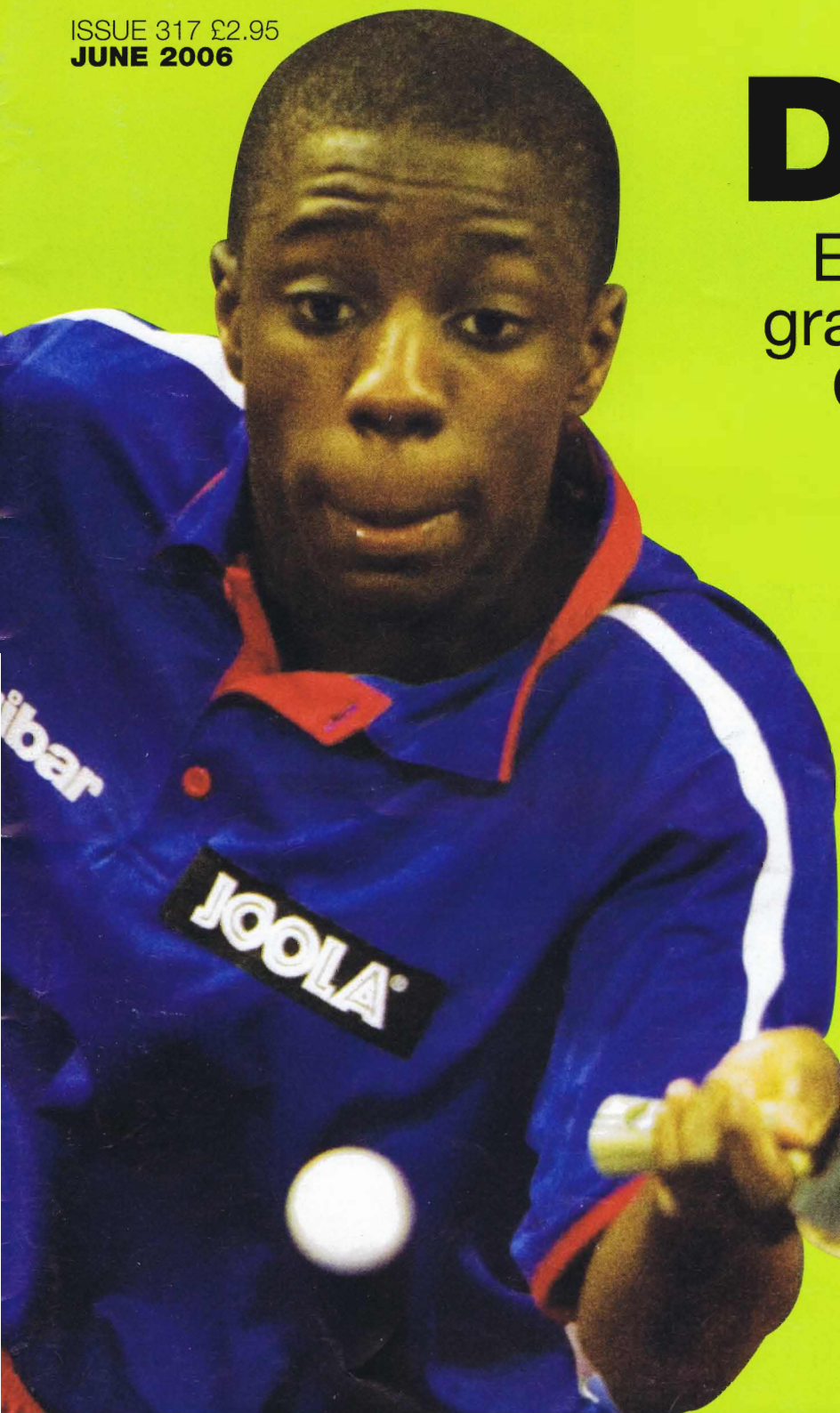


table tennis news

Official Magazine of the **English Table Tennis Association**

ISSUE 317 £2.95
JUNE 2006



Darius

England's saving
grace at the World
Championships!

End of season
results and news:

The Masters

Grand Prix

British League

County Champs

Plus:

Jan-Ove Waldner

Victor Barna

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DARIUS KNIGHT AT THE 2006
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY: MAKIANN DOMONKOS

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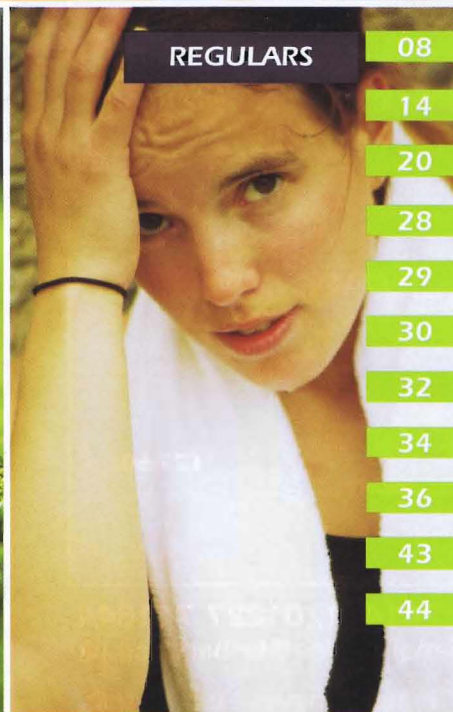
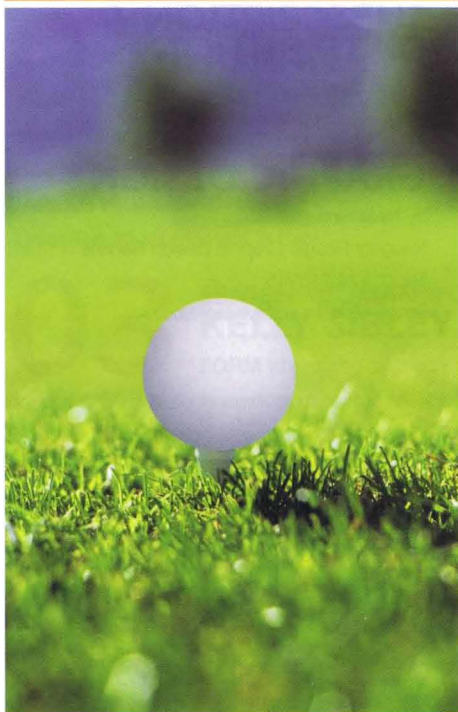
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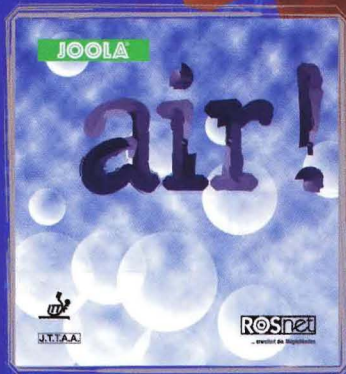
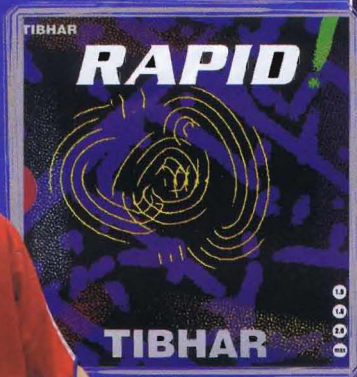
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from the editor

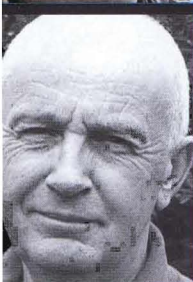


RICHARD PETTIT, EDITOR



RICHARD EATON

Richard has written about racket sports for 30 years, working for newspapers, magazines, radio and websites all over the world. He has also co-authored books with Desmond Douglas, Jill Hammersley Parker and John Hilton.



GEOFF WARE

Geoff has been involved in table tennis for 20 years and he is a self confessed fanatic. His combination blades can now be witnessed first hand in the Bournemouth Premier Division.



MATTHEW SYED

Matthew is former English number one. He has a defensive style with the bat yet quite the opposite with the pen. Currently a Times columnist, TV sports commentator and media pundit.



JOHN WOODFORD

John is former editor and regular contributor to Table Tennis News, he has travelled the world providing a top insight into almost every tournament you care to mention, in addition he regularly writes for The Telegraph.

Wilcot ! Metatarsals! Bend it like Beckham! World Cup! What are they talking about? The world's greatest sport hit Germany and more specifically Bremen in true style with the Liebherr World Team Table Tennis Championships providing tantalizing table tennis for us all. Richard Eaton unlocks the views from inside the England camp and delves into the mind of our very own Scandinavian supremo Steen Hansen.

Talking of Scandinavian supremos Jan Ove Waldner also blessed Bremen with his presence in what could possibly be his last performance for the Swedish National Team. Matthew Syed reflects on the brilliance of the man who is often referred to as the Mozart of table tennis.

With 2012 being the date etched on every sports fanatic's mind the future stars of TT recently commenced battle at the Cadet and Junior Masters providing another opportunity to assess their progress. Geoff Ware tells all.

Finally with many of you celebrating a great season and the others reflecting on what could have been, spare a thought for temperamental Chinese Olympic table tennis champion Chen Qi, who after a televised tantrum was ordered to spend a week as a farm labourer. Chen then had to set about plucking cucumbers, weeding and irrigating the fields, feeding pigs and levelling the soil. Perhaps he should have taken some advice from Rudyard Kipling "If you can keep your head while all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you, If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you but make allowance for their doubting too, ... You'll be a man, my son".

I hope you enjoy this season's penultimate magazine, please keep your stories, comments and letters rolling in to the usual address.

"PRICE IS A SIMPLE FIVE STEP PROCESS." CHRISTOPHER PETTIT PAGE 10 "WHAT WILL WE DO WITHOUT HIM? WHO WILL WE HAVE TO RAISE OUR SPIRITS AND CHEER OUR SOULS?" MATTHEW SYED PAGE 12 "THE MOST SUCCESSFUL HUNGARIAN SPORTSMAN OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY." STEVE LEVEN PAGE 16 "EVERY BASE IN IRAQ HAD TABLES WITH MINI LEAGUES AND COMPETITIONS RUNNING " BRETT BADER PAGE 20 "SUDDENLY HE REALISED HE COULD PLAY WITH THE BEST OF THEM. SUDDENLY HE'S NOT AFRAID AND HE'S IMPROVED." RICHARD EATON PAGE 22

The Masters

Most people would associate "The Masters" with the classic golf tournament held in Augusta, Georgia, with those giants of the game such as Nicklaus and Faldo, that quickly spring to mind. Played on rolling lush green fairways adorned with beautiful azaleas and rhododendrons, amid babbling brooks and manicured greens, but no, we're talking Slough here, in fact the Cippenham Table Tennis Centre, some 20 miles due west of London. Nevertheless, for aspiring young table tennis stars of the future, this end of season event is the one to be involved in!

BY GEOFF WARE

“Particularly impressive were relative newcomers, Lucy Davidson and Emily Bates, both of these youngsters, future England stars, making it through to the last day’s play.” GEOFF WARE

THE CADET MASTERS 29TH APRIL 2006

Entry is purely on an “invitation” basis, with the top 12 ranked players in cadets and juniors in boys and girls, providing they have played in at least three junior grand prix’s prior to the closing date. There is also the provision of four wild cards selected by Steen Kyst Hansen, making the total of 16 players in all events.

The first weekend’s play “teed off” on the last Saturday and Sunday in April, involving 32 cadet competitors, 16 boys and 16 girls.

The competition was unique in that two groups of eight players were formed using the “snake system”, with an all play all in each group, with the players finishing in seventh and eighth eliminated. The remaining players then play the six remaining players from the other group during Sunday, to determine the final positions.....it’s as easy as that.....!!

We all knew that with Mick Strode in the referee’s chair it would all run to time, and like clockwork.

The cadet boys event looked on paper as a stroll in the park for young 13 year old.....“Tiger, Gavin Evans.....Woods”, last year’s winner, and hot favourite to do the double.

However, 15 young men had other ideas, all eager to deny the champ, and with so many nail-biting encounters going to five sets, it seemed that anyone of half a dozen boys could take the title! Stewart Mudie gave Gavin most to think about, taking him all the way to the fifth leg, although the England ranked no.1 kept finding more. With so many quality matches at the eight-table venue, it was difficult to know which one to watch. Rising star Richard Marshall, the tall left hander, had an epic contest with no.2 seeded player, Wing Yung Chan, going down deuce in the fifth, whilst on an adjacent table Matt Ware and Chris Doran were having their usual five set thriller, with Matt just shading it 11-9 in the final leg. After the first day’s play, sadly Billy Deville would not be returning, as he had to withdraw due to an injury, together with Garth Kinlocke and Danny Lowe, who both found the going tough. Spare a thought also for Myles Evans; he battled all day but failed to win a match, lesser players would have thrown a wobbly, but he kept on trying, which showed tremendous character.

At half hour intervals the top cadet girls had their two group matches of eight to play, and they too had some fantastic closely matched games, all of them wanting to perform so well with the England selectors in attendance. Particularly impressive were relative newcomers, Lucy Davidson and Emily Bates, both of these youngsters, future England stars, making it through to the last day’s play. Top seeds, Emma Vickers and Rachel Jamieson,

were cruising through their groups, with only Sally Hughes managing to take a set off Rachel, and in group A, new kid on the block Hannah Hicks taking Emma right to the wire, going down 13-15 in the fifth end. Lancashire lass, Reena Ardeshana, was having a great day, notably a thrilling tussle with classic defender Melissa Wright, winning 12-10 in the fifth. You had to feel for both Kerry Mansell and Martha Travis not making “the cut” in group B, after fighting so hard with the results going against them, likewise in group A, Haylee Potts and Ayonija Sundararajan going home after the Saturday matches.

So once again, another trip up the M3 and M4, to premier club, Cippenham, hosting the two day event. Just the thought of Jackie’s hot sausage rolls and bacon butties made the two hour journey fly by. The start of the second day with podium places at stake saw the remaining six players left from group A, now playing the remaining players from group B. As the day unfolded, with once again some wonderful table tennis being played, you could feel the pressure mounting, with parents and coaches alike riding this rollercoaster of emotions at their “charge’s” success and failure to gain the top honours. Finally with the results all in, Mick Strode called everyone to order, then duly did his impersonation of the “station announcer at Crewe” with the microphone, cutting on and off. Gavin Evans was donned with the “Green Jacket” as “Cadet Master” 2006, making it a double from last year, with gallant efforts from Richard Marshall in second spot, Matt Ware picking up third, and Chris Doran in fourth.

In the girls event, a class performance by Rachel Jamieson, unbeaten over the two days, took the title as “Cadet Master”. Runner-up, and no.1 seeded player, Emma Vickers taking second spot, a very competent and determined effort by Reena Ardeshana picking up third spot, and a gritty performance by Hannah Hicks taking fourth. A solid performance from Karina Lefevre in fifth place, and a good result for Sally Hughes in sixth, who far exceeded her ranking position, and played very competently. One name to bear in mind for the future is Emily Bates, in ninth spot. Forget the position, only 10 years old, playing three five setters during the competition and causing a number of the older girls severe problems.....I think we can safely say that by next season, few girls are going to beat Emily easily.

Peter Charters was on hand to present the prizes (maybe next year the ETTA could consider providing Masters’ T-shirts, as green jackets could be slightly over the top!!). Tournament referee, Mick Strode, and his band of ETTA umpires did as usual a superb job, with very many thanks to Ken Phillips and his volunteers for the usual excellent Cippenham hospitality.



Gavin Evans (top) was donned with the “Green Jacket” as “Cadet Master” 2006, making it a double from last year, with gallant efforts from Richard Marshall (bottom) in second spot.



In the girls event, a class performance by Rachel Jamieson (top), unbeaten over the two days, took the title as “Cadet Master”. Runner-up, and no.1 seeded player, Emma Vickers (bottom) taking second spot.

“...it was a little disappointing that neither Paul Drinkhall the winner, nor Darius Knight in third place stayed to pick up their medals.” GEOFF WARE

THE JUNIOR MASTERS 6TH MAY 2006

With the same format as the cadet version, the junior event was played the following weekend.

As expected Kelly Sibley won the event, one might say in cruising mode and was never seriously troubled. Rachel Jamieson won the silver proving her cadet win the week before was certainly no fluke, losing only to Kelly and Sarra Wang. Melanie Farquhar, despite playing eight, four or five set matches, kept her head to take third spot in front of Emma Vickers, who also only dropped three matches. Caroline Hallows and Sarra Wang finished fifth and sixth respectively, both losing four matches, Caroline taking the higher position by virtue of her five set win over Sarra. A number of cadets performed creditably in such distinguished company with Reena Ardeshana taking seventh, Mary Fuller eighth (a big improvement on the previous weekend), and Hannah Hicks coming in ninth place. Rather interesting that Hicks who is a total beginner in comparison with the top England players should give the juniors as much trouble as the cadets - she took three of the top six girls to five sets. Surely the prime skill in our sport is the capability to adapt to an ever-changing situation!

In the junior boys event, it was a little disappointing that neither Paul Drinkhall the winner, nor Darius Knight in third place, stayed to pick up their medals.

Perhaps after their successes abroad these minor events at home lack status?

Paul won, as expected, losing only to Daniel Reed, who beat Darius also, but lost to David Meads and Wing Yung Chan on the way. A very solid performance from Daniel who well deserved his silver, which could so easily have been gold - two of the games lost against Wing including the fifth, were 9-11. Darius also lost to David Meads.

Gavin Evans played well in fourth spot, losing only to the top three, as did Tim Yarnall in fifth, only losing to the



As expected Kelly Sibley (left) won the event, one might say in cruising mode and was never seriously troubled. Another predictable result, Paul Drinkhall (right) won the Junior Boys, losing only to Daniel Reed along the way. Photography By David Wearn

top four. David Meads in sixth place was the one player who had a chance to finish much higher. He got the results against Reed and Knight, but then lost to Yarnall and Bradley Evans, which just goes to show how close it can be in the junior boys event !!

On a final note, without the hard work of the umpires and referee, Mick Strode, the tournament would not have been the success it was, and once again, so many thanks to all concerned at Cippenham Table Tennis Club, home of the real “Masters”not that other.....event !!!

