John Holland, Craig Bryant and Justin Goodall were all on top form and all stayed undefeated to complete an outstanding performance. Progress stayed top by virtue of having a better sets average and they looked in "good nick" as they disposed of Darlington 7-1. Jason Sugrue set the tone in the first match with a 3-0 demolition of Matt Kenny and his side never looked back from there. Darlington's single win was a good one as the improving Michael Marsden excelled by beating Leeroy Pye 9,-8,10,8,9 in the last match.

Currently ranked no. 62 nationally Marsden could be one to watch over the course of the season. Finally Barnet scored their second win of the weekend as they saw off Derwent 5-3. Barnet's Niall Cameron took the Player-of-the-Match Award for his two wins against Simon Noutch and David Godbold although Stephen Horsfield must surely have had an equally good claim to the Award as he scored two superb wins over Nicky McKoy and Costas Papantoniou.

The next round of matches will take place over the weekend of 23/24 November 2003 at Wellow House School, Newark. You can expect some fireworks in round seven when London Progress face BATTs Team Peniel and it is also fair to expect improved showings from Seasiders who will be hopeful of adding Johnathon Taylor and John Hilton to their line-up, and from Darlington who have Andrew Wilkinson and Michael James still to call on.

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	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Derwent	12	10	0	2	63	33	20
Ormesby	12	9	1	2	66	30	19
Grantham IDS	12	6	2	4	51	45	14

## PREMIER DIVISION RESULTS

BATTs Team Peniel I 7 : 1 Derwent I

JAGS I 4 : 4 Darlington I

London Progress I 8 : 0

Horsham I Seasiders I 3 : 5 Barnet

Barnet 3 : 5 BATTs Team Peniel I

Darlington I 6 : 2 Seasiders I

Derwent I I : 7 London Progress I

Horsham I 5 : 3 JAGS I

BATTs Team Peniel I 5 : 3 Darlington I

Horsham I 3 : 5 Derwent I

London Progress I 6 : 2 Barnet

Seasiders I 3 : 5 JAGS I

Barnet 5 : 3 Derwent I

Darlington I I : 7 London Progress I

JAGS I 2 : 6 BATTs Team Peniel I

Seasiders I 3 : 5 Horsham I

## WEEKEND ONE 30th/31st AUGUST 2003 BATTs TEAM PENIEL

The British League Official Ball

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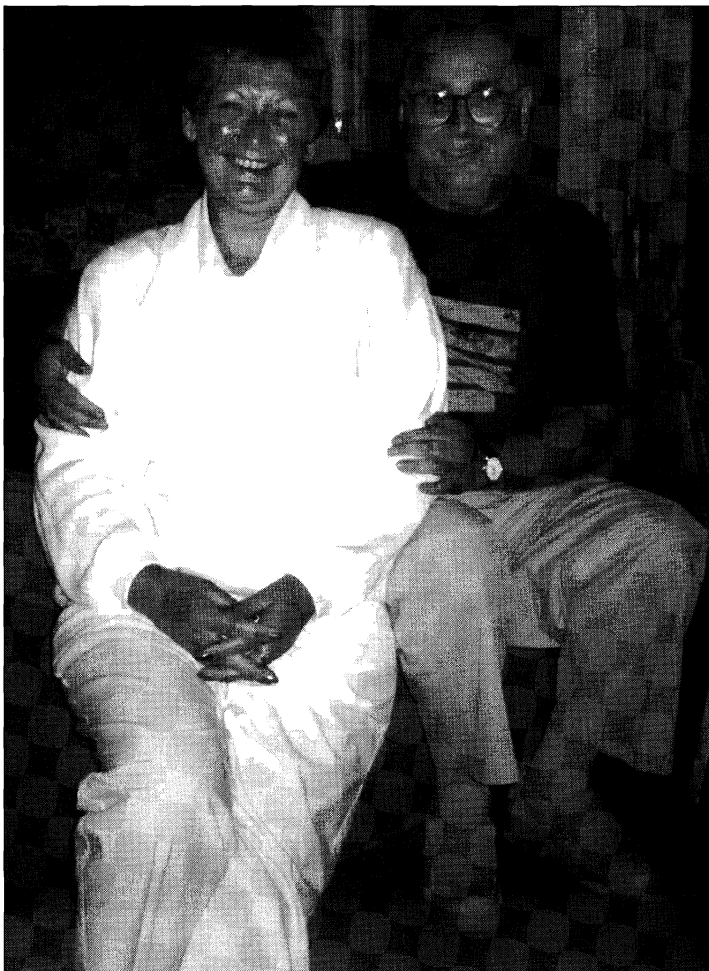
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# 100 CLUB GRAND UNION RE-UNION



## Brian Halliday reflects on the 100 CLUB CRUISE 2003

THIS YEAR'S 100 Club outing followed the example of a couple of years ago. Again we were all canal bound, but this time with a marked difference.

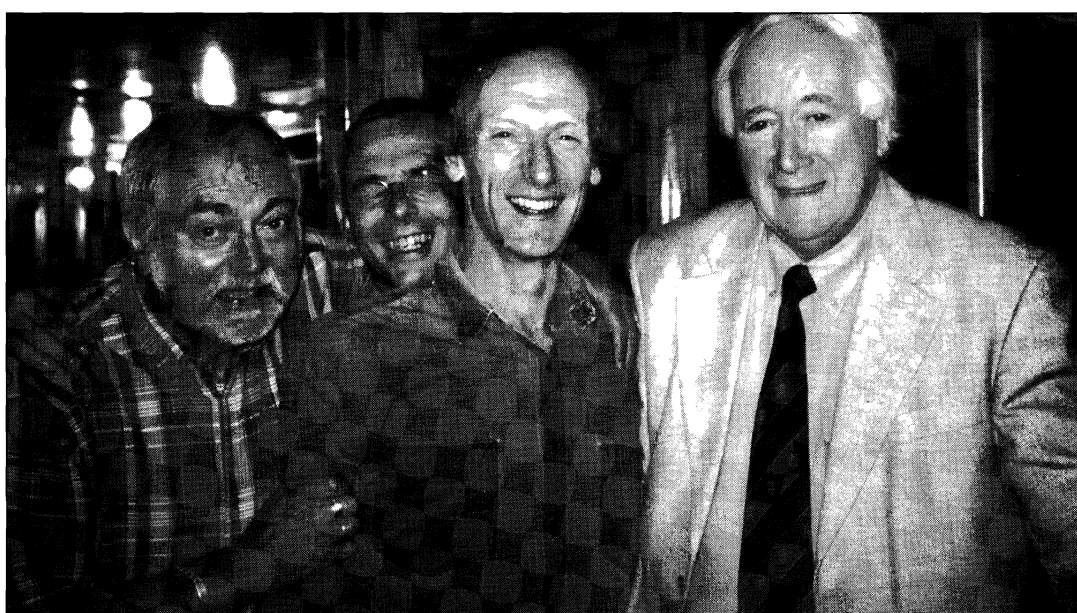
An extended, and somewhat fraught, Annual General Meeting concluded at an advanced hour, which left our intrepid canal cruisers little time to prepare for the rigours of the waterways. Therefore the coach left Milton Keynes to journey to the marina, where the boat was moored, a little late. Don't ask me about the route, where we went, or what boatyard we went from. I know Milton Keynes is supposed to be designed on a grid system but its directions remain one of life's mysteries. To follow signs out into the neighbouring wilds was beyond me. Anyway it was a jolly pretty route to wherever we went.

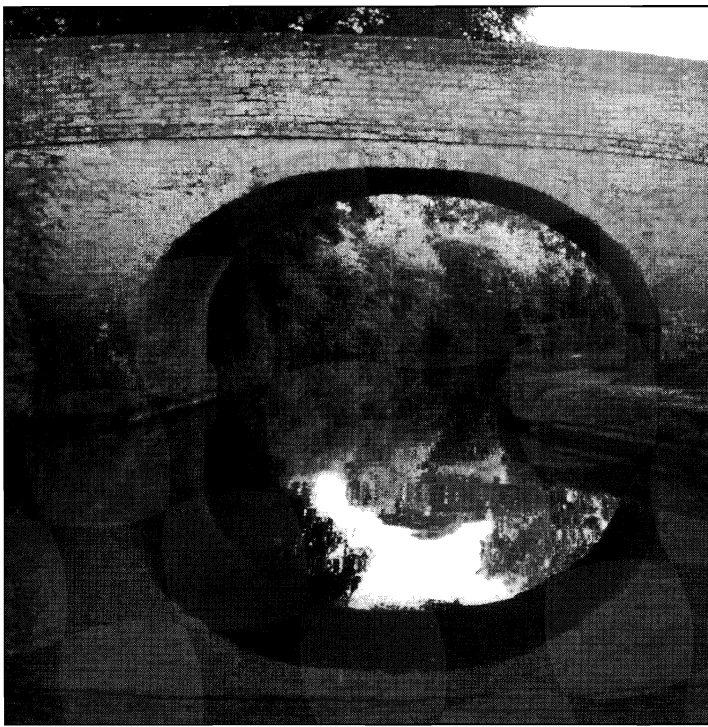
Our cruise was just perfect. Roomy, comfortable boat. A quite wonderful meal. Totally English with excellent fish and chips. Copious draughts of wine and beer. Even coffee and After Eight mints added a thoughtful and appreciative touch to the whole proceedings.

Of course it is the passengers that make a cruise, and this time we got a truly exceptional lot, right from our brilliant organiser Doreen Stannard, to the old Chairman's wife through to the new Chairman's wife, and the old "new" Chairman. Shame there was no haggis for the Chief Executive, but you can't provide everything.

Sincere thanks to Doreen for all the work and effort she put in to make this such a happy and memorable event. Can't wait for next year. Manchester Ship Canal (or will it be 'Suez?') here we come.

*Pictured left enjoying themselves are new ETTA Chairman ALEX MURDOCH and his wife VAL. Bottom left is JOSE RANSOME receiving a presentation as the retiring 100 Club Chairman. Bottom right are, Editor of TTN JOHN WOOD, ETTA General Secretary ROB SINCLAIR, KEN MUHR and BRIAN HALLIDAY*



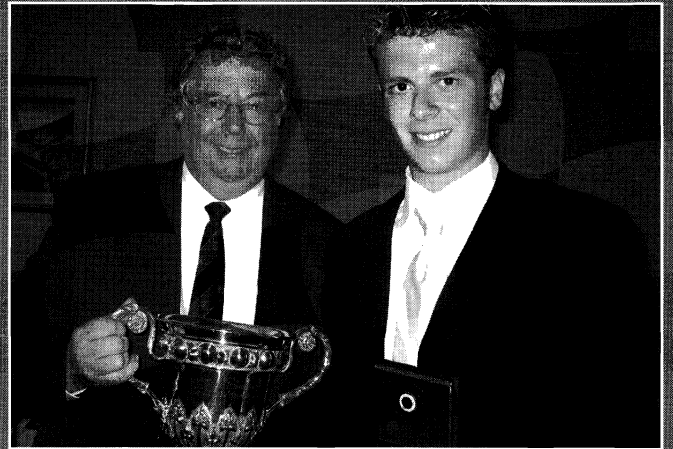


## 100 CLUB CRUISE FACT FILE by Lesley Hall-Wood

THE cruise started at Pitstone Wharf, where we all piled on the "Chiltern Princess" and chugged along to the Red Lion, Marsworth, where the fish and chips caught up with us. While cruising between the Tring & Wilstone Reservoirs and Waterfowl Reserves, a presentation was made to the 100 Club retiring Chairman Jose Ransome. It was then time to turn around and head back, accompanied by a spectacular sunset, to the waiting coach.

