

Table Tennis NEWS



HELEN LOWER - FIRST NATIONAL SINGLES TITLE...



... ALAN COOKE MAKES IT SIX, AS MINISTER OF SPORT VISITS SHEFFIELD

Pages 16 to 21

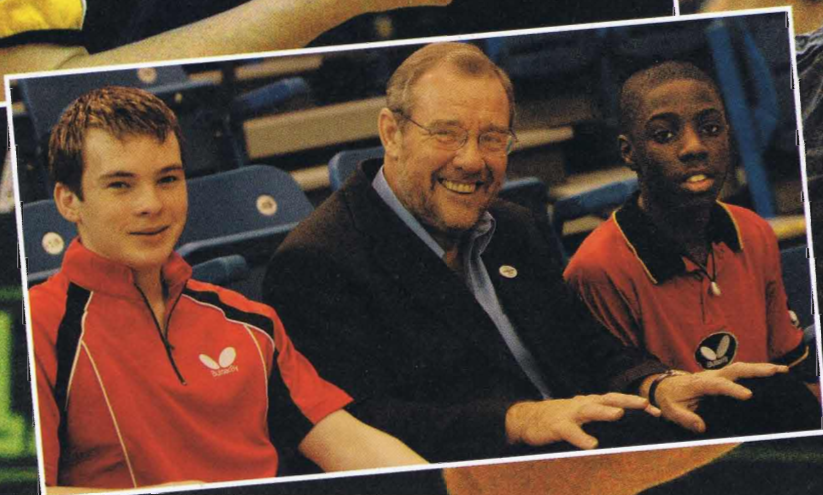
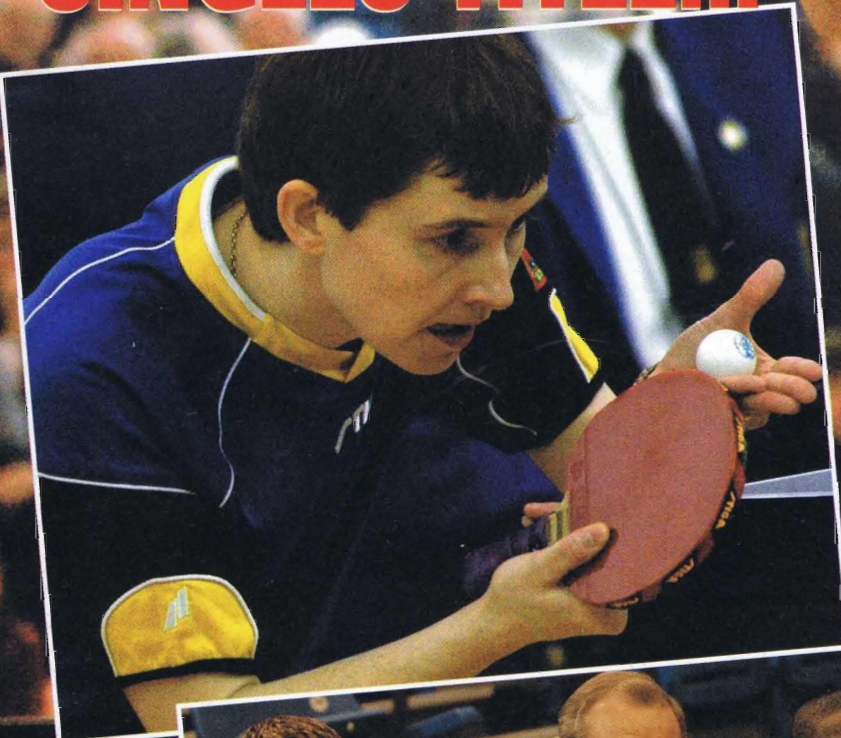




TABLE TENNIS NEWS

First published in October 1966. TTN replaced 'Table Tennis', which was first published in November 1935

The Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association

Issue No.308
April 2005

Publisher
English Table Tennis Association Ltd.,
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Subscription Rates
UK - £22, Europe - £35,
Rest of the World - £50

Printer
Printed in the UK by
Nima Print & Design Services,
91a Ashford Road, Eastbourne,
East Sussex BN21 3TE
Telephone: 01323 430036

Unsolicited articles are welcome for possible publication but the English Table Tennis Association will accept no responsibility for the return of manuscripts and/or photographs.

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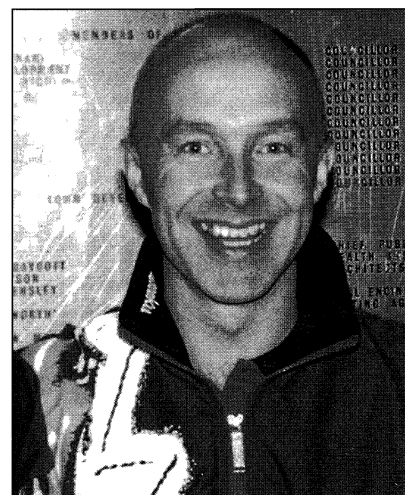
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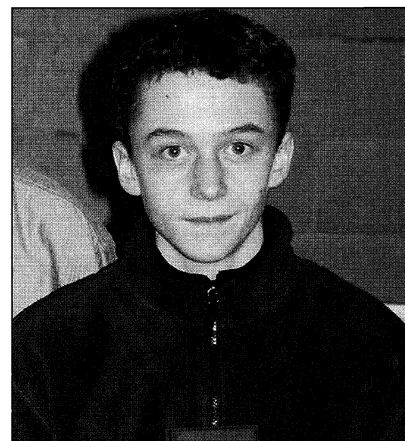
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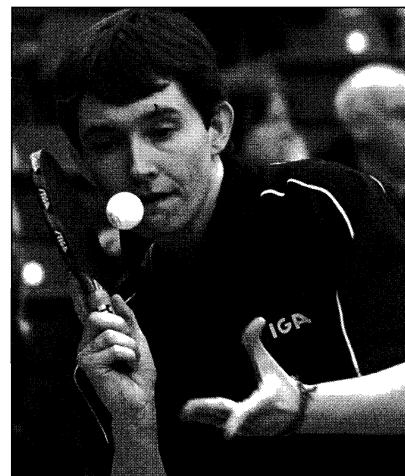
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FRONT COVER MAIN PHOTOGRAPHS
ALAN COOKE & HELEN LOWER WIN AT SHEFFIELD
Pictures by John Wood

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

SEE PAGES 14 & 15 FOR GRASS ROOTS

MINISTER OF SPORT & LORD MAYOR OF SHEFFIELD VISIT SENIOR NATIONALS



THE Minister of Sport Richard Caborn MP popped into the Ponds Forge International Sports Centre, to visit the English Senior National Championships, as did the Lord Mayor of Sheffield Councillor Mike Pye and his wife the Lady Mayoress Mrs. Josephine Pye.



The Minister of Sport is pictured third from left chatting to ETTA Chief Executive Richard Yule, ETTA Treasurer Martin Clark and ETTA Chairman Alex Murdoch, whilst the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress and the ETTA Chairman, are pictured above presenting the Mens Singles runner-up prize to Alex Perry.

NEW ACADEMY Bristol Academy of Sport Table Tennis Academy- Filton College Bristol

IN September 05, Filton College in Bristol will be launching its Table Tennis academy in partnership with the English Table Tennis Association and backed by the Bristol Table Tennis League and Avon Table Tennis Association.

This new initiative will be housed in a brand new £17.5million WISE campus (West of England Institute of Specialist Education).

The Table Tennis academy will be open to players from throughout the

UK and abroad and gives players the opportunity to take advantage of top class international coaching and training backed with state of the art facilities and sports science back up.

The college is able to provide a comprehensive and wide ranging choice of subjects and courses to suit every academic need. Full time courses include A levels, HNC and HND and at the same time students can apply to enrol in the sporting academy as part of their education programme.

The college is able to provide the very best for players wishing to improve their standard with the following;

- Up to 15 hours international standard coaching and training each week.
- A brand new state of the art training facility and gym.
- Personal training programmes for each player.
- Personal physical training programmes

- Access to top quality sports science back up, physiotherapy, sports psychology and nutrition.
- Competitive programme of national and regional events.
- A comprehensive range of full time courses to suit your individual academic needs.
- Accommodation services provided by the college.

To join the table tennis academy at Bristol students must be 16 years of age at the start of their course. There are no restrictions on playing standard and selection will be based on each individual application.

The Table Tennis academy is staffed by England International Coach Kevin Satchell. Kevin is a former junior and senior international player and commonwealth medal winner. He is widely regarded as one of the country's top coaches, with a wide international experience of coaching both Scotland and England national teams.

Kevin says "Players undergoing this

WOODY'S World

WHAT SWEET SUCCESS it was for Helen Lower at the English National Championships at Sheffield, when she won the Womens Singles title for the very first time.

She had played in 14 National Championships since she was a junior and six times before Helen had reached the final, only to be the runner-up. At Sheffield it was 7th time lucky, when she beat the holder Andrea Holt in the final.

A youthful looking Alan Cooke made it six Mens Singles when he beat Alex Perry in the final. See pages 16 to 21 for full report.

What fantastic news of a super Lotto win for Terry Donlon, see page 6. Terry and his friends at the Brinnington Veterans Bowling Club won a huge £8.75 million.

On that same Lotto draw Lesley and I had three correct numbers, which is 50%, whereas Terry's syndicate received £8.75m for being 100% correct, all we got was £10. That's life - good luck to you Terry, spend it wisely.

John Wood



type of training can fully expect to improve their standard significantly". Bristol is able to offer the facility and opportunity that many national team players will be envious of. During their time at Bristol each player will also undertake the training necessary in order to obtain a recognised coaching qualification from the ETTA.

If you are interested in applying for a place at the Bristol Institute of Sport you can get further details from the Academy Director: Email: Kevin.Satchell@filton.ac.uk. Mobile -07977 145704.

THE ETTA WEBSITE
www.englishtabletennis.org.uk

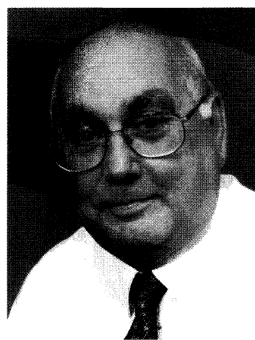


TABLE TENNIS IS VIRTUALLY AN ALL YEAR ROUND SPORT

THE season is coming to an end in many competitions at Local and National level with clubs and teams fighting to win their divisions or to avoid relegation. I wish you all the very best over the next few weeks. I am sure the competition will be fierce.

The ETTA will be still be involved in events through until July and much work still has to be done by the staff and volunteers, Table Tennis is virtually an all year round sport.

BUDGETS AND FINANCE

With the announcement last month of the Whole Sport Plan Award (WSP) a great deal of effort has gone into generating the 2005/6 Budgets which will be presented to National Council in April. This is in effect the first time the New Team have had the opportunity, based upon the funding plans we generated, to look in detail at how the money is spent and where. In the last two years, the major part of our income we received was based upon plans generated some years ago.

The WSP has and will give us more flexibility over the next four years to monitor and implement changes in ETTA strategies, targets, work programmes, roles and responsibilities, accountability and focus our energies on working with and on behalf of our membership and our great sport.

At a recent Management Meeting a ten point plan was discussed (I should have made it 11 points) which involved the requirements of our sport, problems we have and plans to rectify them, details of many changes which are needed and identification of targets to meet the requirements of the WSP.

During the coming months in depth discussions will take place involving the membership for the implementation and timescales of these changes.

ENGLAND TEAM

Selections have been made for the European Senior Team Championships in Denmark and World Senior Championships in Shanghai with an emphasis on youth.

We have two very major key events during the next 12 months where England have medal opportunities namely the European Youth Championships in July and the Commonwealth Games in 2006. We are very optimistic about both these events but understand that in Melbourne we shall have to face many more Chinese players who are now competing for Commonwealth Countries.

The programme generated by Steen Hansen is focussed around these two events and we should all get behind and support him and the England Team towards these goals.

INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

A document has been circulated to the membership via Counties,

TTN • APRIL 2005

Leagues and Premier Clubs and is on the website.

As the proposals progress details for further discussion will be circulated, this programme is key to maintain support from our funding partners and therefore it is critical for Individual Registrations to start in the 2005/6 season and Individual Membership programme to start in 2006/7 season with the approval of the membership.

2012 LONDON

The decision will be made in July and we should all get behind the organisers and the London bid. If awarded it will change the focus for us as a Sporting Nation and will be of major help to Table Tennis in the years to come.

I hope on my many travels in the coming months that I get the opportunity to meet as many members as possible to continue the networking between us.

I am very happy to get your letters, emails and phone calls and I do my best to answer them all.

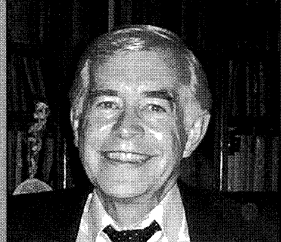
Keep in touch.

Alex Murdoch
ETTA Chairman

See VLADIMIR SAMSONOV at The BBC Masters at The Fairfield Hall, Croydon, on Saturday 23rd July 2005

MASTERS TICKET HOTLINE
0208 688 9291
website: www.mps-sports.com

VETERANS' DIARY



PHIL'S REAL TREAT

A RECENT trip to Derby provided a pleasant surprise for ace veteran Phil Goulding. The bearded one was visiting the county town on committee business and after a long day at the office wanted to find a pub that served his favourite real ale tipples.

Now real ale pubs are not easy to find, armed with a directory of pubs selling the nectar, he scoured its pages and found to his delight no less than six all within the confines of the city centre.

A quick check with other hotel guests as to where these elusive pubs could be found and he was off. "It's very rare to find so many pubs selling real ale all within a stones throw of each other. But it was a real eye opener and full marks to Derby."

My contacts couldn't confirm whether or not he managed to get to all six but they tell me he was seen down at breakfast the following morning looking none the worse for wear.

SPORTY ALEX

MY PALACE insider tells me that our Vets chairman was mistakenly taken for a sporting superstar when he attended a recent reception at Buckingham Palace.

To celebrate 100 years of the British Olympic Association, he spent a couple of hours rubbing shoulders with some of our past and present superstars and responding to a tap on the shoulder he turned to face no less than the Duke of Edinburgh.

I'm reliably informed that the Duke asked Mr M which Olympic sport he had taken part in whereupon Alex explained that he was the chairman of the ETTA and that he was only there as a guest.

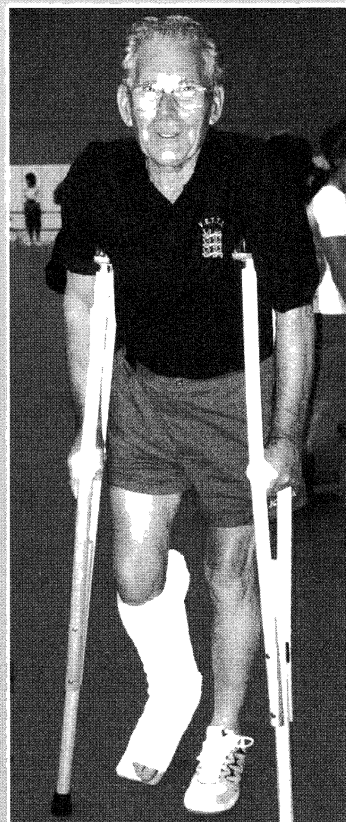
"He must have thought I had the sporty look as many people do," said Alex with a wry smile. "I was only sorry I disappointed him. He was only there for a few seconds, but it was nice of him to ask."

But Mr M did have chance to meet Lord Seb Coe, OBE and soccer impresario David Davies as well as a host of other VIPs.

TERRY BOWLS A WINNER

TERRY DONLON is counting his lucky stars - or more realistically

by Jim Beckley



TERRY DONLON from crutches to riches

numbers - after a ticket on his lottery syndicate came up trumps.

A roll over jackpot netted Terry and the rest of his bowling club mates

£8.8m and already the Stockport septuagenarian has plans to share his good fortune.

"I'll make sure my children are OK then maybe I'll treat myself to a new car," he said. I'm told he also considering buying a new rubber for his ageing bat.

The 18 strong syndicate who play in the Stockport Veterans Bowling League, each won just under £500,000

Terry, of course, is no stranger to these columns. He appeared in an



earlier Diary when he was pictured on crutches following an accident in Yokohama, at the World Championships last year.

Ironically, the winning numbers 10, 16, 19, 30, 35, 45 were originally picked by Terry's mate Les Bennett who died over a year ago.

WATCH OUT, FRED'S ABOUT

MY CONTACTS tell me that it will not all be beer and skittles at the European Veterans Championships in Bratislava. To paraphrase a well known former soccer manager, its much more serious than that.

I'm reliably informed there will be several card schools on the go with a certain Mr Lockwood lining up as chief card sharp.

Its uncertain whether our Fred prefers cards or table tennis but the stories he comes up with certainly suggest he takes his card games more seriously than he does table tennis.

For invitees only, the schools will probably go on until the wee hours with decent money at stake. But knowing Fred there's bound to be some laughs along the way.

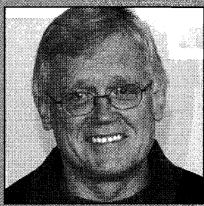
"I don't win a lot," he says with a smile. "But I try not to let anyone else win a lot as well."

As someone once said, its not what you lose, it's the taking part that counts.



TERRY DONLON (centre) and friends from the Brinnington Veterans Bowling Club Syndicate, celebrate their huge £8,821,256 Lotto win.

STEEN KYST HANSEN ANSWERS YOUR COACHING QUESTIONS



COACHING TIPS

by STEEN KYST HANSEN

Question: We hear a lot about attitude, especially among our young players these days. How important is this in the scheme of things and how does a coach approach this side of the game?

Answer: I could right a book about this issue and the importance of having the right attitudes.

We try to get the players to understand that $x + y + z = \text{victory}$. With that we mean that if you focus on x,y,z which stands for efforts, commitment, hard work, being willing to listen, good preparations physical, technical and mental, then victory will come almost automatically. If you only focus on victory and forget the rest will eventual success be very short.

Always respect that the game is bigger than any player and always behave with the right ethic, moral and respect for your opponent.

There is a very fine line between having no fear and confidence and to be arrogant, and correct attitudes is for me paramount if we want international success.

Please remember also that that confidence is built on knowledge and not on victories!

As a coach you must not be afraid of taking on sorting the problem if you feel the correct attitudes are not there.

Question: Players put a lot of emphasis on rubbers, glue, blades etc., but how important is diet and that side of things?

Answer: At the top level a sensible diet is very important. Our sport could learn a lot from tennis players the way they make sure to eat and drink during matches and tournaments. We have been working with nutritionist and will be doing it again in the preparations leading up to Commonwealth Games in Melbourne 2006.

Question: Before a match my opponents often like to see what rubbers I'm using. I tend not to worry too much about rubbers and play each point as I think fit. Should I be more rubber conscious?

Answer: Always good to know what kind of rubbers your opponent is using.

It can give you valuable information before the match starts and it will improve your preparation and tactics.

Question: In the modern game how important are mind games. Most of my local coaches seem content to show how to play strokes etc., but pay little attention to the psychological side of things?