RESULTS: THE MASTERS 2006

CADET GIRLS

Position	Player
01	Rachel JAMIESON (E)
02	Emma VICKERS (Dy)
03	Reena ARDESHANA (La)
04	Hannah HICKS (Ha)
05	Karina LEFREVRE (Cv)
06	Sally HUGHES (Sx)
07	Jessica MACKEN (E)
08	Melissa WRIGHT (Ys)
09	Emily BATES (Li)
10	Lucy DAVIDSON (Dy)
11	Rachel BAKER (La)
12	Mary FULLER (Y)

CADET BOYS

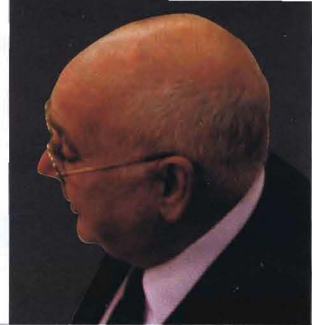
Position	Player
01	Gavin EVANS (Bu)
02	Richard MARSHALL (Dv)
03	Mathew WARE (Ha)
04	Christopher DORAN (Np)
05	Wing-Yung CHAN (Sy)
06	Stewart MUDIE (Li)
07	William MAYBANKS (Hs)
08	David MCBEATH (Ha)
09	Liam PITCHFORD (Dy)
10	Anthony WRIGHT (Cv)
11	Kim DAYBELL (Ys)
12	Tom MAYNARD (Bk)

JUNIOR GIRLS

Position	Player
01	Kelly SIBLEY (Wa)
02	Rachel JAMIESON (E)
03	Melanie FARQUHAR (Bk)
04	Emma VICKERS (Dy)
05	Caroline HALLOWS (Ch)
06	Sarra WANG (E)
07	Reena ARDESHANA (La)
08	Mary FULLER (Y)
09	Hannah HICKS (Ha)
10	Jordyn LAYFIELD (Ch)
11	Sally SMITH (Dv)
12	Melissa WRIGHT (Ys)

JUNIOR BOYS

Position	Player
01	Paul DRINKHALL (Cv)
02	Daniel REED (Cv)
03	Darius KNIGHT (Sy)
04	Gavin EVANS (Bu)
05	Tim YARNALL (Np)
06	David MEADS (Du)
07	Bradley EVANS (Bu)
08	Christopher LEWIS (Sy)
09	Wing-Yung CHAN (Sy)*
10	Luke CARRINGTON (Y)
11	Ben BARLOW (Ys)
12	Christopher DORAN (Np)



STRAIGHT TALK WITH ALEX MURDOCH

The World Team Championships and Commonwealth Games both gained significant media coverage; congratulations to Sue Gilroy, Cathy Mitton and Andrew Baggaley/Andrew Rushton for their medal successes, in addition a collective thanks to all the players and coaches for their efforts during both these events.

The next major event is the European Youth Championships to be held in Sarajevo in July. Our young players have started their build up programme and training, and the team will be announced in the coming weeks.

FUNDING

Our funding from Sport England for 2006/7 has been confirmed as £1.03M covering the basic Whole Sport Plan funding with additional contributions to assist in the Step into Sport, UKCC (UK Coaching Certificate) and PESSCL projects (national strategy for school sport). Our thanks go to Sport England for their continued support.

Additional funding of £1.2M has been put aside as part of the CCDP (Community Club Development Programme) facilities programme to assist in projects over the next 18 months.

Following the announcement by the Chancellor in this year's Budget for increased funding for London 2012, our ongoing negotiations with UK Sport on behalf of the GB Team has resulted in an award of £2.2M over the next three years for the GB programme to March 2009. Many thanks go to UK Sport and the BOA (British Olympic Association) for their efforts on our behalf.

This award has been made to the BOTTF (British Olympic Table Tennis Federation) for a programme including training and competition for up to 18

potential athletes from Great Britain. The general administration will be done by the ETTA with the management, selection and day-to-day operation of the programme run by the BOTTF Board and its Performance Management Group, which involves representation from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

It is quite clear that a very significant amount of this funding will be used for England players as they are most likely to be the majority of the 18 nominated players.

WORLDWIDE ISSUES

I have just returned with the ETTA Treasurer, Martin Clark, from the World Team Championships in Bremen where we attended a number of meetings involving the ITTF, ETTU, CTTF and representatives from many other countries around the world. Details of the various propositions and resolutions discussed have been put on the website

(www.etta.co.uk).

It is quite clear from discussions with many people that the performances of our cadet boys have been recognised worldwide and our development, competition and coaching initiatives are accepted as very positive.

UK COACHING CERTIFICATE

The programme of the UKCC continues and we are moving forward in regard to the endorsement

process of the first two levels. This is a new and major change in regard to coaching practices of not just table tennis but sport in general.

Hope this gives you some background information - please get in touch if you have any questions and I look forward to meeting you during my travels.



MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Management Team were elected at the last National Council meeting following nominations from myself; they will commence full responsibilities in July, (details below).

Changes have occurred within the Competitions, Coaching, Development and Selection Departments following the resignation of Mike Johns and Phil Goulding; my thanks go to both Mike and Phil for their work on behalf of the ETTA and its members during the time they were on the Management Committee.

ADMINISTRATION

J.E. DIGNUM

For: 39

Against: 3



MARKETING

Mrs S. DEATON

For: 38

Against: 4



COMPETITIONS

K.T.O. PONTING

For: 40

Against: 1



DEVELOPMENT

Mrs E SHALER

For: 27

Against: 14



PUBLIC RELATIONS

J. BECKLEY

For: 35

Against: 6



COACHING/YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Mrs J. B. HEATON

For: 38 Against: 3



SELECTION

P. A. CHARTERS

For: 37

Against: 3



POST-INJURY ADVICE

PRICE

WHAT TO DO IN THE INITIAL STAGES OF INJURY BY CHRISTOPHER PETTIT

Injuries to structures in the body such as ligaments, muscles and tendons all create a similar initial response 'the inflammatory response'. This response is predominantly due to damage of small blood vessels which causes bleeding at and or within the site of injury. This leads to the four main signs of inflammation; heat, redness, pain, swelling.

Application of the correct treatment methods in the initial stages of injury to counteract the negative aspects of the inflammatory response can significantly increase the rate of recovery.

WHAT IS PRICE?

The correct initial management techniques can easily be remembered using the acronym PRICE (Protect, Rest, Ice, Compression and Elevation).

1 PROTECT. How - Splint, bandage or rest the injured area. N.B. Make sure the mode of protection can accommodate swelling

Why - Ensuring protection against any undue stress that may disrupt the healing process.

Duration - 3-5 days depending on the severity of the injury

2 REST. How - Slings, crutches, or static rest, e.g. sitting or lying down.
Why - Avoids unnecessary blood flow reducing increased pressure and swelling in the area.

Duration - Immediately after injury and for 3-5 days depending on the severity of the injury.

3 ICE. How - Apply crushed ice wrapped in a damp towel or cloth.
Why - The body can overreact to sudden traumatic injury, producing more inflammatory fluid than is necessary. The fluid contains proteins that can develop into scar tissue, this may restrict the structure returning to normal function, reducing flexibility and increasing the risk of re-injury. Ice reduces the inflammatory fluid build. It constricts the local blood vessels, reducing the amount of inflammatory fluid sent by the body to the site of injury.

Duration - The sooner the ice is applied the better. The golden rule for application is to apply the ice for 15 minutes at a time, leaving intervals of 20 minutes before re-applying. If the ice is applied for long periods at a time the body re-opens the blood vessels as it becomes used to the temperature.

4 COMPRESSION. How - The area should be compressed a minimum of six inches above and below the site of the injury Apply a bandage securely over the area. If you feel the bandage is too tightly (i.e. you feel the area throbbing), remove the bandage and re-wrap the area so that the bandage is a little looser.

Why - Compression limits the unnecessary accumulation of inflammatory fluid and ultimately the over-production of scar tissue.

Duration - Compression should be applied as soon as possible following the injury and continued for the first 72 hours.

5 ELEVATION. How - Use pillows, foot stools, slings etc. Try and raise the area above the level of the heart.

Why - It lowers the blood pressure at the site of injury, helping limit the bleeding.

Duration - As soon as possible following the injury and for the first 72 hours.

THINGS TO AVOID

Heat e.g. hot bath, alcohol, stretching and massage. Adherence to these techniques will help the recovery of any soft tissue injury in the initial 72 hours. If however pain and swelling do not decrease after 48 hours, make an appointment to see your doctor.



FOCUS ON...

WALDNER

BY MATTHEW SYED

Jan-Ove Waldner's appearance for Sweden at the World Team Championships in Bremen was a welcome surprise to those of us who feared that the mercurial 40-year-old had played his last match in a Swedish vest. Although he did justice to his waning talents (with victories over, among others, Michael Maze), it would be a brave man who gambled on seeing Waldner at a future major championship.

What will we do without him? Who will we have to raise our spirits and cheer our souls? One thing is for sure: those privileged enough to witness him in his pomp will be mumbling into our beards when the youngsters of tomorrow doubt our lyrical assessment of his genius. It is unlikely that we shall see his like again.

If New Delhi provided the moment when Waldner lifted the hopes of a generation of Europeans and Barcelona demonstrated that he had successfully added destructive intent to his poetic armoury, it is Manchester that will always be remembered as his finest hour. This was the moment that his genius found its truest expression and the collective ambition of his challengers became a mere footnote to the most decisive conquest of the world title ever seen.

His destruction of Vladimir Samsonov provided the moment that Denis Neale, with shaking head, finally conceded that Zhuang Zedong would have been blown away like a leaf in a gale, a poignant moment for those of us who had long endured Neale's strictures about the invincibility of the three time world

champion from the 1960s. Even the oldest of the old school admitted that the Swedish maestro had elevated the sport to levels that the likes of Bergmann and Barna would not have dreamed of.

But it was his lesser known victory over Zoran Primorac in the earlier rounds that remains his most dazzling exhibition. Some years later I discussed the demolition with the man on the receiving end, and the proud Croat was still somewhat stunned by the experience. If you have yet to see it, I would strongly advise you to beg, borrow or steal a video. It is a performance that goes far beyond the likes of Comaneci or Torvill and Dean in its proximity to sporting perfection.

The moment that this admirer will most cherish, however, occurred in Athens in 2004 in a match that many feared would prove to be an embarrassment for the old maestro. Deprived of his serve (by the new law) and with a bigger ball impeding the impact of his backhand, and with a paunch and the stiffening limbs of someone approaching retirement, he defeated Ma Lin, the red-hot favourite, through an audacious combination of iron self-belief and creativity.

I was covering badminton for The Times on that afternoon and had decided not to return to the Galatsi Olympic Hall, fearful of having to witness the great man being humiliated. But on the spur of the moment I jumped in a cab and arrived just in time. I will always feel a sense of gratitude to the taxi driver for stopping at that busy crossroads. A couple of days later Waldner returned to defeat Timo Boll in the quarter-

finals – Waldner later told me that he had not played as well as he had hoped. That is the audacious Swede all over. Table tennis will never shine as brightly again.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

World Championship

1983	Silver - Team competition
1985	Silver - Team competition
1987	Silver - Singles/Team competition
1989	Gold - Single/Team competition
1991	Silver - Singles Gold - Team competition
1993	Bronze - Singles Gold - Team competition
1995	Silver - Team competition
1997	Gold - Singles Silver - Doubles
1999	Bronze - Singles
2000	Gold - Team competition

European Championship

1982	Silver - Singles
1986	Gold - Doubles/Team competition
1988	Bronze - Singles Gold - Doubles/Team Competition
1990	Gold - Team Competition
1992	Gold - Team Competition
1994	Silver - Singles/Team Competition
1996	Gold - Singles/Doubles/Team
2000	Gold - Team Competition

Olympic Games

1988	Final 8 in Singles
1992	Gold - Singles
1996	Final 16 in Singles
2000	Silver - Singles
2004	Bronze - Singles



CLUB DEVELOPMENT



The awards are designed to recognise and reward good practice in club development.

PREMIERCLUB 'CLUB OF THE YEAR'

The ETTA PremierClub 'Club of the Year' awards were presented by ETTA Treasurer Martin Clark at the National Volunteer, Club and League Conference at Lilleshall National Sports Centre.

PremierClub is the ETTA national programme for club development and the awards are designed to recognise and reward good practice in club development. The focus of the ETTA development

programme is on developing a strong club structure to build and sustain growth of table tennis by providing opportunities for all to play or be involved in, whatever level their ability allows.

These popular annual awards took on a new format this year, removing the self nomination process. Clubs were eligible by virtue of completing and submitting the re-assessment form within a set deadline. All eligible clubs were then scored objectively

against a template that assessed their performance largely on growth of membership, volunteers and club playing programme.

To decide on regional winners the two highest scoring clubs at each PremierClub level were invited to provide further details about their club with the resulting information being scored.

Each regional winner was subsequently nominated for the national awards.

Each of the clubs present at the presentation received a framed certificate and was provided with a photograph for local publicity purposes. For clubs not present at the conference, ETTA Regional Development Officers have been asked to make presentations at an appropriate local event.

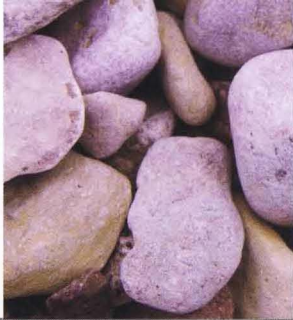
As a direct consequence of winning the ETTA national awards Scarborough TTC and Uxbridge TTC were nominated for the prestigious Central Council for Physical Recreation/Foundation for Sport & the Arts 'Sports Club of the Year' awards open to all sports.

We are delighted to announce that Scarborough TTC were shortlisted and came third, receiving £1,000 in prize money, and were invited to a gala dinner to receive their award at a swanky London hotel. A skateboard club won the overall first place.

Despite a few hiccups in the new administration process, this year's awards have been a success. Feedback from award winners is very positive and as well as the 'feel good factor', clubs have benefited from local publicity that has given them a heightened local profile and in some cases helped them gain financial support.

'CLUB OF THE YEAR' REGIONAL and NATIONAL WINNERS

NORTH WEST GARSTANG TTC, PRESTON TTC, NORTH EAST ALNWICK TTC, YORKSHIRE MALTON & NORTON TT COACHING GROUP, SCARBOROUGH TTC, EAST MIDLANDS STAVELEY TTC, WEST MIDLANDS PENKHULL TTC, UXBRIDGE TTC EAST CFE WATTON TTC, ST NEOTS TTC, SOUTH EAST CRAWLEY COMMUNITY TTC SOUTH WEST TOWNSEND TTC, DML WOOLWELL TTC, ILFRACOMBE TTC LONDON GEOFFREY CHAUCER SCHOOL TTC, HILLINGDON TTC, MOSSFORD TTC, ELLENBOROUGH TTC, AND THE NATIONAL AWARDS GO TO: TOWNSEND TTC, PENKHULL TTC, SCARBOROUGH TTC & UXBRIDGE TTC



"No stone has been left unturned in making sure that this facility will be as accessible, popular and engaging as the sport itself....."

£593,000 bonus for Ellenborough TT Club

Ellenborough Table Tennis Club has been awarded £593,000 as part of the Government funded Community Club Development Programme (CCDP). Overseen by Sport England an amazing £60 million has been distributed though 32 sports; these funds have been specifically earmarked to develop links between the country's leading clubs and their local communities with the aim to advance club facilities in a creative and innovative manner.

The English Table Tennis Association (ETTA) identified Ellenborough TTC as one of four clubs to be allocated funding from the CCDP programme. As such Ellenborough has received the guidance and specialised expertise of Paul Baker, ETTA's National Facilities Officer, in addition to the tremendous support from Sport England's Helen Ives, who has helped the club through all phases of the application process

The combination of funds and support will provide Ellenborough with an enlarged and refurbished playing area, function room with bar and social area, changing rooms, toilets, office and storage space, excellent disabled access, as well as new lighting, heating and ventilation systems throughout.

Joan Ryan, MP for Enfield North, said "This is fantastic news. I want to pay tribute to all those at Ellenborough Table Tennis Club for all their hard work and commitment in achieving this award. This will be hugely beneficial to our community and in particular to our young people".

The club Chairman David Hope reinforces those sentiments: "Thanks to the untiring efforts of our Committee and the support of certain Councillors and Officers of the London Borough of Enfield, our dream will come true when we re-open in October 2006."

New Crawley Centre

Crawley Community Table Tennis Club, a member of the ETTA Premier Club programme, held an open day at their newly finished headquarters at Holy Trinity School, Crawley, West Sussex.

The club was founded in 2000 by Tim Manhire following his return to the UK after residing in New York for some time. Tim was shocked to find few multi table venues in the area and a lack of junior activity. With help from both Crawley Council and a Lottery grant the club purchased six tables as a provisional step with the view to expanding their premises.

The club then joined the Premier Club Programme and commenced activities. This has now culminated in their move to the new premises. Tim said "We are very fortunate that a school was prepared to build a new hall whilst consulting with the ETTA on the requirements for the hall to be suitable for table tennis". The new hall holds 14 tables for play and there is even a smaller hall for league matches.

The club currently has 7 league teams and finished first and second in the top division this year in what is a very strong league. The club is running coaching sessions at four local primary schools as well as an after school club at Holy Trinity. In addition there is regular junior and adult coaching on the Premier Club's practice nights. The icing on the cake is that the club has now received the Sport England Clubmark award for which they have been working for some time.

The club website can be found on www.crawleytabletennis.com

Equality Standards

The ETTA is one of the first organisations to achieve the Foundation Level of the Equality Standard for Sport. The certificate was presented to the ETTA's Chief Executive, Richard Yule, by the Minister for Sport, Richard Caborn, at the recent CCPR conference.

The Standard is a joint initiative between UK Sport and the four home country sports councils and is designed to improve equality and remove barriers to participation in sport. It aims to guide the work of governing bodies by providing a framework to engage with people from all backgrounds, get them involved in sporting activity and help achieve their potential.

