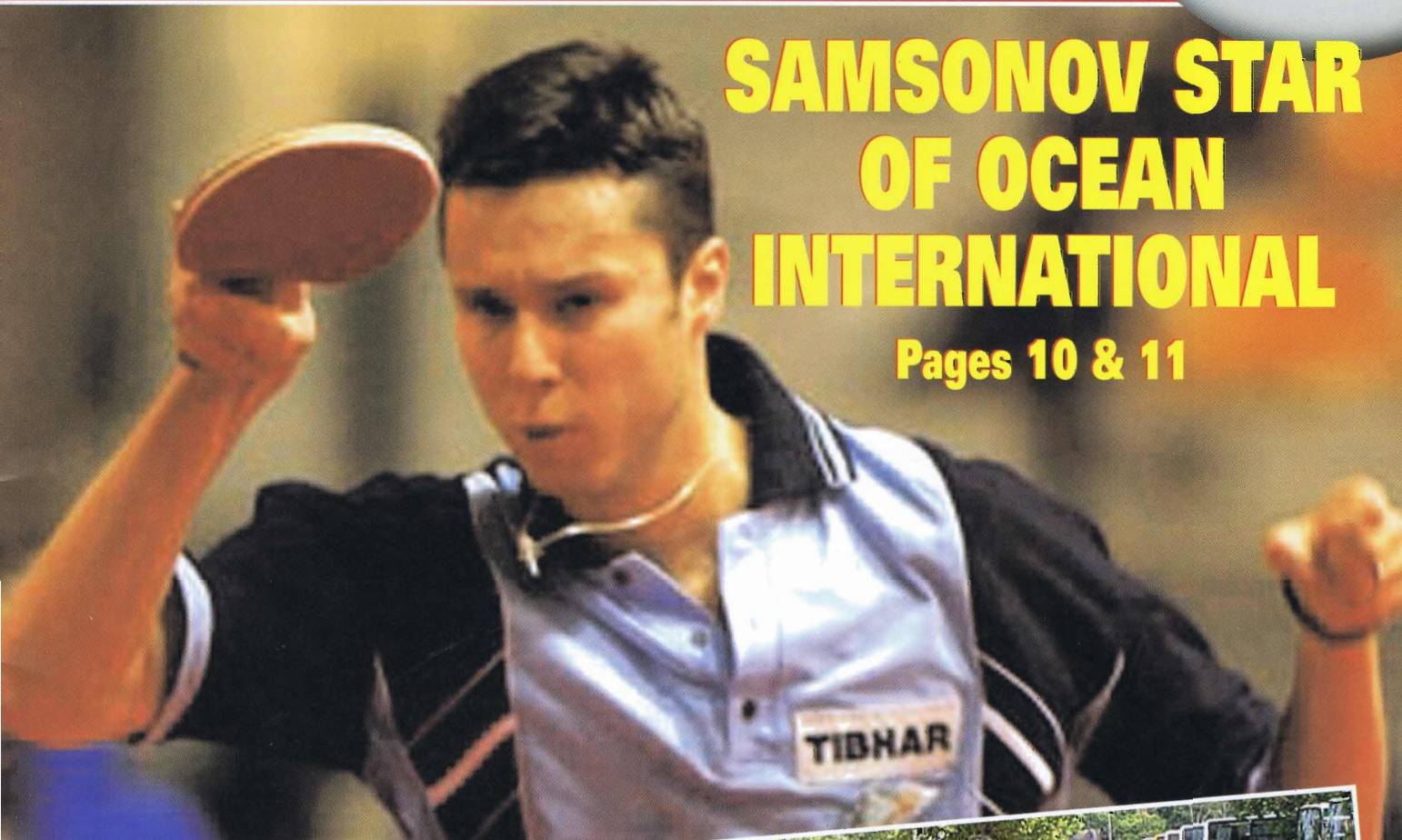


Table Tennis NEWS



SAMSONOV STAR OF OCEAN INTERNATIONAL

Pages 10 & 11

ENGLAND SHINE AT THE EURO YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS IN BUDAPEST
Pages 20 & 21



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TABLE TENNIS NEWS

The Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association

Issue No.303
Sept/Oct 2004

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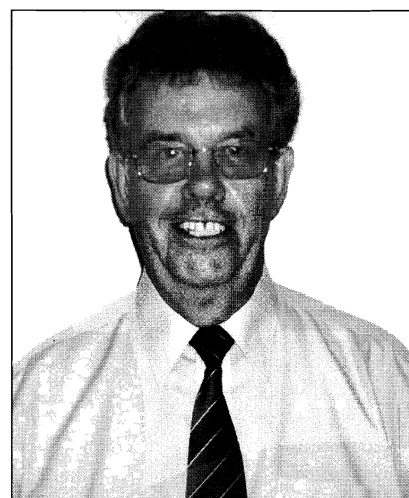
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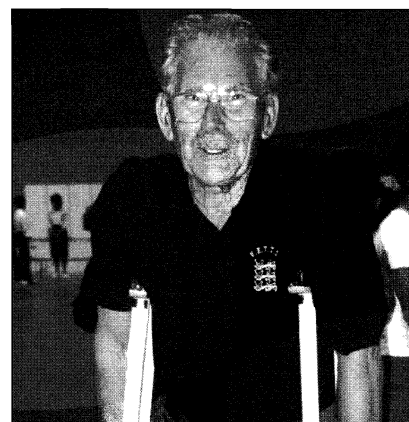
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FRONT COVER MAIN PHOTOGRAPH
VLADIMIR SAMSONOV WINNER OF THE OCEAN INTERNATIONAL IN CROYDON



DOUG YOUNG becomes an Honourary Life Member, page 6



TERRY DONLON slipped up at World Vets in Japan, page 12



TONG FEIMING - is profiled by Brian Lamerton, see page 26

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

GRASS ROOTS

Pages 14 to 16

DARIUS & PAUL SHARE AWARD

DARIUS KNIGHT and PAUL DRINKHALL (pictured right) were jointly awarded The Johnny Leach Most Improved Player of the Year Award, on the basis of their improvements on the European Table Tennis Union ranking list.

Knight and Drinkhall were presented with their trophies by Mike Johns, Vice-Chairman Selection, at the Six Nations International, which was held at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre.

During this event both Darius and Paul made their Senior debuts playing for England.

GET WELL SOON JOHN

In case you are not aware, I thought that you should know that John Dignum is presently in hospital receiving treatment for an infection following a replacement pace maker being fitted some weeks ago.

It appears that an infection was not being cleared up by antibiotics and now the pace maker has had to be removed. This has been quite a serious operation that could have



been life threatening. He is expected to be out of action for some weeks yet, however, knowing John as we all do, it wouldn't be surprising if he got his lap top in the hospital and started communicating from there. At what stage he will be allowed to continue

his normal activities we don't know.

100 CLUB DINNER

The annual 100 Club Dinner took place after the AGM, and we are pleased to publish a couple of photographs of this event below.

WOODY'S World

WELCOME to the first edition of the new season 2004/2005, where we start with a brand new column 'Veteran's Diary', written by Jim Beckley, see page 12.

We will also have a new coaching column entitled 'Coaching Tips', where reader's of TTN can write in to the magazine with coaching problems, which will be answered by England coach Steen Kyst Hansen. This will hopefully commence with the November issue.

We also see a new feature 'Relatively Speaking' starting next issue, which takes a look at how parents or family cope with the success of their children or relatives, this will be an occasional column.

Have a good season.

John Wood

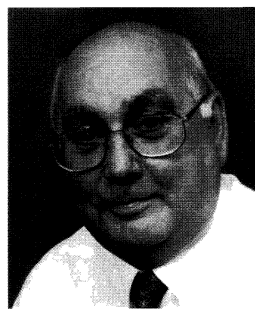
More pictures and words in next the issue of TTN.

Pictured below (top) are Mike and Susan Holt with 100 Club Dinner organiser Doreen Stannard (centre). Bottom is a snapshot of some of the management team at leisure.

STOP PRESS

RYAN JENKINS & HELEN LOWER winners of the Six Nations International Singles titles at Crystal Palace





DURING SUMMER SUNSHINE OUR SPORT HAS PROGRESSED

WE are at the start of another season of our great sport, bats will be brought out by many players who have had a summer break, tables dusted and venues available for use again. I have been involved locally organising a summer league and playing in another plus the work at the ETTA is ongoing during this period, so it has not just been a summer of "sunshine" and gardening, the progress of our sport has continued.

From a personal perspective it has been a time of change with my second grandchild a little girl being born and me reaching the age of 60. Despite completing the form for my winter fuel allowance, getting a senior citizens card for my rail travel and now on free prescriptions, my determination and dedication towards table tennis and its future is undaunted.

I will try and give you some updates on certain issues which I consider are of interest.

1. England Performances

Two Major Events have taken place, namely, the Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships and the European Youth Championships.

A very successful European Youth Event gave us a Silver Medal in the Cadet Boys Team Event, our first medal for many years, with Paul Drinkhall, Darius Knight and Bradley and Gavin Evans, a fantastic performance from our team.. There were many other excellent performances including our Junior Girls Team of Joanna Parker, Kelly Sibley and Abigail Embling who beat some highly ranked European players to take 10th place in the Team Event. Results from this event has given our youngsters a boost in the World Under 18 Ranking lists details are available on the ETTA website.

It was a very competitive event with 43 Countries competing and more than 550 young players.

In the Commonwealth Event we won two Silver Medals, one in the Men's Team Event and one in the Mixed Doubles with Alan Cooke and Helen Lower. Alan also won the Fair Play Award.

All our congratulations must go to all our players and coaches who were involved.

2. Funding

The Interim Funding package from Sport England has been confirmed and the money will be used in a number of ways to support table tennis in England. Appointments will be made as soon as possible for two more Regional Development Officers, Assistant Events Manager, Communications Officer and Teaching and Training Officer. The balance of this funding will be used towards a support modernisation programme within the ETTA.

3. PE, School Sport and Club Links (PESSCL)

We have been granted £170K over a two-year period to cover this project, which will involve the appointment of a number of Community Table Tennis Coaches across the England and a National Club and Schools Manager. This project is to increase participation of young people at schools and to link this with our club structure hence

keeping these young people involved with our sport.

4. Individual Registrations

The process is continuing and discussions will take place at National Council over the coming months and further information will be circulated in the near future covering membership benefits and further background information. It is most important that the fee-paying players get value for money and it is the responsibility of the ETTA Management and Staff to ensure that every effort is made in conjunction with the table tennis fraternity that people understand, see and receive the support that is needed.

We are ALL members of the same National Club, which is the ETTA.

5. The Ocean International Masters

This event took place at Fairfield Hall, Croydon on 23rd July and was broadcast on BBC1 Grandstand on 24th July. The event was an incredible success with many outstanding matches and a full house of enthusiastic spectators. I must thank all of those involved in the organisation of this event including Paul Andrews of Ocean International and the other sponsors, management and staff of Fairfield Hall, the BBC, the ETTA staff and other helpers and Matthew Syed for working so hard to bring this all together. If you watched it on Grandstand please contact the BBC by email or letter with your comments.

6. ETTA AGM

This took place at Hinckley on 3rd July and the motion to revert to a 21up option was soundly defeated. It was a well-attended and vocal meeting and minutes will be circulated later.

7. Departmental Vice Chairman

The election of the Departmental Vice Chairman took place at the July National Council Meeting and my nominations were elected as follows:

John Dignum	VC Administration.
Peter Bradley	VC Competitions
Sandra Deaton	VC Marketing.
Mike Johns.	VC Selection.
Phil Goulding	VC Development.
Jim Beckley	VC Public Relations.
Peter Charters	VC Teaching and Training.
Eileen Shaler	VC Without Departmental Responsibilities.

I am sure you will give them your support during the coming season.

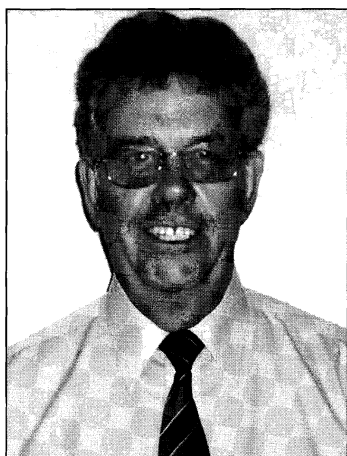
We have many important actions to work on in the coming months not least of these will be the "Whole Sport Plan" generation and presentation to Sport England for a four-year period starting in April 2005. A lot of background work has been completed and we hope to get funding at least equal to the nearly £900K which we have been fortunate in being awarded from April 2004 to March 2005.

I will keep you posted during the coming months on this subject and others.

Have a great season, play well and enjoy the game.

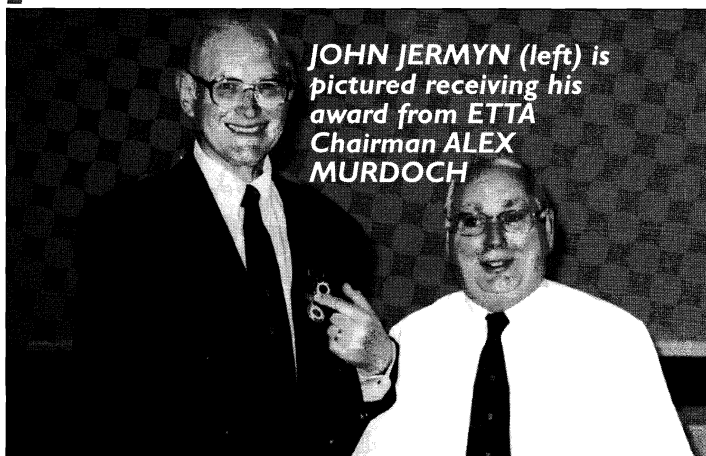
Alex Murdoch, ETTA Chairman

HONOURS LIST for 2003/2004



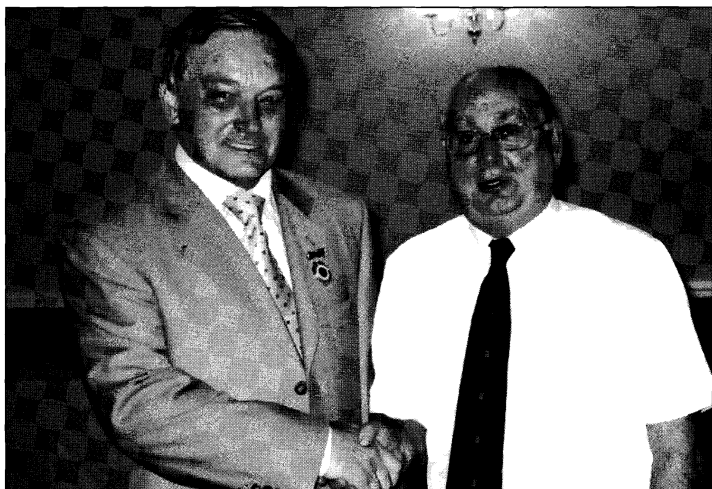
HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

DOUG YOUNG (left) who first qualified as County Umpire in 1962, rose to International Referee 1994, as well as attending to his duties as Worcestershire Chairman. **JOHN JERMYN** (right) started as a County Umpire in 1977, becoming an International Referee in 1994. As well as many National Committees he served as Hertfordshire National Councillor, and is now representing Cornwall.



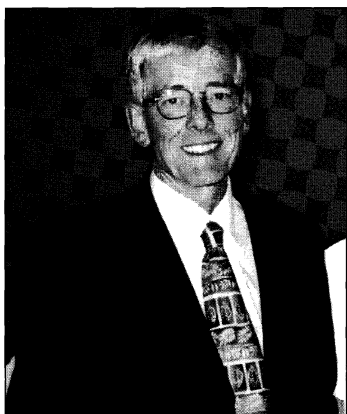
JOHN JERMYN (left) is pictured receiving his award from ETTA Chairman **ALEX MURDOCH**

FOUR NEW VICE-PRESENTS

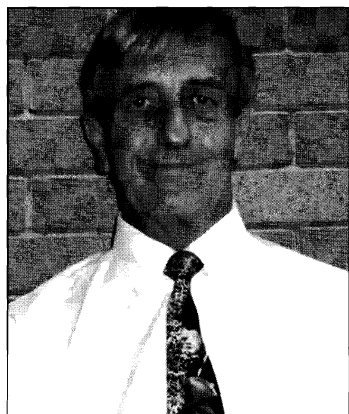


MICK STRODE is pictured receiving his ETTA Vice Presidency from ETTA Chairman **ALEX MURDOCH**

Other Vice Presidencies went to **STUART SNEYD**, **LEN PILFOLD** and **GEOFF TAYLOR**.



GEOFF TWISS received reward for many years work on the Tournament Committee with the Ivor Montagu Award



HARVEY WEBB was presented with the A.K.Vint Staff Award for his loyal service on the tournament circuit

Other recipients of honours were **JOANNA PARKER**, the Victor Barna Award and **DEREK BUNDAY** the Leslie Forrest Memorial Trophy. The Johnny Leach Most Improved England Player of the Year Award was jointly presented to **PAUL DRINKHALL** and **DARIUS KNIGHT** for their improvements on the European ranking list, at the Six Nations International at Crystal Palace (see page 4).

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The English Table Tennis Association is recruiting a suitable individual to fill this post to help drive forward the development of the sport.
 If you think you may fit the bill, we look forward to hearing from you!

Regional Development Officer - NORTH EAST (Cleveland, Durham & Northumberland)

Job purpose: To initiate and co-ordinate Table Tennis development in the region in accordance with ETTA national policy and priorities. Key work areas include: club and league development, school club links, volunteer support, facility development and communication.
Job details: Fixed term contract - all hours worked - until March 2005, with the anticipation of an extension for a further four years subject to funding confirmation. Office base located within the region, salary £18,000 p.a. Travel expenses for business mileage and £1,200 p.a. car allowance.

Application process: Closing date: Friday November 5th 2004

For a job pack (background, person specification, job description and application form - CVs alone will not be accepted) - please contact: Sheila King (Development Secretary), ETTA, Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1HF. Tel: 01424 722525, fax: 01424 422103, e-mail: sheila.king@englishtabletennis.org.uk

For an informal discussion about the posts contact Diccon Gray (National Development Manager, ETTA) Tel: 07970 575285.

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POSTBAG

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

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

A response to

“A Referee’s Dilemma”-written by Ken Armson

from the National Championships Committee

THE National Championships Committee notes the content of Mr Armson’s letter and wishes to respond to ensure that some of the misleading statements are clarified.

The ITTF Handbook for Referees states “the object of every referee must be to ensure that the tournament for which he or she is responsible proceeds according to plan, in full compliance with the relevant rules and without incident”; ‘the true test of a referee’s ability is the way in which he deals with problems’ and ‘the referee is responsible for checking the validity of entries’.

Mr Armson clearly failed carry out his duties or meet his responsibilities and he still believes that he should not have had to check ALL ENTRY FORMS.

He raises the issue of a top ranked junior failing to send in an entry form. This is a red herring no form - no play.

The Number 1 Cadet boy’s case was different for several reasons. Firstly his parents had sent in an entry form entering him for the Cadet doubles event and the Junior events. Secondly the entry form showed two levies for singles events – Cadets and Junior.

These two issues should have prompted Mr Armson to contact the family to check out the entry form. A competent referee would have checked out all the entry forms whether from the number 1 seed or any other player in the Championships. Mr Armson clearly does not consider this his responsibility.

It is obvious that the parents of the boy had made an administrative mistake and it should have been checked out.

It is understood that Mr Armson entered into an arrangement with this family and others regarding payment of entry fees on the day! It is quite clearly stated on the entry form that payments should be made with the entry form and not on the day. Why did he allow this when it is strictly against the conditions of entry? No pay no play.

Mr Armson tries to implicate the Chairman of the National Championship Committee by indicating that she had not responded until quite late in the day to his letter of 12th April. She was on

holiday and only received his letter on 14th April upon her return and the Championships were on the 17th April. She then spent several hours speaking to the ETTA Chairman, ETTA Vice-Chairman Marketing and the NURC Chairman. Acting on their advice she contacted Mr Armson to discuss the matter and inform him of their collective decision on the matter.

The decisions taken by that group were not taken lightly nor without regard to all the competitors involved in the event. The decisions reached would have been the same whether it was the number 1 seed or any other competitor. All are treated equally within the National Championships area of responsibility.

It should also be noted that Mr Armson was responsible for placing the entry of a Junior boy in the Girls singles groups. Something he failed to mention in his letter. A basic error which does not require any further comment

The committee are disappointed that Mr Armson should feel it necessary to send a letter to TTN and also to Mr John Woodford requesting him to try to get it published in the Daily Telegraph. The proper course of action would have been for him to write to the Committee asking for a meeting to discuss the issues with them. Sadly he did not feel that this was the responsible course of action either.

National Championships Committee August 3rd 2004

Editor’s Note: As both sides have now had an airing in “Postbag”, this will be the last word on the subject.

WELL DONE

Val and I recently took part in an event at Woodfield Sports Centre in Wolverhampton.

I do not wish to make a report or mention how I got on as this would take too long.

This was my first event at this club and I would like to compliment the Club Committee on not only a great competition but on an excellent venue.

The playing conditions were fantastic, all the amenities were excellent and the social side namely the catering facilities were superb. The efforts by the Club to get a Sport England Grant and improve all aspects for its members and guests should be recognised, well done.
*Alex and Val Murdoch
Leichworth*

VALUE FOR MONEY

HAVING very recently been to the most wonderful day of excitement and entertainment at the Ocean International Cup in the superb Fairfield Concert Hall, all I can say on subject of the ETTA levy is that I do not care whether it costs 8p,20p or whatever per week to affiliate to the ETTA. If it can help in putting on glittering ,prestigious events of this nature and get terrestrial TV interested in transmitting over an hour on the following day, count me in.

If after watching the dazzling array of talent on display if any people could still hold the view that ETTA does not represent value for money, I really think that is probably time that they went off and pursued other interests.

Just for the record Kreanga, Persson, Ma Wenge, Syed, Herbert (a late substitute for the injured Maze), Samsonov, Primorac, Weixing, Boll and Korbel demonstrated a collective display of in depth world class brilliance, rarely, if ever seen together in the UK, without the dilution of a major International tournament .Samsonov proved to be a worthy winner on the day.

Young Brits attending were enthralled by what they saw and if they have they have higher class aspirations, will want to grab some of the action for themselves. My club members and my many friends and acquaintances at the event were all impressed.

Thanks to the fabulous sponsors, real money was on the table.

So, well done ETTA you have just

taken part in the best outward looking PR exercise for many a long year in UK TT.

Just one negative note for umpires, if a ball goes out of play and is not immediately returned, give the players another one to keep play flowing please.

David Humble

Chairman Mossford TT Club

A TT “EPIDEMIC”

AS you see from the address I am a subscriber, receiving my monthly TTN in a somewhat remote location.

Following early retirement from a Deputy Headship in Bury I have come to Guyana to work for VSO teaching Literacy in Bartica for two years.

I am a Level 3 Coach and was involved with ESTTA for many years, in my home “County” of Greater Manchester, and latterly was General Secretary of the national body.

When I packed my suitcase I included my bat in the hope of an occasional game, little did I guess the way events would turn out.

I started playing with the youngsters in the Secondary School in Bartica on a cracked board – I was astounded at their level of skill (untutored) and enthusiasm.

I approached the Regional Executive Officer (County Treasurer) and he provided money out of very limited resources to purchase two tables, bats and balls to set up a coaching centre. He felt that although cash was in very short supply a TT Centre would be of great benefit to the community, providing a focus for unemployed and otherwise bored youngsters.

A TT “epidemic” followed in Bartica, Tables of all sorts of sizes and consistencies are appearing all over the town in back gardens, the church presbytery and even a boat-yard. In some cases in lieu of bats wooden beaters normally used in washing clothes are brought into play.

I coach at the Centre, based in the local Career Centre, for five days a week at the end of the school day and in the evenings and could easily work eight. In addition I work on Literacy and TT coaching (using a discarded blackboard as a table) for half a day each week at a Primary School two miles outside the town on the road into the rain-forest. Many students stay in Dormitories

**PLEASE NOTE
Letters should be
250 words only - if
longer they will be
edited when space
is tight**

during the term as they live so far away from the school and I also provide for them a coaching/free play session once a week. The standard of play is improving but the problem now is competitive play. Bartica is virtually an island, surrounded on three sides by mile-wide rivers and on the fourth by jungle. The journey from the capital Georgetown necessitates an hour in a mini-bus driven at break-neck speed and then a further hour in a speedboat with fifteen other passengers up the huge Essequibo River.

I intend to set up a representative team but to play away anywhere necessitates a boat and road journey and overnight accommodation. We would have to put-up and feed any visiting team. This all requires funding.

This is a Developing Country and resources are very scarce, the economy is heavily dependent on aid from the international community. My equipment is being used to its full capacity, I need more tables and bats to supplement what I have already and to cover for losses due to wear and tear.

If anyone feels that they would like to help by means of a donation please contact me via my email address joewalks2000@yahoo.co.uk. Do not send sterling cheques; there is no mechanism for dealing with them here.

I have the full support of the Guyana TTF, I recently hosted a week-long visit by the National Coach, Linden Johnson, and Zhiaou Ping a Chinese coach who is currently working with the national squad. I recently took a small squad of players to take part in the Independence Open Tournament in Georgetown; it provided an invaluable first-time experience of competitive play. I am organising a Bartica Closed Event on June 26th.

My contract here comes to an end in July 2005 and when I depart I intend to leave Table tennis in Bartica in a healthier state than when I found it.

Joe Walk, Guyana, S.America

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

ACCUSTOMED as we are to bad news, I was thoroughly shocked to hear that John Woodford's 'Courtside' had been axed.