Answer: One of the reasons behind Denmark's success and improvement was down to the work with sports psychologist Jorn Ravnholt. Jorn will be working with the English players this summer, and the general issue is to be able to change the mentality and how people react under pressure. For me the mental part of our game is close to 50 - 60%.

Question: I've always relied on a good service - it worked well when you had 5 serves and you could quickly build up a big lead. But the current game seems to have changed all that. In your opinion has the service now become less

important in today's game?

Answer: I still think the serve is very important, because it is the only time when you alone decide which stroke to use. With 5 serves it was of even more importance, but now from a tactical point of view the serve still has importance.

Question: There's a lot of importance put on rubbers, players are constantly thinking about changing rubbers. But how can I be sure that I have the right blade. Any tips would be

appreciated.

Answer: The blade is important and so is your choice of rubbers. Many players play with far too quick a blade and rubbers, and have very little control. If they are also gluing then the situation even worse!

You need to practise a lot to be able to play with carbon or offensive blades, maximum rubbers and gluing. In many ways it is much better to use an allround blade in an attempt to improve your control.

Gluing has changed the technique, but it would be nice if it was still the player who controls what is going on and not the materials.

I have just been in Sweden for a camp in Sparvagen, and their Under 12 youngsters are not allowed to play with anything else than allround blades and no gluing - perhaps something we could learn from.

SPORTSBREAK

SPORTSBREAK 2005

MASTER CLASSES

COURSE TWO [at POTTERS Leisure Resort, Norfolk]
A WEEKEND WITH CARL PREAN
Friday 10th June until Monday 13th June

COURSE THREE [at POTTERS Leisure Resort, Norfolk]
SPORTSBREAK MASTER CLASS WITH ALAN COOKE
Monday 13th June until Friday 17th June

COURSE FOUR [at Guernsey TT Centre]
GUERNSEY MASTER CLASS WITH ALAN COOKE
Monday 17th October until Thursday 20th October

COURSE FIVE [at Guernsey TT Centre]
GUERNSEY JUNIOR MASTER CLASS WITH JOHN HILTON
Tuesday 25th October until Friday 28th October

Between courses Four and Five, the Guernsey Open Championship will be held giving course participants competitive opportunities.

Contact SportsBreak,
4 The Pavilions, Davenham, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 8LB Tel: 01606 45766

TIME TO MOVE FORWARD

I HAVE held back in responding to the continuous comments John Prean makes in his County notes, the flow of misinformation continues. I find it difficult to criticise an ex Chairman of the Association.

The subject of Individual Registration was voted on at National Council; a very large majority defeated John's motion to have it removed from our programme.

No fees, levels or benefits have been agreed, decided or approved. The "Official" document he refers to was a draft requested by Council based upon returns from a questionnaire distributed to over 7000 people. Whilst John is very good at extracting odd lines and words to emphasis his points, it would be far better to give all the facts not just those to suit his own ends.

I always try and give as much information as possible to the members through increased communications.

POSTBAG

TTN and the ETTA, whilst recognising the right of free speech, reserve the right not to publish letters that may prove to be libellous. Also if letters are more than 250 words may be edited

What has happened in the past continues to be part of John's complaints. Our sport has a great heritage and we should not forget it.

However, the sport has to move forward, not live in the past and we must use the IT resources available to us to provide Sport England with the data necessary for continued financial support.

As with any other correspondent, I am limited in "Postbag" to 250 words to respond to over 1000 words John has had printed on this subject to date.

Alex Murdoch, ETTA Chairman

TT MEMORABILIA

Would any reader be interested in the following items of Table Tennis memorabilia in possible exchange for pre-1950 football programmes (league or non-league):

(1) ETTA Table Tennis magazine for November 1949 autographed on front cover by Johnny Leach and Jack Carrington.

(2) England v France (Men's International) at Aylesford Paper Mills 25 November 1952.

(3) Three Programmes for English Open Championships at Wembley for April, 1957, March 1958, April, 1959.

(4) England v Czechoslovakia Newbury, October 1966 (20 pages, excellent condition, fully autographed by both teams).

Bruce McKenzie

Thatcham, Berkshire

CLUB & COACHING POSITION NEEDED

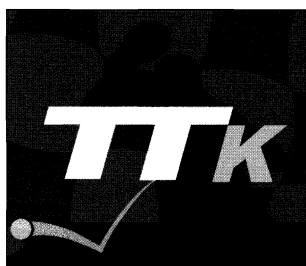
My name is Kristjan Saluvee, I am a 22 years old male from Estonia. I would like to come to live to England. I have played table tennis actively 12 years and I have been a table tennis trainer for about 4 years and a chairman of one table tennis club.

Is there any chance to find a work as a trainer in England and as a player? If any clubs are interested and would like to get further information, then I can send more information about my self and information about my achievements.

Kristjan Saluvee

Estonia

email: kristjan@vnl.ee



GREENHOUSE

Bacons School Sports Partnership Community Sports Coach Scheme

We are looking for a Community Sports Coach (Table Tennis) to work with young people in the London Borough of Southwark.

Bacon's CTC Table Tennis Club is a school based Community Club, which has achieved the ETTA Premier Club status.

Qualifications: ETTA Level 2 (minimum)

Salary: circa £23,000

Hours: 35 per week

Holidays: 25 + Public Holidays

If you are interested in the job on offer please contact:

Helen French on 0207 237 1928 or email French@baconsctc.co.uk

Closing Date for Applications: 22nd April 2005

We Are An Equal Opportunities Employer

This scheme is managed by Sport England with the support of the Department for Culture Media and Sport.

The London Active Partnership is implementing the scheme across the London region.

ETTA LEVEL 3 COACHING COURSE

Thursday, Friday, Saturday &
Sunday

16th, 17th, 18th & 19th
June 2005

**LILLESHALL
NATIONAL
SPORTS CENTRE**

Further details from:

Caroline Austin

ETTA Teaching & Training
Administrator

Queensbury House,
Havelock Road, Hastings,
East Sussex. TN34 1HF

Tel: 01424 431222

Fax: 01424 422103

email:

teachandtrain@englishtabletennis.org.uk

ORMESBY & FASTBATS LIKE RUNAWAY TRAINS

IN the Boys Premier division Ormesby looked like a runaway train with nothing in its way by the end of the weekend and finished way ahead of Darlington A who are certainly no easy pushover against the other teams in the division. In the match between them Ormesby trounced them with a 5-1 win where David Meads collected the consolation point for his win against Danny Reed, writes Dave Cochrane.

The crowds gathered for the 1st weekend's 'King of the Castle' in the averages Darius Knight who struggled this weekend, namely in the match against rising star Gavin Evans who rose to the challenge and produced a spectacular show for all when he won 11-7 in the fifth game. It would seem Gavin wasn't the only one who had his Weetabix as Tim Yarnall, Paul Drinkhall and Adam Bleakley also beat Darius 3-0.

Paul Drinkhall finished the competition with only one loss and took the top position in the averages, his team mate Tim Yarnall finished 2nd and other team mate Danny Reed a healthy 3rd.

Boys Division 1: Darlington B and Uxbridge were chasing for the top spot and were quite close throughout but Darlington just edged ahead by the end of the weekend with 15 points and Uxbridge were in 2nd place with 14 points.

Throughout the weekend Darlington had some impressive results, namely the 6-0 against Cippenham A and the 6-0 against Gwent Dragons. Unfortunately they couldn't manage to beat Uxbridge and had to settle for a 4-2 defeat to them. Allan Fullwood of Uxbridge pulled out all the stops and beat both Mark Simpson and Darren Reed, he was well backed up by team mates Richard Wesley and Sam Perry who clinched a close 11-9 win in the 5th game against Darlington's Jonathan Crawford.

Boys Division 2A: Clifedale Chandlers managed to edge ahead of rivals Barnet for the top spot in the division although it was a different story when they met. Alim Hirji of Barnet knocked up two wins, namely the close battle against Clifedale's David Arrowsmith where he clinched the match 11-7 in the fifth game. David also just missed out in the fifth against Clifedale's William Maybanks when he lost 11-7 again. Clifedale had an impressive win against Draycott & Long Eaton where they trounced them 6-0, the only real challenge in the match was from Adam Feargrieve who took Lincolnshire's Stewart Mudie to the fifth game but lost it 11-8.

Boys Division 2B: it was a photo finish to decide the final two places at the top. Hull St. Mary's just managed to clinch 1st place ahead of Ormesby B on countback.

Hull had a couple of impressive 6-0 wins against Progress B and Peniel B.



PETER CHARTERS presents the Boys and Girls winners trophies to (top) Ormesby: PAUL DRINKHALL, DANIEL REED & TIM YARNALL, and above Fastbats: KATIE LIGHTOWLER, NICOLA WHITE, KELLY SIBLEY & NAOMI OWEN.

Progress B stretched Hull St. Mary's to the limits but just couldn't cash in on the matches that went to the wire, namely the matches between Yasir Mauthoor and Matthew Dodds, Ashley Stokes and Luke Carrington, Ashley Stokes and Damien Piper.

Hull's Damien Piper stood proud for the photographers when he received his award for Boy of the Weekend for showing true skill and sportsmanship throughout the weekend.

Boys Division 3A: DML Woolwell finished at the

top with Kingfisher just behind them at 2nd place.

DML Woolwell had two impressive wins of 6-0 against Cippenham B and Grove who just couldn't rise to the challenge. It was a different story when they met their rivals Kingfisher who they drew 3-3 with. Abhay Gehlot played it cool for Kingfisher and won both his matches, he was well backed up by team mate Ben Davies who clinched the match against Chris Warn 11-6 in the fifth. Chris Smith won both his matches and was helped to the draw

ALDERSLEY LEISURE CENTRE, WOLVERHAMPTON

by Richard Marshall who beat Tom Maynard 11-8 in the fourth game.

Boys Division 3B: Ellenborough eased ahead and claimed the 1st position ahead of rivals Rotherham Scorpions who clinched 2nd place above Mossford.

Ellenborough had a convincing number of results throughout the weekend with 5-1 wins over Sunderland and Mossford, they also notched up 4-2 wins over Sheffield, Cornwall Rockets and Rotherham Scorpions.

Adam Tatlow of Cornwall Rockets played his part and rose to the challenge by getting the two points for his team, he fought well in both his matches by beating Suchira Gallage 11-8 in the fifth and Joe Chacholiades 11-8 in the fifth.

Boys Division 4A: St. Andrews and Spicer B were neck and neck all the way through but it was St. Andrews who edged ahead at the finishing

Pictures by ARTHUR C. CLARK

post on countback as both teams were tied on 16 points. The match between St. Andrews and Spicer B not surprisingly finished level at 3-3, Robin Kinchin made a huge contribution for Spicer B by winning both his matches and James Winchester had the same idea for his team of Spicer B and won both of his matches as well. St. Andrews showed true authority when they met Club Mid-Cheshire by finishing with a smooth 6-0, David Billington of Club Mid-Cheshire gave Ashley Miles a fright by taking him to the wire.

Boys Division 4B: Morpeth School separated the men from the boys by winning this division 7 points ahead of 2nd place Hull. Morpeth School had convincing wins throughout but Jack Higgs and Matthew Lang of Malvern nearly clinched vital sets for their team by taking Simon Hoang to five games but just couldn't scrape through with a win. Morpeth School players under the watchful eye of coach Grant Solder have shown others on the junior tournament circuit they are no pushover.

Congratulations go to Southampton West who gave a big smile for the cameras when they received the Boys Team of the Weekend award.

Girls Premier Division: Fastbats A showed the division what "Girl Power" was by finishing top with an impressive maximum 20 points, 2nd place Cippenham A claimed 2nd place with 11 points. Nicola White celebrated her 18th birthday and really put the icing on her birthday cake when she celebrated good wins over Team Peniel A, Nicola beat Bethany Rees 11-5 in the fifth and also clinched a win against Lucy Weil which finished 11-8 in the fifth as well.

Cippenham A had their work cut out for them to finish 2nd place in the division, Peniel A made sure of that when they played them. Both teams were hungry for the win but they drew 3-3. Sarah Hall of Cippenham was the only one to win both her matches, namely against Lucy Weil and Emma Weil.

Congratulations go to Naomi Owen of Fastbats A who showed she doesn't know what losing is and finished with 20 wins out of 20, her team mate Kelly Sibley followed her footsteps and finished with 10 wins out of 10, Nicola White claimed 12 wins out of 14 to take 3rd place in the averages.

Girls Division 1: Draycott & Long Eaton took

control and finished in the driving seat whilst Bridgwater finished in 2nd place not far behind them.

Draycott & L. E. trounced their rivals Bridgwater 5-1 when Sally Smith claimed the one set for Bridgwater.

Irish Girls had to settle for a draw of 3-3 against Scotland where Fiona Dennett of Irish Girls won both her matches by beating Scotland's Corinna Whitaker and Roxanna Milne.

Girls Division 2: Byng Hall topped the charts and claimed the No.1 spot with an impressive 18 points, St. Andrews A weren't far behind them on 15 points with a healthy 2nd place.

Byng Hall trounced Lea Hall, Draycott & Long Eaton B and Darlington B 6-0, the only real challenge came from Fastbats B when Mary Fuller won both her matches, one of them the battle with Chloe Dunmall that she clinched a 12-10 win in the fifth.

Congratulations go to Byng Hall who smiled for the cameras when they received their award for

Girls Team of the Weekend.

Girls Division 3: Club Mid-Cheshire flew ahead with 19 points whilst rivals Ormesby finished 2nd with 13 points.

Club Mid-Cheshire's only real challenge came from Ormesby when they won 4-2, Rachel Greener of Ormesby won both her matches 3-0 against Reena Ardesana and Lynsey Pich but her team mates couldn't follow suit.

Congratulations go to Ken Eliot and Andrew Joyce on another successful event, a huge thankyou to Margaret Welch, Richard Palmer, the referees Steve Welch and Mike Payne, the wonderful team of umpires and Chris Newton with his huge contribution on the setup. A good luck handshake goes out to John Fell of Tees Sport who has been the face of the trade stand at many events over the years who retired at the finish of this event.

League tables and players averages appear on the ETTA Website: www.englishtabletennis.org.uk

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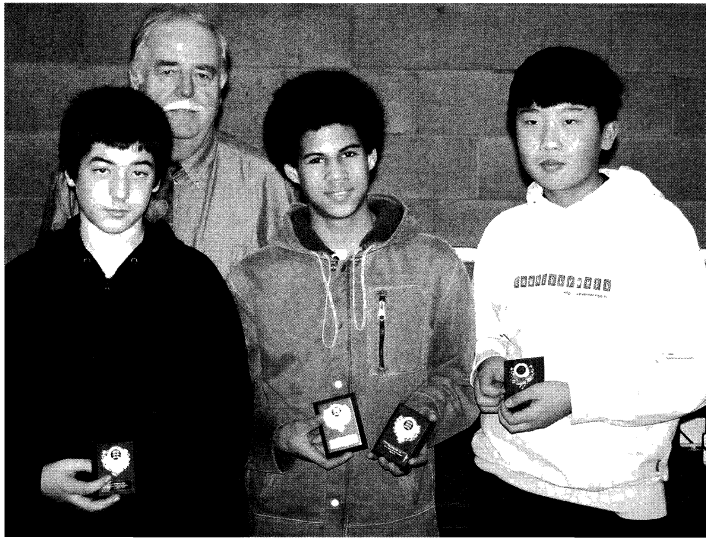
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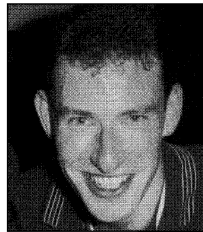
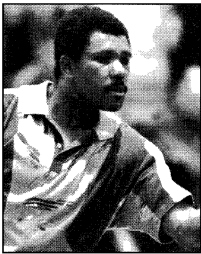
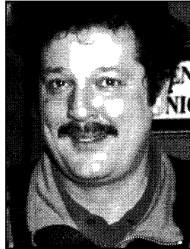
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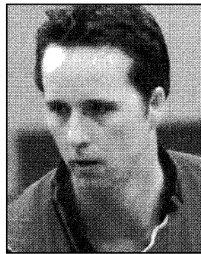


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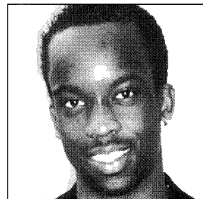
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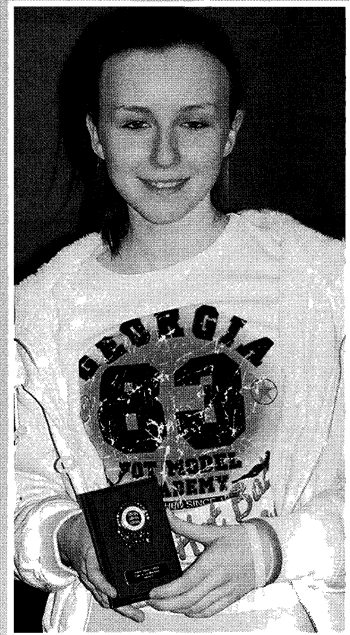
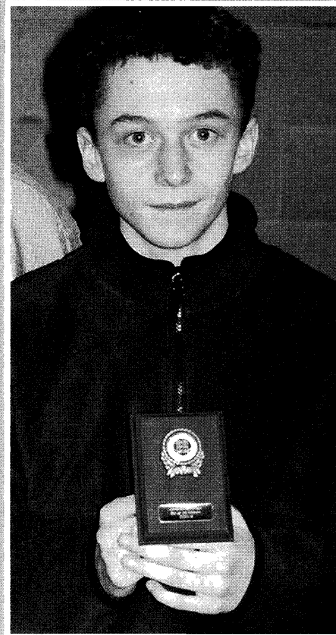
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PETER CHARTERS presents the trophies to 'Boys Team of the Weekend' to (top left) SOUTHAMPTON WEST and 'Girls Team of the Weekend' (top right) BYNG HALL. 'Boy Player of the Weekend' (above left) DAMIEN PIPER of Hull St.Mary's and 'Girl Player of the Weekend' (above right) FIONA DENNETT of Irish Girls.



KEN ELIOT presents a leaving gift to JOHN FELL of Tees Sport, who retired at the finish of the Junior British League weekend

THE TAMESIDE TOP TABLE VARIETY SHOW



TAMESIDE TOPPERS: (l.to.r) **BRADLEY EVANS** England No.6 junior, **MILES EVANS** England No.21 junior, **JOE BEADLE** Tameside Voluntary Development Officer, **TOM McCANN** Tameside No.2 junior and **ADAM TOOLE** Tameside No.1 junior

TELEVISED TABLE TENNIS EVENT- sponsored by NORTH MANCHESTER COMMERCIALS

ON Tuesday 22nd February 2005 THE TOP TABLE VARIETY SHOW was televised at St Damians Roman Catholic school in Ashton-under-lyne, Tameside, writes Joe Beadle.

The event was shown on Channel M.TV on the Friday evening 25th February 2005, during the sports coverage from 5-7pm. The spectacular was featured on four separate occasions during that time and would have been seen by over 1 million people across the ten boroughs of Greater Manchester.