Launched in November 2004, the Standard particularly focuses on eliminating barriers currently faced by under-represented groups, which include women and girls, from minority backgrounds and those with disabilities. "The Standard is designed to provide some focus for sports bodies in engaging, involving, promoting and developing people from all sectors of society in different roles within sport," said Amanda Bennett, Equity Consultant at UK Sport.

As well as the ETTA, the other organisations achieving the Foundation level are: Scottish Equestrian Association, Triathlon Scotland, Scottish Basketball, Amateur Rowing Association, Women's Sport Foundation and Badminton England. By achieving this level, these organisations have shown they are 'committed to equality and that commitment is communicated to all staff and volunteers'.

Thanks must go to the efforts of Judy Rogers the ETTA's National Equality and Child Protection Officer whose expertise and persistence have made this possible.



the language of table tennis

Sport development news from around the world by **Bret Bader and Ian Marshall**

Outreach to Iraq

Lessons learnt at a Dorset sports college have spread to Iraq through the work of the Schools Sport Development Officer Brett Bader.

Projects initially run by Brett and young leaders at The Grange School Sports College and local partners have proved popular in Basra. Brett, a Lieutenant of the Rifle Volunteers (Devonshire and Dorset Light Infantry), was posted to Iraq in the role as second in command of civil and military co-operation (CIMIC) serving with the 1st Battalion of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment Battle Group based in Basra.

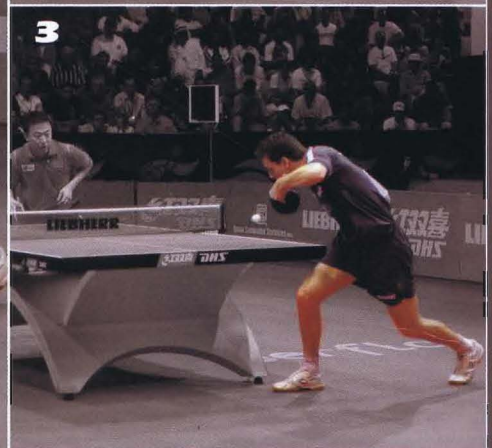
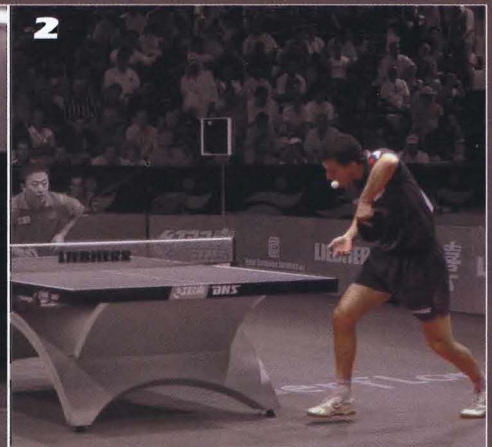
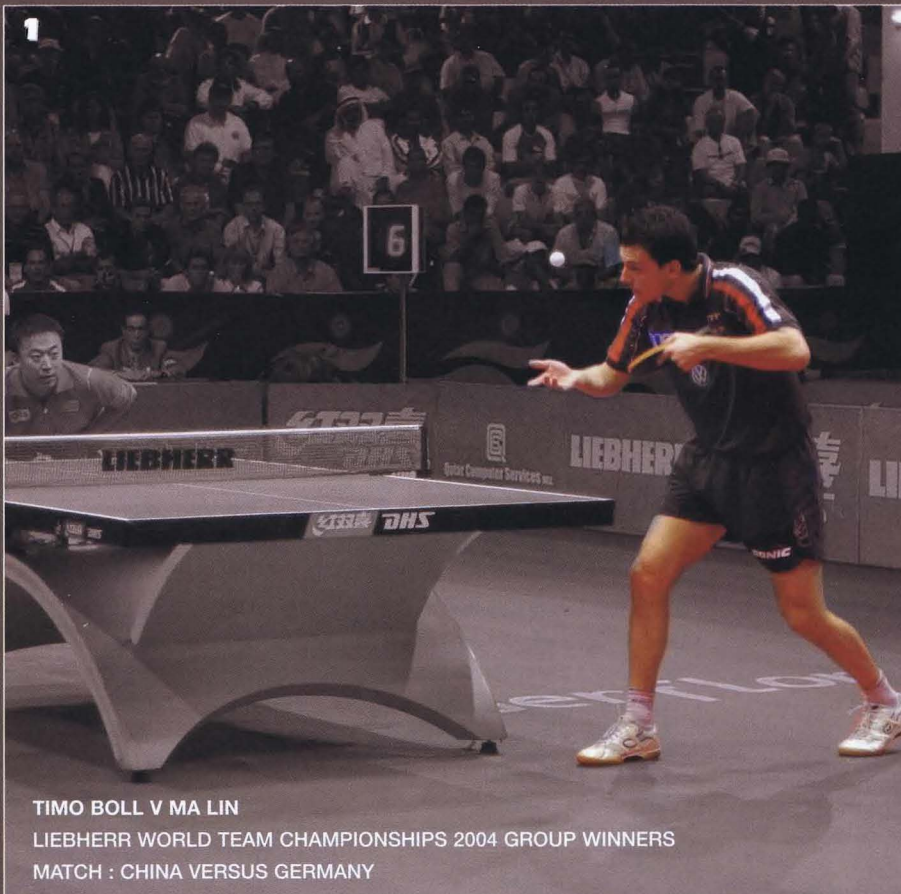
A special parcel winged its way across the

world as a village school's pupils and teacher Margaret Mead did their bit for the British forces. From Stogursey in Somerset Iraq was the trip that the package of donated bats, balls and nets took as the village's primary school supported an appeal from the table tennis coach serving in the army. Other kind donors included Mark Bellamy, Geoff Ware, Peter Austin of Batskills, Chris Newton of Penkhull Table Tennis Club, Robert Rhodes of St Peter's High School and Lee Devaney of Bournemouth Sports Table Tennis Club who responded after Malcolm the webmaster posted the plea for support.

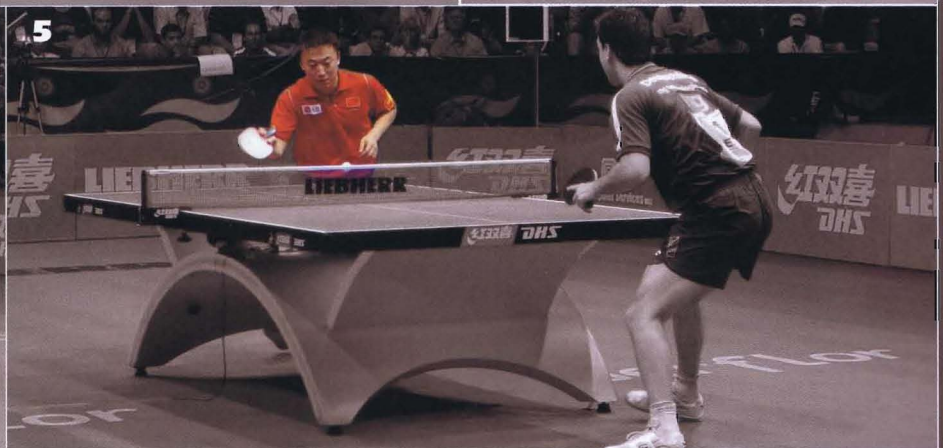
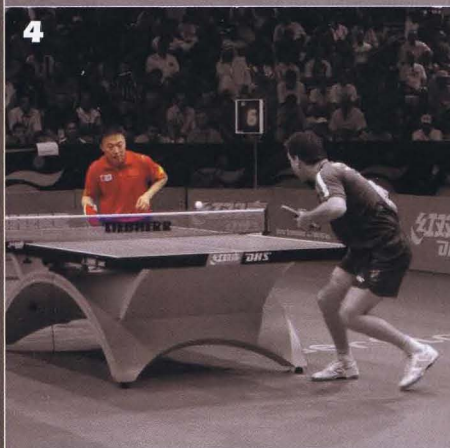
A table tennis initiative increased enthusiasm to take part in the sport, inspired more sports clubs, fostered community spirit

and reduced tension between warring factions. Brett used his Arabic linguistic skills teaching some table tennis to youngsters in the Basra schools. Individuals of all ages played table tennis. It was just as popular as football. Every base in Iraq had tables with mini leagues and competitions running.

As well as improving opportunities in Christchurch, many of these partners have raised the quality of sporting provision in Iraq by donating equipment, which Brett distributed throughout his tour. Brett would like to acknowledge thanks to all those who have donated time, energy and enthusiasm to help make these projects a success both at home and abroad.



1
TIMO BOLL V MA LIN
 LIEBHERR WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS 2004 GROUP WINNERS
 MATCH : CHINA VERSUS GERMANY



A VERY LOW BODY POSITION

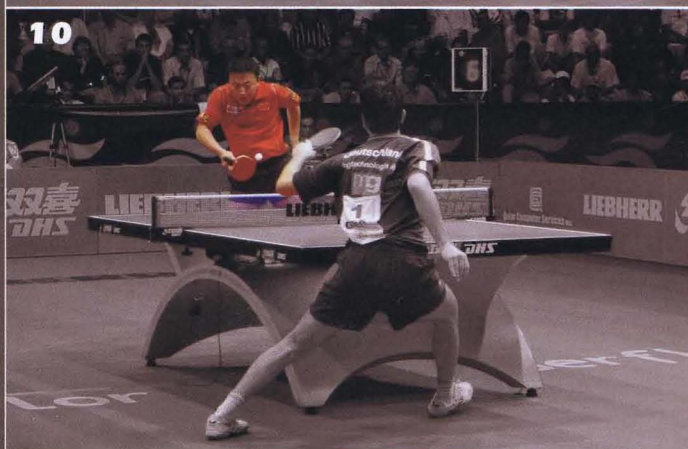
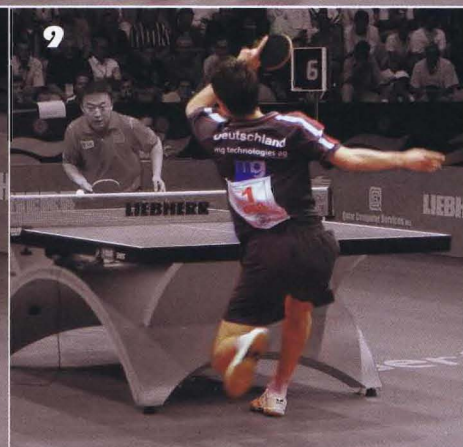
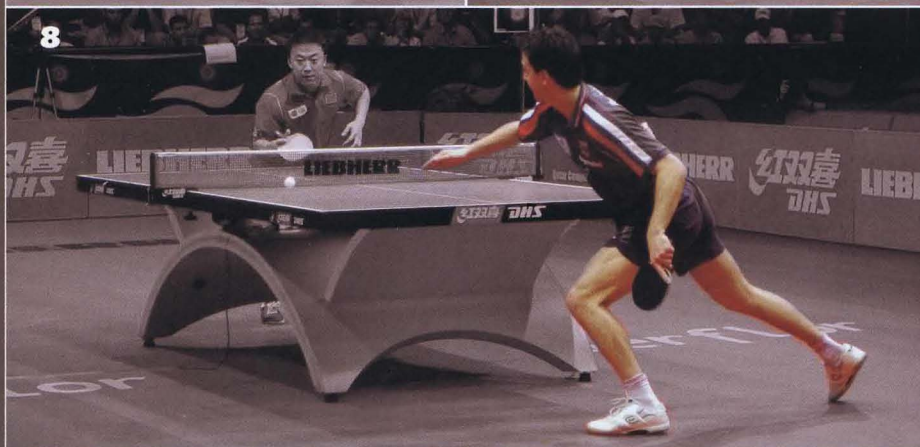
Ma Lin adopts a very low body position, lower than players like Wang Liqin and Kong Linghui; the low body position helps him generate a great deal of power from his legs, this enables him to play aggressive forehand topspins; it is the forehand topspin stroke that is his strength.

Forehand Topspin

COACHING TIPS WITH
IAN MARSHALL

SUCCESS WITH A QUICK ATTACK

Timo Boll has a very fast forehand action and it is his ability to attack quickly with the forehand after the service that has brought him so much success. Furthermore, being left handed, his forehand topspin stroke across the table is directed into the right hander's body, a position from which both a shakehands grip player and a penhold grip player will usually block the return; any other option necessitates taking a risk and for Boll it is a safe tactic that will keep the opponent under pressure.



PLAYING ACROSS THE TABLE

Furthermore, if Boll plays the forehand topspin across the table it is impossible for his opponent to gain a wide angled return to his backhand; the ball may on occasions be blocked "down the line" but Boll can reasonably anticipate the ball being returned either to the middle of the table or back to the forehand.

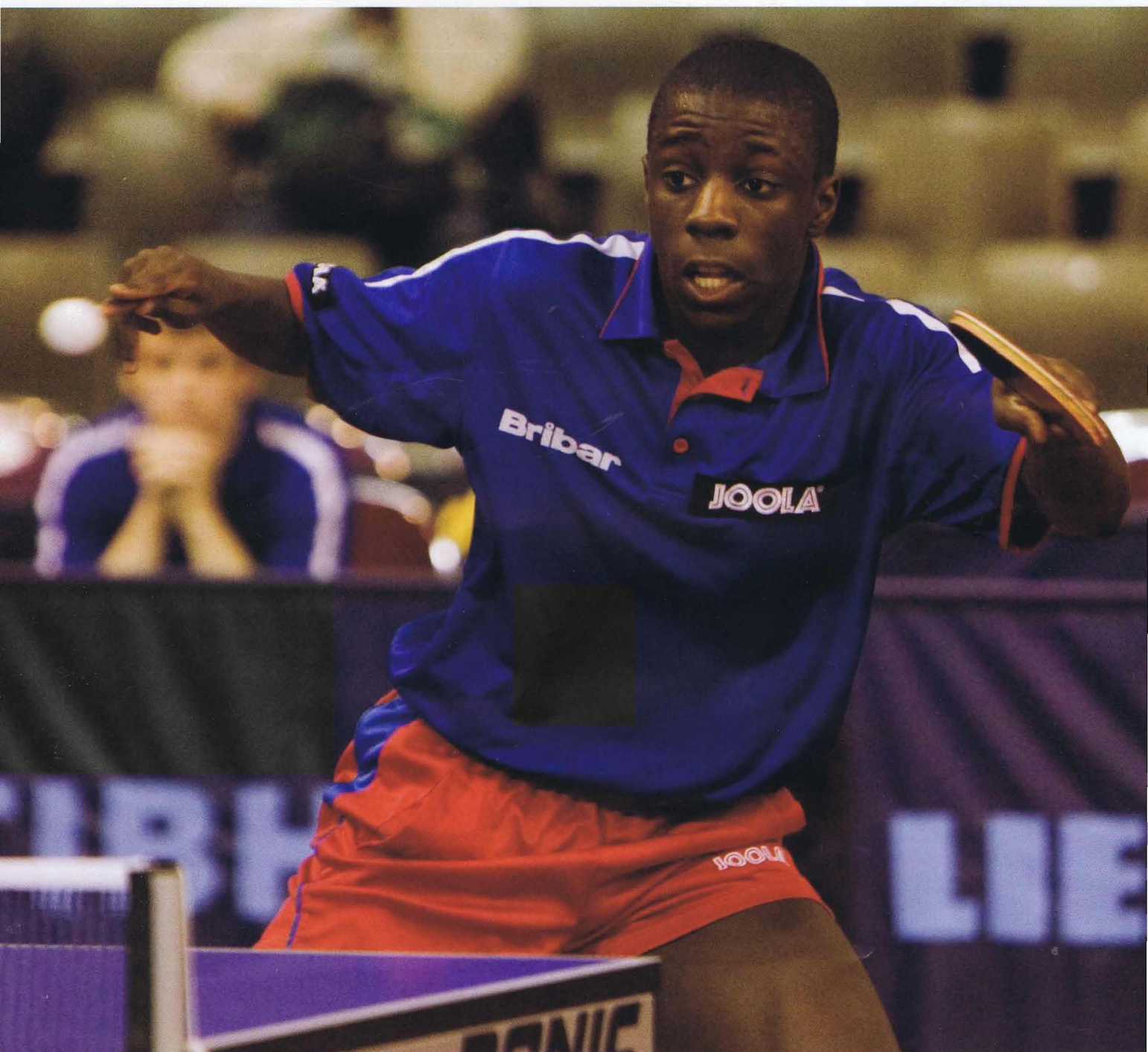
TURNING THE BODY

Note when playing the forehand topspin the extent to which Boll turns his body, uses his legs and bends his elbow quickly before impact.

Treasure IN THE Wreckage

The nation which helped give table tennis to the world saw its teams stranded down in 32nd and 38th places.

By: Richard Eaton Photos: Mariann Domonkos



COMPETITION NEWS

THEY HAD BEEN NAVIGATING in the distant regions of a second hall, which effectively divided the tournament into an upper and lower class, making some feel they were merely making up the numbers.

The food was so repetitive that there were times when England ate elsewhere, and, after the 15th World Team Championships in the Hanseatic port of Bremen were over, there lingered a feeling of what might have been.

But closer inspection revealed a ship far from damaged. It was in shallower waters than might have been preferred, but on course. Despite modest final positions, England's campaigns had been, on balance, a success. "Not superb, but promising," said Steen Kyst Hansen, England's Performance Director.

There were four wins out of nine for the men, and five wins out of eight for the women. True, two of the men's defeats might have been avoided, which would taken them forward to the second stage and a significantly higher finish. But these were two of the youngest teams England have ever had and the men's had two debutant 16-year-olds.

Bremen is the city where Beethoven gave his first symphony its world premiere, and although Paul Drinkhall and Darius Knight have not arrived internationally yet, you could see that soon they too could be composing some startling stuff.

Drinkhall won eight matches and lost nine; Knight won four and lost six. Both could have won more, and more matches should have been won when it really mattered. But almost all of their encounters were against players

"...although Paul Drinkhall and Darius Knight have not arrived internationally yet, you could see that soon they too could be composing some startling stuff."

ranked higher, often much higher, so these stats were encouraging.