**YASAKA  
3 STAR BALLS**

# ETTA AGM PRESENTATIONS



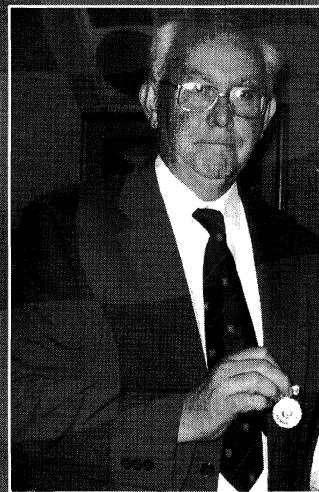
**THE VICTOR BARNA AWARD:** Presented by former ETTA Chairman ALAN RANSOME to ANDREW BAGDALEY, who shared the award with GARETH HERBERT



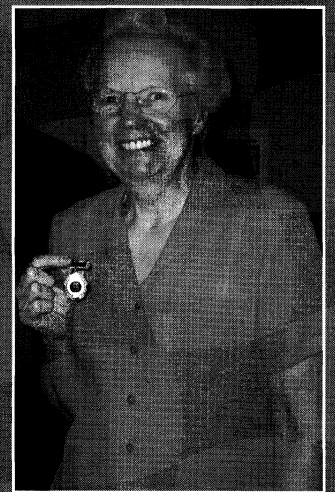
**MALCOLM SCOTT AWARD**  
to DOREEN STANNARD



**IVOR MONTAGUE AWARD**  
to MICK STRODE



**HONORARY LIFE MEMBER**  
to LESLIE SMITH



**NEW VICE PRESIDENT** to  
DOREEN NIGHTINGALE

# 900 AT THE MASTERS IN 100 DEGREE HEAT

**STAGED** in a cauldron of near-100 Fahrenheit, a full house of 900 fans survived the blistering heat at the aptly-named Crucible at Sheffield, cheering on the six world-class men who like me had only experienced such conditions in the tropics, writes **John Woodford in Sheffield.**

All six men lived up to the Masters title. Almost predictably, but not quite, Timo Boll lived up to his label of World No.1. Earlier this year he was nursing an injury. He won the world cup but lost in Courmayeur at the Europeans and at the World's in Paris.

Having watched him in Italy and France, I had the feeling that he might bounce back. He did just that.

His first two matches both went to five - he only survived 9 in the fifth against the excellent all-rounder Chen Weixing in the first round and triumphed by the same fifth game score against our own Matthew Syed.

Boll said "I had a lot of problems with Matthew's spin, I had to work very hard. Syed: He calls me the wall, I call him the rock. Further Boll quotes - I am very happy to win against Vladimir - if I do not risk anything, I have no chance. Athens could be my year".



**TIMO BOLL** lived up to his label as World No. 1

Having watched Matthew play on many occasions in recent years I can recall two other matches in which he reached world top-twenty standard - against Jorgen Persson and more recently against a young Russian player at Cheltenham in the European League.

This time it was another standing ovation - at times his returns had the German floundering. And, as promised Syed came in with

stunning attacking shots that had the German perplexed. But Boll is the coolest of customers - a left-handed two-winged attack that is a joy to watch.

As he is only 22, he has every chance of not being dogged by persistent injuries. I shall be looking forward to his clash with the Asians, especially the Chinese on the world circuit and at the world teams championships in Doha, Qatar.

Jan-Ove Waldner, arguably the world's most talented player, but at 37, well past his best. He is still great but the huge banner in the crowd that read "Waldner is the greatest" could have been "Waldner WAS the greatest".

Vladimir Samsonov seems to remain cool even in the sweltering heat; he defeated Waldner 3-1 and then Kreanger in the 3-2. In the fifth game against the former Romanian Samsonov was way down throughout the game - time-out was at 9-8 to Kreanga, but Samsonov, always more steady and controlled, was lucky to scrape home 13 in the fifth.

Unfortunately, the final was something of an anti-climax - The Belarus man was beaten 9, -7 9, 7. But the fans clearly enjoyed the night - an event created by Matthew Syed with lots of help from Paul Andrews, managing director of the sponsors - Ocean International Communications of Brighton.

Colin Deaton was going to be M.C but he had a heart attack before the match. His place was ably taken at very short notice by Richard Yule, assisted by Jill Parker. Don Parker and Tony Gubba were the main commentators for BBC Television. Many fans will have watched the hour-long coverage on Grandstand on the following day.

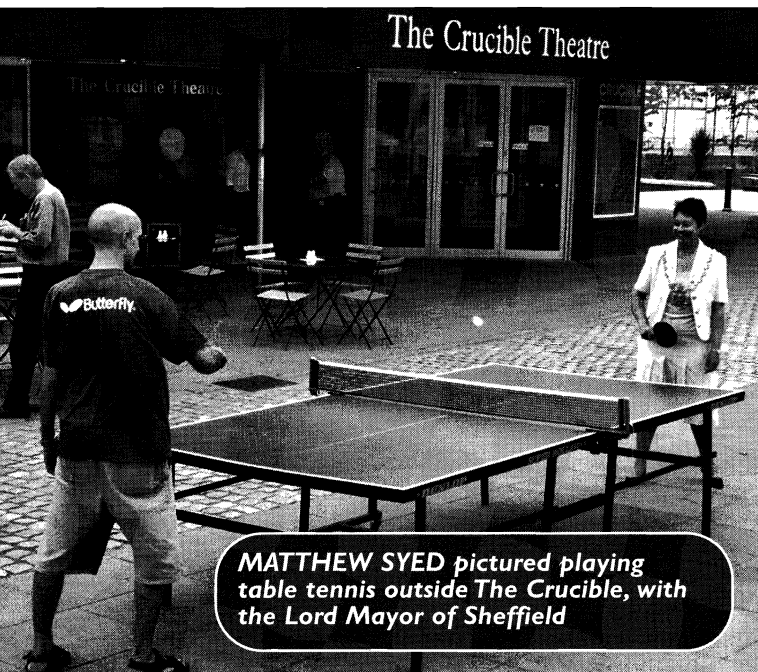
One (other) BBC commentator said that all six men would be appearing in Athens - incorrect of course, Matthew as has to try to qualify in Luxembourg in November.

The five foreign players were transported with girl-friends in the biggest stretch limousine I have ever seen from London and back immediately after the match to a top London hotel.

Can this event happen again? It is entirely up to the BBC according to Matthew Syed.

**Verdict:** It was a great night. Whether it could happen again - it depends on you fans - please drop a line to the BBC Grandstand saying how much you appreciate the return of table tennis to terrestrial screens.

This is a serious request - only needs a paragraph - fans only usually write to the media with complaints, so sports editors get the impression that table tennis fans do not care if their sport is covered or not.



**MATTHEW SYED** pictured playing table tennis outside The Crucible, with the Lord Mayor of Sheffield

## BEDFORDSHIRE

by Derek Willis

FOR the new season Luton & District League have decided to split the top division. The new premier division will play each over four times, as will division one.

This will be experimental and shall be reviewed.

The Bedford League will have five divisions for the new season, with division one champions Bedford Modern 'A' defending the title.

The following are the Bedfordshire County Ranking lists:

### SENIOR MEN

- 1 KEVIN COPPERWHEAT
- 2 ROBERT DYNES
- 3 HAMISH YEUNG
- 4 CHRIS STONE
- 5 TIM TERNENT
- 6 DAVID HALL
- 7 RICHARD STEELE
- 8 DAVID HYDE
- 9 JOHN ALSOP
- 10 PAUL BIRCH
- 11 BRIAN MAYFIELD
- 12 NIGEL ANSTEE
- 13 GRAHAM COOK
- 14 HARVEY CROSS
- 15 MARTIN VERDON
- 16 DEREK WILLIS
- 17 ALEX MURDOCH
- 18 CHRIS WILSON

### SENIOR WOMEN

- 1 SANDRA HARPER
- 2 VAL MURDOCH
- 3 ANITA COPPERWHEAT
- 4 SARAH HUDSON
- 5 ROSIE INZANI
- 6 KATHERINE BUTLER
- 7 GILLIAN SHOULER

The ranking lists for Veterans and Juniors will appear in the next issue.

## BERKSHIRE

by John Cunningham

### Bob matches brother Geoff

Bob Davis, one of Reading's top players received the Reading Chronicle Cup from Captain, Nick Savage at the Army Technical Foundation College in Arborfield.

Bob who is in charge of the "Basic Skills Centre" at the college earned his award for his outstanding performances in the Reading Closed Championships. His brother Geoff won the same annual award in the 1992-93 season.

## CHESHIRE

by Alan Blears

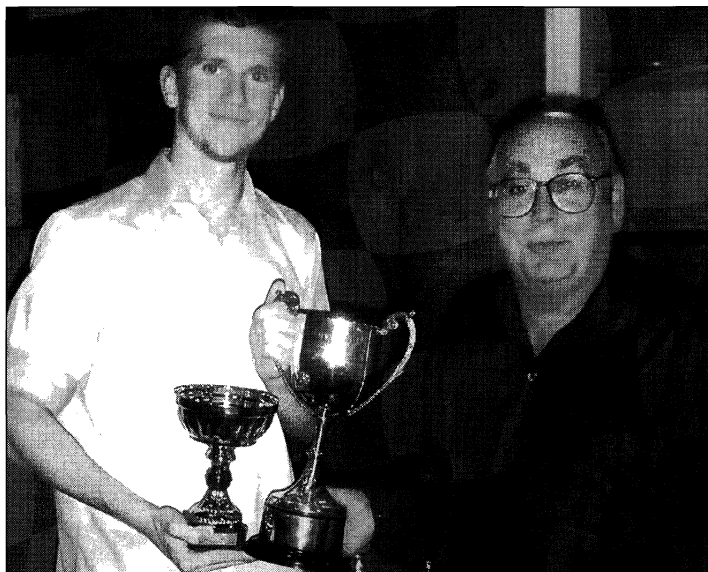
### National U-10s/11s/12s/13s

THREE Stockport girls enjoyed a successful weekend in Doncaster.

## PLEASE NOTE

County Notes is for the publicity of county activities. The accuracy of what is published is the responsibility of the county associations as the editor cannot possibly know the 'facts' may be incorrect. Copy containing libellous or personally abusive matter or 'political' comment will not be published.

# COUNTY NOTES



**BEDFORDSHIRE:** Pictured above is CHRIS STONE (left) receiving the Luton & District Singles trophy from ETTA Chairman ALEX MURDOCH (Chris beat Harvey Cross in the final)



**BERKSHIRE:** Pictured above is BOB DAVIES (right) receiving the Reading Chronicle Cup from Captain, NICK SAVAGE

Partnered by her Derbyshire pal Emma Vickers, Caroline Hallows was the surprise winner of the U-13 doubles, and semi-finalist in the singles.

Jenny Dinsdale reached the last eight of the U-11s, before losing 13-11 in the fourth game to the no.1 seed, and was semi-finalist in the U-12 doubles with her club team-mate Emma Kelly – this after

trying her hand, feet and bottom at the centre's ice rink!

Emma Kelly had played only twice in the previous six weeks, but reached the semi-final of the U-12s losing to eventual winner, Rachel Jamieson.

Emma, described by someone who knows about these things as one of the greatest natural talents to appear for

some time, then promptly announced her retirement after just over two years in favour of girls' football! How I detest footie's all-pervading influence on modern society.

The event was held at the magnificent Dome centre in Doncaster, which is very accessible. Next year I see it is scheduled for King's Lynn. Please no! I am sure it is a splendid place, but it is the very devil to get to.

Incidentally, I see Anglo-German girl Sabine Winter, who twice had straight games wins against an opponent with over 1,400 ranking points, has been given a ranking of 23 points by the computer – choose your own expletives!

Sportbreak Junior/Cadet and Senior Tournaments

Enclosed are the results of these 2-star events held on the 2nd/3rd August.

From these you will see there was no women's event because of insufficient entries. The junior and cadet girls were also thin on the ground, with none of Cheshire's many girl players entered. Come on ladies, especially those in the Wirral; support your local tournaments or there will be no local tournaments to support. These Knutsford events are well-run in a good venue next to magnificent Tatton Park, and there is easy motorway access.

In the N.W. Youth Cup hopefully reported elsewhere, there was a notable lack of entries from Cumbria.

### European Veterans

Players who go back thirty years or so (not me – I'm far too young!), will remember Diane Johnson. Well, she's back, and in fairytale fashion took the Consolation Gold in the ladies' O-60s.

John Hilton took Bronze in the O-50 men's singles, and also the doubles, partnered by – wait for it – Nigel Eckersley!

The extensive coverage of Veterans' events in these notes has been entirely the result of me ferreting around. This is not really as it should be, so if you want to continue to see your tales of derring-do reported in black and white (or pink, yellow, green, blue or grey), then give me a ring on 0161 494 1623.

Finally, may I express my appreciation of Ken Muhr's efforts for "TTN", and wish him every success in whatever he turns his pen to.

### Sportbreak Open Championships, Knutsford, 2nd/3rd August 2003

**Junior Boys' Singles:** 1st – Phil Robinson (Durham) 2nd – Matthew Dodds (South Yorkshire)

**Junior Girls' Singles:** 1st – Frances Potjeywd (Somerset) 2nd – Rebecca Yip (Lancashire)

**Cadet Boys' Singles:** 1st – Matthew Dodds (South Yorkshire) 2nd – Alex Watson – Lazowski (Staffordshire)

**Cadet Girls' Singles:** 1st – Frances Potjeywd (Somerset) 2nd – Kirsty Owen (Yorkshire)

**Men's Singles**  
Super Group: 1st – Kevin Beadsley (Yorkshire) 2nd – Keith Williams (Lancashire)

**Group 1:** 1st – Matthew Dodds (South Yorkshire) 2nd – John Weatherby (Cheshire)

**Group 2:** 1st – Keith Weatherby (Cheshire) 2nd – Mike Boyce (Cleveland)



**Cornwall's MARTHA TRAVIS has become the ETTA National Under 10 Girls Champion, in her first year of playing table tennis**

The Intermediate Cup final was won by Metherill's Shirley Luckhurst, Chris Stevens and Kevan Borlase, beating Myler 5-3, where Meverill's Kevan Borlase beat David Plumb 3-0 to take the title.