Both the school and the viewers saw some exciting table tennis from Miles and Bradley Evans of Nottinghamshire, who are ranked in the top twenty of the junior boys division. Some home grown talent was also on display from Tom McCann and Adam Toole and there was also some audience participation with the Assistant Head taking part, much to the delight of the pupils. This was followed by a comedy sketch from Joe Beadle Tameside's Voluntary Table Tennis Development Officer

A special thankyou goes to North Manchester Commercial on Briscoe Lane for agreeing to sponsor the event.

This show and the recent school

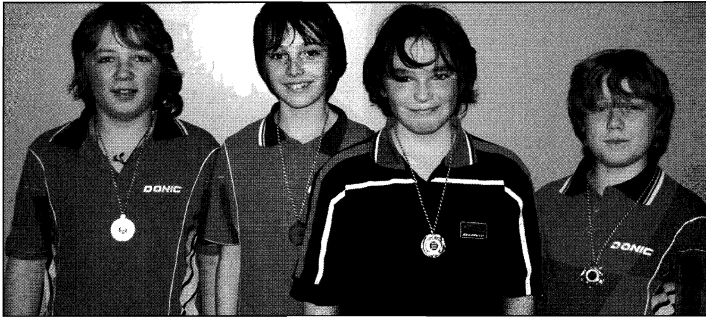
tour have promoted the sport of table tennis across the borough with more children than ever participating in after school clubs.

SOMERSET BADGES



COUNTY JUNIOR BADGES were presented to **SHAUN HALL** (left) and **BECKY SEAL**, by Somerset Chairman **MIKE WITHYMAN** at the County Closed Tournament

HELMSLEY SUCCESS



Helmsley TT Club 'A' the North of England National Cadet League Champions, (l.to r.) FINN NEEDHAM, EDWARD FAMBLEY, CHARLIE ALLOTT & LUKE LUNN

National Cadet League Champions

Helmsley Table Tennis Club Cadet (Under 15) 'A' and 'B' teams travelled to Billingham on Sunday the 6th March to play in Round 4 of the North of England National Cadet League.

Needing only 11 games out of possible 27 to win the league, the 'A' team consisting of Edward Fambley, Charlie Allott, Finn Needham and Luke Lunn started the day with a 9-0 victory over a depleted and inexperienced Sedgefield team. The next game was to be the toughest of the day against the Helmsley 'B' team, Jack Moody, Johnny Goode and Alistair Quinn. Jack made Edward fight for his victory but then faced Charlie whose heavy and consistent topspin set him up for a comfortable 3-0 win. Johnny and Alistair fought hard but couldn't break down the

triumphant 'A' team. Closest game was Jack versus Luke which went to 5 sets, Luke clinching the 5th, 11-7 to make the final match score 9-0. The final 'A' team match was against the Sedgefield team again (as they missed a previous round) and the score proved the same, 9-0.

So a victorious 'A' team waited 45 minutes for their 'B' team mates to finish a scintillating match against a strong Northumbria side. Alistair won an close match in the fifth set and Jack won all three to set up a potential victory. Johnny played brilliantly and was at 4-4 in the 5th set before a flurry of good shots by his opponent left him with a mountain to climb and he finally lost 11-6. The match went to Northumbria 5-4.

This is the same team that represented Ryedale School in the National Schools Teams U13 boys finals.

SCHOOLS TEAM FINALS

ONE hundred and thirty young people gathered at Hinckley Leisure Centre on Saturday 12th March for the 39th ESTTA National Team Championships sponsored by Jarvis Sports, writes Joe Walk.

They had earned the right to take part by winning their way through County, Zone and Regional Finals. In total twenty-four schools were represented from across the country ranging from Cumbria in the North to Somerset in the West and to Croydon in the South-East.

The standard of competition was very high; this is a reflection of the outstanding results being achieved by our Junior players representing England at International level. Many of the young men and women doing so well had much of their early experience of competitive play in the ESTTA events of the past. The tournament was played in a spirit of healthy competition and the demeanour of the players was a credit to their teachers, coaches and parents. The results were as follows:

	<i>Winner</i>	<i>Runner-Up</i>
Girls U19	Peniel Academy (Essex` County)	The Duston School (Northants)
Boys U19	Grantham College (Lincolnshire)	Peniel Academy
Girls U16	Peniel Academy	Kesteven & Grantham Sc (Lincs)
Boys U16	Tuxford Comp Sch (Notts)	Morpeth School (Middlesex)
Girls U13	Peniel Academy	Northfield Sch (Cleveland)
Boys U13	Dowdales School (Cumbria)	Whitgift School (Surrey Metro)
Girls U11	Cliffedale PS (Lincs)	Christchurch PS (Surrey Metro)
Boys U11	Redlands PS (Notts)	Peniel Academy

Individual Awards for outstanding performance on the day were made to William Bacon of Cliffedale Primary School and Helena Foylan of Christchurch Junior School. Whilst a remarkable feat was achieved by the Peniel Academy Girls U19 team who have won their age category each year since first entering as an U11 squad.

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Triumphant ALAN COOKE (left) and HELEN LOWER (right) are congratulated on their respective Mens and Singles success at Sheffield by their supercoach DEREK MARPLES

HELEN LOWER WINS HER FIRST WOMENS NATIONAL TITLE ...

AT one time Alan Cooke's top-spin and defensive skills when pushed back, were world-class. Even now as we saw at Sheffield's Ponds Forge, he takes some beating. He lifted the coveted title for the sixth time. After winning he said "Happy to win but I am 38 - it is the younger men who should be taking this trophy", writes John Woodford.

Cooke surged to victory with two difficult games (first and fifth games)

before coming home -3, 8, 5, 2, -6, 7, against Alex Perry who had an excellent tournament defeating the very young Paul Drinkhall in the quarters and a returning Andrew Baggaley in the semi-finals, -7, 7, -5, -6, 6, 6.

Baggaley is back. He currently plays No.1 for a German club in the second division of the Bundesliga, spending about 70 per cent of his time in Germany, where as most people know, almost everything in table tennis is more professional than

in most other countries.

He is now, according to his management, prepared to toe-the-line within the England training facilities and be available for England.

Paul Drinkhall, 15, remains our outstanding prospect. At Sheffield against Perry he suffered a muscle strain in the left buttock.

He retired for the ten-minutes allowed but on his return Perry remained in control, winning -11, 9, -7, 4, 4.

Glancing back at the later stages of

the mens singles, Mark Smith (Yorkshire) impressed with his run to the quarters that ended 7, 2, 9, 7 to Alan Cooke who went on take out Terry Young who seemed to be firing on all cylinders.

Andrew Rushton halted Darius Knight's progress, but then became a Baggaley victim - a result that may have cost him his place in the European Championships team for Denmark.

Helen Lower having lost in six previous finals, took the seventh in

...WHILST COOKE CLAIMS HIS 6th MENS SINGLES SUCCESS

her stride to defeat the holder
Andrea Holt 9, 5, 10, 9.

In the past, observers have
despaired when Helen lost points,
but this time, she seemed to have
found a new lease of life making
fewer errors and keeping her head
high whatever the score.

On the way to the final Helen
stopped Joanna Roberts and Natalie
Bawden. It would appear that
Helen's preparation for the
tournament had been long and
intense. In contrast Andrea's
commitment to her job as North-
West Regional Development Officer
meant she only had a handful of
matches in France by way of
preparation.

Players have to earn money, that is
why Gareth Herbert was not seen at
Sheffield - he had just started a full-
time post coaching in London.

Words by
John Woodford,
Jim Beckley
& John Wood
Pictures by
John Wood

FOOTNOTES

• Stuart Sherlock and Gill White did
an excellent job as referees as did the
sponsors Bribar. Diccon Gray
received praise for his work on the
public address system - not an easy
job.

• Ponds Forge is an excellent venue
with a really professional staff and
management. It is likely that we
could be there for the next three
years. The only major snag is that the
parking situation is a nightmare.
Most of the space is occupied by 9.30
a.m. Something needs to be done
but venues in city centres often have
the same problem. The crowd
turnout was a disappointing 500 at
the finals afternoon.

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ALEX PERRY (left) & HELEN LOWER the Mixed Doubles Champions, whilst above (inset) are Womens Doubles winners **HELEN LOWER & NATALIE BAWDEN** being presented with their trophy by ETTA Treasurer **MARTIN CLARK** & ETTA Deputy Chairman **MIKE JOHNS**

TWO DOUBLES WINS FOR PERRY & LOWER

HELEN LOWER won two more trophies at Sheffield, the Mixed Doubles with Alex Perry and the Womens Doubles with Natalie Bawden, writes John Wood.

In the Mixed Doubles final against Paul Drinkhall and Kelly Sibley, Alex and Helen had an almighty battle with these youngsters, with only their greater experience seeing them through 8,-6,-7, 6, 6.

Alex Perry teamed up with Terry Young to take the Mens Doubles crown, beating Bryn Drinkhall and Andrew Rushton in the final 11, 2, 3.

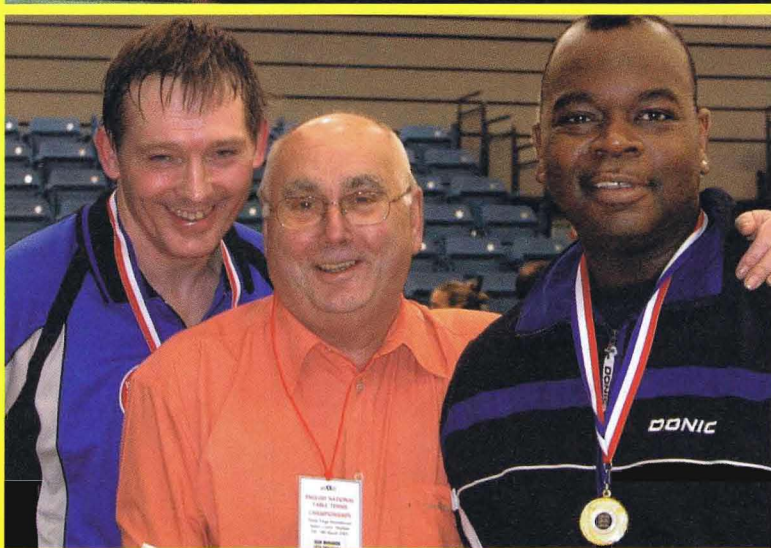
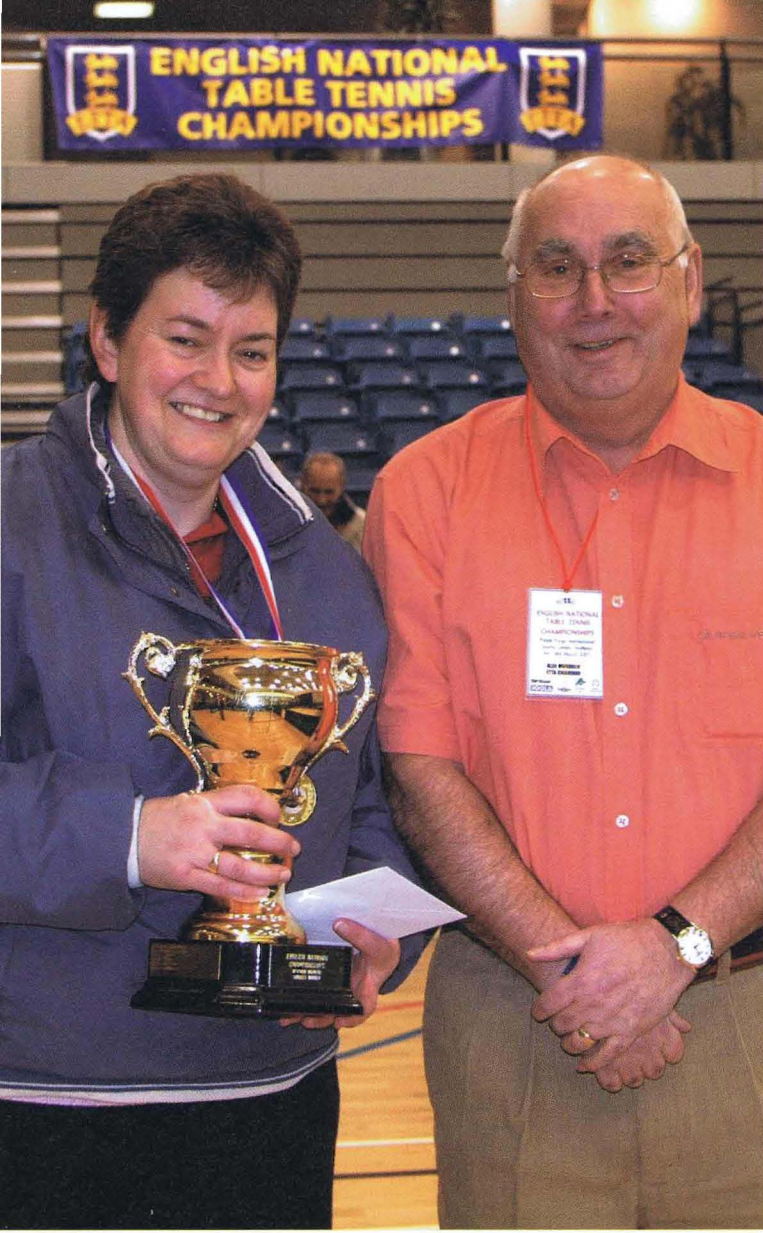
In the semi-finals Perry and Young saw off the experience and combined talent of former England stars John Holland and Andrew Eden 8,-10, 6, 9.

The other semis didn't take place due to an injury to Paul Drinkhall.

Lower was joined by Natalie Bawden in the Womens Doubles, in a partnership that blossomed after a marathon battle in the semis with Abigail Embling and Joanna Parker, which they won 10, 10,-9,-9, 9, before going on to win the final against Kelly Sibley and Georgina Walker -3, 5,-8, 8, 4.

ALEX PERRY (left) and TERRY YOUNG are pictured receiving their Mens Doubles trophy from Vice Chairman Marketing **SANDRA DEATON** & Vice Chairman Administration **JOHN DIGNUM**





VETERAN CHAMPIONS: Pictured above left is **JILL HARRIS**, Womens Singles and below right **JOE KENNEDY & CLIVE CARTHY**, Mens Double receiving their winners trophies from **ETTA Chairman ALEX MURDOCH**, whilst pictured above right is this year's Mens Singles winner **NIGEL ECKERSLEY**

ECKERSLEY & HARRIS BACK IN BUSINESS AS TOP VETERANS

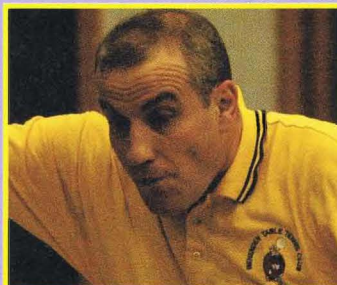
TWELVE years ago a young player from Lancashire bounced on the veterans scene for the first time and encapsulated his audience with some exciting table tennis, writes **Jim Beckley**.

That player was Nigel Eckersley now living in Sussex yet seemingly hardly aged at all. He produced another high class show to win the title again beating on his way to the final Diccon Gray and Paul Giles to tackle the top seed Joey Kennedy in the final. And the final score of 5, 6, -7, 2

just about sums up the Sussex players domination of the final watched by little over 500 spectators.

Enroute to the final Nigel beat Trevor Williams, Dave Griffith, Diccon Gray (pictured right) and Paul Giles while Joey claimed the scalps of Brian Allison, Richard Shirt, Eddie Roofe and Ayo Ademakinwa. Decide for your self who had the toughest passage.

In the ladies event Jill Harris sailed through with out too much trouble. In her group she saw off Eileen