Many of us have often disagreed with John over the years, but have nevertheless enjoyed reading his controversial and often entertaining views. He has written for Table Tennis News a lot longer than I have and is now the only remaining writer

on our sport in the national press as table tennis correspondent of The Daily Telegraph, which remains a quality newspaper with a large circulation.

Matthew Syed, who is often mentioned, writes mainly on other sports for 'The Times' newspaper.

To ban John offends on at least two fronts: firstly, the sport owes him a great deal, which view was endorsed when he was made a Vice-President of the ETTA. Secondly, there is the issue of free speech, of democracy. Only small men cannot bear to hear views the opposite of their own and this is not what most of us voted for in a recent elections.

I call on the leadership to reverse this weak, unintelligent decision. Failure to do this will not be easily forgiven. The magazine belongs to the members. It is not the plaything or personal prerogative of the management.

John Prean

ETTA Chairman 1986-1991

A RESPONSE BY JIM BECKLEY VICE CHAIR PR: Courtside was a victim of change - we have lots of new material and ideas we want to try out and we need space to do that. I have to look at a much wider picture, not just one year but five years ahead when readership will be different and circulation much higher and to keep up with these changes we have to try out new ideas. If people have a grouse or wish to put across something 'controversial', there is, and always will be, a letters page.

"REQUIRE CORRECTION" ?

WHILST acknowledging Alan Ransome's comprehensive knowledge of the sport at all levels, I do not accept his suggestion in the June/July issue of Table Tennis News's 'Postbag' that two of my statements "require correction".

On the Doha failure to send a mens team, most of the top ranked players on the mens list were engaged in a "stand-off" before the new management team took office. One or two played in the European League, seemingly with reluctance, but the problem of getting them to play in the grand prix tournaments has been with us for a long time.

We all know that Alan would have moved heaven and earth to have sent a team to Qatar, but whether or not he would have succeeded is just speculation in hindsight, we shall never know what might have happened.

The old management might have succeeded. My view is that that

would have had extreme difficulties mainly because finance is the overriding concern for the players.

Regarding the Andrea Holt problems. I was very pleased to see her appointed RDO for the North-West. I still maintain she has "come in from the cold".

I accept she made a number of appearances during the intervening years and then walked out in 1999 before going to the world championships in Eindhoven. Since then, to her credit she has won two English crowns in singles. She is still the strongest English lady-player we have and would have beefed up the team in Kuala Lumpur.

In the Daily Telegraph I have to be concise, and my pieces are often truncated and re-written. Andrea did present problems over a long period, but now hopefully she will do well in her new post and still give her rivals in the England squad a run for their money.

John Woodford

Eastbourne, Sussex

WHINGING

AS Ray Hogg reports (Norfolk Notes, June/July), still it goes on---the complaining, whinging, and moaning about 11up. For pity's sake, give it a rest, folks! Like it or not, and many



players do like it, 11up is here to stay. If you really can't live with it then please take up tiddly-winks instead, and give the rest of us a break!

Alan R. Blears, Stockport, Cheshire.

DISBANDED

UNFORTUNATELY the England Fan Club formed at the World Championships in Paris last year (Table Tennis News June/July 2003), has been disbanded and the 140 euros collected donated to the ETTA Ivor Montagu Fund which helps young players. No reply has been received from the ETTA in response to my approach about affiliation and, therefore, I felt it best to drop the idea for the time being.

However, I do hope that something will be done in the future to form an official England Fan Club, similar to the popular French organisation, as I believe this would be a great way for members to support our England teams of the future.

Meanwhile, many thanks to those who supported my idea in Paris. We certainly had fun making the plans.

*Jose Ransome
Middlesbrough*

KEEP LISTENING

THE final issue of TT News of the 2003/2004 season provoked some interesting thoughts. After the first season of the new regime under Chairman Alex Murdoch, it was interesting to witness the beginning of discontent among those who take the trouble to write to the Mailbox section. I was very interested in the letters by Ken Armson, Michael Wilkins, and John Prean, who all wrote of topics of current and future national interest.

Michael Wilkins is totally correct in his summing up of the new ranking system. It is absolutely ludicrous that you can have players with such vastly different ratings on different lists. The system is quite clearly designed to appease the Veteran players and protect their ratings from the improving juniors. Such is the situation, that we now have juniors who have little chance of catching the top four or five.

John Prean's letter was, as ever, thoughtfully written. It conveys the fears of the grass roots regarding the proposed individual affiliation. John's comments are totally true, but once again it is a little more evidence that this new ETTA of ours has inherited another of the previous regime's traits - if we need more money, hit the grass root local leagues.

Under Alex Murdoch as Chairman, we have seen some positive moves, and a welcome upturn in funding from Sport England. There seems to be a much better dialogue with ESTTA, Alex himself is much more approachable as a Chairman, and the general feelings are still upbeat. However the warning signs are there. The new ranking system is doomed to failure as a means of measuring players relative abilities, and the new Grand Prix format, where the ETTA have discarded Under 21 events is pure suicide in the attempts we all make to try and keep young players in the sport after their Junior days are over.

I hope Alex has read the letters I have quoted, and listens to the fears, takes heed, and does not make the mistakes of the previous regime.

*Keith Wilson,
Durham*



SUPER STAR SAMSONOV

VLADIMIR SAMSONOV of Belarus took Croydon by storm and captured the admiration of a packed house at the Fairfield Hall, when he overpowered Germany's Timo Boll in the final, writes John Woodford.

Thanks go to Tournament Organiser Matthew Syed, for staging this high calibre event.

Around 1,700 fans were present to watch the first session at the Fairfield Concert Hall, Croydon on July 23 and then most of the 2,000 seats were occupied for the evening session.

We are also indebted to Paul Andrews, managing director of the Brighton company Ocean International Communications Ltd for their sponsorship.

THE MASTER CLASS

A Croydon local paper proclaimed the day as a "master class" for the fans. We now have a magnificent silver trophy - the Ocean International Cup - perhaps this event could be an annual happening, providing we can attract BBC Television - a priceless bonus.

The day started with two preliminary matches - Syed vs Ma Wenge and Gareth Herbert (a late replacement for the injured Michael Maze) playing against Chen Weixing the Austrian No.2. Ma Wenge attacked almost all the time against Matthew who once again produced a series of returns from the deep that had the fans enraptured; it was a great battle lost only by Syed at 9 in the sixth game.

Gareth, short of top-class matchplay was always in the match but was defeated 9, 5, 6, 5.

Jorgen Persson, now age 38, the 1991 world champion plays an attractive game but proved no match for the razor-sharp counter-hitting armoury mounted by Kreanga, who went through to the semis 8, 9, 3, 6.

Timo Boll - I have yet to be really impressed by his game. He is left-handed with forehand and backhand top-spin with ample control. It took him seven thrilling games before he moved on over Petr Korbel 6, 7, 12, 6, -5, -8, 8.

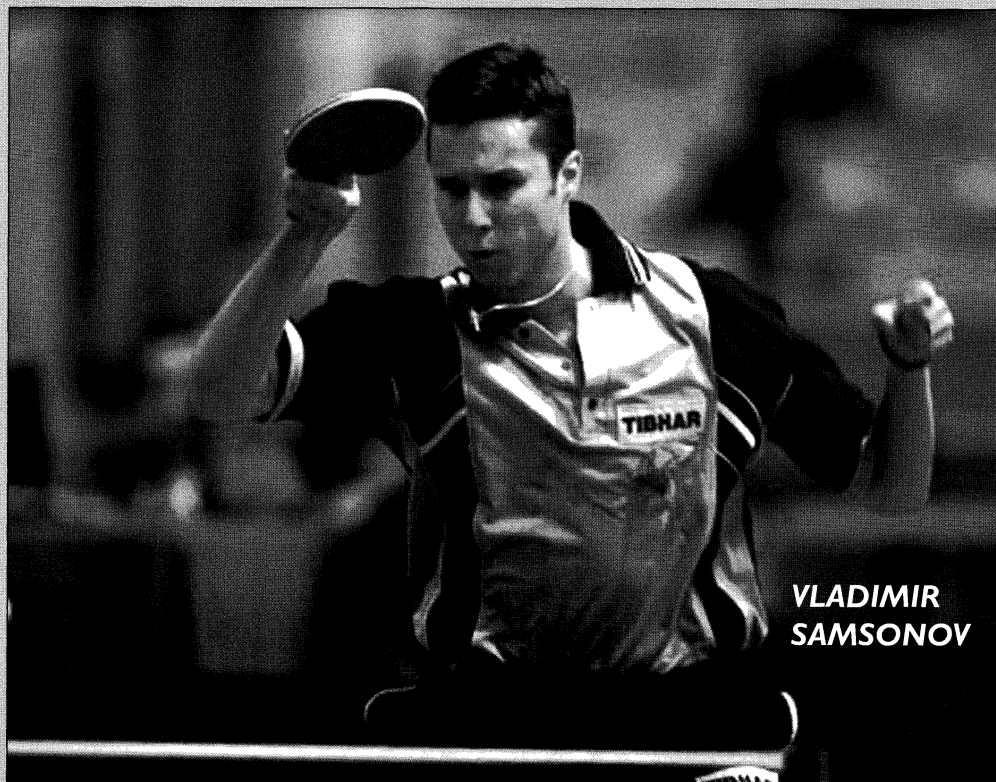
DRUMS PROBLEM

During the Boll-Korbel match there was a problem with a group of youngsters up in the gods using (between points) a full drum kit including cymbals and bongo drums.

My view was that it proved disturbing for the audience, apparently not the players.

MC Richard Yule, appealed to the fans to turn off their mobiles and to stop using flash cameras. A fairly large section of the fans then shouted out "Stop the drums"! Eventually the drummers retreated. One important point on this drumming was that Matthew Syed had appealed for audience participation, but one hooter and two sets of drums certainly upset some of the fans.

The final game of the afternoon session saw Samsonov winning 8 in the fifth against Ma Wenge.



VLADIMIR SAMSONOV

FINAL STAGES

The evening session opened with a powerful show by Chen as he went through to the semis - 4, 3, 5, 6, 5 against Zoran Primorac who is not the player he used to be when he won the world cup twice.

Samsonov and Boll have reached the top ranks on the world list by possessing brilliant strategic reserves - knowing what to do next when the going gets tough. In the first semi-final Samsonov scraped through the first game 11 and then lost the next two to the ever-dangerous Kreanga. But the tall, elegant and ice-cool man from Belarus came from behind showing, timing, accuracy and control to win the three last games 6, 6, 7.

The second semi-final was a disaster for Chen Weixing. He won the first 6, lost the second -5 and in the third injured a stomach muscle causing him to retire.

Once again, in the final Samsonov lost the first 9, but then in a typical world-class show brought down Boll with remorseless attacking precision 9, 6, 8, 9, a great climax to a great day, probably, the finest seen in Britain for many years.

SUPER CIRCUIT

The tournament was of course part of the Super Circuit that attracts stars from around the world with a prize kitty that gives out a first prize of 1,000,000 U.S. dollars originating in Japan from the Kenshoen family which now has 350 offices in Japan, having made an immense fortune selling kimonos.

CREDITS: The events manager was Harvey Webb, Mick Strode the referee and a team of umpires

not named in my programme led by George Tyler.

RESULTS

Preliminary round:

Ma Wenge b M. Syed 5, -4, 9, 6 -5, 9 Chen Weixing b G. Herbert 9, 5, 6, 5 t; K. Kreanga b J. Persson 8, 9, 3, 6; T. Boll b P. Korbel 6, -7, 12, 6, -5 -8, 8; V. Samsonov b Ma Wenge 7, 12, -4, 6, 8; Chen b Z. Primorac -4, 3, 5, 6, 5.

Semi-finals:

Samsonov b Kreanga 13, 9, 8, -6, -6, 7.
Boll b Chen 11, 5, 1 (Chen retired injured)

Final:

Samsonov b Boll -9, 9, 6, 8, 9.

CROYDON QUOTES

• VLADIMIR SAMSONOV

"If I can play as well in Athens as I have done here then I have hopes that I can beat the Chinese".

• TIMO BOLL "I think Vladimir can beat the Chinese - he just needs to lift his game as he did here and especially against me".

• KALIKINOS KREANGA

"I am playing all round the world to get top class practice, even in Japan and last week in Sweden with the Swedish Olympic players. I am in my best shape for three years, but in Athens you have to be lucky with the draw. Greece is a very safe country, security will be very good".

• MATTHEW SYED

"Although there were no Chinese from China here, we did have two from Europe, Ma Wenge and Chen Weixing. I was delighted with the crowd, a full house for the final session".

A Second View on the Ocean International Cup by Ken Muhr

WITH a former world singles champion, two world team champions, 3 former world no.1s and several Athens Olympics contenders – and all competitors top international players – the Ocean International Cup, part of the Kenshoen Super Circuit, at Croydon on a sweltering 23rd July, just had to be a great event. And so it was.

One of the best rallies of the competition proved to be the turning point in giving Vladimir Samsonov (Belarus) the final victory – a battle of former world no.1s - over Timo Boll (Germany). Samsonov was a game and 0-7 down when he won a long, long-range, loop-the-loop exchange which set him up to take that game and a run of 17 points for the loss of only 2. Boll as ever kept hammering away with whippy loops, but Samsonov added more sharp attack to his normal smooth containment to maintain the upper hand for the rest of the match. If the Belarussian was a

“BOLL - A POPULAR LOSER”

popular winner, the ever-smiling Boll was also a popular loser.

Samsonov had the hardest passage to the final, via the dangerous Ma Wenge (China) and the even more intimidating Kalinkos Kreanga (Greece), against whom he calmly absorbed and steered back an onslaught of gigantic loops. If Kreanga can wow a London crowd when he is tired (from a training camp), just what will he be like in peak fitness in front of his home Olympics supporters?! We will soon know.

The other player who looked very dangerous was Chen Weixing (Austria), whose brand of tight pimples-chop backhand and vicious looped forehand proved far too good for Gareth Herbert and Zoran Primorac. Unfortunately he apparently injured his right hip against Primorac, and after he had taken the first game over Boll it quickly became evident that he was struggling. He played (and lost) two more games before retiring, but should have retired earlier. A question: with Ma Wenge also (temporarily) injuring himself through jumping a barrier against Syed, should physiotherapists/paramedics have been present at this world class event? At the beginning of the competition I had backed Samsonov to win the Cup while Brighton's John Clarke backed Chen – but for Chen's injury, John's judgement might have proved to be prescient.

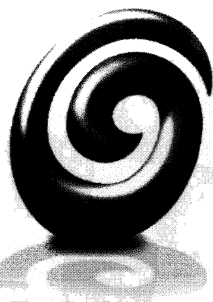
Although they looked in very good condition, sadly 'veterans' Jorgen Persson (Sweden), former world champion and no.1, and Zoran Primorac (Croatia), wonderful players in their time, were off the pace and exited early, frequently missing the ball. After a dodgy start, England's

Matthew Syed, who had precious little time to practice around planning/organising the event, performed credibly against Chinese former world team champion Ma Wenge, making some fantastic returns of Ma's round-shouldered loops. Syed's England colleague, Gareth Herbert, invited at short notice to replace the injured young Michael Maze (Denmark), unfortunately made little impression on Chen Weixing. This underlines a problem with fielding English players in this class: although given the will and table practice time Matthew Syed could maintain international standard for a few years yet, other English players are not (consistently) good enough to compete at this level. Alan Cook, although current English champion, is past it (this level), and Andrew Baggaley (and Gareth Herbert), despite his (their) talent, has not made it.

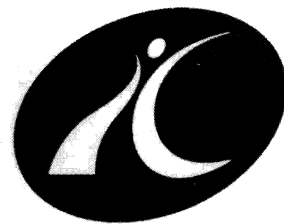
One aspect of the presentation, or rather, some spectators reaction to it, disappointed me. Jon Kaufman had been asked to bring along some young percussionists, and I thought their drum roles after good rallies added something to the atmosphere. True, they got a bit too exuberant and starting marking every point, but with a bit more guidance I think they could have been orchestrated to be more discriminating. So I was upset when one spectator, whose table tennis upbringing was perhaps the silent sterility of single table club halls, repeatedly yelled out 'No drums' to a chorus of support plus a chorus of those who wanted him and them to shut up – the 2,500 audience was definitely divided in this matter.

I also felt ashamed at the discourtesy to these kids, who soon packed their instruments away and left, but the bigger issue is how table tennis can appeal to a wider (and younger) public, and a bit of excitement following special points rather than just polite hand-clapping is, I feel, a better way of achieving this. For the same reason I liked Richard Yule's confident 'MCing', and was happy enough with the bursts of canned music filling whatever gap there was left between points, though I accept the volume could have been turned down a shade - and some thought the musical interludes a little tacky. Perhaps TTN could conduct a survey on views on these matters?

That said, the actual table tennis was mostly pretty good, which is the important thing, and Matthew Syed and his backers and helpers should be congratulated on another great success. I hope you at least saw it on BBC TV.



OceanInternational



KENSHOEN
GROUP

VETERAN'S DIARY



by Jim Beckley



TERRY'S WOES

I'm told all is well with veteran Terry Donlon (above) after his accident at the World Veterans Championships in Yokohama, Japan, earlier this summer.

For those not au fait with Terry's troubles, the Stockport player injured his calf muscle in the early stages of the championships and despite a vain effort to carry on was forced to sit out most of the event.

After a short period in the local hospital he returned to a hero's welcome - in a wheelchair. Pushed around by some attractive Japanese ladies, Terry soon perked up and before long was able to get around on crutches (see picture)

"Whilst Terry would have loved to play, because that's what he came to do in the first place, he seemed to enjoy all the attention he got, especially from the local ladies," my contact tells me.

FAMOUS FOUR GO MISSING

Eighteen vets went to play in the German tournament in Neustadt but only 14 returned. But that's not unusual in the unpredictable world of veterans table tennis.

After finishing their matches they decided to take a trip to the old town of Heildberg, do a bit of

shopping and then return to the airport for the flight home.

But my contact tells me the famous four led by Fred Lockwood failed to put in appearance when they needed too and missed their plane.

"As far as I am aware they went to the local bank to get some cash and must have forgotten all about coming home. We tried to raise them by mobile but to no avail. They had to wait several hours for the next plane.

But at least Fred got a medal for his troubles reaching the final of the over 70s.

IT'S A MAN'S WORLD

It seems men outnumber women by more than 3 to 1. Latest figures show that membership to the VETTS shows a big majority in the men's department - with 666 men compared with only 203 women.

Why is that? Are women more reluctant to give their ages away? Or is there some other ulterior motive. Whatever the reason - since the VETTS began 1188 men have joined against 316 women, again a ratio of over 3 to 1.

So if you fancy a fling ladies, then join the vets. With those odds you could have a partner within weeks - or even sooner!

Ages range from 40 to 80+ But who is the 80+ member? Does he or she play regularly, where do they come from? Just who is the VETTS oldest member?

MARTIN GIVES BLOOD

Our Treasurer Martin Clark has been giving blood for the past 40 years. At a recent dinner in Worcester he was awarded a crystal plate to commemorate making 75 donations. Martin commented, "that he looks upon the situation rather like a blood bank deposit, in that you never know if you may need to take some out! Hopefully not."

Does this put a slightly different light on the consideration that many have towards accountants whereby 'you can't get blood out of a stone'.

On a more serious note Martin reflects on a thousands of cases like that of little Jack who was only two and a half years old when he was hit by some devastating news. He had cancer of the bladder. So it was time for some intensive chemotherapy



It's not often that **MARTIN CLARK** (above right) our treasurer, wins trophies these days. But last week he picked up a nice piece of crystal and got a good lunch as well for providing 75 pints of blood to his local Blood Transfusion Service.

treatment. Unfortunately, chemotherapy destroys the body's ability to produce blood cells. So like many other cancer patients (including Martin's cousin Janie), Jack had transfusions of red cells and platelets to keep him going. He is now six and happily in remission.

To potential donors, Martin says, "Giving blood is about ordinary people helping other ordinary people, just as in table tennis circles where volunteers give of their considerable time freely for the benefit of our beloved sport. Perhaps their critics should look at the wider picture before taking every opportunity to score political points."

ROY EDGED OUT

Edges and nets are part and parcel of our sport and Roy Norton is not the sort of person to let the odd edge upset him.

As everyone on the vets scene knows, Roy usually accepts the occasional bad break with the

decorum that he is well known for. We all get our fair share of luck and what goes against you one day will be reversed the next.

But a story comes my way that when Roy was playing at the 48th German Veterans Championships in Neustadt last month he had a stroke of bad luck that cost him dearly.

Roy was winning 10-9 in the fifth and final game when his opponent, a former world champion, returned a shot that hit the side of the table. Well, that's what Roy thought only to be challenged by his opponent who was convinced it had hit the edge and therefore counted.

So a decision had to be made and the person who was umpiring the match was none other than Jovial John Williamson.

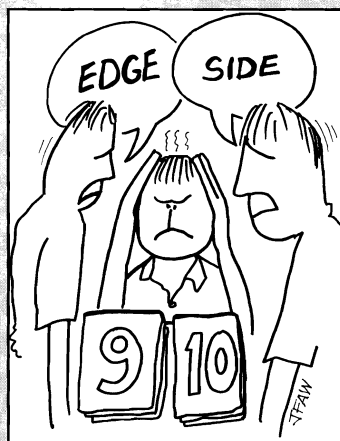
"John was in a difficult position, and must have felt under pressure to not to be seen to giving the point to a fellow Brit, so he sided with my opponent. I honestly don't think he was certain whether the ball had hit the edge or the side," explained Roy.

A pregnant pause ensued whilst all parties decided what to do next. Roy was certain it had hit the side while his opponent was equally adamant that it had hit the edge of the table.

A let might have been the best thing to call but JW sided with the German and the rest is history. Roy lost the game 16-14 and the match...

"It was my big chance to have beaten a world champion, but instead I was beaten by a doubtful decision," said the doughty defender.

I'm told that Roy and John remain the best of pals.



REYNOLDS MAKES OCEAN INTERNATIONAL FINAL

WITH England players Matthew Syed and Gareth Herbert going out in the first round of the Ocean International Cup it was Reading League Table Tennis player Michael Reynolds who went all the way to the final.

The International, County and British League Umpire was rewarded for many years of dedicated service to table tennis, by not only umpiring in the Semi-finals but also the final between the World's two top players, Timo Boll (Germany) and the eventual winner of the £100,00 event, broadcast on BBC TV, Vladimir Samsonov (Belarus).



MICHAEL REYNOLDS (centre) pictured with the Army Technical Foundation College Team. Whilst pictured below are BROADMOOR'S World & UK Championship Squad

BROADMOOR

Broadmoor Table Tennis club has had its most successful season. They had five teams in the Bracknell and Wokingham District Table Tennis League and two teams in the Aldershot League.

The 'A' side won the Premier Division in Bracknell and although they were runners up in Aldershot's Premier League they did win the Handicap Cup.

The 'B' side won Division Three in the Bracknell League and also the Howard Shield competition and was runners up in the Divisional Cup in Aldershot.

The C side won Bracknell's Division Four.

On a wider scale Broadmoor were also successful in the UK Corporate games 2003. Achieving three UK Champions and various other medallists they emerged the overall winners in the Table Tennis competition. As a result of this five



players went to Thessalonika in Greece in November. All returned as World Champions. In addition they also won Division One – competing against 44 teams to gain this honour. June 2004 once again saw

Broadmoor competing in the Corporate Games in Newcastle. They retained the overall trophy for Table Tennis with two UK champions plus various other medallists.

CORNWALL SUMMER COACHING

Marketa Myskova ran a successful summer coaching course for over 20 players

Cippenham Table Tennis Club's final event of the season, the Veterans' Summer 2-Star Open, produced a thrilling climax in the Men's Singles event, writes Graham Trimming.

Welshman Steve Hall, winner of the corresponding event last year, beat the 2002 winner Dave Harvey 11-7 in the fifth game of the final after coming back from two games to one down. Tight matches were the order of the day for the unorthodox Hall as he won 11-9 in the fifth game in his first group match against Cippenham's Slough League Division 2 player Terry Boxall and then eliminated Tony Brown by the same score in the second round proper. The four games he needed to dispatch Diccon Gray in the quarters and Hari Gehlot in the semis were easy by comparison.

Dave Harvey also required five games to get past Dave Crowley in the second round and then four each in his quarter and semi against Karl Bushell and Paul Baker respectively.

The round of the last sixteen brought some of the closest matches in a very evenly contested event. The two eventual finalists were not alone in needing five games to progress. The same was true

Cippenham Veterans' Summer 2-Star Open



Pictured (l.t.r.) DAVE HARVEY, STEVE HALL and REGINA DONOVAN

for Steve Davis, who beat Ramesh Gehlot 12-10 in the fifth, for Paul Baker 11-9 against England deaf international Bela Hegedus and Clive Banham 11-8 against Patrick Caunt. Diccon Gray, over Derek Holman, Hari Gehlot over Paul Beck and

Karl Bushell over Terry Guymer required only four games – none were three-straight.

For ETTA National Development Manager and once top 75 England man Diccon Gray, this was his comeback tournament and he proved to be a dark horse. Recently signed to play for Cippenham in the Veterans' British League next season, Gray beat the January tournament's winner Fred Dove in his group, and then beat Tony Needham and seventh seed Holman before falling to top seed Hall in the quarters. The other top Cippenham player Paul Baker went one better after taking the place of absent third seed David Harding. Baker won his group and then progressed to the semi-final with wins over Hegedus and Banham (11-8 in the fifth) before succumbing to Harvey.

Fifth seed Chris Pickard did not even make it into the main competition. Having been beaten by Patrick Caunt three-straight in the groups he suffered by being pushed into third position on a tie-break.

