

table tennis news

Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association

Team Visa

Knight and Drinkhall Selected

Wang Liqin Takes Final

News and Results from the World Championships

Plus:

Paralympic Profile
The Secret to Success
and
the latest news
and results

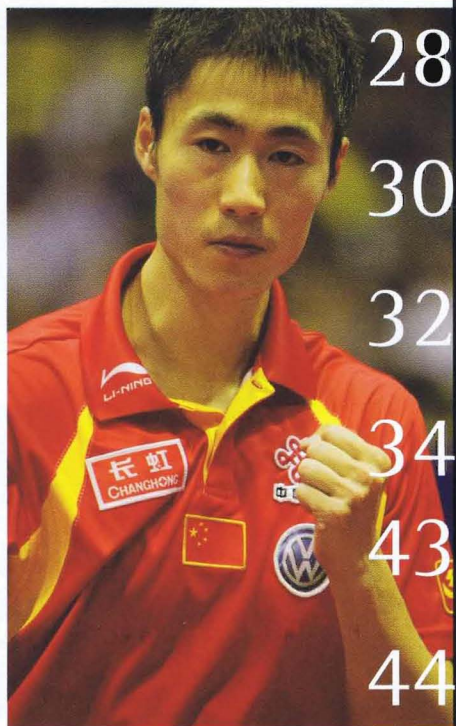
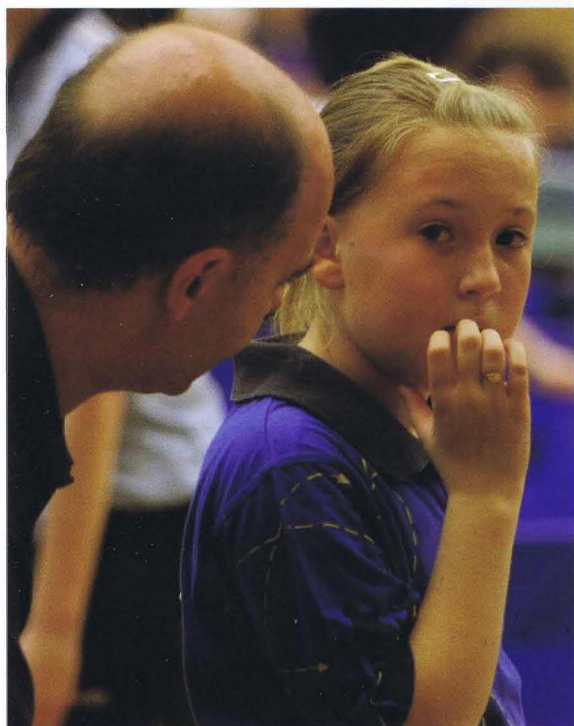
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Bribar

Table Tennis

TIBHAR RAPID

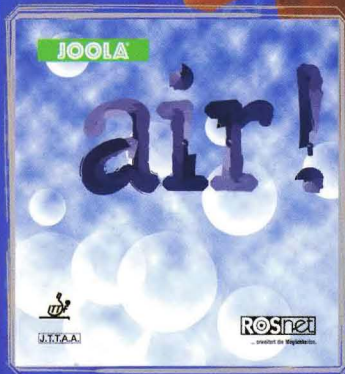
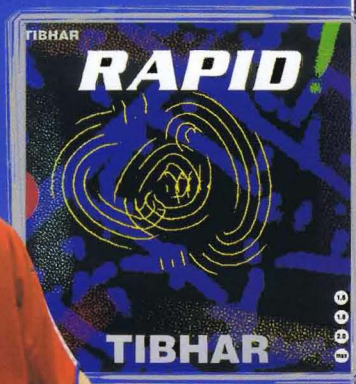
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June Summary

The recently announced new funding for the ETTA to cover a Club and Coach Development Programme and Capacity Building from our partners Sport England has been confirmed. It is in total £1,338,600 over three years from April 2007 to March 2010.

The planning process is well underway with our regional partners, and Management are discussing various aspects of this new funding in relationship to the needs of the ETTA from a staffing perspective and departmental structuring. Our goals will be to ensure that the support for our members continues to increase at all levels, with a clear emphasis on club accreditation, coaching, volunteering, participation and retention.

The new policies of our funding partner, Sport England, from April 2009 are to ensure that the Regions are major players in the distribution of funds for sports to meet the goals of the Activity Survey and participation; this will mean some changes are needed within the ETTA.

It appears quite clear that in the future three funding streams will be available to Table Tennis, UK Sport for the Elite and Talent Programmes, Youth Sport Trust for the under 16s and Sport England for the over 16s.

BRITISH TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION

A recent announcement by UK Sport of the "Mission 2012" initiative for Olympic and Paralympic sports will mean closer monitoring of all sports and a commitment to meet the objectives of 2012 for all parties. A new panel has been formed dedicated to performance, which will review each sport quarterly within a new system covering three core areas of investment and activity. These will be monitored via a "traffic light system" of red, amber and green. Our ambition is to ensure in all areas we are at green, which means we have met the criteria.

The new national training centre for GB and NI will be opened in mid-August at the English Institute of Sport (EIS) in Sheffield. Players in the programme over 16 will be accommodated in the area and after school training will be in place for those under 16. It is anticipated that high quality sparring partners will be brought in and accommodated locally. The venue of 10 tables with quality lighting and flooring has been booked during the week for 27 hours; additional weekend and holiday times are also included in the programme.

MAJOR EVENTS

Progress to stage the first combined European Junior and Cadet Top 10 in January 2008, to be known as the European Youth Top 10, is being made and the event will be staged at the prestigious EIS Sheffield venue. Negotiations are continuing with UK Sport and other partners to stage the

English Open, part of the ITTF Pro Tour programme, over a three year period from 2009.

ITTF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

During the ITTF Annual General meeting and Board of Directors meeting, all of the four nominated candidates, the maximum we are allowed, were elected as Full Committee Members.

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Tony Chatwin | Technical Committee |
| Jill Parker | Ranking Committee |
| Val Murdoch | Nominations Committee |
| Peter Bradley | Equipment Committee |

I am sure on behalf of the ETTA we should congratulate them.

INSURANCE

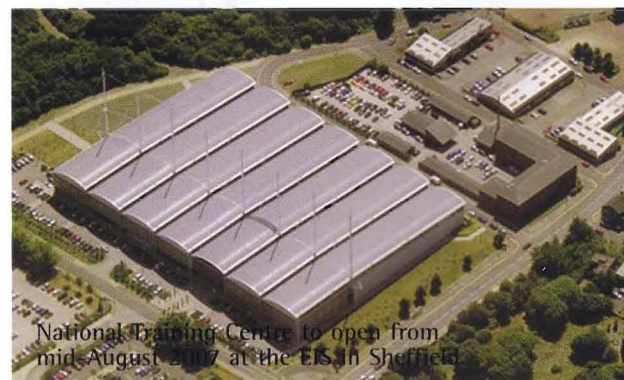
Negotiations are underway to have an ETTA insurance policy to cover all our members. This will result, once confirmed, in significant reductions for clubs, leagues and counties in the amount they pay for the premiums. The policy will be with the ETTA and pro rata costs will be collected from the clubs, leagues and counties.

MEMBERSHIP

Pressure is increasing from our funding partners to quantify and provide data of our membership. The Individual Registration form has resulted in us covering 45% of our estimated membership. We must progress this further and proposals will be coming out in the coming months to ensure we are not financially penalised in the future by our partners. The data is not just for them; it will help both the ETTA and those affiliated to the ETTA to meet the needs now and in the future for our sport.

CORPERATE GOVERNANCE AND RULES

We need as an organisation to move this whole programme forward, the changes in the way we will be funded in the future makes this essential. I have a number of qualified and interested Table Tennis people looking at our rules which are encompassed within the ETTA Memorandum and Articles. To change any of these rules it takes a 75% majority of voting members. We must make this more transparent, easier to accomplish and more democratic. Over the coming months I shall be putting forward some ideas to modernise this area and hope that the Table Tennis fraternity will support these endeavours.



National Training Centre to open from mid-August 2007 at the EIS in Sheffield

Are there some issues you would like answered within this section? If the answer is yes simply e-mail them to richard.pettit@etta.co.uk

Straight Talk

by Alex Murdoch
ETTA Chairman

CHAIRMAN'S QUESTION TIME

Q: What is the status of the National Training Centre and why do we need one?

A: The funding will enable a National Training Centre to open from mid-August 2007 at the EIS in Sheffield. The Centre will only include residential arrangements for the over 16s in the Development Squad; it is not cost effective to have residential arrangements for those under 16, albeit included in the programme is support/training for those under 16s in the Talent Identification and Observation Squads. It is essential and proven that to compete in the international arena daily training is given to the players, in addition a centre gives us the opportunity to have high quality sparring partners, coaches and the support services needed at the elite level for sports science and medicine. Being together improves the "team" attitude and also helps the competition within the players.

Q: How do you see Talent Identification working within our structure?

A: Looking and identifying young potentially talented players is critical for the long-term future development of our sport. The identification process continues through the training programme that exists within the ETTA and the BTTF from school to clubs to regions to the youth squads and to the elite group. This is all part of a Long Term Athletes Development and this must also be linked to a coaching structure which meets the requirements of the players from the start. The addition of the BTTF Talent and Observation Squads is there to work with players and see if they can progress to the Elite Development Group, and at the same time keep those already in this Group "on their toes" as places for all are not for life but based upon ability, potential, results and commitment. The ETTA also has allocated funding for non-BTTF English players only in its budget and this also covers Talent Identification.

Q: How does a player gain a place in the Olympic pool?

A: Peter Charters has put together an excellent document in regard to this question which has been circulated and is on the website. It should be realised by all that the funding from UK Sport for the BTTF is an Elite Programme with its primary goal as medals and quarter-finals in 2012 and beyond. It is not about producing players just to represent their home country, it is about becoming the best at the most prestigious sporting event in the world, the Olympics. Criteria are in place for monitoring and assessing the players with terms that they have agreed to for selection and de-selection.

NEWS



New National centre Prestigious EIS Facility in Sheffield

The British Table Tennis Federation has decided to set up their National Training Centre at the prestigious EIS Facility in Sheffield. Table Tennis will be one of a number of Olympic Sports to base their World Class Programme at the EIS.

The outstanding facilities on site including a purpose built Table Tennis playing area, the availability of Sports Science/ Medicine and quality physical training will assist Table Tennis in its goal for Medals in 2012.

It is intended that the programme for players will start on 13th August with

accommodation for the over 16 's being provided locally and resident high quality sparring partners being brought in from overseas

The under 16's will be catered for after school and at additional training camps during weekends and holidays.

Albeit this is an Elite Centre a significant off shoot will occur as Table Tennis has a very strong grass roots base in the area with many clubs and this announcement will assist in the community based programmes and resulting increases in participation.

Highest honour

At the ITTF Annual General Meeting held in Zagreb on the 23rd May, the highest personal honour, that of Personally Elected Member of the ITTF, was bestowed by Adham Sharara, ITTF President, amidst tremendous applause from the delegates from about 120 countries, to Colin Clemett for long and outstanding service to Table Tennis.

Colin, ETTA National Umpires and Referees Committee Secretary and ITTF Technical Committee member and ITTF Umpires and Referees Committee's Consultant and well respected guru on all matters technical and rules was awarded this honour having been nominated by the ETTA and supported by the ITTF Management and Nominations Committees.



History in the capital of culture

For those of you interested in the Association's archives, TTN can report they are safe and in good order buried in the vaults at Liverpool University. A visit was recently made by the

Association's archives committee to Liverpool and for the first time the team got a sighting of what they have stored there. There were old minutes, magazines, rule books, receipts

and many, many other items including table tennis bats and equipment, all stored and in good order at a temperature of between 13-18 degrees centigrade at 55-65% humidity.

06/07 overview

Annual Report Overview of the Year

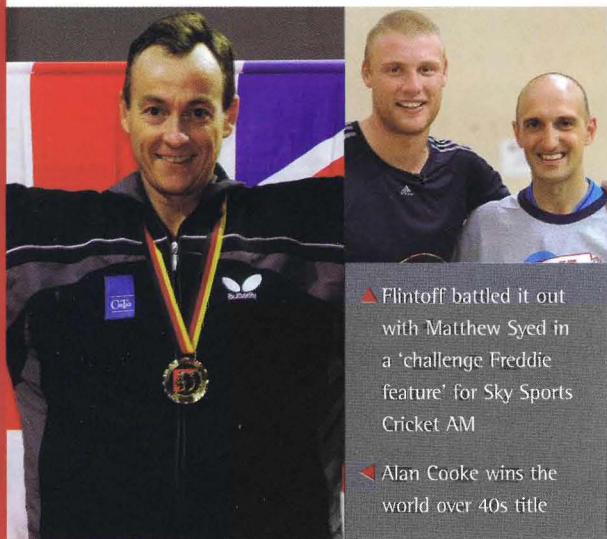
June 2006

Ellenborough Table Tennis Club was awarded £593,000 as part of the government funded community club development programme. David Hope, Chairman of Ellenborough TTC, said "Thanks to the untiring efforts of our committee and support of certain councillors and officers of the London borough of Enfield, our dream will come true when we re-open in October 2006." The ETTA was announced as one of the first organisations to achieve the foundation level of the Equality Standards for Sport. The award was presented at the CCPR annual conference by the Minister for Sport Richard Caborn.

Lieutenant Brett Barder utilised his table tennis and Arabic skills to full potential teaching young children in Basra. Table tennis is a thriving sport in Iraq perhaps due to the necessity to play in confined indoor spaces.

The World Championships in Bremen proved difficult for a young English squad but did throw up an interesting comparison from top racket sports reporter Richard Eaton: "Bremen is the city where Beethoven gave his first symphony its world premiere, and although Paul Drinkhall and Darius Knight have not arrive internationally yet, you could see that soon they too would be composing some startling stuff".

Darius Knight starred in the singles at the Polish Youth Open, narrowly missing the final following a tight match against no.1 seed Rinus Filius of Germany who went on to win gold. The doubles brought further success when Knight teamed up with fellow star Paul Drinkhall, claiming gold by defeating Mikkel Hindersson and Kasper Sternberg of Denmark. Poland also provided a medal for Kelly Sibley as she combined well with her regular doubles partner Sanja Paukovic to gain bronze.



▲ Flintoff battled it out with Matthew Syed in a 'challenge Freddie feature' for Sky Sports Cricket AM

◀ Alan Cooke wins the world over 40s title

July 2006

England's young talents moved up to fifth position in the Junior Boys (U18) ITTF world ranking. This was England's highest position for over 20 years, an especially exceptional achievement considering the average age of the squad is just 15.

Rockstar launches its new Xbox 360 game 'table tennis' which is gratefully received by global gaming fans, soaring straight to number one spot in the gaming chart.

The Table Tennis News review said "The real joy of Rockstar's interpretation of table tennis is that you can just pick up controller and play, no fiddling around trying to work out crazy combinations (although possible) you can just switch it on and away you go, this is a credit to the game and reflects its versatility. Even in a virtual world table tennis is a true sport for all".

July also brought about another celebrity endorsement as Freddie Flintoff announced his love for the game. Flintoff battled it out with Matthew Syed in a challenge Freddie feature for Sky Sports Cricket AM. Matthew Syed said: "Afterwards, Flintoff - who was terrific company throughout - asked me to make an assessment of his game. I told him that it was my guess that, had he played table tennis rather than cricket, he would have challenged for a place in the England team."

The National Under 11/12/13/14 Championships delivered some fantastic play and promise for the future.

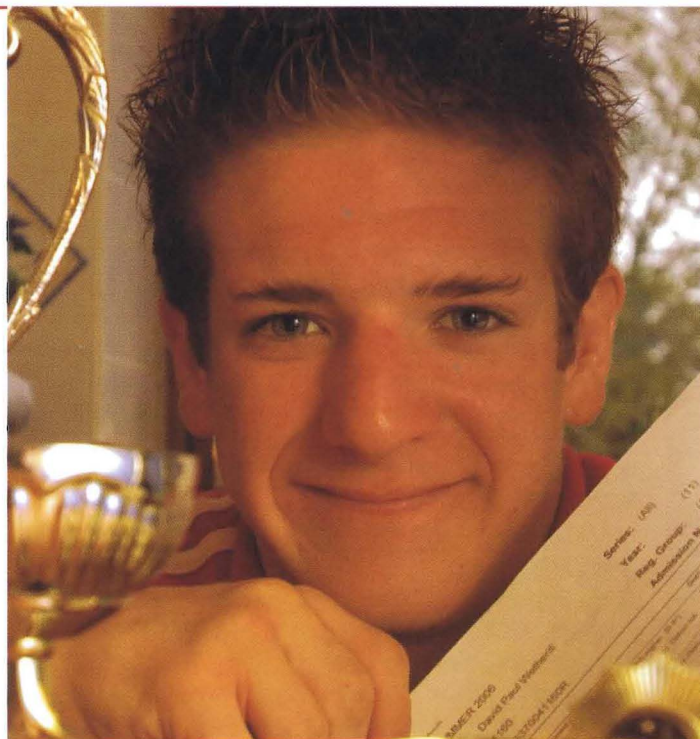
Paul Drinkhall won his first singles title on the ITTF World Junior Circuit in Funchal, Madeira, defeating Austria's Stephan Fergler in a close seven game encounter. Swiftly following that success Drinkhall continued on top form gaining a second gold combining with compatriot Darius Knight in the doubles.