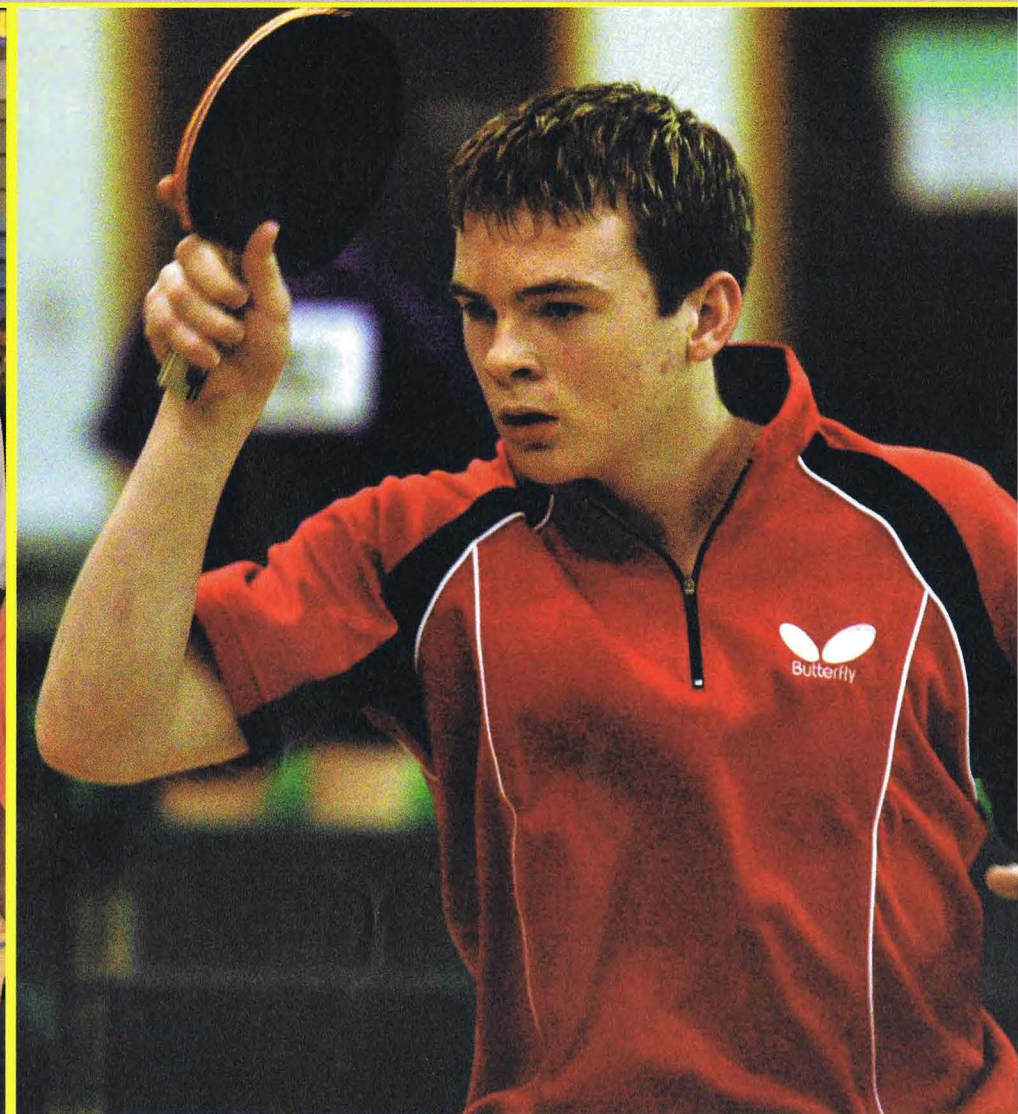
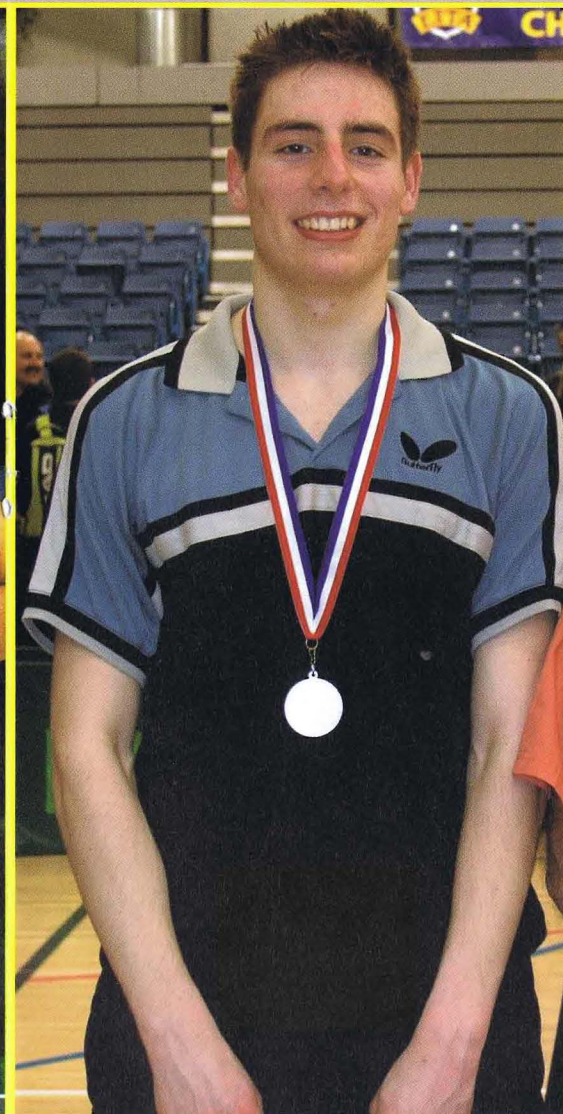
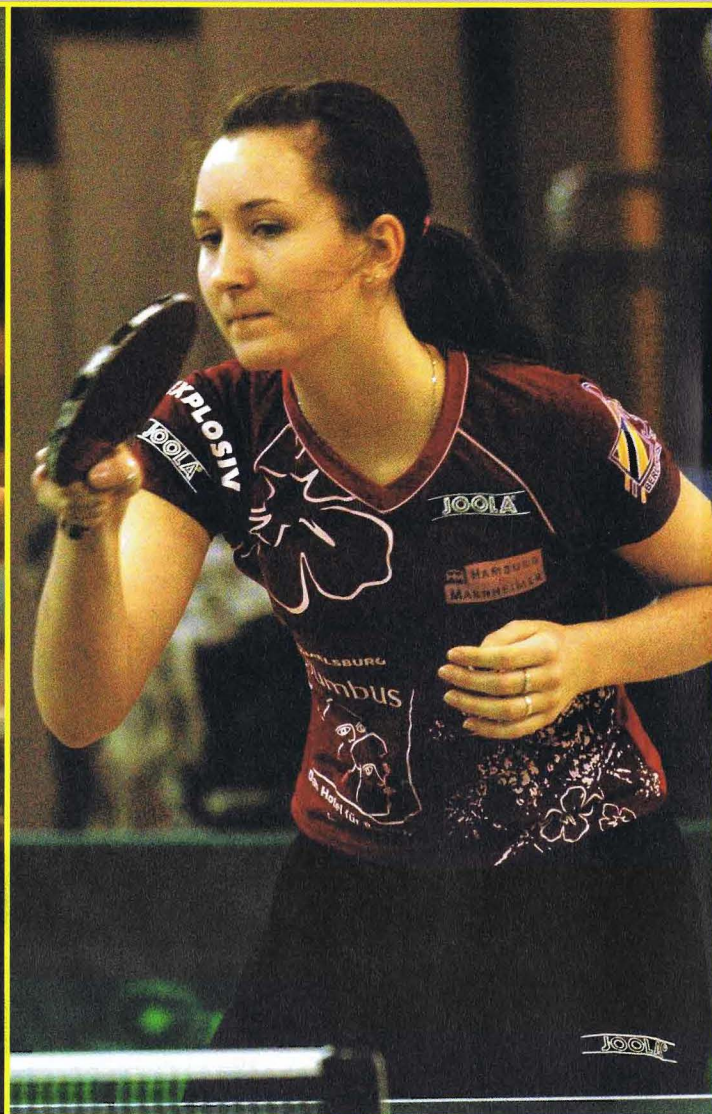


Shaler, Shirley Dark and Kim Mudge. Coming through her group Jane Durham had to beat Margaret

Dignum and Pat Thorley and her toughest match against Jan (Dunning) Johns.

Since joining the veterans ranks last year Jill has tasted few defeats and she retained her title with ease beating Jane 11,3, 2.

Some consolation for Joey Kennedy for losing in the final of the singles was a victory in the doubles with Clive Carthy. Together they beat Paul Giles and Brian Johns, last years winner with brother Mike, -8, 6, -5, 7, 7.



Pictured above left is this season's Women's Under 21 Singles Champion **GEORGINA WALKER**, whilst above right is this season's runner-up **JOANNA PARKER**

Pictured above left is this season's Mens Under 21 Singles runner-up **TIM YARNALL**, above right is the Champion **PAUL DRINKHALL**

A SUPER show of young talent saw Paul Drinkhall and Georgina Walker, emerge as this season's National Under 21 Champions, at the Ponds Forge International Sports Centre, writes John Wood.

Drinkhall won a mammoth battle against Tim Yarnall in the final, following some spectacular attacking table tennis.

Yarnall took the opening game 11-7, after trailing 0-4.

The lad from Middlesbrough took the lead in the second game and this time he went on to keep his nose in front and win 11-6.

This rallied Yarnall who played some inspired table tennis in a tight third game which saw him go in front 2-1, winning 11-9.

Drinkhall came out fighting in this vital 4th game in which he trailed 3-6 to Yarnall. But from this moment onwards Paul raised

his game to win the next 7 points before going on to win 11-7.

In the 5th and deciding game Drinkhall raced to a 10-5 lead, before Tim rallied to save two match points, as Paul went to clinch the title.

In the semis Drinkhall played against Darius Knight (pictured below right) and was 5-10 down in the opening game, before he unleashed some superb attacking table tennis to pull back to 10-10, only to see his long time sparring partner take the next two points and the game.

Paul was once again down in the 2nd game, 4-7, before he powered his way to victory 11-9.

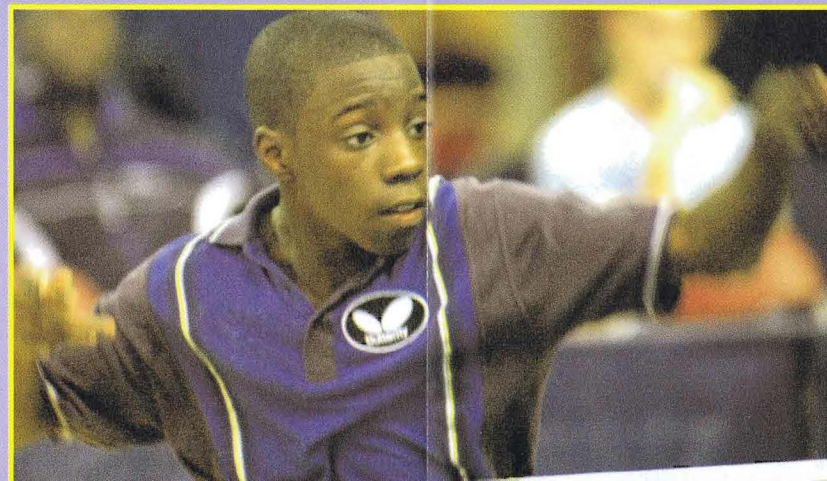
In the 3rd Drinkhall led 8-1 only to see Darius rally and pull back to 8-8, before Paul won 11-8. And with confidence now sky high he went on to claim his place in the final 11-2.

The other semi was won by Yarnall who defeated Craig Bryant in three, 9, 7, 4.

Georgina Walker was determined to beat the super defence of Joanna Parker, and this she she did with style, 6, 8, 4.

The scores may not suggest a close final but it was a long rallied battle of classic attack against defence, which enthralled the spectators.

DRINKHALL & WALKER TAKE THE U21 TITLES



Georgina's patience and clever use of the odd drop shot, saw her claim the Under 21 title.

Walker only just got to the final by very narrowly defeating Kelly Sibley (pictured right), in an all-attack semi.

The opening game was a cracker which saw Sibley power her way to success 14-12. This saw Walker respond with a tremendous comeback, which saw her take



the second 11-4.

The next two games went point for point as the two women went all out to make the final, ending in victory for Walker 13-11, 13-11.

In the other semis Joanna Parker beat the young lady from Norfolk Lauren Spink in three, 6, 3, 3.

SENIOR ENGLISH NATIONAL FINALS RESULTS:

Mens Singles: s/f: A.Cooke bt T.Young 9,5,-9,7,9; A.Perry bt A.Baggaley -7,7,-5,11,-6,6,6. Final: Cooke bt Perry -3,8,5,2,-6,7.

Mens Doubles: A.Perry/T.Young bt B.Drinkhall/A.Rushton 11,2,3.

Womens Singles: s/f: H.Lower bt N.Bawden 2,7,3,3; A.Holt bt G.Walker 7,8,8,5. Final: Lower bt Holt 9,5,10,9.

Womens Doubles: H.Lower/ N.Bawden bt K.Sibley/G.Walker -3,5,-8,8,4.

Mixed Doubles: A.Perry/H.Lower bt P.Drinkhall/K.Sibley 8,-6,-7,6,6.

Mens U21 Singles: P.Drinkhall bt T.Yarnall -7,6,-9,7,7.

Womens U21 Singles: G.Walker bt J.Parker 6,8,4.

Mens Veterans Singles: N.Eckersley bt J.Kennedy 5,6,-8,2.

Mens veterans Doubles: C.Carthy/ J.Kennedy bt P.Giles/B.Johns -8,6,-5,7,7.

Womens Veterans Singles: J.Harris bt J.Durham 11,3,2.

ELGRE ON TOP

ONE of the oldest criticisms of the Senior British League has been firmly dispelled. Cynics used to say that the standard of play in the lower divisions was no better than in your average local League first division match. However, with players such as Simon Pugh, Bill Grant, Lewis Siket and Andy Henry taking part in division Four North, the all-conquering Mossford side of Matt Spero, Keith Lesser, Shelley Ruocco and Robin Glassberg winning division Four South and an outstanding Club Cornwall team of Adrian Noott, Jeremy Williams, Graham Worth and Darren Reed finding themselves pushed all the way by Ellenborough II in division Four South & Midlands this myth can now be disregarded, writes Steve Kerns.

Divisions One North and One South finished with Elgre Nottingham winning the North by a street, whilst Horsham won the South on games difference.

Division One North - With a final points total of 27 out of 28 and a massive winning lead of nine points ELGRE Nottingham took the title by what may well have been the largest margin in British League history. It was all over bar the shouting in round eleven when ELGRE beat second-placed Darlington II 5-3. Eddie Smith got Darlington off to a good start with a thrilling 12-10 in the fifth set victory over George Pittas but it wasn't enough as ELGRE surged into a 4-2 lead courtesy of a Chris Rogers double over Andrew Leighton and Eddie Smith. And in

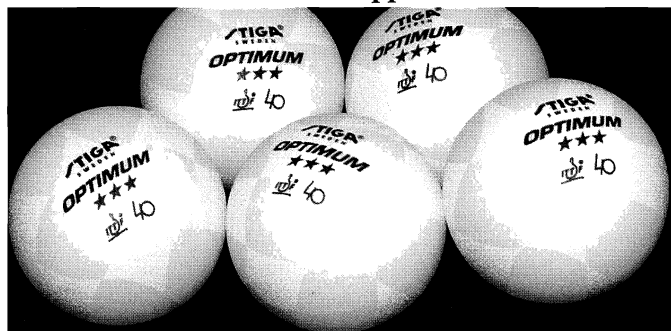
the last game of the match Mark Green came back from 2-0 down to beat Kevin Wilson to secure a very important win for ELGRE. It was 5-3 to ELGRE again in round twelve when they beat third-placed Derwent with the "old-guard" - Rogers and Dave Gannon responsible for four of their wins. An indication of just how well Gannon was playing can perhaps be found in the scoresheet comments - "Player of the Match - Stephen Horsfield - tenacity on the table" bearing in mind he lost to Gannon 11-9, 4-11, 9-11, 2-11.

Division One South - What a finish. With a two point lead on Sunday morning London Progress II must have thought they had done enough to wrest the title. It just wasn't their day. First they fell foul of an inspired De Vere NETTS side when they were held to draw and in a grandstand finish Horsham I were always calling the shots as they went onto beat Progress 6-2 to take the title on games count-back. It might not have been enough to prevent NETTS getting relegated but they played as if their lives depended on it. Dave Cole scored two brilliant wins defeating Henry Medellin (3-0) and Umair Mauthoor (3-1) whilst Fred Dove contributed his second British League win of the season over the higher ranked James Sprackling. But, it was Paul Davison who was the real hero. Trailing 2-1 and 9-7 against Henry Medellin he fought back in stirring fashion to win 11-9 in the fifth end and it was a very relieved John Murphy who finally squeezed past Suffolk Junior star Lee Barnes 3-2 to earn his side a point.

The British League Official Ball

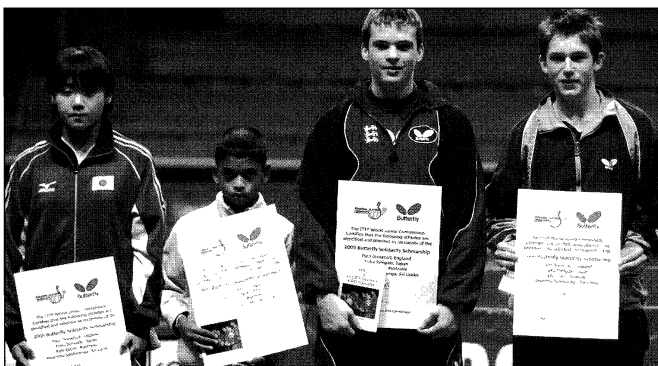
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PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
London Progress	10	8	2	0	57	23	27
Ormesby	10	8	0	0	56	24	18
Harvey Barnets	10	6	3	1	53	27	15
Batts Team Peniel	10	1	5	4	35	45	7
Seasiders	10	3	1	6	29	51	7
Ellenborough	10	1	4	5	34	46	6
JAGS	10	1	3	6	27	53	5
Darlington	10	1	2	7	29	51	4
Division 1 North							
ELGRE Nottingham	14	13	1	0	89	23	27
Darlington II	14	7	4	3	61	51	18
Derwent	14	6	5	3	65	47	17
Norwich Todd Foxwood	14	6	5	3	57	55	17
Sycamore	14	6	2	6	58	54	14
Grantham	14	3	3	8	45	67	9
Halton Croda	14	2	2	10	39	73	6
B.D. Fastbats	14	1	2	11	34	78	4
Division 1 South							
Horsham	14	9	3	2	74	38	21
London Progress II	14	10	1	3	70	42	21
DML Woolwell	14	8	2	4	69	43	18
Cippenham	14	5	5	4	60	52	15
Olop Impact	14	6	2	6	47	65	14
B.F.I.T. Wilshire	14	5	1	8	50	62	11
De Vere Netts	14	3	2	9	46	66	8
Byng Hall	14	2	0	12	32	80	4
Division 2 North							
Ormesby II	14	13	1	0	86	26	27
ELGRE Nottingham II	14	10	2	2	85	27	22
Rotherham Scorpions	14	8	2	4	62	50	18
Blackpool	14	6	3	5	62	50	15
Uxbridge Burton	14	3	5	6	52	60	11
Wirral	14	2	4	8	42	70	8
Halton Croda II	14	2	2	10	33	79	6
B.D. Fastbat II	14	2	1	11	26	86	5
Division 2 South							
London Progress III	14	12	1	1	82	30	25
University of Brighton	14	9	2	3	69	43	20
York Gardens	14	8	3	3	59	53	19
EBS-Orange Northampton	14	9	-	5	65	47	18
Horsham I	14	4	3	7	47	65	11
Generation 2	14	3	2	9	47	65	8
JAGS II	14	3	2	9	44	68	8
Ashford	14	1	1	12	35	77	3
Division 2 South & Midlands							
Bedford Modern	14	13	1	0	86	26	27
Guildford	14	10	1	3	72	40	21
Oxford Fireplace Centre	14	8	4	2	69	43	20
Cippenham II	14	9	1	4	70	42	19
EBS-Orange Northampton II	14	5	1	8	57	55	11
Ajax Wolves	14	3	1	10	43	69	7
OLOP Impact II	14	2	2	10	37	75	6
Ashford II	14	0	1	13	14	98	1
Division 3 South & Midlands							
Kingshurst Briar	14	10	2	2	71	41	22
Bedford Modern II	14	10	1	3	67	45	21
London Progress IV	14	9	1	4	62	50	19
Sutton Sharks	14	4	6	4	55	57	14
Oxford Fireplace Centre II	14	6	2	6	54	58	14
Kingfisher Reading	14	4	2	8	54	58	10
Guinness Polska	14	2	3	9	43	69	7
Guildford II	14	2	1	11	42	70	5
Division 3 North							
Mclymont National	14	13	1	0	94	18	27
Northfield	14	11	1	2	79	32	23
Grimby	14	10	0	4	76	36	20
Seasiders II	14	7	0	7	55	57	14
Derwent II	14	5	2	7	53	59	12
ELGRE Nottingham III	14	5	1	8	49	63	11
Barrow	14	2	1	11	31	81	5
B.D. Fastbats III	14	0	0	14	10	101	0
Division 3 South							
Batts Team Peniel II	14	9	4	1	70	42	22
Harvey Barnets II	14	7	5	2	67	45	19
NWF	14	7	2	5	65	47	16
Horsham III	14	6	3	5	56	56	15
Hastings	14	4	4	6	58	54	12
Waterside	14	3	6	5	55	57	12
Guernsey	14	4	4	6	53	59	12
ROK	14	1	2	11	24	88	4
Division 4 South & Midlands							
Club Cornwall	14	12	2	0	96	16	26
Ellenborough II	14	12	1	1	85	27	25
Cippenham III	14	8	1	5	66	46	17
East London Progress	14	6	2	6	60	52	14
ELGRE Nottingham IV	14	6	1	7	51	61	13
London Progress V	14	3	2	9	38	74	8
Britannia Ipswich	14	4	0	10	36	76	8
Guinness Polska II	14	0	1	13	16	96	1
Division 4 North							
Sheffield	14	13	0	1	74	38	26
Chesterfield	14	11	2	1	82	30	24
A.G.S. Phoenix	14	8	2	4	72	40	18
Darlington III	14	7	1	6	61	51	15
CoftonHackett	14	5	1	8	51	61	11
Rotherham Scorpions II	14	3	2	9	38	74	8
Redlands Bats	14	3	1	10	42	69	7
Isle of Man	14	1	1	12	27	84	3
Division 4 South							
Mossford	12	11	1	0	79	17	23
JAGS III	12	8	2	2	59	37	18
York Gardens II	12	6	2	4	54	42	14
University of Brighton II	12	5	2	5	53	43	12
Byng Hall II	12	3	1	8	39	57	7
OIC Hollingbury	12	3	1	8	30	66	7
Guildford III	12	1	1	10	22	74	3

TRADE COLUMN



US\$9000 Butterfly Scholarship for Paul Drinkhall

PAUL DRINKHALL was one of four recipients presented with the new ITTF Butterfly Solidarity Scholarships in Orebro, Sweden last month.