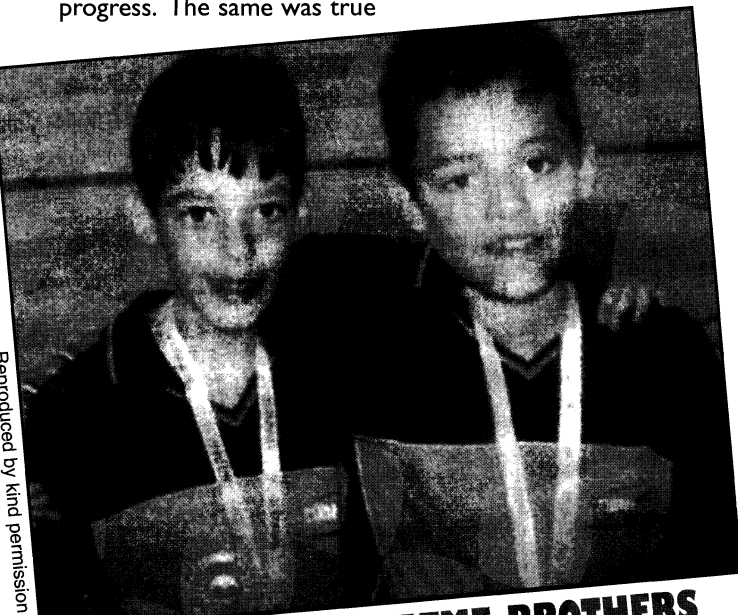
Regina Donovan made it a Welsh double by taking her third Women's Single title in succession. Donovan needed five games to make it past

Sharon Mitchell in the semi-final and then beat Carmen Vajdi in four games of a dour struggle that lasted fifty minutes and featured multiple deuces in the final. Vajdi beat Janet Brown three-straight in the semi-final after the latter had won in five over "new vet" Diane Melville in the quarters.

Terry Boxall made his mark again in the consolation event when he beat Slough representative player John Barclay but he then went out to Roland McLellan in an event won by Mike Wilkins over Dave Adamson. In the women's consolation Flavia Wade battled her way through two five-game matches against Margaret Thornton and Jan Curtis before being soundly beaten by Audrey Robinson in the final.

Organiser Graham Trimming and Referee Mick Strode ensured that the 69 entrants were (nearly) all able to get home before the start of the Euro 2004 football final.

Results:
MS: Steve Hall (WAL) bt Dave Harvey (Gs) 3, -7, -8, 9, 7
WS: Regina Donovan (WAL) bt Carmen Vajdi (Sy) -9, 10, 13, 13
MCons: Mike Wilkins (Bu) bt Dave Adamson (Gs) -7, 9, 4, 7
WCons: Audrey Robinson (Bu) bt Flavia Wade (Mi) 6, 4, 3



NORFOLK'S MAHATME BROTHERS

THE CFE Walton TTC's inaugural junior handicap tournament's main event was won by GYAN MAHATME when he beat his brother MATTHEW, in the final in the 5th game, following a close fought battle.

The consolation event was won by Daniel Denton from Hannah Barker in three straight games.

The tournament, which will be held again next year as sponsor by Colin Froude Enterprises and Bribar Table Tennis

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A TRANSPLANT MAKES!

25 year old Irfan Sadiq of South Bank, Middlesbrough, was back enjoying his table tennis at the Ormesby Club just six weeks after undergoing a double decker kidney transplant. "Enjoying" is the key word here. Irfan spent several years doing peritoneal dialysis at home daily and during the last year attended the James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough three times a week for haemodialysis, writes Jose Ransome & Brenda Stephenson.

He is feeling great now after receiving both kidneys from a two-year-old donor in a new transplant procedure at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle. Irfan's family came to England from Kenya and being of Asian origin there was some difficulty in finding a donor with a compatible tissue match. There was disappointment at first when it was found that his oldest brother was a 100% match but that other requirements could not be met.

Irfan is really smiling now. He has put on some weight, is feeling good and has gradually worked his way back into the sport, playing for Ormesby C in the 2nd Division of the Cleveland Summer League and beating opponents he would have had no chance against previously. Irfan started playing table tennis with Oz, one of his three brothers, in South Bank at about 8 years of age, moving on to play at the North Ormesby Club where the late Jim Poole was the main influence for the youngsters. When his kidneys failed, Irfan had to give up playing the sport he loved.

He was just 7 years old in 1986 when he was diagnosed with Nephrotic Syndrome, which is a degenerative kidney disorder, after breaking a thighbone and being in traction for six weeks. He coped with medication until dialysis became necessary in 1998, but still managed to finish school at Gillbrook Secondary School as well as an art course. Being unable to work full time, Irfan did voluntary work as a classroom assistant and at the Youth Club after school. He gets a lot of support from his Mother, Fehmida, who is a qualified social worker and his brothers and is known in the family as "Cinderfella".

Today Irfan is looking forward to the future. He wants to improve his table tennis and is looking for a job in fashion retail. Meanwhile, as well as playing table tennis for which he uses the penholder grip, Irfan keeps busy with photography which he enjoys, riding his bike, as well as playing the keyboard and guitar, for which he composes his own music. He has also been practising for his driving test. What a difference a transplant makes!

"I'd like to say how grateful I am to the people at the Ormesby Club for their understanding and help in getting me back into table tennis," said Irfan when we interviewed him at the Club recently. "Table tennis is a great sport. It is also stress relieving because you can take out your frustrations when hitting the ball and forget about other problems. And for me it is the best way of socialising". In addition to a full time job, Irfan is looking forward to the Transplant Games next year and we wish him every success and the best of health in the future.

Irfan's spectacular progress and return to table tennis is due to great thoughtfulness and kindness in the face of tragedy by the donor's family and this certainly highlights the importance of carrying a donor card and perhaps contributing to similar success stories in the future.

HILTON WINS HALIFAX OPEN

FORMER European champion and No 1 seed John Hilton won the 2nd ever Halifax Veterans Open Championships played at the table tennis centre over two sweltering days 14th and 15th August.

The event organised by Barry Snowden was once again well supported with an entry of in excess of 50 players from as far afield as Surrey, Oxfordshire and even a Scottish international. The field included over 75% county representatives as well as 7 international players.

Saturday saw the mens and ladies singles groups and the biggest shock of the group stages was by a home player as Alan

Dickinson won group D beating the number 4 seed, English ranked No.18 Tony Gelder of Durham.

All other groups in the mens event went as per the seedings with the exception of group E as Paul McKreith from Bradford, a regular visitor to the Club Lane centre, took the runners-up spot over Lincolnshire's former international Brian Allison.

After scoring a four game victory against Mick Wilcockson of Selby, Hilton faced Gelder in the Quarter final and after taking the third game to pull himself back into the contest, a recurrence of a back injury saw Gelder failing to compete in the fourth game as Hilton moved in to the semi-final.

Last years winner Keith Williams eased passed Snowden in the first knockout round 11-7, 11-9, 11-7 but was beaten by Malcolm Lusk of Northumberland in the quarter Final as Lusk took a 12-10, 12-10, 9-11, 11-6 victory to book a semi final place against Hilton.

The first semi final saw Hilton comfortably account for Lusk 11-5, 11-5, 11-5 as the dual surface bat with clever tactics employed to great effect by Lusk earlier in the event proved no trouble to the former European Champion.

The second semi final went the way of West Yorkshire as Dyson scored an impressive 11-8, 6-11, 11-7, 11-9 victory over Harding in a thrilling four gamer of high standard attacking play right from the top drawer.

The final proved to an anti-climax as Hilton comfortably overcame the attacking style of Dyson and recorded an easy 11-7, 11-2, 11-5 victory to secure the first prize of £100.

RIDER TAKES WOMEN'S TITLE

The ladies event went the way of the home county as Sandra Rider of Leeds beat her doubles partner Shirley Gelder of Durham in the final.

The ladies entry of 10 players were divided into two groups of five playing a round robin with the winner and runner up qualifying for the main knockout and the first shock was in Group B when Gelder beat Rider in four games 6-11, 11-6, 11-9, 11-7 to take the group with Rider qualifying as runner up.

Group A also saw a surprise as top seed Linda Simpson was relegated to the runners up spot as Janet Brown of Oxfordshire took the group with an unbeaten performance.

The first semi final saw Rider ease past Brown in three as did Gelder against top seed Simpson to bring about repeat clash between Rider and Gelder but on this occasion the Yorkshire player gained revenge for her defeat by the Durham player and ran out 11-9, 11-6, 11-6 victor to take the £30 first prize.

Gelder's disappointment was short lived as the following day she partnered Rider to a doubles success as they won a four pairing round robin event without dropping a single game as Simpson and Brown took the runners-up spot.

As well as the main ladies event there was a Band A knockout event which was won by Pat Thorley of Derbyshire who beat Linda Sanderson of Leeds 11-5, 11-4, 10-12, 11-6 in the final.

The mens Band A event was won by Andy Frain of Stoke who beat Pontefract's Steve Morris in the final 11-6 11-9 11-9. First time entrant Frain had an impressive tournament recording all his victories in this event over players ranked nationally higher than himself as he beat Ray Rider, Paul Stansfield and Brian Allison en route to the final.

There was also a mens Band B event which saw Manchester's Clive Strettle beat Peter Holbrook of Keighley 11-8 11-3 11-5 in the final.

John Hardcastle once again refereed the event in his own immaculate style as the event finished in reasonable time both days. John was ably supported by the excellent Hull secretary Brenda Hudson and they both even found time to sell a few raffle tickets in aid of the Halifax centre. The glamorous Tracy White was also on hand to sell a number of raffle tickets on the Saturday.

Organiser Snowden presented all the prizes and asked the players to show their appreciation for the canteen staff who were kept busy during the two days. Snowden also thanked all players for their support and looked forward to seeing them at next seasons event.

KOREA'S RYU SEUNG MIN WINS MENS SINGLES GOLD

KOREA'S RYU SEUNG MIN beat China's Wang Hao in the final of the Men's Singles at the Olympic Games in Athens on Monday 23 August 2004 to the unbridled delight of cheering Korean supporters.

It is one month short of five years since the Korean had beaten Wang Hao in international competition; on that occasion it was the final of the boys' singles event at the Asian Junior Championships; the next six encounters had all gone to Wang Hao. It was RYU Seung Min's speed and his dazzling forehand that secured victory as he sped around the court, demonstrating his lightning footwork to the full. He maintained the pressure and forced errors from Wang Hao; leading by three games to one he had opportunities in the fifth to end proceedings but, to the eventual silver medallist's credit, the latter recovered and thus reduced the arrears to a single game.

Had the chance gone? Had Wang Hao received a lifeline and how would the Korean react? The answer came promptly and positively; Ryu Seung Min continued in the express line, accelerated into overdrive, won a close sixth game and ran into the arms of his coach who had masterminded the duel, the very amiable KIM Taek Soo. The Korean had prevented a clean sweep of titles by the Chinese and had emulated the feat of his compatriot, Yoo Nam Kyu, who had won the Men's Singles title the first time ever that table tennis was included in the Olympic Games, in Seoul in 1988.

The last non Chinese player to stand at the top of the winners' rostrum at an Olympic Games was Sweden's Jan-Ove Waldner in 1992; since then every gold has gone the way of the superb Chinese players. The legendary Swede, who had won silver in Sydney four years earlier, was not able to complete a collection of medals of every colour; in the bronze medal match he lost in five games to Wang Liqin of China; Waldner never reached the heights achieved against China's Ma Lin and Germany's Timo Boll earlier in the tournament but considering recent injuries, fourth place was a most creditable performance.

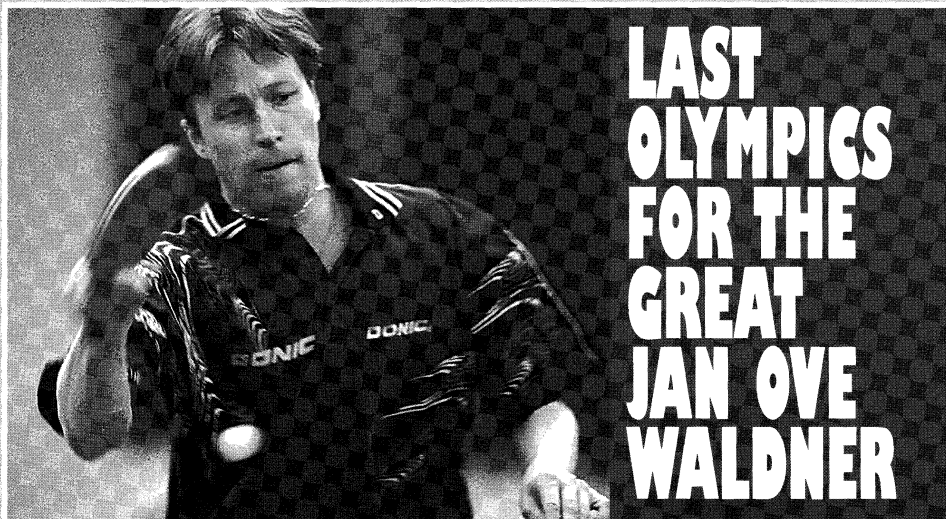
Undoubtedly, Athens 2004 is the last time we will see Waldner compete in the Olympic Games; a fact that was today acknowledged by the large Swedish contingent in the crowd who gave him a send off that would have befitted an Olympic champion.

However, the day belonged to Korea, to a player who responded to the challenge and to a player who is a true gentleman, polite, courteous and extremely well mannered; a credit to Korea and to the sport of table tennis, Ryu Seung Min, Olympic champion.

Men's Singles: Semi-Finals:

WANG Hao (CHN) bt WANG Liqin (CHN) 11-8, 11-5, 6-11, 11-9, 11-9

RYU Seung Min (KOR) bt Jan-Ove WALDNER



(SWE) 11-9, 9-11, 11-9, 11-5, 11-5

Men's Singles: Bronze Medal Match:

WANG Liqin (CHN) bt Jan-Ove Waldner (SWE) 10-12, 11-3, 11-8, 11-7, 11-9.

Men's Singles: Final:

Ryu Seung Min (KOR) bt Wang Hao (CHN) 11-3, 9-11, 11-9, 11-9, 11-13, 11-9.

Men's Doubles: Bronze Medal Match:

Michael MAZE / Finn TUGWELL (DEN) bt Dimitrij MAZUNOV / Alexei SMIRNOV (RUS) 11-3, 11-8, 12-14, 3-11, 11-9, 11-8

Men's Doubles: Final:

CHEN Qi / MA Lin (CHN) bt KO Lai Chak / LI Ching (HKG) 11-6, 11-9, 7-11, 11-8, 8-11, 11-5.

Denmark's Michael Maze & Finn Tugwell were Europe's only medal winners, winning Bronze in the Mens Doubles.

CHINA'S ZHANG YINING WINS WOMEN'S GOLD

THE video screen showed tears in the eyes of Zhang Yining as the Chinese National Anthem was played. She was an Olympic champion, the gold medal was around her neck and, in the Galatsi Stadium at the Olympic Games in Athens on Sunday 22 August 2004, she once again stood on the highest step of the rostrum, having two days earlier won the Women's Doubles with Wang Nan.

In the final she had grown in confidence as the match progressed; a relatively close first game under her belt she blossomed and overwhelmed her adversary, the surprise finalist KIM Hyang Mi of North Korea. The latter attacked quickly from the backhand, the side of the racket on which she has medium length pimped rubber; the effect is

that the ball travels fast but with minimal topspin, it is a stroke that caused earlier opponents vast problems but ZHANG Yining, the player who occupies the number one ranked position in the World, had all the answers.

Winning a close game can often be the spur to success and so it proved with Zhang Yining; she moved well, played her favoured forehand topspin as often as possible and when the need arose was able to block and force errors. Kim Hyang Mi had reached the final by beating Li Jia Wei of Singapore and, once again, the latter was to suffer defeat and was to finish the tournament in the worst position of all, fourth, one place shy of a medal. The medal went to the defensive skills of Korea's Kim Kyung Ah who wore down her Singaporean adversary. Li Jia Wei made a good start by winning the first game but from then on backspin play proved the key and the Korean, having lost in the bronze medal match in the Women's Doubles by the narrowest of margins with Kim Bok Rae, had a place on the medal podium.

Women's Singles: Semi-Finals

ZHANG Yining (CHN) bt KIM Kyung Ah (KOR) 13-11, 11-8, 11-6, 5-11, 11-8.

KIM Hyang Mi (PRK) bt LI Jia Wei (SIN) 8-11, 11-6, 0-11, 8-11, 11-8, 11-6, 11-9.

Women's Singles: Bronze Medal Match:

KIM Kyung Ah (KOR) bt LI Jia Wei (SIN) 9-11, 11-8, 11-7, 11-5, 11-8

Women's Singles: Final:

ZHANG Yining (CHN) bt KIM Hyang Mi (PRK) 11-8, 11-7, 11-2, 11-2

Women's Doubles Bronze Medal Match:

GUO Yue / NIU Jianfeng (CHN) bt KIM Bok Rae / KIM Kyung Ah (KOR)

11-7, 5-11, 11-4, 11-9, 7-11, 9-11, 11-9

Women's Doubles Final:

WANG Nan / ZHANG Yining (CHN) bt LEE Eun Sil / SEOK Eun Mi (KOR) 11-9, 11-7, 11-6, 11-6.

UMPIRING AT THE OLYMPICS - ANDY SEWARD IN ATHENS

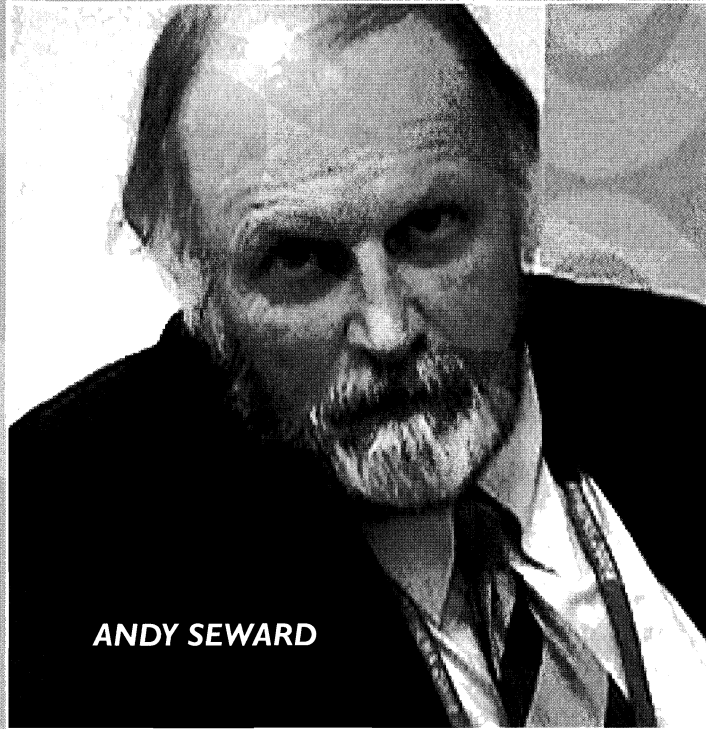
WILTSHIRE UMPIRE ANDY SEWARD has officiated at three world championships and many other international events, but umpiring at the Athens Olympics was the pinnacle of his career, writes Ken Muhr.

"Thoroughly enjoyable. It was a fantastic honour to be selected and slightly different from other events I have done, for apart from two Australians and two Greeks, there was only one umpire from each of 20 other countries. We were put into twelve pairs, and these were changed every three or four days. But the togetherness, the camaraderie, made life so much better both on and off the table."

What helped build the camaraderie was that although the fairly basic hotel the umpires were staying in served its purpose in other ways, it did not serve evening meals! Andy explained: "We therefore found a restaurant near the hotel, and every night from 9pm onwards the umpires would start meeting in the restaurant, until one evening there were nineteen of us there. The camaraderie was so good that when we went sightseeing, we went as a group."

Andy was full of praise for the organisation. "The play was excellent, the presentation, the timing and the choreography superb. The umpire's uniform was excellent - the same uniform in every sport. What I loved was the girls who led on the players and umpires reaching the barriers at the same time, reaching the umpire's chair at the same time, and walking off at the same time. I would give it 10 out of 10!

At the start of the match the television man gave the signal to start. The players understood that



ANDY SEWARD

the start was under the control of TV!"

He gave a fascinating insight into

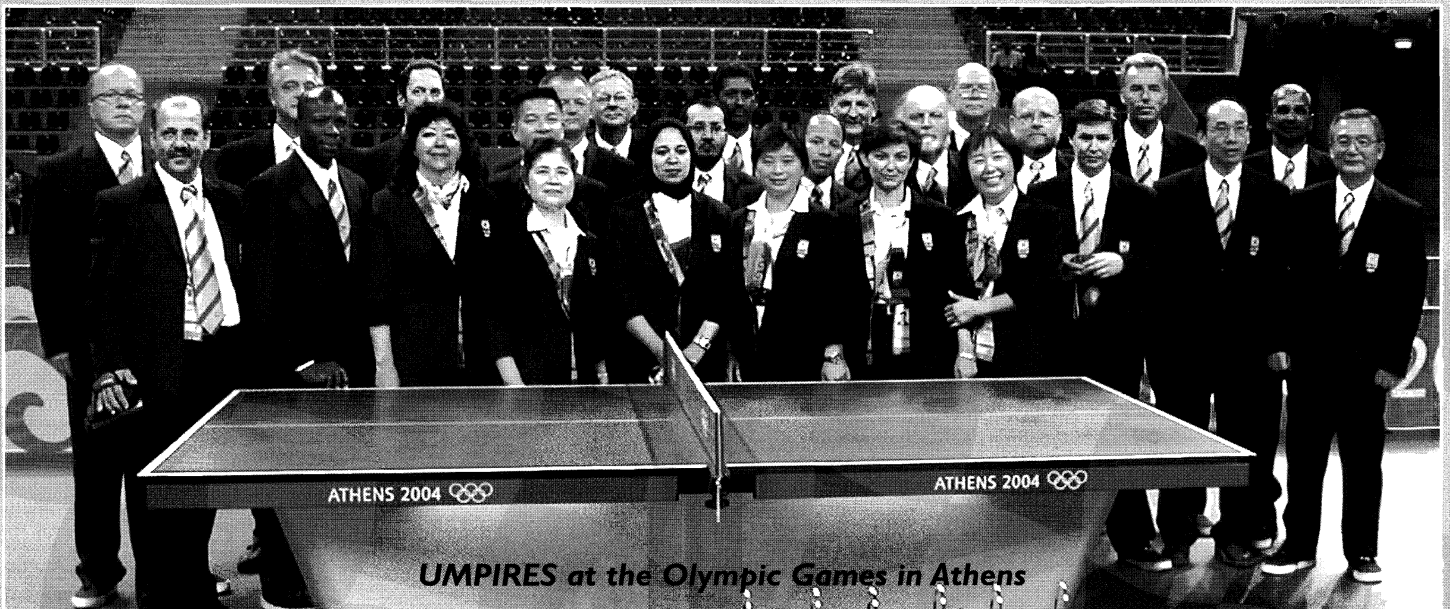
'Room 61', where the players met to have their clothing and equipment checked, and offending

advertisements were blacked out or covered over. It was also where the umpires met.

"Everything had to be done in this room, the toss-up for service and for where the coaches would sit, and the selection of the ball. And you would then go through to the waiting area from which the players would march on into the hall."

Andy soaked up the atmosphere. "I loved it when the Chinese in the audience raised the flag and screamed, and I was assistant umpire of Waldner versus Ma Lin, when Waldner, now 38, pulled out all the stops to win!"

The only slight minus about the event was that the transport arrangements were not always perfect. "Sometimes when we had finished working after 9pm, the coach to take us back to the hotel had gone, but there was perfectly good enough public transport to get us back." Andy's overall verdict on his participation in the Athens Olympic Games: "A fantastic experience!"



UMPIRES at the Olympic Games in Athens

ANOTHER STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION - SILVER IN BUDAPEST



ON THE PODIUM: England Cadet Boys team stand proudly on the Silver medal spot with Coach Jia Yi Liu.

EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS 2004

YOUNG England took another step in the right direction at the 47th European Youth Championships in Budapest during July. The Cadet Boys' team take pride of place of the English Squad taking part, writes Peter Charters.

European medals have been a rarity for too long, but the cadet boys returned from Hungary with a team silver and having gained a new found respect for English Table Tennis from other countries and players throughout the continent. The Junior Girls' team also made their presence felt and with the same players available for selection in the same age categories next season, the other countries of Europe will wish to avoid England.

The Cadet Boys' team of Paul Drinkhall, Darius Knight, Gavin and Bradley Evans, sailed through their group, beating Ukraine 3-0, Serbia and Montenegro 3-0 and Romania 3-1, Darius losing for the first time in this last match. Coach Jia Yi Liu stuck with England's top duo Paul and Darius throughout the team event, but with the reliability of Bradley and the huge potential of Gavin available on the bench, the back up was potentially strong if needed.

Playing for the 1 to 16 spot, England dispatched useful Danish and Portuguese teams, although the latter were the first to take even a single game off the Drinkhall/Knight doubles partnership. The semi-final against Turkey threatened to be tough, as last year's cadet singles finalist, Peng Fei Jiang, was in their line up and had remained unbeaten in the team campaign. Jiang went on to win the singles in Budapest with his teammate Gencay Menge taking the cadet boys' runner's-up spot. First

match on, Darius stormed to an 11-6 in the fifth game victory over Jiang, whilst Paul comfortably kept his 100% singles record, although another game was dropped in the doubles before England confirmed their place in the final 3-0 over dangerous rivals. France had overcome Germany in the other semi-final. In a packed arena, full of atmosphere, hooters, rattles and flags, England stormed into a 2-0 lead against France, Darius beating the French number one, Abdel-Kader Salifou 3-1 and Paul beating Vincent Baubet by the same score line. The English doubles pair had not been too severely tested before the final, although some small vulnerabilities had been seen. Now, however, the French pair were determined to put Paul and Darius under pressure as the English partnership went for gold. The whole complexion of the final changed as England faltered. France took the doubles 3-1. Back in it, the French were inspired. Paul lost for the first time in Budapest and Darius went down to Baubet in the decider, giving the French a 3-2 victory. To the many English vocal supporters it felt like a gold lost rather than a silver won, but these young England boys had done an incredible job. With Paul and Darius, remarkably still in the cadet age group next year, this was an outstanding effort for ones so young and gained the reputation amongst most neutral coaches in Budapest that they were the two most promising cadet boys at the event. The presence in Budapest of an even younger Gavin Evans with the experience of his first European Youth Championships, gives even more optimism for the future.