Plus the England junior boys' squad returned with silver from the European Youth Championships in Sarajevo. Following the gold in the cadets the previous year it was a remarkable achievement. Stepping up an age category and gaining instant success confirmed the significant improvement the young English squad had managed to achieve.

Alan Cooke became the first English player to win the world over 40s title and triumphed over a high quality field of around 1,000 players.

August 2006

David Wetherill won gold and silver at the Disability Sport England Table Tennis Championships at Grantham, a tremendous performance by a young athlete who is touted as a top contender in the Beijing Paralympics 2008. Mason Haley, a talented nine year old, successfully defended his children's table tennis title at the British Transplant Games despite reaching the tournament without packing a bat. David [father] said: "We each thought we had packed it but as soon as we discovered we'd left it behind, we had to go rushing



around trying to borrow one."

August also saw the Olympic torch arrive at the ITTF Headquarters. Chuck Hoey, ITTF museum curator, said: "It will act as a reminder of the success of the table tennis events at the Athens Games."

September 2006

Lilleshall played host to the ETTA's annual conference and volunteer awards dinner which proved to be an outstanding success with over 100 delegates attending. Plus top keynote speakers, including Liz Nicholl (Director of Elite Sport, UK Sport), Stephen Baddeley (Interim Chief Executive, Sport England) and Lord Colin Moynihan (Chairman, British Olympic Association).

September also brought with it the first UK School Games; this will be annual event in the run in to the 2012 Olympics. Hosted by the city of Glasgow it was deemed a huge success. Triumphant this year were England North in the boys and England West Midlands in the girls. The top talents on display managed to draw the attention of several influential people including Cherie Blair, Kelly Holmes, Duncan Goodhew, Richard Caborn (Minister of Sport), Sue Campbell (Chairman UK Sport and Youth Sport Trust), Sir Craig Reedie (Member of the International Olympic Committee) and Paul Deighton (Chief Executive, London 2012).

The Panasonic China Open provided the best individual performance by any English player for some years as Paul Drinkhall gave Korean superstar and reigning Olympic champion a closer examination than anyone had managed throughout the whole of the Athens Olympics taking him to three match points until finally succumbing 6-11, 7-11, 11-9, 11-7, 4-11, 11-9, 13-11

David Wetherill won gold and silver at the Disability Sport England Table Tennis Championships at Grantham.

06/07 overview

October 2006

The ITTF announced that nearly 80,000 spectators made the trip to watch top live table tennis at the World Championships in Bremen earlier in the year.

Paul Drinkhall became the Senior Men's no.1 at just 16 years of age. Jeremy Wilson caught up with John Hilton in a feature for Table Tennis News 26 years after his famous European victory. Not only did this provide a trip down memory lane, it produced a top quote to underline the unpredictability of table tennis. "It was", says Don Parker describing Hilton's European victory, "one of the greatest upsets in the history of any sport - absolutely unbelievable."

Legend has it that John was rated number two in England, three in Lancashire and four at the Manchester YMCA.

Jasmine Ould was awarded Player of the Weekend and DML Woolwell claimed top spot in the Premier Division as the first weekend of the Bribar Women's British League was completed.

Kelly Sibley became Warwickshire Sports Awards Young Sportswoman of the Year for her achievements in table tennis over the past 12 months.

November 2006

November began with the launch of Dr Daniel Amen's new book 'Making a Good Brain Great' in which he states that table tennis is the best sport for the brain..., saying "it improves hand-eye co-ordination, it's aerobic, uses both upper and lower body, and causes you to use all areas of your brain".

Kelly Sibley topped the English Senior Women's rankings list. Sibley said "Becoming England no.1 has been one of my goals for a long time and to fulfill it is a great feeling."

Gavin Evans continued to prove why he is touted as one of the top 13 year old players in the world, winning two gold medals in the singles and doubles at the Slovak Cadet Open in Bratislava.

The ETTA launched its new website, with stacks of fresh information, a clean and clear layout, interactive content and more, it proved an instant hit with table tennis fans all over the world.

December 2006

Darius Knight played TT with top comedian Jimmy Carr on the Paul O'Grady Show, a prime time chat show on Channel Four. Whilst Christina Aguilera, the superstar singer, reveals her favourite two pastimes are table tennis and yes you guessed it shopping.

Paul Drinkhall came second only to Theo Walcott in the BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year for his outstanding national and international success. Plus rising star Lewis Gray became proud winner of the 12 years and under Junior Sports Achievers Award at the annual awards evening organised by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. Sun Jin, former Olympic silver medallist, demonstrated she has lost none of her guile putting in another unstoppable performance at the Hereford Butterfly Grand Prix to continue her dominance on the top domestic circuit.

Concluding a rather wet month, recognition for our top performers rained in as Gavin Evans became BBC East Midlands Junior Sportsman of the Year, Paul Drinkhall received the OCS National Young Sports Person Award, and Alan Cooke was named the Derbyshire Sports Veteran of the year.

January 2007

Paul Drinkhall started the new year as he finished the last winning another prestigious tournament. This time he defeated some of Europe's most talented young players to take the European Junior Top 12 singles title in Riga, Latvia. In doing so he emulated Carl Prean who was the last English player to win the title in San Marino, 1985.

Mathew Ware was presented with the Taut 100 award for his outstanding performances. He became only the ninth athlete to achieve this award since its introduction.

England elite continued to demonstrate their podium potential at the Australian Youth Olympics with Paul Drinkhall winning silver in the singles, and combining with team mate Darius Knight took top honours in the doubles. Paul Drinkhall was also selected to carry the flag in for Team GB in the opening ceremony. Drinkhall said "Holding the flag's a big honour and leading team GB out into the arena was an amazing feeling."



◀ Kelly Sibley topped the English Senior Women's rankings list.

▶ Mathew Ware was presented with the Taut 100 award for his outstanding performances.





Paul Drinkhall came second only to Theo Walcott in the BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year for his outstanding success.

European Youth Top 10. The tournament will take place at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield from 25-27 January 2008. Plus UK Sport announced it is increasing the funding agreement for the GB table tennis programme in the 2007/8 season.

A disabled table tennis demonstration was witnessed for the first time at this year's Senior National Championships. Four players battled it out with Mark Palmer (Wheelchair) and Will Bayley (Standing) succeeding over Shaun Newcombe and Chris Cattell respectively in the finals.

April 2007

Table tennis hit the theatre as 'Not a game for the boys' was performed at the Manchester Library Theatre. The Financial Times provided a glowing reference "A most impressive and absorbing debut, spiked with an almost ortonesque line in black humor and bursting with quick-fire one-liners."

February 2007

Sussex scooped the Cadets' County Premier Division without losing a match. The team of Steve Eckford, Ricki Weston, Helshan Weerasinghe, Sarah Russo and Yolanda King played exceptionally throughout.

The England senior women's squad of Joanna Parker, Helen Lower and Kelly Sibley booked their place in the Premier Division at the European Championships in Belgrade following a 3-0 win in Madeira and a 3-2 victory at the Draycott Table Tennis Centre.

The Junior British League had another record attendance with Premier Division victories for York Gardens in the Boys and Draycott and Long Eaton recording success in the Girls. The award for Player of the Weekend went to Matthew Weatherby and Karina Lefevre. DHS London Progress, led by the incomparable Egle Adomelyte, fought their way through some nail-biting contests to take the Bribar Women's British League from DML Woolwell.

In the Premier British League Michael Marsden became the first player to get the better of Oxford Fireplace Centre's double Olympic silver medallist, Sun Jin (China), winning 11-9, 12-10, 5-11, 11-8.

March 2007

The National Championships took place at Sheffield's Ponds Forge International Sports Centre with Paul Drinkhall and Helen Lower crowned Senior Champions. This season also embraced new technology with 247.tv web streaming matches live and as replays for the whole world to see.

Top tournament information was received as the European Table Tennis Union confirmed that it had awarded the ETTA the

Sport England confirmed further investment for the Club and Coach Development Fund awarding the ETTA a sum of £1,328,600 from April 2007- March 2010. Plus additional ring fenced funding for 2007/8 season of £162,625 for UKCC, Step into Sport and PESSCL.

Paul Drinkhall and Darius Knight became the only European players to be ranked in the world's top 15 in the U18s rankings list issued by the International Table Tennis Federation. Drinkhall reached 11 and Knight 15 with all other ranked players from China, Japan, Korea, Singapore or Taipei. In addition to this Drinkhall moved to an even more prominent position on the ITTF World Junior Circuit rankings by establishing himself at no.7 thanks to his success at the Canadian Junior Open.

May 2007

Cheeky girl Gabriela Irimia was photographed having a quick game of TT with her most recent romance Liberal Democrat MP Lembit Opik. Plus Kevin Spacey made us aware of his love for TT: "I'm a table tennis nut. I play constantly. I have a table in my apartment in London and I even have tournaments. Wherever I am that's one thing I always want - a table tennis table."

Ormesby Table Tennis Club announced a dedicated disabled table tennis session that will be held weekly providing top level coaches to assist all levels and abilities.

DHS London Progress became champions for the ninth season in the Premier British League, Premier Division.

Gavin Rungay from Scotland heads up the men's singles Butterfly Grand Prix Series whilst the almost unstoppable Sun Jin from China looks likely to take the women's title.

Finally England finished May in a flurry winning every category at the Junior and Cadet Six Nations held in Coventry.



Exclusion zone for foreigners

With some 400 days before the Olympic Games in Beijing, Chinese Table Tennis Super League (CTTSL) shut its door to foreign players in the forthcoming 2007 season.

According to a register list recently released by the country's table tennis governing body, China's Table Tennis and Badminton Administrative Centre, there are no non-Chinese table tennis players registered for any of the 20 member clubs of the CTTSL. Liu Fengyan, director of the Table Tennis Administrative Centre, declined to admit that the table tennis governing body of China motivated to clean out foreigners from the league in the last season

before the Beijing Games. "We have no such rule to stop foreigners joining the CTTSL," said Liu Monday at a press conference launching the new season of the league, which is to celebrate its ninth anniversary this year but only sailed onto the right path in 2005. "According to some new terms added to the CTTSL register regulations, a non-Chinese player must keep loyal before his/her contract with a Chinese club expired, having to play all matches

of the season and being forbidden to play in other leagues," said Liu. "It seems rigorous and new to China's table tennis league but has long been introduced to other leading leagues in the world such as Japan and Germany. Maybe that's why foreign players have all withdrawn from signing with a Chinese club," he added. In 2005, the first year of the so-called "Olympic Circle", a season of boom and bust was seen in the CTTSL in importing foreign players,

with the Sichuan men's team having South Korea's Olympic champion Ryu Seung Min, his compatriot Joo Se Hyuk joined Zhejiang, Austrian world champion Werner Schlager in Shandong, and hot-tempered Greek Kalinikos Kreanga in Shaanxi.

The number of foreign players reached a peak in 2006, with almost all players ranked top 16 at that time in the world having shown up in China's table tennis league, including Germany's triple European champion Timo Boll and Japan's table tennis icon Ai Fukuhara.

All these big names, however, had been parted with their Chinese clubs for various reasons since late last year.

The 2007 season of the CTTSL, planned 18 rounds with 180 matches, began on June 9, seeing 77 players, 42 male and 45 female, of 20 men's and women's teams aiming to be crowned champions on September 12 through a team competition form similar to the Olympics.

Chinese players have dominated global competitions in recent years, sweeping all gold medals at the recently concluded Zagreb World Table Tennis Championships, and are favourites to win again at the 2008 Beijing Games after having taken 16 golds out of 20 since 1988.

Spinning a new style

Functional but not fashionable has for far too long be the phrase used when table tennis apparel is mentioned, this may well be about to change. At the Volkswagen Women's World Cup to be held in Chengdu, China from 28th to 30th September 2007 an added attraction is set to catch your eye. A fashion contest will be held with manufacturers invited to submit innovative designs to enhance the image of table tennis with an aim give the sport more TV appeal. The plan is to encourage more

attractive clothing and persuade players to wear innovative attire that dispels an out-of-date image and promotes fashionable trends. In modern parlance let's make table tennis 'cool'. Entries are welcomed for either a one piece suit or a two piece

design. There will be three categories: men, women and mixed doubles with thirty designs being selected to participate in the fashion show that will be held on 30th September 2007, the final day of the Volkswagen Women's World Cup.

A panel of experts will be appointed to determine the winners

For further information or queries contact: Mr. Steve Dainton, sd@tmsin.com or Ms. Etsuko Enami, ee@ittf.com



Maybe that's why foreign players have all withdrawn from signing with a Chinese club,"

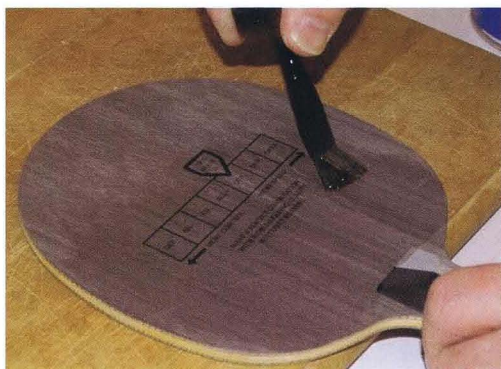
Striking Statistics

Bristol Table Tennis League has a liking for statistics. As its website shows, they like facts and figures. For instance the highest recorded number of points in a five game set was the match where Paul Redman beat Geoff Mallett which ended 12/10, 11/13, 15/13, 9/11, 11/8. There were also figures for the highest scores in a three game set and four game set.

The highest number of singles points in an evening was 300 and the highest number of points in an evening 360. And there were ups and downs for the League's Filton College. Their first team won the Junior Premier Division whilst the college's other team Filton Hercules was relegated.

Use of speed glue is banned

The Board of Directors of the International Table Tennis Federation met in Zagreb on Friday 25th May at the Liebherr World Championships to discuss the situation regarding the use of speed glue. Following the meeting this press release was



withdrawal applies to ALL glues currently on the market. The ITTF will cease to approve any type of glue effective immediately. However, the ITTF's current "racket testing" programme and protocols will continue, which controls the amount

of VCs in a racket in order to protect the health of the players. The ITTF will publish and circulate widely a list of available glues that are free of volatile compounds. This list will be updated regularly on the ITTF's website. As of 1 January 2008 for ITTF Junior events, and as of 1 September 2008 for all other ITTF events, the ITTF will implement a new zero tolerance racket testing programme and protocol, using the "e-nez" and RAE instruments to ensure that all rackets used by players are VC free. In addition, as of today, in the case that a proven severe health incident occurs and is confirmed by the medical authority recognised by the ITTF, then the ITTF would implement the new testing programme immediately (VC free) at that date (confirmation of the incident) and sanctions would be applied for failed tests. An exact legal announcement of this procedure will be made shortly by the ITTF. The ITTF urges all parties involved, players, national associations, continental associations, manufacturers, and parents to act accordingly.

issued by Adam Sharara President of the ITTF. Based on a majority decision taken by the Board of Directors of the ITTF, Glues containing harmful volatile compounds are no longer approved by the ITTF effective immediately. Although it is felt by the Board of Directors that the current levels of volatile compounds in Glues used to affix rubber coverings to the table tennis blade are in very small quantities and if applied correctly in a ventilated area provide no serious health risk to the players, it is felt, however, that long term use of such glues may have negative health effects. Therefore, as of immediate effect the ITTF informs all players to cease using glues containing volatile compounds (VCs). It is, therefore, the responsibility of each player, or his/her parents in case of minors, to cease using glues containing VCs. Any player using such glues will be doing so at his/her own risk and the ITTF will not be held responsible of any consequences or ill effects resulting from the use of such glues.

All existing ITTF approvals of glues are WITHDRAWN effective immediately. This

withdrawal applies to ALL glues currently on the market. The ITTF will cease to approve any type of glue effective immediately. However, the ITTF's current "racket testing" programme and protocols will continue, which controls the amount of VCs in a racket in order to protect the health of the players. The ITTF will publish and circulate widely a list of available glues that are free of volatile compounds. This list will be updated regularly on the ITTF's website. As of 1 January 2008 for ITTF Junior events, and as of 1 September 2008 for all other ITTF events, the ITTF will implement a new zero tolerance racket testing programme and protocol, using the "e-nez" and RAE instruments to ensure that all rackets used by players are VC free. In addition, as of today, in the case that a proven severe health incident occurs and is confirmed by the medical authority recognised by the ITTF, then the ITTF would implement the new testing programme immediately (VC free) at that date (confirmation of the incident) and sanctions would be applied for failed tests. An exact legal announcement of this procedure will be made shortly by the ITTF. The ITTF urges all parties involved, players, national associations, continental associations, manufacturers, and parents to act accordingly.

Streaming Success

The TV streaming we used at our

National Championships in Sheffield last

March has also been a success

elsewhere. At the European

Championships in Belgrade for

example, 12.48m viewers logged on

to watch the table tennis. And they

were not just from Europe

which attracted

58%, viewers were recorded watching

from Asia,

Australia, Africa

and the USA.

JOB VACANCY

NORTH EAST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

The English Table Tennis Association is recruiting a suitable individual to help drive forward the development of Table Tennis.

Can you - work with a wide range of table tennis volunteers as well as other sports professionals (schools and community) to develop Table Tennis?