Four of the winners, Yuka Ishigaki of Japan, Paul Drinkhall of England, Kyle Davis of Australia and Hashinta Sashirange of Sri Lanka, were presented with certificates to the value of close to USD9000 by Yuki Kamizuru, Director of Butterfly Europe.

The scholarships are part of a sponsorship with a total fund of USD120,000 which Mr Kimihiko Tamasu (President of Tamasu Co. Ltd, Japan) decided would be used to provide selected athletes with access to international high level training and is connected to activities in the ITTF Global Junior Programme.

Paul's fund is being used in conjunction with the England Team Coach, Steen Hansen, to give him training and competition over and above that provided by the ETTA and the Ormesby Club. Paul uses a Butterfly Michael Maze Offensive Carbon blade with Tackifire C black on his forehand and Sriver red on the backhand.

The four recipients listed above have all been selected from their own Continents. The 5th recipient will be selected after the African Junior Championship in Casablanca.

International Table Tennis Association
Employment Opportunity

MEDIA COORDINATOR

The ITTF is seeking the services of a "Media Coordinator" to work under the direction of a Senior Media Consultant to coordinate the media and press activities of the ITTF in close cooperation with the ITTF Media Committee. The ideal candidate is a young graduate from a journalism or communications programme who could be promoted to the position of Media Manager after two years with the ITTF.

General Responsibilities:

- Implement tasks as prescribed by the ITTF's Senior Media Consultant
- Prepare and distribute ITTF press releases, media communiqués and announcements
- Update and refine the ITTF's media contacts database and maintain a close relationship with members of the sports media
- Prepare and distribute Media Press Kits for ITTF major events
- Assist the ITTF's Senior media Consultant in preparing and servicing the Press centres at ITTF Major Events
- Organize and coordinate ITTF and Event Press Conferences as necessary
- Maintain and update all material necessary to provide the press with timely information such as Athletes' profiles, results, schedules, calendar of events, etc.
- Maintain an up-to-date ITTF media resource centre and photo archive
- Participate in the production of the ITTF official Magazine and information to the press on the ITTF web-site

Qualifications:

- Sports journalism experience for 3 years, or equivalent educational experience
- Experience with national or international sports events
- Command of the English language, written and spoken. French language is an asset

Location:

- The position is based in Renens/Lausanne, Switzerland and requires regular international travel

All interested parties can apply, in strict confidence, by sending an application letter and curriculum vitae, stating the expected salary range. Applications to be received at the following address by 15 April 2005:

International Table Tennis Federation
Chemin de la Roche 11, 1020 Renens, Switzerland
e-mail: ittf@ittf.com, fax: + 41 21 340 7099

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

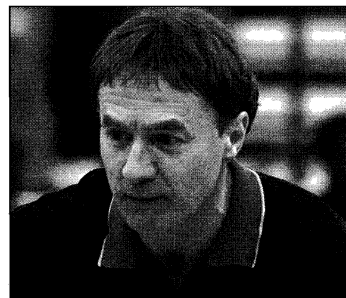
BATTLE AT THE TOP

THE first weekend in April will decide the destination of the Senior Premiership trophy, when newly promoted Sussex will be hoping their one point lead over Devon and Middlesex will be enough to see them crowned champions.

The closest finish in the Seniors will be in Division 2B, where Cornwall 1st and Somerset are locked on level points with the same game difference.

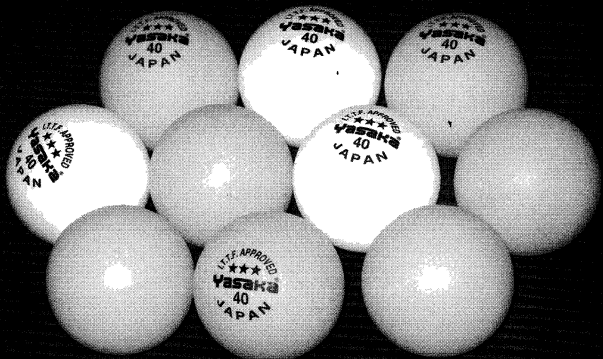
Buckinghamshire with a two point lead in the Junior Premier, over Cheshire, Yorkshire and Derbyshire, will hope that will see them through to the trophy.

The Veteran Premier is looking interesting, with Devon and Cheshire



Sussex's NIGEL ECKERSLEY will be hoping that the superb form he showed at the Nationals in Sheffield, will continue

nose to nose at the top on five points, whilst third placed Northumberland is only a point adrift, with all to play for.



YASAKA 3 STAR BALLS

VETERANS OVER 60's TABLES

Over 60's Division 1A

Worcestershire	5	5	0	0	43	7	10
Essex	5	4	0	1	34	16	8
Yorkshire	5	3	0	2	31	19	6
Cheshire 1st	5	1	0	4	16	36	2
Bedfordshire	5	1	0	4	14	36	2
Cheshire 2nd	5	1	0	4	12	38	2

Over 60's Division 1B

Kent	4	4	0	0	31	9	8
Middlesex	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Berkshire 1st	4	2	0	2	23	17	4
Sussex	4	1	1	2	16	24	3
Hertfordshire	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Surrey	3	0	1	2	9	21	1
Berkshire 2nd	3	0	0	3	5	25	0

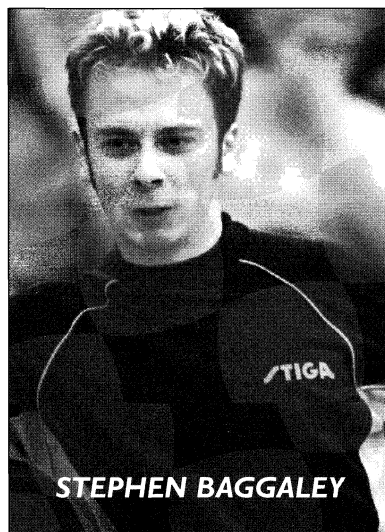
OVER 60's

MATCHPOINT

By JOHN WOODFORD



- **ALEX MURDOCH**, the ETTA chairman has revealed his ambitions to move into the higher echelons of table tennis politics. By the time these words reach readers we shall know the result of voting for representing the ETTU on the ITTF executive council, a post previously held by Alan Ransome.
- **ALEX** maintains that it is desirable that the present chairman of the ETTA, rather than the man before him, is better suited to do the job. It is a very steep learning curve for him, but he is determined to move ahead.
- **THERE** were some worries that the former ETTA deputy chair Tony Chatwin might be deprived of positions he has held for years on technical committees on both ITTF and ETTU levels, but those fears have receded - he is up for election for ITTF and ETTU technical posts. He will be hard at work in Shanghai.
- **CHINA** cannot possibly be amused by nations backing out of the two major world events (Doha, Shanghai) by sending junior players instead of senior teams.
- **THIS** trend first surfaced on neutral ground in Qatar last season when England only sent a womens team and other nations sent juniors instead of seniors against the threat of China, Korea and Germany sweeping the board at the team championships.
- **SHANGHAI** with its certain 10,000 plus crowds presents another formidable scene. The chances of China not dominating every event in the World Championships are very, very, small. So far, Sweden and England are sending only youngsters to Shanghai, I am sure other nations will follow suit.
- **SPORT ENGLAND** are of course, happy to see grant money spent on



STEPHEN BAGGALEY

Shanghai will be interesting, whether there will be time to look around is doubtful in a land of 700 million workers, no social security, no trade unions and the country's wealth is improving so fast it will, we are told, challenge the USA before much longer

developing our present group of teenagers, so the plans are to send our boys Paul Drinkhall and Darius Knight for a fortnight's coaching prior to the Shanghai tournament. Kelly Sibley and Joanna Parker will spend a month training in China after the tournament.

- **SHEFFIELD:** Alan Cooke and Helen Lower deserved their trophies. Nice to see Andrew Baggaley back, but where was Gareth Herbert? Is he no longer the finest server in Europe? He is full-time coaching in London - fine, players have to earn money, coaching regrettably does not do your own game any favours.

- **SHANGHAI:** Reporting from

EURO & WORLD NEWS

Compiled by JOHN WOOD

FOUR NATIONS TRAINING CAMP

LIAM PITCHFORD can be the most satisfied of the four English players attending the Four Nations Training Camp, held in Cardiff during January.

The Table Tennis Association of Wales invited the ETTA's Youth Development Squad to send two boys and two girls in the under 12 age group, to three days of activity with Luxembourg, Wales and the German Regional side Baden Wurtemberg.

The host Wales provided the organisation of the day and a half's training. The team competition included two teams from Wales and one each from England, Luxembourg and Germany.

The England Boys Team of Liam Pitchford and Sean Cullen, both from Derbyshire, played well to win the Boys event, but it took a doubles decider against Luxembourg to clinch the title. Both boys lost to Jean Claude Plier, but they both beat Raphael Vanetti.

On the way to this final match, the English boys had some difficult opposition to overcome; the Welsh player Daniel O'Connell showing that from an English point of view, that he is one to watch. The German boys



ENGLAND SQUAD: (l.to r.) LIAM PITCHFORD, SEAN CULLEN, MARTHA TRAVIS & SARAH RUSSO

provided a stiff challenge.

The English Girls Team of Martha Travis and Sarah Russo found the two Luxembourg girls too strong, whilst the Germans had the edge.

Martha played well in the German match in particular, but at the end of the Girls Team event England finished in third place.

Both girls played well to resist enthusiastic opposition from both the Welsh teams.

An interesting exercise by the TTAW was that there was no courtside coaching for the team event or the individual competition.

Liam Pitchford was undefeated in a 'Round Robin' of ten in the

Individual event, including a revenge win over Plier. Sean Cullen only just lost to Plier and his England team mate Liam, achieving third place out of ten.

In the Girls event Martha finished fourth, whilst Sarah was in sixth position.

The Luxembourg No.1 girl remained undefeated throughout the team and individual events. Against the Luxembourg No.2 girl Martha had her best win of the tournament.

This was another valuable experience provided by the Welsh Association. Thanks to Phil Avery and Alan Griffiths for arranging a well organised and motivational event.

A TEAM EFFORT

CHINA won all four titles on offer at the Liebherr Qatar Open Table Tennis Championships in Doha on 25th February 2005 but no player emerged with more than one title.

Top seed Wang Liqin won the Men's Singles beating compatriot Ma Lin in the final thus repeating the victory he had achieved in December 2004 when he won the Volkswagen Pro Tour Grand Finals in Beijing. Meanwhile, Zhang Yining, having lost to Wang Nan in the quarter-finals in Beijing in 2004, extracted her revenge with venom to beat the reigning World champion in five games.



HILLCOURT TTC Tsunami Marathon, 16th February (l.to r.) Back: Alan Blears (coach), George Yardley, Lorna Harper, and Rebecca Yip. Front: Dan Brown, Jordan Potts, Stephen Jackson, Paul Kershaw, Charlotte Baker, Matthew Weatherby, Ryan Costello. Approx. £900 raised.

CHESHIRE

by Alan Blears

LIKE most other people, our club members were deeply affected by the images on our TV screens of the Asian tsunami, and wanted to do something to help. The result was our TT 'Marathon', and never in my dreams could I have imagined that ten players and a coach would raise a total of over £900! At sometime in the future some of the youngsters may visit one or more of the affected areas on holiday or during a 'gap' year, will see the rebuilt homes, shops, hotels and schools and will know that they did their bit to help.

The players, who must feel very proud, were Lorna Harper, Rebecca Yip, Charlotte Baker, George Yardley, Ryan Costello, Matthew Weatherby, Paul Kershaw, Stephen Jackson, Dan Brown and Jordan Potts. Missing out because of other commitments were Hillcourt stalwarts Adam Slater, Amy Walker and Josh Boulton.

JUNIOR BRITISH LEAGUE

I am indebted to Nigel Hallows for the following information about Cheshire players.

Girls Premier: A disappointing last place for Wirral Premier Girls in a very closely fought division. Clare Langford, Sophie Byron and Jordyn Layfield won just seven sets fewer than the team in third place.

Girls Div 1: Caroline Hallows topped the averages with 81% to help her team, Draycott and Long Eaton 'A', to the divisional title. Fiona Dennett of Irish Girls finished at 56%.

Girls Div. 3: Club Mid – Cheshire convincingly took this division's honours with nine wins and a draw. Lynsey Pich had a 75% average and Rachel Baker and Reena Ardeshana both 85%.

Boys Div. 4B: Playing for Seasiders, Matthew Weatherby had the best average, 50% as this very young team finished fifth.

Boys Div. 4A: Though finishing last, there were some good wins for all three boys, Alex Clare, Neil Baker and Dave Billington.

NATIONAL JUNIOR LEAGUE. (N.W.)

A compact season has seen Cheshire's only representatives in Div. 1, Hillcourt 'A' finished third in their first season in the top tier, with ten year-old Josh Boulton obviously comfortable at this level. Last season he was in Div.4!

In a strong Div.2 South, Halton 'A's Josh Bleakley, Mark Roscaleer and Alastair Lindley made a formidable trio and were runaway winners, while Macclesfield and Hillcourt 'B' filled the relegation slots. A remarkable result on Day 4 was Hillcourt's Charlotte Baker (10 pts.) beating Mark Roscaleer

(816 pts.) at 11-9 in a fifth game of unbelievable tension. This was one of only four defeats all season for Mark, who finished with a 90% average. In Div. 3 South, Halton 'B's young side were runners-up, with Matthew McCormick still a U-10, showing great promise.

Congratulations to Karen Shepherd on winning Stockport Sport's "Performer of the Year" award. Finally, I am not naive enough to think that my letter about 11-up really would end the debate. Now here's something else to stir the pot: how about abolishing "time-out"? Oh, Blears, DO shut up!!

STOP PRESS

- Lorna Harper (Stockport) was Women's Band 2 R/U in the Hereford Grand Prix, beating Stella Davis in the semis, but losing to Lynda Reid in the final. Unfortunately she retired injured from the Band 3.

- Josh Boulton has been selected to play for England in the Primary Schools Home International.

- Alan Blears was awarded the "Special Recognition in Sport" trophy for services to TT and U11 cricket.

CLEVELAND VIEW

by Alan Ransome

3/4 of a Million Funding Package In Place

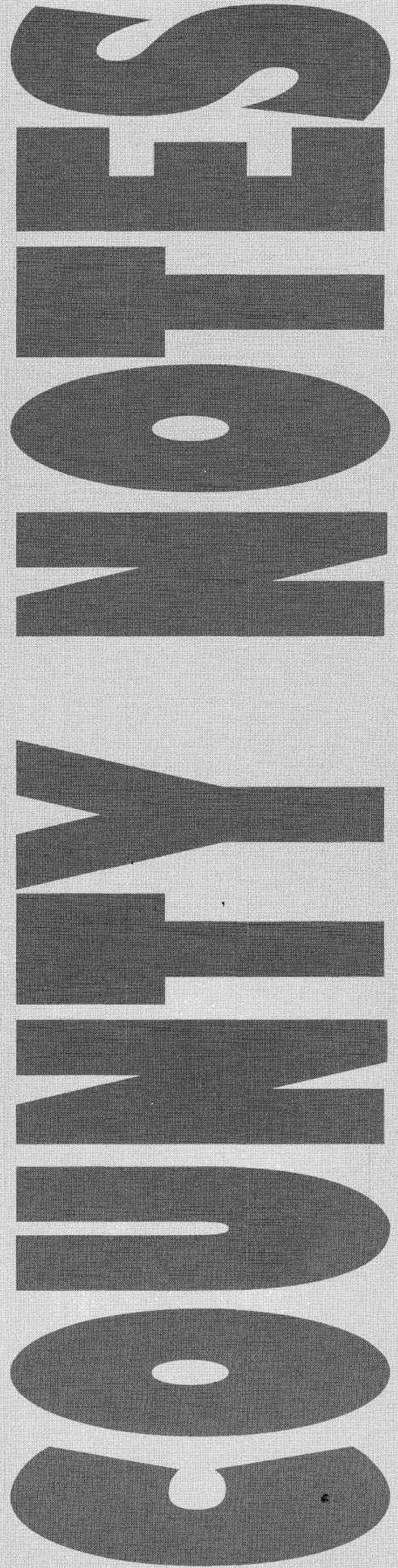
THE Ormesby Club's £745,000 funding package that will provide the club with a modern full time centre was completed last month.

The Second Stage (Final) Approval for the £500,000 grant via the ETTA from the Department for Culture Media and Sport's Community Club Development Programme has received Board approval and the application via Middlesbrough Council for £170,000 from the One North East Single Programme also received final approval. These two grants are in addition to the £75,000 support from the Council for the project.

The playing hall will be of sufficient size for 9 tables for matches or 15 tables for coaching in 3 banks.

The improvements to the club's facility include upgraded lighting in the playing hall, a lounge with kitchen, gym, car park, separate entry road from Cargo Fleet Lane plus an office/reception and modern changing facilities. The work is scheduled to be completed by September when the club will enter into a 125 year lease with Middlesbrough Council for a peppercorn rent for sole use of the sports facilities.

The club is grateful for the assistance and support of the ETTA, in particular Paul Baker, the ETTA Facilities Officer whose contribution has been invaluable. Richard Yule, Diccon Gray and Mark Willerton have also been extremely helpful. The support and encouragement from Middlesbrough Council and Sport England, who have administered the



COUNTY NOTES - 2

Programme, has also been enormously helpful. Without their help the project would not have been possible.

Under 21 National Championship for Drinkhall

15 year old Paul Drinkhall continued his remarkable run of winning National Championships when he defeated Tim Yarnall to lift the National Under 21 title in Sheffield on 4th March.

Every year since the age of 10, Paul has won the National Championship in the next age group, winning in consecutive years the National Under 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 18 and now the 21 Championships. Paul's hopes of winning the Men's Singles fell against Alex Perry in the quarter finals when Paul suffered an injury. In fairness, Perry was in front at the time and would have been the likely winner in any case.

Reed Champion in Derby

Danny Reed, another of Ormesby's talented juniors, also 15, won his first major title on Sunday 13 March - the Junior Boys Singles in the Derby Junior 4 Star.

Danny defeated two of the Evans brothers, Miles and Gavin, Chris Lewis and Simon Nouch to lift the title.

Winning the Derby tournament is an indication of the improvement that Danny Reed has shown over the season and on this form his prospects of selection for the England team for the European Youth Championships in Budapest in July must be good.

Bailey and Greener Win Cleveland Championships

Ormesby's Steven Bailey won the Men's Singles in the Cleveland County Closed Championships, defeating Danny Reed by 3 games to 0 in the final. Whilst Bailey's victory was in straight sets, it was by a narrow margin as both players were neck and neck until deuce in all 3 games.