Drinkhall lost a five-game decider against Kazeem Nosiru in the 2-3 defeat to Nigeria and Knight lost a decider even more narrowly against Cai Xiao Li in the 2-3 defeat to Singapore. These were encounters which may have brought valuable experience.

But Knight also won tight deciders in 3-2 wins against both Argentina and India, and Drinkhall scored a fine win over the world number 60 from Singapore, Yang Zi. "I played better because I felt more relaxed," he said. These were important confidence-boosting successes.

"I think Paul realises he can play against anyone in the world," said Hansen. "And if we get him to be a little bit quicker and stronger mentally, it's not so far away that there will be more good results.

"Paul and Darius are good team players, if they are up for it from the beginning".



Finishing matches off at the moment is a problem for him. But he will take a tremendous jump from this tournament, from 378 to about 250 or 275 I should think."

The highlight was England's win over India, the Commonwealth champions, in which Knight beat the Commonwealth men's singles gold medallist, Achanta Sharath Kamal, in four games.

"Darius was fantastic against India, and it was a fantastic result," said Hansen. "He has very good serves and he's very good over the table and in short play. Suddenly he realised he could play with most of them. Suddenly he's not afraid and he's improved.

Paul and Darius are good team players, if they are up for it from the beginning. Sometimes they are not, and are not experienced on the big scene, even if they have played a lot of tournaments. But I feel very, very optimistic and we now have a good funding situation and a really good future."

Drinkhall and Knight have so much potential that no-



"Natalie Bawden might be regarded as England's player of the tournament."

one is entirely surprised by their progress. It is in this context that Natalie Bawden, who won five matches out of six, might be regarded as England's player of the tournament. She was certainly its pleasantest surprise.

"She wanted to prove something – she had a good, good tournament," Hansen enthused. "I will not call it fantastic, but good. She was trying to come in and play positive and win points. And as I said to her in the evaluation, she proved a point and that was good to see."

Joanna Parker won eight matches out of 13, Kelly Sibley four out of seven, and Georgina Walker one out of four. But Hansen was disappointed with Parker.

"She had a terrible tournament. She looked like she didn't want to be there," he said bluntly. She also, reportedly, had variable concentration. Why this happened he has been trying to discover.

Parker has played almost without a break from the age of 12 to 18. Maybe too the disappointment of last year's European Youth Championship may be still lurking somewhere in her mind, and of course life at 18 can be far from easy. The remedy suggested is rest, and Joanna was told to make herself scarce throughout the month of May.

There were other disappointments. Andrew Baggaley, despite winning four out of seven, seemed distracted by an arm problem and his straight games loss to Seun Ajetunmobi, the world number 644, when England were 2-1 up against Nigeria, was a significant setback. Later against Ukraine, an umpire red-carded him for something he apparently didn't know he had done.

Rushton won four out of six, but apparently found the recovery period between Melbourne and Bremen all too short, making it difficult to repeat the quality of his

"Later against Ukraine, an umpire red-carded Baggaley for something he apparently didn't know he had done".



today's era.

"It is not normal to have a world championship with 153 nations," Hansen asserted. "I am not sure that it does table tennis any good. The ITTF should have a close look at what they need to do."

There had been frustrations. It was a saviour there had been reasons for optimism too.

WORLD RECORD AT THE TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Three hundred and fifty nine players participated on forty-seven tables against forty seven opponents for a total period of one hour, two minutes and four seconds to set a new World Record on Monday 24th April 2006.

Therefore, the record of two hundred and forty six players on forty tables playing for one hour and one minute was broken.

"The Greatest Table Tennis Merry-Go-Round in the World" consisted of forty seven table tennis tables, placed in an oval formation in Hall no.6 of the AWD-Dome. The German Table Tennis Association appointed forty seven players to participate on the inside and encouraged as many people as possible to join the team on the outside, the players around the outside continually moved around the arena in an anti-clockwise direction.

Organised by Leisure Sports Department

The event was promoted by the Leisure Sports Department of the German Table Tennis Association and in order to meet the requirements of the Guinness Book of Records, correct procedures had to be put in place. "An official jury of three people has been appointed", explained Arne Klindt, the Vice President of Leisure

"...Maybe too the disappointment of last year's European Youth Championship may be still lurking somewhere in her mind..."



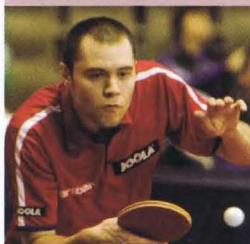
Commonwealth performances.

But for a craftily-called time out by coach Liu Jai Yi, when 5-8 down in the fifth game against Afshin Norouzi in England's opening match against Iran, Rushton might have had three out of six. But after the break he was more positive, taking six points in a row.

For the record China won the men's title for a 15th time and the women's a 16th, extending the predictability which makes it hard for table tennis to generate the image it deserves.

Neither did the tournament generate excitement. Its two-tier system and gastronomic disasters were a legacy of a championship which seems too cumbersome for

"....Rushton found the recovery period between Melbourne and Bremen all too short..."



Sports for the German Table Tennis Association. "It's a stipulation that has to be fulfilled in order to be classed as a record, no member of the jury is a table tennis player; they are all totally independent."

It was a splendid occasion and the hall was full of smiling faces. "We try to make table tennis fun", explained Norbert Weyers from the Leisure Sports Department. "Wherever we go to promote table tennis we usually get a very good response; we organise unofficial tournaments and events, everybody is welcome."

Celebrities Present

Everybody was welcome in Hall no.6 of the AWD-Dome, from eight to eighty, whether seated in a wheelchair or

15th Swaythling Cup for China

Viewpoint by John Woodford

LIEBHERR World Team TT Championships

Around 67,000 tickets were issued to mainly German fans during the first seven days of Liebherr World Team Championships in Bremen with over 9,000 witnessing the men's final on May 1 when China totally outgunned Korea 3-0.

Wang Hao beat Oh Sang Eun, Wang Liqin defeating Ryu Seung Min and Ma Lin ended proceedings with victory over Lee Jung Woo.

Wang Hao and Ma Lin both won in three straight games but the contest between Wang Liqin, the reigning World Champion and Ryu Seung Min, the current Olympic Champion, was a hard fought contest with the Chinese star gaining the verdict in five games.

"It was a very difficult match for me", said Wang Liqin. "He's a very good player, he used different tactics to when we've played in the past and he put me under a great deal of pressure."

It was the fifteenth time that China had won the title, for Korea it was a first time they had ever appeared in the final.

No prizes for guessing who presented the Swaythling Cup to China – the ETTA Chairman, Alex Murdoch!

The China domination, both men and women, was completed when in the women's final China defeated Hong Kong 3 - 1. (Hong Kong women were jokingly referred in the Media Centre as "China 2").

Crowd numbers took a drop as one would expect, when the German men lost 3 - 1 to China, but there was a recovery the next day as many fans had bought their tickets in advance.

News Extra

World Championships Committee Rooms - The big surprise from the committee rooms was the ETTU decision to run the European championships every year instead of every two years and no more qualification matches.

Commonwealth Committee voting in Bremen went as follows – Elected unopposed was the Chairman Alan Ransome. A contest for the Vice-Chair resulted in Australian Neil Harwood elected, Alex Murdoch came second, but our Chairman was elected to serve as European Representative on the Management Committee.

Individual Registration should be high on the ETTA AGM agenda on 1 July. Present indications I have heard are that that management may have a difficult task on their hands. Could Alex Murdoch become the first chairman of the ETTA to succeed?

"The Greatest Table Tennis Merry-Go-Round in the World", consisted of 47 table tennis tables, placed in an oval formation in Hall no.6 of the AWD Dome."



able bodied. Furthermore, several people in official positions supported the event, including Chen Hwa-Yue, the General Secretary of the Chinese Taipei Table Tennis Association, and Thomas Weikert, the irrepressible President of the German Table Tennis Association.

Great credit to Thomas Weikert for being present, the man is here, there and everywhere and there's always a smile on his face, he deserved to be proud of the new record. "Today is a special day and we showed how much table tennis is a sport for everyone in Germany", he said. "It was really good to see how many people participated."

Table tennis is a sport for everyone and an activity to be enjoyed, that fact was clearly demonstrated here, it was fun, great fun.



the Results

Day 1 - 24/4/06

Men 1st round England 3-0 Iran

Player	Opponent	Result
Drinkhall beat	Ahadi	11-8, 11-6, 11-9
Baggaley beat	Akhlaghpasand	10-12, 11-9, 11-5, 11-6
Rushton beat	Norouzi	11-7, 7-11, 11-7, 6-11, 11-8

Women 1st round England 1-3 Belgium

Player	Opponent	Result
Parker lost to	Odencamp	8-11, 6-11, 9-11
Sibley lost to	Ozer	5-11, 9-11, 12-10, 9-11
Bawden beat	Junker	11-7, 6-11, 6-11, 11-4, 13-11
Parker lost to	Ozer	7-11, 4-11, 7-11

Women 2nd round England 3-0 Chile

Player	Opponent	Result
Sibley beat	Ximena	11-7, 11-2, 11-6
Parker beat	Rodriguez	11-4, 11-9, 11-6
Bawden beat	Vega	11-7, 11-5, 11-6

Day 2 - 25/4/06

Men 2nd round England 2-3 Nigeria

Player	Opponent	Result
Baggaley lost to	Nosiru	6-11, 10-12, 7-11
Drinkhall beat	Ajjetunmobi	13-11, 11-7, 11-5
Rushton beat	Abiodun	11-5, 11-7, 7-11, 11-8
Baggaley lost to	Ajjetunmobi	5-11, 12-10, 4-11, 8-11
Drinkhall lost to	Nosiru	11-7, 7-11, 11-7, 6-11, 2-11

Women 2nd round England 3-2 Malaysia

Player	Opponent	Result
Parker beat	Sock Khim Ng	11-5, 11-7, 12-10
Sibley lost to	Beh Li Wei	11-8, 7-11, 9-11, 6-11
Bawden beat	Soo Jin Chiu	11-8, 7-11, 11-4, 11-6
Sibley lost to	Sock Khim Ng	9-11, 8-11, 7-11
Parker beat	Beh Li Wei	11-8, 11-9, 11-1

Day 3 - 26/4/06

Men 3rd round England 3-2 Wales

Player	Opponent	Result
Rushton beat	Page	11-2, 11-4, 11-4
Drinkhall lost to	Robertson	14-16, 9-11, 6-11
Knight beat	Gertsen	11-3, 11-1, 11-7
Rushton lost to	Robertson	5-11, 4-11, 8-11
Drinkhall beat	Page	11-2, 11-4, 11-6

Women 4th round England 3-0 Luxemburg

Player	Opponent	Result
Walker lost to	Hartmann	11-8, 6-11, 8-11, 12-10, 7-11
Parker beat	Schlungs	11-6, 11-7, 11-5
Sibley beat	Schlink	11-6, 11-8, 11-1
Parker beat	Hartmann	9-11, 11-9, 11-7, 7-11, 11-9

Men 4th round England 1-3 Spain

Player	Opponent	Result
Drinkhall beat	Carneros	11-9, 11-9, 10-12, 11-8
Knight lost to	He Zhi Wen	8-11, 3-11, 8-11
Rushton lost to	Duran	8-11, 9-11, 11-9, 2-11
Drinkhall lost to	He Zhi Wen	9-11, 5-11, 11-9, 2-11

Day 4 - 27/4/06

Men 5th round England 3-2 Argentina

Player	Opponent	Result
Drinkhall beat	Alto	11-5, 11-4, 8-11, 11-7
Knight lost to	Song	2-11, 3-11, 4-11
Baggaley beat	Tabachnik	11-7, 7-11, 10-12, 11-7, 11-8
Drinkhall lost to	Song	11-9, 11-9, 11-4
Knight beat	Alto	5-11, 7-11, 7-11, 8-11, 11-9



MEN: 32ND PLAYER AVERAGES:

Paul Drinkhall
Played 17 won 8 lost 9

Darius Knight
Played 10 won 4 lost 6

Andrew Baggaley
Played 7 won 4 lost 3

Andrew Rushton
Played 6 won 4 lost 3



WOMAN: 38TH PLAYER AVERAGES:

Joanna Parker
Played 13, won 8, lost 5

Kelly Sibley
Played 7, won 4, lost 3

Georgina Walker
Played 4, won 1, lost 3

Natalie Bawden
Played 6 won 5, lost 1



COMPETITION NEWS

Women 5th round England 1-3 Greece

Player	Opponent	Result
Bawden lost to	Mirou	11-7, 6-11, 2-11, 4-11
Parker lost to	Ntoulaki	10-12, 11-5, 11-9, 6-11, 8-11
Sibley beat	Fili	8-11, 11-9, 10-12, 11-8, 11-9
Parker lost to	Mirou	6-11, 7-11, 7-1

Day 5 - 28/4/06

25-32 playoff England 3-2 India

Player	Opponent	Result
Drinkhall lost to	Roy	3-11, 9-11, 11-9, 11-9
Knight beat	Kamal	11-6, 6-11, 12-10, 12-10
Baggaley beat	Saha	7-11, 11-7, 11-8, 16-14
Drinkhall lost to	Kamal	11-8, 11-8, 7-11, 9-11, 4-11
Knight beat	Roy	11-6, 7-11, 11-4, 15-13

37-48 playoff England 3-0 Venezuela

Player	Opponent	Result
Parker beat	Guanchez	11-5, 11-6, 15-13
Sibley beat	Ramos	11-8, 11-8, 13-11
Bawden beat	Pineda	8-11, 11-9, 11-5, 8-11, 11-6

Day 6 - 29/4/06

Men England 2-3 Singapore

Player	Opponent	Result
Drinkhall lost to	Cai Xiao Li	12-14, 7-11, 11-13
Knight lost to	Yang Zi	5-11, 7-11, 10-12
Rushton beat	Lee Tien Hoe	11-9, 11-7, 9-11, 11-6
Drinkhall beat	Yang Zi	11-9, 11-9, 11-9
Knight lost to	Cai Xiao Li	11-4, 7-11, 9-11, 11-5, 10-12

Women England 3-1 Estonia

Player	Opponent	Result
Sibley lost to	Tshistjakova	9-11, 5-11, 10-12
Parker beat	Latt	11-7, 7-11, 7-11, 11-5, 11-3
Walker beat	Morozova	11-6, 10-12, 5-11, 13-11, 11-6
Parker beat	Tshistjakova	12-10, 11-9, 11-7

Day 7 - 30/4/06

Men England 1-3 Ukraine

Player	Opponent	Result
Drinkhall beat	Zhmudenko	11-5, 11-13, 14-12, 14-12
Knight lost to	Katkov	11-13, 8-11, 7-11
Rushton lost to	Didukh	6-11, 7-11, 7-11
Drinkhall lost to	Katkov	11-4, 7-11, 8-11, 11-5, 5-11

Women England 1-3 Bulgaria

Player	Opponent	Result
Parker lost to	Gatinska	5-11, 2-11, 6-11
Walker lost to	Kassabova	7-11, 8-11, 5-11
Bawden beat	Asenova	7-11, 11-4, 11-9, 8-11, 11-8
Walker lost to	Gatinska	11-4, 3-11, 9-11, 6-11

Day 8 - 31/4/06

Men England 2-3 Portugal

Player	Opponent	Result
Knight Lost to	Apolonia	5-11, 11-8, 8-11, 7-11
Drinkhall beat	Mendes	8-11, 11-7, 14-12, 9-11, 11-8
Rushton beat	Freitas	4-11, 9-11, 11-4, 11-5, 11-6
Drinkhall lost to	Apolonia	4-11, 5-11, 9-11
Knight lost to	Mendes	14-16, 11-4, 7-11, 6-11

“For the record China won the men’s title for a 15th time and the women’s a 16th, extending the predictability which makes it hard for table tennis to generate the image it deserves.”

TOTALLY VETERAN

BY JIM BECKLEY



Charles Usher and Alex Murdoch

THROWING BACK THE YEARS

With that score, it seems our Chairman has at last found a bat to his liking. Only problem is the bat is over 100 years old – and Alex may have difficulty in finding one.

The occasion was the annual presentation evening of the Kendal League and the demo from Charles Usher (far end) and Alex was one of the highlights of an entertaining evening. With over 100 guests attending along with the Mayoress of Kendal, the league winners received medals and trophies and the losers, well, will have another chance next season.

Incidentally, what the final score was between our two super vets no-one will divulge, but we can tell you that the bats were made of vellum and were 105 years old – that's the bats not the players...

BRIGHT LIGHTS OF LAS VEGAS

Keith and Lorraine Williams celebrate 25 years of wedded bliss on August 15 and they'll be celebrating in some style.

Keith, of course, is better known for his success on the Masters circuit. This season a winner of the over 40s in the Western Masters in Hereford and more recently winner in the men's doubles in Blackpool with Wayne Percival.

Keith and Lorraine plan to celebrate their marriage by touring the bright lights of Las Vegas, a far cry from where they got hitched in Roby Church, Merseyside..

I'm reliably informed that Keith has no intention of sneaking his bat in the suitcase, just in case a table presents itself. It's more likely that the gaming tables will prove the attraction.

SUMMER SPINNERS

First it was York, now it's Halifax and for many veterans a great opportunity to blow away those cobwebs and give themselves a flying start to the new season.

The summer tournament in York was always a favourite with many vets. Now York is no longer, the Halifax Table Tennis Club in Club Lane has taken over and from all accounts is becoming more popular by the year.

It's the same format as last year with singles on the Saturday and doubles on Sunday as well as three banded events, so for £16 it offers fantastic value for money.

This year it takes place on Saturday and Sunday 12/13 August and once again is being organised by Barry Snowden.

Last year Dave Godbold was the winner, before that John Hilton and

before that Keith Williams (see separate story), so some big names.

Get your entry in by 7 August 2006 . There's an entry form on the VETTS website www.vetts.org.uk or e-mail direct to Barry at barrysnowden@hotmail.co.uk...but hurry.

PS - Go through to the VETTS website and read about the problems an organiser has to overcome.

REMEMBERING GORDON

Gordon Bradley is someone you may have heard of, especially if you live in the East Midlands. Gordon played table tennis in the Leicestershire and Nottingham Leagues in the mid 40s and won many trophies. But he will probably be remembered more for his soccer talents.