St.Ives Table Tennis Club must have created some sort of record, with three of their teams reaching the finals.

Congratulations to Martha Travis from St Just in Cornwall who won the National U10 girls at the U10,11,12 & 13 Nationals held at Doncaster this year.

This is a fantastic achievement by Martha because she only started playing last season. Her proud coach Neville Reed is over the moon at rapid rise to the top, and hopes that she continues improving all the way to senior age group.

A note for your diaries: this season's Cornwall County Closed championships will held on the weekend of 6th-7th March 2004.

**CUMBRIA**  
*by Gordon Brown*

ONE of the strongest leagues in the country were on the brink of being removed from the ETTA because players were not comfortable with the 11 points and up ruling.

Traditionalists in the four-division Barrow League, which has boasted several of the country's high ranking junior players, have never been happy with the International Federation's departure from 21 and up two years ago.

In line with ETTA instructions, Barrow started playing 11 and up at the commencement of the introductory season, but halfway through, by popular demand, they reverted to 21 and 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 and up this season. Hence a special Barrow League meeting in Park View Table Tennis Centre at which those present voted two to one "reluctantly" to go along with 11 and up.

Keith Mallinson was in the embarrassing position of being Chairman of both the Cumbria County Association and the Barrow League. "We reluctantly decided to go to 11 and up. If we had not we would have been kicked out of the ETTA," said Keith, who had just been elected to his second year as County Chairman.

Chairman of Barrow League for eight years, Keith said it would have been a disaster for the County Association had Barrow dropped out, as the county would then have been left with one affiliated league, Kendal. He doubted whether the County Association could have carried on.

It would have been a double blow on top of an unwitting error that has led to the county not being represented individually on the ETTA this season.

Vice-Chairman, Clarice Rose has done the job for many seasons, but this time round County Secretary, Peter Rushton unwittingly gave the wrong date on the form he sent to the ETTA for the meeting arranged to select the representative.

Said Peter "I filled in the form incorrectly. It was an administrative error - a basic human error. The county has to

have a special meeting to vote for the representative. I put the wrong date for our meeting by one day. It was pointed out to me by Tony Wickens, the ETTA Returning Officer." Clarice had been the only county nomination for the role.

At the county annual meeting in the Salvation Hotel, Ambleside, all officials were re-elected: President: Bob Gale; Chairman: Keith Mallinson; Vice-Chairman: Clarice Rose; Secretary: Peter Rushton; Treasurer: Richard Johnstone; Match Secretary: Steve Dixon; Press Secretary: Gordon Brown; Coaching Secretary: Mike Yardley; Umpires Secretary: Peter Rushton; Auditor: Ron Rigg.

Finally, Keith Mallinson's last word on 11 and up: "It was not done for the players. It was done to suit TV and it has not worked. Coverage has been mostly on Sky. 5 per cent of the population have Sky, which means the other 95 per cent don't see it."

**DERBYSHIRE**

*by Colin Deaton*

DERBYSHIRE'S long serving secretary, Les Allwood, achieved the incredible milestone earlier this year of 25 years of service to the Derbyshire Table Tennis Association.

His 25 years of loyalty and guidance to our game commenced on the 12th July 1978.

He has many roles, he also plays, is current secretary of the Derby and District League and for the last 7 years he has fulfilled the task of being a tournament umpire.

One cannot imagine a Derbyshire team without Les being somehow involved, either transporting, the players, scoring or cornering our young players.

In the last 5 years he deservedly was presented with the E.T.T.A. Maurice Goldstein Award and also received the distinction of being presented with the Leslie Forest Memorial Trophy, for his work in the National County Championships.

Aged 54, he actually started playing our game at school when he was 15, although he has never risen to great heights as a player, his contribution to our game in Derbyshire is second to none.

In his spare time he enjoys cricket, drama and gardening and he regularly attends United Reform Church, but few can deny that his number one love is Table Tennis.

His current posts with the Derbyshire Association is Secretary, Treasurer and none playing captain, not forgetting being the Secretary of the growing Derby and District League.

Les, a Librarian at the Learning Centre, Heanor, said "He hopes Derbyshire table tennis will continue on the up and up".

It is thanks to people like Les Allwood that our game in Derbyshire is so popular and it goes without saying that we in Derbyshire are proud of our 'Mr Table Tennis'.

The Derby League is to increase in teams this year and has transferred a lot of its league activities played at the Mackworth Centre to Littleover School (12 tables).

Also this season they are to employ a 12



**CORNWALL: Winners of the Intermediate Team Knock-out Cup Metherill TTC, pictured with their trophies are CHRIS STEVENS, SHIRLEY LUCKHURST and KEVAN BORLASE**

**CORNWALL**

*by John Wood*

WELCOME to a new season where the 11up scoring season has now become law, but for us in Cornwall it is not a problem because we have already been using this system.

Welcome is in order to our new arrivals John and Di Jermyn, who moved to London Apprentice from Hertfordshire at the end of August this year. John, who is an International Referee, has agreed to be Cornwall's representative on the ETTA National Council. Di is part of the new ETTA Management Committee, as a vice-chairman without departmental responsibility

On behalf of all table tennis personnel in Cornwall I would like to express our good wishes to John and Di, hoping that their relocation to our part of the world will be a successful and happy.

On behalf of the county I wish to thank

Roger Vardon for his past duties as Cornwall's General Secretary, his place has been taken by Tim Bowler.

The Tamar Cup match between Devon and Cornwall ended as a draw, but due the fact that Devon were the holders from last year, they retained the cup.

Early in the summer the Cornwall County Team Knock-out Cup competition came to it's conclusion, when the finals took place at Tregorrick Table Tennis Centre in St.Austell.

The Class 2 final was won by St.Ives 'B' when they defeated their fellow club team St.Ives 'C' 5-1, where player of the match was David Smith, who beat his dad 11-8 in the 5th.

The Senior Knock-out Cup was won by Peoples Palace 'A' who beat St.Ives 'A' 5-4. Included in the St.Ives team was the legendary John Basset.

This nail-biting final went to the wire, with Peoples Palace's Bob House taking the honours when he beat Mike Fisher.

team format system as opposed to a 10 team system in the past.

Their pride and joy, Emma Vickers, continues to shine and develop and is, without question, an outstanding young prospect, already having gained international selection in events abroad, recently playing in Luxembourg.

The Derby 4Star Junior is again to be featured and this is now quite established as one of the top events in our junior game.

Chesterfield, after their performance of 3 players in the quarter finals of the England national U10 Championships at Doncaster, continue to improve.

Their squad of Staveley youngsters are amongst the best in Britain and regular one-to-one sessions with Nicola Deaton and Alex Perry will keep them sharp with their technique continuing along the right lines.

I went along to the first grand Prix of the season in Liverpool and the number of players participating from Chesterfield was quite exceptional.

Player/Coach, Steve Young won the Band 5 Singles, whilst Pat Thorley, now happily fit again, won the Band 2 singles.

Pat last month qualified as a Level 2 Coach and will represent South Yorkshire in the Veterans classes of the National Championships.

Alex Perry, now based in Chesterfield, as time goes along will take quite a permanent part in the Chesterfield local game and will be a big asset to the youngsters around the Chesterfield area.

He was in top form at Liverpool, winning the Men's singles in a very convincing style, playing with more top spin. The Commonwealth Gold Medallist is chasing more gold at the next Commonwealth event in Australia in 2006.

Finally, I would like to say thanks to all those friends and colleagues who sent so many cards and letters of get well soon wishes to me following my admission to hospital with illness.

It was a huge disappointment to me for this admission to happen on the eve of the Continental Masters in Sheffield where I was to compare the event.

Everyone enjoyed the Masters event and I was so sorry not to be there. I hope there will be a back up event.

## DEVONSHIRE

by John Vincent

THIS will be my last report as Devonshire Coaching Officer and Press Representative although I will still be involved with the Junior First Team. I have had a long innings and enjoyed every moment of it. Now is the time for new blood to take over to keep the County flag flying high. I would like to thank our Committee for their full support over many years and the players and coaches that have brought so much success for our County teams. Ken Denton the new Devonshire Chairman presented me with a wonderful brandy glass inscribed "With our thanks" which now has pride of place next to my ETTA "Contribution to Coaching" Award.

The Beacon Electrical Plymouth Schools League run by Dave Brenton has completed its fifth year and is expected to run again in 2003/2004. The final

league table for last season is as follows:-

Team	P	W	Pts
Ivybridge 'A'	18	15	116
Tamarside 'A'	18	16	111
Tamarside 'B'	18	12	101
Ivybridge 'B'	18	11	96
Yealmpstone Farm	18	11	93
Ivybridge 'C'	18	9	79
Ivybridge 'D'	18	5	56
Ivybridge 'E'	18	5	49
Coombe Dean	18	3	44
Stoke Damerel	18	3	41

Congratulations to Ivybridge 'A' on retaining the League Trophy.

After the League programme was completed the Individual and Doubles Championships took place at the Plymouth League HQ. Results were as follows:-

*Under 14 Singles:* Champion – Richard Marshall (Yealmpstone Farm) Runner-up – Elliot Goss (Yealmpstone Farm)

*Over 14 Singles:* Champion – John Cooksley (Ivybridge) Runner-up – Nathaniel Hunt (Ivybridge)

*Open Doubles:* Champions – Alex Steel/John Cooksley Runners-up – Richard Marshall/Elliot Goss

The Leading Player Award went to Chris Warn (Tamarside) and the Sporting Trophy went to Brantley Rogers (Yealmpstone Farm).

### National Junior League, Plymouth

This League which has been a success for the past 2 years will run for 2003/2004 with John Smith as Organiser assisted by John Vincent.

### Carter Cup

It was a great boost for table tennis in Plymouth when the Beacon Electrical Plymouth and District League's junior team of Chris Brown, Jacob Kodicek and Darren Reed won the National Carter Cup in the League's Centenary Year. All three boys play for Inter-city in Division I of the Local League.

## ESSEX

by Steve Kerns

### Jack Petchey Foundation

THE most generous benefactor to Essex Table Tennis in the last three/four years is as far as we know not even a player. Nevertheless the name "Jack Petchey" is becoming increasingly well known in Essex circles.

The Jack Petchey Foundation is a Grant making Trust that gave away £ 3.2m in 2002 to worthwhile undertakings that support projects that work with young people; no strings attached. Sounds too good to be true? In West Essex and East London literally hundreds of organisations have benefited and pleasingly Table Tennis has been amongst the beneficiaries with the Romford & DTLL and BATTs both receiving sizeable grants over the last three years.

Jack Petchey was born in 1925 in the East End of London and from a modest background he started in Car hire and went on to make his fortune with Car dealerships and Property development. The Trust was formed in 1999 with the aim of developing the potential within young people and to help young people play a full part in society. Organisations from just about every walk in life have received funding - just about every sport imaginable, out-of-school projects,

Orchestras and Choirs, Dyslexia Groups, Drama Groups, Scouts, even individual London Marathon competitors.

Colin Sherrin and John Mansfield from the Romford League explained "Whilst the "Awards for All" Grant we received helped the Romford League launch the Havering TT Coaching School the Jack Petchey Award has been a key factor in allowing the Club to develop and also retain the interest of its young members. It has enabled us to replace damaged or worn-out equipment and also to purchase new equipment such as a training Robot. The generous monthly Award of £ 200 has proved to be an excellent way of encouraging members to work hard and the fact that it represents the hard work they have put in and not just that they are the best players has enabled us to reward a variety of boys and girls aged between 9 and 15". The Romford League have already received two years of funding - 24 lots of £ 200, not an insignificant amount by any standards.

Essex Veteran County players Neil Brierley and Dave Wright expand "Many small Clubs, and this is especially true of Table Tennis find it really hard to make ends meet. At BATTs we aim to put on quality events but can rarely charge the participants enough to cover our costs. Our application for support received a positive response from Andrew Billington, Finance Director of the Jack Petchey Foundation and within 24 hours we heard that would be receiving £750 towards the cost of setting up a series of Friday night Coaching sessions. With former English Veteran Champion Clive Carthy taking charge these sessions have proved very successful. We have the potential to receive £ 4,150 by the end of our first 12 month period and support will continue as long as we stick to the terms of our scheme. We have used this money to develop top-class coaching, purchase our own printed T-shirts and to upgrade our range of equipment".