Rachel Greener dominated the Women's events, beating Jenny Lowther in the final of the Women's Singles and the final of the Junior Girls' Singles, by 3-1 and 3-0 respectively. Rachel defeated sister Emily in the final of the Cadets.

Northfield Second in National Schools Championships

Northfield Specialist Sports College from Stockton, with a team of Lauren Parfitt, Becky Lavelle, Danielle Horsley, Katy King and Katie Burge, finished runners-up in the English Schools National Teams Under 13 Girls final in Leicester.

After qualifying as Cleveland County Champions, Northfield went to the Regional Finals at Blackpool and qualified for Leicester. In Leicester, they had wins over Oakbank Sports College of Keighley 5-3 and Duston School of Northamptonshire 5-3 before eventually being beaten by Peniel Academy 7-1 in the final.

Under the guidance of Steve Burge and Jane Durham, Northfield Club and School are going from strength to strength.

Cleveland County Championship Results - Finals

Men's Singles: Steven Bailey (Ormesby) beat Danny Reed (Ormesby) 11-9, 12-10, 12-10

Women's Singles: Rachel Greener (Ormesby) beat Jennifer Lowther (Ormesby) 8-11, 11-4, 11-2, 11-4

Junior Boys Singles (under 18): Andrew Wilson (Ormesby) beat Anthony Wright (Ormesby) 11-9, 9-11, 10-12, 11-6, 11-1

Junior Girls Singles (Under 18): Rachel Greener (Ormesby) beat Jennifer Lowther (Ormesby) 11-4, 11-5, 11-4

Cadet Boys Singles (Under 15): Anthony Wright (Ormesby) beat Jonathan Reilly (Northfield) 7-11, 11-4, 11-9, 11-8

Cadet Girls Singles (Under 15): Rachel Greener (Ormesby) beat Emily Greener (Ormesby) 11-8, 11-6, 11-6

Mini Cadet Boys Singles (Under 12): Jonathan Weldon (Ormesby) beat Michael Seery (Northfield) 11-8, 13-11, 15-13

Mini Cadet Girls Singles (Under 12): Chloe Whyte (Ormesby) beat Emma Reilly (Northfield) 11-7, 8-11, 11-8, 11-3

Over 40s Singles: Robin Donnelly (Nunthorpe) beat Michael Young (Kader) 11-9, 11-8, 12-10

Over 50s Singles: Robin Donnelly (Nunthorpe) beat John Lawton (Ormesby) 11-6, 11-9, 11-8

Handicap Singles: Karl Shaw (Kader) beat Chris Gunn (Teesside University) 21-18, 21-16

Banded Event: Bob Evans (Kader) beat David Poulney (Teessville) 6-11, 11-6, 13-1

DERBYSHIRE

by Colin Deaton

THE annual Derbyshire Closed Championships were held at the Staveley Middlecroft leisure Centre attracting a good entry.

Derbs Emma Vickers was the most successful player on view, winning five titles stamping her authority on the entire event. She was made to fight extremely hard in the ladies singles before overcoming former Spanish international Meri Isherwood who now lives in Derbyshire. Meri, wife of former Derbyshire star Michael Isherwood produced a series of shock wins in the women's event; amongst them was a defeat for Jane Vickers in the semi final. However, she found Emma a little too consistent in the final.

Performance of the day in the men's event was Chesterfields Shaun Marples who was really on song. All his opponents appeared to have great trouble in returning his serves and he was without question the most outstanding player on view. Now playing table tennis full time, this fit, agile player now ranked in the top forty in the English senior ranking list was simply brilliant and if he continues to improve England honours will surely come his way. In the semi final, he beat Sean Bibby (Chesterfield) in straight games and then beat Steve Yallop (11-3, 12-10, 11-7) to win the Colonel Douglas Shield for the first time. After some good wins, Alan Fullwood lost 11-4, 13-11, 11-6 to the talented Adam frost from derby. The doubles combination of William Cooney and Sam Perry performed well together to reach the final before losing to Shaun Marples and Adam Frost 3-1.

Staveleys Mastin Moors pocket rocket, ten year old Lucy Davidson was again amongst the honours in becoming the girls under twelve champion. She continues to develop her game, hitting the ball with some incredible power for a girl so small. Geoff Gill was runner up in the veteran singles losing to Steve Yallop of Derby in the final 9-11, 5-11, 3-11.

Sean Cullen of Chesterfield won the two titles being the cadet boys and under twelve boys and then flew off to Sweden to represent England in an International event. Left handed Sean looked impressive beating the highly ranked mark Naylor from Derby and also Daniel Lowe, his club colleague.

The entire event was run and organised by the Derbyshire secretary Les Allwood, who also presented the trophies.

Finally, Derbyshire Junior player Sam Perry, now studying at Grantham College brought off the biggest surprise in the Matlock area for several years when he became the new men's singles champion. He overcame one of the areas leading players in a five set thriller final. Perry's fierce attacking game aided by some canny tactics upset the experienced

DERBYSHIRE'S SHAUN MARPLES



Gill. Perry displayed a modern game that has really improved.

DEVONSHIRE

by John Vincent

EXETER JUNIOR 2 STAR

UNFORTUNATELY, the number of competitors was down due to Cornwall Schools choosing the same date to run their INDIVIDUAL championships. 30 Boys and 12 Girls entered this Tournament, which was run at the OKEHAMPTON Table Tennis Centre. Results were as follows:-

Under 11 Boys: Winner - JACK MARSH (Devon)

R/U - JOSHUA BEAVEN (Devon)

Under 14 Boys: Winner - CHRIS SMITH (Devon)

R/U - RICHARD MARSHALL (Devon)

Under 17 Boys: Winner - RICHARD MARSHALL

R/U - SHAUN HALL (Wales)

Under 11 Girls: Winner - REBECCA SEAL (Somerset)

R/U - VICKY SMITH (Devon)

Under 14 Girls: Winner - LAURA McLEOD (Devon)

R/U - REBECCA SEAL

Under 17 Girls: Winner - SALLY SMITH (Devon)

R/U - GEORGINA CREDLAND (Cornwall)

DEVON COUNTY SCHOOLS INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

These were played at two venues, EGGBUCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE and the PLYMOUTH LEAGUE H.Q., with the winners in each age group being invited to represent DEVON SCHOOLS at the National Finals. Medals were presented i.e. GOLD to the winner, SILVER to the runner-up and BRONZE to each of the losing semi-finalists.

RESULTS

Under 19 Boys

1. CHRIS WARN - TAMARSIDE C.C.

2. CHRIS SMITH - ST. BONIFACE

S/F HARRY CUTLER - DEVONPORT H.S. BOYS

S/F TOBY MATTACOTT - IVYBRIDGE C.C.

Under 16 Boys

1. RICHARD MARSHALL - TAVISTOCK COLLEGE

2. FREDDIE CUTLER - ESTOVER C.C.

S/F MARK SUSSEX - GREAT TORRINGTON C.C.

S/F LUKE CHAPMAN - KING EDWARD VI C.C.

(TOTNES)

Under 13 Boys

1. ELLIOT GOSS - ST. BONIFACE

2. ZAC ZACHARKIW - ST. BONIFACE

*S/F MIKE GRIFFITHS - IVYBRIDGE C.C.

S/F BEN HUBBARD - KING EDWARD VI C.C.

Under 11 Boys

- 1. DOMINIC SUSSEX - TORRINGTON
- 2. BEN TAYLOR - TORRINGTON
- S/F HARRY EDNEY - TORRINGTON
- S/F SEB DARTNELL - ST. PETER'S R.C. PRIMARY

Under 19 Girls

- 1. LISA RADFORD - PLYMOUTH HIGH (unopposed)

Under 16 Girls

- 1. SALLY SMITH - DEVONPORT H.S. GIRLS
- 2. HANNAH BRADFORD - EXMOUTH C.C.

- S/F LUCY O'CALLAGHAN - EXMOUTH C.C.
- S/F AMY WHITING - DEVONPORT H.S. GIRLS

Under 13 Girls

- 1. LAURA MCLEOD - DEVONPORT H.S. GIRLS
- 2. KIRSTY LEGG - COOMBE DEAN

- S/F ZORE MATHISON - TAMARSIDE C.C.
- S/F AMY LEIGH - TAMARSIDE C.C.

Under 11 Girls

- 1. ALICE PHILLIPS - ST. PETERS R.C. PRIMARY
- 2. VICKY SMITH - ST. PETERS R.C. PRIMARY
- S/F GEORGIE TALBUT - YEALMPSTONE FARM PRIMARY

- S/F RONICA PULIKAL - ST. PETERS R.C. PRIMARY

There were 97 BOYS and 28 GIRLS = 125 Total from 21 Schools in Devon.

ESSEX

by Steve Kerns

SOUTHEND CLOSED - The 78th Southend & District Table Tennis League's Annual Closed Tournament was a major operation this season involving play on five separate days and at three separate venues - The Warehouse Centre, Rawreth TTC and Clements Hall.

Essex Junior first team star and the pre-tournament favourite Tony Halling captured the Mens Singles title for the first time, and he was also successful in the Mens Doubles (with father Andrew) and in the Under 18 Singles. Lee Prentice excelled by fighting his way to the Mens Singles Final with wins over Kevin Read and Josh Lovett. Hamish Innes impressed by winning the Veterans Singles whilst Linda Murray also fared well, winning the Ladies Singles and Ladies Veterans Singles as well as the Mixed Doubles (with regular partner Kevin Read).

Selected results included:

Mens Singles: Tony Halling beat Lee Prentice 11-8, 11-4, 12-10.

Ladies Singles: Linda Murray beat Janet Finch 12-10, 11-7, 11-7.

Mens Doubles: Tony & Andrew Halling beat Hamish Innes & Josh Lovett 16-14, 11-6, 11-8.

Ladies Doubles: Shelley Woolley and Janet Finch beat Tina Penn-Gillam and Ann Lane 11-8, 9-11, 2-11, 11-6, 11-9.

Mixed Doubles: Linda Murray & Kevin Read beat Dave Calleja and Tina Penn-Gillam 11-6, 11-5, 11-7.

Junior Boys Singles: Tony Halling beat Andrew Seabrook 11-3, 11-2, 11-3.

Veterans Singles: Hamish Innes beat George Reeves 4-11, 11-8, 11-9, 11-7.

Veterans Ladies Singles: Linda Murray beat Tina Penn-Gillam 11-2, 11-2, 11-7.

Over 60s Singles: George Pavitt beat Gordon Swan 11-9, 11-7, 11-8.

Over 70s Singles: Lou Hopkins beat Lawrie Neville 11-9, 11-7, 11-8.

Premier Restricted Singles: Josh Lovett beat Peter Saunders 11-6, 11-5, 11-5.

Division One Restricted Singles: Richard Hiskey beat Gordon Swan 12-10, 11-6, 11-9.

M&G CHELMSFORD CLOSED After a nineteen year gap the inform Dave Cole won the Mens Singles title for a second time with a 3-1 Finals

Night victory over last year's Champion Vytas Rybakas. Julie Vansertima (nee Dowsett) won her fourteenth Ladies Singles title whilst John Holland retained all three Veterans Singles titles with fifth game final victories in each event. For good measure Holland was also successful in the Mens Doubles partnered by Dave Cole. This enabled Cole to set an unusual record, as this was his fourth successive Mens Doubles victory achieved rather uniquely with four different partners, Rik James, followed by brother Martin, then Matt Staines and now John Holland. Unluckiest loser of the weekend was Peter Ballard as he led Holland 10-6 in the fifth end of a superb Over 50s Final only to see his redoubtable opponent pull level and go onto win. Ballard had also lost to Holland 12-10 in the fifth end of the Over 60s Final.

Selected results included:

Mens Singles: Dave Cole beat Vytas Rybakas 11-8, 11-7, 9-11, 11-3.

Ladies Singles: Julie Vansertima beat Linda Murray 11-4, 11-5, 11-5.

Mens Doubles: Dave Cole & John Holland beat Kevin Read & Ian Whiteside 11-8, 6-11, 11-4, 12-10.

Mixed Doubles: Dave Cole & Julie Vansertima beat Paul Davison & Jean Chasmer 11-7, 11-4, 11-9.

Under 21 Singles: Vytas Rybakas beat Simon Webber 11-9, 11-9, 11-1.

Veterans Over 40s Singles: John Holland beat Steve Kerns 11-4, 8-11, 8-11, 12-10, 11-8.

Under 18 Boys Singles: Vytas Rybakas beat Greg Green 9-11, 11-2, 11-4, 11-9.

Under 16 Boys Singles: Vytas Rybakas beat Greg Green 11-8, 11-8, 11-8.

Under 14 Boys Singles: Rykki Vansertima beat Haydn Upson 6-11, 12-10, 11-6, 9-11, 11-2.

Division 2 Down Singles: Peter Barrett beat Waseem Qureshi 11-5, 11-7, 11-9.

HEREFORDSHIRE

by Harry Jutle

COUNTY TABLE TENNIS RESULTS on Saturday 29-Jan-2005

VETERAN Division 3D Hereford 1st played their fifth match home at Green Farm Table Tennis Centre, Allensmore, against Somerset 2nd resulting in a 8-2 win. After a poor start of 0-2 with Chris Martin losing the 1st singles in the 4th set, 2 at deuce to Mike Crook, and Andy Castle losing in the 4th set to Bill Bruton. Mark Owen went on to continue his undefeated run to beat Alan Stone and later Mike Crook in straight sets. Mark and Helen Green also won the 1st mixed doubles in straight sets against Wendy Pryce and Bill Bruton. All the rest won by the home side in the 4th set with Chris Martin reversing his previous result defeating Bill, Helen defeating Wendy. Mark and Andy in the Men's doubles beat Mike and Alan, followed by Andy beating Alan. Helen and Chris in the 2nd mixed doubles beat Mike and Wendy for the 8-2 win. They now have 9 out of possible 10 points to put pressure on Warwickshire, who had the same number of points, but led by a single game difference.

Scores: Mark Owen 11-6, 11-7, 11-5 and 11-4, 11-6, 11-4. Chris Martin 8-11, 10-12, 11-5, 11-13 and 11-9, 11-7, 8-11, 11-8. Andy castle 8-11, 7-11, 11-9, 9-11 and 11-9, 7-11, 11-7, 13-11. Helen Green 11-9, 11-6, 8-11, 11-7. Mark and Helen 1st mixed doubles 11-7, 11-5, 11-5. Mark and Andy in men's doubles 7-11, 11-6, 13-11, 11-5. Helen and Chris 2nd mixed doubles 6-11, 11-5, 11-2, 11-7.

Veteran Division 4D Hereford 2nd played their fourth match away against Berkshire 5th resulting in a 4-6 loss. They faced a uphill struggle going 0-4 down, with Harry Jutle losing the 1st at deuce in the 5th set against Dave Gilham, Bob Trimble in straight sets to Clive Banham, Norman Merchant to Mike

Harris in the 4th, 1st 2 at deuce, and the 1st mixed doubles in the 4th set at deuce by Carol Milnes with Norman against Carol Byers with Clive. Bob then beat Dave in straight sets, followed by Carol Milnes losing to Carol Byers in straight sets for a score of 5-1 to the opposition. Harry and Norman in the men's doubles beat Mike and Clive in the 5th set, followed by Norman beating Clive in the 5th set at deuce. Harry forced Mike into the 5th set to finally lose it. Bob and Carol Milnes in the 2nd mixed doubles beat Carol Byers and Dave in straight sets for the final result of 4-6. This was a very tough, competitive match in which Hereford were unlucky to come away with a loss.

Scores: Harry Jutle 12-10, 7-11, 8-11, 11-7, 12-14 and 8-11, 11-7, 7-11, 11-7, 8-11. Norman Merchant 12-14, 12-14, 11-6, 7-11 and 11-8, 3-11, 11-4, 5-11, 14-12. Bob Trimble 6-11, 10-12, 8-11 and 13-11, 11-8, 11-8. Carol Milnes 8-11, 2-11, 5-11. Carol and Norman in 1st mixed doubles 11-3, 3-11, 8-11, 10-12. Harry and Norman in men's doubles 8-11, 11-6, 11-5, 9-11, 11-9. Carol Milnes and Bob in 2nd mixed doubles 11-6, 11-7, 11-6.

COUNTY TABLE TENNIS RESULTS on Saturday 19-Feb-2005

Veteran Division 3D Hereford 1st played their sixth match away against Shropshire 2nd in Bridgenorth resulting in a 10-0 Win. They add another 2 points for a total of 11 out of 12 points. The team of Mark Owen, Chris Martin, Andy Castle and Helen Green were outstanding and continue to push for the title to win this division. Chris was pushed into a 5th set for one of his singles, 3 at deuce by Malcolm Langford. Helen beat Jane Bevan in 4 sets. Mark and Andy won the men's doubles also in 4 sets against Malcolm and Mike Dudley. Rob Mansfield was defeated in straight sets first by Andy and later by Chris. All the rest of the games were won in straight sets. This win puts great pressure on Warwickshire who led by a single game average difference.

Scores: Mark Owen 11-0, 11-8, 11-4 and 11-6, 11-5, 11-7. Chris Martin 16-14, 9-11, 13-11, 11-13, 11-6 and 11-4, 11-5, 11-8. Andy Castle 11-6, 11-7, 11-8 and 11-6, 11-7, 11-7. Helen Green 5-11, 11-8, 11-7, 11-7. Mark and Helen in the 1st mixed doubles 11-7, 11-9, 11-3. Mark and Andy in the Men's doubles 11-4, 9-11, 11-6, 11-5. Chris and Helen in the 2nd mixed doubles 11-5, 11-6, 11-6.

Veteran Division 4C Hereford 3rd played home at Bromyard against Kent 6th resulting in a 2-8 loss. The team of Mike Wheatley, Bob Trimble, Neville Meredith and Sue Segust pushed 4 sets into the 5th set deciders converting 2. Sue Segust had her best County result to date and fought hard in the 3 fifth setters she was involved in. Sue beat Jill Shipton in the Ladies singles, lost the 1st mixed doubles with partner Neville to Jill and Wayne Youngs, but won the 2nd mixed doubles with Mike against Jill and Roger Pingram. Neville and Bob lost to Ted Tydeman at deuce in the 4th sets in their singles. Rest of the losses were in straight sets.

Scores: Mike Wheatley 7-11, 3-11, 7-11 and 9-11, 8-11, 7-11. Bob Trimble 8-11, 5-11, 9-11 and 11-8, 2-11, 10-12, 6-11. Neville Meredith 9-11, 5-11, 11-9, 11-13. Sue Segust 7-11, 11-8, 11-6, 8-11, 11-9. Sue and Neville in 1st mixed doubles 3-11, 11-8, 11-8, 10-12, 6-11. Mike and Bob in Men's doubles 9-11, 5-11, 11-3, 11-6, 8-11. Sue and Mike in 2nd mixed doubles 7-11, 11-9, 5-11, 11-6, 13-11.

HERTFORDSHIRE

by Ann Fereday

FIVE of the Herts Veteran teams were playing in February resulting in 2 wins, 2 losses & 1 draw.