Besides being one of the most talented table tennis players, he was also something of a hero to thousands of soccer fans in the early 1950s

Then he played in goal for both Leicester City FC, West Bromwich Albion and Notts County, and had the largest hand span in soccer, just half an inch short of a foot!

His greatest moment was playing in the FA Cup final against Wolves where unfortunately he was on the losing side.

Gordon recently died aged 80 in Poole Hospital after a short illness.

Colin Deaton

1939 – 2006

A SUCCESSFUL AND POPULAR MAN

Colin Deaton, one of the sport's most colourful and effective people, died from a heart attack on 30 April whilst on vacation at his holiday home in Spain. Colin's life had been dedicated to table tennis. He was very successful in all he did and popular throughout the country.

As a youngster, Colin was an English junior international and the English number 2. He represented Derbyshire in the County Championships. He started work at Staveley Works as an apprentice, didn't like the job, wanted to play table tennis, so he quit, burnt his overalls and decided to try to make a go of the sport.

One of his first major initiatives was to introduce table tennis exhibitions to Pontins holiday camps where he teamed up with Denis Neale to put on thousands of exhibitions which delighted the guests and introduced the sport to tens of thousands who had never experienced it before. His exhibitions were of great value with Colin excelling on the microphone as well as with the bat. His exhibition circuit extended to other holiday camps and at one time up to 40 camps per week were being covered.

Colin built strong relationships with all the centre managers and together with wife Sandra set up Colin Deaton's World of Sport which provided sports people, entertainers and personalities to the holiday camp industry and to cruise liners such as the QE2. The business developed further as Colin moved into managing personalities, and some of the famous names with which he was associated included Jack Charlton, Graham Taylor, Trevor Brooking, Bobby Moore and Freddie Trueman.

The exhibitions continued in schools as well as in the camps and, together with Denis, one of the exhibitions promoted in Homewood School sparked the interest of Alan Cooke who has since become 6 times English Champion and a National Coach.

Colin's enthusiasm and motivation for table tennis was never dulled and when daughter Nicola became old enough, a table tennis bat went straight into her hand and with great support from Colin and Sandra, Nicola won the English Cadet, Junior and 5 times the Women's Singles in the Senior English Championships,

“Colin's final venture was the establishment of his club in Staveley. Colin's "Pied Piper" effect drew hundreds of local kids into the club with all club nights packed out.”



as well as representing England many times in competitions such as the World Championships, the European Championships, the Commonwealth Championships and the 2002 Commonwealth Games held in Manchester. Nicola's enthusiasm continues. She is now one of the team of England coaches and has already been awarded the ETTA Coach of the Year.

Colin also helped to motivate Sandra to become Derbyshire's National Councillor, East Midlands' Regional Chairman and a member of the ETTA Management Committee.

Colin's final venture was the establishment of his club in Staveley. Colin's "Pied Piper" effect drew hundreds of local kids into the club with all club nights packed out. But it wasn't just quantity, but also quality and if one looks at the ETTA Under 13 ranking list today, you will find three of the top four boys from his club and one of the leading girls.

It is not just the success throughout his life that has shone with Colin, but also his popularity. He was very well known throughout the tournament circuit and in the sport generally and was one of those people that everybody liked to talk to.

He will be sadly missed. He leaves wife Sandra and daughter Nicola. There is a saying that no-one is irreplaceable, but with Colin Deaton and what he has achieved, that could be wrong.

BRITISH LEAGUE



London Progress eight times champions

BY STEVE KERNS

PREMIER DIVISION CHAMPIONS

All conquering British League giants

London Progress dominated round four of the Premier Division matches played at the superb new facilities at the Ormesby Table Tennis Club in Middlesbrough. They became champions for a magnificent eighth time on the trot. After amassing 27 points out of a possible 28 this was also one of the most dominant of their eight successful years. Special tributes are due to Jason Sugrue and Marco Essomba, ever present in all eight triumphs.

On Saturday morning ELGRE I were brushed aside 8-0, and on Saturday afternoon it was only a superb win for Michael Marsden over Terry Young which prevented Progress from whitewashing Darlington I. On Sunday morning Progress gave a further indication of how far ahead of their rivals they are as they beat eventual runners-up Ormesby I 6-2. Predictably it was the all-action Paul Drinkhall who offered the most resistance, and he came through over five hard-fought games against perennial rival Darius Knight as well as Irish legend Colum Slevin. Progress took the opportunity to give

Premier Division experience to Ashley Stokes, an integral part of their Division Two South & Midlands title winning team, and he repaid them by scoring two fine wins. Ashley scored a tremendous 11-8, 5-11, 20-18, 6-11, 11-9 victory over Martyn Clarke and he completed the Progress success with a gritty 3-11, 13-11, 11-8, 11-6 win over Andrew Wilson. Progress also had too much strength in depth for Harvey Barnets I in their last match where they ran out 6-2 winners. This time Egle Adomelyte, another top-class performer in the Division Two South & Midlands title winning side, was given a run-out and she impressed with a 3-1 victory over Alex Green. Barnet's Scottish import Niall Cameron fared best of his team and he came back from 2-1 down to beat Marco Essomba 8-11, 11-9, 5-11, 11-7, 11-5.

The success of the Progress team aside, the other talking point of the weekend was the fact that many of the teams sensibly took the opportunity to give valuable experience to their up-and-coming players. All of these made their mark. Ormesby's Andrew Wilson had a fine weekend and he notched up three notable successes, gunning down Alex Green (Barnet), Peter Bartram (Horsham) and Martin Kubrt (BATTS Team Peniel). Barnet's Alim Hirji looks like a star in the making with his lightning quick forehand and he came up with wins over Andrew Wilson (Ormesby) and Egle Adomelyte (London Progress) as well as the Darlington duo of Andrew Leighton and Kevin Wilson. Not able to achieve the same number of wins, Kevin Wilson nonetheless made his mark with a superb 3-2 victory over Gary Tandler (Ellenborough).

It is unfair to put too much pressure on a 13 year-old but it has to be said that the performances of Darlington's Gavin Evans were sensational. He won four singles out of eight with victories over Gary Tandler, the Barnet duo of Mark Smith and Alex Green, and BATTS Team Peniel's Martin Kubrt. And judging by the level of performance he gave against Gareth Herbert (Ellenborough) where he only succumbed 4-11, 11-6, 11-9, 2-11, 12-14, he will be an even more potent force next year. The only time that Gavin looked



“The only time that Gavin looked uncomfortable was against Darius Knight where the Progress star romped home”

“After amassing 27 points out of a possible 28 this was also one of the most dominant of their eight successful years. Special tributes are due to Jason Sugrue and Marco Essomba...”

uncomfortable was against the ultra quick loop attack of Darius Knight where the Progress star romped home 11-7, 11-9, 11-3.

Ormesby will have been very pleased with their 5-3 victory over BATTs Team Peniel in round 14 as it not only guaranteed them a lucrative second place finish but it also came about via a fine all-round team effort. Martyn Clarke scored an excellent 3-0 victory over Neil Charles whilst Andrew Wilson's 3-2 win over Martin Kubrt was equally important. Paul Drinkhall didn't have it all his own way but he eventually came through comfortably enough, 3-1 against both Neil Charles and John Holland.

THE BRITISH LEAGUE OFFICIAL BALL
3-Star - ITTF Approved

PREMIER							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
London Progress	14	13	1	0	94	18	27
Ormesby	14	7	5	2	63	49	19
Harvey Barnets	14	6	4	4	63	49	16
Ellenbor'gh	14	6	4	4	61	51	16
Darlington	14	7	1	6	58	54	15
BATTs Peniel 1	14	3	5	6	47	65	11
Elgre Nott	14	1	4	9	36	76	6
Horsham	14	0	2	12	26	86	2

DIVISION 1 NORTH							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sycamore	14	12	-	2	81	31	24
Derwent I	14	10	1	3	69	43	21
Norwich	14	8	1	5	65	47	17
Bedford Mod'r'n I	14	5	3	6	53	59	13
Darlington II	14	5	3	6	53	59	13
Ormesby II	14	6	-	8	50	62	12
Grantham	14	4	3	7	49	63	11
Seasiders I	14	-	1	13	28	84	1

DIVISION 1 SOUTH							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oxford FPC	14	11	-	3	76	36	22
DML Woolwell I	14	9	3	2	74	38	21
Cippenham I	14	8	1	5	63	49	17
London Prog II	14	7	2	5	62	50	16
Fusion I	14	6	2	6	61	51	14
OLOP Impact I	14	4	2	8	47	65	10
Brighton I	14	4	2	8	42	70	10
De Vere Netts	14	1	-	13	23	89	2

DIVISION 2 NORTH							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rother'm Scopri I	14	13	-	1	86	26	26
Elgre Nott II	14	10	1	3	68	44	21
McClymont	14	8	-	6	67	45	16
Halton Croda I	14	6	2	6	58	54	14
Northfield	14	6	1	7	54	58	13
Dewsb'y Fastbats	14	6	1	7	50	61	13
Blackpool	14	3	2	9	43	68	8
Uxbridge Burton	14	-0	1	13	21	91	1

DIVISION 2 SOUTH							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
EBS-Orange NI	14	12	1	1	78	34	25
York Gardens I	14	11	2	1	78	34	24
Byng Hall I	14	9	2	3	73	39	20
Fusion II	14	7	2	5	58	54	16
Generation 2	14	5	2	7	49	63	12
Batts ' Peniel II	14	2	2	10	42	70	6
OLOP Impact II	14	1	3	10	33	79	5
Horsham II	14	1	2	11	37	75	4

DIVISION 2 SOUTH AND MIDLANDS							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
London Prog III	14	11	2	1	79	33	24
Cippenham II	14	8	2	4	66	46	18
Oxford FPC II	14	8	2	4	63	49	18
Harvey Barnets II	14	5	7	2	61	51	17
Bedford ModernII	14	4	4	6	49	63	12
EBS-Orange II	14	3	5	6	54	58	11
Kingshurst Bribar	14	3	1	10	37	75	7
Ashford I	14	2	1	11	39	73	5

DIVISION 3 SOUTH AND WEST							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guinness P'ka I	14	11	2	1	93	19	24
Club Cornwall	14	10	2	2	80	32	22
Guernsey	14	8	2	4	58	54	18
Kingsfisher	14	6	3	5	56	56	15
Waterside	14	5	4	5	58	54	14
NWF	14	4	1	9	44	68	9
Oxford FPC III	14	2	2	10	29	83	6
Ashford III	14	1	2	11	30	82	4

DIVISION 3 NORTH							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chesterfield	14	0	0	100	12	28	
Sheffield	14	10	1	3	74	38	21
Halton II	14	9	1	4	64	48	19
Grimsby	14	6	1	7	52	60	13
Derwent II	14	3	3	8	49	63	9
Seasiders II	14	2	4	8	38	73	8
Barrow	14	2	3	9	41	71	7
Dewsbury FBII	14	3	1	10	29	82	7

DIVISION 3 SOUTH							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mossford	14	10	4	-	73	39	24
London Prog IV	14	7	5	2	66	46	19
Sutton Sharks	14	2	11	1	57	55	15
Ashford II	14	4	5	5	54	58	13
Horsham III	14	4	5	5	52	60	13
Ellenborough II	14	3	5	6	52	60	11
Elgre Nott III	14	2	5	7	48	64	9
Hastings	14	2	4	8	46	66	8

DIVISION 4 SOUTH AND WEST							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
DML Woolwell II	14	10	3	1	77	35	23
Plymouth Wand's	14	7	7	-	66	46	21
Cippenham III	14	7	5	2	67	45	19
Cofton Hackett	14	7	3	4	69	43	17
Southampton W	14	4	4	6	54	58	12
London Prog V	14	4	3	7	61	51	11
Guinness PII	14	2	3	9	29	83	7
Brighton III	14	1	-	13	25	87	2

DIVISION 4 NORTH							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ormesby III	14	13	-	1	89	23	26
Woodfield	14	12	-	2	87	25	24
Elgre Nott	14	11	-	3	78	34	22
Darlington III	14	7	1	6	62	50	15
Rothe'm ScopriII	14	5	1	8	53	59	11
Hotpoint Petr'gh	14	2	2	10	31	81	6
Isle of Man	14	1	2	11	30	92	4
Angels	14	2	-	12	18	94	4

DIVISION 4 SOUTH							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brighton II	12	10	2	-	80	16	22
Eastbourne	12	8	2	2	66	30	18
Fusion III	12	6	2	4	49	47	14
York Gardens	12	5	1	6	47	49	11
Byng Hall II	12	4	1	7	31	65	9
Brit Ipswich	12	2	2	8	34	62	6
Harvey B III	12	2	-	10	29	67	4

COUNTY

CHAMPIONSHIPS LEAGUE TABLES



CADET PREMIER DIVISION							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lincs	7	6	1	0	52	18	13
Gwent	7	6	0	1	42	28	12
Surrey	7	3	3	1	40	30	9
Cleveland	7	3	2	2	37	33	8
Sussex	7	2	3	2	33	37	7
Yorkshire	7	2	1	4	34	36	5
Durham	7	0	1	6	22	48	1
Somerset	7	0	1	6	20	50	1

JUNIOR DIVISION 1B							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hampshire	7	6	0	1	52	18	12
Surrey	7	5	1	1	44	26	11
Glamorgan	7	3	3	1	37	33	9
Middlesex 1	7	3	1	3	37	33	7
Sussex	7	3	1	3	32	38	7
Somerset	7	2	1	4	34	36	5
Middlesex 2	7	2	0	5	25	45	4
Bucks 2	7	0	1	6	19	51	1

JUNIOR DIVISION 2D							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glos	8	7	0	1	57	23	14
Berkshire	8	7	0	1	51	29	14
Sussex 2	8	6	1	1	59	21	13
Kent 3	8	4	1	3	40	40	9
Sussex 3	8	3	2	3	40	40	8
Surrey 2	8	3	1	4	40	40	7
Kent 2	8	2	1	5	36	44	5
Bucks 3	8	1	0	7	23	57	2
Oxfordshire	8	0	0	8	14	66	0

SENIOR DIVISION 2A							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
North'land	5	5	0	0	38	12	10
Durham 2	5	3	1	1	25	24	7
Derbyshire 2	5	2	1	2	26	23	5
Leics 2	5	0	3	2	21	29	3
Cumbria	5	1	1	3	21	29	3
Warks 2	5	1	0	4	18	32	2

CADET DIVISION 1A							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Warks	6	5	0	14	4	16	10
Lancashire	6	5	0	14	4	16	10
Cheshire	6	5	0	14	3	17	10
Notts	6	3	0	3	35	25	6
S Yorkshire	6	2	0	4	27	33	4
Leics	6	1	0	5	9	51	2
Shropshire	6	0	0	6	8	52	0

JUNIOR DIVISION 2A							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cleveland	8	8	0	0	72	8	16
Yorkshire 2	8	6	1	1	54	26	13
Staffs	8	5	0	3	50	30	10
Cheshire 2	8	4	2	2	50	30	10
Lancs 2	8	4	0	4	40	40	8
Lincs 2	8	4	0	4	38	42	8
Northants 2	8	2	0	6	21	59	4
Durham 2	8	1	1	6	27	52	3
North'land	8	0	0	8	7	72	0

SENIOR PREMIER DIVISION							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sussex	7	4	2	1	41	29	10
Devon	7	5	0	2	40	30	10
Middlesex	7	5	0	2	39	31	10
Essex	7	4	1	2	37	33	9
Yorkshire	7	3	2	2	39	31	8
Lancashire	7	2	1	4	36	34	5
Durham	7	2	0	5	28	42	4
Glos	7	0	0	7	20	50	0

SENIOR DIVISION 2B							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Devon 2	5	4	1	0	38	12	9
Worcs	5	4	0	1	34	16	8
Cornwall 1	5	3	1	1	37	13	7
Avon	5	2	0	3	16	34	4
Cornwall 2	5	1	0	4	11	39	2
Somerset 2	5	0	0	5	14	36	0

CADET DIVISION 1B							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesex	7	7	0	0	58	12	14
Wiltshire	7	4	2	1	36	34	10
Sussex 2	7	4	1	2	38	32	9
Glos	7	3	1	3	35	35	7
Glamorgan	7	2	2	3	31	39	6
Surrey 2	7	1	2	4	25	45	4
Berkshire	7	0	3	4	30	40	3
Worcs	7	1	1	5	27	43	3

JUNIOR DIVISION 2B							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cornwall 1	8	7	1	0	66	14	15
Avon 1	8	6	2	0	60	20	14
Glam 2	8	5	2	1	49	31	12
Devon 2	8	5	0	3	51	29	10
Dorset	8	3	2	3	40	40	8
Avon 2	8	3	1	4	39	41	7
Cornwall 2	8	2	0	6	26	54	4
Devon 3	8	1	0	7	25	55	2
Devon 4	8	0	0	8	4	76	0

SENIOR DIVISION 1A							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Derbyshire	7	6	1	0	49	21	13
Notts	7	5	2	0	46	24	12
Cleveland	7	4	1	2	40	30	9
Lincolnshire	7	3	1	3	36	34	7
Leics	7	3	1	3	35	35	7
Cheshire	7	0	3	4	30	40	3
Cambs	7	1	1	5	19	51	3
S Yorkshire	7	0	2	5	26	45	2

SENIOR DIVISION 2C							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norfolk	5	5	0	0	37	13	10
Warks	5	4	0	1	29	21	8
Bees	5	3	0	2	28	22	6
Northants	5	1	1	3	24	26	3
Suffolk	5	1	1	3	22	28	3
Cambs	5	0	0	5	10	40	0

JUNIOR PREMIER DIVISION							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bucks	7	7	0	0	51	19	14
Essex	7	5	0	2	47	23	10
Lincs	7	3	2	2	38	32	8
Derbyshire	7	4	0	3	36	34	8
Yorkshire	7	4	0	3	36	34	8
Devon	7	2	1	4	34	36	5
Cheshire	7	1	1	5	29	41	3
Kent	7	0	0	7	9	61	0