At the completion of the team event, the standard of our top two cadet boys was acknowledged in the singles seeding, with Paul at

one and Darius at four. (The Junior seedings had been done prior to the championships). The Junior Girls team knew they were in for a difficult time in their group as they started in the top category from their previous performances in Novi Sad in 2003. Reverses to France and Romania left England to play Slovakia to avoid last place in the group and then having to struggle to keep their top 16 place. Joanna Parker set the scene with a crushing win over Dominika Kolarova, Kelly Sibley battled to a victory over Lenka Kmotorkova 11-9 in the fifth and Abigail Embling completed the team triumph with three close but winning games against Olga Dzelinska. The next opponents were Croatia in a vital play-off decider to achieve a definite top 16 place. The spirit and character of the three girls and coach Alan Cooke was stretched all the way as they fought back from two down to leave Kelly the task of beating Suncica Vugrinec to take England into the top flight. Vugrinec had earlier beaten Joanna, whilst Kelly had been defeated by Sanja Paukovic 9-11 in the fifth. England had been kept in the match when abigail beat Christina Santaj 11-9 in the fifth, Croatia having been two points away from a team victory. Joanna had brought the teams level by beating Paukovic, leaving Kelly with the responsibility of taking her team forward. She typified the fighting spirit of the team, battling through to win in four games. These qualities were not enough, however, to defeat a powerful Serbian side for a place in the top 8. Joanna was outstanding against Ema Recko, winning 11-6 in the fifth, but this turned out to be England's only success. Playing for positions 9 to 16, the junior girls first defeated

Belgium 3-0 and the Netherlands 3-2. Against the Dutch, Joanna won two but again Kelly was called upon to play at 2-2. Kelly took on Sigrid Van Ulsen who had taken Joanna to 12-10 in the fifth game, but Kelly was flying. Although this was a crucial match, Kelly romped home taking the fourth game 11-0!!

Kelly Sibley shows a passion for winning when she puts on an England shirt abroad which is not always seen at home events. She becomes animated and in her own way inspirational to the rest of the England players and supporters and winning on two occasions with the match standing at 2-2 shows she has the courage to perform well under international pressure. This result set up a 9th/10th place play off with Russia who were one of the three championship favourites. England went down 2-3 in this match with Joanna and Kelly contributing one each. A final 10th position will be a good launching pad for next year's championship. With all three girls still juniors next year, and if they can retain the commitment to the England cause shown in Budapest, next year could be interesting. 21st was the position last year so the junior boys started in a group that they would be expected to win. A 3-0 win over Ireland was followed by a 1-3 disappointing loss to Finland - Adam Bleakley being the only contributor. Coach Carl Preatn stuck with the same three players to take on Turkey in the last group encounter. Turkey had beaten Finland 3-1, so only a clean sweep by England would give them top spot in the group. Preatn's faith was repaid when Craig Bryant, Tim Yarnall and Bleakley strode to a 3-0 win, each match being won three straight.

In the play-off match to qualify for a top 16 spot, England went down 0-3 to Croatia, but with both Bleakley and Yarnall taking their opponents to a fifth game decider. In the next group, England were fighting for the 17th position. A very close 2-3 defeat at the hands of Switzerland, with Bryant winning England's two, left England with a potential top position of 21st. Two promising cadets, Danny Reed and David Meads, had been included in the junior squad and at this juncture, coach Preatn decided to give them an outing against Slovenia. Reed played well against Tomaz Roudi, but went down 4-11 in the fifth. Bryant levelled the match score, only for Meads to put England ahead with a three straight win over Yaka Krenker. Bryant, performing well and taking responsibility as the junior boys top player, closed the match out with a 3-1 victory over Roudi.

Yarnall and Reed scored for England in the team's 2-3 loss to Norway, with Meads missing out this time, whilst Bleakley and the two youngsters beat Lithuania 3-0 to finish in 23rd position.

Unlike the junior boys, the cadet girls started in one of the top groups, due in the main to Kelly Sibley's contribution the previous year. Melanie Farquhar, in her first appearance in a championship, got herself and England off to a great start with an 11-8 win in the 5th over Alexa Szvitacs of Hungary. Unfortunately this was England's only success against the home nation as neither Lauren Springthorpe nor Mel could take advantage of the early lead.

Out of the group of four, Hungary finished third with England in fourth position. Poland and Ukraine, the other two teams in the group, were very strong. England's second opponents, Poland, went on to win team silver and included Natalia Partyka, the eventual singles champion and it became Emma Vickers first taste of European quality table tennis to take on Partyka. The poles were just too strong for Mel and Emma and against Ukraine it was left to Lauren to show that she is competitive at this level of table tennis, beating their number two player. This was England's only success against the top two teams

SCROLL OF HONOUR

Gold Medal Winners

JUNIORS

Boys Team: Germany
Boys Singles: Janos Jakab - Hungary

Boys Doubles: Tiago Apolonia & Marcos Freitas - Portugal
Girls Team: Spain

Girls Singles: Galia Dvorak - Spain

Girls Doubles: Carole Grundisch - France & Katarina Penkavova - Czech Republic

Mixed Doubles: Janos Jakab & Li Bin - Hungary

CADETS

Boys Team: France
Boys Singles: Peng Fei Jiang - Turkey

Boys Doubles: Antonin Schwarzer - Czech Republic & Mattis Burgis - Latvia

Girls Team: Romania
Girls Singles: Natalia Partyka - Poland

Girls Doubles: Elizeabeta Samara - Romania & Marharita Pesotskaya - Ukraine

Mixed Doubles: Frantisek Placek - Czech Republic & Natalia Partyka - Poland

in the group. In the play off match, England went down 3-1 to Bosnia and Herzegovina, again with the only contribution being one of Lauren's singles outings. Our girls went down 0-3 to Portugal before recording their only victory in the event over Switzerland, Mel winning both her singles and Emma one. Two losses followed, to Lithuania and Slovenia, which left England's cadet girls in 24th place.

England had three seeded players for the individual events, Paul at one and Darius four in the cadet singles, whilst in the junior girls Joanna had already been seeded at ten before the championships. This was regarded as a little low considering that she had won two European open events, in Portugal and Germany, during the season.

At this, the top level of European table tennis, the margins are fine. Paul found the Russian Mikhail Paikov in form at the quarter-final stage being edged out in the sixth game. All four of the Russians were in the last eight and three won their way into the semi finals. The fourth player was Jiang from Turkey, who then beat two Russians to take the gold medal. Darius reached round four before going out to Johan Karlsson in the seventh while Gavin Evans in his first European experience got to round three before losing to Slavko Jovanoic of Austria. Bradley fell in round two to Laurent Kintzele from Luxembourg in five.

Both Joanna and Kelly fought their way to the last sixteen in the junior girls singles, Kelly



THE ENGLAND SQUAD pictured left

reversing one of her team losses to Carla Nouwen of Holland before going out to Nathalie Cahoreau of France. Joanna lost at the same stage to the strong Spanish girl Sarah Ramirez. Abigail had a good win over another Spanish player Anna Badosa before losing to Eva Tapai of Serbia and Montenegro in round three. In the boys singles Craig Bryant lost only one game in beating both Slovenia's Tim Fridrih and then Remi Vary of France before falling to Czech Republic's Jakub Kleprlik in round 3. Adam Bleakley and Tim Yarnall both went out in the 1st round, Adam to Nicola Mohler of Switzerland and Tim to the Hungarian Janos Kaiser in seven. The two youngsters got one more win under their belts, Danny Reed beating Finland's Toni Soine and David Meads getting the better of Matthias Stephenson from Iceland before both went out to strong opponents.

In the cadet girls singles Lauren Springthorpe showed again that she is at this level when she won her way to the last 16. It took a Russian girl, Elanor Troshneva to halt her run into the quarter-finals. Melanie Farquhar lost 1st round to the number two Pole Katarzyna Grzybowska whilst Emma Vickers lost to the Swiss Monika Fuhrer at the first hurdle.

In view of Badminton's better funding on the basis of double success maybe we in Table tennis should put more effort into winning medals in international doubles competition.

In Budapest the best doubles performance by an English pair was by Paul and Lauren who got to the last 16 of the cadet mixed doubles. Their best result on the way was in round 4 against a mixed country

pairing of Ovidau Oinescu of Romania and Marharita Pesotskaya from the Ukraine. In the last 16 the English duo found the Russian pair of Paikov and Lemeshevskaia too great an obstacle.

The consolation singles brought a couple of successes courtesy of Craig Bryant in the Junior Boys and Bradley Evans in the Cadet Boys. Craig had moments in these championships particularly when serving when he showed real potential. In the consolation event he reached the semi finals, his best result on the way being a win over the Russian Stanislav Golovanov in round 3. He fell in the semis to the eventual winner.

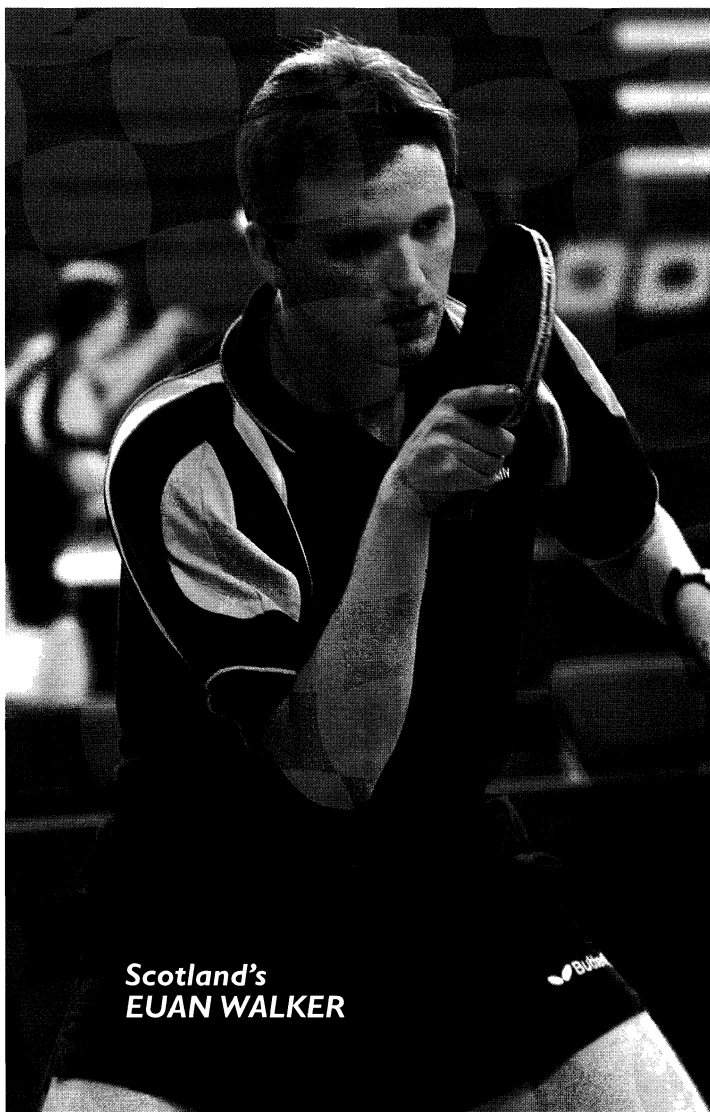
Bradley made his presence felt in the cadet boys competition beating Patryk Chojnowski in round 3 but going out in the quarter-finals to Menge the Turkish number 2 who went on to be runner-up.

Steen Kyst Hansen again managed the whole England campaign at the championships with his usual efficiency, and the physio Chris Williams did a great job keeping all of the players mobile.

GREAT NEWS FOR ENGLAND

The great news for England and for himself at the end of the championships was that Paul had been selected to be one of four boys to compete for Europe in the World Cadet Challenge taking place in Madeira in October. Darius is the reserve for this event. This is another step in the right direction to put English Table Tennis back on the international map.

WALKER & LOWER WIN AT LIVERPOOL



Scotland's
EUAN WALKER

EUAN WALKER, Scotland's outstanding player for most of the last decade recovered from a long-standing knee injury to clinch the mens singles title at the City of Liverpool Open played at the Liverpool Tennis Centre, the opening full-scale tournament of the new season, writes John Woodford on Merseyside.

Clashing with the table tennis Wedding of the Year between Alex Perry and Nicola Deaton - there was a shortage of top players although Helen Lower did land the womens singles prize with yet another success

against Devon's Marketa Myskova.

The mens singles final saw Walker triumph in a nail-biting contest 9, -5, -12, 9, 11 against the shock finalist from Poland Michel Rogala.

Rogala, currently a carpenter



ENGLAND supporters in Budapest

working in Liverpool, played way above his normal standard according to local players, whipping in superb backhand shots with an excellent forehand top-spin attack and superb counter-hits.

Walker had to draw on all his experience after leading 10-6 in the final game, when Rogala survived five match points, to land a Scottish well-earned victory.

To reach the final Walker took out Stephen Jenkins (Wales) and then Paul Drinkhall 7, -7, 7, 8

In the bottom half Rogala only defeated Craig Bryant in the semis 9 in the fifth on an edge ball, another great battle that attracted 200 spectators.

The semi-finals saw the Polish player eliminate the Italian Fabio Mantegazza 29, who was on holiday from Milan. Some time back he was at Manchester University and played for Darlington in the British League. Rogala stopped the Italian 9, 11, -13, 8 in another absorbing battle.

Another glance at the womens singles - a surprise second round defeat for Kelly Sibley who lost to Tara Fusco (Ireland) at 6 in the fifth. The Irish lady then went on to beat Clare Peers (nee Newns) before losing to Helen Lower in the semi-finals.

Lower, still unchallenged as the England No.1, powered through the first two games of the final 8, 9. The under-spin from Myskova came through to win the third 11, but the Wolverhampton player came through to take the top prize 7 in the fourth game.

Abdul Wuraola (Surrey) was the winner of Band One, 11, 9, 9 against

Cleveland's David Meades, whilst Surrey edged another victory courtesy of Jerome Jonah in the Band 2 final against Marcus McDonnell from Ireland.

In the lower bands ETTA chair Alex Murdoch played in one group of four that lasted more than two and a half hours. In the womens Band 2, Val Murdoch was a group winner, lasting another round before losing in the quarters to Gemma Yarnley of Kent.

As expected Paul Drinkhall was the winner of the junior boys singles with a final victory 6, -6, 7, 8 against Liam Thomas from Wales.

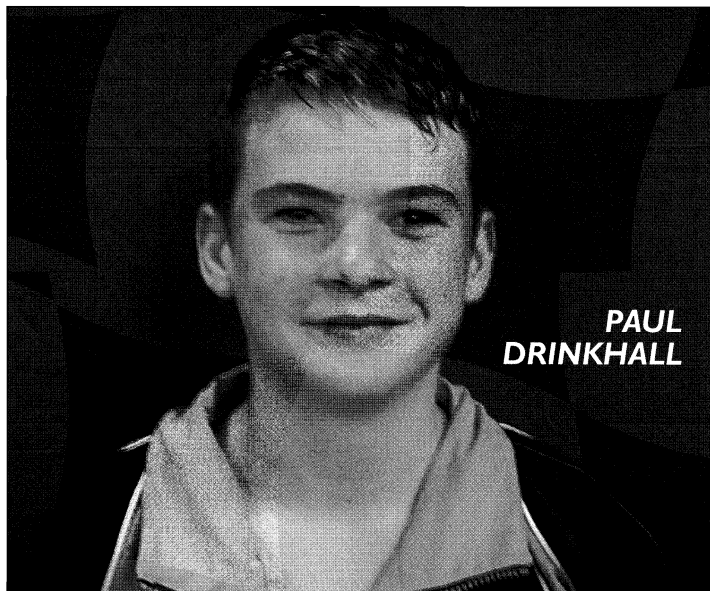
Scotland triumphed again in the junior girls final - as Laura Rungay came through -5, 8, 6, 4 against Clare Langford from Cheshire.

The veterans final carried a victory for Roberto Giontella a flamboyant Italian against Henry Medellin (Surrey), 5, -7, 7, 6. Earlier, England No.5 Nigel Eckersley reached the semis but pulled out with cramp and exhaustion and the prospect of a six-hour drive back to Sussex.

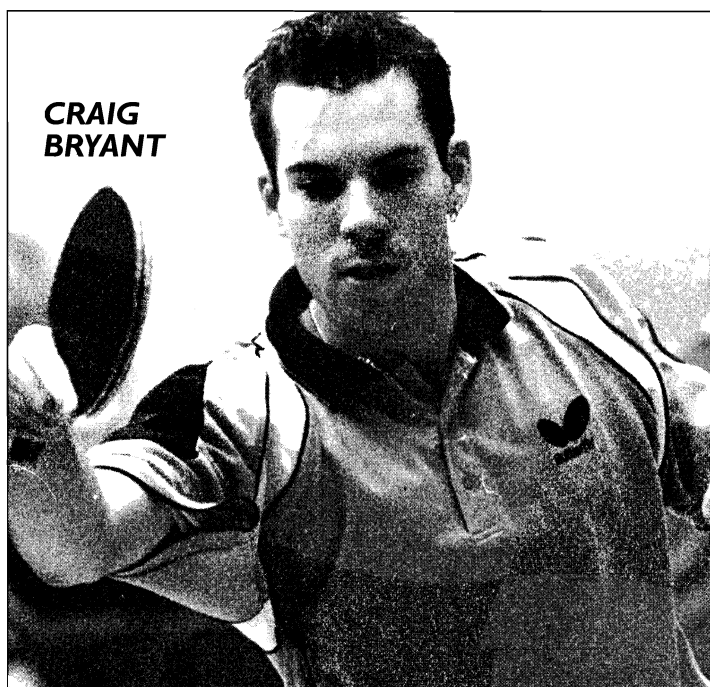
Possibly the biggest shock of the weekend came when the veterans top seed John Hilton was defeated by Giontella.

- The tournament attracted 255 players; it was played on 30 tables at the Liverpool Tennis Centre with a turn-out of fourteen umpires, the most I have seen on the tour. Ken Armsen and Steve Welch were the main men in charge along with organiser Arthur Garnett.

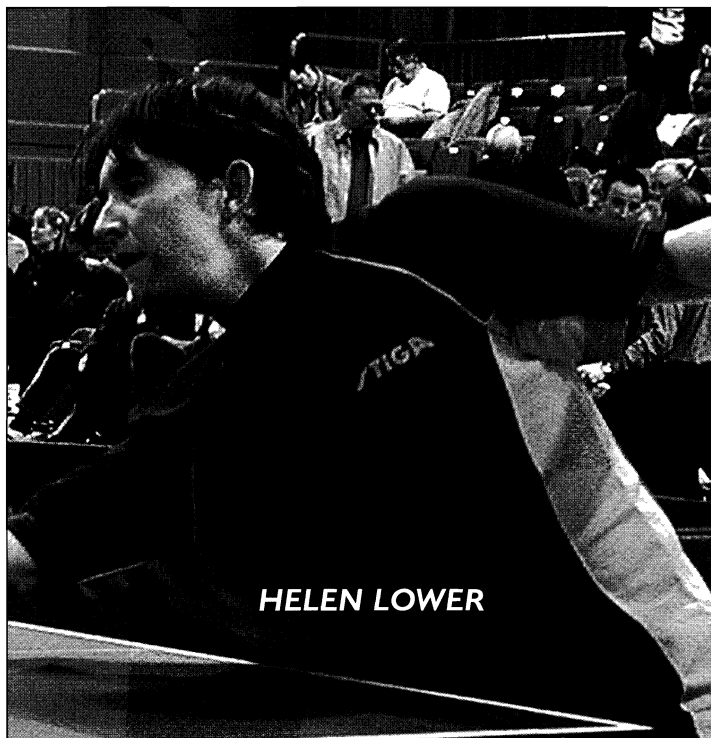
The weekend was presented by the Liverpool League, sponsored by Butterfly and supported strongly by Liverpool City Council.



PAUL DRINKHALL



CRAIG BRYANT



HELEN LOWER

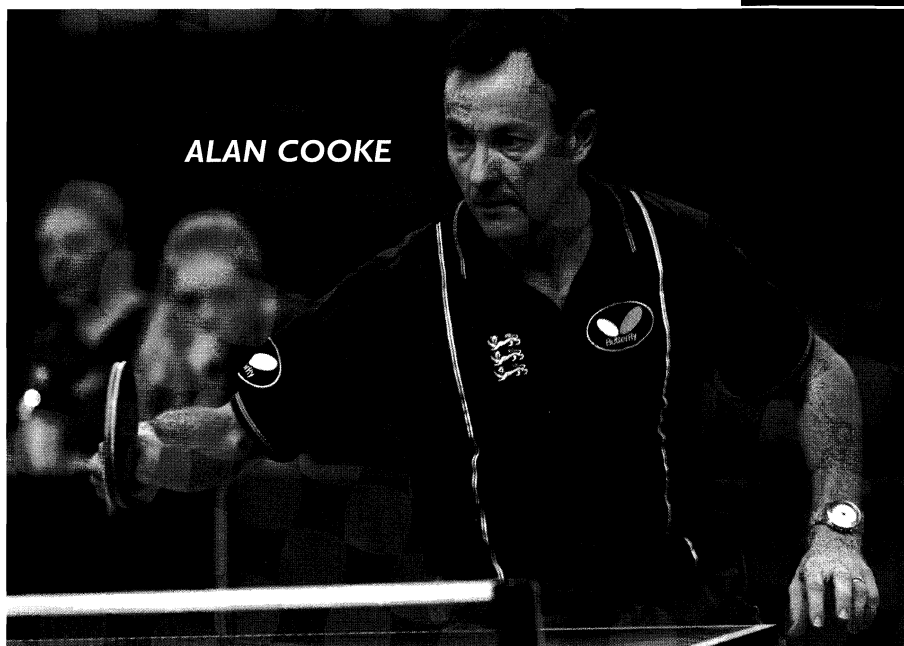
Results:

Men's Singles: Euan Walker (SCO) bt Michal Rogola (POL) 9.-5.-12.9.11
Women's Singles: Helen Lower (St) bt Marketa Myskova (Dv) 8.9.-11.7
Men's Band 1: Abdul Wuraola (Sy) bt David Meads (Du) 11.9.9
Women's Band 1: Clare Peers (Ch) bt Michelle Cohen (Wi) 5.2.6
Men's Band 2: Jerome Jonah (Sy) bt Marcus McDonnell -11.8.6.-10.10
Women's Band 2: Jordyn Layfield (Ch) bt Stella Davis (Gs) -5.-8.11.7.8
Men's Band 3: Charlie Smith (Mi) bt Alistair McTavish 7.12.7
Women's Band 3: Rachel Greener (Du) bt Emily O'Sullivan 8.4.6
Men's Band 4: Anthony Johnson (Mi) bt Wing-Yung Chan -3.-9.9.10.10
Men's Band 5: Anthony Johnson (Mi) bt Andy Portlock (Dy) 8.-6.5.5
Men's Band 6: Andy Portlock (Dy) bt Yasir Mauthoor 4.6.8
Junior Boys: Paul Drinkhall (Cv) bt

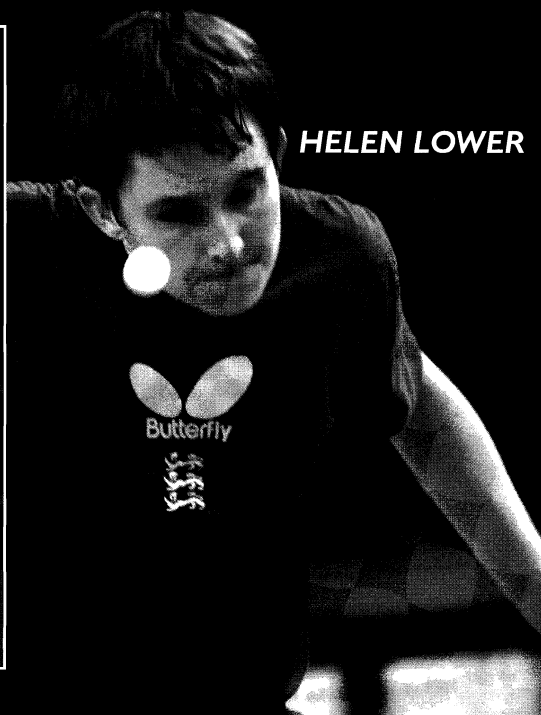
Liam Thomas (WAL) 6.-6.7.8
Junior Girls: Laura Rungay (SCO) bt Clare Langford (Ch) -5.8.6.4
Veteran Men: Roberto Giontella (ITA) bt Henry Medellin (Sy) 5.-7.7.6
Veteran Women: Round Robin - Winner Brenda Buoey (La) & R/U Judy Morley (Gs)



INDIAN MEN & SINGAPORE WOMEN DOMINATE - ENGLAND WIN SILVER



ALAN COOKE



HELEN LOWER

INDIAN men and the Singapore women dominated the seven days play at the Main Badminton Hall in hot and steamy Kuala Lumpur, but England came away with two sets of medals, England men reaching the

final of the team event and Alan Cooke and Helen Lower runners-up in the mixed doubles.