The second team had a very good home win against Buckinghamshire beating them by 8 sets to 2. Jeff Linskey got the team off to a good start beating the

COUNTY NOTES - 4

Bucks number one 11 – 7 in the fifth game. He also won his second singles & mixed doubles.

In Division 3b, Herts 3 had only one match to play, after their grouped matches, versus Essex 4 who have already won this division. They gave them a good game but lost 8 – 2. Alan Lamprell won a singles.

Norfolk 3 are top of Division 4a. They were too strong for Herts 4 & spoil their good record beating them 10 – 0.

At home to Huntingdonshire the opposite was the case for team 5. Some games were close but Herts 5 continued its winning streak to a 10 – 0 finish. Mary Nicholls won her singles in three straight games. Stuart Mylrea, a new player for the County this year, has now won 4 singles out of 4. The team's captain, Barry Phillips is still 100% with 8 wins out of 8. Well done Barry!

Herts sixth team really enjoyed their encounter away with Berkshire 4. Jackie Channell made a big contribution winning her singles & both mixed. Brian Gale played his first match for the County since his operation & retirement from running the Vets teams, which he did so well for many years. He won a singles. The final result was a 5 – 5 draw.

There are no matches for Herts Veteran teams in March; just an outing for the Over 60's who will be playing 3 matches in one day at Ashford.

Congratulations to William Maybanks who at 13 years old has joined the England Youth Development Squad. He will be taking part in a tournament in Barcelona then travelling to Sweden for a training camp in March. After this he is spending Easter at a Youth Tournament in Germany. Well done William. We are proud of you.

LEICESTERSHIRE

By Derek Butt

WITH just a few weeks left in this season's matches, its very close at the top of Division One with the holders, Leicester Electricity, still the leaders but Knighton Park are pushing them all the way. Park's seconds are in third place with County Hall close on their heels. At the bottom Great Glen look doomed with a number of other teams all trying to avoid the drop. Maurice Newman (Thringstone) leads the individual averages having lost just three from thirty-nine games; he is followed by Mark Woolerton (Park seconds) and Karen Smith (Park's first). In Division Two Arnesby look favourites for promotion and I know that Darren Bramhall, Nile Lovett and Dave Wagstaff are chuffed at the thought of promotion to Division One. Leicester Electricity seconds are having a good season also in second place at the moment and I know for sure that Steve

Adams, Shrikant Naran, Andy Wright and Raj Modha will also be looking forward to the challenge of the top flight.

Knighton Park fifth looks certain to top Division three (last time I said this they went and lost), but I feel sure they won't slip up again. Its anybody's guess who will join them as it's a close division. Most of the cup competitions have reached their final stages now, and the summer league entries have gone out, this is a very popular competition and played based on a handicap system playing up to 21. The Leicester & District League championships will be held in a week's time at Rushey Mead. Also to be played next week is the Rose Johnson Memorial Trophy Ladies only handicap competition. I will report on these later.

The Leicester Schools championships were held recently at Knighton Park TTC and after a slow start the final entry of 49 players was excellent. Players from a total of twenty-two schools were involved, and the organisers and helpers were pleased with the day's effort and say the future looks good. Wreake Valley sent a contingent of eighteen players, that's fantastic. A special well done to all players for making it all worthwhile.

All finals produced some excellent table tennis and close results.

Results:

Under 11 Girls – Winner Laura Parker (South Charnwood)

R/up Naushin Tejani (Loughborough High)

Under 11 Boys – Winner Jamaal Quailey (Folville)

R/up Jimmy Crawford (St Johns)

Under 13 Boys – Winner Iman Dharamshi (Loughborough Grammar)

R/u Joel Carton (England Martyrs)

Under 16 Girls – Winner Dharamshi (Loughborough High)

R/up Kirsty James (Wreake Valley)

Under 16 Boys – Winner Lee Dilkes (Oakham)

R/up Ansel Pearce (Robert Smyth)

Under 19 Boys – Winner Jay Kotecha (Wyggeston & Queen Elizabeth 1)

R/up Lee Woodcock

Five of the above winners will be playing at the National ESTTA Individual Championships Finals in Stoke on April 23rd. Thanks go to Mike Smith and his band of helpers Dave Morley, Shirley Pickering and Gordon Sanders for all their good work, and for the parents and teachers for their interest. And lastly not forgetting Knighton Park TTC for the use of their premises, where would we be without this club to hold these events. I dread to think.

Unfortunately, I have received no news from our other Leagues.

NORFOLK

by Ray Hogg

I WOULD not have believed it if I had not been there! Both Norwich and Norfolk senior annual championships cancelled through lack of entries. Only about 20 entries for each including some Juniors, despite sending entry forms to all known players. This year would have been the 70th year for Norwich and 58th for Norfolk. The Junior champs are still being held however many or few entries are received. These cancellations are a warning to all players in the County that this could happen again and again as those behind the scenes have had enough of spending days and hours organising the many things that need doing to get the champs off the ground.

First veteran's teams finished mid table in division 1a – with regulars Russell King, Chris Brewer, Mats Ollson and Lindsay Dare.

2nd team bottom of 3b – players unknown! 3rd team top of 4a – with players like Steve Howlett,

Mick Broughton, Dave Henderson and Mary Sawyer they could play much higher.

Junior 3 teams have finished their programme; I hope to report on this next month. Problem next season as 5 of them will be too old.

NORTHANTS

by Dennis Millman

KETTERING's John Fuller, who returned to the game three year's ago after a break of some 25 years, won the Men's Singles title at the Wellingborough Tournament with a 12-10 fifth end success against Chris Gibbons, who had accounted for the holder Richard Elliott at the semi-final stage.

The placings had been reversed in the veterans final with Gibbons easing through 11-6 in the fifth.

However, neither player featured in the Men's doubles where the contrasting styles of Elliott and Alan Ashberry proved a bridge too far for Paul Gatiss and Martyn Hancox.

Ashberry had an exceptional day taking the Over 50 singles against Michael Edwards and then joining his victim to take the corresponding doubles. In the veterans doubles he and Fuller emerged triumphant against the long established pairing of Gibbons and Edwards.

This year the hard bat singles was dedicated to the memory of the late Arthur Palmer, Chairman of the Wellingborough League for almost thirty years. Ashberry and Elliott contested the final with Elliott, not around in the hard bat era easily able to adapt. Unfortunately, for him Ashberry the supreme tactician turned the clock to take the title for the fifth time.

Clare Coles dominated the ladies events beating League Secretary Deirdre Kiziak in the singles, and joined by Mary Hearn added the doubles, with Kiziak, partnered by Raylee Burton, again second best. It was third time lucky for Kiziak when she accounted for Hearn in the women's Over 40 event.

Martyn Hancox came out on top in the Rod Marchant Trophy (18-23 years) while his teammate Keith Lucas won the Consolation Singles.

At junior level Car Leeson won the Under 18 event with Jack Coleman the beaten finalist. They both won a doubles event partnered by Nick Smalley with Leeson successful at Under 18 level and Coleman making no mistake as he took the Under 15 crown.

It was a day of near misses for Grant Stevens who ended in second place when beaten by Sam Wildman in both the Under 15 and Under 13 singles, and then when teamed together were second best in both doubles.

Elliott coped admirably to take the Premier Division Handicap, while the other winners were Richard Adams in Division One, Roger Ellingham in Division Two and Paul Lipczak in Division Three.

The Mystery doubles went to David Waples and Eddie Ryan while a special mention must go to Organiser Phil Slade who successfully negotiated the first of three tournaments within the county boundary.

The Northants Junior Boys Top 12 produced some entertaining play and several close finishes at Nene Park's Sports & Exhibition Centre.

At least six participants were capable of winning but the situation appeared to have changed when Aron Chan and Matthew Burgess were both beaten in the first round of matches.

Simon Bushell made the early running with six successive wins without dropping an end. At this juncture Chan, Burgess and Daniel Smalley had all lost once, Burgess to Alex Dickson, Chan to Nick Howard and Smalley to Bushell. When Bushell was then well beaten by Burgess all four had suffered one defeat.

Round nine brought a devastating win for Chan against Smalley while Burgess won again. After two consecutive defeats Bushell returned to winning ways but Burgess and Chan led, with Smalley and Bushell in

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TABLE TENNIS NEWS CAN ONLY ACCEPT COUNTY NOTES FROM ONE DESIGNATED CORRESPONDENT PER COUNTY

close contention. Smalley then beat Burgess and it was Chan who went into pole position.

Bushell, beaten by former club colleague Dickson was now out of the hunt and when Burgess accounted for Chan in straight games three players had all gained eight wins.

The subsequent count-back confirmed Chan as the overall winner with Burgess as runner-up.

- Final positions: 1. Aron Chan (8 wins)
 2. Matthew Burgess (8) 3. Daniel Smalley (8)
 4. Simon Bushell (7) 5. Nick Howard (7) 6. Alex Dickson (5)
 7. Michael Wharton (4) 8. Jordan Dainty (3)
 9. Matthew Horrocks (3)
 10. Sean Oliver (1) 11. Angus Oliver (1).

Copy of short tribute to Olga Marchant submitted for Jan/Feb issue

On behalf of all involved with Northants table tennis I extend deepest sympathy to County Chairman and National Councillor Ken Marchant and his family on the sad loss of his wife Olga. During a long and happy married life she had been as active within the local community as Ken has been in table tennis and football circles.

Although she held no official position on the table tennis scene, she supported her husband in all his many ventures and was ever present at all twelve County Finals nights. Additionally, her major contribution as 'unofficial secretary' enabled Ken to pursue his widespread coaching and administrative duties so assiduously over such a long period of time.

Olga was also the mother of two table tennis champions – the late Roderick, who won both the county junior title and the senior men's event on three occasions, and daughter Raylee, who following major surgery, became a national champion.

The quotation 'They also serve who only stand and wait' could almost have been created with Olga Marchant in mind.

NORTHUMBERLAND

by Pauline Long

THE County junior team unfortunately finished second bottom of Division 3b following their final series of matches, but undoubtedly learned from the experience, and the girls especially had shown good promise.

The cadets were also progressing well in their Regional competitions at Billingham.

The Wilmott Cup team of Eddie Smith, Andrew Wilkinson and Dave Godbold emulated the Alec Brook side when they also advanced to the second stage of their competition by beating the representative teams from Sunderland, Stockton and Hull.

Unfortunately the date for the County Closed 3rd April - appeared to clash with the second Veterans' Premier weekend, which if proved to be the case would obviously affect the entry for the veterans' singles event of this tournament.

Current Northumbria League leaders are as follows:

- Premier Division: Birtley "A" Division 1: Old England Jacks Division 2: DWP "B" Division 3: North Shields YMCA "E" Division 4: North Shields YMCA "F"

The second round of the Team Handicap Knockout Cup competition is now under way and was scheduled for completion by the end of February.

OXFORDSHIRE

by Karl Bushell

County Results

Veterans 1

THE Veterans team of Karl Bushell, Nat Richardson,

Janet Brown and debutant Jeff Rigby travelled to Halifax for the second series of matches.

The team got off to a great start with an excellent victory over Hertfordshire 8-2. Nat Richardson and Janet Brown were undefeated and Jeff Rigby crowned his victory with a win.

The team then achieved an excellent draw with Norfolk 5-5 with with good contributions from all players.

On the Sunday with their league status secured, they lost heavily to the eventual champions Cheshire 1-9 and 3-7 to South Yorkshire who were eventually relegated on games difference.

Veterans 2

The Vets 2 team have participated in two further sessions of their Div 3C matches at Ashford TT Centre. With 3 wins and a draw, and one match still to play, the team have already secured a comfortable mid-table position. All the matches in the last two sessions have been very tight, usually going down to the last mixed doubles. The highlight performance was against Surrey 4. Trailing by 4 sets to 1, Oxon looked to be out of the running. An inspired ladies singles win by Jan Curtis set up a recovery and Oxon took the next four sets to produce an unlikely 6-4 victory. The individual best performance over the two sessions came from Andy Missledine who won 7 from 8 singles. Andy also forged a successful men's doubles partnership with Bob Syms that won 3 out of 4 matches.

Midland League

Following victory over Stafford, Oxford Men's team are top of the premier division and have a good chance of becoming champions. The team of Karl Bushell, Andy Missledine and Andrew Flint have amassed 20 points. Mark Newns has also contributed with important victories.

British League

Oxford Fireplace A who compete in division 2 South/Midlands won all four of their matches on the final weekend to finish third, narrowly missing second place by one point.

The team of Karl Bushell, Mark Newns, Ray Powell and the undefeated Ian Packford showed that as a unit they can be a match for most sides.

Thanks go to Ray Massie of Oxford Fireplace for his continued sponsorship.

SHROPSHIRE

by Terry Ridgway

Telford league

County champion Tony Akeroyds unbeaten record finally came to an end this month as Industrial Bearings Matt Croft inflicted defeat on the Albrighton A, star Croft appears to be the 'bogey' for Akeroyd as he also beat him in the Shrewsbury premier division only weeks before !

Albrighton A still dominate Telfords top division as Akeroyd, Dave Elkin, Pete Fowell and Pete Moriarty look to finish the season unbeaten, second place is developing into an interesting battle as the Industrial Bearings side of Croft, Barry Taylor, John Holding and Rob Holding are slightly ahead of the pack with Bridgnorth A, Albrighton B and Broseley fighting it out for the runner-up trophy.

Averages	P	W
Tony Akeroyd (Albrighton A)	48	47
Pete Fowell (Albrighton A)	45	42
Pete Collins (GPO)	48	35
John Holding (Industrial Bearings)	48	35
Rob Davies (Broseley)	45	32
Terry Ridgway (Bridgnorth A)	36	31
Mike Dudley (Bridgnorth A)	36	31

Telford Division 2

Owens TV are preparing for life in the top division as they lead division 2 by a huge margin, with 16 wins out of 16 only a very unlikely total collapse

would see the Oakengates based side not make promotion for the very first time.

Shrewsbury Premier

Pontesbury A still lead Shrewsbury's top division and look by far the best side in the area, Darrell Corfield, Paul Corfield and Rob Mansfield are still unbeaten and their two draws with last seasons champions Cricket club A could well be deciding factors when the season ends, Cricket club B are keeping the pressure on but my money is on the Pontesbury side to have the experience and ability to hold off any further challenges and remain unbeaten all season !

Shropshire Inter -Town championships

As part of the Shropshire county ranking list features points gained in the inter-Town championships many of the top players in the area are representing their respective leagues and this seasons event is probably more competitive than ever before. Bridgnorth have always competed but for years were the 'whipping boys' for the towns with a larger selection of top players available, this season however seems to be a complete turn around for the Bridgnorth side of Mike Dudley, Geoff Bristow, Terry Ridgway, Billy Pegg, Joe Hurdley, Adrian Speke, Bob Vaughan, Mark Jones and John O'Keefe managed a 17-3 thrashing of last seasons winners Telford and wins against Oswestry (13-7) and Ludlow (14-6) to leave the final match against Shrewsbury as a potential title decider for the south Shropshire side.

SOMERSET

by John Wood

A FAMILY AFFAIR, that was the outcome of the Somerset Closed Table Tennis Championships, at the East Bridgwater Sports Centre, on Sunday 13th March 2005, when the Hall family from Wells scooped all the winners trophies.

The most spectacular victory was by Dad Steve Hall when he overcame the power and youthful exuberance of 19 year old Jon Hughes, winning 11-4, 11-7, 10-12, 8-11, 11-7, in a glorious final.

Hughes, who played last season as junior where he had a 100% average in the English County Championships, bounced back from being 2 games down to take the next two displaying some awesome forehand loop drives, fizzing with heavy top-spin. But, Hall called on his greater experience to defeat a rising star of the future.

Hall also went on to win the Veteran Singles title when he beat fellow combination bat player John Crabtree, 11-2, 11-6, 11-9, in the final. Following this Steve went on to take his third title when he paired up with his son Shaun to win the Mens Doubles trophy, beating Andy Hewitt and Richard Jones 11-5, 11-6, 11-8.

Young Shaun kept the family tradition going by winning the Junior Boys Singles crown beating Jamie Hutchinson in the final 11-6, 11-3, 11-1.

Sarah Hall, the younger daughter of Steve, also flew the family flag by winning three events, the Womens Singles, the Junior Girls Singles and Womens Doubles titles. In the Women's and Junior Girls' finals she faced rising star Frances Potjewyd from Bridgwater, winning the the Women's in three, 11-6, 11-9, 11-7. Whilst in the Junior Girls' it was much tighter with Potjewyd taking the opening game 11-8, before Hall bounced back to take the next three 11-9, 11-3, 11-9. She then teamed up with her elder sister Laura to win the Womens Doubles, where in the final they beat Frances Potjewyd and Christine Cowell 11-4, 11-5, 11-8.

The Somerset Championships ran late with two trophies still to be decided later in April. Firstly there is the Mixed Doubles which is at the semi-finals stage, where Steve and Sarah Hall face Mike Hurley and Frances Potjewyd, whilst Shaun and Laura Hall will play Alan Stone and Alex Johnson. The Junior Doubles

SOMERSET



THE HALL FAMILY: (l.to r.) LAURA, STEVE, SHAUN & SARAH

is at the finals stage where Sarah and Shaun Hall will meet Frances Potjeywd and Alex Johnson.

So it is a possibility that the Hall family could make a clean sweep of all the trophies and go into the record books, but only time will tell.

SURREY

by Chris Andrews

AT the Safr International Junior Tournament in Orebro, Sweden, Joanna Parker and Darius Knight both reached the quarter-finals in the doubles with their respective partners of Kelly Sibley and Paul Drinkhall.

At the European Junior Top12 event held in Molfetta Bari, Italy Joanna Parker came 6th. She defeated 6 opponents including Elisabeta Samara of Romania who finished 2nd.

Although Surrey has not won any Grand Prix's we have had some good results in the first half of the season. At the Liverpool Grand Prix Abdul Wuroala won the mens band 1 and Jerome Jonah won the mens band 2. The Clare Pengelly event had different winners, Selwyn Campbell won the mens band 2 and Chris Bush won the mens band 4. Diane Melville won the womens band 3 at the Bath Grand Prix and Chris Beckley won the mens band 2 and the veterans at the Cornwall 2 star.

In the Juniors Darius Knight won the cadet boys singles at the Stiga 4 star Blackpool Junior Open with Dorian Robinson winning the junior boys band 1. At the Cippenham 2 star James Ma won the boys consolation.

Henry Medellin beat John Hilton in a veterans match and at the Vets North Eastern Masters Tom Adams won the over 40's plate.