JUNIOR DIVISION 2C							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Suffolk	7	6	1	0	61	9	13
Warks	7	6	1	0	53	17	13
Essex 3	7	5	0	2	45	25	10
Norfolk	7	3	1	3	39	31	7
Essex 4	7	3	0	4	29	41	6
Bees	7	1	2	4	28	42	4
Leics	7	1	1	5	19	51	3
Cambs	7	0	0	7	6	64	0

SENIOR DIVISION 1B							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Berkshire	7	6	0	1	52	18	12
Surrey	7	6	0	1	50	20	12
Glamorgan	7	4	2	1	46	24	10
Middlesex 2	7	3	1	3	33	37	7
Bucks	7	2	2	3	38	32	6
Wilts	7	2	1	4	23	47	5
Kent	7	2	0	5	26	44	4
Somerset	7	0	0	7	12	58	0

SENIOR DIVISION 2D							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dorset	6	5	0	1	39	21	10
Essex 2	6	4	1	1	38	22	9
Sussex 2	6	2	3	1	33	27	7
Kent 2	6	3	1	2	30	30	7
Herts	6	2	2	2	29	31	6
Berks 2	6	1	1	4	22	38	3
Surrey 2	6	0	0	6	19	41	0

JUNIOR DIVISION 1A							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
S Yorkshire	7	7	0	0	51	18	14
Herts	7	6	0	1	52	18	12
Essex 2	7	4	0	3	38	32	8
Durham	7	3	1	3	35	33	7
Lancashire	7	2	2	3	36	34	6
Notts	7	2	2	3	26	43	6
Worcs	7	1	0	6	26	44	2
Northants	7	0	1	6	14	56	1

VETERAN PREMIER DIVISION							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yorkshire	7	6	0	1	42	28	12
Essex	7	5	0	2	46	24	10
Devon	7	3	3	1	40	30	9
Cheshire	7	3	1	3	35	35	7
Kent	7	2	2	3	35	35	6
Lancashire	7	2	2	3	31	39	6
North'land	7	2	0	5	27	43	4
Dorset	7	0	2	5	24	46	2



FINAL TABLES FOR SEASON 2005/06

BUTTERFLY ARE THE
OFFICIAL BALL SUPPLIER



VETERAN DIVISION 1A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leics	7	7	0	0	53	17	14
Worcs	7	6	0	1	47	23	12
Middlesex	7	3	1	3	35	35	7
Norfolk	7	3	1	3	35	35	7
Cheshire 2	7	2	2	3	28	42	6
Oxfordshire	7	2	1	4	26	44	5
Herts	7	1	1	5	26	44	3
Yorkshire 2	7	1	0	6	30	40	2

VETERAN DIVISION 1B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Surrey	7	6	1	0	58	12	13
Sussex	7	6	1	0	56	14	13
Kent 2	7	4	1	2	40	30	9
Berkshire	7	4	0	3	38	32	8
Surrey 2	7	2	2	3	32	38	6
Wiltshire	7	2	0	5	23	47	4
Dorset 2	7	1	0	6	14	56	2
Avon	7	0	1	6	19	51	1

VETERAN DIVISION 2A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex 2	7	7	0	0	50	20	14
Essex 3	7	5	1	1	45	25	11
Notts	7	3	1	3	35	35	7
S Yorkshire	7	2	3	2	32	38	7
Lincs	7	2	2	3	35	35	6
Yorkshire 3	7	2	1	4	35	35	5
Cambs	7	0	3	4	25	45	3
Herts 2	7	0	3	4	23	47	3

VETERAN DIVISION 2B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex 4	7	6	1	0	51	19	13
Sussex 2	7	5	2	0	48	22	12
Heref	7	5	1	1	47	23	11
Bucks	7	4	0	3	33	37	8
Berks 2	7	2	1	4	29	41	5
Hampshire	7	2	0	5	27	43	4
Kent 3	7	0	2	5	23	47	2
Somerset	7	0	1	6	22	48	1

VETERAN DIVISION 3A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norfolk 2	7	6	1	0	50	20	13
Durham	7	2	0	4	9	21	12
Cheshire 3	7	4	1	2	44	26	9
Leics 2	7	4	1	2	43	27	9
Warks	7	3	1	3	38	32	7
Yorkshire 4	7	2	0	5	32	38	4
Shropshire 2	7	1	0	6	19	51	2
Ctywd	7	0	0	7	5	65	0

VETERAN DIVISION 3B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northants	7	7	0	0	55	15	14
Beds	7	5	1	1	49	21	11
Middlesex 2	7	5	1	1	41	29	11
Surrey 3	7	3	0	4	33	37	6
Beds 2	7	2	1	4	25	45	5
Herts 3	7	2	0	5	32	38	4
Bucks 2	7	2	1	4	32	38	4
Berks 3	7	0	0	7	18	57	0

VETERAN DIVISION 3C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sussex 3	7	6	1	0	48	22	13
Oxfordshire 2	7	6	1	0	48	22	13
Middlesex 3	7	4	1	2	39	31	9
Kent 4	7	3	1	3	34	36	7
Wilts 2	7	1	3	3	31	39	5
Kent 5	7	2	1	4	31	39	5
Hants 2	7	0	3	4	30	40	3
Berks 4	7	0	1	6	19	51	1

VETERAN DIVISION 3D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Worcs 2	7	5	2	0	53	17	12
Glos	7	6	0	1	52	18	12
Middlesex 4	7	3	1	3	33	37	7
Somerset 2	7	3	1	3	31	39	7
Shropshire 1	7	3	1	3	28	42	7
Hants 3	7	2	2	3	35	35	6
Devon 2	7	1	3	3	30	40	5
Dorset 3	7	0	0	7	18	52	0

VETERAN DIVISION 4A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Herts 4	6	5	0	1	39	21	10
Northants 2	6	4	1	1	39	21	9
Staffordshire	6	4	1	1	36	24	9
Yorkshire 5	6	3	1	2	28	31	7
Lincs 2	6	1	1	4	29	31	3
Notts 2	6	1	1	4	20	39	3
Norfolk 3	6	0	1	5	18	42	1

VETERAN DIVISION 4B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Worcs 3	6	5	1	0	43	17	11
Herts 5	6	4	1	1	41	19	9
Essex 5	6	4	0	2	39	21	8
Cambs 2	6	3	1	2	36	24	7
Oxfordshire 3	6	2	1	3	22	38	5
Northants 3	6	1	0	5	23	37	2
Heref 3	6	0	0	6	6	54	0

VETERAN DIVISION 4C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Surrey 4	6	5	1	0	48	12	11
Heref 2	6	3	2	1	32	28	8
Devon 4	6	3	1	2	35	25	7
Wilts 4	6	2	1	3	30	30	5
Somerset 4	6	1	3	2	24	36	5
Herts 6	6	1	1	4	25	35	3
Berks 6	6	1	1	4	16	44	3

VETERAN DIVISION 4D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glamorgan	6	6	0	0	51	9	12
Berks 5	6	4	0	2	33	27	8
Wilts 3	6	4	0	2	33	27	8
Devon 3	6	3	0	3	33	27	6
Somerset 3	6	2	0	4	23	37	4
Devon 5	6	1	0	5	20	40	2
Cornwall	6	1	0	5	17	43	2

OVER 60S DIVISION 1A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Worcs	5	5	0	0	45	5	10
Yorkshire	5	4	0	1	38	12	8
Warks	5	2	1	2	24	26	5
Cheshire 1	5	2	1	2	22	28	5
Beds	5	1	0	4	13	37	2
Cheshire 2	5	0	0	5	8	42	0

OVER 60S DIVISION 1B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesex	6	6	0	0	47	13	12
Essex	6	4	1	1	36	24	9
Kent	6	3	2	1	36	24	8
Berks	6	3	1	2	32	28	7
Sussex	6	2	0	4	30	30	4
Herts	6	0	1	5	15	45	1
Surrey	6	0	1	5	14	46	1

Why not let us know about the highs and lows of your season. We are always on the search for new content and all contributions will be considered for publication. Send your articles to editor@englishtabletennis.org.uk

PROMOTION
RELEGATION

THE TOP TOURNAMENTS

Cooke is World Over 40 Singles Champion

Alan Cooke playing in his first ever Veterans event has performed superbly to come through approximately 1000 competitors to win the Over 40 Singles Gold Medal at the World Veterans Championships in Bremen.

His semi final defeat of current World Over 40 Singles Champion Mikael Appelgren of Sweden was an outstanding performance which saw Alan run to a straight three game win 12-10, 11-7, 11-7.

In the final he faced Peter Aranyosi of Hungary and in a tight five set match Alan Cooke prevailed winning 11-8 in the fifth to make him the first ever Englishman to become the World Over 40's Champion

Alan said "I'm thrilled to win a world title at any standard is great. I'm very proud and the support I got from the English players and supporters here was magnificent."

Results - Last 512 bye

Last 256 bt. Sebens S (Ger) 11-3, 11-1, conc.
 Last 128 bt. Strand T (Nor) 11-2, 11-4, 11-2
 Last 64 bt. Dick M (Ger) 11-3, 11-1, 11-2
 Last 32 bt. Davidsson G (Swe) 11-4, 11-2, 11-1
 Last 16 bt. Manturov S (Est) 12-10, 8-11, 11-7, 11-6
 Q/F bt. Wang Y (Ger) 12-10, 7-11, 11-7, 11-6
 S/F bt. Appelgren M (Swe) 12-10, 11-7, 11-7
 Final bt. Aranyosi P (Hun) 11-4, 9-11, 13-11, 7-11, 11-8

Spanish Youth Open results	
Team Results	
England Junior Boys (Bronze)	
Darius Knight and Paul Drinkhall	
Last 16	Russia B 1 - England 3
Quarter Final	England 3 - France 2
Semi Final	Germany 3 - England 2
England B Junior Boys	
David Mead and Tim Yarnall	
Qualification	England B 3 - Belgium B 2
Last 32	Croatia 2 - England B 3
England Cadet Boys	
Gavin Evans and Myles Evans	
Last 32	Spain C 3 - England 2
England Junior Girls	
Kelly Sibley and Sara Wang	
Last 32	Czech Republic 2 - England 3
Last 16	Romania 3 - England 0
Individual Results	
Cadet Boys Singles - (Bronze)	
Semi Final	
EVANS ENG lost to CHIU HKG	6-11, 9-11, 4-11
Junior Boys Singles - Last 32	
DRINKHALL ENG lost to ROGIERS	7-11, 11-13, 11-4, 9-11, 11-4, 3-11
CRHA CZE beat KNIGHT ENG	11-7, 12-10, 9-11, 4-11, 9-11, 11-6, 11-9
Junior Boys Doubles - Last 16	
FEGERL/STORF AUT beat	
DRINKHALL/KNIGHT ENG	11-6, 11-9, 9-11, 11-9
Junior Girls Singles - Last 16	

LINSTROMBERG GER beat	
SIBLEY ENG	11-9, 4-11, 13-11, 12-10, 11-3
Junior Girls Doubles - Quarter Final	
DODEAN /SAMARA ROU beat	
PAUKOVIC HRV/SIBLEY ENG	11-5, 11-6, 11-4

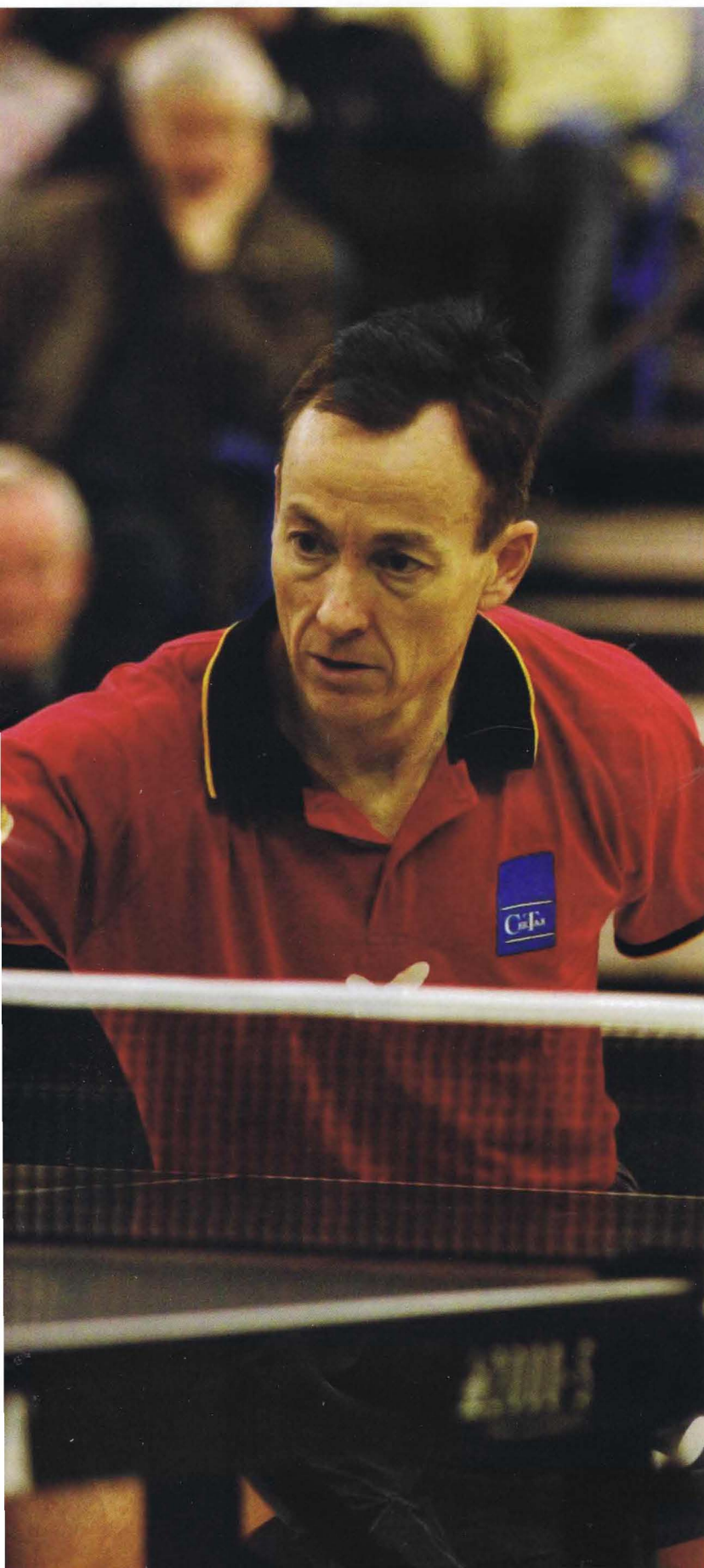
Cheltenham Butterfly Grand Prix results		
Player	Opponent	Result
Men's Open		
Jenkins bt	Trumpauskas	11-8, 11-5, 11-8
Men's U21		
McLernon bt	Denny	11-7, 3-11, 9-11, 11-7, 11-9
Band 1 Men		
Lee bt	Laws	11-13, 11-7, 11-7, 6-11, 11-6
Band 2 Men		
Rogers bt	S Perry	12-10, 11-8, 14-12
Band 3 Men		
McLernon bt	Donnelly	11-5, 11-4, 11-5
Band 4 Men		
Thomas bt	McLellan	8-11, 11-4, 4-11, 11-6, 11-6
Band 5 Men		
Dragojlovic bt	Vaughan	11-7, 11-8, 11-9
Band 6 Men		
Dragojlovic bt	Edwards	12-10, 7-11, 12-10, 11-4
Veteran Men		
Popantoniou bt	Payne	11-7, 11-7, 11-8
Women's Open		
Yue Jiao Wu bt	Parker	11-2, 11-4, 11-7
Women's U21		
Owen bt	Radford	11-4, 11-6, 11-5
Band 1 Women		
Bristow bt	L Perry	11-2, 9-11, 11-5, 11-8
Band 2 Women		
Hicks bt	Whitehorn	11-6, 11-9, 11-9
Band 3 Women		
Hicks bt	Whitehorn	11-6, 11-5, 13-15, 11-4
Cheltenham Butterfly Grand Prix Placings		
Veteran Women		
1st place - Kim Mudge		
2nd place - Judy Morley		
Teesport Player of the Tournament		
Milan Dragojlovic		



GEMMA YARNLEY

ALAN COOKE

Jenkins and Perry continue to **battle it out** in the Butterfly Grand Prix series, whilst Wu Yue Jiao is the **dominant force** in the women's event.



GAVIN EVANS

Wolverhampton Grand Prix Results

Player	Opponent	Result
Men's Singles		
Perry bt.	Jenkins	11-8, 11-6, 6-11, 11-5
Men's Band 1 Singles		
Wuraola bt.	Denny	11-9, 11-5, 12-10
Men's Band 2 Singles		
Denny bt.	Read	13-11, 9-11, 8-11, 11-9, 12-10
Men's Band 3 Singles		
McLernon bt.	Donnelly	7-11, 11-8, 13-11, 14-12, 11-7
Men's Band 4 Singles		
Durham bt.	Adam	11-8, 11-8, 8-11 7-11, 11-5
Men's Band 5 Singles		
Pylypiw bt.	Burgess	11-8, 11-7, 11-8
Men's Band 6 Singles		
Hussain bt.	Smith	11-7, 11-3, 9-11, 6-11, 11-3
U 21 Men's Singles		
Reed bt.	Barham	12-10, 11-2, 11-2
Junior Boy's Singles		
Stokes bt.	Roslaleer	11-7, 10-12, 11-3, 8-11, 11-8
Veteran Men's Singles		
Carthy bt.	Papantoniou	10-12, 11-7, 12-10, 12-10
Player		
Opponent		
Result		
Women's Singles		
Yue Jiao Wu bt.	Reynolds	11-3, 11-5, 11-6
Women's Band 1 Singles		
Radford bt.	Cohen	9-11, 11-9, 6-11, 11-8, 12-10
Women's Band 2 Singles		
Greener bt.	Brazattityte	11-7 11-6, 15-13
Women's Band 3 Singles		
Pilgrm bt.	Yarnley	11-8, 11-4, 11-7
U21 Women's Singles		
Spink bt.	Wilson	11-4, 11-7, 11-8
Junior Girls Singles		
Howe bt.	Dennett	11-5, 11-7, 11-1
Veteran Women's Singles		
Mudge bt. J	Morley	11-6, 11-8, 11-6
Teesport player of the tournament – Sam Perr		

COUNTY NEWS

BERKSHIRE

By Colin Dyke

Berkshire Senior 1st team have had a great season in Division 1B of the County Championships winning six of their seven matches, losing only to Surrey earlier in the season by 7-3. Dramatically, Surrey later slipped up and suffered their only defeat to Glamorgan leaving Berkshire as champions with a better sets average. This means Berkshire will next season contest the Premier Division against the other top counties in the country.