Clubs are also eligible to receive a "Leadership Award". BATTs were successful in their application and Harlow League President Bill Rosendale proudly picked up their £1,000 Award recently at a first-class Gala presentation ceremony in May at the London Planetarium. The Romford League were also successful in obtaining a Leadership Award and Romford & DTLL Vice-Chairman John Mansfield was the proud recipient of their £1,000 Award at their own Presentation Evening. They will use these funds to pay for a series of top-class Coaching sessions led by former international player Grant Solder.

## ISLE OF WIGHT

by John Pream

OUR team returned in triumph from the Island Games of 2003. The event (for the world's smaller islands) continues to gain numbers and momentum with more sports and competitors every two years. The teams lined up in table tennis were Saarema (Estonia), Bermuda, Rhodes (Greece), Isle of Man, Shetland Islands, Jersey, Guernsey, Aland (Finland), Gotland (Sweden), Greenland, Faroe Islands, Orkney, who were divided into two groups of six and seven respectively.

The format was the very old fashioned one, yet again, of mixed teams, consisting of four men's singles, only one ladies' singles, but mixed and ladies' doubles. It remains unclear why the men's and ladies' team events cannot be staged separately. Bermuda, who arrived with only two men, might have agreed.

Our team (Lucy Pointer, Jo Hurt, Roger Hookey, Alex Rorke, Danny Burns, Carl Pream) retained the team title, eventually defeating Guernsey 4-0 in the final. All the other matches were played to a finish and all seven ties had to be concluded, but not apparently the final. Lucy and Jo won the mixed where our opponents might have felt hopeful and Lucy, Danny and Carl did the rest. Gotland were not as strong as usual.

Carl and Lucy won their respective singles titles and Carl and Danny also the men's doubles. Danny got to the semi-final for the first time in which he met Carl. Only the ladies' doubles title eluded us. Lucy and Carl also won the mixed.

Put into perspective, we won 5 out of the 10 gold won by the Island in ALL sports and so our standing locally remained high and the publicity was excellent. Sadly, we may never see its like again.

The next event, in 2005, will be in the Shetlands, where there will be an accommodation problem and there was further disappointment for the Isle of Wight, as our bid for 2007 failed, Rhodes being the selected venue.

These set-backs apart, the staging of the table tennis event left much, perhaps everything to be desired. The Guernsey Association had provided an excellent venue, which played and looked great with five tables on view. Unfortunately, the powers that-be had decided to have nine tables in the hall, which spoilt everything. The lighting was no longer right and conditions inevitably varied from table to table. The reason, as far as one can gather, was officialdom's idea or illusion that table tennis players like to play till they drop. Everything was arranged in groups and played mainly to "best of 7" and even seeds were not excused from the groups. Even the three doubles events were played in groups and so resulted a veritable marathon of a tournament, but the conventional marathon is over in 2.5 hours (less if you are Paula Ratcliffe) and in one day. The table tennis marathon here took 6 days of about 10 hours each. There was no time to see other sports or to meet the athletes of other sports which once made this such tremendous fun. Our own players, without exception, were tired for at least a week afterwards. Who thought all this up I have no idea, but our sport was done no favours and whether we shall want to come again next time must be in real doubt after all that. Our sport seems to have an uncanny knack of shooting itself in the foot and this time the wounds really hurt.

Locally, indications are that we shall have more teams than last season, the first fruit of our coaching scheme which has brought a lot of youngsters into the sport and some older ones back. We shall try a new system in our bottom division which is designed to produce shorter evenings. The old system of nine singles

and one doubles will remain, but each match will only consist of three games and each game will count towards the end result which might be 30-0 or 15 all. This might knock a third off the duration and so produce the desired 10 o'clock finish which parents of younger players find just about acceptable.

The passage of this proposal through our AGM was by no means smooth, other players clinging to the late nights which they saw as a good night out. However, as all the new players will begin in the bottom division, perhaps a fair compromise was reached. No doubt the saga will continue next year. The sad truth that our sport is doomed unless we attract new players seems largely ignored. I have seen our teams drop from 78 to the 29 of last season. It is not only our national scene that is in urgent need of reform. The problems are more deep-seated and far more enterprising and reforming attitudes will have to prevail at local level, if the decline in the fortunes of English Table Tennis is to be reversed.

## LANCASHIRE

by Tony Meredith

I CANNOT report on county activities as I have received zilch in that field. Preston secretary, Gerry Stokes has sent me a report on their championships and that will be detailed below. The season has ended and we are now in limbo -land as far as the plans of the National Association are concerned. I understand, however, that the new regime has plans to make some significant changes. There is talk of the "centres for excellence" being reinstated which would give more opportunity to the rank and file juniors. I believe the ranking scheme will be changed dramatically - doing away with losses and categorising the points. This might encourage players to play rather than sitting at home for fear of losing points. A three-tiered membership scheme is also a possibility and in the longer term could prove to be a fairer and simpler system than the existing ones.

The Stiga Junior Grand Prix was completed in March after seven tournaments and congratulations go to Richard Moss of York and Stacey Beastall from Nottingham who were the overall winners, netting £700 in prize money between them. In the senior British League Seasiders first team had a brilliant first season in the premier division, finishing in third place and qualifying for the Nancy Evans Cup (European Club Knockout). They were also named as the British League overall "team of the season". Blackpool TTC were the worthy winners of division three north with Steve Dixon winning the "player of the season" award for that division. Seasiders vets second team won division five in the Veterans British League - the team included left-handed penholder Martin Clark who is the new ETTA treasurer.

### Lancashire Closed Championships

Kevin Dolder retained his mens singles crown in great style when he defeated John Rankin in straight games in the final. He had disposed of Paul Hutchings (quarter final) and Adam Bleakley (semi-final) without dropping a single game. Tamar Seymour (nee Connolly) was the

surprise winner of the womens singles when she defeated Cherith Graham 3-1 in the final. She had overcome no. 1 seed Alice Howard in a semi-final cliff-hanger which went the full distance. The outstanding performance of the day came from 14 year old Phillip Wilkinson from Manchester who took second seed Paul Hutchings to the deciding game in the opening round of the mens singles. Results:- Mens Singles: Kevin Dolder bt John Rankin 7, 9, 4. Womens Singles: Tamar Seymour bt Cherith Graham 8, -11, 8, 4. Veteran Singles: John Rankin bt Paul Hutchings 9, 7, -10, 9. Junior Boys Singles: Adam Bleakley bt Siful Khan 6, 2, -9, 2. Junior Girls Singles: Winner Cherith Graham Runner up Hayley Wilkinson (R/R). Mens Doubles: Hutchings/Rankin bt Chris Ford/David Griffith -6? 12, 10, 7. Mens Banded Singles: Peter Taylor bt Tom Bray -7, 3, 5, 1.

### Preston Closed Championships

Paul Shirley (brother of Jill Shirley) became the new Preston Open Singles Champion when he defeated Andy Lebutt in a closely fought final. Defending champion, Barry Crook, was beaten at the quarter final stage by the much improved Adam Linton. Another former champion, Tony Rigby, also went out at the same stage to finalist Andy Lebutt. It was Shirley's second title - he won the event in 1989. In the veterans final, however, Shirley was beaten in straight games by holder Barry Crook Results:- Open Singles: Paul Shirley bt Andy Lebutt 17, 14. Veteran Singles: Barry Crook bt Paul Shirley 12, 18. Junior Singles: David Marshall bt Robert Parker 9, -13, 19. Mens Doubles: Paul Robinson/Dean Walmsley bt Crook/Tony Rigby 19, -18, 19.

### Lancashire & Cheshire League

The mens divisions joined the juniors in the weekend format of play and a resounding success was the outcome. The mens premier division was played at the Hilton Centre on both occasions. The standard of play was of the highest quality and the atmosphere was electric. Liverpool proved to be that bit stronger than the rest and maintained their unbeaten record. Bolton could, possibly, have changed things in the second weekend had John Hilton and Louis Rosenthal been available. As it was, Mid-Cheshire did enough to take the runners up spot. Ellesmere Port ran away with division one with the loss of only nine sets and Tameside will join them in the premier division next season. Newcomers, Liverpool "A" were champions in division two with a battle royal for second place between Preston "A" and Bury "A" and the former snatching the honours by just one set.

Wirral dominated the junior premier division with both their teams in first and second positions. Manchester were champions of division one with an unbeaten record and the loss of only six sets. Wigan grabbed second place over Southport "A" by a single set. Results of other divisions:- Ladies Division: Winners Wirral, Runners up Liverpool. Veterans Premier Division: Winners Liverpool, Runners up Tameside. Division One: Winners Liverpool Business Houses, Runners up Blackpool. Division Two: Winners East Lancashire, Runners up Rochdale. Division Three: Winners

Bolton, Runners up Warrington. Division Four: Winners Barrow, Runners up Tameside "B". Division Five: Winners Kendal, Runners up East Lancashire "A". Division Six: Winners Tameside "C", Runners up Kendal "A".

### Dennis Smith Trophy

Mighty Liverpool took on minnows Lytham St. Annes with the latter receiving seven start. All due credit to Lytham, they battled hard and did their league proud but were really no match for Nationally ranked players the likes of Hutchings and Williams. The match ended with a 5-1 scoreline in favour of Liverpool. Keith (the lorry) Bailey was Lytham's sole winner, beating Ahmed Thabet in straight games. The trophies were presented by Mrs Pat Smith assisted by Stan Parr.

### Norman Cook Memorial Trophy

Halton and Bolton took part in one of the best finals seen in recent years. John Hilton appeared for Bolton and as usual provided the crowd with some wonderful entertainment. Ironically, it was his match against Halton's Mal McEvoy that was the key to the result. McEvoy went for some big shots and took the pressure points in a straight games victory over the ex European Champion all be it with five points start. The match ended with the score at 5-4 in favour of Halton after some brilliant table tennis from both teams. The trophies were presented by Stan Parr, former secretary of the League.

## LEICESTERSHIRE

by Derek Butt

WELL its big changes at the top of the Leicestershire Table Tennis Association Committee with the new Chairman, Roger Canton at the helm, and a new Secretary in Bob Craven-Griffiths. Hinckley's Andy Gatherer is the new Vice-Chairman. Many thanks to the outgoing Chairman, Tony Lillicrapp who has done a good job over the past eleven years. Also to Gordon Sanders who took over the Secretary's job at a difficult time.

Some good news from the Leicester Table Tennis League is that there will be the same number of six divisions as last season, and teams are almost at the same level as well. Lets hope that we have a good number on the playing side.

The Elbow Tankard (Summer League) has proved to be very popular again this summer with sixteen teams participating, with four teams in four groups. We have now reached the quarter final stages and some very interesting matches are in prospect. Teams reaching the quarter finals are Park Keepers (Knighton Park), Casualties (Syston Casuals), Electric Shoes (Leicester Electricity), Mercenfeld Hasbeens (Markfield), Ironmen (Sibley Cons), Fairfield Fliers (Elequip), Villagers 2nd (Great Glen) and finally Birstall.

Sorry, no news from either Hinckley or Loughborough.

## NORFOLK

by Ray Hogg

WE have the fixtures and our various captains are now already sorting out travel arrangements as all matches are some way from this County. Also to ascertain the interest and availability of those who are willing to travel. I hear that some of our top veterans have already booked an exotic holiday which

clashes with the first week end. Good news is that Mark and Lindsey Dare have moved to Norfolk from Herts and already Mark has organised some Junior coaching sessions and Lindsey has been practising with Mary Sawyer.

At time of writing the various leagues are still coming to terms with 11 up - some are revolting and some have accepted - the crunch will come on registration night.

I must say a word for Ken Muhr whose "few words" in his insert made the Table Tennis News worthwhile - I hope something like that will continue.

Meanwhile could details of the draw and results of the various competitions such as Willmott, Rose Bowl, Carter etc be printed. Not having access to the internet or e-mail, I could only find out results from the Management Committee Report.

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

by Dennis Millman

FORTUNATELY, or otherwise, the copy date for the first issue of Table Tennis News always appears to coincide with the typical heatwave, but this year a superb presentation of our sport at the Crucible overshadowed an exceptional summer and prepared us for a new season in which hopefully local efforts will in some small way live up to the exceptional fare already provided.

Preparations for the campaign ahead are already well advanced but now is the time to take stock of the closing events of 2002-2003.

Richard Elliott ended the season on a high note, particularly in Kettering where he completed the 'grand slam' of men's singles champion, top of the Premier Division averages and no. 1 on the Kettering ranking list.