However, all eight of the England team - Alan Cooke, Bradley Billington, Andrew Rushton, Craig Bryant, Helen Lower, Georgina Walker, Joanna

TTN team in Kuala Lumpur: JOHN WOODFORD and MALCOLM MACFARLANE

the Welsh coach. The decision was to keep to the world list, so the British three had to play through groups.

However, the Welsh star pair Adam Robertson and Ryan Jenkins did have the last laugh when they won the huge mens doubles cup and the gold medals with a classic display in the final powering past the Malaysian pair Ibrahim and Wah 9, 4, 9.

Beer was on the Welshmen as their chairman Philip Avery paraded the cup - a great night for the Welsh.

A glance or two at the mens team event - England cruised home 3-0 against Jersey, Cyprus and then Malaysia. At the second stage however, the England men only just scraped in 3-2 against Scotland for whom Ewan Walker brought down Alan Cooke. Walker also stopped Billington at 6 in the fifth. It was Lancashire's Andrew Rushton who saved England winning 4,5, 5, against Stewart Crawford.

England men surged through to the final winning 3-1 against

Parker and Kelly Sibley - were never outclassed and never let England down against fierce opposition.

As spectators at the Manchester Games will have noted the Commonwealth countries are also improving their table tennis strength. Even minus Baboor, India proved to be the strongest mens team - Achanta Kamal won the mens singles title, although Alan Cooke managed to beat him in the team event.

Two days before play commenced there was a big row at jury meetings over whether top players like Cooke, Billington and Ewan Walker should be seeded as they were not on the current world ranking list.

Leading the case not to seed these three was Alan Griffiths



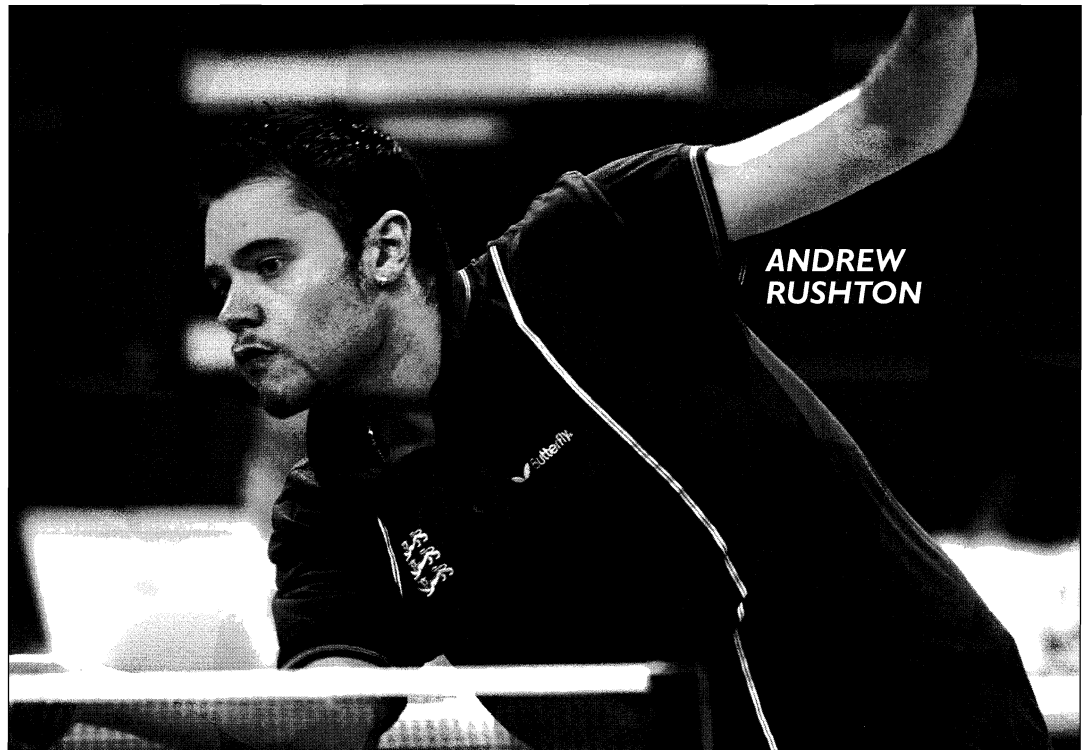
Singapore with Rushton again winning the key battle 9 in the fifth against Ho Jia Ren.

England's run towards the silver and gold continued as they despatched Australia 3-1 - Cooke defeated both Russell Lavalle and William Henzelle in four, whilst Rushton did more than expected when he stopped Trevor Brown 9, 4, -6, 6, a great win for Rushton.

In the mens final with silver assured England chased the gold. Alan Cooke gave England a perfect start, capsizing Kamal 3-0, but then it was all downhill for England as Rushton lost to Saha, Billington went under to Roy and Cooke went down also to Roy.

After the England loss Steen Hansen said "We fully deserved the silver medals, but the Indian teams were worthy winners."

England women after losing their early matches completed their programme with an encouraging 3-0 win against Sri Lanka to finish in fifth position overall. Joanna, Parker was top scorer for England culminating in a victory over the Malaysian



champion Beh Lee Fong. Alan Cooke reached the quarters in the mens singles but lost to the winner and top seed Kamal 8, 7, 9, -8, 4.

After losing the England No.1 said "He is the No.1 seed, he played better than me this time, although I beat him in the team event. Not being seeded I had to play extra games on several days".

Three Australians made the last eight of the mens singles, with Henzell reaching the semis - there he was 3-0 and a match point up against Roy who went on to win 4-3.

Henzell then threw his bat the length of the stadium but did not receive a yellow card, when a red would have been appropriate.

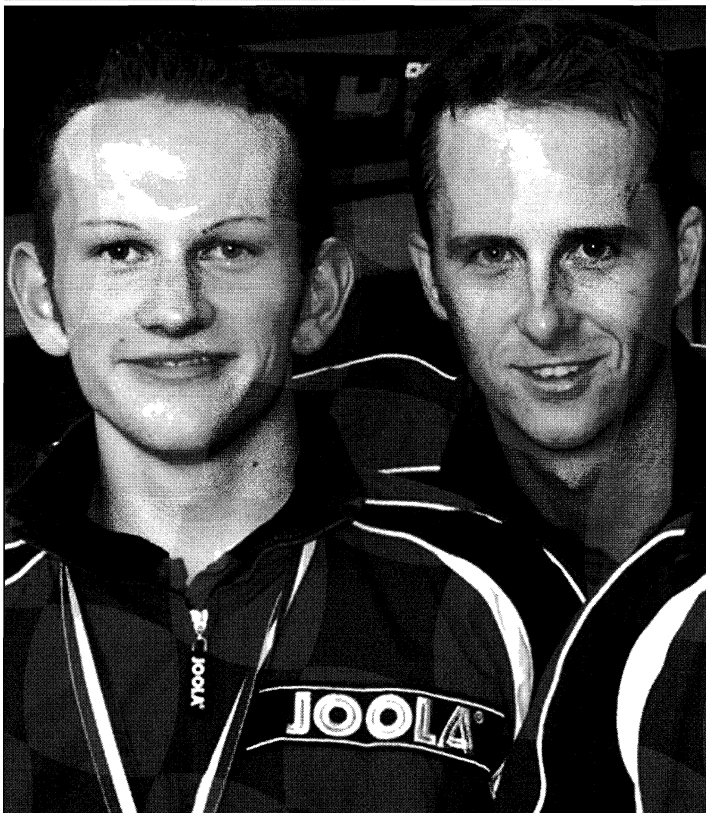
Last word on the three England girls - all three were never outclassed, right through the tournament. Joanna's

change of pace from top-spin to back-spin caused a lot of problems for her opponents, but a heavier chop and an improved attack will be her targets when she joins her new Berlin club.

• ALEX MURDOCH was the England delegate, Alan Ransome was officiating as the Commonwealth chairman, Tony Chatwin was prominent on the technical committee and Karen Tonge was the sole English umpire.

• FORMER soccer goalkeeper Chris Williams was the sports therapist with the England team. He played for Port Vale Everton and Bolton and played twice against Wayne Rooney.

GOLD MEDAL for Welsh pair **ADAM ROBERTSON AND RYAN JENKINS** in the Mens Doubles



Men's Team

- 1 India
- 2 England
- 3 Wales
- 4 Australia
- 5 Scotland
- 6 New Zealand
- 7 Malaysia
- 8 Singapore
- 9 Canada
- 10 Northern Ireland
- 11 Sri Lanka
- 12 Cyprus
- 13 Brunei
- 14 Jersey
- 15 Isle of Man

FINAL TEAM POSITIONS

Women's Team

- 1 Singapore
- 2 Malaysia
- 3 Australia
- 4 India
- 5 England
- 6 Sri Lanka
- 7 Brunei

TONG FEIMING PROFILE

by Brian Lamerton

TONG FEIMING, one time world ranked number seven has an ambition to coach an English player to a high world ranking. Interviewed following her overall winners Grand Prix success Feiming, now 36, who first visited these shores to join the Grove club in 1993 described as "sad" the current standard of play in this country compared with the world wide reputation which it had enjoyed in former years.

Born in China Feiming moved, in 1991, to Chinese Taipei where at the time Table Tennis was of a low standard with no world class players. In 1992 Chen Jing (three times Olympic medallist) also moved to Taipei and together these two spent many months practising with Taipei national squad players and helping the national coaching staff to change their coaching methods. Over the next few years they shared the knowledge and experience gained from top class match play the world over, helping the players to build self confidence and to believe in themselves. Taipei men's team is now ranked number three in the World and they also had two women players at the Athens Olympics.

Taipei Table Tennis has grown



TONG FEIMING is a regular player on the Grand Prix circuit, and is pictured above with **ALAN COOKE** following their singles victories at the Cheltenham Grand Prix

significantly in recent years with their young players improving rapidly; the ultimate reward winning the team event at the recent world school's championships played in Germany.

Feiming who has represented both China and Chinese Taipei, played in numerous world championships, won titles at English, French and Swedish "opens" and the Hampshire women's singles! has no doubt

when asked the most exciting time of her career - playing in the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta where she reached the women's singles semi-final - a feeling which can not be bought and only described with difficulty - and the second most exciting time, the 2000 Olympic competition in Sydney!

With her contract with French club Montpellier now complete, bringing to an end a 15 year period which also included a spell in Germany, she is no longer looking to play professionally full time and is looking to spend more time in this country which she calls her "second home" coaching and to perfect her English - to this latter end Feiming has enrolled in a course at Fareham college to which she will return in September after a brief visit to number one "home" Taipei - this visit as well as the opportunity to spend time with family members is designed to give a life time experience to two

young players from the Generation 2.TTC; the opportunity to live, train and play with Taipei players including Wu·Chin Chi, world ranked number seven junior - after paying their own air fares these lucky youngsters are having everything else taken care of under a sponsorship deal set up by Feiming. Back to this country Feiming has read with interest the PESSCL initiative and would very much like to become involved. She has become more involved with coaching recently at both the Generation 2 club and local schools - she believes Table Tennis at schools level must be a high priority and is the key to success for the sport in this country. A business partnership with Keith "Charlie" Childs - "T.T. Links" - is also just getting off the ground; with business interests in education, coaching and promotion of U.K. company's in China.

COACHING TIPS

WE HOPE TO START THIS NEW FEATURE IN THE NOVEMBER ISSUE PLEASE SEND YOUR COACHING QUESTIONS TO STEEN KYST HANSEN AT TABLE TENNIS NEWS AND THEY WILL BE ANSWERED IN THE NEXT EDITION

BERKSHIRE

by Colin Dyke

BERKSHIRE have 11 county teams this season – 2 Seniors 1 Junior 1 Cadet 5 Veterans and 2 Over 60s and will be trying to improve on last season's one title gained by the Veterans 2nd team.

Leagues generally report a halt to recent decline in numbers. Newbury League are two senior teams down but will be promoting a 2 aside junior league under the watchful eye of Chris and Denise Weller. Secretary Bruce McKenzie tells me what a good job these two are doing on the junior front. At the end of last season Newbury took the overall honours in the Berkshire Inter Town Competition, breaking the Reading domination of the Barbara Peisley trophy after many years. Incidentally this competition will be held at an earlier date this season - 31st October 2004 at Cippenham TTC.

Maidenhead and Bracknell Wokingham Leagues report they have the same number of teams whilst Reading League have a three team increase. They welcome new teams from Pangbourne Working Mens Club, Sonning Common and Peppard and Our Lady of Peace. The increase is a continuing trend over the last five years but with currently 70 teams spread across six senior divisions, it's still a long way short of the all time high of 158 teams in the 1973/4 season. Polish "A" are again red hot favourites for the Reading Division 1 title and have added Paul Rattue and Kimber Choda to their already very strong squad. Kingfisher "A" will again be chasing them hard. Sonning Common and Peppard "A" will be keen to bounce back from Division 2 after their unfortunate relegation last year and must be hot favourites to do so.

Last tournament of last season was the Reading Masters which was won by Ian Packford (Polish) who beat Hari Gehlot (Kingfisher) in the final 6,7,-8,10. Amongst Reading special trophy winners were Tom Maynard (Kingfisher-Most Improved Junior), Abhay Gehlot (Kingfisher-Best Performance in Reading Closed) and John Fuller (Berks Sports-Harold Larcombe Sportsmanship Award).

The new County Rankings at the commencement of the season are as follows:

Men

1. D Barr, 2. M Adams, 3. H Gehlot, 4. A Subhan,
5. B Hegedus, 6. M Banks, 7. D Hilbeck,
8. R Gehlot, 9. S Tang, 10. Murgatroyd.

Ladies

1. S Johnson, 2. I Crick, 3. M Allan, 4. L Bosley,
5. J Lovell, 6. W Porter, 7. S Mitchell, 8. D Rolfe,
9. D Weller, 10. C Byers.

Junior Boys

1. T Maynard, 2. B Davis, 3. A Gehlot,
- 4.G Beckett, 5. S Ayres, 6. K Gehlot, 7. R Andrews, 8. J Fleming, 9. D Fudge, 10. A Van Den Dungen.

Junior Girls

1. L Bosley, 2. E Kusta, 3. A Sundararajan,
4. J Fudge, 5. E Ashley.

Veteran Men

1. D Barr, 2. D Reeves,
3. H Gehlot, 4. B Hegedus, 5.R Gehlot,
6. D Wood, 7. T Heaps, 8. R Davis, 9. D Streak,
10. S Montgomery.

Veteran Ladies

1. G Knightley, 2.S Mitchell, 3. D Rolfe,

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COUNTY NOTES



4. D Weller, 5. P Spooner, 6. C Byers,
7. M Massey, 8. S Bruton, 9. J Gloster,
10. J Chapman.

CHESHIRE

by Alan Blears

LOTS of goodies to report, and so little space, but here goes.

First it's over to the Wirral, where the girls produced a double success, the cadets winning the Jill Hammersley Cup and the juniors the Bradfield Trophy. Congratulations on this superb achievement to Liz and Fiona Dennett, Clare Langford, Hayley Parker, Sophie Byron and Jordyn Layfield. (Hope that's correct).

Moving to Stockport where Caroline Hallows and Joshua Boulton have made the news. In the Derby Open grand Prix 13 year-old Caroline enjoyed her best tournament to date, knocking over a string of higher ranked players to be runner-up in both the Women's Band 2 and 3 events, and most impressive of all reaching the semi-final of the Women's Open.

Nine year-old Josh Boulton was one of the few from the North-West to make the long, almost motorway-less journey to King's Lynn for the National U-10/11/12/13s. It was worth his while, as he reached the semi-finals of the U-10s where he fell to champion-to-be Lewis Gray, Diccon's lad, who has apparently been playing since eh was four! Joshua – gosh you are good! Josh hails from Tameside and is one of many youngsters introduced to the game by Joe Beadle.

The National Junior League North-West held its inaugural individual competition at St. Helens in July, and attracted seventy entries from Cumbria to Cheshire and from Premier Division to Division 4. The day was a triumph for the Hillcourt Club in Stockport, six boys producing two champions, one runner-up and three semi-finalists.

Open Singles winner Ryan Costello
Band Four winner Joshua Boulton
Band Two runner-up Adam Slater
Bank Two semi-finalists Ryan Costello and Matthew Weatherby
Open Singles Plate S/F Paul Kershaw

Adam Slater, incidentally, is not one for blowing his own trumpet, just his clarinet and appeared on B.B.C. TV on August 7th with the National Youth Orchestra in the BBC Proms!

Junior County Teams

First Team Junior Premier Division: The team

finished sixth and thus ensured their position for next season. The inexperienced Jonathan Taylor and Andrew Davies are starting to look comfortable at this level, which bodes well for next season. The other players were Tom Page, Karen Shepherd, Clare Langford and Sophie Byron.

Second Team Junior Division 2A: The team finished third, with 100% records for Fiona Dennett, Sophie Byron – popping up again – Hayley Parker, Caroline Hallos and Jordyn Layfield, who shared the girls' matches. The Barker brothers, Richard and Mitchell, shouldered the boys' heavy burden.

Cadets Division 1A: The team moved up from sixth to fourth, with the boys, Mitchell Barker, Michael Horobin and Neil Baker, all playing much better than in the first round of matches. Hayley Parker and Sophie Popup again had 100% records and were rarely troubled.

N.P.C. Paul Ingham congratulates all the players on their team spirit and behaviour.

New role for Karen

Stockport's Karen Shepherd, an Olympic-class talker, tried her hand as a radio presenter when she interviewed the coach (guess who!), and players from the Hillcourt Club on local radio. The producer described her performance as "outstanding", and having heard the broadcast I can say that that is no exaggeration.

Finally

Leroy O'Connor (Letters, May) suggests a more aggressive promotion of the game. Perhaps the Americans have the right idea with their Killerspin Tournament. "Killerspin" sounds better than ping-pong!

CLEVELAND VIEW

by Alan Ransome

Optimism Abounds

AS the new season dawns an optimistic mood is in the air here in Cleveland.

The Ormesby Club face a new challenge with the return to the Premier Division of the British League of a young and ambitious local team determined to at least consolidate their new status.

The first team squad consists of Paul and Bryn Drinkhall, Steven Bailey and Danny Reed, all from the local area plus Craig Bryant, who has represented the Club in the Junior British League for several seasons. The Club's second team which won Div. 4 North last season have been accepted into the 2nd division and in the first round of matches were successful in winning all four fixtures with 14 year old Danny Reed winning 8 out of 8 throughout the weekend. Danny Welsh, Martyn Clarke, Mark Simon and Tim Surrey completed the line up with Tom Welsh as coach.

Another 14 year old, Paul Drinkhall, after making substantial progress last season in winning all four titles in the National Junior championships and the German Junior Open Cadet Boys singles, gained a silver medal in the Cadet Boys Team event in the European Youth Championships in Hungary in July and has won a place as one of the 4 European nominees for the World Cadet Championships in Madeira in October.

Paul's attention is starting to turn to senior events where he represented England in the Six Nations Championships at Crystal Palace. Despite



CORNWALL'S County Chairman BOB HOUSE (right) presents the County Championships Senior 2B runners-up trophies to JEREMY WILLIAMS, on behalf of the Senior 1st Team, at the county's AGM.

being less than fully fit and being left on the bench as the result for the team events, Paul played well enough in the singles the following day to reach the final with victories against Jason Sugrue of Ireland and Adam Robertson of Wales before finding Ryan Jenkins, also of Wales, just too strong in the final.

Whilst all of the honours in recent times have been won on the table by the male members of our Association, optimism also is high with the considerable progress which has been made over the recent months with the large girls' squad who are beginning to make an impact on the tournament scene. Our girls are training regularly alongside the boys and we are optimistic for real progress in this department in the coming season.

As well as focussing on the excellence section of the sport, equal attention is being paid to the grass roots element. Northfield Table Tennis Club who have Jane Durham as their full time coach within the Northfield School Specialist Sports College, are making real progress with their wide ranging programme which includes all parts of the community. Northfield are also expanding their participation in the British League and other competitions and table tennis is gaining considerable popularity in the Northern side of the County as a result.

In the south, the Ormesby Club are implementing ambitious plans with support from the ETTA PESSSEL programme, TTK Greenhouse the London based Kids Charity together with local funding organisations to launch a comprehensive programme involving five secondary schools and 30 primary schools within the club's catchment area. This programme includes the employment of two full time coaches who will both drive the popularity of the sport and talent spotting to find the next Paul Drinkhall and Danny Reed and for that matter, girl players to follow the earlier successes of three times English Champion, Carole Knight Moore.

Carole's success as a coach was recognised by the ETTA this year when she was awarded the Female Coach of the Year. Carole has been the

main coach behind the success of the young Ormesby players and her receipt of this award was overdue and well deserved.

On the organisation front, the County is looking forward to hosting the Stockton on Tees Junior champion ships at Thornaby Pavilion on 13/14 November. Organiser David Hutchinson is hoping for another strong entry and is doing all he can to encourage players from far and wide to participate. A new tournament is also to take place at the end of November, when the Northfield Club will run their first Cadet Open Championships under the guidance of Steve Durham, Jane's husband.

With all this activity and two full time centres at Northfield and Ormesby, the prospects for a bright future for table tennis in Cleveland has never been stronger.

CORNWALL

by John Wood

CORNWALL'S AGM saw a new Secretary elected, Kevin Fudge, whilst the rest of the officers were re-elected to serve for the 2004/2005 season: President: David Blackmore, Chairman: Bob House, Vice Chairman: John Wood, Treasurer: Kerry Lewis, Match Secretary: Fred Ingram, Umpire's Secretary: Roger Vardon, Coaching Officer: Bob House, Development Officer: Dennis Williams, Press Officer: John Wood, Competitions Secretary: John Jermyn.

Fred Ingram, Roger Vardon and Bob House were elected as the trustees.

At the time of going to press there were still a few Mid Cornwall Summer League matches to be played, with the team of Reg Drew and John Wood in the lead.

During the summer months there have been several coaching sessions, spread around the county, whilst at Tregorrick Park County Centre we held a two day course under the expert guidance of Marketa Myskova.

The big highlight of this coming season is our very own Cornwall 2 Star Satellite Grand Prix, to be held at the Tregorrick Park Table Tennis Centre in St.Austell, over the weekend of 13th & 14th November 2004. To ensure this event is a

big success we need the players of Cornwall and the whole of the South West to enter and help Cornwall to become a regular date on the nations tournament list.

CUMBRIA

by Gordon Brown

FOLLOWING the non-affiliation of Carlisle League and the demise of Whitehaven League, Cumbria County Association will have only two affiliated leagues for the second successive year.

The couple that remain, however, Barrow and Kendal, are strong and vibrant.

Barrow will be hosting the first international match in their league's area for around 30 years when England play Holland in November at Barrow Basketball Centre, The Hoops.

The town's Table Tennis Centre at Parkview School are in talks with Cumbria County Council and the local crown green bowls league with a view to an extension housing more tables and indoor bowling mat facilities.

And on top of that, the town are boasting their 19th international representative in 28 years following the selection of Jonathan Crawford for England Schools under-16s against Ireland.

He follows in the footsteps of sister Helen, who played for England Schools under-14s last year.

For good measure at the other end of life's scale, Barrow Veterans won the Lancashire and Cheshire League Division Three Veterans' title last season and when the new term opens will be in Division Two. The successful team was Ron Warrener, Neil Honeyman, Grant Pearcey and Keith Mallinson.

At the League's AGM, a majority of 2-1 voted in favour of retaining 11 points and up per game. When the change in format was introduced Barrow opted out, but were warned by the ETTA that they could not affiliate to them if they continued to play to the former format of 21 points and up.

The future of the county's closed tournament is in doubt after a loss on this year's tournament at Kendal, of £200 because entry fees did not cover the cost of hiring the sports centre. Whether they are held this season depends on whether a cheaper venue can be found.

After finishing bottom of the junior county championship division 1a last season, Cumbria have not re-entered for this season. They had found difficulty in mustering squads.

At the county AGM in Kendal in July, Keith Mallinson, of Barrow, was re-elected chairman with Clarice Rose of Ambleside, vice-chairman and ETTA representative.

Other officials re-elected enbloc were:-

President:	Bob Gale
Vice-Presidents:	John Reed, Colin Taylor, John Taylor, Eddie O'Hara and Pat Staton
Secretary:	Peter Rushton
Treasurer:	Richard Johnstone
March Secretary:	Stephen Dixon
Press Secretary:	Gordon Brown
Umpires Secretary:	Peter Rushton

ESSEX

by Steve Kerns

CLARK TAKES COUNTY MENS SINGLES TITLE

Unseeded but hotly tipped Jason Clark became the Essex Closed Mens Singles Champion in May at a specially convened Finals Night at Langdon

School, East Ham after it had become impossible to complete all the games at BATTs over the Tournament weekend. Clark downed the holder John Payne 3-0 with as good a display as you will see anywhere this season. A razor-sharp Clark never put a foot wrong the whole match as the scores of 4,4,10 testify. To reach the Final Clark had ousted Matt Spero, Paul Davison and Vytas Rybakas. The athletic looking Ayo Ademakinwa took the Veterans Singles title after Terry Guymer had beaten Payne in the Semi-Final. Elsewhere the massive entry in the Junior events caused a late finish on the Saturday night and suggestions have been made that the Essex Committee might need to look at changing the format of these events next season. One idea that has been put forward is forget the Junior Doubles events. Results included:-

Mens Doubles - Matthew Spero/Robin Glassberg beat Daniel Cannon/Vytas Rybakas -7,9,9,9.

Womens Singles (Round-Robin) - (1) Carol Nelson (2) Janet Langford

Under 21 Mens Singles - Matthew Staines beat Vytas Rybakas 9,9,-6,7.