Berkshire's men were the backbone of the success with Hari Gehlot and Martin Adams losing only one set apiece during the season with David Barr, playing at no.1, losing only two sets. The ladies found the going particularly tough but Lisa Crick nevertheless battled for a creditable four wins out of eight against some top players. However, Lisa was unavailable for the last two matches and Melanie Farquhar came in to take her place, in the process winning a staggering three out of three in the crucial matches against Kent and Middlesex 2. This augers well for the Premier challenge next season. Results: beat Bucks 7-3; beat Glamorgan 7-3; beat Kent 8-2; beat Middlesex II 10-0; beat Somerset 7-3; lost to Surrey 3-7; beat Wiltshire 10-0.

More success came from the juniors in Division 2D who won 7 of their 8 matches losing only to Sussex 2 and finishing runners-up. Ayonija Sundararajan, playing in a higher age group, was the main success story winning all 14 sets played for a 100% record. The boys played their part too with the pick being Abhay Gehlot who lost only 2 in 14. Ben Davis, Kuldeep Gehlot and Ross Saxby also finished with healthy averages.

Whilst the Cadets could only draw 3 and lose 3, there were success stories for Tom Maynard and Richard Andrews. Tom had a 100% record whilst Richard lost only 1 in 14.

Finally the only success amongst the Veterans

teams was a runners-up medal for the 5th team who had to beat Somerset 3 in their last match to clinch it.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

By Steve Rate

At the Cambs TTA Closed Championships the Men's Singles went to former England international Dale Barham winning a closely fought final with Keith Richardson. Ladies title went to Denise Jacobi, Men's Doubles to Mick Harper/Keith Richardson, Ladies Doubles to Alison Edge/Janet Nicholls. The main winner of the day was Nick Rate who took three titles, Constable Cup (U21's), Junior Boys, and Restricted Singles. Other winners were Mick Harper/Alison Edge (Mixed Doubles), Keith Richardson (Vets Singles), Daniel Fielding (Handicap Singles), Amy Catlin(U21's), Olivia Miller (Junior Girls and Cadet Girls), Christian Mohan/Keiran Mohan (Junior Doubles), Christian Mohan (Cadet Boys) and Daniel Fielding/Liwu Wei (Drawn Doubles). The tournament was run very well

and had an entry above last year. Ian Gregory was the best of Cambs Juniors at the recent ESTTA Individual Championships just missing out by one leg to going through his group.

Finally congratulations must go to Nick Rate who won the player of the year award at the Clifedale Chandlers Grantham 1*star tournament for his consistency and excellent attitude towards the game.

CLEVELAND

By Alan Ransome

Ormesby players excelled at the Masters. Paul Drinkhall and Danny Reed finished in the top two positions in the Junior Masters at the Cippenham Club in Slough on 6/7 May and Karina Lefevre, from the 9th seeded position, finished 5th in the Cadet Masters at the same venue the previous week.

Paul Drinkhall won the competition by winning 12 of his 13 matches. His only defeat was against Danny Reed and that was by the narrowest of margins at 6-11, 13-11, 10-12, 11-3 and 11-9.

COUNTY NEWS

CORNWALL

By Tim Bowler

County Championships - In Division 2B of the Junior County Championships another unbeaten day for the Cornwall first team of Darren Reed, Matthew Trevorrow, Paul Jenkin, Martha Travis and Rachel Trevorrow saw them clinch the title with Darren Reed remaining unbeaten throughout the entire season.

Cornwall Closed Junior Championships - Cornwall's Junior Championships took place at Tregorrick Park St Austell. In the U12 girl's event Cornwall's no.2 Cadet, Rachel Trevorrow had a comfortable victory in the final over Kelly Reed. In the boy's event twin brothers Jamie and Matthew Bassett made the semi-finals with Jamie winning through then losing to Eliot Wellstead-Crook in the final. In the boys U15's Cornwall's no.2 junior Matthew Trevorrow defeated the rapidly improving Alistair Smith 11-6 in the deciding game. In the girls event England ranked no.2 U13 girl Martha Travis defeated the U12 champion Rachel Trevorrow 3-1.

In the girls U18s the absence of the defending champion ensured that Martha Travis and Rachel Trevorrow again contested the final. An excellent performance by Rachel saw her gain an impressive 3-1 win to reverse her defeat in the U15s. The U18 boys as expected saw Darren Reed and Matthew Trevorrow comfortably reach the final. After taking an early 2-1 lead Matthew eventually lost out to Darren 11-9 in the final game. In the doubles event Darren Reed and Alistair Smith had a straight games victory over Matthew Trevorrow and Martha Travis.

Cornwall Closed Senior Championships - In the Senior Closed championships Darren Reed repeated his victory in the previous day's U18 final beating Matthew Trevorrow of St Ives 3-1 having lost the first game. In the Men's Singles Adrian Noot, a previous county champion, made it through to the final where he met the U18 and U 21 champion Darren Reed. Darren confirmed his status as county no.1 with an excellent 11-5, 11-5, 11-5 victory. Adrian got some revenge when partnering Jeremy Williams they defeated Darren Reed and Matthew Trevorrow in the Men's Doubles. Jeremy followed this up by winning the over 40's singles whilst in the over 55s Austin Chapman defeated Dennis Williams 3-0. In the consolation singles an excellent performance by Martin Adams saw him finish runner up to West Cornwall premier league player David Plumb.

In the Ladies single's Kate Alken, a regular in



Tim Yarnall

Round Up summary

COUNTY NEWS



Gemma Yarnley

the county team made the final where she met England no.2 U13 girl and county cadet champion Martha Travis. An excellent performance by Martha saw her defeat the experienced Kate 3-1 Like Adrian, Kate got some revenge when partnering Michelle Turner, they beat Martha Travis and Georgina Credland in the Women's Doubles final. In the Mixed Doubles Darren Reed and Martha Travis defeated David Plumb and Yaina Andrews.

Mid Cornwall Divisional Championships - The Mid Cornwall Divisional Championships took place at St Austell. In the Open Singles event three of the top four seeds made it through to the last four where Kate Alken, defeated Andrew Bunce 3-0 and Daniel Mitchelmore beat his team mate Reg Drew also 3-0. In the final Kate ran out a worthy 3-1 winner. In the Division 2 event, two of the league's senior players Peter Knight and John Kelly, made the final. The defences of John Kelly proved too consistent as he took the title. In the doubles Danny Michelmore and Martin Adams made the final where they lost to the no.1 seeds Kate Alken & Reg Drew. In the junior singles the title was decided in the final game when 13 year old Ryan Bowler defeated his 17 year old brother Dean in a close match in the deciding game.

In the Veterans event last year's champion Peter Knight went out in the semi finals to Division 2 winner John Kelly. In the final Dave Walton took a 2-0 lead but then ran out of steam as John Kelly, playing some of his best table tennis for a long time, came back to win 3-2. In the Ladies Handicapped Singles an 8 point start was not enough to stop Kate Alken taking the title by coming from 2 games down to beat Di Jermyn 3-2. In the Handicap Doubles Danny Michelmore and Di Jermyn beat Bill Pope and Trevor Gooch.

ESSEX

By Steve Kerns

Basildon Closed - County veterans second team star Terry Guymer retained his Mens Singles title after a hard-fought final against George Reeves. Guymer finally came out on top 11-7, 10-12, 9-11, 11-9, 11-6. Reeves made no mistake in capturing the Veterans Singles title. Guymer was a shock semi-final loser to Peter Saunders but Saunders was unable to make the same impact in the final. Reeves made no mistake in winning 11-8, 11-6, 11-8.

Other results included: Ladies Singles - Linda

Murray beat Karen Faulkner 3-0. Men's Doubles - Terry Guymer/Geoff Morgan beat Paul Grant/Babul McLeod 3-0. Mixed Doubles - Linda Murray/Kevin Read beat Karen Faulkner/Pat White 3-2. Ladies Doubles - Janet Finch/Linda Murray beat Betty Jeffery/Gill Smith 3-0. Ladies Veterans Singles - Linda Murray beat Janet Finch 3-0. Veterans Doubles - Dave Jacobs/Peter Saunders beat George Reeves/Geoff Morgan 3-0.

Romford Closed - County Men's Singles Champion Ian Attridge dominated the weekend's play winning the Men's Singles and Veteran's Singles titles. Paul Whatton beat the seeded Stuart Kimm and Steve Kerns on his way to the Men's Singles final but he was unable to trouble Attridge. Ian was always in control winning 11-3, 11-2, 11-8.

The ultra-consistent Stuart Kimm gave Attridge a scare in the Veteran's Singles final taking the first two games quite comfortably. However, Ian hit back strongly in the third end and his extra power eventually proved decisive as he ran out a 4-11, 7-11, 11-8, 11-6, 11-5 winner.

Other results included: Men's Doubles - Stuart Kimm/Garry Lewsey beat Dan Cannon/Gavin West 3-1. Restricted (Division 2) Singles - Tim

COUNTY NEWS

Scott beat Dave Bowman 3-2. Intermediate (U21) Singles – Michael Copleston beat David Penrose 3-0.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

By Dennis Millman

Congratulations all round this month with pride of place going to Wollaston U19 boys. Led by Chris Doran with Dan Smalley, Matt Horrocks and Carl Leeson completing the quartet, their joint aim was to improve on last season's third place in the Schools' National Team Championships.

Three of England's best teams stood between Wollaston and its target with Yorkshire's Wickersley School and Sports College providing the initial opposition. Chris led from the front with two fine wins, proving an inspiration to his side as Carl also won twice with Dan and Matt additional contributors.

Peniel Academy ended Wollaston's hopes last time round so the Northants side was well motivated for a second encounter. Nevertheless, although the skipper provided an early win Peniel took a 3-1 lead. At this point Chris returned in winning vein and then Matt turned in one of his best ever performances to beat the Peniel no.2. One more win was required to avoid defeat and the fast improving Daniel made it look easy with an impressive win over the opposing no.3.

Peniel had already fallen to Wollaston's final opponents and so a win against Barrow Sixth Form College from Cumbria was all that was required.

Chris Doran was in magnificent form winning twice to retain his unbeaten record. Suitably inspired, Matt Horrocks and Carl Leeson added further singles, with Dan Smalley having the pleasant task of securing a 5-3 victory and the Nationals title. It was almost certainly the first time a Northants school had succeeded since the competition's inception some 40 years ago.

Congratulations to the team and to a dedicated teacher in Andy Todd who had finally achieved what he had set out to do 30 years ago.

Northants Veteran First team went into the final day of the County Championships aware that two wins from three matches would be enough to secure the title. They made a great start against Bedfordshire 2 with Steve Silk, Dave Welsman and Margaret Welsman all winning comfortably. John Fuller on his first team debut had a good win over ETTA Chairman Alex Murdoch before going down on three deuce games to Harvey Cross.

Northants then went into the penultimate match against Buckinghamshire 2 and repeated the scoreline to make sure of the title. Steve Silk's loss to Buckinghamshire no.1, Nick Hansell, was the solitary reverse.

With the title won, Northamptonshire completed a clean sweep when they added Hertfordshire 3 to their season's victims. Silk, Welsman and Fuller were all unbeaten with a rare defeat for Margaret Welsman at the hands of Jeanette Maybanks the only surprise.

After the recent series of matches in the EBS Mobile Phones Limited Northants Super League, Westfield is now hot favourite to take the title. A 7-2 win against Cold Higham with John Fuller and Greg Yarnall again unbeaten was in direct contrast to a depleted Harborough's same score defeat by Corby's Lee O'Boyle and Simon Jarvis.

Now Harborough must beat Westfield 8-1 to take the title, while a 7-2 result in Harborough's favour would leave the sides tied at the top, otherwise Westfield will take the trophy. In a third match Richard Elliott hit a hat-trick but Higham Band still lost to DCA Pumas trio of Paul Gattiss, David Gibbons and Chris Gibbons.

On the tournament scene there were some tremendous performances at the EBS Mobile Phones Limited County Closed. In the Men's Singles Steve Silk eliminated Ryan Keates in straight games and followed up by knocking out nine times winner Andy Trott. Silk then lost to Chris Ross at the semi-final stage. In the other half Richard Elliott was taken the full distance by Keith Lucas and Ken Philipson, but survived to face Greg Yarnall. In this semi-final Elliott held seven match points in the fourth but Yarnall saved them all and went through in the fifth to beat Ross in a closely fought final.

It was a similar story at Kettering where Andy LeButt beat Elliott; David Grundy got the better of Philipson, before a great comeback from LeButt saw him triumph in another five ender.

NORTHUMBERLAND

By Pauline Long

The County veterans' team of Dave Godbold, Geoff Salter, Benny Robertson, Caron Guthrie and Christine Burke was unfortunately relegated along with Dorset following their final series of Premier Division matches at Ashford.

They lost 4-6 to Kent, 3-7 to Yorkshire and Essex and beat Dorset 7-3 in their final match. Dave won six out of a possible eight singles and Geoff five, and both players combined to remain unbeaten in their four men's doubles matches. Benny chipped in with a further two singles, but failure to win any women's singles or mixed doubles meant that this was not enough to prevent relegation to Division 1A.

However, Dave gained partial compensation by winning the Men's Over 40 singles title at the Northern Masters tournament held in Blackpool. His final opponent was John Payne (Middlesex) who had earlier ousted local favourite Keith

Williams (Lancs). Dave and Geoff also finished as runners-up in the over 40 Men's Doubles.

The County closed junior and senior tournaments were held at the Sporting Club of Cramlington. The Norman Moore Memorial Cup for the juniors was won by Kevin Watson, who beat Ben Dawson in the final. Thomas Beckwith was victorious in the Cadet Singles, and Debbie Dawson won the U13s.

Andrew Wilkinson had a convincing win over surprise finalist Mark Jackson to regain the open singles title in the senior tournament from Eddie Smith, who suffered a shock second round defeat against Chris Thorp. Chris went onto reach the semi-finals before losing to Mark who had pulled off a surprise result himself by beating Dave Godbold in the last eight.

Dave, however, went on to win the veterans' singles title and tasted yet more success with Geoff Salter in the open doubles when the two veterans combined to defeat holders Andrew and Eddie in the final.

The women's singles was retained by Lynne Herrington, who beat Pauline Long in the final for the third successive year – and for good measure, Lynne's husband Neil captured the handicap singles title.

Results: Junior Singles (Norman Moore Memorial Trophy) Kevin Watson beat Ben Dawson 12-10, 11-5, 7-11, 11-8; Cadet Singles (best of 3 games) Thomas Beckwith beat Jason Pu 3-11, 12-10, 11-8, U13 Singles (best of 3 games) Debbie Dawson beat Ryan Richardson 12-10, 11-9, Open Singles Andrew Wilkinson beat Mark Jackson 11-4, 11-6, 11-5; Open Doubles Dave Godbold/Geoff Salter beat Wilkinson/Eddie Smith 11-7, 11-9, 7-11, 11-8; Veterans' Singles, Godbold beat Neil Herrington 11-4, 11-7, 11-5, Women's Singles Lynne Herrington beat Pauline Long 12-10, 11-6, 11-8, Handicap Singles Neil Herrington (scratch) beat Steve Ralph (+16) 22-20, 22-20, Grade 1 Singles Dale Aitkenhead beat Frank Lasek 12-10, 11-3, 11-8; Grade 2 Singles Nigel Rodgers beat Steve Dickinson 11-6, 9-11, 6-11, 11-7, 11-6; Grade 3 Singles Kevin Watson beat Stephen Ross 8-11, 11-6, 11-4, 8-11, 11-9; Grade 4 Singles Graeme Boxwell beat Adrian Barnes 11-9, 7-11, 11-2, 11-8.

OXFORDSHIRE

By Karl Bushell

The Oxfordshire veterans' team have returned from Yorkshire with a well deserved victory to retain their status in Division 1 of the County Championships. It was a great team effort with all team members contributing.

Nat Richardson got the team off to a good start with victory over Neil Harris the Yorkshire no.1 Eddie Herrity and Karl Bushell won their

COUNTY NEWS

first singles to open up a good lead. Yorkshire then hit back with victory in the first Mixed Doubles and a defeat for Nat Richardson in his second singles to recover to 3-2.

Janet Brown then kept her nerve to win a vital match 13-11 in the final set to restore a two match margin.

Although Eddie Herrity lost his second singles, Oxfordshire still had the advantage of their top player Karl Bushell playing his second singles and being able to partner Nat in the Men's Doubles and Janet in the final Mixed Singles. He did not disappoint and the final three matches were won to give Oxfordshire a great 7-3 victory and to seal the fate of relegation of Yorkshire to Division 2.

Although the team subsequently lost to Leicestershire (champions) and Worcestershire they were already in a good position following the first set of matches at Milton Keynes.

Veterans 2 Division 3C - A great season for the second team who won six and drew one of their matches. This would normally be sufficient to win the title. However, they finished with an identical record to Sussex and exactly the same sets record. It is all now down to games for and against and Sussex appear to have the edge, in part due to games conceded to them by Wiltshire due to a player injury.

Irrespective of the outcome, the team of Jeff Rigby, Andy Missledine, Bob Sym, Neil Hurford and Jan Curtis should be proud of their achievements and be firm favourites for promotion next season.

Veterans 3 Division 4B - The third team of Chris Lansley, Nigel Taylor, Alf Davies and Anne Borrowdale rounded off their campaign with a draw against Cambridgeshire 2 and a 9-1 defeat against Essex 5.

British League - Oxford Fireplace has won Division 1 of the British League and has achieved promotion to the Premier Division. This is the first time in history that an Oxfordshire team have qualified for the top division, which includes several full-time professionals.