His fine form, complemented by consistent displays from Mark Nannery and Steve Silk, with skipper Steve Brown astutely pulling the strings gave Higham Band a sixth successive Premier title and for good measure Higham also added the Evening Telegraph Trophy.

Elliott's final accolade came when he became the first singles champion to receive his trophy at the hands of the incoming ETTA Chairman Alex Murdoch who presented the season's awards, when he and his wife Val were guests of honour at Kettering's Annual Dinner/Dance and Prize Presentation attended by more than 150 enthusiasts.

SAS Thrapston, with Ken Philipson well to the fore in his first season, were Premier runners-up, with Corby A third. Fourth placed Kettering Town A, best served by former Norfolk no. 1 John Fuller and skipper Mike Hawes, compensated for comparative failure by winning the GRP Designs Trophy with Fuller (-2) and Hawes (-2) beaten only by Harborough Academy's Karl Tressler (+7) who won all three singles and a doubles in a 6-5 defeat. The closest call came when Robert Williams (-1), eased through against Poorna Chaudhuri (+7) 11, 12, -9, -5, 10.

Rothborough A (Kevin Shield, Alan Brisley, Martin Watts and Gareth Lewis took the First Division title, Oundle Pumas (Julian Marshall, John Gaskin, Gemi Bailey and Steve Mansfield) the

Second, with 76 years young Denis Rolfe leading Alex Eales and Phil Dixon to victory in the Third, to celebrate three years of sponsorship for the league by Burton Latimer Baptist Church.

Third Division Harborough Imps (Mark Pearson, Ann Woolston and Mark Collins) beat Rothborough A by three points to take the Shirley Everard Points Cup, while Thrapston Ospreys (Ian Sclater, Geoff Atkinson and Gordon Provan) proved too wily for Corby E in the Borough Trophy.

The Kettering Town Anniversary Award for Sportsmanship – voted for by all the teams in the league – was won for the second year in succession by a Rothborough B side comprising Helen Watts, Ivor Jones, Cathy Fleming and Pete Sturges, while young Sam Piranty, who also gained promotion to the Premier Division with Burton Baptist A was the third recipient of the Player of the Tournament Award.

Richard Elliott also finished on top of the Motaquip Premier Division averages in a Wellingborough League sponsored by CT Autoparts, with Damian Carr, John Warren and Martin Gordon successful in Divisions 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

However, Elliott's success ended there for though he reached the final of the singles he was narrowly beaten by David Gatiss, and it was the Milton Keynes player who had the final say in the Premier Division title race.

Westfield B (John Fuller, Mike Hawes, Ian Yarnall, Barry Long, Dennis Millman) had led throughout the season having accounted for O.G.'s in December, but in the return match David Gatiss, Dave Murphy and Paul Gatiss turned the tables to win 8-2, and with Gatiss again starring against Thrapston A, Westfield were beaten by six points.

Elsewhere, Gene Brown and Steve Adams earned Wanderers B the Apec Braking Division 1 title, Westfield D (John Warren, David Long and Morris Freeman) ended on top of Division 2, while Arthur Adams, Rex Laughton and Cheryl Laughton ensured that Wanderers G finished in pole position in NGK Plugs Division 3.

A happy and successful season to you all.

## **NORTHUMBERLAND**

*by Pauline Long*

I would like to start my first TT News Report of the new season by personally thanking Aubrey Drapkin's office staff for assisting with the typing of my report for the last few years, as I am not currently in possession of a word processor, fax or computer. However, as Aubrey is now enjoying what we hope will be a long and happy retirement, this facility is no longer available, and I am grateful to our Treasurer, Brian Pierce, for volunteering to take over this arrangement. Many thanks.

News left over from last season which was too late to be included in the June/July issue – Birtley "A" were confirmed as winners of the Northumbria League Premier Division, with North Shields YMCA "A" as runners-up.

Two Division 3 teams, Newton "E" (Peter Brewis, John Elliott and Phil Spottiswood) and Cramlington

Corinthians (Brian Philip, Graham Brown and Peter Tait) eventually contested an exciting Team Handicap Knockout Cup Final, which was won 5-4 by Newton. Unfortunately, because no weeks free of League Matches could be allocated this season due to the number of League teams entered, this competition could not finish until late June, and I wonder if this will put off more teams from entering in the future. Not everyone wants to play winter competitions in the summer!

The Northumbria League Wilmott Cup men's representative side reached the second round of this competition but had to withdraw at that stage due to injuries and unavailability of suitable standard players. The Alec Brook Trophy veterans' team of John Williamson, Malcolm Lusk and Geoff Salter reached the semi-final of their competition but were eliminated at that stage by Norwich. The juniors played in regional leagues at Northfield School, and are progressing satisfactorily, although apart from David Graham, are still finding the transition to County level difficult.

The Summer League season has almost been completed at the time of writing. Current leaders are: Division 1 – North Shields YMCA "A", Division 2 – St. Jude's, Division 3 – Whitehouse Lane "A", Division 4 – Saints.

The Winter League season was due to commence on Monday 15th September. Also from the same date, the centre at College Street will close and all teams and equipment will move to more modern and impressive facilities at Benfield School. Each evening should be available for either matches or practice, depending on the number of teams entered for League play. The date for the Closed Tournament will be 15th February 2004.

Finally, on a sad note, it was regretted to have to report the deaths in successive weeks during late July of former League stalwarts, Frank Gillespie of South Shields and Colin Gibson (age 69) of Hebburn. Both men will be sadly missed and our sympathies are extended to their families. May they rest in peace.

## **SUSSEX**

*by John Woodford.*

THE Horsham club's top team, newly promoted to the premier division of the British League opened the Sussex season winning four valuable points at Harlow at the starting session of four matches. The standard of play in the premier division has lifted to a point with the addition of young players like Peter Cleminson and Greg Baker. Former England No.4 Dominic Hall failed to score for Horsham in his three matches but Horsham's points were clinched by six victories for their new man Stephen Beerling, whose victims included Abdul Wuraola and Jerome Jonah. Scoring in support of Beerling were Adrian Moore.

Peter Bartram and Andy Walker. In the final match against Seaside, Bartram and Walker both beat Ian Girdler.

Rory Scott, the dynamic chemistry student at Brighton University floods Sussex computers with E-Mails when he is away from the Bunsen burners. He organised the University's summer

league.

This was an individual affair, not teams, the two main winners were Stefan Bonnafous in Division – and Mark Smith in Division 2.

The first female league chair in Sussex as far as I can recall, has been taken up by Diana Kirkwood at Hastings. There are also very few female league secretaries round. Brighton cannot find one, male or female - Hastings again, now have Rose Rainton in the secretarial hot seat for the second year.

Meanwhile, Sussex are preparing for the county championships with ten teams. Ritchie Venner, although continuing with Darlington in the British League, will lead the Sussex challenge in the senior premier division where Sussex are strong in the womens matches having Rose Rainton and Sally Weston available.

## **YORKSHIRE**

*by Barry Snowden*

### **Hull YPI players take top honours in Yorkshire Championships**

THE Yorkshire Closed Table Tennis Championships were recently held at Scarborough Graham Table Tennis Centre and were supported my local company McCain.

The mens singles title changed hands at last weekends Yorkshire Table Tennis Championships but still remained in the family as Simon James replaced his brother Michael as winner of the blue ribbon event.

The James brothers from Bridlington faced each other in the semi final and it was third seed Simon who got one over his top seeded brother Michael 3 games to one and faced second seed Xystus's Keith Beadsley in the final. Beadsley had beaten Simon Nouch of Leeds in another semi-final of attacking excellence that was won by the Bradford player also 3-1.

The final was won by James 3 games to nil against the tiring veteran Beadsley who had earlier taken the veterans singles title to become the first ever Yorkshire man to take junior, senior and veterans singles titles during his career.

In the veterans event Beadsley won without dropping a game easily winning his group before comfortable victories over Andi Petersons of Wakefield, Xystus club mate Barry Snowden of Halifax and Bradford's Richard Priestley in the final.

The ladies singles was won by Sandra Rider of Leeds who beat Hulls Tanya Waller in the final and Rider made it a double celebration by also taking the ladies doubles when partnered by Amanda Bell the Leeds pairing beat the Leeds/Hull combination of Sarah Nouch and Waller.

The final senior event was the mens doubles which was retained by the James brothers who beat Xystus veterans Beadsley and Snowden in a five game final

The junior events were held on the Sunday and with the disappointment of the non arrival of boys singles top seed Simon Nouch the junior boys event was comfortably won by York's Richard Moss who beat cadet Chris Parker of Leeds in the final while the junior girls event went to Amanda Bell of Leeds who beat Tanya Waller of Hull in a thrilling five gamer.

Parker won the cadets boys beating Adam Ciotowski in a five game final while the under 13 boys event went to York's James Parker who beat Scarborough's Ben Kaye with Edward Fanbley of Ryedale beating Ryedale team mate Jack Moody in the boys under 11 event.

The strength of cadet and under in the girls section of Scarborough was reflected in the three remaining junior events as all the finalists were from the home tow.

The cadets girls singles and the under 13 event finals were both contested by the same two players as Rebecca George beat Gemma Deeley in both finals but Deeley took the under 11 event with a final win over Alex Lee.

### **5th European Veterans Championships – Courmayer, Italy, 23/28 June 2003**

There were a number of Yorkshire medallists at the recent European Veterans Championships, including two gold medal winners.

Pride of place went to Sandra Rider of Leeds who partnered by Diane Pierce of Kent stormed to the gold medal in the women's over 50 doubles while Wakefield's Les D'arcy also picked up gold in the men's over 80 singles and added a second gold in the over 80's doubles being partnered by John Husbands.

Geoff Brooke from Huddersfield picked up two bronze medals as he was a losing semi-finalist in the men's over 70's singles and partnered by Derek Schofield also bowed out in the men's over 70's doubles at the semi final stage.

Bradford's Helen Shields also picked up a bronze medal when she partnered Jan Dunning in the women's over 40's doubles and after a thrilling run in the over 60's consolation, Keighley's David Adams was also halted at the semis.

### **National Team Championships**

Bradford Ladies Veterans team were crowned National Champions for the fifth time when they won the Pat Archdale Cup following the final round robin stage in Liverpool.

Bradford faced three matches in a day and began with a 5-2 win over High Wycombe, Helen Shields winning three with Sandra Rider and Louvain Smith adding one each.

Liverpool came next and a 5-3 victory was achieved courtesy of two wins each from Shields and Rider and one from Carol Judson.

The final match was against North Herts, who had also won their first two matches, so it was winner takes all in what turned out to be a see-saw encounter.

Bradford began well as Judson and Shields put them two up but North Herts inspired by Sandra Harper who won three took a 4-3 lead.

Rider levelled the match with victory over Lindsey Dare which meant the final set of the day would decide the outcome and after a nervous start Judson overcame Val Murdoch in four games to give Bradford the cup.

Bradford junior girls had to be content with the runners up spot in the Bromfield Trophy as despite an unbeaten effort from Nicola White they had to settle for second spot behind last years winners Darlington.

# SHROPSHIRE



*Shropshire chairman Geoff Bristow presents an award to Shrewsbury Table Tennis legend Motto Jones to commemorate his 50 years of service— the former county captain has held numerous positions on the Association committee but after five decades of dedicated service has decided to stand down and enjoy a well earned retirement!! The committee have made Motto a life vice Chairman as a sign of appreciation for all of his hard work.*

# NO HOLIDAY AT THE ASHFORD SUMMER CAMP

THE weekend Of 25th & 26th July 2003 was the date for the first ever summer camp at the Ashford Table Tennis Centre, Middlesex. Some twenty members of the club enjoyed a hard but very rewarding weekend of top coaching from two ex England players Desmond Douglas and Nicky Jarvis, writes Roland Mclellan.

The course was organised by Sharon Mitchell and is just part of the clubs current programme to provide coaching to all standards of players from beginners to county level. The players who attended the camp were encouraged to improve their stroke technique, ball control, service skills and to analyse their own performance. The demonstrations performed by Desmond and Nicky were also a highlight to the many club members who turned up just to view the two coaches at work.

As I mentioned earlier, the club is working very hard to provide coaching and encourage all age groups to play table tennis. With the help of Graham Outrim, the club's coaching officer, many schools in the local area have been visited to supply tables and instigate coaching and links with the club. The centre is currently reviewing plans for an extension to the premises which would enable it to offer a greater playing programme.

Although the Ashford Centre is a regular venue for Nicky it has been some years since Des visited the club, I believe the England training sessions in 1984 was the last time he graced the playing area. The weekend was rounded off with a trip to a local restaurant where much earned food and drink was taken and players dreamed of using their new found skills.