Do you - relish a challenge, have patience in abundance AND have good communication skills?

Are you - a dynamic, versatile and conscientious 'self starter' with an interest in Table Tennis?

If you think you fit the bill, and you have the ambition and commitment to help Table Tennis progress, we look forward to hearing from you!

Job purpose:

To initiate and co-ordinate Table Tennis development in the region in accordance with the ETTA whole sport plan. Key work areas include: club and league development, school club links, volunteer support, facility development and communication.

Job details:

Fixed term contract up to March 2009 with a contract extension anticipated.
Salary £18,500 p.a.
Office base to be confirmed (within the region).
Travel expenses will be paid for business mileage and the post is subject to a car allowance.

Application process:

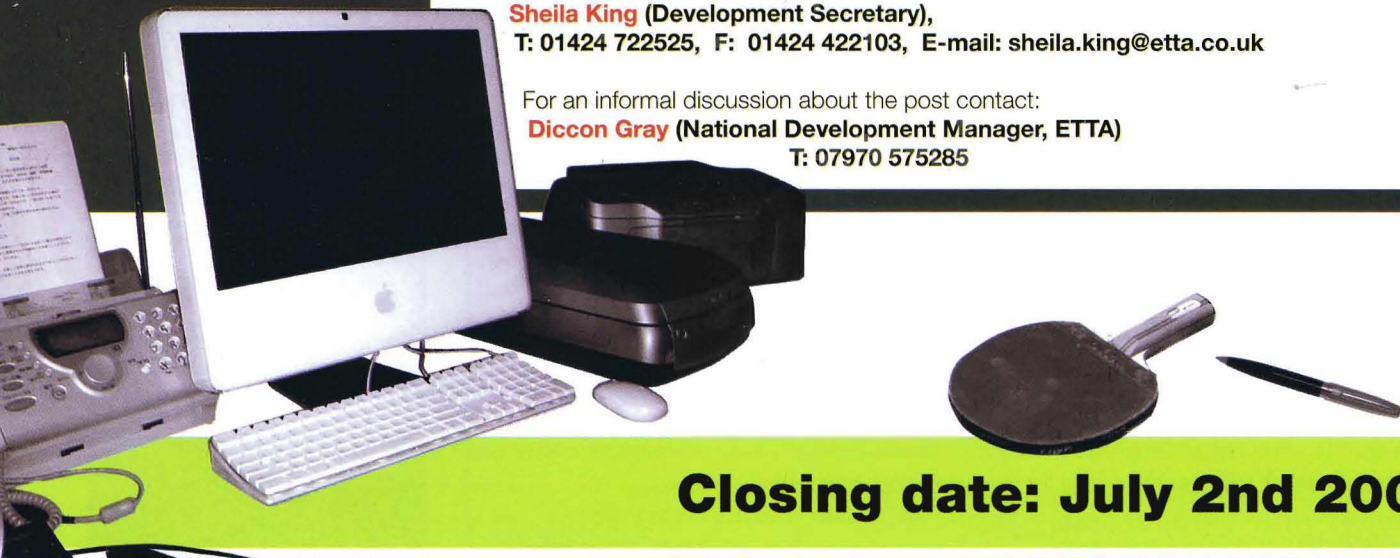
Job pack (background, person specification, job description and application form) available from www.etta.co.uk.

Hard copies can be requested from:

Sheila King (Development Secretary),
T: 01424 722525, F: 01424 422103, E-mail: sheila.king@etta.co.uk

For an informal discussion about the post contact:

Diccon Gray (National Development Manager, ETTA)
T: 07970 575285



Closing date: July 2nd 2007



Team Visa

Table Tennis top performers get selected by Sir Steve Redgrave and Dame Tanni Grey Thompson

our young stars fall into having demonstrated outstanding potential as prospective Olympians in time for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

'Team Visa's Hopefuls' include six athletes hoping to be a part of Team GB at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games:

- _ Mo Farah - athletics
- _ Paul Goodison - sailing
- _ Richard Kruse - fencing
- _ Caitlin McClatchey - swimming
- _ Fiona Pennie - canoeing
- _ Beth Tweddle - gymnastics

'Team Visa's Apprentices' include six Team GB athletes who competed at this year's

Australian Youth Olympic Festival:

1. Chris Adcock and Gabby White - badminton
2. Aaron Cook - taekwondo
3. Thomas Daley - diving
4. Paul Drinkhall and Darius Knight - table tennis

Sir Steve Redgrave said: "I've been involved with Visa's Olympic

"We are delighted that Visa, a worldwide Olympic partner, has chosen to support some of our finest athletes as they prepare for the Beijing 2008 and London 2012 Olympic Games..."

sponsorship programme since 2003 and have seen at first hand what it means for the athletes involved.

Success at the highest level requires total commitment and focus in terms of training and competition, so the support provided as a member of Team Visa is of real value. The Olympic Games have dominated my adult life and I will be doing everything I can to help these men and women achieve their own dreams and ambitions of Olympic and Paralympic success."

Dame Tanni Grey Thompson said that each of the Team Visa athletes had the potential to make the GB Teams in either 2008 or

2012: "I believe that every one of the athletes we've chosen has the skill, talent and drive to be successful at reaching Olympic and Paralympic level competition. I'm also pleased that Visa recognises the importance of disability sport, by asking for a quarter of team members to compete in paralympic events. Now that I've ended my competitive career, this is a great opportunity to share my experiences, ideas and advice with all of these wonderfully talented performers."

Colin Grannell, executive vice president and Head of Partnership Marketing, Visa Europe said: "As a worldwide TOP partner of the Olympic Movement, Visa already has a long term commitment to Olympic sport. Today's announcement takes our involvement to a new level in the UK, where we are delighted to be working directly with talented British athletes in readiness for the 2008 and 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"In doing so we are privileged to call on the unparalleled experience of two truly great sporting figures in Sir Steve Redgrave and Dame Tanni Grey Thompson. Every one of the athletes involved in Team Visa cannot fail to be inspired and motivated by their exceptional deeds while competing in their national shirt."

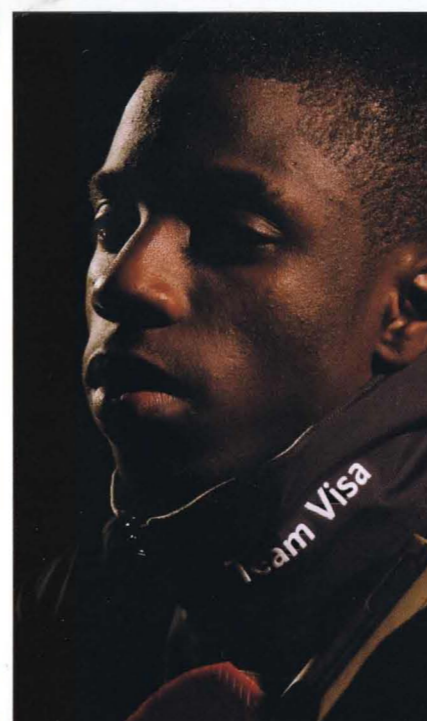
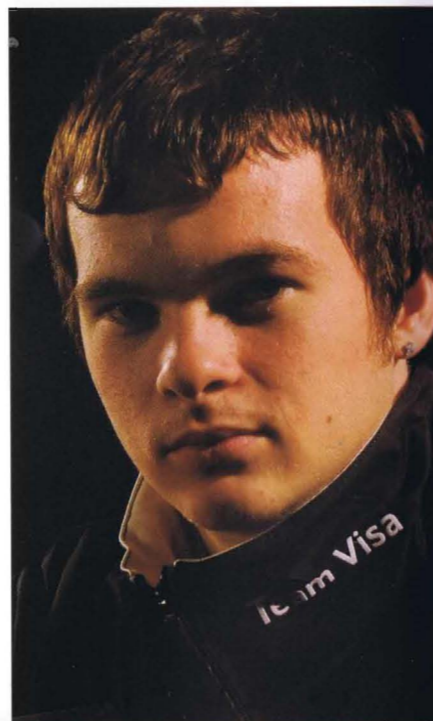
Selected by Sir Steve Redgrave and Dame Tanni Grey Thompson, the twelve able-bodied and four athletes with a disability, will join the exclusive sponsorship programme designed to help them prepare for the Beijing 2008 and London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Welcoming the announcement, the British Olympic Association's Chief Executive Simon Clegg said:

"We are delighted that Visa, a worldwide Olympic partner, has chosen to support some of our finest athletes as they prepare for the Beijing 2008 and London 2012 Olympic Games. Visa has been a tremendous support to the British Olympic Association and the Olympic Movement as a whole, and we feel privileged that we were able to assist in making this particular initiative a reality. 'Team Visa' allow athletes of all ages and backgrounds to come together and share their experiences, questions and views. Such programmes can only benefit Team GB as a whole and assist in ensuring our athletes receive the best possible preparations for future Olympic Games." The sixteen athletes in 'Team Visa' include eight 'Hopefuls' who are regarded as realistic contenders for Great Britain's Beijing 2008 Olympic and Paralympic team, and eight 'Apprentices' the category



Clockwise from above: Paul Drinkhall and Darius Knight selected for team visa; Paul Drinkhall; Paul Drinkhall with McFall; Darius Knight with Sir Steve Redgrave and Dame Tanni Grey Thompson; Darius Knight.



the secret to SUCCESS

Success comes in all forms but underpinning it is usually a very strong support base. Simon Clifford is a football coach who has worked with several England internationals including Theo Walcott, Michael Owen and Micah Richards. He also trained Keira Knightley for her part in the film 'Bend It Like Beckham', and something he has identified as a common thread among each of those stars is an extremely strong paternal influence. *By Jeremy Wilson*

"It's interesting to see," he says. "A big thing for Theo is the family he has around him. His dad, Don, is like his best friend and has been with him every step of the way, and I knew Keira Knightley at a similar age and she was the same with her mum, Sharman. That was also true of Michael Owen with his dad Terry and also Juninho. You can't overestimate how important that foundation is."

"Coaches can help young sports people, but their parents are often the most important people in what they have achieved. It's the same in any sport. Yes, you can get to the top without that parental support if you have the drive and ambition but that support structure can be vital."

The dedication and commitment of some table tennis parents in supporting their children is incredible. They drive the length and breadth of the country and give up virtually every spare hour to ferry them to practice and tournaments. Gavin, Bradley and Myles Evans are all among Britain's top young prospects and their mum

even arranged to have a shed built in the garden where they have a table so that they can train. The financial cost of entering and travelling to tournaments as well as the constant need for new rubbers and other equipment is also huge. Then there is the requirement of emotional support at the time of those inevitable defeats, as well as the skill of keeping their feet firmly on the ground if they do record a significant victory. Geoff Ware, whose son Matt is among the country's top ten juniors, describes himself as a "mentor, secretary, chauffeur, corner man, drinks and food provider".

Like England's other emerging young players, Ware dreams of representing England by the time of the London Olympics in 2012.

His story is certainly not unusual and his dad, Geoff, estimates to have paid out some £30,000 to fund training, competition and equipment over the past six years.

"Since Matt took off in table tennis terms from when he was nine in 2000 I have devoted on average 30 weekends a year in the last six-seven years and probably three times a week for evening training," he says.

"We have been fortunate to travel to Sweden, Germany, France, The Netherlands, Czech Republic and Bosnia – all of which could not have been possible without both of our commitment and without England selection. We have worn out three cars in our

travels around England and Europe and, at a conservative estimate, driven about 40,000 miles."

Geoff has been involved in table tennis from a young age, although he did not have the opportunity to play in tournaments.

"I realised early on that Matt had something special, his appetite for the game, his keenness to train, his determination and drive to get right to the top, has been an inspiration for me," he says. "The roller coaster of emotions I have gone through these last years with Matt at tournaments you could write a book about. We have met some wonderful characters through the sport and long may it continue."

He estimated that Ware goes through 16 rubbers a year on top of the constant need for new blades, shoes, shirts, shorts, socks and Butterfly track suits. He has received sponsorship from a drink company called TAUT as well as SportsAid SouthWest, while Tees Sport supplies his equipment. "Without their support, I don't think Matt would be where he is now," says Geoff. The journey will take them across Europe next year when Matt will spend a year training in Sweden. "All the sponsorship money has been put into Matt's bank account, and will pay for his accommodation and training/playing in his 6-12 months out in Sweden. His ever demanding need for better coaching and top quality sparring has taken us to so many clubs and has now finally meant going abroad, to receive higher standards of all round TT."

It is some commitment. The rewards, however, are impossible to quantify. "We are living the dream – it's worth every penny," says Geoff.



Brushing up your skills with Jean-Michel Saive

We know that sharpening your skills over the summer months will be top priority so here is your second instalment. This month we feature former world no. 1 Jean-Michel Saive's favourite drill which is a real tester of both technique and stamina, enjoy!

PLAYER PROFILE - JEAN-MICHEL SAIVE

D.O.B: 17 November 1969

Place of birth: Liège, Belgium

Jean-Michel Saive was born into a table tennis playing family and was predestined to become an exceptional player. His father at his peak was ranked no. 10 in Belgium and his mother won the Belgian ladies' doubles championship when she was pregnant with him. At the age of 13 Saive was ranked fourth in Belgium and joined the national squad. In 1985 Saive reached no.1 in

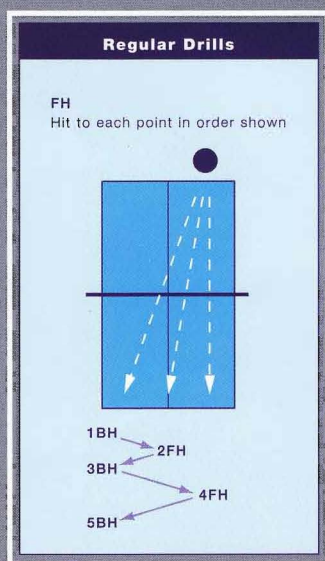
Belgium, a place which he kept until 2006 without interruption. In 1994 Saive made it to world no.1 which he retained for 515 days (from 9 February 1994 to 8 June 1995 and from 26 March 1996 to 24 April 1996). To date Jean-Michel Saive has won a total of 130 medals (51 gold, 38 silver and 41 bronze) in international singles tournaments.

MAJOR SUCCESSES:

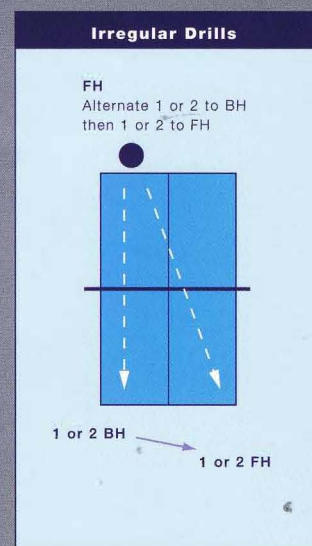
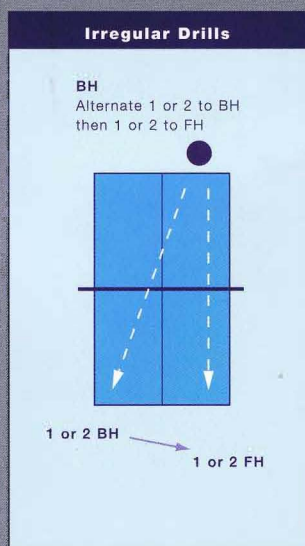
- European Championship (1994) in Birmingham, England
- Europe Top 12 (1994) in Arezzo, Italy
- Two European leagues with Belgium (1994 and 1995)
- Six European Championship Club Cups with Club "La Villette Charleroi" (1994, 1996, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004)
- Fifteen Belgian Championships
- A victory at the World Pro Tour (2001)
- Two victories at the Qatar Open (1996 and 2002)
- Participated in five consecutive Summer Olympic Games

To date Jean-Michel Saive has won a total of 130 medals (51 gold, 38 silver and 41 bronze) in international singles tournaments.

Key:
 FH = forehand
 BH = backhand
 ● = feeder
 - - - - - → = irregular pace and spin



Jean-Michel Saive Favourite Drill



Irregular Drills

BH
Alternate 1 to BH
then 1-3 to FH then return to BH

BH → 1-3 FH
BH → 1-3 FH

Irregular Drills

FH
Alternate 1 to BH
then 1-3 to FH then return to BH

BH → 1-3 FH
BH → 1-3 FH

Irregular Drills

BH
Alternate 1-3 to BH
then 1 to FH then return to BH

1-3 BH → FH
BH → FH

Irregular Drills

FH
Alternate 1-3 to BH
then 1 to FH then return to BH

1-3 BH → FH
BH → FH

Irregular Drills

BH
Alternate 1-3 to BH then 1 to FH
or mid table then return to BH

1-3 BH → FH
mid table or FH side
BH →

Irregular Drills

FH
Alternate 1-3 to BH then 1 to FH
or mid table then return to BH

1-3 BH → FH
mid table or FH side
BH →

Irregular Drills

FH
In order hit 1 or 2 balls to each point

1FH → 2FH → 3FH
4BH →

Irregular Drills

BH
Use order, but hit 1 or 2 balls
to 1,3 or 4

1BH → 2FH → 3BH → 4BH

Irregular Drills

BH
Use order, but hit 1 or 2 balls
to 1 and/or 3

1FH → 2BH → 3FH → 4FH

Irregular Drills

FH
Use order, but hit 1 or 2 balls
to 1 and/or 3

1FH → 2BH → 3FH → 4FH

Irregular Drills

BH
All to mid table then one to either
corner then return to mid table

All FH → BH → FH → FH

Irregular Drills

FH
All to mid table then one to either
corner then return to mid table

All FH → BH → FH → FH

A sign of things to come?