Mixed Doubles - Kevin Read/Linda Murray beat John King/Carol Nelson -5,6,8,6.

Mens Restricted Singles - Daniel Cannon beat Paul Lucas -6,7,8,5.

Veterans Mens Doubles - John King/Hamish Innes beat John Payne/Tim Scott 10,8,-11,11.

Veterans Mixed Doubles (Round Robin) - (1) John King/Carol Nelson (2) Tim Pang/Linda Murray

Under 18 Boys Singles - Antony Greenwood beat Michael Andrews -10, 7,-10, 8,8.

Under 18 Girls Singles - Kelly Skeggs beat Lorna Staff -8,9,6,7.

Under 18 Boys Doubles - Greenwood/Andrews beat Michael Copleston/Joshua Lovett 8,10,5.

Under 18 Girls Doubles - Kelly Skeggs/Vicki Stredder beat Holly Stubbings/Laura Pyman 7,11,6.

Restricted Boys Singles - Timi Famojuro beat Taejoon Lee 3,4,8.

Under 15 Boys Singles - Raihan Muhith beat Oscar Selfridge 8,13,-9,4.

Under 15 Girls Singles - Rachel Jamieson beat Jessica Macken 3,7,3.

Under 15 Boys Doubles - Raihan Muhith/Rashid Benallal beat Chris Dukes/Joshua Lovett 7,9,6.

Under 15 Girls Doubles - Jessica Macken/Nicola Brown beat Holly Stubbings/Laura Pyman 6,11,-8,9.

Under 13 Boys Singles - Andrew Lee beat Jagheet Mudhar 5,6,4.

CORTI WOODCOCK AWARD

Jayne Johnson (the General Secretary of the Southend League for the last eight years) and one of the Sport's most tireless and genuine hard-workers became the latest recipient of the County's foremost Award for service to the Sport. Corti Woodcock Board member Dick Roffe said of the Southend Year Book that Jayne produces - "The best put-together piece of work I have ever seen in my involvement in Table Tennis". And so say all of us.....

HARRY WALKER PLAYER'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

David Cole who won the Colchester Mens Singles title for the sixth time as well as the Braintree Mens Singles title at the first attempt was a deserved recipient of this Award at the County Annual General Meeting. Frightening to think

that David won the Chelmsford Mens Singles title 18 years ago and he still only looks 25 !

BURNHAM CLOSED

Kevin Read was a Double title winner with victories in the Mens Singles and Mens Doubles whilst Peter Ballard just prevailed 11-9 in the decider against Andrew Halling after a titanic Veterans Singles Final. The prolific Ray Sutton/Cathy Eakin partnership added the Burnham Mixed Doubles title to their successes in the Southend and Basildon Tournaments. Results included -

Mens Singles - Kevin Read beat Babul McLeod 4,7,3.

Ladies Singles - Cathy Eakin beat Linda Murray 8,-9, 8,8.

Mens Doubles - Read/Andrew Halling beat Peter Ballard/Tom Elder 6,10,9.

Veterans Singles - Peter Ballard beat Andrew Halling -6,4,-9,4,9.

Mixed Doubles - Ray Sutton/Cathy Eakin beat Peter Ballard/Val Board 7,-7,15,-5,9.

ESSEX COMMITTEE CHANGES

Senior Match Secretary John Andrews who has been the Chairman of the Colchester League for 18 years takes over as the new County Chairman. Phil Gower after eight years in this role has been elected into the role of President whilst Becontree League Chairman Steve Barker is replacing Sue Gower as Umpires Secretary. Veterans Table Tennis continues to thrive in Essex and Veterans Match Secretary Neil Brierley will be responsible for five Veterans O40s teams as well as one O60s side again next season.

AND FINALLY - In response to John Woodford's campaign to drop the phrase "Closed Tournament" from Table Tennis News magazine we have discussed this in Essex and there is a lot of support for retaining this phrase. Outdated it may be, but it is succinct and means that you do not have to waste valuable space explaining who is allowed to play in an event. Can't help you there John.....

NORFOLK

by Ray Hogg

AS far as I can tell all our leagues are carrying on as usual with minor amendments to players and teams. A few have 'retired' at least for the moment with the 11 up complaint but they will have to realise that we are stuck with it whether we like it or not. Final thought on that law is nothing like that should be implemented in the future without the grass roots being consulted at the beginning.

Good news for us is that the 3rd veterans team is not week-ended so we will be able to actually see teams in action at Faversham village hall. Mark Dare has been busy organising cadet and Junior trials at Watton which is at the heart of Norfolk with a large underused sport centre. This season sees the return of Phil Logsdon after two years exile in Essex. He will be the man to beat as all the locals know: Much thought will be given as to whether we can afford either Norwich or Norfolk championships this season. Last time a loss of many hundreds of pounds cannot be tolerated again. We have already done away with ladies singles and mixed doubles and further cuts will have to be made. The trouble is that players just will not enter what used to be the high point of the season. Norwich celebrates 70 years of play this coming season and there are still one or

two players around who remember it. Taverham T.T. club celebrate their 40th and with their 1st team of Gary Hewitt from Kings Lynn, Lauren Spink from Taverham and Stephen Beerling from Kent via U.E.A. could upset the form book and win the premier title.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

by Dennis Millman

ELEVEN years had elapsed since Graeme McKim's last tournament entry but he made a long awaited return in the Kettering Closed.

Initially, having had to concede points in every round he made his way to the semi-final of the Premier Division Handicap. Here he ousted Chris Ross, also on scratch, who had twice beaten him in the league, before getting the better of Michael Clarke (+10) in the final.

McKim's main aim was to get his name on the Men's Singles trophy for a twelfth time and he duly reached the semi-final, where holder Richard Elliott was waiting. Despite going two games down and trailing 7-3 in third, McKim fought back to win 11-9, but then trailed 8-5, and 10-9 in the fourth. He maintained his aggressive approach to save the match point and then squared the match at 13-11. The fifth game was almost a formality.

In the other semi-final Ross rode his luck at times to ease through against Steve Silk in a fast and furious fifth-ender but the final was a different story.

McKim had peaked at the right time, his service return preventing Ross from winning a single point on his own service in the opening game. There could only be one winner with McKim's speed of foot making sure that his unbeaten men's singles record remained intact.

In the doubles McKim teamed up with Silk and they gelled immediately to take the title without dropping an end with Elliot and Ross their final opponents. It brought McKim's doubles tally to ten - achieved with seven different partners.

In the ladies events Viv Smily took the singles to register a straight hat-trick of victories with Helen Watts taking part in her eleventh final, the victim.

The tables were turned in the mixed doubles with the brother and sister pairing of Martin and Helen Watts coming from behind to account for Smiley and Adrian Ellmer 11-8 in the fifth end. It was a second win for the Desborough pair five years after their first success.

A win for McKim in the Over 30/Under 40 event brought his tally to four titles to match Ken Philipson who became the first player to make a clean sweep of the veterans' events. Only once did he look like faltering and that was against SAS colleague Ian Slater at the penultimate stage of the Over 40's event.

Slater took the first two games and went close in the fourth before Philipson asserted his authority to get home 11-5 in the fifth. In the corresponding doubles Philipson and Silk, beaten by John Fuller in straight games, took the honours with most opposition coming from Barry Thompson and Chris Warliker.

The Over 50 Singles also went to the former RAF man, while in the doubles he and first time partner Gerald Finney were always in control.

Sam Piranty lived up to his growing reputation to take the Junior Singles and added the Under 16 event for good measure but partnered by Matthew Tan he just failed to add the Junior Doubles when beaten late in the decider by

Simon Bushell and Alex Eales.

Eales then defied the rankings to beat Bushell at the semi-final stage of the Under 16's but couldn't cope with Piranty in the final.

Academy's Lee Dilkes had a good day winning the Under 14 Singles 12-10 in the fifth against club colleague Ansel Pearce, while it was the Dilkes/Pearce due that made sure of the Under 15 doubles. Dilkes also came out on top in the Division Three Handicap.

Tan took the final junior event, the Under 13 Singles when he edged out Liam Dickson the fifth, and then won a final of three deuces against newcomer Jordan Dainty.

One of the most popular events was the Hard Bat Singles won for the fifth time in seven years by Alan Ashberry. His final opponent was Lee O'Boyle – who unlike Ashberry wasn't around in the Barna era. O'Boyle displayed a considerable expertise in the old-fashioned art, but Ashberry remains the master craftsman.

Ivor Jones and Steve Smith took the Mystery doubles accounting for the early favourites Steve Broughton and Rob Warrander after trailing by two games to one.

Michael Clarke carved out some splendid wins with none better than his success over Piranty in a well-populated Under 30 Singles.

At one stage Adrian Ellmer looked like repeating last year's win in the Consolation Singles but Thrapston colleague Chris Warliker eventually became the 28th winner in thirty years of competition. Other winners included Steve Broughton, Phil Dixon and Tom Ravenscroft.

Once again it was a tremendous event with the sustained brilliance of McKim, the earnest endeavour of Liam Burnham, the nonchalant talent of Lee Dilkes and the enthusiasm of Philipson, not to mention the work of Tournament Organiser Phil Slade, making it a day to remember.

Obituary for Arthur Charles Palmer

A dark cloud cast its shadow over the Northants table tennis scene on the 18th May when Arthur Palmer sadly passed away at Cransley Hospice.

Arthur was born at Great Addington in January 1931 and spent all his life in the county, living for the majority of that time in Irthlingborough with his wife Patricia.

It was in 1961 that he became a member of Wellingborough's League Committee and two years later he moved on to become League Treasurer, a post he filled with distinction until 1974. During this time he played for Irthlingborough Town Band Club but when the club folded in 1974 he turned his attention

exclusively to administration.

He became Vice-Chairman in 1974 and then in 1976 he was elected Chairman, a post he filled successfully until his recent demise. In 1991 he was awarded the English Table Tennis Association's Merit Award for his outstanding contribution to the game. Four years later, and for a period of four years, he took over the duties of Registration Secretary.

At Wellingborough's Annual General Meeting in 2001 he was presented with a cut glass bowl to commemorate his twenty five years as Chairman. Suitably the presentation was made by County Chairman Ken Marchant, his close friend for more than forty years.

Additionally, Arthur was a fully qualified county umpire and a qualified tournament referee, talents he put to exceptional use when he became County Tournament Organiser in 1994. Since then his meticulous organisation has kept the County Closed on an even keel, with a record number of entries on several occasions, but none too big to fully test his skill and durability.

At county level he spent many years as Umpires Secretary and from 1992 to 2004 he was Northants Vice-Chairman. In his capacity as County Umpire and Referee he officiated at many county championship matches, always with a quiet efficiency that set just the right tone for the occasion.

Despite failing health he did much of the spadework for the recent County Closed Tournament, while his final appearance on the table tennis scene at Glamis Hall Finals Night on Monday April 19th required a supreme effort, but one he was determined to make.

Although he enjoyed an idyllic family background he wasn't always a recipient of life's rich rewards and his working career wasn't completely fulfilled until he was able to employ gainfully the outstanding practical skills at which he was a master in every department.

Even his extended visit to the United States three years ago, together with his bride of fifty years, ended in near disaster. After celebrating their golden wedding in style, they returned to discover that fire had destroyed part of their home. Yet again his composure allied to his immaculate DIY skills came to the rescue and in a short period of time a tragedy had been turned into a triumph.

However, despite his meticulous administrative ability and his exemplary practical skills it was his garden that took pride of place. It was perfection personified and a lasting tribute to the life of Arthur Charles Palmer.

He will be much missed and our thoughts and sympathy are with his wife Patricia, his children, family and his many friends.

NORTHUMBERLAND

by Pauline Long

Norman Moore Memorial Cup

THE County Junior Tournament was held at the Sporting Club of Cramlington at the High School on 21st May, with 30 young people competing for the Norman Moore Memorial Cup. Norman, who died last year, was a regular player for St. Charles in the Northumbria League, and his widow, Sheila, had generously donated the cup in his memory.

As expected, No. 1 junior David Graham was a

worthy winner, beating a much improved Andrew Dryden in the final, with the losing semi-finalists being Kevin Watson and Tom Mundy respectively. Kevin, however, gained partial consolation by taking the cadet singles title, with Steven Griffiths as the runner-up.

Results were as follows:

Junior Boys' Singles

David Graham beat Andrew Dryden 11-6, 8-11, 11-5, 11-2.

Junior Girls' Singles

Debbie Dawson beat Tahli Rollitt 11-4, 11-2, 11-5.

Cadet Singles

Kevin Watson beat Steven Griffiths 11-9, 11-6.

Under 13 Singles

Jason Pu beat Barnes 12-10, 11-2.

The young Northumbria Winter League Division 4 champions Cramlington Colts (Adam McCormack, Kevin Watson and Fan Cheng) achieved a notable double when they made their considerable handicap advantage count by beating Division 2 side Whitehouse Lane "B" (Mick Hope, Terry Dawson and Nigel Coe) 7-2 to win the Team Handicap Knockout Cup competition.

The Summer League season has almost been completed at the time of writing. Current leaders are:

Division 1 - Seaburn Dene NC. Division 2 - Cramlington Codgers Division 3 - Cramlington Stingers Division 4 - Whitehouse Lane "B"

The College Street Centre in Newcastle reopened during the summer with two League teams, and is also available for general club practice along with the Sporting Club of Cramlington, North Shields YMCA and Oxhil YC. The new Winter League Season was due to commence on Monday 13th September.

SHROPSHIRE

by Trevor Felton

PROGRESS REPORT ON TOP PLAY/TOP SPORT ACTIVITIES BEING UNDERTAKEN AT PRIMARY SCHOOLS WITHIN THE COUNTY, TOGETHER WITH PROCEDURES FOR INITIATING CLUB FACILITIES FOR THEIR STUDENTS WHERE POSSIBLE – AUGUST 2004

IT has been the County's aim to carry out the policies on the guidelines laid down by the ETTA's Teaching & Training and Development Departments for the introduction of new players to the sport. These policies are largely targeted towards Primary and Junior schools whose school children who will eventually make up the backbone of the sport in the various "grass roots" areas of the country. It is hoped, therefore, to encourage the next generation of players to try the sport and decide whether they would like to progress further up the "ladder of success".

The introduction programme known as Top Play and Top Sport, which is fully sponsored by Sport England, the Active Schools programme and Awards for All grants, are ideal for mass introduction of table tennis to schoolchildren, especially those without any tables to play on. This situation is helped by the distribution of the "Top Up" bag which includes various items, such as bats, balls, plastic "nets" etc, and with canteen tables, benches and other general school equipment used to help teach children basic ball control tactics which, as is widely known, helps

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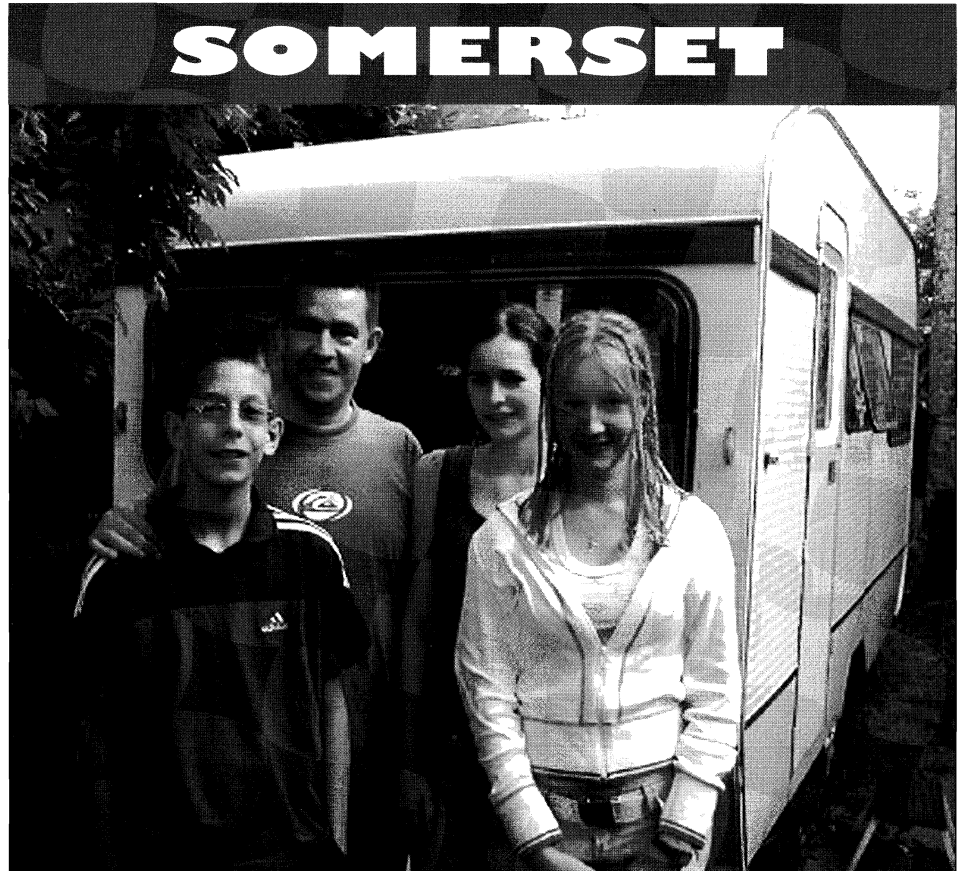
eventually to develop a player. The scheme at least enables any children who have not even played the sport in any form, to try out the bat and ball idea to see if their interest is strong enough to progress any further with the sport.

To this end, I approached all District and Unitary Authority Councils within the County to solicit the help of their services in contacting the relevant primary schools within their area who might be interested in trying the Top Play/Sport programme as an incentive to encourage the school children to take up table tennis as their main sport. To date, the results of this exercise have proved worthwhile in as much as there is an estimated 143 primary schools within the county, 82 (eighty two) have been targeted and out of this number a total of 38 schools have accepted the offer to date and been visited over the past 18 months in order to introduce the programme. Furthermore, schools are still being approached and currently there are 8 in the pipeline to be visited over the next 3 weeks and it is apparent that, together with the ones who are being targeted for the second time, other schools will eventually wish a second visit in the new term in September.

Common questions have arisen from this exercise which will eventually need to be answered. One might ask, what is to happen with the prospective interest of talented ones who wish to follow through on the next stage of development. The problem could perhaps be overcome in three ways, depending on the reaction of school staff as to which is the best for their pupils and, of course, their present workload. Firstly, some schools are keen to progress on their own by creating a club atmosphere and develop on the lines of the suggestions below. Secondly, if a school, after the Top Up has been carried out, may not wish to pursue a club situation, it must be given a "follow up" chance to place the interested pupils within some club to be given a chance to progress if so desired. Thirdly, should a school be able to provide the facilities and equipment necessary for a proper coaching environment to exist, qualified coaches will be required to organise and run a properly organised setup for the proper advancement of its members. Of the three options the first has been the most likely and some schools have taken advantage of the grants given by the "Awards for All" Scheme which they are encouraged to apply for.

Conclusions:-

1. If the staff of any school is interested enough to progress on the lines of a club as mentioned above, they should be encouraged to obtain a basic coaching award, such as the 3 hour Top Sport Module, which would give them the basic principles of coaching the four basic strokes and help them to start the club on a proper footing.
2. Encourage the parents of such children to join in the activities of the club, and also attend the above course. The final success of the club will be the enlistment of helpers from the community and normally if a child is interested in the sport it is assumed that the parents will, if approached, volunteer to help as appropriate
3. Be advised on the possibility of obtaining a grant for equipment under the "Awards for All" scheme.
4. Apply for membership of the ETTA Premier Club programme which would entitle them to



ON THE MOVE: The Hall family (clockwise) SHAUN, STEVE, LAURA & SARAH, pictured above in front of their caravan, before moving into their new home

full support from the ETTA Regional Development Officer on all future stages of development.

5. Arrange for ETTA Coaching and Tutoring staff to organise and run a six to eight week coaching course for students which would also ensure that the newly trained helpers were fully supported during the initial stage of the club's progress by being able to gain experience from attending the students course.

If any member of the teaching staff of any of the schools attended is prepared to progress on the above suggestions they must be continually advised and helped by the local coaches and professional staff of the ETTA. In addition, the enrolment in the Premier Club programme will, in all respects help tremendously to achieve any objects they wish to reach. It is, therefore, essential to communicate regularly with the schools' contact/s to make sure that the "follow up" procedure is completed satisfactorily.

SOMERSET

by Steve Hall

AS a newcomer to Somerset table tennis I was very pleased when the Somerset press and publicity officer, Margaret Meads, asked me to write a few words on our move to Somerset.

We moved to Somerset in November last year when my job as Technical Manager with a chemical company in Wales ended due to plant closure. Myself, Laura, Sarah and Shaun have played most of our table tennis representing Glamorgan but have decided to now support table tennis in the county that we live in. I have very happy memories of representing Glamorgan, and one of the highlights of my table

tennis career was the 2002/3 season when Glamorgan were runners up in the Senior Premier Division and winners of the Junior Premier Division. I will always remember that final weekend at Grantham for the good team spirit and enthusiasm of the players involved, for me that is what table tennis is about.

County table tennis is not about individual players but is about developing teams. To produce good teams a structure is needed in which the young players can improve and develop their game. To produce good players the following must all be present:

- Players committed to training
- Quality coaches able to teach good technique
- High level practise partners
- If I can help table tennis in Somerset in any small way I shall be more than happy.

SUSSEX

by John Woodford

EXPANSION of the British League all round the country is welcome. Something like an extra 25 teams in overall.

In Sussex we now have five teams, three from the Horsham club who have moved to new, larger premises, an extra one from Rory Scott's Brighton University club and one from Hastings run by Rose Rainton.

That means that 25 players are appearing in the league from Sussex.

The fact that weekends are involved - players and officials could be away from their families for all of three days - no problem for the singles guys and gals, but not too many Brownie points for those with family commitments, especially at weekends.

Finding umpires remains a major headache for our umpires secretary Doreen Nightingale, but there is one piece of brighter umpiring news - Carol Eckersley has qualified with honours and will be donning the blue jacket shortly.

I don't know why but it always surprises me when a player takes a secretarial job (Rose Rainton is secretary of the Hastings league) and in this an umpiring qualification ; what we need now is more players to follow Carol.

There is some disturbing news on the Sussex TTA officials top table - chair Keith Jackson is in his last year having retired once before, but there are hopes that a new chair has been found. Worst news is that Carol Beames and Alan Beames are pulling out of their secretarial posts for Sussex after this coming season - those posts could be very difficult to fill, but, I have found that once it is well-known in advance of a pull-out, people sometimes come forward out of the woodwork.

WARWICKSHIRE

by Caroline Williams

THE sixth Greater Warwickshire Youth Games were held in July 2004 at the University of Warwick, which attracts around 100 youngsters aged from 8 to 15 from around Coventry and Warwickshire playing in 10 different sports. Table Tennis was selected this year as a demonstration sport for players in the 10 to 15 year age group with 2 or 3 players representing each of the local authorities. This was the first time that it had been part of the games and was included directly as a result of the efforts of Warwickshire Chairman Bob Montgomery. The competition was held in groups, so that there was play throughout the day. In Group A Warwick and Leamington faced Stratford and Coventry.

Whilst in Group B Solihull, Rugby and Nuneaton were matched together. Stratford (with possibly the smallest league) were the surprise winners of Group A with a tight 5-4 win over Warwick and Leamington followed by a 6-3 against Coventry. Warwick and Leamington recovered to beat Coventry 6-3 to pick up the runner-up place in the group. In Group B

Solihull picked up a 6-3 success against Rugby. In the next match Rugby rolled over Nuneaton with a 7-2 victory whilst in the final match Solihull trumped Nuneaton 8-1 to make Solihull the Group B winners with Rugby in second place.

The two group winners, Stratford and Solihull, met in the final with Solihull edging past Stratford 5-4 to give Solihull the gold and Stratford the silver. Meanwhile Warwick and Leamington were matched against Rugby to decide on the third and fourth places. Warwick and Leamington played well to trounce Rugby 6-3 to take the bronze. Notable performances came from Paul Leck (Solihull) 9/9; Alan Caffrey (Solihull) 8/9; Edward Freeman (War/Leam) 7/9; Michael Rowan (War/Leam) 6/9; Tristan Gratten (Stratford) 6/9 and Daniel Fellows (Rugby) 6/9. As a result of the success of the demonstration it is expected that table tennis will be invited to join the Games as a full partner for 2005.

WORCESTERSHIRE

by Ken Walton

AFTER an absence of around 2-3 seasons, I return with renewed enthusiasm to compile these notes, with a request to anyone with items they consider worthy of publication, to contact me with them, thus ensuring that the County is 'represented' regularly.

Pride of place last season must go to the Veteran Firsts and Seconds, both of whom won their respective Divisions, thus gaining promotion to a higher plain. In the over 60's sections, regional winners Worcestershire and Kent could not agree on a play off date, leaving Ray Dixons team as the overall champions. Well done to all.

Team work was the biggest factor in bringing the Division 2a title to the Veteran 1sts, with Captain Steve Horton leading by example, ably supported by Ken Walton, Pat McCabe, and a combination of the countries top two Vets ladies, Jan Dunning and Jill Harris. Unsung hero McCabe proved very difficult to beat, with his defensive style aided by some Doctor Neubauer pimples, causing panic amongst his opponents!!! Remaining undefeated throughout the campaign was an excellent achievement from the squad,

who will be looking for more of the same in Division 1a this season.

A special word of thanks and praise for Lynda Reid, who at the very shortest of notice dropped everything (including no doubt her husbands lunch), and drove to St Neots to take the place of an injured and very concerned Janet Dunning. Lynda then promptly won all of her games to ensure more points for the successful Vets Firsts.