The Fireplace team have benefited from having the services of two Chinese Youth internationals on secondment to the Filton Sports Academy but local players Ian Packford (captain), Karl Bushell and Mark Newns have all contributed to the team's success. Hopefully the team will find suitable replacements if they lose the services of their Chinese stars, otherwise life in the top division will be tough. Thanks go to Ray Massie of Oxford Fireplace who has been the team's sponsor.

Local Leagues - Oxford Kidlington A have retained the title with two matches to spare. The team of Karl Bushell, Greg Boone, Ellis Bicknell

and Paul Casey proved too consistent for the other teams but the race for the runners-up position is still close with Morris Motors and Rutherford's in contention.

Didcot - Oxford Fireplace with its multi talented squad proved far too strong for the others and have won the title with two matches to spare. Headed by British League players Ian Packford and Karl Bushell they were well supported by Pay Powell, Pete Dasher, Sam Cairns, Nat Richardson and James Lovelock.

SOMERSET

By John Wood

Baker Tilly Yeovil & District tournament - Top seed Lee Sadler majestically carried on as he has done in previous years and took the Men's Singles title in this season's Yeovil & District Table Tennis League's One Day Closed tournament, at the Westland Sports & Social Club Sports Hall in Yeovil. All attack Sadler beat up and coming junior Takuya Takaishi in the final, and these two players joined forces to win the Open Doubles, beating Chris and John Glover in the final.

Takaishi also won the Junior Singles title for the third year running, beating Sam Parsons in the final. They then teamed up to take the Junior Doubles crown beating Sam Crabb and Mark Mathius.

The Ladies Singles title was won this year by Isobel Sanjurjo who overpowered Caroline Dibber to take the title. Paul Green won the Intermediate Singles title when he defeated Dave Beckey in the final. Clive Cornford won both the Veterans and Vintage finals, beating Andy Mitchell and Paul Green respectively.

Gary Edwards won this year's Division 3 title beating Tim Farr. The U14 Open Singles crown was won by Richard Corke, who overcame the challenge of Christopher Langdon. Although not as many players as the organisers would have liked, there were 31 competitors who took part in these closed championships. In addition there was an U14 Open tournament, attracting players from Taunton, Bridgwater and Beaminster, as well as Yeovil.

SURREY

By Chris Andrews

At the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, Joanna Parker reached the quarter-finals of the Women's Doubles with Kelly Sibley. She also reached the last 16 in two other events, the singles and the Mixed Doubles with Andrew Rushton. In the team event the English women finished 9th.

Both Darius Knight and Joanna Parker were

picked by England for the World Team Championships in Bremen, Germany, where Joanna was England's no. 1 as Helen Lower was out with an elbow injury.

London Progress are now Premier League Champions 8 times in a row with Darius Knight on 81% being the top Surrey player in the League. In Division 2 South, York Gardens 1 came second, with an all Surrey team of Pete Barrow, Wing Yung Chan, David Bangeter, Dorian Robinson, Steve Holloway and Marcia Ma.

In the Women's British League, Glenda Ashion was the top Surrey player, being 12th in the Premiership averages and her team London Progress were secondnd in the League. Spicer Ladies were the top Surrey team and they finished bottom of Division 1.

Ian Girdler was Surrey's top player in the Veterans' Premier League and he played for Potters Leisure Resort. The top Surrey men's veterans' team was Graham Spicer 1 in Division 2 who finished one place above Merrow. Devesh Shete was runner-up in the Mixed Doubles for Cambridge at the British Universities Championship.

The April Junior London Rankings show Alois Clair of York Gardens second in the U11s and Adam Hitchcock fifth. In the U13s Nicholas Soloman of Graham Spicer was seventh with Alexander Forsha of Rosehill eighth. Cain Fagan of York Gardens was sixteenth in the U15s.

The Aldershot League coaching night is on Tuesdays from 7.30-9.30 at Collingwood College, Camberley, and is held by Derek Seager for a price of just £1.50 each: call Derek on 01256 702252 for details.

SHROPSHIRE

By Terry Ridgway

Seventeen year old Bridgnorth star Joe Hurdley became Shropshire's youngest ever Singles Champion with a series of stunning attacking performances at Lilleshall, the talented youngster cruised through his group stages without dropping a game and was only really stretched in his quarter-final match with Shrewsbury's Ian Playstead which Hurdley finally won 11-9,10-12,11-13,12-10,12-10.

Ludlow's Nigel Foreshew was blown away in the semi-final and the scene was set for a cracking match against Albrighton's John Collymore who had disposed of county no 1 Tony Akeroyd and Malcolm Langford on his way to his first ever county final.

Hurdley seems to make a habit of coming back from difficult positions and again the final was no exception as Collymore surged into a 12-10, 9-11,13-11 lead but the Telford based teenager hit back to capture the trophy 12-

10,11-7. A welcome return to competitive table tennis for former England junior Tracey Bloor who surprised the committee with a late entry and proceeded to outplay all of the established county ladies to win the women's singles event for the first time.

Telford League Division One – Albrighton's A team captured the top division's trophy for the fourth successive year although this time the competition was a little closer than usual. Dave Elkin's side led from the start and finally triumphed by a 20 point margin but the battle for second place is a little tighter with Abbey A needing big wins from their last matches to snatch the runners-up trophy from Bridgnorth A, Industrial Bearings or Bridgnorth C.

Telford Division Two - Mathesons B made a swift return to the top division by a comfortable margin with Lilleshall B joining them as runners-up, Dave Taylors side finishing their 22 matches unbeaten.

SUSSEX

By John Woodford

Sheila King and Ritchie Venner will be leading a group of players in Bremen at the World Veterans Championships. Nearly always making the headlines Venner, aged 40, is making this his debut season as a veteran and causing some havoc amongst his main rivals. He started the season as no.1 on the England list but is now No.8. He can expect to move up shortly following wins against three of his main rivals - Richard Yule, Joe Kennedy and Nigel Eckersley - all ranked above him.

The Brighton League have won a battle with the ETTA over the semi-finals of the Carter Cup. Chesterfield and Middlesex declined to travel as far as Plymouth for the semi-finals and were taken out of the competition. This left Brighton willing but not happy to travel to Plymouth, so the ETTA relented - Brighton and Plymouth will play the final at Loughborough on 21st May.

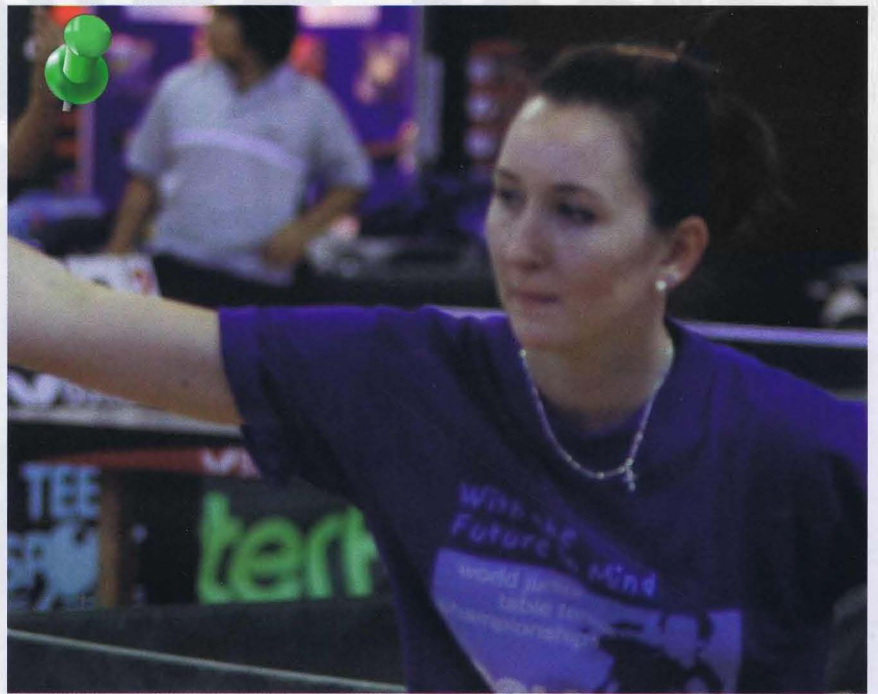
A Brighton official commented saying "Commonsense and goodwill have prevailed".

Brighton were prepared to spend £350 on a trip to Plymouth, but the money has now been saved. The Brighton team for the final has been boosted by the inclusion at no.3 of Stephen Eckford (Hove) playing with the Denman brothers Stephen and James,

YORKSHIRE

By Barry Snowden

Dewsbury take honours in Clubs' Finals - The finals of all three Yorkshire club competitions took place recently at Dewsbury TTC with the senior, junior and veterans competitions all



Joanna Parker

reaching their conclusion, and it was the home team Dewsbury Tog 24 who stole the honours as they took two of the titles while Pudsey TTC, in their first season, had to be content with two runners-up awards.

The most competitive of finals was the junior event which was won by Helmsley TTC who recorded a fine 5-3 victory over Pudsey TTC. Although Pudsey had the star of the match in county second team player Chris Parker who scored a maximum, it was the all round team effort of Joe Wright, Edward Fambeley and Chris Allott who achieved success as the two remaining Pudsey players, Andrew Holding and Danny Beech, were unable to get off the mark.

Dewsbury Tog 24 were always going to be the hot favourites in the veterans event against newcomers Ripley Stars from Harrogate, and even more so when the Harrogate team lost top player Richard Whiteley through an injury sustained in the veterans' county premier weekend.

Despite a comfortable victory from county first teamer Steve Cooper over Steve Kosmowsky, the Stars were never in the match and when Yorkshire's no.1 Mick Stead recovered from a first game reversal to beat Cooper 9-11 11-9 11-4 13-11 the writing was on the wall for the Harrogate based side as Tog ran out 5-1 winners.

The senior event proved just as one sided as Stead joined Richard Lightowler and Darren Lindley to record a comprehensive 5-1 victory

over Pudsey TTC.

Pudsey never recovered from a first set reversal when county first team player Richard Smith surrendered a two game advantage to Lightowler and, despite a single win for Smith over Lindley neither of his team mates, Simon Pugh or Phil Cawser, were able to get off the mark as the Dewsbury club took their second title of the night.

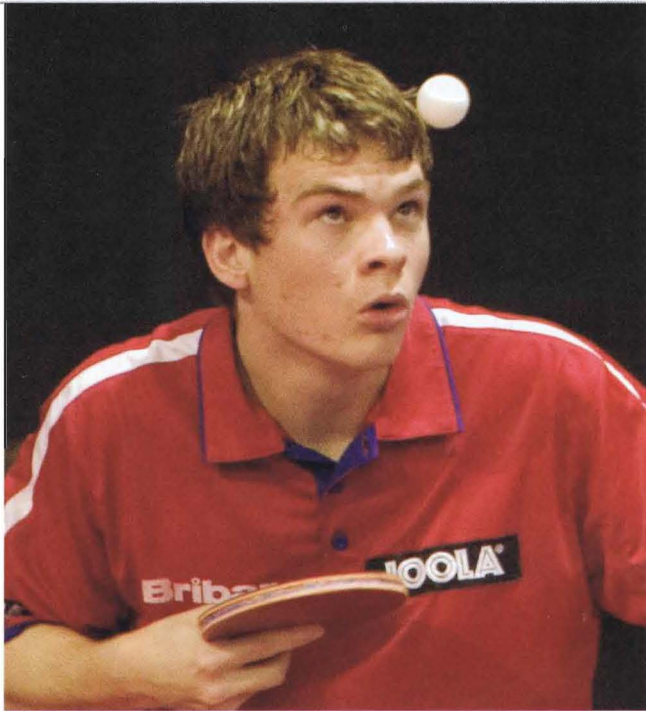
4th Annual Halifax Veterans Open –This will be held at the Halifax TTC over the weekend of 12th/13th August 2006.

The same format as usual will be used with singles groups giving everyone plenty of sets on Saturday, and as in previous years it is hoped to have the doubles events on Sunday morning followed by three men's banded knockout events and two ladies.

This is the fourth year we shall be holding the event and the main men's event has been won by Keith Williams, John Hilton and last year by Dave Goldbold, who have all commented that they enjoy the weekend as it helps blow off the cobwebs of summer in preparation for the onset of the season in earnest.

The entry fee is £16 which covers your entry for singles and doubles, and there will be prize money for the winner and runner-up in all events. Further details can be obtained from myself on 0113 2363537 or 0774 5018836. My e-mail address is barrysnowden@hotmail.co.uk

THE BEST PLAYERS



01 SENIOR MAN ALAN COOKE

FORM Alan is on excellent form and this is confirmed by his recent success in Bremen, he is the first ever Englishman to win the Over 40 Veteran World Championship.

CAREER HIGHLIGHT Qualification for the Seoul 1988 Olympics when he defeated Zoran Primorac 21-19 in the fifth.

01 SENIOR WOMAN JOANNA PARKER

FORM Although topping the charts it's fair to say that Joanna has not been at her best over recent weeks. Let's hope her terrific form from last year will return swiftly.

CAREER HIGHLIGHT Finishing in sixth place at the European Junior Top 12 tournament in Italy.

03 SENIOR WOMAN KELLY SIBLEY

FORM Improving all the time and on a domestic level Kelly is unstoppable, but still has a long way to go to compete at the top international level.

CAREER HIGHLIGHT Winning triple crown at the National Junior Championships 2005 and 2006.

03 SENIOR MAN PAUL DRINKHALL

FORM Serious talent both at a domestic and international level, continues to impress no matter who he faces.

CAREER HIGHLIGHT Being selected and competing in the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Australia.

PLAYER RANKINGS 2005/2006

TOP 25 SENIOR MEN

Ranking	Player
01	COOKE, Alan
02	PERRY, Alex
03	DRINKHALL, Paul
04	RUSHTON, Andrew
05	BAGGALEY, Andrew
06	KNIGHT, Darius
07	HERBERT, Gareth
08	YOUNG, Terry
09	YARNALL, Tim
10	BLEAKLEY, Adam
11	HOLLAND, John J
12	TRUMPAUSKAS, Lawrence
13	MEADS, David
14	BRYANT, Craig
15	DRINKHALL, Bryn
16	BARHAM, Dale
17	REED, Daniel
18	SMITH, Mark Richard
19	EVANS, Gavin
20	WURAOLA, Abdul
21	MARSDEN, Michael
22	BLAKE, Darren
23	EVANS, Bradley
24	VENNER, Ritchie
25	DOLDER, Kevin

TOP 5 JUNIOR BOYS

Ranking	Player
01	DRINKHALL, Paul
02	KNIGHT, Darius
03	EVANS, Gavin
04	YARNALL, Tim
05	MEADS, David

TOP 5 CADET BOYS

Ranking	Player
01	EVANS, Gavin
02	CHAN, Wing-Yung
03	WARE, Mathew
04	MARSHALL, Richard
05	EVANS, Myles

TOP 5 UNDER 13 BOYS

Ranking	Player
01	EVANS, Gavin
02	PITCHFORD, Liam
03	LOWE, Daniel
04	CULLEN, Sean
05	BARELLA, Graeme

TOP 5 VETERAN MEN

Ranking	Player
01	WURAOLA, Abdul
02	ECKERSLEY, Nigel
03	HILTON, John
04	CARTHY, Clive
05	VENNER, Ritchie

TOP 25 SENIOR MEN

Ranking	Player
01	PARKER, Joanna
02	LOWER, Helen
03	SIBLEY, Kelly
04	MARCH, Linda
05	WALKER, Georgina
06	BAWDEN, Natalie
07	REYNOLDS, Lindsey
08	SPINK, Lauren
09	ROBERTS, Joanna
10	PEERS, Clare
11	SHEPHERD, Karen
12	KEAST, Lesley
13	WILSON, Naomi
14	CHAPMAN, Gemma
15	SMITH, Karen
16	RAINTON, Rosemary
17	WHITE, Nicola
18	RADFORD, Lisa
19	COHEN, Michele
20	BONGERS, Jose
21	HOWARD, Alice
22	HARPER, Sandra
23	PESTKA, Debbie
24	BRISTOW, Angie
25	WANG, Lucy

TOP 5 JUNIOR GIRLS

Ranking	Player
01	SIBLEY, Kelly
02	SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren
03	SPINK, Lauren
04	WANG, Sarra
05	VICKERS, Emma

TOP 5 CADET GIRLS

Ranking	Player
01	VICKERS, Emma
02	JAMIESON, Rachel
03	HICKS, Hannah
04	ARDESHANA, Reena
05	WRIGHT, Melissa

TOP 5 UNDER 13 GIRLS

Ranking	Player
01	LEFEVRE, Karina
02	SUNDARARAJAN, Ayonija
03	TRAVIS, Martha
04	BATES, Emily
05	DAVIDSON, Lucy

TOP 5 VETERAN WOMEN

Ranking	Player
01	HARRIS, Jill
02	SMITH, Karen
03	HARPER, Sandra
04	JOHNS, Jan
05	MUDGE, Kim



Main Events June 2006

MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY 1	FRIDAY 2	SATURDAY 3	SUNDAY 4
				ITTF Pro Tour - Asia. U11/12/13/14 Nat. Champs.	ITTF Pro Tour - Asia. U11/12/13/14 Nat. Champs.
TUESDAY					
MONDAY 5	WEDNESDAY 7	THURSDAY 8	FRIDAY 9	SATURDAY 10	SUNDAY 11
				Doncaster GP Chippenham Young Players Summer Festival	Doncaster GP Chippenham Young Players Summer Festival
TUESDAY 6					
MONDAY 12	WEDNESDAY 14	THURSDAY 15	FRIDAY 16	SATURDAY 17	SUNDAY 18
TUESDAY 13					
MONDAY 19	WEDNESDAY 21	THURSDAY 22	FRIDAY 23	SATURDAY 24	SUNDAY 25
	ITTF Pro Tour - America	ITTF Pro Tour - America	ITTF Pro Tour - America	ITTF Pro Tour - America Crawley GP	ITTF Pro Tour - America Crawley GP
TUESDAY 20					
MONDAY 26	WEDNESDAY 28	THURSDAY 29	FRIDAY 30	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TUESDAY 27					

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