Wang Liqin defeated Ma Lin in an historic world championship final in Zagreb in May to become the first man since Zhuang Zedong to win three singles titles in the modern era. In a dramatic contest the defending champion recovered from 3-1 in games and 7-1 in points to complete one of the greatest comebacks in a major final in table tennis history.

There was a time when Wang was considered too mentally frail to fulfil his awesome potential, but the languorous right-hander will feel that his Herculean performance in Croatia has finally obliterated such doubts. He looked dead and buried when Ma – who has the most fearsome serve and third ball in world table tennis – raced into that six point lead in the fifth game. Up in the commentary box I remember saying: “Ma is on the verge”.

But a combination of elements conspired to give Wang an opportunity to pounce. First, the world number one, who must have thought the contest was over, started to relax and play his shots with less inhibition. Then, as he roared back into the contest, Ma suddenly began to exude self-doubt – which, in turn, emboldened Wang to believe he could pull off the miracle. Midway through the decider Wang’s victory looked inevitable.

Ma’s fragility will have been compounded by his other experiences in major contests. Back in 1999 he lost deuce in the fifth (when games were up to 21) in a spectacular final in Eindhoven to Liu Guoliang – now the coach of the China men’s team. Two years ago Ma lost rather more one-sidedly to Wang. He also lost to Jan-Ove Waldner in the men’s singles last 16 in Athens in 2004 in one of the most emotionally charged contests in the sport’s history. Such experiences tend to leave mental scars.

Wang’s victory places his achievements amongst the top rank. In the last half century only Waldner, Zhuang, Guo Yuehua, Kong Linghui and Liu Guoliang bare comparison. Few would disagree that Waldner’s accomplishments still place him, by some margin, at the top of any list of great players, with Zhuang ahead of the bunch in second position. But Wang knows that, if he can win the men’s singles title in the Olympic Games in Beijing next summer, some might even dare to compare him with Waldner himself.

Perhaps the most disappointing aspect of the championships in Zagreb was the performance of the Europeans. Timo Boll and Vladimir Samsonov – the only European’s with a realistic chance of threatening China’s hegemony – each made it to the quarter-finals before imploding in spectacular fashion. Samsonov fell to Ma Lin – despite having many golden opportunities – in a way that will have convinced many that he lacks the psychological tools to succeed on the grandest stage. As so often in the past, the tall Belarussian became far too passive on the big points.

Afterwards we lunched together and he told me: “I am not sure what happened towards the end of the games. My mind seemed to shut down and I overcomplicated things.” He was, understandably, bitterly disappointed – but, as ever, charming company.

The manner of Boll's defeat to Ryu Seung Min of South Korea was more unexpected and, therefore, that much more disappointing. The German youngster stepped to the table with a strong track record of success against the Olympic champion but, like Samsonov, fell apart on the big points. Given Boll's historic resilience under pressure, this was a huge surprise and it is to be hoped that this is a temporary aberration in the normal scheme of things.

Afterwards he spoke of his disappointment, but his coach – the irrepressible Richard Prause – argued the Boll would be back and stronger come the Olympics next year. We all agreed that, had Boll reproduced the form that took him to the European singles title earlier this year, he would have been in with a realistic chance of going all the way. Judging by Boll's

countenance I suspect that he will quickly put the disappointment of Zagreb behind him and re-double his training efforts as he looks forward to Beijing.

Personal memories of Zagreb will be a commentary position so far up in the stands that it was almost impossible to see the action, meaning that we had to rely almost exclusively on the television monitors on the table in front of us. More pleasantly, my hotel was in the centre of the old town, providing a glimpse of the charming Croatian tradition of drinking a leisurely al fresco coffee whilst reading the morning papers. On the morning after the final I sat back in one of the lovely cafes and, as I sipped some Earl Grey, reflected on one of table tennis's greatest comebacks.

England's young table tennis squad found the competition tough at the World Champions in Zagreb, seventeen-year-old Danny Reed was the only survivor of the qualifying rounds in the men's individual competition. Ranked number 706 in the world Reed showed great promise by winning a set against world number 33 Trinko Keen of the Netherlands, before eventually going down 75-11, 11-9, 7-11, 11-13, 11-13 in the first round.

RESULTS

Men's Qualifying Group: EVANS Gavin ENG beat HUSSAIN Ali IRQ 11-6, 7-11, 11-5, 11-0, 11-6 - ZHMUDENKO Yaroslav UKR beat EVANS Gavin ENG 11-5, 11-6, 7-11, 11-7, 9-11, 9-11, 12-10 - REED Daniel ENG beat EL-JETIL Ahmed Lotfi LBA 11-2, 12-10, 11-6, 11-7 - NOSIRU Kazeem NGR lost to REED Daniel ENG 8-11, 8-11, 9-11, 11-8, 12-10, 11-4, 5-11 - TURBOLD Zorigt MGL lost to KNIGHT Darius ENG 4-11, 7-11, 0-11, 5-11 - KNIGHT Darius ENG beat BOUDJADJA Mohamed Softiene ALG 11-3, 11-6, 6-11, 11-9, 11-6 - HAYES David IRL lost to DRINKHALL Paul ENG 6-11, 5-11, 11-8, 2-11, 12-10, 5-11 - DRINKHALL Paul ENG beat EL-BOUBOU Rachid LIB 11-9, 11-5, 11-9, 12-10

Men's Qualifying Knockout: First Qualifying Round NGUYEN Nam Hai VIE lost to KNIGHT Darius ENG w/o

Final Qualifying Round: KNIGHT Darius ENG lost to LASHIN El-Sayed EGY 11-7, 11-9, 12-10, 11-6 - MILICEVIC Srdjan BIH lost to Danny Reed ENG 6-11, 9-11, 6-11, 10-12 - DRINKHALL Paul ENG lost to ZHMUDENKO Yaroslav UKR 4-11, 11-7, 5-11, 11-2, 13-11, 10-12, 11-13 **1st Round:** REED Danny ENG lost to KEEN Trinko NED 5-11, 11-9, 7-11, 11-13, 11-13

Women's Singles - Qualifying Group: BALLIYEVA ENEJAN TKM vs SIBLEY Kelly ENG w/o - SIBLEY Kelly ENG vs ORELLANA Jennypher VEN w/o **Qualifying Knockout:** SIBLEY Kelly ENG beat PETERSSON Malin SWE 11-7, 11-9, 11-3, 11-7

1st Round - SIBLEY Kelly ENG lost to Park Mi Young KOR 7-11, 2-11, 5-11, 12-14

Men's Doubles - 1st Qualifying Round: ISMAYLOV Farkhad/JAFAROV Ramil AZE lost to DRINKHALL Paul/KNIGHT Darius ENG 4-11, 11-8, 5-11, 8-11 - EVANS Gavin/REED Daniel ENG lost to HAZINSKI Mark/ SUBONJ Victor USA 11-8, 13-11, 11-9 **2nd Qualifying Round:** DRINKHALL Paul/KNIGHT Darius ENG lost to BEKNAZAROV Ermek/TURGAMBAEV Ruslan KAZ 11-8, 9-11, 6-11, 11-4, 9-11

Mixed Doubles - 1st Qualifying Round: IBRAHIM Mudh Shakirin/BEH Lee Wei MAS lost to KNIGHT Darius ENG / SIBLEY Kelly ENG 7-11, 5-11, 11-5, 11-9, 3-11 **2nd Qualifying Round:** KNIGHT Darius ENG / SIBLEY Kelly ENG beat PARAPANOV Konstantin/PETROVA Jana BUL 11-7, 9-11, 11-8, 11-8 **1st Round** HAKANSSON Fredrick/EKHOLM Matilda SWE beat Darius KNIGHT/Kelly Sibley ENG 8-11, 11-7, 11-8, 11-6, 11-9



Wang

HEAD TO HEAD

MATCHES PLAYED: 15

MATCHES WON: 9

AVERAGE 60.00%

OVERALL

MATCHES PLAYED 200

MATCHES WON 175

AVERAGE 87.50%

Date of birth: 18/06/78
 Place of birth: Shanghai
 Height: 186cm
 Weight: 76kg
 Education: University
 Hobbies: Music, singing, watching films
 Sports career:
 1984 Began table tennis training in local sports school
 1991 Shanghai Table Tennis Team
 1993 National Team

TOURNAMENT HISTORY 2006/7

| EVENT | DATE | PLAYED | WON | AVERAGE |
|---|------------|--------|-----|---------|
| Liebherr 49th World Championships | 27/05/2007 | 7 | 7 | 100.00% |
| Pro Tour Salwa Cup Kuwait Open | 22/02/2007 | 5 | 4 | 80.00% |
| Pro Tour LIEBHERR Qatar Open | 27/01/2007 | 6 | 5 | 83.30% |
| Pro Tour Gorenje Slovenian Open | 20/01/2007 | 4 | 3 | 75.00% |
| Pro Tour Croatian Open | 21/12/2006 | 3 | 2 | 66.70% |
| 1st ITTF Tournament of Champions | 17/12/2006 | 3 | 3 | 100.00% |
| Volkswagen Pro Tour Grand Finals | 17/12/2006 | 2 | 1 | 50.00% |
| LIEBHERR World Cup '06 (Men) - DRAW | 29/10/2006 | 3 | 2 | 66.70% |
| LIEBHERR World Cup '06 (Men) - GROUPS | 29/10/2006 | 3 | 3 | 100.00% |
| Pro Tour VOLKSWAGEN Japan Open '06 - DRAW | 24/09/2006 | 6 | 6 | 100.00% |
| Pro Tour PANASONIC China Open '06 - DRAW | 17/09/2006 | 6 | 5 | 83.30% |
| Pro Tour VOLKSWAGEN Singapore Open '06 - DRAW | 10/09/2006 | 3 | 2 | 66.70% |
| Pro Tour VOLKSWAGEN China Open '06 - DRAW | 18/06/2006 | 6 | 5 | 83.30% |

World Championships Results

MEN'S

Quarter-Finals

MA Lin bt. SAMSONOV Vladimir BLR 11-9,11-7,12-10,9-11,11-6 - WANG Hao bt. JOO Se Hyuk KOR 4-11,9-11,3-11,3-11 - RYU Seung Min bt. BOLL Timo GER 9-11,7-11,3-11,12-14 - WANG Liqin bt. HAO Shuai CHN 7-11,5-11,8-11,8-11

Semi-Finals

MA Lin bt. WANG Hao CHN 6-11,11-9,12-10,4-11,11-9,11-6 - WANG Liqin

bt. RYU Seung Min KOR 6-11,11-9,12-10,4-11,11-9,11-6

Final

WANG Liqin bt. MA Lin CHN 11-4,11-8,5-11,11-4,9-11,8-11,6-11

WOMEN'S

Quarter-Final

ZHANG Yining bt. KIM Kyung Ah KOR 11-3,11-4,11-6,16-14 - GUO Yue bt. WANG Chen USA 6-11,3-11,1-11,7-11 GUO Yan bt. PENG Luyang CHN 11-

6,11-6,11-9,7-11,11-8 - LI Xiaoxia bt. WANG Nan CHN - 11-5,11-6,12-10,14-16,11-8

Semi-Final

GUO Yue bt. ZHANG Yining CHN 8-11,7-11,9-11,4-11 - LI Xiaoxia bt. GUO Yan CHN 7-11,11-5,5-11,5-11,5-11

Final

GUO Yue bt. LI Xiaoxia CHN 8-11,11-7,4-11,2-11,11-5,11-2,11-8

Ma

HEAD TO HEAD

MATCHES PLAYED: 15

MATCHES WON: 6

AVERAGE 40.00%

OVERALL

MATCHES PLAYED 191

MATCHES WON 164

AVERAGE 85.90%

Date of birth: 19/02/80
 Place of birth: Shenyang, Liaoning Province
 Height: 173cm
 Weight: 71kg
 Education: Professional training school
 Hobbies: Music, reading, chatting with friends
 Sports career:
 1986 Began table tennis training
 1990 Guangdong Provincial Table Tennis Team
 1994 National Team

TOURNAMENT HISTORY 2006/7

| EVENT | DATE | PLAYED | WON | AVERAGE |
|---|------------|--------|-----|---------|
| LIEBHERR 49th World Championships | 27/05/2007 | 7 | 6 | 85.70% |
| Pro Tour Salwa Cup Kuwait Open | 22/02/2007 | 6 | 5 | 83.30% |
| Pro Tour LIEBHERR Qatar Open | 17/02/2007 | 6 | 6 | 100.00% |
| Pro Tour Gorenje Slovenian Open | 27/01/2007 | 4 | 3 | 75.00% |
| Pro Tour Croatian Open | 20/01/2007 | 3 | 2 | 66.70% |
| 1st ITTF Tournament of Champions | 21/12/2006 | 3 | 2 | 66.70% |
| Volkswagen Pro Tour Grand Finals | 17/12/2006 | 3 | 2 | 66.70% |
| LIEBHERR World Cup '06 (Men) - DRAW | 29/10/2006 | 3 | 3 | 100.00% |
| LIEBHERR World Cup '06 (Men) - GROUPS | 29/10/2006 | 3 | 3 | 100.00% |
| Pro Tour VOLKSWAGEN Japan Open '06 - DRAW | 24/09/2006 | 5 | 4 | 80.00% |
| Pro Tour PANASONIC China Open '06 - DRAW | 17/09/2006 | 3 | 2 | 66.70% |
| Pro Tour VOLKSWAGEN Singapore Open '06 - DRAW | 09/10/2006 | 6 | 6 | 100.00% |
| Pro Tour VOLKSWAGEN China Open '06 - DRAW | 18/06/2006 | 6 | 6 | 100.00% |

MEN'S DOUBLES

Semi-final

CHEN Qi / MA Lin bt. KO Lai Chak HKG / LI Ching HKG 7-11,12-10,11-6,11-5,11-7 -
 WANG Hao / WANG Liqin bt. CHANG Yen-Shu TPE / CHIANG Peng-Lung TPE 6-11,11-7,8-11,6-11,11-6,5-11

Final

CHEN Qi / MA Lin bt. WANG Hao CHN / WANG Liqin CHN
 6-11,11-7,6-11,11-3,11-9,11-9

WOMANS DOUBLES

WANG Nan / ZHANG Yining bt. LI Jia Wei SIN / WANG Yue Gu SIN
 11-1,11-9,7-11,11-8,11-9
 GUO Yue / LI Xiaoxia bt. KIM Kyung Ah KOR / PARK Mi Young KOR
 11-4,10-12,12-10,5-11,7-11,3-11

Final

WANG Nan / ZHANG Yining bt. WANG Nan CHN / ZHANG Yining CHN 11-5,11-6,13-11,11-9

Mixed doubles

WANG Liqin / GUO Yue bt. QIU Yike CHN / CAO Zhen CHN
 9-11,11-8,11-3,11-6,11-3
 MA Lin / WANG Nan bt. KO Lai Chak HKG / TIE Yana HKG
 10-12,6-11,8-11,4-11

Final

WANG Liqin / GUO Yue bt. MA Lin CHN / WANG Nan CHN
 13-11,11-7,8-11,11-9,9-11,12-10

Spanish Youth Open

Gavin Evans: Gold - Cadet Boys' Singles, Paul Drinkhall: Gold - Junior Boys' Singles, Darius Knight: Bronze - Junior Boys Singles another outstanding performance from the Junior Boys squad at the Spanish Junior Open, a World Junior Circuit event.

Drinkhall and Knight had relatively untroubled passages to the semi-finals, Drinkhall beat Kim Min Seok of Korea in 4 games, Jin Ueda of Japan in 5 games and Alexander Shibaev in 4 games to take his semi-final slot against Abdel Kader Salifou, the French no 1. Knight had a similar passage beating Attila Vajda of Hungary in 4 games, Taiyo Nomura of Japan in 5 games and Ivo Silva of Portugal in 6 games to take a place in the other semi-final against Kentaro Miuchi of Japan.

The semi-finals provided much tougher contests, Drinkhall took his place in the final with a 4-2 win over Salifou, no less than three games went to deuce with two more 11-9 but Drinkhall just had the edge winning 13-11 in the sixth. The other semi-final was also an up and down affair but Kentaro Miuchi took the fifth and sixth games to 9 limiting the England no.2 Knight to a bronze medal.

In the final Drinkhall dominated from the first point and never gave his Japanese opponent an opportunity to get on top taking

his second World Junior Circuit gold medal of the season in four straight.

In the Cadet Singles Gavin Evans was the no.1 seed and with all the rest of the seeds losing in the early knockout rounds it was not surprising his passage to the gold medal was serene, In the initial group neither of his opponents took a game, on his way to the final only one set was conceded as he overran Cedric Nuytink of Belgium in 3 games, Thomas Le Breton of France in 3 games and in the semi-final Simon Gauzy of France in 4 games.