The Veteran 2nds, including Chris Maiden, Nicky Mytton and Dot McFarlane, also had an excellent season and will relish the chance to tackle higher opposition next time round. They will be joined in the County Championships by a Veteran 3rd team, details of which, at this stage are yet to be decided.

Talking of Veterans, ace defender and winner of numerous County Veteran doubles titles, Mervyn Wood surpassed even those achievements, when in partnership with Cheshires Derek Schofield, he collected a Bronze medal in the over 70's event at the World Vets Championships in Japan. A brilliant achievement by Merv, who still retains his competitive streak, providing us all with regular reminders of what can be achieved with hard work, determination, not to mention a fair helping of skill.

On a disappointing note, the Senior Firsts struggled over the 2 weekends and were relegated as a result. County champion Lewis Siket found the going hard at number 1, and without Eric Hardman, Ray Dixon, and Joanne Hill helping out at short notice for the second weekend, would probably have not fulfilled their fixtures!! This is a sorry state of affairs, and it is to be hoped that 'top players' who commit themselves to playing in matches, stand by their words when it comes to the crunch in future.

Happier news concerns Doug Young, who in recognition of his immense contribution to the sport, not only Umpiring, Refereeing and Committee duties in a variety of guises, but also his genuine love of the game, has been awarded an Honorary Life Membership of the E.T.T.A. This is a well deserved accolade for Doug, who seems to be busier than ever now with matters Table Tennis.

On a personal note, I made my annual pilgrimage to the Isle of Wight in May this year, and decided to check out the excellent Carl Preat centre once more. As usual, John and Carl extended a warm welcome, and all in attendance seemed enthusiastic and keen, especially when Carl was passing on words of wisdom during his coaching sessions. Many thanks to John (and Carl) for their hospitality, and good to hear that the ETTA are now utilising Carls talents and knowledge with the younger generation in a coaching capacity. If you visit the Island, why not visit the 'Centre', you will be very welcome.

Just a reminder that if you have any news I might include in this column in future times, I am contactable on 07967-611332, or by e-mail sue13.walton@Tesco.net.

Finally for this column, may I wish you all a successful and enjoyable season, with a reminder to contact me with items of interest as the season progresses. If you don't tell me about things, I can't write about them.



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“I STARTED WITH NOTHING”



ALAN COOKE and wife Sue relaxing at the Cheltenham Grand Prix

I WAS able to interview Alan at Lilleshall recently. He took time out from imparting his knowledge and wisdom to coaches and the brilliant set of young players bound for the European Junior Championships in Budapest, to give me an insight as to his background and exactly what makes a great player tick.

BRIAN HALLIDAY: When did you start playing?

ALAN COOKE: I was about 10 years old. Like most kids I played football and other sports and it wasn't until I was 14 that I started to take the sport seriously. I turned pro on my 17th birthday.

BH: Did you have any misgivings about turning professional?

AC: No, never. I realised at age of 13 or 14 that I wanted to play sport for a living. I did have a problem convincing my parents so I compromised by going to college. Fortunately Derek Marples was lecturing at the college and I was able to work with him on a daily basis.

BH: Did this convince your parents?

AC: We were a very sports minded family. My two brothers both played sport to a reasonable level so it did work out well. They were naturally concerned as to my future but in the end were very supportive.

BH: Did you find it difficult in your first few years as a professional?

Brian Halliday meets the England No. 1 Alan Cooke

AC: To be honest its different these days. I started with nothing. I can see the good side of the current Lottery funding for the young players, but the downside is that they may not be totally focused on the job ahead. My initial ambition was not just an England place but was to try to emulate Des and get a European ranking. Carl was also making inroads internationally and I was desperate to be with them. Financial considerations did not come into it as I was trying to get into the top 20 players in Europe. At the age of 19 I was offered a contract to play in Sweden and although it meant that at that stage I would be worse off financially I signed for Falkenberg. It was all about investing in the future.

BH: Did financial thought ever come into your head when playing a top player. Was there an extra incentive there?

AC: No, I always regarded challenges in a positive way. I always got a buzz from the major matches and looking back on my career I am happy the way things turned out. I tried to turn the

pressures on the table from negatives into positives. We try to tell players that they start with nothing and that you cannot expect things on a plate, you have to go out there and win it

BH: Many of our players are obsessed with rankings. How did this affect you?

AC: I didn't let the ranking list affect me in a negative way. Right now I can't deny that I am happy to be Number 1 in England. Its kind of a reward for what you have achieved. You do get a buzz from it, having said that it was my coach Derek Marples, my parents, and all my close friends who emphasised that it was what happens on the table that is important and then the rankings will take care of themselves. I would emphasise this strongly to young players. It can be used as a motivational tool but it must never become an obsession. The other problem is that players can manipulate where they might and might not play with ranking points always at the back of their minds. This is wrong. Your job is to win the tournaments at home and abroad and concentration on this aspect is vital.

BH: What training do you do?

AC: I can say I train pretty hard. I always trained with the purpose that it would improve me as a player. You know I stopped playing competitively for two years and since I made my comeback I have had to train even harder. I have really enjoyed it and my form and my results have improved. Three years ago I decided to lose a little weight and this also has seen an improvement in my game. I really believe that just prior to the recent Commonwealth Championships I was fitter than I was in my late twenties, and that is the key as to why I can play at a reasonable level now.

BH: Now a key question. What made you change your mind to make a comeback after such a long time off? Was it a case of looking at current players and thinking that maybe you would be still as good as them?

AC: I never made a conscious plan to come back. When I stopped I was totally burnt out. I wasn't enjoying it. There were all sorts of things going on with the team at that time and it had ceased to be enjoyable. Then two years out of the game and then started playing for fun again and what you say is right, in that it dawned on me that perhaps I did still have what it takes to make a mark on the game. I will be honest in that some of the later ambition was born out of frustration. I did feel that my standards of professionalism were not being reached. When I coach players I do feel they must give everything and sometimes those standards were not being reached. I now enjoy the tough domestic competitions and playing for my club in Switzerland It is only in the last twelve months that I have realised that I wanted to play at the top level again and that led to an England recall.

continued on page 36



ETTA NATIONAL RANKING LIST

TOP OF THE TABLE

2nd August 2004 - Period 122
Further details please ring Doreen Nightingale 01424 722525



ALAN COOKE stays in the No.1 spot, 11 points ahead of Matthew Syed

Pos	Name	Rating	Flag
(1)	1 COOKE, Alan (DY.)	5023	
(2)	2 SYED, Matthew (BK) (SY.)	5012**	
(3)	3 HERBERT, Gareth (BK.)	4836***	
(4)	4 PERRY, Alex (DV.)	4794***	
(5)	5 YOUNG, Terry (BK.)	4672***	
(6)	6 BILLINGTON, Bradley (DY.)	4583	
(9)	7 RUSHTON, Andrew (LA.)	4512	
(11)	8 BRYANT, Craig (DV.)	4159	
(14)	9 DRINKHALL, Bryn (CV.)	4087*	
(17)	10 HOLLAND, John(Dy) (E.)	4039*	
(13)	11 YARNALL, Tim (NP.)	4008**	
(14)	12 KNIGHT, Darius (SY.)	4004*	
(20)	13 HILTON, John (CH.)	4000*	
(22)	14 TAYLOR, Jonathan (LA.)	3976**	
(25)	15 AGUNBIADE, Tajudeen (MI.)	3902****	
(24)	16 DRINKHALL, Bryn (CV.)	3894**	
(23)	17 JAMES, Michael (Y.)	3878	
(20)	18 BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA.)	3866*	
(27)	19 KENNY, Mathew (Y.)	3861**	
(28)	20 BLAKE, Darren (SY.)	3860**	
(30)	21 VANNER, Ritchie (SK.)	3831	
(29)	22 WURAOLO, Abdul (SY.)	3818*	
(32)	23 BAKER, Gregory (ST.)	3780***	
(26)	24 EVANS, Bradley (BU) (NG.)	3759*	
(34)	25 CLEMINSOM, Peter (E.)	3720**	
(35)	26 SMITH, Eddie (ND.)	3718**	
(36)	27 WILKINSON, Andrew (ND.)	3698**	
(40)	28 DOLDER, Kevin (LA.)	3691	
(37)	29 HARDSIN, Michael (DU.)	3670*	
(38)	30 PYE, Leeroy (NK.)	3662**	
(39)	31 LONNOVIST, Christian (DO.)	3648***	
(41)	32 WHITING, Paul (DY.)	3638***	
(44)	33 BEERLING, Stephen (K.)	3633*	
(43)	34 ATKINSON, David (CA.)	3633**	
(45)	35 MOORE, Adrian (K.)	3632**	
(46)	36 CHARLES, Neil (ML.)	3607***	
(47)	37 SACHELL, Kevin (WL.)	3597**	
(48)	38 ROSENTHAL, Louis (CH.)	3587***	
(49)	39 PAPANTONIOU, Costas (MI.)	3586**	
(50)	40 ROGERS, Chris (LE.)	3579***	
(51)	41 KENNEDY, Joe (K) (E.)	3570*	
(52)	42 KENNESLEY, Nigel (SK.)	3557**	
(53)	43 STAINES, Matthew (E.)	3554*	
(54)	44 HALEY, Stephen (CY.)	3529*	
(55)	45 BARR, David (BK.)	3518***	
(56)	46 HORSFIELD, Andrew (Ys) (Y.)	3518***	
(57)	47 CHAN, Michael (SY.)	3512***	
(58)	48 TENDLER, Gary (E.)	3502*	
(10)	49 GREGORY, Christopher (SP.)	3492**	
(7)	50 MEADS, David (DU.)	3477**	
(61)	51 GOODBOLD, David (DU.)	3473**	
(63)	52 WHITEHAN, James (DV.)	3438***	
(9)	53 NOUTCH, Simon (Y.)	3426***	
(65)	54 STEAD, Michael (Y.)	3417***	
(67)	55 SMITH, Richard A (Y.)	3405**	
(68)	56 HORSFIELD, Stephen (YS.)	3398*	
(69)	57 NEIL, Lee (NG.)	3393***	
(70)	58 HARVEY, David (GS.)	3386**	
(11)	59 REED, Daniel (CV.)	3386**	
(72)	60 BARTRAM, Peter (SK.)	3381*	
(73)	61 GRIFFIN, Darren (GS.)	3377**	
(74)	62 GASCOYNE, Craig (NG.)	3373*	
(75)	63 CARTER, Paul (SY.)	3363**	
(81)	64 WILLIAMS, Keith (LA.)	3350	
(77)	65 MARPLES, Shaun (DY.)	3346*	
(78)	66 ADAMS, Martin (BK.)	3345*	
(79)	67 RANKIN, John (LA.)	3345**	
(80)	68 DENNY, Stephen (Y.)	3344**	
(82)	69 CANTHY, Clive (E.)	3340*	
(83)	70 HENRY, Andy (DY.)	3335***	
(76)	71 HALEY, Terry (SY.)	3331	
(84)	72 GREEN, Mark (NG.)	3315**	
(12)	73 MAUTHOOR, Umair (E.)	3314*	
(86)	74 CORBIN, Anthony (HE.)	3309*	
(87)	75 BARATY, Eli (MI.)	3297*	
(88)	76 ADEMARINWA, Ayodele (E.)	3286*	
(89)	77 BROWN, Christopher (CO.)	3285*	
(90)	78 GANNON, David (LE.)	3276***	
(91)	79 WALSH, Jimmy (HE.)	3275**	
(93)	80 JAMESON, Christopher (E.)	3271**	
(94)	81 LIGHTOWLER, Richard (Y.)	3265**	
(95)	82 ROOFE, Eddie (WL.)	3259**	
(96)	83 WILLIAMS, Trevor (YS.)	3252*	
(97)	84 CHADWICK, Jim (LA.)	3251****	
(101)	85 SHORT, Mike (DV.)	3229***	
(102)	86 FORD, Christopher (LA.)	3228***	
(103)	87 HEREDITH, Darryl (LA.)	3224***	

Pos	Name	Rating	Flag
(1)	1 LOWER, Helen (ST.)	4280	
(3)	2 PARKER, Joanna (SY.)	4221	
(5)	3 WALKER, Georgina (DY.)	4129	

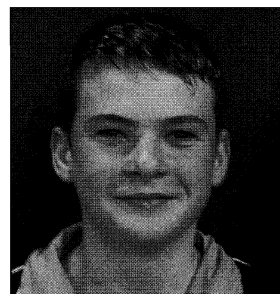
(7)	4 SIBLEY, Kelly (WA.)	4047	
(8)	5 HOLT, Andrea (LA.)	3963**	
(9)	6 EMBLING, Abigail (E.)	3919*	
(10)	7 BAWDEN, Natalie (E.)	3911**	
(12)	8 OWOLABI, Kubrat (MI.)	3690***	
(13)	9 SPINK, Lauren (NK.)	3634**	
(14)	10 DURRANT, Louise (NG.)	3580*	
(17)	11 WHITE, Nicola (Y.)	3465***	
(18)	12 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)	3452*	
(19)	13 CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.)	3437	
(20)	14 SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LI.)	3407*	
(21)	15 SMITH, Karen (LE.)	3402***	
(22)	16 PEERS, Clare (CH.)	3392*	
(23)	17 HARRIS, Jill (ST.)	3344	
(24)	18 ROBERTS, Joanna (Y.)	3330**	
(26)	19 BRISTOW, Angie (K.)	3283*	
(27)	20 COHEN, Michele (AV.)	3267*	
(25)	21 DUNNING, Jan (WO.)	3262	
(28)	22 WESTON, Sally (SK.)	3251***	
(29)	23 RAINTON, Rosemary (SK.)	3224	
(30)	24 KEAST, Lesley (LI.)	3203***	
(31)	25 WILSON, Naomi (SO.)	3197***	
(38)	26 HOWARD, Alice (CH.)	3195	
(33)	27 BONGERS, Jose (ST.)	3176	
(34)	28 HARPER, Sandra (BD.)	3166	
(35)	29 SEYMOUR, Tamar (OX.)	3127**	
(36)	30 WILSON, Claire (DU.)	3116*	
(37)	31 LLOYD, Gemma (CH.)	3092**	
(41)	32 BALDI, Andrea(YS) (Y.)	3074*	
(42)	33 DURHAM, Jane (CV.)	3071***	
(43)	34 WANG, Lucy (E.)	3043	
(44)	35 WEIL, Emma (E.)	3032***	
(39)	36 BUOYE, Brenda (LA.)	3028	
(45)	37 GRAHAM, Cherith (LA.)	3017	
(46)	38 CHEESMAN, Zoe (Y.)	2983**	
(47)	39 MUDGE, Kim (K) (SY.)	2983**	
(49)	40 MASSINGHAM, Nicola (LI.)	2971***	
(50)	41 KING, Sheila (SK.)	2960*	
(52)	42 HORSNELL, Sarah (MI.)	2955**	
(51)	43 HARRISON, Jennifer (E.)	2955**	
(54)	44 MAY, Elizabeth (DV.)	2937**	
(55)	45 STEPHAN, Sarah (SK.)	2932**	
(57)	46 DEARING, Emily (Y.)	2911***	
(58)	47 INGHAM, Katy (CH.)	2905***	
(59)	48 LANGFORD, Clare (CH.)	2904**	
(60)	49 PERRY, Lucy (DV.)	2902***	
(61)	50 BENNETT, Teresa (SK.)	2899**	
(51)	51 RIDER, Sandra (Y.)	2898	
(62)	52 NOLAN, Terri-Anne (CH.)	2895**	
(64)	53 SILBURN, Nicola (Y.)	2867**	
(62)	54 COGGON, Sara (HE.)	2865	
(66)	55 HALES, Linda (DO.)	2863***	
(67)	56 BROWN, Sarah (E.)	2863***	
(68)	57 BARELLA, Jane (SY.)	2850****	
(69)	58 BROWN, Grace (E.)	2830**	
(70)	59 SPARKES, Aimee (SK.)	2824***	
(71)	60 VICKERS, Jane (DY.)	2817**	
(73)	61 CRICK, Lisa (BK.)	2798**	
(74)	62 JOHNSON, Susan (BK.)	2776***	
(102)	63 LAING, Janice (HE.)	2766	
(76)	64 DIGNUM, Margaret (WO.)	2763**	
(77)	65 ROBINSON, Suzanne (GS.)	2755**	
(78)	66 MEADS, Joanne (DU.)	2752**	
(79)	67 VICKERS, Emma (DY.)	2745**	
(80)	68 WILLIAMS, Jackie (K.)	2735**	
(75)	69 NOUTCH, Sarah (Y.)	2730	
(81)	70 BROWN, Janet (OX.)	2729**	



HELEN LOWER is No.1 Women by 59 points

(82)	71 BENTLEY, Ruth (NG.)	2716***
(83)	72 BALDWIN, Brenda (WL.)	2715***
(84)	73 YARNLEY, Gemma (K.)	2714**
(90)	74 HOWARD, Clara (CH.)	2678**
(89)	75 REID, Lynda (WO.)	2678*
(91)	76 DARE, Lindsey (HE.)	2666
(92)	77 TODD, Nicole (E.)	2661***
(93)	78 STRAWSON, Jane (LI.)	2620
(95)	79 GRAY, Victoria (SK.)	2617***
(96)	80 WILKES, Caroline (HE.)	2610***
(97)	81 FARQUHAR, Melanie (BK.)	2607*
(98)	82 LLOYD, Ann (WA.)	2589***
(100)	83 HARRISON, Andrea (LA.)	2577**
(101)	84 DARK, Shirley (SO.)	2556*
(103)	85 EMMERSON, Clair (SK.)	2542***
(104)	86 PERKS, Sarah (NG.)	2531***
(112)	87 COX, Jody (LI.)	2529
(107)	88 HOWARD, Stephanie (CH.)	2492
(106)	89 SENEVIRATNE, Anusha (K.)	2492**
(108)	90 TYLER, Sylvia (HE.)	2474***
(109)	91 NELSON, June (HE.)	2472***
(110)	92 THORNLEY, Patricia (DI.)	2461***
(93)	93 HAYES, Sue (BU.)	2455
(111)	94 KENNEDY, Joanne (DY.)	2451***
(113)	95 FOTHERGILL, Jill (IW)	2436**
(114)	96 RADFORD, Lisa (DU.)	2414**
(115)	97 PEARCE, Dawn (BU.)	2391***
(116)	98 RAINFORD, Helen (DY.)	2374**
(117)	99 HODGETTS, Jan (ST.)	2357**
(118)	100 BARNARD, Kimberley (LA.)	2346**

Pos	Name	Rating	Flag
(1)	1 DRINKHALL, Paul (CV.)	4408	
(2)	2 KNIGHT, Darius (SY.)	4325	
(4)	3 YARNALL, Tim (NP.)	4009	
(5)	4 BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA.)	3933	
(7)	5 EVANS, Gavin (NG.)	3744	
(6)	6 EVANS, Bradley (BU) (NG.)	3640	
(8)	7 MEADS, David (DU.)	3569	
(14)	8 REED, Daniel (CV.)	3404	
(11)	9 NOUTCH, Simon (Y.)	3394***	
(13)	10 GREGORY, Christopher (SP.)	3331***	
(15)	11 MAUTHOOR, Umair (E.)	3242**	
(19)	12 LEIGHTON, Andrew (DU.)	3046	
(21)	13 FROST, Adam (DY.)	2971**	
(24)	14 PAGE, Tom (CH.)	2739***	
(25)	15 NICHOLLS, Damien (SP.)	2631*	
(27)	16 LEWIS, Christopher (SY.)	2567*	
(28)	17 BARLOW, Ben (YS.)	2547*	
(29)	18 KODICEK, Jacob (CO.)	2544***	
(31)	19 MILTON, James (BU.)	2370***	
(33)	20 HALLING, Tony (E.)	2307**	
(34)	21 ARMSTRONG, Marc (MI.)	2278****	
(37)	22 REED, Darren (CO.)	2205	
(36)	23 BUSH, Chris (SY.)	2132**	
(38)	24 FULLWOOD, Allan (DY.)	2097**	
(39)	25 WESLEY, Richard (NG.)	2056**	
(44)	26 ARROWSMITH, David (DY.)	1957***	
(43)	27 PANG, Dickson (NP.)	1957***	
(45)	28 EVANS, Hyles (NG.)	1922	
(47)	29 REES, Daniel (E.)	1921**	
(48)	30 DEWHURST, Paul (E.)	1899**	
(49)	31 ROBINSON, Dorian (SY.)	1893*	
(50)	32 SIMPSON, Mark (DU.)	1888*	
(51)	33 BARNES, Lee (SK.)	1884**	
(52)	34 BRUTY, Sam (DV.)	1870***	
(53)	35 CHAN, Wing Lung (SY.)	1794	
(55)	36 MUDIE, Andrew (LI.)	1753*	
(57)	37 CRAWFORD, Jonathan (CU.)	1728**	
(62)	38 CARRINGTON, Luke (Y.)	1685**	
(60)	39 DORAN, Christopher (NP.)	1685	
(61)	40 DODDS, Matthew (YS)	1646	
(63)	41 HARRINGTON, William (K.)	1633***	
(65)	42 MAYBANKS, William (HE.)	1591	
(67)	43 NICHOLLS, Russell (SP)	1581**	
(69)	44 MUDIE, Stewart (LI.)	1574	
(68)	45 WILSON, Andrew (CV.)	1551**	
(72)	46 MORRIS, Robert (ST.)	1462****	
(73)	47 CLOSE, Christopher (DU.)	1441***	
(75)	48 BRAY, Thomas (LA.)	1404**	
(77)	49 SKIPP, Nicholas (CV.)	1397***	
(80)	50 TAYLOR, Jonathan J (CH.)	1354**	
(82)	51 HURDLEY, Joseph (SP)	1325**	
(85)	52 BROWN, Edward (E.)	1263**	
(86)	53 HARVEY, Michael (GS.)	1233	
(89)	54 PERRY, Sam (DY.)	1222**	
(88)	55 DURHAM, Jonathan (CV.)	1222**	
(90)	56 JOHNSON, Paul (LI.)	1221*	

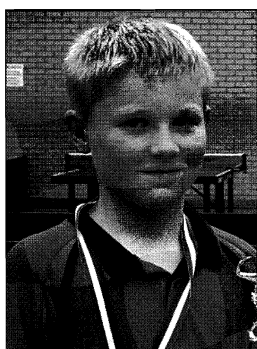


PAUL DRINKHALL No.1 on the Junior & Cadet Boys lists

(92)	57 BARTLETT, Alec (K.)	1218**
(93)	58 WILKINSON, Philip (LA.)	1207***
(98)	59 GIGLI, Adam (NK.)	1199
(97)	60 DAVIES, Andrew (LA.)	1193***
(96)	61 HIRJI, Alim (MI.)	1189
(99)	62 SHAW, Oliver (BU.)	1186**
(95)	63 DEVILLE, Billy (E.)	1158
(101)	64 SWART, Ben (HE.)	1142***
(103)	65 KHAM, Sifal (LA.)	1125**
(104)	66 PIPER, Damien (YS.)	1121*
(105)	67 BARKER, Richard (CH.)	1094**
(107)	68 SHAW, Ashley (BU.)	1078*
(108)	69 LOVEIT, Joshua (E.)	1076**
(126)	70 WARE, Matthew (HA.)	1067
(110)	71 FEARGRIEVE, Craig (NG.)	1062**
(109)	72 IVES, Daniel (K.)	1054
(111)	73 FEARGRIEVE, Adam (NG.)	1054**
(112)	74 COPLESTON, Michael (E.)	1052**
(113)	75 MALDE, Mehul (MI.)	1049**
(114)	76 MITCHELL, Tim (DY.)	1036**
(115)	77 GRANT, Jack (YS.)	1025**
(116)	78 DENNESS, Peter (CU.)	1022***
(117)	79 CHACOLIADIS, Joseph (MI.)	1008
(121)	80 MORGAN, Peter (YS.)	992***
(118)	81 MARSHALL, Richard (DY.)	989
(118)	82 THORSHALL, William (E.)	988***
(120)	83 CHRISTIE, Paul (DV.)	977***
(123)	84 WILLETTS, Ashley (HA.)	973
(122)	85 BARKER, Mitchell (CH.)	970
(142)	86 ANDREWS, Michael (E.)	914
(127)	87 POYNER, Simon (DV.)	892***
(128)	88 SMITH, Christopher AL(DV.)	891
(134)	89 GASCOWNE, Peter (OV.)	887**
(130)	90 TATLOW, Adam (CO.)	884***
(133)	91 HODGES, Andrew (WL.)	864**
(135)	92 WATSON, John (LI.)	835***
(136)	93 BOND, Jamie (E.)	825***
(137)	94 COOPER, Stephen (E.)	819**
(138)	95 PEGG, Billy (SP)	798***
(140)	96 GROKHOTOV, Alexandre (WO.)	778**
(143)	97 WARE, Alex (ND.)	768**
(145)	98 WALKER, Stephen (YS.)	762***
(146)	99 COOK, Martyn (NK.)	744***
(147)	100 PARKER, Christopher (Y.)	744**

Pos	Name	Rating	Flag
(1)	1 PARKER, Joanna (SY.)	4455	
(4)	2 SIBLEY, Kelly (WA.)	4391	