# ASHFORD



Picture by: Murray Glover

## SUCCESSFUL ALAN COOKE MASTER CLASS

THE Alan Cooke Master Class, organised by Sportbreak, which was held at the Potters Leisure Resort at Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk, during the summer, was once again a great success. Alan Cooke was ably assisted by Nicky Mason

*Pictured right are coaches and course attendants*

## POTTERS LEISURE RESORT



*Ladies Singles finalists Louvain Smith (left) and Sandra Rider*

## HALIFAX VETS A GREAT SUCCESS

THE inaugural Halifax Summer Open Veterans Tournament took place over the weekend of the 16th and 17th August at Halifax Table Tennis Centre and whilst there were a number of home county successes the majority of the prize money was whisked away to Merseyside and the North East.

The Halifax event was quickly put together to replace the York Summer Veterans tournament, which was postponed this year, and was the brain child of tournament organiser Barry Snowden.

The event attracted 66 competitors from various parts of the country, with the men being divided into eight groups of seven and the ladies playing in two groups of five. The highest nationally ranked player in the men's section was England No.10 Keith Williams from Liverpool, and it was the popular scouser who eventually emerged triumphant, in a thrilling final.

In the men's singles, top-seed Keith Williams remained undefeated but was made to work hard in a close five game encounter with fellow Lancastrian Keith Lee. Local stalwart Alan Dickinson was also put to the sword.

The remaining top three seeds, Durham's Tony Gelder, Northumbria's Dave Godbold and Surrey's Dave Harding, all progressed without dropping a set along with fifth seed Dave Robson, also of Durham.

The final was a mouth watering clash between two players of equal ability with dynamic attacking style's to match and it more than lived up to expectations. Both players threw caution to the wind and entertained the spectators to a thriller. Godbold got the better of the opening attacking exchanges to take the first 11-8, but the top-seed stormed back to win the next two 11-9 11-8. Things looked grim for Godbold when Williams got off to a flyer in the fourth but the gritty Godbold stuck to his guns and got the better of some fierce loop-to-loop exchanges to claw back his opponent and pinch the game 11-9. Unfortunately for Godbold, Williams got an un-returnable net at 10-all in the 5th and took immediate advantage by securing the next point and along with it the Championship.

The ladies singles turned out to be an all Yorkshire affair as Louvain Smith of Ripon reached centre stage by virtue of a three-game semi-final victory over Shirley Gelder 11-6 11-8 11-4. Smith was joined in the final by Sandra Rider of Leeds, who beat her doubles partner Janet Brown after a first game reversal 9-11 11-9 11-4 11-8.

The final proved to be an extremely close tussle and unexpectedly it was Smith who took home the winners cheque after a gutsy performance to defeat her higher ranked opponent in straight games, achieving her first-ever win against her higher ranked Yorkshire rival.

## NEW CENTRE FOR ORMESBY

TABLE TENNIS in Cleveland received a major boost during the summer with the opening of a new 12-table centre for the Ormesby Club, writes Alan Ransome.

Ormesby have benefited from the availability of a redundant sports hall at nearby St. Anthony's School on Cargo Fleet Lane in Middlesbrough, which is less than half a mile from Ormesby High Street. The school closed over a year ago and main building was upgraded into a conference centre by Middlesbrough Borough Council, leaving the sports hall redundant. The Ormesby Club is now using the hall on a full time basis under a licence agreement.

A small grant was awarded to the Club by the Cleveland Community Foundation to facilitate essential cleaning, repairs to the lighting, heating and to convert one of the changing rooms into a canteen and kitchen. Club members gave much of their time during the summer period to paint the centre throughout and make many other general improvements. The main hall is large enough for 12 tables with up to 15 for coaching. The floor is very good but the lighting requires further

upgrading to specialist standard.

The Club has introduced a full playing programme and has entered into agreements to provide coaching to 12 local schools on a regular basis. Included in the programme at the Club are extensive coaching sessions at three levels, participation, advanced and excellence. The centre will also be used for regular senior coaching and league matches plus the Junior League on Saturday mornings. A series of tournaments are also being initiated at the weekends. In the daytime the Club is being used by local schools, senior groups and there will be an extensive coaching programme throughout all school holidays, the first of which included 30 full days for the excellence squad during the recent summer holidays.

Although the new centre is a big improvement in all respects on the facilities that the Club has enjoyed in the past, the Club is applying for grant aid support to build new entrance, social facilities, direct access from the main road and a car park. Eventually the Club expects to extend the playing facilities into a second hall.

### PLEASE NOTE

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



# ETTA NATIONAL RANKING LIST

## TOP OF THE TABLE

1st September 2003 - List 112

Further details please ring Doreen Nightingale 01424 722525

### Senior Men

Pos	Name	Rating	Flag
(2)	1 SYDGE, Matthew (Bk) (SY)	4857	
(1)	2 BAGGALLEY, Andrew (BU)	4844	
(3)	3 HERBERT, Gareth (BK)	4834	
(4)	4 PERRY, Alex (DY)	4728***	
(5)	5 COOKE, Alan (DY)	4712***	
(6)	6 YOUNG, Terry (BK)	4650****	
(8)	7 RUSHTON, Andrew (LA)	4474	
(9)	8 BILLINGTON, Bradley (DY)	4470***	
(11)	9 EDEN, Andrew (LA)	4342***	
(15)	10 BRYANT, Craig (DV)	4088	
(14)	11 HOLLAND, John(Dy) (E)	4009***	
(21)	12 DRINKHALL, Bryn (CV)	3992	
(17)	13 CLEMINSON, Peter (E)	3950	
(19)	14 YARNALL, Tim (NP)	3941	
(20)	15 KENNY, Mathew (Y)	3890**	
(25)	16 KNIGHT, Darius (SY)	3867	
(26)	17 DRINKHALL, Paul (CV)	3866	
(23)	18 TAYLOR, Jonathan (LA)	3858**	
(24)	19 BLAKE, Darren (SY)	3850	
(33)	20 EVANS, Bradley (Bu) (NG)	3839	
(30)	21 BAKER, Gregory (ST)	3827	
(27)	22 SLADDEN, Cris (E)	3800***	
(28)	23 HAMMOND, Eric (ML)	3796***	
(29)	24 VENNER, Ritchie (SX)	3793**	
(31)	25 HILTON, John (CH)	3786**	
(32)	26 WURAOA, Abdul (SY)	3761*	
(34)	27 JAMES, Michael (Y)	3744**	
(35)	28 BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA)	3721	
(36)	29 GOODALL, Justin (K)	3689**	
(37)	30 WHITING, Paul (DV)	3688**	
(38)	31 PYE, Leeroy (K)	3680****	
(39)	32 DOLDER, Kevin (LA)	3668**	
(40)	33 CHARLES, Neil (ML)	3633**	
(41)	34 MOORE, Adrian (K)	3630***	
(42)	35 SMITH, Eddie (ND)	3625**	
(43)	36 ROGERS, Chris (LE)	3604**	
(44)	37 MARSHALL, Peter (Y)	3597**	
(45)	38 CHAN, Michael (SY)	3581***	
(46)	39 JOHNS, Brian (CH)	3551**	
(47)	40 NEIL, Lee (NG)	3551**	
(48)	41 WILKINSON, Andrew (ND)	3533**	
(50)	42 PAPANTONIOU, Costas (ML)	3522**	
(49)	43 DENNY, Stephen (Y)	3521	
(51)	44 SMITH, Mark Richard (Y)	3511***	
(52)	45 KENNEDY, Joe (K) (E)	3508**	
(53)	46 ECKERSELY, Nigel (SX)	3494**	
(54)	47 BARR, David (BK)	3489****	
(55)	48 TENDLER, Gary (E)	3482**	
(56)	49 HUTCHINGS, Paul (LA)	3480**	
(58)	50 CUTLER, Tom (ML)	3457**	
(59)	51 WILLIAMS, Keith (LA)	3454**	
(61)	52 GREGORY, Christopher (SP)	3424**	
(63)	53 HORNER, Daniel (CH)	3427	
(67)	54 MARSDEN, Michael (DU)	3416**	
(64)	55 GREEN, Mark (NG)	3405**	
(65)	56 BROWN, Mark (K)	3389***	
(66)	57 ADAMS, Martin (BK)	3388**	
(68)	58 WHITEHAM, James (DV)	3379**	
(69)	59 MARPLES, Shaun (DY)	3378**	
(72)	60 JAMIESON, Christopher (E)	3352**	
(71)	61 BARTRAM, Peter (SX)	3352**	
(73)	62 ZUROWSKI, Darek (ML)	3338**	
(75)	63 HORSFIELD, Andrew (Ys) (Y)	3323***	
(76)	64 ATKINSON, David (CA)	3319***	
(77)	65 MCKOY, Nick (ML)	3317***	
(78)	66 BAILEY, Steven (CV)	3315***	
(79)	67 CORBIN, Anthony (HE)	3314**	
(82)	68 BEADSLY, Kevin (Y)	3305***	
(81)	69 GANNON, David (LE)	3305***	
(83)	70 ROMANO, Mark (K)	3296**	
(86)	71 GELDER, Tony (DU)	3294**	
(87)	72 HARVEY, Dave (GS)	3293**	
(88)	73 JOHNS, Mike (CH)	3280***	
(89)	74 FESEHATSION, Daniel (ML)	3280**	
(90)	75 HARDING, David (SY)	3278**	
(91)	76 WALSH, Jimmy (HE)	3274***	
(92)	77 ADEMANIWA, Ayodele (E)	3263**	
(94)	78 SHORT, Mike (DY)	3252**	
(95)	79 JONAH, Jerome (K)	3252**	
(96)	80 HALL, Dominic (K)	3243***	
(97)	81 GODBOLD, David (DU)	3243***	
(82)	82 FORD, Christopher (LA)	3242**	
(98)	83 ROSENTHAL, Louis (CH)	3224	
(100)	84 MEREDITH, Darryl (LA)	3222****	
(101)	85 GILES, Paul (CO)	3221**	
(102)	86 GREEN, Alex (LL)	3214**	
(103)	87 CARTHAY, Clive (E)	3213**	

(104)	88 HORSFIELD, Stephen (Ys)	3208***
(106)	89 RANKIN, John (LA)	3205**
(105)	90 GASCOYNE, Craig (NG)	3205**
(107)	91 CLAYTON, Tony (DO)	3204***
(109)	92 HALEY, Terry (SY)	3201**
(112)	93 MEADS, David (DU)	3196
(111)	94 DABBS, Kieron (NP)	3175***
(113)	95 WELSMAN, Dave (NP)	3162**
(114)	96 BUTLER, Mark (DO)	3159**
(116)	97 ROCKALL, Simon (BU)	3144****
(117)	98 MAJITHIA, Mayur (SX)	3142**
(118)	99 PHILIPS, Simon (Sy) (K)	3137***
(119)	100 LIGHTOWER, Richard (Y)	3135***