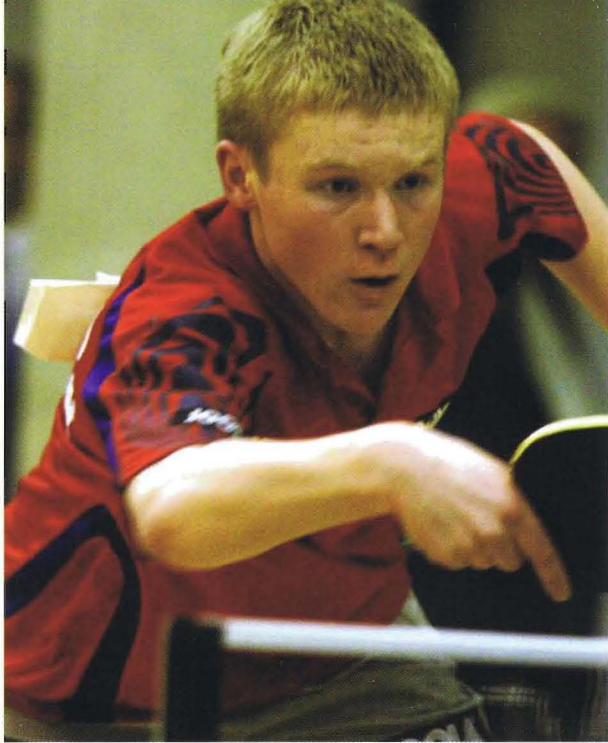
In the final his opponent was the unseeded Italian Marco Rech Daldosso, and Evans not unsurprisingly dominated the match winning in three straight to take his second World Junior Circuit Cadet Singles gold medal.

You might think that with the dominance of the English boys in the singles that playing together in the junior doubles and team event they would be virtually unstoppable; however, there were a few close scrapes. Drinkhall and Knight had a comfortable first round win over a Belgian pair but in the second round they had another of those very close matches and this time lost it 10-12 in the fifth to present the French pair of Thomas Le Breton and Romain Lorentz with a shock win.

The other English players also started well, Danny Reed playing with Hrvoje Staba of Croatia negotiated the first round successfully as did Evans who was partnering Hunor Szocs of Romania. The second round, however, saw their demise as well, Reed and partner to Alexander Olonov and Alexander Shibaev of Russia, Evans and partner to Taras Merzlikin of Russia and Youn Joo Hyun of Korea.



The England Junior Girls and the Cadet Girls and Boys travelled to Poland and were faced with quality opposition from the off. With David McBeath (cadet) the only player who managed to come to terms with the high standard on show.



RESULTS

Junior Singles 1st Round: (Knockout Stage): Daniel Reed ENG beat Mikkel Hindersson DEN 8-11, 11-4, 11-6, 11-5, 9-11, 13-11
 2nd Round - Paul Drinkhall ENG beat Min Seok Kim KOR 11-8, 12-10, 11-8, 11-9 - Erikbeat Bottoff GER beat Daniel Reed ENG 11-8, 11-8, 9-11, 5-11, 12-10, 11-8 - Attila Vajda HUN lost to Darius Knight ENG 5-11, 3-11, 7-11, 3-11

Last 16: Paul Drinkhall ENG beat Jin Ueda JPN 7-11, 11-6, 11-7, 11-7, 11-8 - Taiyo Nomura JPN lost to Darius Knight ENG 6-11, 9-11, 11-6, 9-11, 9-11

Quarter-Final: Paul Drinkhall ENG beat Alexander Shibaev RUS 11-6, 11-7, 11-9, 11-4 / Ivo Silva POR lost to Darius Knight ENG 9-11, 8-11, 11-5, 2-11, 11-3, 6-11

Semi-Final: Paul Drinkhall ENG beat Abdel-Kader Salifou FRA 14-12, 11-13, 11-7, 11-9, 9-11, 13-11 - Kentaro Miuchi JPN beat Darius Knight ENG 11-4, 9-11, 11-2, 9-11, 11-9, 11-9

Final: Paul Drinkhall ENG beat Kentaro Miuchi JPN 11-7, 11-6, 11-4, 11-6 / Cadet Singles 1st Round (Knockout Stage) Gavin Evans ENG beat Cedric Nuytinck BEL 11-4, 11-5, 11-4

Quarter-Finals: Gavin Evans ENG beat Thomas Le Breton FRA 11-8, 11-6, 11-2

Semi-Finals: Gavin Evans ENG beat Simon Gauzy FRA 9-11, 11-8, 11-7, 11-6

Final: Gavin Evans ENG beat Marco Rech Daldosso ITA 11-1, 11-8, 11-8 - Boys Doubles 1st Round (Knockout Stage) Paul Drinkhall / Darius Knight ENG beat 11-2, 11-9, 11-6 Ludovic Bierny / Cedric Nuytinck BEL - Daniel Reed ENG/ Hrvoje Staba HRV beat 14-16, 12-10, 11-5, 9-11, 11-9 - Bojan Crepulja /Marko Petkov SRB - Eric Gonderinger/Christian Kill LUX lost to 7-11, 11-9, 4-11, 5-11 Gavin Evans ENG/ Hunor Szocs ROU

2nd Round: Paul Drinkhall / Darius Knight ENG lost to 15-17, 11-8, 11-5, 9-11, 10-12 - Thomas Le Breton /Romain Lorentz FRA - Taras Merzlin RUS/Joo Hyun Youn KOR beat 8-11, 11-6, 11-5, 12-14, 13-11 - Gavin Evans ENG/ Hunor Szocs ROU - Daniel Reed ENG/ Hrvoje Staba HRV lost to 8-11, 7-11, 11-8, 8-11 Alexander Olonov/Alexander Shibaev RUS

Spanish Youth Open

RESULTS

Junior Girls Team Qualification: England 0-3 India / Czech Republic 3-0 England / England 3-2 Poland D **Cadet Boys team**

Qualification: England 3-2 Ukraine / England 0-3 Poland

Cadet Girls Team Qualification: Germany B 3-0 England / England 0-3 Poland

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Cadet Girls Singles Qualification: Mary Fuller ENG lost to Ayuka Tanioka JPN 10-12, 4-11, 7-11 - Viktoria Lebedeva RUS beat Mary Fuller ENG 8-11, 11-3, 11-6, 5-11, 11-9 - Melissa Wright ENG beat MIKINKO Dagmara POL 11-8, 10-12, 11-5, 12-10 - Melissa Wright ENG lost to MORIZONO Misaki JPN 4-11, 2-11, 2-11

1st Round: Melissa Wright ENG lost to DAS Ankita IND 5-11, 10-12, 4-11

Junior Girls Singles Qualification: Caroline Hallows ENG lost to Aurore Dessaint FRA 6-11, 8-11, 7-11 - Caroline Hallows ENG lost to Misaki Morizono JPN 2-11, 6-11, 5-11 - Caroline Hallows ENG lost to Agnieszka Maluszczyk POL 9-11, 8-11, 6-11 - Rachel Jamieson ENG lost to Megumi Okazaki JPN 5-11, 3-11, 7, 11 - Rachel Jamieson ENG lost to Bernadette Szocs ROU 15-17, 11-3, 9-11, 8-11 - Rachel Jamieson ENG lost to Klaudia Kusinska POL 9-11, 8-11, 6-11 - Hannah Hicks ENG lost to Melcher Madeleine Melcher SWE 4-11, 5-11, 11-13 - Hannah Hicks ENG lost to Aneta

KucerovaCZE 9-11, 3-11, 9-11 - Hannah Hicks beat Maja Krzewicka POL 10-12, 11-9, 11-5, 7-11, 11-8

Cadet Boys Singles Qualification: Kim Daybell ENG lost to Hunor Szocs ROU 3-11, 5-11, 14-12, 3-11 - Kim Daybell ENG lost to Philipp Kuimov RUS 8-11, 11-5, 13-15, 8-11 - McBEATH David ENG beat Matias Contreras CHI 12-10, 2-11, 11-9, 9-11, 13-11 - David McBeath ENG lost to Venkatramanan RameshIND 9-11, 6-11, 6-11

1st Round: David McBeath ENG beat Philipp Kuimov RUS 11-7, 11-3, 11-3.

2nd Round: David McBeath ENG lost to Gergely Perei HUN 7-11, 7-11, 4-11

Junior Girls Consolation: Rachel Jamieson ENG lost to Ala Shakun BLR 11-9, 15-17, 1-11, 11-7, 6-11 - Hannah Hicks ENG lost to Klaudia kusinska POL 6-11, 5-11, 11-4, 4-11 - Caroline Hallows ENG lost to Austra Stribyte LTU 2-11, 11-6, 6-11, 6-11

DOUBLES EVENTS

Junior Girls Doubles: Karina Kovacs AUT / Hannah Hicks ENG lost to 11-13, 6-11, 8-11 - Neha Aggarwal / Shereya Ghosh IND Rachel Jamieson / Caroline Hallows ENG lost to 8-11, 6-11, 6-11 - Laura Perocheau / Lorine Brunet FRA.

Cadet Boys Doubles 1st Round: Kim Daybell / David McBeath ENG beat 11-6, 11-6, 13-11

Andrei Fiodarau / Mikita Rakitsin BLR **2nd Round:** Jakub Dorocinski / Robert Floras POL beat 11-6, 11-7, 10-12, 9-11, 11-4 - Kim Daybell / David McBeath ENG

Cadet Girls Doubles: Mary Fuller / Melissa Wright lost to 10-12, 13-15, 6-11 - Katalin Siket / Marietta Angyal HUN

Top performances for Great Britain

Britain's top disabled table tennis players are progressing well in their qualification for Beijing, winning medals at recent tournaments.

At the Irish Open, which took place in Dublin, British Paralympian Arnie Chan won his first international title, taking gold in the class 3 event, ahead of fellow Brit James Rawson, who won bronze.

Mansfield-based Arnie, who has competed at five Paralympic Games, then paired up with Rawson to win silver in the class three men's team event.

Meanwhile GB's Sara Head also won gold in the women's class 3 singles before pairing up with Cathy Mitton to win bronze in the class 3 doubles. This was a second bronze for Mitton, who also finished third in the class 2 singles. There were also medals for class 5 player Scott Robinson, who won silver in the individual competition before partnering Bridgend's Neil Robinson to another silver in the doubles.

Commonwealth Games gold medallist Sue Gilroy took home two medals - winning silver in the open singles before taking bronze in the women's class 4 to 5 singles.

Meanwhile at the Slovenian Open, which took place in Kranjska Gora, Britain's youngsters showed promising performances.

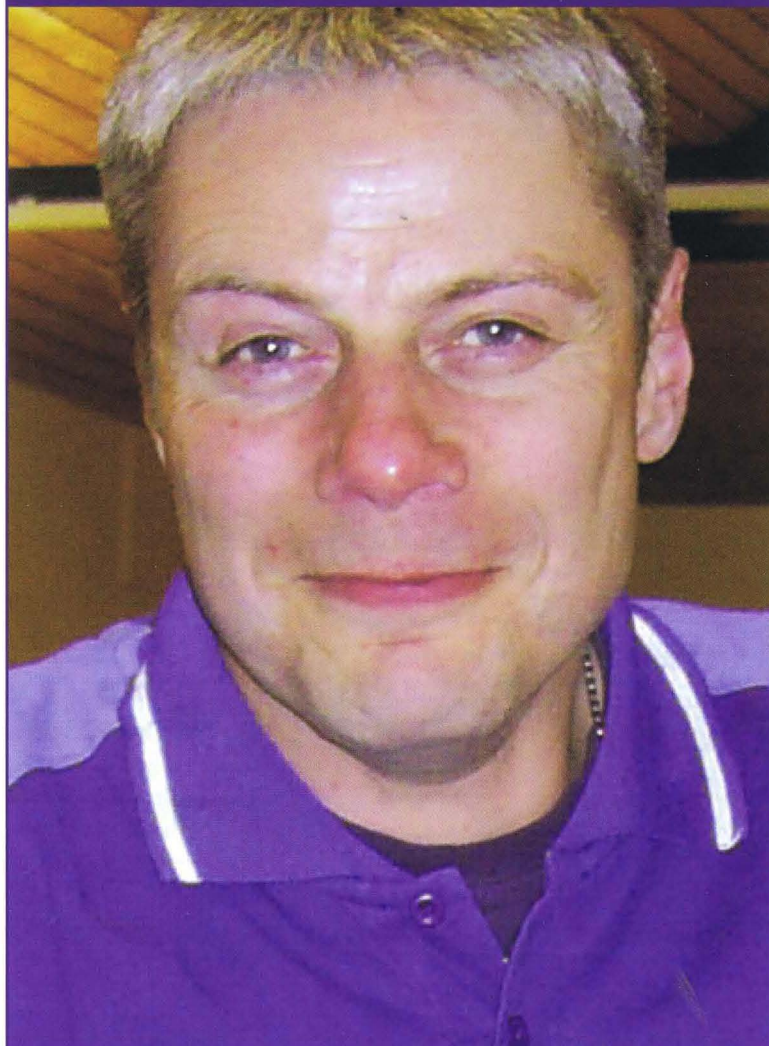
Seventeen-year-old student David Wetherill and 18-year-old Will Bayley beat the current European class 6 team champions Denmark to win gold in the international class 6 team competition.

Arnie Chan won his second gold medal of the month - again pairing up with James Rawson to win the class 3 team title. However it was Rawson that this time took gold in the class 3 singles.

Meanwhile Swansea's Paul Karabardak won silver in the class 7 singles before partnering Farrell Anthony in the team event to pick up his second silver.

Deeside's Scott Robertson repeated his success in the Irish Open again winning silver in the doubles competition but this time was paired with Germany's Sel Cetin.

Both tournaments were qualification events for the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games so put Britain in good stead ahead of next year's Games.



One to Watch!

Shaun Newcombe

D.O.B. 24/09/1958

Wheelchair player (class 4)

Right handed

Home town: Lymington, Hampshire.

Current clubs: Waterside Table Tennis Club,
Southampton League Division 1

New Milton Table Tennis Club, Bournemouth League Division 2

Competitive history: Regular competitor in National Disabled Championships, Shaun also competes at international level, to date having won 1 silver and 5 bronze medals. This year Shaun has also been included within the Great British selection camps.

Other Facts: ETTA Level 2 coach specialising in wheelchair players. Currently coaching at local clubs including Bournemouth Sports TTC and at Salisbury Hospital Spinal Injuries Centre where table tennis is used as an aid to rehabilitation.

Future ambitions: "I took up table tennis relatively late in life but thankfully this is less of a barrier in disabled table tennis. I aim to keep training and hopefully improving, with the intention of qualification for the Paralympics in London in 2012."



Wetherill edging nearer his goal

The Torpoint Community College student, who last December was named the Herald's Young Sports Personality winner, amassed 150 ranking points and is confident he can continue to rise even higher if he replicates his recent form.

Wetherill needs to be in the top 12 to guarantee a place at the 2008 Beijing Paralympics but believes he is edging nearer his goal.

The 17-year-old says he no longer fears facing any of his top 10-ranked rivals and proudly points to his career-best victory over Vjekoslav Gregorovic in the quarter-finals at Ostrava.

Buoyed by his victory over world number six Gregorovic - who had been unbeaten for six months prior to meeting the ultra-talented Cornish star - Wetherill was defeated in the semi-finals by another Russian, Alexandr Esaulov, who went on to claim a silver medal. The self-belief instilled by these and

previous results has given Wetherill the confidence to underline his Great Britain potential in the Czech Republic next week.

He said: "I really feel that I have it within me to push on and get into the world top 12.

"I think I've proved that I don't need to fear anybody in the top 20 and even higher-placed players than myself.

"Until recently, while I had been confident of beating players from outside the top 20, I didn't automatically go into games against the top players in that frame of mind.

"But now I think I do, not just because I beat Gregorovic, which was my best-ever win, but as I think I've proven that I can hold my own at this level.

"So if I can take my form into the Czech Open and in more competitions this summer, then I really do think I will have a good chance of getting into the top 12 by the end of the year."



Special Olympics in sight

Top table tennis players representing Great Britain (GB) at the Special Olympics will be catching up for a training session in Manchester this month where they will be hoping to hone their skills further before they travel to Shanghai later this year. The GB players are Emma Jones (Wolverhampton), Kimberly Gillian (Arbroath), Duncan Feltham (Bournemouth) and Jeffery Jarvis (Melton Mowbray).

The training session also includes a charity dinner in which the athletes representing the 16 Special Olympic sports will be honoured, along with new ambassadors Darren Campbell, Mark Cox, and SOGB athlete Moira Brown at a black tie fundraiser called Shanghai Nights: On the Road to Gold in Shanghai.

"The World Games is the pinnacle towards which all of our athletes strive," said Lawrie McMenemy, SOGB Chairman, "this is a chance for Special Olympics athletes to showcase their abilities and talents on a worldwide level, proving that they deserve just as many accolades as other world-class athletes."

At the World Summer Games in Shanghai, the athletes will represent Great Britain, competing against 170 countries and 7,000 Special Olympics athletes. The event includes 40,000 volunteers, 3,500 event officials and thousands of families, volunteers, spectators and journalists from every continent. The 159 Team GB 2007 athletes were selected from 2,500 competitors who competed at the Special Olympics GB National Summer Games in Glasgow in July

2005, they represent each of the organisation's 19 local regions across England, Scotland and Wales.

Team GB is comprised of 16 squads including: Aquatics, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Cycling, Equestrian, Football, Golf, Gymnastics, Judo, Kayaking, Powerlifting, Sailing, Table Tennis, Ten Pin Bowling and Tennis.