(32)	23	HALLAWS, Caroline (CH.)	1921*
(33)	24	REES, Bethany (E.)	1916**
(36)	25	JAMESON, Rachel (E.)	1851
(34)	26	STEEPLES, Susie (LL.)	1811**
(35)	27	LIGHTWILER, Katie (Y.)	1762***
(37)	28	O'SULLIVAN, Emily (DY.)	1737*
(38)	29	LAYFIELD, Jordyn (CH.)	1704
(39)	30	BIELECK, Sylvana (BK.)	1674*
(40)	31	BOSELEY, Lisa (BK.)	1641****
(41)	32	PINNELL, Amanda (ST.)	1469**
(42)	33	SKEGGS, Kelly (E.)	1465***
(43)	34	GREENER, Rachel (DU.)	1455*
(44)	35	STRINGER, Jodie (K.)	1392***
(47)	36	HOWE, Claire (SO.)	1318***
(48)	37	CUNNINGHAM, Jeana (YS.)	1311**
(49)	38	LINZ, Caroline (BU) (SY.)	1283**
(50)	39	DUNMALL, Chloe (K.)	1281*
(51)	40	HALL, Jessica (LA.)	1247****
(52)	41	PILGRIM, Rachel (WA.)	1242*
(53)	42	PILGRIM, Nikki (WA.)	1234****
(55)	43	FURNIVAL, Stacey (SX.)	1150*
(56)	44	STANDEN, Lisa (SX.)	1119
(57)	45	WHITEHORN, Joy (DO.)	1100**
(58)	46	POTJEYD, Frances (SO.)	1054
(59)	47	HUBBARD, Sarah (K.)	995**
(61)	48	CRAWFORD, Helen (CU.)	909**
(62)	49	DUNCLIFFE, Sally (LA.)	905****
(65)	50	WALDEN, Kelly-Jayne (WA.)	837****
(66)	51	RULE, Katie (BU.)	834
(67)	52	WILKINSON, Hayley (LA.)	830**
(63)	53	TAYLOR, Amy (BU.)	828*
(69)	54	DOBSON, Jenny (HA.)	824***
(70)	55	SHADBOLT, Lisa (SY.)	809***
(72)	56	TARR, Michelle (SP.)	760****
(73)	57	ROPER, Carley (SO.)	746***
(75)	58	ARDESHANA, Reena (LA.)	724
(77)	59	CURRIE, Francesca (Y.)	715****
(79)	60	LOVE, Felicity (E.)	670
(85)	61	MACKEN, Jessica (E.)	628
(80)	62	MCCORMICK, Samantha (DU.)	626**
(81)	63	WOODLAND, Alison (SX.)	614*
(82)	64	MORLE, Annabelle (HA.)	603**
(84)	65	PINNELL, Emily (ST.)	598**
(86)	66	ROBINSON, Emily (Y.)	561**
(87)	67	STABLEY, Rebecca (DY.)	558**
(88)	68	FULLER, Laura (K.)	549**
(93)	69	YARLEY, Mary (Y.)	549
(96)	70	TRAVIS, Martha (CO.)	519
(91)	71	HUGHES, Sally (SX.)	490
(99)	72	CALLCUT, Charlotte (E.)	487
(90)	73	HANSELL, Jennifer (BU.)	482**
(94)	74	GROOME, Claire (E.)	457***
(95)	75	GUBBINS, Laura (OX.)	442
(97)	76	SMITH, Amanda (MI.)	429**
(98)	77	CHRISTER, Laurel (OX.)	421
(100)	78	BROWN, Nicola (E.)	415
(103)	79	PICH, Lynsey (CH.)	394**
(104)	80	SPARREY, Jodie (MI.)	383**
(105)	81	HAYES, Catherine (BU.)	381****
(108)	82	STUBBINGS, Holly (SK.)	376
(106)	83	ARROWSMITH, Kathryn (DY.)	372**
(110)	84	BENNETT, Chelsea (SK.)	353
(109)	85	COOKE, Rosanna (E.)	351
(112)	86	PYMAN, Laura (E.)	351
(107)	87	SPARREY, Megan (MI.)	345
(111)	88	YIP, Rebecca (LA.)	340*
(102)	89	RUSSO, Sarah (SX.)	338
(132)	90	BAKER, Rachel (LA.)	336
(113)	91	ORLEY, Rebecca (CY.)	307*
(115)	92	SINGH, Rebecca (Y.)	282**
(123)	93	POTTS, Haylee (HE.)	281
(116)	94	MALTYB, Ceri (SO.)	272***
(120)	95	BREWIN, Hannah (LL.)	266
(117)	96	STAFF, Lorna (E.)	265
(125)	97	FARQUHAR, Rachel (BK.)	263
(170)	98	FURNIVAL, Chelsea (SX.)	262
(131)	99	AJETO, Amy (NK.)	250
(121)	100	LUCAS, Emma (SY.)	249**



GAVIN EVANS No.1 Under 13 boy

(49)	24	MCBEATH, David (HA.)	739
(53)	25	WRIGHT, Anthony (CY.)	702
(57)	26	DENHAM, Stephen (SX.)	672**
(52)	27	MAYNARD, Tom (BK.)	671*
(58)	28	BLEAKLEY, Joshua (LA.)	670**
(65)	29	DAYBELL, Kim (YS.)	637
(60)	30	TREVORROW, Matthew (CO.)	632**

Cadet Girls

Pos	Name	Rating	Flag
(1)	1 SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LL.)	3821	
(2)	2 WANG, Sarra (E.)	2584	
(3)	3 VICKERS, Emma (DY.)	2346	
(4)	4 HALLAWS, Caroline (CH.)	1921*	
(5)	5 JAMESON, Rachel (E.)	1851	
(11)	6 LAYFIELD, Jordyn (CH.)	1704	
(13)	7 GREENER, Rachel (DU.)	1455*	
(15)	8 PILGRIM, Rachel (WA.)	1242*	
(16)	9 DENNETT, Fiona (CH.)	1202	
(18)	10 WHITEHORN, Joy (DO.)	1100**	
(22)	11 RULE, Katie (BU.)	834	
(21)	12 TAYLOR, Amy (BU.)	828*	
(24)	13 ARDESHANA, Reena (LA.)	724	
(30)	14 MACKEN, Jessica (E.)	628	
(27)	15 MORLE, Annabelle (HA.)	603**	
(32)	16 YARLEY, Laura (K.)	549**	
(34)	17 FULLER, Mary (Y.)	549	
(35)	18 TRAVIS, Martha (CO.)	519	
(33)	19 HUGHES, Sally (SX.)	490	
(36)	20 CALLCUT, Charlotte (E.)	487	
(37)	21 BROWN, Nicola (E.)	415	
(39)	22 HAYES, Catherine (BU.)	381	
(41)	23 STUBBINGS, Holly (SK.)	376	
(43)	24 BENNETT, Chelsea (SK.)	353	
(40)	25 SPARREY, Megan (MI.)	345	
(38)	26 RUSSO, Sarah (SX.)	338	
(64)	27 BAKER, Rachel (LA.)	336	
(47)	28 SINGH, Rebecca (Y.)	282**	
(54)	29 POTTS, Haylee (HE.)	281	
(48)	30 MALTYB, Ceri (SO.)	272***	

Under 13 Boys

Pos	Name	Rating	Flag
(1)	1 EVANS, Gavin (NG.)	3744	
(14)	2 MCBEATH, David (HA.)	739	
(20)	3 DAYBELL, Kim (YS.)	637	
(19)	4 SELFRIDGE, Oscar (E.)	578	
(24)	5 PITCHFORD, Liam (DY.)	513	
(36)	6 MITCHELL, Edward (BU.)	389	
(39)	7 BARELLA, Graeme (DU.)	357	
(56)	8 CULLEN, Sean (DY.)	312	
(35)	9 CRAWFORD, Scott (CU.)	311**	
(63)	10 NAYLOR, Mark (DY.)	301	
(43)	11 LOWE, Daniel (DY.)	294	
(37)	12 YOUNG, George (DY.)	290	
(40)	13 JAMESON, Lloyd (HA.)	279**	
(49)	14 DRAGOJLOVIC, Milan (GS.)	273	
(61)	15 POLDING, Alex (BU.)	259	
(52)	16 GRAY, Lewis (K.)	243	
(51)	17 LEE, Andrew (E.)	225	
(54)	18 BRUCE, Matthew (CU.)	219**	
(47)	19 WITCHELL, Christopher (BU.)	214	
(50)	20 SIMPSON, Michael (DY.)	214	

Under 13 Girls

Pos	Name	Rating	Flag
(3)	1 RULE, Katie (BU.)	834	
(7)	2 FULLER, Mary (Y.)	549	
(8)	3 TRAVIS, Martha (CO.)	519	
(10)	4 RUSSO, Sarah (SX.)	338	
(18)	5 BAKER, Rachel (LA.)	336	
(14)	6 POTTS, Haylee (HE.)	281	
(12)	7 BREWIN, Hannah (LL.)	266	
(15)	8 FARQUHAR, Rachel (BK.)	263	
(31)	9 FURNIVAL, Chelsea (SX.)	262	
(19)	10 JONES, Dominique (LL.)	245	
(16)	11 WRIGHT, Melissa (YS.)	230	
(21)	12 DAVIDSON, Lucy (DY.)	219	
(32)	13 KING, Yolanda (SX.)	197	
(41)	14 MARCH, Rebekah (E.)	194	
(23)	15 MCLEOD, Laura (DY.)	185	

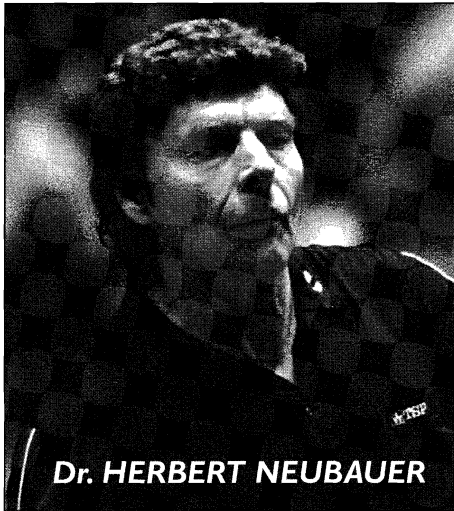
(36)	16	LEFEVRE, Karina (CY.)	183
(27)	17	SMITH, Victoria (DY.)	173
(25)	18	AIREY, Charlotte (NG.)	159
(30)	19	LEFEVRE, Kathrine (CV.)	149
	20	WANG, Chenchen (BK.)	139 N

Veteran Men

Pos	Name	Rating	Flag
(1)	1 HILTON, John (CH.)	3863*	
(2)	2 WHITING, Paul (DY.)	3680**	
(3)	3 JOHNS, Brian (CH.)	3639**	
(4)	4 KENNEDY, Joe (K.) (E.)	3612*	
(5)	5 ECKERSLEY, Nigel (SX.)	3605*	
(6)	6 PAPANTONIOU, Costas (MI.)	3601*	
(7)	7 GILES, Paul (CO.)	3594*	
(8)	8 ROBERTS, Chris (E.)	3563****	
(9)	9 CARTHY, Clive (E.)	3477**	
(11)	10 SATCHEL, Kevin (WI.)	3452	
(13)	11 HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3428	
(12)	12 GODBOLD, David (DU.)	3422****	
(14)	13 WILLIAMS, Keith (LA.)	3371*	
(17)	14 HALEY, Terry (SY.)	3301**	
(18)	15 GELDER, Tony (DU.)	3300*	
(20)	16 WIGNALL, Andy (LL.)	3283*	
(21)	17 FORD, Christopher (LA.)	3282**	
(22)	18 BARTRAM, Peter (SX.)	3278**	
(23)	19 CLAYTON, Tony (DO.)	3268**	
(24)	20 SHORT, Mike (DY.)	3263*	
(25)	21 ADEMAMINWA, Ayodele (E.)	3258*	
(26)	22 KERRY, Trevor (NG.)	3247	
(16)	23 TURNER, Steven (LA.)	32421*	
(19)	24 ROOFE, Eddie (WI.)	3239	
(27)	25 LUSK, Malcolm (MK.)	3227*	
(29)	26 ROMANO, Mark (K.)	3223**	
(28)	27 JOHNS, Mike (CH.)	3223**	
(31)	28 ISAAC, Anthony (ST.)	3201*	
(40)	29 HARDING, David (SY.)	3191	
(32)	30 WILLIAMS, Trevor (YS.)	3172****	
(33)	31 PAYNE, John (MI.)	3172*	
(34)	32 WELSHAM, Dave (NP.)	3172*	
(30)	33 PILGRIM, Ian (SY.)	3161	
(36)	34 RANKIN, Andy (ST.)	3153**	
(37)	35 RICH, Andy (LA.)	3150****	
(38)	36 DYSON, Tim (Y.)	3137*	
(39)	37 MEDDILL, Henry (SY.)	3132*	
(41)	38 ROBSON, Dave (DU.)	3111*	
(42)	39 RANDALL, David (E.)	3096**	
(43)	40 BURLETON, John (BU.)	3090**	
(47)	41 HARPER, Mick (BD.)	3082	
(44)	42 BIGGS, Phil (CH.)	3072*	
(45)	43 BOWEN, Philip (LA.)	3069*	
(46)	44 RAMSBOTTOM, Mark (LA.)	3042****	
(45)	45 BUSHELL, Karl (OX.)	3035	
(52)	46 GEHLOT, Hari (BK.)	3019	

(49)	47	KING, Russell (NK.)	3012****
(50)	48	PERCIVAL, Wayne (CH.)	3009*
(53)	49	GARRAWAY, Brian (DO.)	2996**
(54)	50	DAVIS, Steve (SY.)	2993
(54)	51	HOLMAN, Derek (SY.)	2989
(56)	52	DOBBINS, Steve (CH.)	2976
(51)	53	PICKARD, Chris (HE.)	2970
(55)	54	SALTER, Geoff (DU.)	2965****
(62)	55	LLOYD, Trevor (WI.)	2955
(57)	56	CARSLAKE, Colin (E.)	2926**
(58)	57	BREWER, Chris (NK.)	2920****
(59)	58	COLLINS, Paul (CH.)	2915*
(60)	59	RADFORD, Peter (E.)	2900****
(61)	60	SEAHOLME, Stuart (HE.)	2882****
(64)	61	BECKLEY, Chris (SY.)	2877**
(65)	62	GRANT, Bill (Y.)	2876**
(67)	63	RASUL, Farhat (SY.)	2861**
(87)	64	SWIFT, Norman (BD.)	2861
(68)	65	REEVES, Dave (BK.)	2855**
(69)	66	BURN, Brian (DO.)	2849****
(70)	67	CRAIGHILL, Jeffrey (CH.)	2841****
(71)	68	BALDING, Derek (HE.)	2839**
(72)	69	FELLOWS, Keith (LE.)	2821****
(73)	70	BRIERLEY, Neil (E.)	2820**
(74)	71	COOPER, Stephen (CY.)	2811**
(76)	72	ROBERTSON, Ian (WD.)	2799****
(77)	73	SHIRT, Richard (Y.)	2791****
(78)	74	NEWMAN, Maurice (LE.)	2790*
(79)	75	BALDWIN, Gary (WI.)	2779*
(80)	76	DOVE, Fred (E.)	2779*
(83)	77	GUYMER, Terry (E.)	2779
(81)	78	ROBINSON, John (SY.)	2775**
(82)	79	BROWNE, Michael (WA.)	2774**
(84)	80	GIBBS, Stuart (E.)	2773**
(85)	81	MCEVOY, Malcolm (CH.)	2768****
(86)	82	RHODES, Mike (BU) (BK.)	2766**
(88)	83	NORTON, Roy (WO.)	2761*
(89)	84	WAITE, Peter (WA.)	2743**
(90)	85	RICHARDSON, Nathaniel (OX.)	2733*
(91)	86	BANGERTER, Dave (SY.)	2729**
(92)	87	ADAMS, Thomas (ST.)	2725**
(93)	88	YARNLEY, Keith (K.)	2724**
(94)	89	CLEMENTS, Brian (LA.)	2724*
(95)	90	KOSMOWSKY, Steve (Y.)	2723**
(96)	91	GRAHAM, Cosmo (Y.)	2720****
(97)	92	ALLISON, Brian (LI.)	2711*
(98)	93	SAXBY, Phil (K.)	2708**
(104)	94	CRAWLEY, David (BK.)	2706
(103)	95	BAKER, Paul (ST.)	2704
(99)	96	DOUGLAS, Lindon (WA.)	2702**
(100)	97	BROUGHTON, Mick (NK.)	2695**
(101)	98	REEVES, Brian (SO.)	2691**
(105)	99	HILL, Barry (DO.)	2674**

(108)	100	HORTON, Steve (WO.)	2669**
		Veteran Women	
		Pos Name	Rating Flag
(1)	1	HARRIS, Jill (ST.)	3471**
(2)	2	SHORT, Elaine (DY.)	3413*
(3)	3	DUNNING, Jan (WO.)	3308*
(4)	4	HARPER, Sandra (BD.)	3230
(5)	5	MALTYB, Margaret (NP.)	3161*
(6)	6	PEARCE, Diane (K.)	3097*
(7)	7	DURHAM, Jane (CY.)	3075***
(8)	8	KING, Sheila (SX.)	3074**
(10)	9	SIMPSON, Linda (Y.)	3054*
(11)	10	RIDER, Sandra (Y.)	3050*
(12)	11	SHELES, Helen (Y.)	3044*
(9)	12	BUEY, Brenda (LA.)	3032
(13)	13	SCHOFIELD, Doreen (CH.)	3018**
(14)	14	HARRISON, Jennifer (E.)	3003*
(15)	15	WADEN, Marilyn (E.)	2992*
(16)	16	MUDGE, Kim (K) (ST.)	2922*
(17)	17	VADJI, Carmen (SY.)	2920
(18)	18	BROOKS, Diane (ST.)	2898**
(20)	19	PERRY, Penny (DY.)	2889*
(21)	20	SHALKER, Eileen (LE.)	2870*
(22)	21	HALES, Linda (DO.)	2867**
(19)	22	BURGESS, Suzanne (CH.)	2865
(23)	23	DAWSON, Marjorie (E.)	2858*
(24)	24	GELDER, Shirley (DU.)	2838*
(25)	25	SHALKER, Eileen (LE.)	2821*
(26)	26	KNIGHTLEY, Gillian (BK.)	2812****
(27)	27	FLOWERDAY, Anne (E.)	2807**
(28)	28	DIGNUM, Margaret (WO.)	2802****
(29)	29	LOCKE, Gill (E.)	2801**
(30)	30	BROWN	



BH: Any thoughts about the responsibilities of players?

AC: I am not interested in the political side of things but I do think players have a responsibility to play domestic competition. As players we have a responsibility to put something back into the game. My own particular target is the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne and all my efforts will be directed to that end. I want England to have the best possible team at that time and the sooner any difficulties are resolved the better. There must be a degree of give and take but I would expect to train as hard as any of the players younger than myself. The experience of playing in Sweden taught me how dedicated players like Waldner, Lindh, Appelgren and Persson were. They gave everything 100% of the time and that is why they became so good at their craft.

BH: What about your time in Sweden?

AC: I played three years in Falkenberg and two in Malmo. The first years were fantastic. I was just climbing onto the World and European ranking and by the time I came back I was top 15.

BH: Can you look back and say what your best wins were? Maybe the time you beat Appelgren from 15-20 down in the fifth?

AC: My record against Appelgren was pretty good, 14-12 in my favour. Against Waldner not so good but I did beat him a couple of times.

BH: How did you play him?

AC: If it was a big competition you always knew that he would invariably deliver so you did feel under pressure before you went on. It was so difficult to know how to play him. If you spotted a slight weakness one week you could be sure that the next time you played him it would become his strength.

BH: May I turn to more personal matters? How does your family cope with your life as a professional table tennis player?

AC: For my wife its been normal really. I met her through table tennis so she came to terms with my living out of a suitcase but for the kids its a bit different. In the last years I have not been away as much as before. It is hard for them sometimes but I think they understand. I try to speak to them from wherever I am.

BH: Do you enjoy the travelling part of it all?

AC: Its all part and parcel of the job. Its a nuisance really but if you want to do sport as a living it is something that you have to deal with. I travel to Switzerland ten times a year to play for my club over there although this is based mainly around April or May.

BH: I understand that you play in the same team as VETTS member Herbert Neubauer.

AC: Yes I do. He is my team captain and a very

nice guy. I was delighted to hear that he won two Gold medals in Japan recently. He is a fantastic example of how to look after yourself. He runs every day and watches his weight carefully. He is a real professional. He keeps on at me about entering the Veterans Worlds in Bremen but 2006 will be a very busy year what with the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. I will have to see how things pan out.

BH: Have you any thoughts on table tennis as a product and how it might be improved?

AC: That's a difficult one. My worry is that in the last few years we have seen many changes so close together. You have to make it sellable to the outside world. It has to be a product that people want to see and want to play. We have had three major changes in recent years and to me this is a worrying trend. I have heard of all these new ideas to raise the net, lengthen the table etc. but I feel we should allow the game to settle down.

BH: Alan, you won the recent "Fair Play" award in Kuala Lumpur recently. You have this image of a player who exercises true sportsmanship at all times. Do you sometimes inwardly seethe with anger when things do not go quite as you would expect?

AC: I hate losing today as much as I ever did, the difference now is that it maybe hurts for ten or fifteen minutes but then I recover and can move on. In my twenties when I lost a game it took maybe a week to recover. That's what I say to young players now - if they have a bad loss it should hurt them, if its not hurting then there is something wrong. I'm happier now. You have had a lot of defeats when you get to my age! As a professional you have to eat in the right way, sleep in the right way, do your warm ups properly, in fact be as dedicated as you possibly can be. I have to do whats best for me as a player and hopefully this might rub off on some of the young players.

BH: Are you conscious of the example you set to youngsters?

AC: Very much so. If I am tough on them it is because I want them to succeed. I try to do myself everything that I ask them to do. If they see me doing that extra run or pushing for that extra mile at my age then I think that will help them. I don't ask anything of them that I wouldn't do myself.

BH: Would you recommend youngsters making a career in the sport?

AC: I would be totally honest with them. Yes the top 10 in the world might be millionaires, but for the rest you have to be exceptionally good to be able to retire with a reasonable pension. The upside is that you can travel the world and if you are lucky you can be involved in Olympics, World, European, or Commonwealth championships, and to be in contention for medals gives you an incredible buzz.

BH: Outside of the sport have you other interests?

AC: I have many hobbies but my family are all important to me. The holidays we have together are a particular joy. I play golf and I love water skiing, basically I enjoy all the sports.

BH: Would you encourage your own children to take up the sport?

AC: If they want to that's fine by me, although I would suggest that they go through the club structure. I think they are becoming interested in my career both before my lay off and now. I really have no regrets about all the good, and the bad, experiences.

BH: Thanks very much for taking time to talk to me.

Obituary

ALAN HATCHETT

It is with great sadness that we report the death of ALAN HATCHETT who was the President of Surreys Thames Valley Table Tennis League.

Alan passed away on the 26th April 2004; he leaves behind his devoted wife Dorothy.

Alan had a long and varied Table Tennis background in the Thames Valley League.

The earliest record we have of Alan was when he played for the Phoenix Club in West Molesey in 1953; he then played for a number of clubs which included Alexandra Table Tennis Club, the club he was still a member of when he passed away.

Alan became a Division Secretary in 1956, eventually being elected as the General Secretary from 1963 to 1977, then again from 1982 to 2003; he became Vice-President in 1975 then President in 2003.

He was also a qualified County Umpire on the Surrey Committee for a number of years, being awarded both the "Trevor Channing" and the "Charles Bourne" trophies for his long service to Table Tennis.

As you can see Alan dedicated most of his life to Table Tennis and he will be sadly missed.

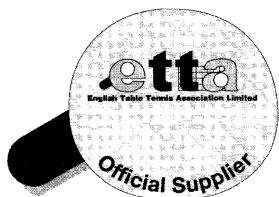
SCHOOL REPORT

IN THE NEAR FUTURE WE HOPE TO PUBLISH A NEW FEATURE ENTITLED SCHOOL REPORT



CALENDAR

DATE	TOURNAMENT	EVENT ORGANISER
OCTOBER		
23rd	East Midlands U11, U13 & Cadet 4 Star	Margaret Welch
24th	East Midlands Junior 4 Star	01472 596361
23rd-24th	Butterfly Guernsey 2 Star Open Satellite Tournament	Mike Johns 01606 45766
24th	National Junior League	
30th-31st	Butterfly Bath Open Grand Prix	
31st	Cirencester U13 & U15 1 Star	Ken Bridle 01285 657989
31st	Stiga Junior 3 Star Grand Prix	
NOVEMBER		
2nd	Mens European League vs Netherlands Barrow-in-Furness	Harvey Webb 01424 722525
6th	County Championships - Cadet, Junior, Senior & Veterans	
6th-7th	Junior & Veteran County Premier (1)	
13th	Chandlers Farm Equipment Cadet & Junior 1 Star	John Mapletoft 01476 565521
13th-14th	Stockton-on-Tees Cadet and Junior 4 Star tournament	David Hutchinson 01740 644447
13th-14th	Butterfly Cornwall Band 2 Star Open Satellite Grand Prix tournament	Di Jermyn 01726 69289
13th-14th	Veterans British League (1)	
20th-21st	British League Premier (2)	
20th-21st	Regional Trials	
27th	Milton Keynes 2 Star Junior Graded Tournament	Sarah Hudson 01525 716851
27th-28th	Senior County Premier (1)	
28th	Cirencester U11 & U13 1 Star	Ken Bridle 01285 657989
28th	Stiga 3 Star Grand Prix Blackpool	Tony Meredith 01253 397589
DECEMBER		
4th	County Championships - Cadet, Junior, Senior & Veterans	
5th	Hyndburn 2 Star Senior Graded Tournament	Dave Cochrane 07736 104881
5th	Cippenham 2 Star Senior	David Ball 01753 520475
11th	Essex U13 & U15 2 Star Tournament	Barry Granger 020 8590 0653
11th	Carter Cup R1 & Bromfield Trophy R1	



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

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

Schildkröt

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



Ball Supplier
County Championships 2002-2005

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MAY 2005
JUNE/JULY 2005

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