### Senior Women

Pos	Name	Rating	Flag
(2)	1 WALKER, Georgina (NG)	4059	
(5)	2 PARKER, Joanna (SY)	3971	
(4)	3 SIBLEY, Kelly (WA)	3954	
(3)	4 LOWER, Helen (ST)	3945	
(5)	5 ZARZYCKA, Marina (BK)	3850**	
(6)	6 HOLT, Andrea (LA)	3826****	
(7)	7 EMBLING, Abigail (E)	3789	
(9)	8 STEWARD, Kate (SO)	3712**	
(10)	9 OWOLABI, Kubrat (ML)	3652****	
(12)	10 BAWDEN, Natalie (E)	3627**	
(17)	11 SPINK, Lauren (NK)	3583	
(13)	12 DURRANT, Louise (NG)	3500**	
(14)	13 SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LL)	3486**	
(15)	14 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH)	3480**	
(16)	15 CLARK, Sally (Y)	3460****	
(18)	16 THORNTON, Lindsey (LA)	3434***	
(17)	17 SMITH, Karen (LE)	3388***	
(21)	18 CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK)	3323	
(22)	19 DUNNING, Jan (WO)	3287**	
(23)	20 WESTON, Sally (SX)	3284***	
(24)	21 PEERS, Clare (CH)	3275**	
(25)	22 HARRIS, Jill (ST)	3269***	
(29)	23 WHITE, Nicola (Y)	3249	
(28)	24 WILSON, Naomi (SO)	3242	
(26)	25 SHORT, Elaine (DV)	3237**	
(27)	26 COHEN, Michele (AV)	3233**	
(30)	27 KEAST, Lesley (LL)	3226***	
(32)	28 ROBERTS, Joanna (Y)	3223***	
(33)	29 YARDY, Hannah (E)	3167***	
(34)	30 RAINTON, Rosemary (SX)	3158**	
(35)	31 HARPER, Sandra (BD)	3156**	
(37)	32 BRISTOW, Angie (K)	3132**	
(38)	33 HOWARD, Alice (CH)	3127**	
(40)	34 BALDI, Andrea (Ys) (Y)	3119***	
(41)	35 RUOCCO, Shelley (E)	3118**	
(42)	36 MORLEY, Judy (GS)	3099**	
(44)	37 MALTYB, Margaret (NP)	3060**	
(45)	38 WANG, Lucy (E)	3043***	
(46)	39 PEARCE, Diane (K)	3038**	
(47)	40 SHIELDS, Helen (Y)	3035**	
(49)	41 BUOYEY, Brenda (LA)	3016**	
(50)	42 LLOYD, Gemma (CH)	3011**	
(51)	43 DURHAM, Jane (CV)	2993**	
(52)	44 SIMPSON, Linda (Y)	2987***	
(53)	45 HURRELL, Rebecca (ML)	2978****	
(54)	46 HORSNELL, Sarah (ML)	2953**	
(56)	47 BAWDEN, Marilyn (E)	2950**	
(57)	48 INGHAM, Katy (CH)	2943****	
(62)	49 WILSON, Claire (DU)	2939	
(55)	50 BROWN, Candice (E)	2930	
(51)	51 RIDER, Sandra (Y)	2927**	
(59)	52 GRAHAM, Cherith (LA)	2927	
(61)	53 DEARING, Emily (Y)	2918***	
(63)	54 HARRISON, Jennifer (E)	2901**	
(64)	55 KING, Sheila (SX)	2894**	
(65)	56 SCHOFIELD, Doreen (CH)	2879**	
(66)	57 PERRY, Penny (DU)	2877**	
(68)	58 SEYMOUR, Tamar (OX)	2864***	
(69)	59 BENNETT, Teresa (SX)	2854**	
(69)	60 COGGON, Sara (HE)	2845**	
(74)	61 WEIL, Emma (E)	2839	
(70)	62 SORRENTINO, Annabelle (CH)	2836**	
(71)	63 SHALER, Eileen (LE)	2834**	
(72)	64 CHEESMAN, Zoe (Y)	2829**	
(75)	65 DARE, Lindsey (HE)	2819**	
(76)	66 FLOWERDAY, Anne (E)	2811***	
(77)	67 DENNETT, Elizabeth (CH)	2810**	
(78)	68 ROBINSON, Suzanne (GS)	2808**	
(80)	69 BROWN, Janet (OX)	2796**	
(81)	70 STEDMAN, Sarah (SX)	2791**	
(84)	71 LANGFORD, Claire (CH)	2783***	
(83)	72 DIGNUM, Margaret (WO)	2783***	
(85)	73 GELDER, Shirley (DU)	2778**	

(86)	74 DAWSON, Marjorie (E)	2775**
(87)	75 MUDGE, Kim (E)	2760**
(89)	76 NOLAN, Terri-Anne (CH)	2748**
(90)	77 BURGESS, Suzanne (CH)	2741**
(92)	78 KNIGHTLY, Gillian (BK)	2735**
(93)	79 BROWN, Sarah (E)	2733**
(94)	80 JUDSON, Carol (Y)	2723**
(96)	81 SPARKES, Aimee (SK)	2714***
(95)	82 ECKERSELY, Carol (SX)	2714**
(98)	83 BROOKS, Diane (ST)	2700**
(99)	84 REID, Lynda (WO)	2698**
(100)	85 TODD, Nicole (E)	2694***
(101)	86 GRAHAM, Sylvia (LA)	2689**
(102)	87 STEEL, Pauline (SX)	2687**
(103)	88 BENTLEY, Ruth (NG)	2685**
(104)	89 HOOKER, Muriel (BU)	2681**
(105)	90 WILLIAMS, Jackie (K)	2675**
(106)	91 MITCHELL, Sharon (BK)	2674**
(108)	92 BARELLA, Jane (SY)	2656****
(109)	93 POGHORA, Helen (WO)	2655**
(110)	94 BUTCHER, Pamela (K)	2651**
(111)	95 GRAY, Victoria (SY)	2620***
(118)	96 DARK, Shirley (SO)	2586**
(119)	97 LOCKE, Gill (E)	2584***
(121)	98 STRAWSON, Jane (LL)	2579***
(122)	99 WANG, Sarra (E)	2576**
(123)	100 ROBERTS, Hannah (LA)	2569***

### Junior Boys

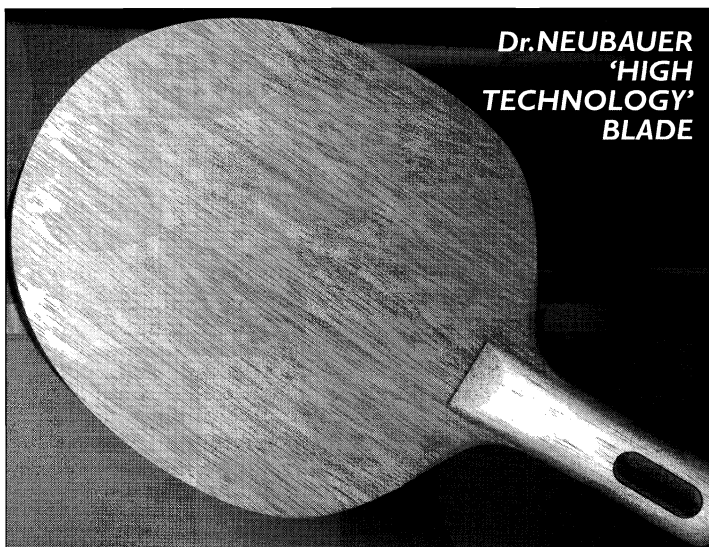
Pos	Name	Rating	Flag
(2)	1 BRYANT, Craig (DV)	4088	
(4)	2 YARNALL, Tim (NP)	3941	
(6)	3 KNIGHT, Darius (SY)	3867	
(8)	4 DRINKHALL, Paul (CV)	3866	
(7)	5 EVANS, Bradley (Bu) (NG)	3839	
(9)	6 BAKER, Gregory (ST)	3827	
(10)	7 BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA)	3721	
(11)	8 DENNY, Stephen (Y)	3521	
(12)	9 GREGORY, Christopher (SP)	3442**	
(14)	10 MARPLES, Shaun (DY)	3378**	
(16)	11 MEADS, David (DU)	3196	
(17)	12 BROWN, Christopher (CO)	2948	
(18)	13 NOUTH, Simon (Y)	2853***	
(19)	14 LEIGHTON, Andrew (DU)	2836**	
(20)	15 LALLY, Keiran (E)	2720**	
(21)	16 EVANS, Gavin (NG)	2692**	
(22)	17 MOSS, Richard (Y)	2663**	
(25)	18 HAYES, David (BU)	2647	
(26)	19 PAGE, Tom (CH)	2569**	
(27)	20 CARTWRIGHT, Neil (DO)	2564**	
(28)	21 HARLEY, John (K)	2561**	
(30)	22 KODICEK, Jacob (CO)	2449**	
(32)	23 LEMON, Robert (SY)	2410**	
(35)	24 ARMSTRONG, Marc (ML)	2290	
(37)	25 HALLING, Tony (E)	2242**	
(39)	26 REED, Daniel (CV)	2226**	
(34)	27 REES, Daniel (E)	2221	
(40)	28 MILTON, James (BU)	2213**	
(41)	29 MOORE, Paul (SY)	2210**	
(42)	30 ROBERTS, Stephen (YS)	2198**	
(43)	31 SHARP, Evan (SY)	2180**	
(45)	32 WOODHEAD, Andrew (Y)	2143**	
(46)	33 FROST, Adam (DY)	2118**	
(49)	34 WESLEY, Richard (NG)	2065**	
(56)	35 YEUNG, Hamish (BD)	2062	
(50)	36 BROWN, Samuel (ML)	2031**	
(51)	37 LEWIS, Christopher (SY)	2020**	
(52)	38 BARLOW, Ben (YS)	1963**	
(53)	39 PANG, Dickson (NP)	1956**	
(55)	40 NICHOLLS, Damien (SP)	1931	
(54)	41 ROBERTSON, Shaun (SY)	1882**	
(59)	42 REED, Darren (CO)	1826**	
(60)	43 WHITEHEAD, James (DO)	1749**	
(62)	44 ROBINSON, Dorian (SY)	1717**	
(66)	45 BARNES, Lee (SK)	1618**	
(67)	46 SIMPSON, Mark (DU)	1593**	
(68)	47 DEWURST, Paul (E)	1587**	
(69)	48 CRAWFORD, Jonathan (CU)	1575**	
(70)	49 GRADWELL, Andrew (SP)	1558***	
(71)	50 LEOW, Adam (SY)	1554**	

### Junior Girls

Pos	Name	Rating	Flag
(4)	1 PARKER, Joanna (SY)	3971	
(3)	2 SIBLEY, Kelly (WA)	3954	
(5)	3 EMBLING, Abigail (E)	3789	
(9)	4 SPINK, Lauren (NK)	3583	
(7)	5 SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LL)	3486**	
(8)	6 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH)	3480**	

(10)	7 CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK)	3323
(12)	8 WHITE, Nicola (Y)	3249
(11)	9 WILSON, Naomi (SO)	3242
(15)	10 WILSON, Claire (DU)	2939
(16)	11 WEIL, Emma (E)	2839
(17)	12 DENNETT, Elizabeth (CH)	2810**
(18)	13 LANGFORD, Claire (CH)	2783***
(14)	14 BROWN, Sarah (E)	2733**
(20)	15 WANG, Sarra (E)	2576**
(22)	16 HOWARD, Clara (CH)	2461**
(21)	17 YARNLEY, Gemma (K)	2452
(23)	18 WALLER, Tanya (Y)	2358***
(24)	19 SENEYRATINE, Anusha (K)	2317**
(25)	20 SHUTT, Heather (Y)	2298**
(27)	21 TUCKER, Emily (BU)	2258***
(29)	22 PERKS, Sarah (NG)	2078
(32)	23 RADFORD, Lisa (DV)	1988
(33)	24 MEADS, Joanne (DU)	1967**
(35)	25 DONNELLY, Stephanie (CV)	1862**
(38)	26 REES, Bethany (E)	1784**
(43)	27 VICKERS, Emma (DY)	1746
(39)	28 HEARD, Gemma (E)	1690**
(40)	29 LIGHTOWER, Katie (Y)	1640**
(42)	30 PARKER, Hayley (CH)	1570**
(45)	31 SKEGGS, Kelly (E)	1457**
(46)	32 FARQUHAR, Melanie (BK)	1430**
(47)	33 ROGERS, Gina (SX)	1422***
(50)	34 LAYFIELD, Jordyn (CH)	1409
(48)	35 SMITH, Sally (DV)	1398**
(49)	36 HALLOWS, Caroline (CH)	1368
(51)	37 BYRON, Sophie (CH)	1325**
(54)	38 TWEEDY, Rebecca (BU)	1295**
(56)	39 PILGRIM, Rachel (WA)	1239**
(60)	40 STRINGER, Jodie (K)	1215**
(58)	41 BAYLISS, Sarah (NG)	1212**
(59)	42 PINNELL, Amanda (ST)	1156***
(63)	43 STEEPLES, Susie (LL)	1150**
(62)	44 LINZ, Caroline (BU) (SY)	1081**
(63)	45 SMITH, Kendall (WO)	1065***
(64)	46 HOWE, Claire (SO)	1063**
(65)	47 JAMIESON, Rachel (E)	1058**
(66)	48 BIELEC, Sylvania (BK)	1057**
(68)	49 RIPLEY, Lisa (NG)	954***
(69)	50 SHEPHERD, Nicola (Y)	947**

### Cadet Boys



Dr. NEUBAUER  
'HIGH  
TECHNOLOGY'  
BLADE

## NEUBAUER SUPER BALSA BLADES

### DR NEUBAUER HIGH TECHNOLOGY BLADE

Simply amazing revolutionary and eye catching styling - the massive design matches its special characteristics. The blade is oversize, measuring 16.3cm x 17cm x 1.5cm, but is light being constructed of Balsa, the innovative kinetic technology is placed exclusively in the lower half of the blade and when combined with additional balsa plys, a special glueing technique and very thin limba wood outer layers, it produces outstanding control and the ability to accelerate the ball.

The handle is also made of balsa and enables the impulses to reach the hand in an optimal way, providing wonderful feeling. The blade produces a very short flight path.

The blade was initially designed to assist long pimple combination users and allows you to disturb your opponent with fast pushing, wobbling balls and at the same time allows acceleration and control with the reverse side. The bonus of this new blade is that it can be used equally successfully by traditional reversed rubber players seeking maximum control but combined with power.