Albert Shipley

It is with great sadness that the death of Albert Shipley, former General Secretary of the English Table Tennis Association and Secretary General of the International Table Tennis Federation, is announced.

By Ian Mashall

Albert Shipley, an instrumental character in the world of table tennis, recently passed away at St Michael's Hospice in St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex. He had entered the hospice four weeks earlier suffering from bone, bowel and lung cancer. Albert Shipley was 'Mr Secretary'; whatever the organisation of which he was a member, more often than not, he assumed the administration and organisational role.

In the world of table tennis he served as the Honorary Secretary of the Bromley Table Tennis League in south east London from 1960 to 1966 before turning his hobby into his job.

He became the Assistant General Secretary of the English Table Tennis Association in 1967 rising to the post of General Secretary in 1976, before joining the International Table Tennis Federation as the Secretary General in late 1989, a post he occupied until his retirement in 1996.

Born on 25th November 1930 in Bromley, he succeeded academically and won a scholarship to the local grammar school. After leaving school he worked for the Borough Engineers Department of Bromley Borough Council before joining the Fleet Air Arm to complete his National Service from 1949 to 1951 where he trained as a photographer. He married Betty Sambridge in 1950 and after National Service spent six months with British Rail at London Bridge before joining Unilever in 1952. Sport was his main interest, in particular table tennis, snooker, cricket, football and golf.

He enjoyed participating in sport but it is in the role of secretary that he will always be best remembered and most revered.

He was Secretary of St Luke's Cricket Club, Secretary of Bromley Table Tennis League, Secretary of North West Kent Artisans Golf Championships and Secretary of Hawkhurst Golf Club.

In the sport of table tennis his progression to national and international office started in 1965. He assisted with the organisation of the European Championships in Wembley, London, in 1966, which led to him becoming Honorary Secretary of the National Selection Committee and so on to his professional appointments.

It was a step that was eventually to take him to all parts of the world either as a delegate, teacher of umpires or television commentator.

He visited most countries in Europe and enjoyed many trips to Asia, whilst also attending the Olympic Games in Barcelona and Atlanta, the latter being his final duty in the role of ITTF Secretary General.

Albert played cricket and football locally, in one cricket match he took all ten wickets, whilst in the sport of football he was the goalkeeper.

Golf was his passion. He managed to play on some

of his overseas trips but in later years his abilities suffered as a result of arthritis in his hands; having played off a handicap of 12 for most of his adult life, he had to be content with his handicap rising to 20 plus in later years. Undoubtedly the fact that his playing standard was falling did disappoint Albert but he did receive a well deserved reward for his efforts. He was elected President of Hawkhurst Golf Club in October 2003.

Also, Albert took great pride in his abilities as a mimic, particularly regional accents and foreign languages. When called upon to do a party piece at functions for the International Table Tennis Federation, he would speak utter rubbish but with the accent and intonation of usually some six different languages!

In the world of information technology Albert's baptism was somewhat late in life; it was not until after he left the employment of the International Table Tennis Federation that he started to use a computer with any degree of regularity. However, he taught himself how to use what is increasingly becoming a modern day necessity and enjoyed sending e-mails and illustrating the notices of events at the golf club.

In 2003 Albert suffered bladder problems which he overcame but in April 2004 more health problems started.

He suffered from general fatigue, a swollen right knee, degenerated bones in the neck and an irregular pulse but by February 2006 he had recovered to a large extent and was in reasonably good health.

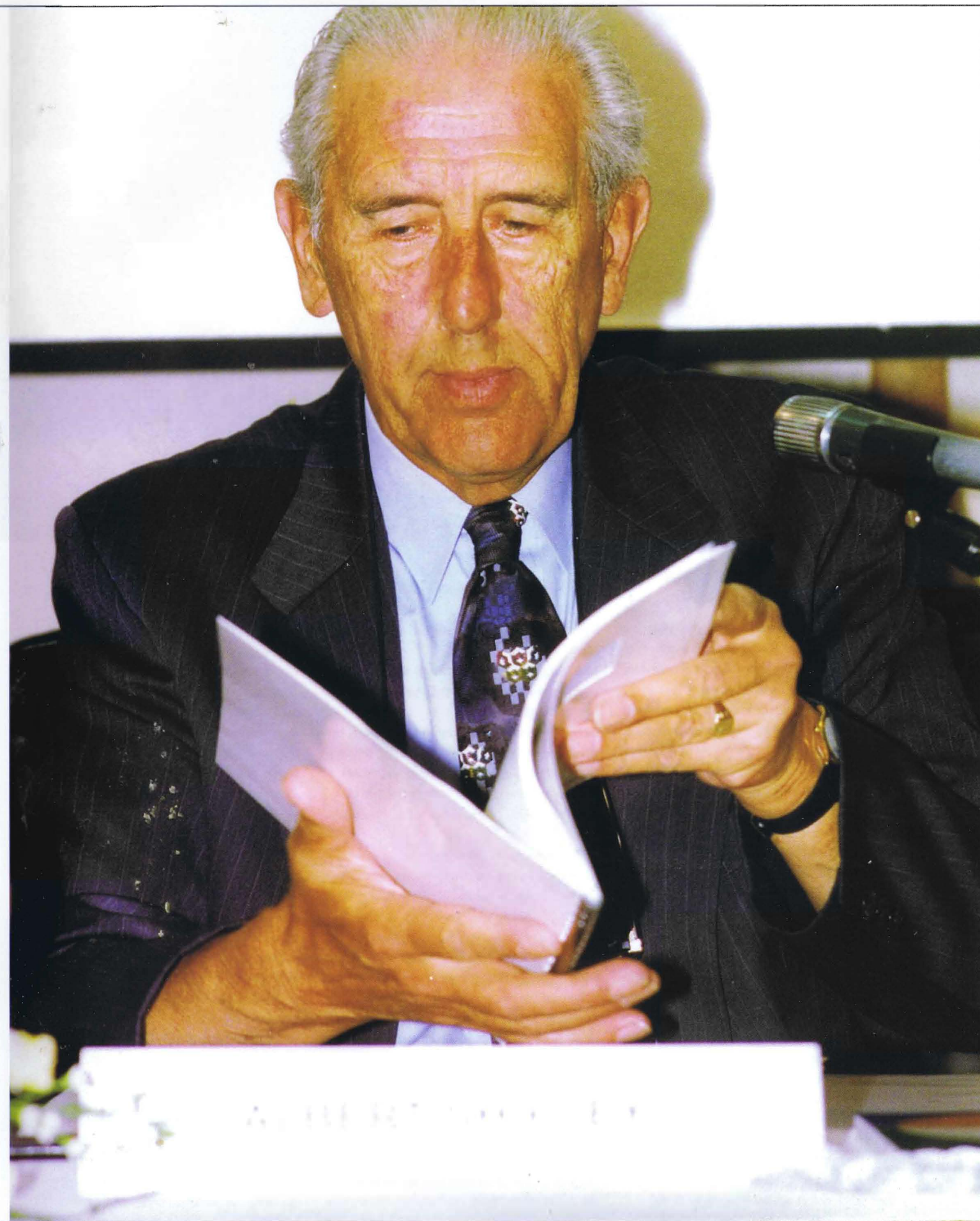
However, he was still plagued by the knee problem which led to a fall on Easter Sunday 2006, he broke his femur which was repaired with a rod and plate held in by four screws. Subsequently, the knee was diagnosed as a torn cartilage and an operation to remove this was carried out on 13th July 2006.

Two months ago in 2007 he fell and once again broke the femur; following an operation there were complications, he was unable to walk and understandably was very depressed. Soon afterwards he was diagnosed with cancer of the bones, bowels and lungs and was admitted to St Michael's Hospice.

Albert had a room facing the sea front and very near to 53 London Road, St Leonards-on-Sea in East Sussex where the offices of the International Table Tennis Federation were situated during his time as the Secretary General.

Albert Shipley was a man of the highest integrity, respected worldwide; he was the secretary of secretaries.

The condolences of the table tennis world go to his family, Mr Secretary the pain of the recent months is over; may you rest in peace.





ROUNDUP

South Coast Teams Enjoy Premier Success

It was the veteran men of Sussex, assisted by the not so veteran women who carried the county to the senior County Championship Premier Division title which came to an exciting conclusion at the Meres Leisure Centre, Grantham. Sussex retained the title that they had won in spectacular fashion last season.

Sussex took the title after seven gruelling rounds over the two weekends, which started in Cippenham in November. The south coast county were unbeaten in their seven matches, winning five and drawing two, to take the title by one point from Derbyshire with Middlesex third. The Sussex squad of veterans Ritchie Venner, Nigel Eckersley, Adrian Moore and Peter Bartram were joined by Rose Rainton and Sarah Stedman in their quest for glory, and all six players contributed heavily to their title success as draws against their two nearest title contenders saw them just clinch the title.

Newly promoted Derbyshire were a revelation this season and their runners up spot was remarkable considering that they were in a division below last season but their defeat to Middlesex added to their drawn clash with champions Sussex left them tantalisingly one point adrift of Sussex. Last season's runners-up, Middlesex, had to settle for third spot this season and will look at their shock defeat against Devonshire as the reason for their one place slip in the division.

Their draw against Sussex was one of the matches of the division but had they been able to snatch even a point in this match they would have taken the title, such was the intensity at the top of this division.

Middlesex did have the only unbeaten player over the two weekends as Egle Adomelyte won her 14 straight sets.

Devonshire ended the season in fourth place, one point behind Derbyshire and Middlesex, winning five and losing only to Sussex and Middlesex, but the remainder of the division was left to determine which two counties were going to be relegated.

Berkshire and Essex did enough to retain their premier status but we have to say goodbye, for the time being, to Lancashire and Yorkshire who were only strong enough to hold up the other six counties as Lancashire managed just two points with their White Rose rivals managing one point less and bottom spot.

The junior Premier Division was completed at the same time as the senior and provided another south coast winner as Hampshire took the title in a more convincing style than the senior champions as they won all their seven matches and averaging eight sets per match to ease to the title.

The squad of Mathew Ware, Garth Kinlocke, David McBeath, Hannah Hicks and Becky House swept all before them, and Hannah Hicks had the distinction of being the only unbeaten player over both weekends as she recorded a perfect 14

wins out of 14 matches.

Lincolnshire were runners-up winning five, drawing one and losing one of their seven clashes to finish one point clear of Derbyshire. Although the third placed team had a superior sets performance than the runners up, their two drawn clashes added to their defeat by Hampshire and resigned them to third place. Four remaining counties, Yorkshire, Devonshire, Essex and South Yorkshire, remained to fight it out for the unwanted pleasure of joining reigning champions Buckinghamshire in facing the drop and losing their premier status for next season.

It was a pity for Bucks that they were unable to field the players that would have guaranteed their survival and even attempted to regain the title so gloriously won last season, but they were always struggling after the first weekend at Cippenham and were always off the pace. After a disappointing first weekend Yorkshire, bolstered by the inclusion of Mary Fuller, completed the season in fourth place on six points followed by Devon and Essex a point behind, which left South Yorkshire to join Buckinghamshire in Division 1 next season. As usual the Premier weekend was run by Ken Eliot with his effortless efficiency which is a glowing example to all prospective event organisers, and for the second weekend County Championship administrator, Les Smith, refereed the event with his usual style.

Academy this year, and this win has confirmed our dominance of the Bristol League. The Bristol League is one of the biggest Table Tennis leagues in the UK and our victory sets us up well for our ambition of winning the National Premier League next year'.

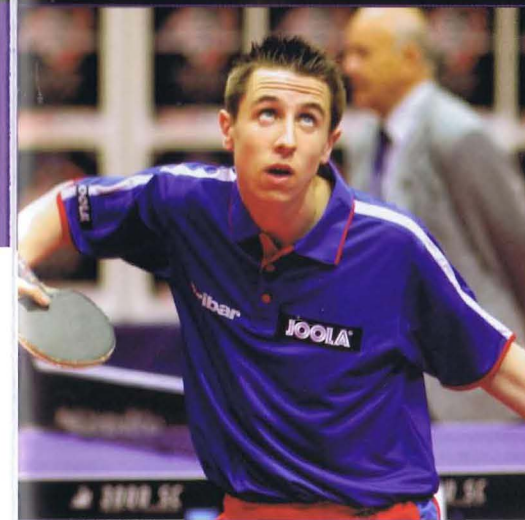
The players who represented the Filton Academy in the Belston Cup were Vytas Rybakus, Darren Reed and Ashley Stokes. The game scores were as follows: Rybakus bt T Lloyd 3/1; Reed bt R Jemmott 3/0; Stokes by A Kearney 3/0; Reed bt T Lloyd 3/1; and Rybakus bt Kearney 3/0

A silver lining for the Academy

Filton Table Tennis Academy achieved a remarkable Silver in their first ever excursion to

bands.

New South West RDO Chris Brown, a native of the county, and SW Coaching Co-ordinator Val Clack were present to help bring table tennis to any intrigued passers by, attracted in by the impressive billboards. A number of ex-players also turned up to investigate the unusual venue. Chandeliers replaced the more usual fluorescent tubes, and while the temptations of the Mediterranean weather & beach just yards away were enormous, the eight-hour tournament ran smoothly with an impressive entry of nearly 60. The doubles events opened proceedings & an immediate surprise saw the county's top two – Richard Marshall & Laura McLeod, defeated in the mixed doubles semi-final by Vicky Smith & Toby Mattacott. However, the unexpected winners found Amy Whiting & Chris Smith too



The incredible season for Filton College's Table Tennis Academy continues with the College development squad winning the Bristol League Belston Trophy.

the European High Schools Championship. The team had an excellent blend of youth and experience with the Boys line up of Tim Yarnall, Darren Reed, Richard Marshall and Daniel Ives the Girls represented by Jordyn Layfield, Claire Howe, Annabelle Morle and Yaina Andrew. After fighting through to the final the boys lined up against a very strong Croatian School for the Gold/Silver medals. The Croatians proved just too strong, Richard Marshall and Tim Yarnall both being comfortably dispatched and the doubles was no different as the Croatians took the Gold medal 3-0.

The Girls squad qualified for the 3rd/4th playoff final lining up against a Slovenian School, First up and Jordyn Layfield who took a good win but from there on in the Slovenians dominated winning the Bronze medal 3-1.

Devon Junior Closed Championship

What more natural setting for the championships of England's most glorious county than a historical pavilion overlooking a two mile sandy beach on the sun-drenched seaford!

The imagination and innovation of Brian Worts and his considerable band of helpers brought the Devon Junior Closed Championships to Exmouth Pavilion for the first time, squeezed in between appearances from Bucks Fizz, Brotherhood of Man and a multitude of tribute

strong in the final. Marshall, famous for his escaping acts, only just made amends in the boys doubles, paired with Mattacott and 7-10 down in the final game, they came back to beat Smith & Mike Griffiths 12-10.

Vicky Smith, at the ripe old age of 11, was going for her fourth successive girls doubles title, and just made it partnered by Amy Whiting, defeating Alice Phillips & Kirsty Legge 11-3, 8-11, 11-7, 18-16. The boy's singles events proved largely predictable. Richard Marshall retained his junior title defeating county number two Chris Smith. The top two cadets also contested that final with Rob Shearman beating John Handy, while David White & Ollie Buddell convincingly won the U-13 & U-11 titles from Peter Avis & Adam Moore respectively. Katie Smalldon took the girls under 11 title from Beth Wilson, and while red-hot favourite Vicky Smith took the under-13's, she was stretched to five games by runner-up Leanne Saunders. Katie Snow, ranked only 5 cadet, had an excellent day, providing the biggest upset in the U-15 semi-final, defeating Smith before losing the final to number one Laura McLeod. She also had a fine win over Amy Whiting in the final event of the day, the junior girls, with another coming from Hannah Bradford in the semi-final over top seed McLeod. However, Smith had left her best to last & took the title in her 16th match of the day without dropping a game.

ROUND-UP

COUNTY



DANNY REED - CLEVELAND

Avon by Dave Banks

The Avon seniors had a 6-4 win over Devon thirds, with newcomer Chris Burgess, Michelle Leonard and Ricky Jemmott having good wins. Sanghar Pratihari, another newcomer to the Avon county scene, had success over Vicky Smith and Debbie Whiting.

After this, the team had a heavy defeat against Cornwall firsts, but this was followed up with a 6-4 win over Cornwall seconds, Jess Orlik having success over Kate Alken, after a battle in the fifth. A tough match against Somerset followed, ending in a draw, with Alex Banks beating Steve Joel and Andy Hewitt. Ricky Jemmott and Chris Burgess fought well to defeat Jon Hughes, as did Sanghar Pratihari against Claire Howie. The final match was lost against Wiltshire. Overall quite a good weekend for us and many thanks to Cornwall for staging an excellent weekend's table tennis.

The Avon junior first team finished off their matches in fine style, winning all and gaining promotion to Division 1 next year. The veterans have finished third in Division 2, following a draw against Herefordshire and a 9-1 win against Berkshire seconds.

The 60th Bristol Closed tournament took place in March, with some top table tennis

being played on the day. Paul Hooper was crowned open singles champion, with an attacking style against the defensive David Reeves. Sanghar Pratihari won the ladies singles over Jessica Coggins, and the veteran singles was won by Steve Hall over Eddie Roofe. In the juniors, Lloyd Gregory beat Joe Ratajczak in five sets and Hayley Ruderham beat Rebecca Seal. The Bristol League has been won by Filton Academy, with Failand A a close second.