The Surrey trials junior results 2004/05 were as follows:
Boys under 11's winner Ping Ho, runner-up Eden Fung.
Boys under 13's winner Cian Sutcliffe, runner-up Andrew Ma.
Boys under 15's winner Dorian Robinson, runner-up Wing Yung Chan.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE

by Alan Dunne

THE National Cadet league currently being held in

Rotherham, is going right to the wire, with Rotherham Scorpions, Bramley (Leeds), Sheffield Club or St Marys (Pontefract) being the most likely winners. Sheffield Club have to be congratulated on winning the Div 4 North Senior British League title. It would have been a surprise if they hadn't won it, with Bill Grant and Simon Pugh as regular combatants; the impressive fact was that Barnsley's Liam Carson was the hero, winning the deciding sets on more than one occasion. Well done Liam and good luck to all the team in Div 3. Rotherham Scorpions, the county's only other British League Club, had two teams involved, the B team very much a nursery team also had a good season, young players such as Damien Piper, Stephen Arliss and Joe Dunn gaining valuable experience. The Scorpions A side are the team people are talking about, a very respectable 3rd place in div 2 North could see them promoted, if things go there way with league formation for next season. Darren Lindley, Ben Barlow, Stephen Crosby & Luke Carrington played well all season, with cover provided by Craig Hastie, Alan Dunn, Abbi Darshane, & Damien Piper. For more details about the Scorpions Club see www.scorpionsttc.net South Yorkshire youngsters are really making an impact in our sport with Melissa Wright and Kim Daybell training with the England Camp and competing for England in Tournaments. Joe Dunn one of the few juniors to attend the new Regional High Performance session held at Bradford Grammar school, recently won a sponsorship deal from Stelrad. Joe and Damien Piper was in the Yorkshire side which finish runner up in the Premier of the County Cadet County Competition. Both these youngsters compete in the very impressive Hallam TT League Div one, in my opinion the strongest league in the region if not country (see www.hallamtabletennis.co.uk)

Rotherhams Mark Johnson (Nat Rank 15) reached the U.13 & Cadet finals at the Grantham 1* at the end of Feb. Damien Piper lost out in the final of the Stiga 3* in Widnes, Stephen Arliss reached the semi. **South Yorkshire Junior Team Pipped at the Post**

The South Yorkshire team missed out by just 1 set in the Division 1A junior county championship title.

As I drove back from Grantham, it was with feelings of disappointment and pride on our teams efforts. Disappointment that the county junior premier league was not to be for our team next year and pride of what our small county had achieved in coming runners up in division 1A

After the first round of matches on the 6th of November 2004, when we beat Essex, Nottinghamshire and Northamptonshire and drew with Lincolnshire which meant we were joint top with 7 points with Lincolnshire, but just 1 set behind them.

On Saturday the 19th of February, we turned up at Grantham to play our last 3 matches with the same selected team as previous

The Team being No1. Ben Barlow Rotherham, 2. Mathew Dodds Rotherham, 3. Jack Grant Sheffield and the girls consisting of Melissa Wright Sheffield and Kirsty Harrison Sheffield.

After winning our first two matches against Cleveland and the Yorkshire 2nd. team 8-2, we found ourselves 1 set in front of Lincolnshire.

We then played Lancashire for our final match which we duly won 8-2 and at the same time Lincolnshire was playing the Yorkshire 2nd team, after finishing our match we found out that Lincolnshire had beaten the Yorkshire 2nd team 10-0 giving them the title.

As the team captain, I have nothing but praise for the team member's professionalism and everybody played to their potential. Special mention must go to Ben Barlow for his 100% wins and his help in coaching the team Alan Lowe

Back to the Junior British League now, South Yorkshire has just two clubs competing, yes you've guessed it! Rotherham Scorpions & Sheffield TTC, both in the same division. Scorpions came out top in both clashes between these sides and finished well in front with a very respectable 2nd spot, Sheffield 5th. It has to be said the Sheffield side is a far bigger set-up, but is still very much a fledgling club on a very steep learning curve. Club stalwart Denise Ward should be very proud of what she's achieved in such a short time.

I've not received info on the Senior and Vets county performances but no doubt it will be posted on the very informative ETTA website. Any info on South Yorkshire TT would be appreciated send to aldunntt@hotmail.com.

SUSSEX

by John Woodford

Obituary

BERT FRETWELL

BERT FRETWELL, the doyen of Sussex table tennis died last month, aged 93.

His table tennis career started in 1931. He became a top-class player in the Brighton League, in the post-war years possessing a classic style.

He saw war-time service in the army mainly in the Middle East and southern Europe and was based in Cairo at the time of E1 Alemain.

After the war he returned to Brighton, playing many times for Sussex and Brighton before retirement. The Sussex team at that time was spear-headed by Charlie Seaman and included Stan Moore, Peter Shead, Rose Bromfield and latterly Ann Woodford.

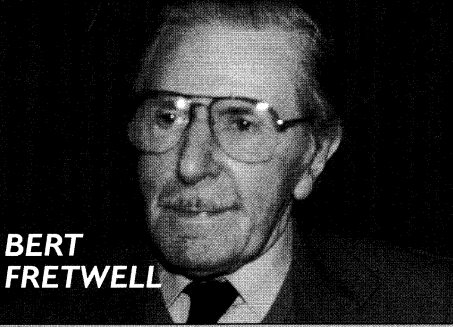
He became joint owner of the Mikado Table Tennis Saloon in Brighton. The facilities became the Mecca for visits by international stars including the super-legend Richard Bergmann.

He was a prominent umpire, referee and a coach in the Jack Carrington era.

He became chairman of Sussex and subsequently president and a Life Vice-President in 1992.

Bert had no family. But at the funeral service at Brighton's Woodvale Crematorium Brian Pettitt, the Sussex deputy national councillor assembled over

SUSSEX



**BERT
FRETWELL**

sixty table tennis people from the county and especially from Brighton, making all the funeral arrangements and he looked after Bert for the last six years of his life as his health declined.

Bert Fretwell, always devoted to the sport and to Sussex will be remembered for a long time to come.

WARWICKSHIRE

by Caroline Williams

THE Warwickshire Closed Championships were held in January at St. Nicholas Park, Warwick and saw an all Leamington Mens Singles final between Ian Packford from St. Georges and Jon Williams from Whitnash. Ian Ferguson may be the Birmingham No 1 and unbeaten in the city's Premier Division in 2004/05, which made him the top seed in three events but he was still beaten in the semi-final of the men's singles, in the men's doubles final and in the mixed doubles final. Ferguson had looked in fine form in the early rounds of the singles, which included an excellent win in four sets over big hitting Mark Jackson (Leamington), but fell to Ian Packford (Leamington) in the last four, in a match that went the distance. Jon Williams (Leamington) beat Birmingham's Mike Browne in the other semi, before losing to Packford in the final 11-7, 11-6, 11-5.

Ferguson and Andy Hare were beaten by the Leamington pairing of Earl Sweeney and Packford in the men's doubles 11-3 in the fifth and Ferguson and Kay Nason lost out to Browne and Helen Turner (Birmingham) in the mixed.

England cadet Rachel Pilgrim (Nuneaton) upset the seedings in the ladies singles by beating Jane Dickens (Leamington) in the final. Navinder Mattharu (Colebridge) deserved the junior boys title after beating England Academy squad member Chris Burgess in the last four and Birmingham and Warwickshire No 1 Paul Leck 11-8 in the fifth in an exciting final. Leck gained some consolation in the cadet boys event, beating teammate Alan Caffrey at the last stage.

Andy Lebutt (Colebridge) took the veteran singles title, Mike Bishop from Leamington was the runner-up, while John Ludford (Birmingham) had a magnificent win over Phil Paine (Leamington) in the over 50's final at 11/9 in the fifth.

Other Winners: Mens Restricted: Alan Jones beat Chris Burgess 11-7, 4-11, 8-11, 11-6, 11-9, Women's Restricted: Helen Turner beat Jane Dickens 11-9, 11-8, 13-15, 11-4, Womens Doubles: Spa sisters Julie Richardson and Tracey Fletcher beat Helen Turner / Jane Dickens 12-10, 11-6, 11-7, Men's Over 60's: Alan Healey beat Bert Banks 11-7, 11-8, 7-11, 11-7, Veterans Doubles: Alan Jones/Mike Bishop beat Sweeney/Paine 11-7, 12-10, 11-6, Junior Girls Singles: Rachel Pilgrim beat Stephanie Hawkins (Leamington) 11-7, 11-1, 11-8, Junior Boys Restricted: Caffrey beat Edward Freeman 8-11, 11-5, 9-11, 11-9, 11-9, Junior Girls Restricted: Stephanie Hawkins beat Kelly-Jane Walden (Nuneaton) 19-17,

8-11, 11-5, 9-11, 14-12, Cadet Girls Singles: Pilgrim beat Charlotte Freeman 11-6, 11-2, 11-5, U13 Boys Singles: Jack Randall beat Matthew Outhwaite 11-6, 11-9, 9-11, 11-9, Junior Boys Doubles: Sam Clarke./ Chris Burgess beat Mattharu/Scott Danter 2-11, 12-10, 11-8, 11-9, Junior Girls Doubles: Hawkins/Freeman beat Pilgrim/Walden 11-5, 8-11, 11-6, 11-7.

WORCESTERSHIRE

by Ken Walton

AT the Senior County Closed championships, held for the first time at Arrow Vale School / Leisure complex, Redditch, two finals in particular held the audiences attention. They were the Mens singles final between holder Lewis Siket and Dudley's Lee Horton, and the Veteran Mens singles featuring holder and number 1 seed Steve Horton, and 4 times previous champion and number 2 seed Ken Walton.

Looking lean, fit and razor sharp, Lee traded topspin shots on both wings with Lewis, and took the 4th game at deuce, after trailing 2 sets to nil, meaning a decider would be needed. The exchanges continued in the final game, with the crowd applauding some brilliant rallies between the two, until Lee ended a 14 year gap from last winning the event, taking it 11-8 ! Well done both on an excellent final.

On a similar note, the veteran mens final sawed to a final game, with Steve and Ken putting every last ounce of effort into trying to lift the crown. Steve raced into a 6-1 advantage, but Ken, aided by several pieces of good fortune managed to claw things back to 9-9, with his serves to come. He managed to take the next 2 points to win the title he had last won in 2002. Again, an excellent final, appreciated by all.

Martin Madkins and Paul Garner from the Kidderminster league took the mens doubles honours, defeating Matt Squires and Lee Hipkiss in another close final, and Martin made it double celebration time when, in partnership with Lynda Reid, he captured the mixed doubles crown, defeating Lee Horton and Joanne Hill, from Dudley.

Despite having her car pinched from the car park on the day, Anne Barnes held things together to collect her first Ladies singles title, beating Margaret Dignum in 4 close games. Representing the Malvern League, Anne is a former Gloucestershire Junior player, and looks like a very useful addition to the female ranks for future County matches. She had to settle for runners up with Beryl Shammon in the Ladies doubles, as Margaret Dignum and Joanne Hill proved too strong. In the 'round robin' under 21 event, Sasha Grokhotov emerged the winner, with Jack Higgs finishing as runner up, thanks to earlier wins.

Thanks as always should go to Dave Roden and his team for overseeing the event, and to 'guest of honour', the legendary Ron Butterton for presenting prizes to winners and runners up alike.

A special well deserved vote of thanks was given by master of ceremonies Doug Young for the two Sue's. Sue Leach had baked lots of cakes for sale during the event, and Sue Walton ensured that players would not go short of cobs, tea and coffee on the day. Well done to both for raising £60 from their efforts, which will go into County coffers. No wonder Martin Clark looked happy, and not just because he had recorded a splendid win over Pat McCabe!

Excellent County Vets First news with the team securing 3rd spot in a very competitive Division 1A. With Ken Walton injured, Roy Norton stepped into the breach and performed admirably, as did Steve Horton, Pat McCabe, and Jill Harris, who remained

unbeaten over both weekends. Defeat to winners Cheshire 2nds (7-3) was followed by wins over Yorkshire 1sts (9-1) and 2nds (8-2), before a 5-5 finish against Norfolk. Well done to Steve Horton in particular, for his excellent organisation of the 2 weekends, and to the players for developing a fantastic team spirit, which helped to turn defeats into victories, when at times, all seemed lost!

Vets' 2nds drew 5-5 with Berkshire 2nds, with Nick Mytton playing well to compensate for a strangely out of touch Eric Hardman, whilst Martin Clark (1), Mike Meredith (1) and Mervyn Wood(2) couldn't prevent the 3rds from losing 6-4 to another of the Berkshire teams.

YORKSHIRE

by Barry Snowden

White Rose Affairs

HUDDERSFIELD Veterans took a large step towards taking the Yorkshire League Veterans first division after another unbeaten performance in the second round of matched played at Hull YPI.

On this occasion each of the teams played two matches and after a comfortable 9-1 victory against relegation threatened Keighley, Huddersfield beat nearest rivals Bradford 7-3 and put themselves in the driving seat with two matches to play.

Against Bradford, Huddersfield once more relied heavily on Tim Dyson who scored a maximum and were also well supported by Geoff Brook who scored two victories and Keith Powell who chipped in with one win.

The division now moves onto Dewsbury TTC for the final round and with a two point lead over Bradford and only fixtures against relegation threatened Dewsbury and Halifax to play Huddersfield must consider themselves favourites to take the league.

County Championships Veterans Division 3a Yorkshire No 3 veterans won division 3a of the county championships for the second time in three years after two weekends of action at the excellent Dewsbury TTC. The squad of Mick Wilcockson, Keith Powell, Nigel Pennock, Mick Farnill and Geoff Brook ably supported by Helen Shields took the division with six wins and one draw from their seven matches.

Runners up were Red Rose rivals Lancashire who drew with Yorkshire thirds in way back in the first match in October and Yorkshire No 4 did their county colleagues a favour by also drawing with Lancashire.

Yorkshire No 3 took the title on 13 points with Lancashire on 12 but the prospective close clash between the two home county sides never materialised as the thirds won 9-1 in a one sided encounter.

Leeds Closed Championships

The Leeds closed championships were held recently and proved a successful day for the Nouch family as four members took titles and the family provided winning players in six of the eight events.

County Junior and Senior player Simon Nouch lead the way by being successful in five events. Sister Sarah took two titles and there was a title success for father David and his youngest son Luke in the handicap Doubles event.

Results:

Mens Singles: Simon Nouch bt. Nigel Pennock

Womens Singles: Sarah Nouch bt. Julie Horstead

Mens Doubles: Simon Nouch/ Mick Lowe bt. Lee Orange/Chris Newsome

Mixed Doubles: Simon Nouch/Sarah Nouch bt. Daniel Fenteman/Joanna Roberts

Boys Singles: Simon Nouch bt. Chris Parker

Vets Singles: Nigel Pennock bt. Philip Bell

Handicap Singles: David Heppenstall bt. John Keegan

Handicap Doubles: David Nouch/Luke Nouch bt. Sarah Nouch/Amanda Bell.

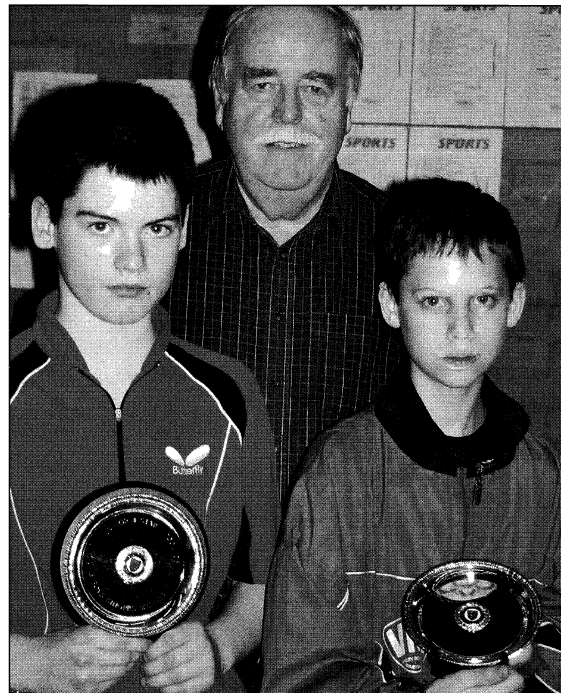
DRINKHALL & WANG WINNERS IN ESSEX



Under 18 Junior Boys: (left) JOHN ANDREWS Chairman Essex TTA, Winner PAUL DRINKHALL, Runner-up TIM YARNALL & ETTA Chairman ALEX MURDOCH

**Pictures by
ARTHUR C. CLARK**

Under 18 Junior Girls: (below) NICKY JARVIS, Winner SARRA WANG, Runner-up CAROLINE HALLOWS & ETTA Chairman ALEX MURDOCH



PETER CHARTERS presents the U13 trophies to (far left) Girls Winner MARTHA TRAVIS & Runner-up SARAH RUSSO, and (left) Boys Winner DAVID McBEATH & Runner-up SEBASTIAN SCHUBERT of Denmark.

**OTHER WINNERS:
Under 15 Boys:
Winner DORIAN ROBINSON & Runner-up DARREN REED.
Under 15 Girls:
Winner SARRA WANG & Runner-up RACHEL JAMIESON**

CALENDAR

DATE	TOURNAMENT	EVENT ORGANISER
APRIL		
9th	Chandlers Farm Equipment Junior 1 Star - Grantham	John Mapletoft 01476 565521
9th-10th	VETTS Southern Masters - Reading	
9th-10th	Stiga Blackpool 3 Star Open Senior Satellite Grand Prix	Martin Ireland 01253 313196
9th-10th	Regional Training	
16th-17th	National Cadet & Junior Championships	
16th-17th	British League (4) Premier Division	
23rd	ESTTA National Schools Individual Championships - Fenton Manor	
23rd-24th	Butterfly Wolverhampton Open Grand Prix	
23rd-24th	Cadet Six Nations - Belfast	
24th	National Regional Squad Championships Fenton Manor	
30th-6th May	Volkswagen World Championships - Shanghai	
30th	Hollington Cadet/Junior 1 Star	Neil Stapley 01424 422892
30th-1st May	Butterfly Derby Open Grand Prix	
MAY		
1st	Hollington Senior 1 Star	Neil Stapley
1st	Gainsford Cup R2	
1st	Sportbreak 2 Star Veteran, Knutsford	Mike Johns 01606 45766
7th	British League Conference	
7th-8th	Cadet Masters - Cippenham	
8th	Cornwall Cadet/Junior 1 Star - St.Austell	Di Jermyn 01726 69289
7th-8th	Chandlers Farm Equipment Cadet/Junior 1 Star	
7th-8th	Butterfly Cheltenham Open Grand Prix	
12th-15th	Spanish Youth Open	
14th-15th	Junior Masters - Cippenham	
14th-15th	VETTS National Masters - Thornbury	
15th	Lancashire Junior 3 Star	Tony Meredith 01253 397509
21st-22nd	National Team Finals - Derby	
28th-29th	Butterfly Norwich Open Grand Prix	
28th-29th	Regional Training	



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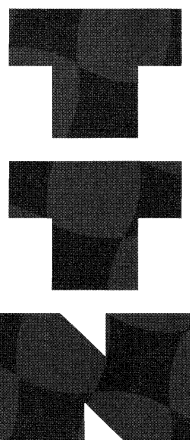
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County Championships 2002-2005



2004/2005 SEASON COPY DATES

ISSUE

SEPT/OCT 2004

NOVEMBER 2004

DECEMBER 2004

JAN/FEB 2005

MARCH 2005

APRIL 2005

MAY 2005

JUNE/JULY 2005

PUBLISHING MONTH IN BOLD TYPE

COPY DATES

15th AUGUST 2004

1st OCTOBER 2004

1st NOVEMBER 2004

1st JANUARY 2005

1st FEBRUARY 2005

1st MARCH 2005

1st APRIL 2005

15th MAY 2005

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