### DR NEUBAUER KINETIC BLADE

Designed for the long pimple player, a kinetic 5 ply blade comprising a

combination of balsa, limba and carbon. Thin and compressed limba was selected to maximise the blades effect. It is the same dimensions as the 'High Technology' but only 1cm thick.

The result is that the ball is being slowed down and returned short when blocking, but the ball can be accelerated easily with reverse or short pimple rubbers. The kinetic system is incorporated in only the lower half of the blade, which permits outstanding control without involving a decrease in speed.

#### BLADE TEST

First impression of the 'High Technology' blade was, that it looked big and fat, but once in the hand it felt so light and comfortable. In fact a joy to play with.

The rubbers used were Dr. Neubauer's 'Super Block' long pimples in red on the backhand and 1.5mm 'Leopard' short pimples in black. These are the same rubbers as tested in June/July issue, but on these blades they were a outstanding, obviously designed for this blade, if you are a blocker and attack minded. This blade proved equally effective adding power to reversed spin rubbers.

The 'Kinetic' blade was used with Dr. Neubauer 'The Wall' long pimples in red on the backhand, and a variety of reverse spin rubbers in black, from 0.5mm to 2mm, on the forehand. These various combinations proved a delight to play with, and will suit the defender/allrounder.

The 'Kinetic' is slightly heavier than the 'High Technology, probably due the the layer of carbon.

## BUTTERFLY TT SHOES

BUTTERFLY offer a shoe to suit all players. Butterfly have launched three new pairs of shoes for the coming season, adding to the popular Gets model, as used by many of the leading players.

Top of the Butterfly range is still the Gets model. Many of England's leading players prefer the Gets shoe due to its performance friendly features, which include a soft rubber sole for excellent grip. Lightweight and soft, the Gets are recommended by Matthew Syed who says "This shoe is light, durable and comfortable with outstanding support and grip. I wear them for all my matches." The Gets shoe sells for £66.99 per pair and weighs 340 grams per shoe.

Top of the range amongst the new models is the Radial Crosscourt. The sole is extremely grippy, there is excellent support for the ankle and special inlays in the design provide optimal support for the foot, particularly when moving sideways. There is a good dampening system within the heel for extra shock absorption. The sole is made from three parts, the middle of which is hard to provide extra protection. England Champion, Alan Cooke, has tested the new Radial Crosscourt and reports that the shoes are very comfortable to play in, give good support and have vent holes which let the air circulate so that the feet can breathe. The Crosscourt is available for £49.99 per pair and weighs 390 grams per shoe.

The Radial Optimo is a strong shoe with an extra cushioned soft sole and optimum shock absorbing capacity. The thick sole protects the feet, knees and legs and helps to avoid the possibility of long term injury. Specially recommended for younger players. The Optimo is available for £39.99 per pair and weighs 380 grams per shoe.

The Radial Classic is a very light shoe with a continuous EVA inner sole which is designed to help you feel the floor through the sole. A light inlay stabilises the arch of your foot. Ideal for players who like a thin sole to help them feel the floor surface. Feels good to play in. The Classic is available for £29.99 per pair and weighs 275 grams per shoe.

For further information, contact Matthew Stanforth at Tees Sport or email [tabletennis@teessport.com](mailto:tabletennis@teessport.com).

### BRYCE FX

Butterfly have launched their fourth Hi Tension rubber in four years, Bryce FX. The Bryce FX has the same hard rubber sheet as Bryce but with a softer sponge which is able to generate more effect from the glue.

This gives the FX similar speed and spin characteristics to the original Bryce but is easier to control and more suitable for most players. In terms of performance, Bryce heads the list as it has the hardest and the fastest rubber and is used by players like Werner Schlager and Kalinikos Kreanga. The FX is second in terms of speed with but extra control. The Cermet is the middle rubber which has been developed to have more control than the Bryce but more power than the Catapult. Catapult is the slowest of the Hi Tension range and is suitable for players who like to enjoy the Hi Tension effect but with considerably more control.

#### Current catalogue prices

Bryce £29.99, FX £29.99, Cermet £28.99, Catapult £25.99 For further information, contact Matthew Stanforth at Tees Sport or email [tabletennis@teessport.com](mailto:tabletennis@teessport.com).

### DVD

Reflex Sports, the company that works closely with the ITTF to produce videos of major championships, have just launched their official film of the World Championships in Paris which, for the first time, is currently only available on DVD.

The Championships, which took place between 19 and 25 May in Bercy, are covered in three 200 minute DVD disks.

Disk A covers the first, second and third rounds. Disk B covers more action from the last 16 and two of the quarter finals, including the memorable match between Samsonov and Kreanga as well as the quarter final between Wang Liqin and Schlager. Disk C includes the remaining two quarter finals, both semi finals and the final between Schlager and Joo Se Huyuk of Korea.

The price of each DVD is £29.99 but the set of three can be bought for £79.99.

For further information, contact Matthew Stanforth at Tees Sport or email [tabletennis@teessport.com](mailto:tabletennis@teessport.com).

#### BUTTERFLY E-NEWS

Butterfly have launched a new email magazine, Butterfly News, which is a monthly newsletter with information about the Butterfly players and Material Talk which gives you the latest information on new products.

Included are articles from successful coaches and players who will provide advice for improving training, including the Expert Tip feature.

To receive your copy of Butterfly News and details of special offers and other information relevant to the UK, sign up for your free copy by email to [tabletennis@teessport.com](mailto:tabletennis@teessport.com).

**MORE PRODUCT NEWS NEXT MONTH**

# A TRIBUTE TO LES BRIDGES

by Margaret Mead



**LES BRIDGES** is pictured coaching his grandson Jack

**THE death of Les Bridges in May was a sad loss to table tennis and all who knew him. Les had a strong belief in God and life after death so his funeral was a special occasion to celebrate his life and his great contribution to the table tennis community. The church was full.**

Les started coaching in East London in the 1950's. He coached at a club in Essex which produced Bobby Stevens -England No.1, Jean McCree -England No. 4 and Yvonne Baker - England No. 8

In 1961 he moved to Reading He started a coaching scheme and raised money for development from table tennis reporting. This foundation paved the way later for some top England ranked players, Alison Gordon and Matthew Syed.

Les moved to Bridgwater, Somerset in 1971. He started coaching in schools, and established the Chilton Table Tennis Club at Chilton Comprehensive on three nights a week. His Premier Club at

Chilton has produced 36 England ranked players since 1981, including Melanie Carey and Phil Payne. In 1985 the Bridgwater girls were junior champions of England and in 1986 the school became England U16 champions. He was always there for the players, on training nights, organising tournaments, driving players all over England for tournaments and supporting the whole South West region.

He worked hard to get Primary schools involved in Table Tennis and organised many after school clubs. He obtained two grants to get 11 tables into schools. Encouraging the ETTA to set up a method of recognising the achievements of younger players was a great concern of his. He had just recently started an under 9 tournament which he hoped would be modelled around the country. He did a great job at encouraging adults to get involved in youth table tennis.

Les was a member of the ETTA National Council and a regular contributor to

Table Tennis News as he had strong views on many issues and cared about the development of table tennis. He had worked with publicity and public relations and this experience was put to good use writing an article in the local paper every week. He always managed to praise and give credit to young players.

He has touched the lives of many people and will be greatly missed

## JIMMY LANGAN REMEMBERED

JIMMY LANGAN once said he didn't want to live past 40. He did, by 15 years, but the Dubliner's unexpected passing this has robbed Irish sport of one of its legendary, most lovable, characters.

Jimmy was a star in the sepia tinted days of the '60s and '70s when table tennis enjoyed a greater media profile. A teenage sensation, he was Irish, number one for a decade, possessing a unique back-hand push stroke which troubled the world's best.

As for other 'strokes', Jimmy had few peers. As thousands of German fans queued to see local hero Ebe Scholer play in the final of the World Championships in Munich in 1969, opportunistic Jimmy spotted an opening.

From a toilet window inside the arena, Jimmy handed out his player pass to fans below with the order return it to him in the 'loo' with a few marks of gratitude in tow. Jimmy quickly amassed a small fortune as tens of fans gained admittance.

He could lose a few bob too. Once he and sparring partner Tommy Caffrey were cleaned out at Windsor races en route to a tournament in Brighton.

The pair only had enough for the standard train fare and when the conductor demanded a 'Brighton Belle' supplement of £1.50, Jimmy burst into a rendition of 'I can't get no satisfaction' to defuse the situation.

Irish number one for a decade, unbeaten in European League doubles with Caffrey for two and a half years, he probably enjoyed his finest hour at the worlds in Munich where he led world number two, Kono of Japan, 10-4 in the final set.

Sensing a shock, play stopped completely, TV cameras closed in and Jimmy felt the heat, losing out 25-23. "I saw money," he recalled.

Jimmy's entrepreneurial skills shone as he made a success of his furniture business, complete with the cheeky catchphrase 'I can get it for you wholesale'.

How good a player was he? Caffrey felt he could have made the world's top 20, but becoming a slave to sport was never a runner for Jimmy, such was his zest for life.

## TRIBUTE TO ROY PUGH by David Fairholm

**From the oration at Roy's funeral**

George Martin was often considered the 5th Beatle. If that is the case then surely Roy Pugh would be considered as the 5th National Coach. This was Roy nearly 25 years ago, when English Table Tennis

had the best juniors in Europe, the men were fourth in the world and more than twice as many players participated in the game than today.

This was a time when I first met Roy at Crystal Palace. He was a good coach, solid, reliable, did his homework, knew his stuff, a superb team man. That never changed. I was impressed, so were the participants.

Shortly afterwards, I invited Roy to direct the Oxford School of Sport with me, and then began an unbroken 25 year friendship. Roy invited me to Kent and I soon discovered it didn't matter whether working at local participant level, county, national or international level, Roy was equally comfortable.

Roy had some classics: we were once at a table tennis tournament and all the adults were jumping about playing every point from the sideline. Roy remarked - "If I had a gun I would shoot all the parents, then I would shoot all the coaches and simply let the kid's get on with it" - (his observation of the benefits of freeing children from the negative influence of adults) so true, even today.

In the mid 80's Roy was made Head Coach for the prestigious Centre of Excellence at St. Brides in London. Roy now working with the professionals: Sky Andrews, Colin Wilson, Kenny Jackson, Dave Barr, Graham Sandley, some of England's finest. Roy took it in his stride, he was never on an ego trip. In fact Roy was just as happy working with the snotty nose beginner as he was the full time England International. A real coach.

During the happy 80's, Roy and his wife Margaret fulfilled a lifetime's ambition when they purchased and moved to Sea Crest Hotel in Cliftonville.

Roy began to spread his table tennis wings, we worked together in Switzerland on an international excellence programme, he also ran courses in Guernsey. Later in the 80's Roy became internationally recognised, as he became an I.T.T.F. coach conducting courses for coaches in Iran, Dominica, Nepal, Uganda, and Cyprus, to name but a few countries.

Throughout the 90's Roy continued to work tirelessly as Chairman and Coach for the local Thanet League, and Sea Crest Hotel continued to be a base for many successful training camps local, regional and national.

A couple of years ago Roy was awarded a lifetime Service Award at the annual coach of the year awards. I cannot think of a more deserving nomination. In the weeks following Roy's death there were scores of phone calls, e-mail's and letters from as far away as New Zealand, the Caribbean and from the I.T.T.F. headquarters in Switzerland, expressing their loss and our loss.

A coach's coach. And a friend who has touched and enriched my life. I am a better person for having known Roy.

# CALENDAR

## OCTOBER

4th-5th	Clare Pengelly 3 Star Satellite.GP	Paignton
4th-5th	VETTS Midlands Masters	Stoke-on-Trent
5th	Cippenham Cadet 2 Star	
9th-12th	ITTF Mens World Cup	
11th	County Championships (1) Cadet, Junior, Senior & Veterans	
12th	Stiga 3 Star Cadet & Junior GP	
12th	Cadet & Junior Regional Training	
16th-19th	ITTF Womens World Cup	
18th-19th	Junior British League (1)	Fenton Manor
18th-19th	Sussex 3 Star Butterfly Grand Prix	Crawley
21st	European Mens League Netherlands vs England	Holland
25th	Cippenham Senior 2 Star	
25th	East Midlands Cadet U11/U13/U15 4 Star	
26th	East Midlands Senior 4 Star	

## NOVEMBER

1st	County Championships (2) Cadet, Junior, Senior & Veterans	
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	Chandlers Cadet & Junior 1 Star	
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-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

## TABLE TENNIS NEWS 2003/2004 SEASON COPY DATES

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