In the Bath Closed tournament, Andy Hewitt beat Terry Parkins in the open singles and Clive Ellison beat Bob Murray in the veterans. Parkins and Murray gained some consolation, however, by teaming up to win the doubles. In the Bath League, Mayfield A secured top spot over Frys A.

The final tournament of the season, the Avon County Closed, took place in April and the men's singles was played for the first time in ten years! In the semis, David Reeves secured victory over Andy Banks and Clive Ellison had to save four match points against Alex Banks before winning. The final ended up being a battle of defenders, with David eventually winning against Clive. In the junior finals, Hayley Ruderham beat Jessica Coggins and Alex Banks beat Lloyd Gregory in a thrilling five setter.

Berkshire by Colin Dyke

Our newly promoted senior first team successfully managed to retain their place in the Senior Premier Division of the County Championships. The team entered the second weekend having already accumulated 4 points from 8-2 wins over Essex and Lancashire in the first half and hoping that they would be able to find one more to avoid relegation, despite not having the services of Melanie Farquhar.

The first game against Middlesex did not go our way. Lisa Sprackling fought well going to five in one and four in the other, but with Hari Gehlot achieving our only success we went down 9-1. The second game against Derbyshire started no better as we lost the first five games. A slight improvement by the men as they each won their second set gave the final result of 7-3 to Derbyshire.

The first game on the Sunday against Sussex saw Martin Adams achieve two excellent victories over Nigel Eckesley and Ritchie Venner. Unfortunately a win by Hari Gehlot was the only other contribution made as Berkshire went down 7-3.

The final game of the weekend, therefore, saw Berkshire playing one of the other relegation battlers, Yorkshire. Finally, the team saw

Our newly promoted senior first team successfully managed to retain their place in the Senior Premier Division

victory as maximums for David Barr and Susan Johnson, together with one each from Martin Adams and Hari Gehlot, gave Berkshire the 6-4 win and a final placing of fifth overall.

The Senior second team carried on the good work securing a mid-table position after a good all round team performance against Kent 1 and Kent 2, with Steve Murgatroyd, Abhay Gehlot, Kuldeep Gehlot, Denise Rolfe and Mary Allen all scoring.

The veterans first team just managed to avoid the drop from Division 1B by finishing sixth. Victories over Essex 3 and Dorset 2 and a hard earned draw with Dorset 1 did the trick. Dave Barr was the mainstay with six out of eight losing only to Sussex's Nigel Eckersley and Ritchie Venner. The veterans second team, however, did not survive, finishing bottom of a strong Division 2B. Of the other veterans teams only the fifth team came out with any distinction, finishing runners-up in Division 4D to Sussex 4. The Over 60 team won 50% of their matches finishing fourth in the Southern section. Results stemmed from good form shown by John Morris (8/12) and Gill Knightley (5/6).

Bracknell lifted the Barbara Peisley Cup when they were crowned champions of the Berkshire Inter-Town Tournament after the second round of matches at the Kingfisher Club. Bracknell finished five points ahead of Reading winning five of the six divisions in the process. Maidenhead trailed in third. In Senior 2 Elroy Hull of Maidenhead had good wins over Keith Winter (Bracknell) and Alan Cummings (Reading) whilst in Senior 3 Ken Phillips sneaked home in the fifth against both Simon Thorne (Reading) and Mary Allan (Reading). Simon bounced back with a three straight win over Emma Human. Bracknell's vets 2 and 3 teams were far too strong for the opposition dropping only one set between them when Denise Rolfe (Maidenhead) beat Mike Stickland in five.

Martin Adams became the Berkshire Men's Singles champion for a record sixth time when he easily beat Mark Banks 2, 6, 5 in the final. In the semi-finals Martin beat Krsi Ivavnov 2, 6, 7 whilst Mark beat Jared Smith 6, -4, 9, 9. Susan Johnson took the ladies title beating Sharon Mitchell 7, 4, 4 but had to work desperately hard to scrape through

the semi-final by -9, 2, 2, -8, 13 against Sylvia Bruton. Sharon got through by beating Mary Allan in five. Other winners were Ramesh Gehlot (Veterans), Martin Adams/Phil Prady (Men's Doubles), Denise Rolfe/Sharon Mitchell (Ladies' Doubles), Jared Smith/Sharon Mitchell (Mixed Doubles) and Kuldeep Gehlot (Under 21 for the third year in succession).

Devon by John Smith

Plymouth youngsters produced a series of outstanding displays at the Devon Schools' Individual Championships, played in the city, to win six of the eight categories.

The six, who are all coached by Paul Whiting at DML Woolwell Table Tennis Club, saw off the challenge of players from schools across the county including Exmouth College, Ilfracombe and Great Torrington.

Sally Smith of Devonport High School, who has played for England Schools for the past two years, claimed the gold medal in the U19 girls' competition. Fellow DHS pupil Laura McLeod repeated the feat in the U16 girls' event, beating another DHS student, Amy Whiting, into the runner-up and silver medal position. Coombe Dean's Kirsty Legge was awarded a bronze medal as a losing semi-finalist.

Notre Dame pupil Alice Phillips won the gold medal in the U13 girls' category from Ilfracombe's Leanne Saunders. Vicky Smith, another school's international completed a superb set of results for the city by claiming first place in the U11 girls' section, defeating another promising Ilfracombe student, Katie Smaldon. Vicky is in her final year at St Peter's Roman Catholic Primary School, which was attended by five winners including all four girls' champions.

The boys also produced two gold medal winners. Estover's Freddie Cutler took first place in the boys' U19 category, while Chris Smith, of St Boniface College, repeated the feat in the U16 competition beating Ivybridge's Mike Griffiths into second place. The final two categories produced winners from further afield. The promising group of boys from Torrington coached by Kevin Taylor provided both U13 finalists, with Dominic Sussex defeating Ben Taylor. Yet another Torrington youngster, Harry Edney, and St Boniface College student, Jack Marsh, claimed

the bronze medals as losing semi-finalists. Kings School pupil Ollie Buddell was defeated by Ben Snow from Cullompton, another who benefits from Paul Whiting's coaching, in a very close U11 boys' final. Yealmpstone Farm student Daniel Nile and Joseph Riou from Ivybridge were the losing semi-finalists. Devon's junior second team narrowly missed out on promotion to Division 1 of the County Championships after three days' competition in Division 2B at Okehampton. Unbeaten after the penultimate round but missing boy's number one Freddie Cutler through injury on the last day, they finally met their match in eventual champions Avon 1. Despite two wins from Amy Whiting they went down 3-7 and had to settle for runners-up spot.

Cheshire by Alan Blears

The Chester and Ellesmere Port League and the Halton League are the only Cheshire leagues with teams in the ten-team Lancs/Cheshire Premier Division, the former finishing a creditable fourth. Simon Jones, Aaron Beech, Neil Powell, Steve Dean and Anglesey commuter Keith Williams were the action men for Chester and Ellesmere. In the C. and E. closed championships Simon squeezed home against Malcolm McEvoy 12-10 in the fifth game to take the men's title, with Gary Watson retaining his veterans title. Malcolm McEvoy, over 2- times men's winner in the Halton League, also came unstuck in their closed championships, losing to teenager Mark Roscaleer in both the handicap singles and men's singles. Malcolm apparently seemed as pleased as Mark that he had taken his crown. The end of an era? Maybe, but the king still lives, long live the prince! Another successful youngster was Rachel Baker, who took the women's singles from Helena Dennett.

The League's Maurice Goldstein Merit Award was deservedly won by Don Bryning **Blackpool Butterfly Grand Prix:-** Rachel Baker also had a cracking win in this event, defeating top junior Emma Vickers in the women's singles, while Fiona Dennett had a spectacular near-miss against "Maria" Meihan, losing 11-9 in the fifth game. Stockport's Caroline Hallows had mixed fortunes, coming runner-up in the Band 1 final to Lisa Radford, but suffering the unexpected loss to Lindsey

ROUND-UP

COUNTY



TIN-TIN HO

Armstrong in the women's singles.

National Junior and Cadet Championships:- Caroline and partner Emma Vickers, the no 1 seeds, duly took the junior doubles title in Doncaster, coming back from two games down against the tricky combination of Melissa Wright and Ayonija Sundararajan, who as cadets must nevertheless feel pretty chuffed at coming so close.

In the cadets, the Cheshire entry was rather disappointing, most of them being from the Stockport area - nearest to Doncaster! None went very far in the singles, but Jordan Potts and the inexperienced Marcus McNulty did well in the doubles to take two top ten boys, Oscar Selfridge and Mark Naylor, to deuce in the fourth.

National Cadet League North West:- The League had twice as many teams as last year and two divisions. The honours were shared between Newferry Gaultby Road and St. Helens, their 'A' and 'B' teams coming first and second in their respective divisions. Congratulations to Newferry and commiserations to St. Helens.

Cleveland by Alan Ransome

Ormesby pair Danny Reed and Karina Lefevre have produced outstanding results over the

last month which have improved their international prospects.

Danny Reed stole the headlines at the Liebherr World Table Tennis Championships in Zagreb in May when he won through all his qualifying matches, including two victories over players ranked more than 400 places above him in the world list, to capture a place in the first round (last 128) of the Men's Singles event.

Reed won his qualifying group with a victory over Ahmed Lofti El-Jetil of Lebanon 4-0 and by defeating the world no 255 Kazeem Nosiru of Nigeria 11-5 in the seventh game. This took him through to the final qualifying round where he was drawn against Bojan Miolsevic of Bosnia. Danny raced into a 3-0 lead against the player ranked 249 in the world and led 3-0 in the fourth before the Bosnian won 6 points in a row. Danny fought back well to win the match at 12-10 and by 4 games to 0.

In the first round proper, Danny was drawn against the Dutch no 1 Trinko Keen, ranked 33 in the world. Keen won by 4 games to 1, with Danny taking the second game at 11-9. The third and fourth games were both at 13-11 so he gave the Dutchman a hard contest before going out.

13 year old Karina Lefevre won her most important championship to date, the English Under 14 Girls' Singles Table Tennis title in Norwich on Saturday 2 June.

Karina, seeded second, defeated the top seed, Emily Bates of Lincolnshire, by 3 games to 1 in the final, out-hitting her opponent who otherwise enjoyed a successful day. Karina beat Rachel Farquhar from Slough in the semi-final by a comfortable 3-0 margin. Rachel defeated the third seed, Ayonija Sundararajan of Berkshire, in the previous round. In the quarter-final, Karina's victim was the plucky Sussex youngster, Sarah Russo, who was beaten by 3 games to 1.

Karina added the English Under 14 Doubles title to the Singles when she teamed up with Cornwall's Martha Travis. In the final, the pair beat Emily Bates and Ormesby club mate Chloe Whyte.

Chloe's turn for honours came in the Under 13 Girls' Doubles when she won the title combining again with Emily Bates. In the Under 13 Girls' Singles, Chloe reached the semi-final only to be beaten by Derbyshire's Lucy Davidson.

Ormesby's 12 year old Jessica Dawson followed suit when combining with Emily Bates to win the Under 12 Girls' Doubles.

Danny fought back well to win the match at 12-10 and by 4 games to 0

Jessica also reached the semi-final of her event, the Under 12 Girls' Singles, before losing to the Middlesex Chinese player Tin-Tin Ho. Emily Bates won both the Under 13 and the Under 12 Girls' Singles.

Karina has been selected as part of the England Junior and Cadet squad to participate in the French Junior Open Championships in Rennes this month.

Essex by Steve Kerns

Romford Junior Invitation Tournament:- 90 players representing nine coaching schools took part in this year's Romford Junior Invitation Tournament at Coopers Coborn School in Upminster. Seven of these schools - Havering, Morpeth, Chelmsford, Fellows Cranleigh, Maylands Green Juniors, Bacon's College and Geoffrey Chaucer - provided finalists with the honours spread around. With many players taking part in their very first Tournament the levels of enthusiasm were understandably high.

Results of the main events were as follows - Mixed U11 Winner: Aaron Horton (Havering) Runner-Up: Simon Ha (Morpeth) Mixed U13 Brandon Crouchman (Chelmsford) beat David Penrose (Havering) 11-9, 11-9, 11-9. Boys U15 Winner: Anthony Kent (Fellows Cranleigh) beat Christopher Penrose (Havering) 11-2, 11-9, 11-7. Girls U15 Winner: Loan Nguyen (Bacon's College) Runner-Up: Sara Akata (Fellows Cranleigh) Boys U18 Winner: Tom Lundy (Bacon's College) beat Anthony Kent (Fellows Cranleigh) 12-14, 11-4, 11-6, 11-5. Girls U18 Winner: Shazmina Yasmin (Morpeth) Runner-Up: Loan Nguyen (Bacon's College). Romford Closed Tournament

This year's Romford Closed Championships (again held at the Coopers Coborn School) were dominated by former Essex junior first team star - Stuart Kimm, the 1978 Romford Junior Boys' Champion who added a second Men's Singles title to the one he won in 2003.

For good measure, Stuart also annexed the Veterans' Singles for a second time and the Men's Doubles for an eighth time. Kimm's toughest clash was his Veterans' Singles semi-final against the wily John Tandler where he trailed 2-0 and 5-1, but, after throwing "caution to the wind" he found his full range of attacking shots and came through the

fourth and fifth ends quite comfortably. Those who enjoy statistics will be interested to note that Kimm has now won the Men's Doubles title with Steve Bond (three times), Richard Veale (three times), Garry Lewsey (once) and Steve Kerns (once), but he trails the legendary Ken Beamish, a ten times winner of this title - going back as far as 1957.

Older players will recognise the name of Cliff Carder, a former regular on the ETTA tournament circuit. Cliff still plays quite regularly, and partnered by the defensive Chris Herbert they came close to picking up the Men's Doubles title.

Results of the main events were as follows - Men's Singles:- Stuart Kimm beat Steve Kerns 11-9, 8-11, 7-11, 12-10, 11-9. Veterans' Singles:- Stuart Kimm beat Steve Kerns 13-15, 11-6, 11-5, 11-9. Men's Doubles:- Stuart Kimm/Steve Kerns beat Cliff Carder/Chris Herbert 11-4, 9-11, 11-8, 8-11, 11-4. Braintree Closed:- The Hayden brothers - Peter and Ian - dominated this year's championships and a number of records were broken. It was the first time that brothers had won the Men's Doubles and the first time that the Veterans' Singles final had featured the same two players as the Men's Singles final. Peter picked up his third Men's Singles crown, a title he had last won in 1994 whilst the form of his brother Ian, who only returned to the game this season, was perhaps the real revelation of the tournament. However, the biggest shock of all was the stunning Men's Singles victory for Ian Brown over Paul Davison, the number two seed, a superb victory for the determined Beccles defender. Results of the main events were as follows:- Men's Singles semi-finals - Peter Hayden beat Steve Pennell 12-10, 11-8, 12-10. Ian Hayden beat Ian Brown 11-1, 10-12, 11-4, 11-5. Men's Singles final - Peter Hayden beat Ian Hayden 11-6, 11-8, 11-6. Men's Doubles - Peter and Ian Hayden beat Paul Davison and Kevin Gowlett 11-7, 14-12, 11-7. Veterans Singles' - Peter Hayden beat Ian Hayden 14-12, 13-11, 8-11, 11-8.

Junior Singles - Bradley Hudgell beat Karan Baxi 11-5, 11-9, 12-10. Restricted Singles - Mark Lewis beat Karan Baxi 14-12, 3-11, 11-4, 11-6. Division One Singles - Ken Lewis beat Karan Baxi 12-10, 11-9, 11-9.

One thing that the Romford and Braintree

tournaments had in common was the fact that neither League were able to attract enough entrants to run a Ladies Singles. A sign of the times, perhaps, but, what a terrible position to be in!

Hertfordshire by Ann Fereday

Hertfordshire juniors are heading for the Premier Division. Last year they were runners-up in Division 1A but after the first leg of matches this year they were joint leaders with Cleveland, although with a better games ratio.

They arrived for the second set of matches in an up beat mood. Their first two encounters were with Cheshire and Suffolk, they beat each county easily with 7 - 3 victories. The third match was more difficult as opponents Durham had brought a very strong squad. A tense clash finished in a 5 - 5 draw. This set up an exciting final match, in effect a title decider, against Cleveland. At this point Cleveland were top with 11 points to Herts 10. There were great performances from all the squad resulting in an 8 - 2 victory for Herts. So Herts. won Division 1A with 12 points having played 7, won 5, drawn 2, lost 0. Cleveland were runners-up on 11 points. Congratulations to all the squad - Alim Hirji, Stephen Kong, William Maybanks, Abigail Moore, Haylee Potts, Jennifer Simms and Ben Swart. Darius Atashroo and Tamsin Holland also featured in the first leg.

Hertfordshire Senior Closed:- Held at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre, in the Men's Singles Chris Marlow at last managed to take this title, although given a scare by veteran Jack Baxter who took him to 5 games in the first round. In the final his hard hitting defeated Jason Killip after some great rallies. In the Ladies' Singles Sanya Clements retained her title beating Janice Laing. Then Janice won the Veteran Ladies' Singles by beating Sue Felstead.

The Veteran Men brought with it two new finalists this year as Dennis Robinson beat Ron Wilde. Dennis could not take the Senior Veterans as well, this went to Jim Craggs. The doubles results were as follows: Mixed - Sue Felstead/Dennis Robinson beat Jan Laing/Jim Felstead 11 - 9 in the 5th. Ladies - no event. Men's - Jim Craggs/Jason Killip beat Peter Mihok/Tom Veselovsky Veterans -

ROUND-UP

COUNTY



SUSSEX RETAIN THEIR SENIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

Jim Craggs/Dennis Robinson beat Brian Gale/Keith Hartridge.

Shaw League Closed: This was held at St. Michaels in St. Albans. There were 45 entrants competing for 9 titles. There was an increase in ladies to six but only three juniors.

Open Singles: – G. Patonai (Harpenden) beat R. Murrell (St. Albans) 12 – 10 in the 5th .

Mens' Doubles:– R.Anderson/B.Cummings (St. Michaels) beat R.Murrell/M.Livesy (St. A)

Ladies' Singles:– June Nelson (de Hav.Exiles) beat Clare Rogers (St. Albans)

Ladies' Doubles:– J.Nelson/C.Rogers beat A.Fereday/H.Frerey 10 – 8 in the 5th.

Mixed Doubles:– D.Wilson/J.Nelson (de Hav.Ex.) beat R.Anderson/A.Fereday (St. Mic.)

Minor Singles:– John Stock (de Hav.) beat Sean Thomas (Digswell)

Junior Singles: – 1st D.Shine (Bricket Wd.) 2nd P.Evans (St.Mic.) 3rd S.Gutknecht (St. Mic)

Veteran Singles: – Dave Wackrill (Adeyfield) beat Richard Hudson (St. Albans)

Handicap Singles: – David Easey (St. Albans) beat John Stock (de Hav.)

I thought the number of ladies in this tournament must be a record with six taking part and six pairs of mixed. Then I received the North Herts. Closed results.

North Hertfordshire Closed: This was played

over several week day evenings starting with the divisional competition.

There were 45 players taking part.

Premier :- Jimmy Walsh beat Mick Harper

Division 1:- Josh Rosenberry beat Dilshan Wijesekera **Division 2:-** Arto Viravorian beat Marek Mastalerczyk **Division 3:-** Ken Savill beat Dante Lacorte

Next it was singles night. **Men's Singles:** This result was a reversal of the Premier result with Mick Harper beating Jimmy Walsh this time.

Ladies' Singles: Sandra Harper just beat her sister Janice Laing 11-8 in the 5th.

Northumberland by Pauline Long

A total of 32 juniors and a rather disappointing entry of 40 seniors contested the county junior and senior closed tournaments, held over the same weekend of 9-11 March 2007 at the Sporting Club of Cramlington.

Scottish cadet Calum Main, who regularly travels from his home in Dumfriesshire to play in the Northumbria League, was a comfortable winner of the junior singles title, beating Kevin Watson in the final. Anthony Walton from Sunderland won the cadet singles, while 12 year old Ryan Richardson – who has since been selected for the Northern Region team to play in a national tournament

at Stoke-on-Trent – took the under 13 singles title. Ryan's brother Dean made it a family double by winning the under 10 singles.

In the senior tournament, Andrew Wilkinson came back from two games down against Eddie Smith to retain his singles title, while the same players combined to regain the open doubles title from Dave Godbold and Geoff Salter. The women's singles attracted an extremely disappointing entry of only three players and was won by Pauline Long (38 years after she won her first – where on earth was everyone else, especially the youngsters) who was successful against Kaye Morse in the final. Eddie gained partial consolation for his singles defeat with victory in the veterans' singles at his first attempt in the event.

Junior results: Junior Singles (Norman Moore Memorial Cup) Calum Main beat Kevin Watson (11-2,11-7) Cadet Singles (Harry Dignan Cup) Anthony Walton beat Jason Pu (11-6, 11-8) U13 Singles Ryan Richardson beat Andrew Ross (11-8, 11-5) U10 Singles Dean Richardson beat Niall Morris (14-12, 12-14, 11-1).

Senior results: Open Singles Andrew Wilkinson beat Eddie Smith (-11,-11,12,4,6) Open ♣ Doubles Wilkinson/Smith beat Godbold/Salter (9,2,12) Vets Singles Smith beat Godbold (7,6,7)

Knight won the National Junior Mixed Doubles title with Sara Wang and retained his National Junior Doubles title

Women's Singles Pauline Long beat Kaye Morse (4,4,5) Grade 1 Singles Jimmy Scope beat Jim Stamas (9,7,4) Grade 2 Singles Mick Bull beat Barry Hill (6,-9,-3,8,6) Grade 3 Singles Steve Todd beat Nico Krause (-7,9,-3,8,6) Grade 4 Singles Brian Philip beat Andrew Carmichael (5,6,12) Handicap Singles Krause (+8) beat Ralf Bauer (scratch) (18-21, 21-14, 21-8).

It was interesting to note that out of an entry of over 30 competitors in this event, Cramlington's two German players met each other in the final. The odds against that happening in an event where everyone is handicapped according to their ability must be astronomical.

Many thanks to Aubrey Drapkin and his band of helpers for the considerable efforts made in organising both tournaments.

Surrey by Chris Andrews

Darius Knight won the National Junior Mixed Doubles title with Sara Wang and retained his National Junior Doubles title with Paul Drinkhall. He was also the runner-up in the National Junior Singles Final.

At only 17 years old Darius is ranked 15th in the world in the 18 and under age group. In the Senior British League Premier Division Darren Blake was Surrey's top player winning 73% of his matches for London Progress who won the ninth consecutive senior British League Premier Division title. York Gardens 1 were Surrey's top team coming fourth in Division 1 South.

The county senior first team came second in Division 1B whereas the senior second team won the title and got promoted from Division 2D. The new junior first team did well to stay in Division 1B and the second team came third in Division 2D. Relegation hit the cadet first team from the Premier Division with the cadet second team coming third in Division 1B. The Veteran first team came fifth in the Premier Division, the second team came sixth in Division 1B, the third team came fifth in Division 3B, the fourth team came fifth in Division 3C and the fifth team were promoted due to winning the Division 4C title.

In the Thames Valley League Graham Spicer 1 won the title with John Payne from Graham Spicer 2 being top of the averages having

played the minimum four matches. His only loss was to Vidal Graham from Graham Spicer 1 who also plays for London Progress 2 who won the senior British League Division 1 South title. Molesey 2, Alexandra 2, and Malden 3 won Divisions 2, 3 and 4 respectively of the Thames Valley League.

Sussex by Graham Carter

It has been an extremely busy and successful few weeks for the county's teams.

Sussex retained their Senior County Championship title, Sussex juniors became Division One champions and the cadets' second team emulated their first team, who had already lifted the Premier Division title, to win Division One.

Congratulations go to the senior first team of Ritchie Venner (captain), Nigel Eckersley, Adrian Moore, Peter Bartram, Rose Rainton and Sarah Stedman. They completed their campaign unbeaten and finished the final session at Grantham with three wins and a draw, which included a terrific hard-fought 7-3 victory against Devon in what proved to be a decisive five-hour long marathon battle. Venner is closing in on Roger Chandler's all-time record after winning the Sussex Championships for a 12th time. This year the tournament was played at a brand new venue, the excellent spacious sports hall at Holy Trinity School in Crawley, which is the home of Crawley Community Table Tennis Club. Venner recovered from going 2-1 down to beat talented topspinner Mayur Majithia 11-1 in the fifth. The previous day Majithia had retained his Crawley Et Horsham League title by defeating in-form all-out attacker Phil Richardson 3-1 in the final. Venner is now only one more win away from equalling Chandler's 13 successes, which were achieved in the 70s and 80s.

Rose Rainton made it a Hastings double when she lifted the women's crown for the eighth time after overcoming Teresa Bennett 11-9/8-11/11-8/11-6 in a see-saw final. Ashley Miles and Stacey Furnival are the new junior champions of Sussex. Miles beat Stephen Eckford 3-0 in the U18 boys' final, while Stacey claimed the girls' title for the fourth time when she came back from being 2-0 down to beat Yolanda King 3-2. King had just returned from a three-day long England

training camp in Cardiff where she played in matches against Germany, Belgium and Wales. Miles had earlier won the junior event at the Haywards Heath Championships, also reaching the men's singles final before bowing out to winner Marc Burman.

The easy-going former Surrey player/professional coach now lives in Haywards Heath and as well as doing some well-received coaching at Warden Park School in Cuckfield, is making an impact in Sussex leagues. He added the Brighton Championships men's singles crown to his local league title. To win this he beat defending champion Wesley Bush-Harris 14-12 in the fifth game of a great final.

Peter Bartram was triumphant at the Worthing Championships, where he overcame Jack Boulton in a thrilling five-game final. However, Boulton eventually gained his revenge at the Worthing Top Eight Invitation Cup, winning the title after knocking out holder Bartram 3-1 in a close semi-final. Boulton's opponent in the final was Alex Rourke, who he outpointed 13-11 in the fourth, watched by an impressive 65 spectators.

Worthing junior Sally Hughes won the Best Performance Award at the Brighton tournament, coming away with four titles, including ladies singles where she caused a shock in taking the scalp of reigning champion Christine Wicks.

Hughes did well too at the English Junior Championships in Doncaster, where she beat England no.15 Emily Bates to reach the last 16. Chelsea Furnival did equally well in the U15 event, also progressing to the last 16 and reaching the girls' doubles quarter-final, partnered by Derbyshire's Lucy Davidson. Brighton Bats retained the National Cadets League South East title. In a series of matches at Tunbridge Wells, Tom Baxter won all 12 of his matches, while younger brother Joe and David Tyler both took 10 out of 12 as the team beat Weald, Byng Hall, Horsham, Hastings and Battle and drew with Howard. All this was achieved despite being without their no.1 player, Helshan Weerasinghe, who won 20 out of 20 for them earlier in the campaign. Congratulations to them and their organiser, Rory Scott.



BRADLEY EVANS

D.O.B: 15/06/1989

Style of play: Attacking both sides

Sponsor: Joola

Equipment: Forehand: Mambo C Max
 Backhand: Mambo C Max
 Blade: Rossi Force
 Shoes: Joola Step

When and how did you start to play table tennis?

At Cippenham TTC at age of 6

Average training time per week: 15 hours

Personality on the court: Positive, Fighter

England Debut Cadet: Safirs, 2000

England Debut senior: Safirs International, 2005

Current club: TTC Selingenstadt, Germany and Grantham Tornadoes

Most wants to beat: Timo Boll

Proudest Moment: Portuguese Junior Winners (with Gavin) 2005 and Cadet 6 Nations Performance 2004 (Unbeaten - 10/10)

Biggest Disappointment: 2002 finishing 2nd at Cadet Masters and not being selected for Europeans

PLAYER RANKINGS 2006/2007

TOP 25 SENIOR MEN

| Ranking | Player |
|---------|----------------------------|
| 1 | DRINKHALL, Paul (CV.) |
| 2 | PERRY, Alex (DV.) |
| 3 | KNIGHT, Darius (SY.) |
| 4 | RUSHTON, Andrew (LA.) |
| 5 | BAGGALEY, Andrew (BU.) |
| 6 | HERBERT, Gareth (BK.) |
| 7 | REED, Daniel (CV.) |
| 8 | EVANS, Gavin (BU.) |
| 9 | MEADS, David (DU.) |
| 10 | YOUNG, Terry (BK.) |
| 11 | YARNALL, Tim (NP.) |
| 12 | ROGALA, Michal (LA.) |
| 13 | TRUMPAUSKAS, Lawrence (E.) |
| 14 | BRYANT, Craig (DV.) |
| 15 | BARHAM, Dale (CA.) |
| 16 | HOLLAND, John J (Dy) (E.) |
| 17 | NOAH, Hubert (E.) |
| 18 | MARSDEN, Michael (DU.) |
| 19 | CUTLER, Tom (MI.) |
| 20 | DOLDER, Kevin (LA.) |
| 21 | ESSOMBA, Marco (SY.) |
| 22 | EVANS, Bradley (BU.) |
| 23 | NICHOLLS, Damien (SP.) |
| 24 | VENNER, Ritchie (SX.) |
| 25 | WURAOLA, Abdul |

TOP 5 JUNIOR BOYS

| Ranking | Player |
|---------|-----------------------|
| 1 | DRINKHALL, Paul (CV.) |
| 2 | KNIGHT, Darius (SY.) |
| 3 | EVANS, Gavin (BU.) |
| 4 | REED, Daniel (CV.) |
| 5 | MEADS, David (DU.) |

TOP 5 CADET BOYS

| Ranking | Player |
|---------|------------------------|
| 1 | EVANS, Gavin (BU.) |
| 2 | PITCHFORD, Liam (DY.) |
| 3 | MCBEATH, David (HA.) |
| 4 | CULLEN, Sean (DY.) |
| 5 | ANDREWS, Richard (BK.) |

TOP 5 UNDER 13 BOYS

| Ranking | Player |
|---------|------------------------|
| 1 | MITCHELL, Edward (BU.) |
| 2 | HO, Ping (MI.) |
| 3 | ZILESNIK, Zac (MI.) |
| 4 | LUMB, Harry (K.) |
| 5 | GRAY, Lewis (K.) |

TOP 5 VETERAN MEN

| Ranking | Player |
|---------|-------------------------|
| 1 | WURAOLA, Abdul (SY.) |
| 2 | VENNER, Ritchie (SX.) |
| 3 | KENNEDY, Joe (K) (E.) |
| 4 | ECKERSELEY, Nigel (SX.) |
| 5 | STEAD, Michael (Y.) |

TOP 25 SENIOR WOMEN

| Ranking | Player |
|---------|-------------------------|
| 1 | SIBLEY, Kelly (WA.) |
| 2 | LOWER, Helen (ST.) |
| 3 | PARKER, Joanna (SY.) |
| 4 | BAWDEN, Natalie (E.) |
| 5 | ADOMELYTE, Egle (MI.) |
| 6 | EMBLING, Abigail (E.) |
| 7 | SPINK, Lauren (NK.) |
| 8 | CLARK, Sally (Y.) |
| 9 | ROBERTS, Joanna (Y.) |
| 10 | KEAST, Lesley (LI.) |
| 11 | SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.) |
| 12 | VICKERS, Emma (DY.) |
| 13 | WANG, Sarra (E.) |
| 14 | SMITH, Karen (LE.) |
| 15 | WILSON, Naomi (SO.) |
| 16 | RAINTON, Rosemary (SX.) |
| 17 | HALLOWS, Caroline (CH.) |
| 18 | COHEN, Michele (WI.) |
| 19 | CLEMENTS, Sanya (HE.) |
| 20 | UZAL, Shelley (E.) |
| 21 | VICKERS, Jane (DY.) |
| 22 | BALDI, Andrea(Ys) (Y.) |
| 23 | WHITE, Nicola (Y.) |
| 24 | BONGERS, Jose (LE.) |
| 25 | FARQUHAR, Melanie |

TOP 5 JUNIOR GIRLS

| Ranking | Player |
|---------|----------------------------|
| 1 | SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LI.) |
| 2 | VICKERS, Emma (DY.) |
| 3 | WANG, Sarra (E.) |
| 4 | FARQUHAR, Melanie (BK.) |
| 5 | HALLOWS, Caroline (CH.) |

TOP 5 CADET GIRLS

| Ranking | Player |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | SUNDARARAJAN, Ayonija (BK.) |
| 2 | WRIGHT, Melissa (YS.) |
| 3 | BATES, Emily (LI.) |
| 4 | LEFEVRE, Karina (CV.) |
| 5 | FULLER, Mary (Y.) |

TOP 5 UNDER 13 GIRLS

| Ranking | Player |
|---------|-------------------------|
| 1 | BATES, Emily (LI.) |
| 2 | DAVIDSON, Lucy (DY.) |
| 3 | KING, Yolanda (SX.) |
| 4 | WHYTE, Chloe (CV.) |
| 5 | TREVORROW, Rachel (CO.) |

TOP 5 VETERAN WOMEN

| Ranking | Player |
|---------|---------------------|
| 1 | HUANG, Shu (K) |
| 2 | SMITH, Karen (LE) |
| 3 | JOHNS, Jan (CH) |
| 4 | HARPER, Sandra (BD) |
| 5 | SHORT, Elaine (DV) |



For the full list of player rankings go to our website

www.etta.co.uk



DATES

for your diary

Table Tennis events
for June/July 2007



Wednesday 4th:

- World Ranking 2007 Publication Date

11th – 14th:

- New Zealand Junior Open - ITTF WJC
(North Harbour, NZL)

11th – 23rd:

- 9th All African Games (Alger, ALG)

12th – 15th:

- 9th Open Veterans & Childrens
International T.T. Festival (Albena,
BUL)

13th – 22nd:

- European Youth Championships

21st – 27th:

- Pan-American Games (Rio de Janeiro,
BRA)

25th – 30th:

- 13th Asian Junior Championships
(Hoengseong, KOR)

27th June – 1st July:

- Ecuador Junior Open - ITTF WJC
(Cuenca, ECU)

28th June – 1st July:

- Youth Balkan TTC (Istanbul, TUR)
- Pro Tour VOLKSWAGEN China Open
(Nanjing, CHN)

Sunday 1st:

- Under 12 Training Squad

4th – 7th:

- US Open (Las Vegas, Nevada, USA)

The Association would like to thank all of the following for their support during the season 2006/07

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England Team Clothing 2005-07

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