

# table tennis news

Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association



Paul Drinkhall  
New National  
Champion

## Different Strokes

Battle of the Racket Sports

## TT Makes The Stage

Not a Game for Boys

**Plus:**

National  
Championships

Review

Alan Lowe

**and**

the latest news

and results

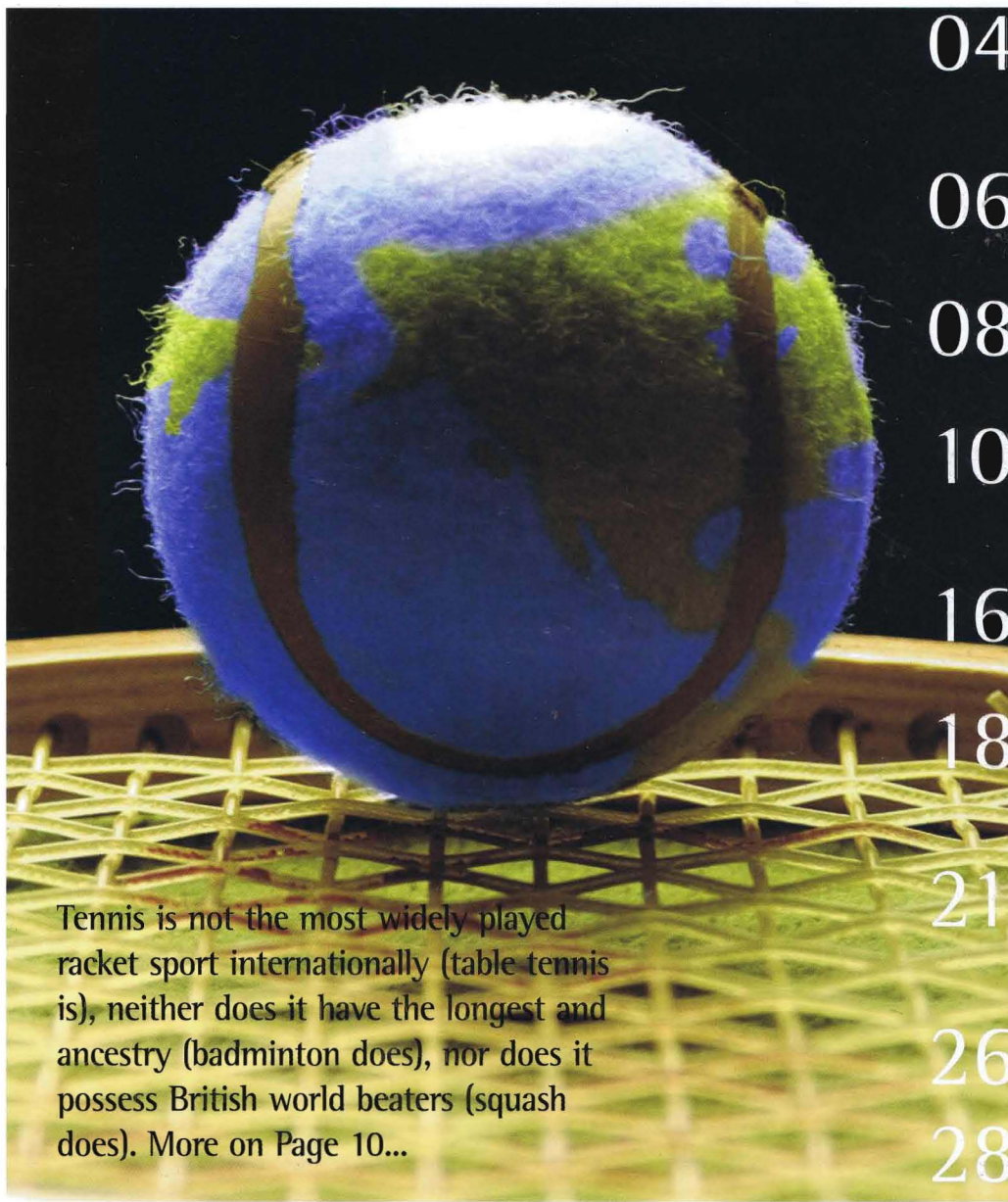
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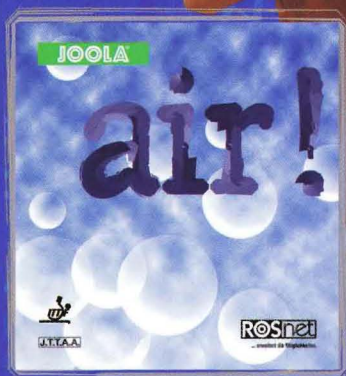
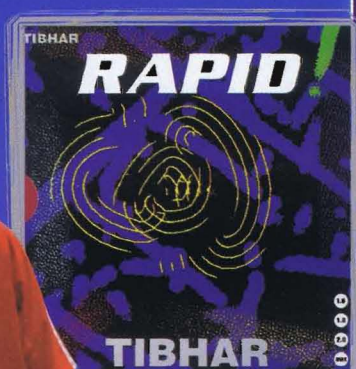
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 Fax: 01227 860569 • E-mail: sales@bribartt.co.uk

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 Church Road, Hoath, Canterbury CT3 4JT

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# from the editor



**RICHARD PETTIT, EDITOR**



**RICHARD EATON**

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



**MATTHEW SYED**

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



**JEREMY WILSON**

Jeremy is a sports journalist who writes regularly for both The Guardian and The Sunday Times. He has also played senior and junior county table tennis for Hampshire.



**STEVE KERNS**

After 15 years as Chelmsford League Press Officer, Steve is concentrating on his duties as British League Press Officer and Essex County Press Officer. Steve has also been a regular member of the Essex Veterans third team.

“

Floundering footballers, intoxicated cricketers and mid-table mediocrity for our rugby team, is English sport at an all time low? NO, racket sports and in particular table tennis are regaining the momentum of yesteryear. In the recent National Championships the young guns demonstrated talent in abundance. As usual I was amazed by the abilities of the England elite but better than that I was taken aback by the quality of those jostling for position underneath striving for the top. With so much talent in table tennis it just doesn't seem feasible that we are still searching to regain a national centre whilst the floundering, intoxicated, mediocrity continue to wallow in millions.

However, with our wealth of talent in mind Jeremy Wilson takes a look at the future of table tennis with some interesting views from those in the know. Our racket sports supremo Richard Eaton provides us with fascinating comparisons (page 10). Matthew Syed tells us why he just can't kick the habit (page 6). Robert Loxley runs into a top coach (page 26) and Jim Beckley does likewise to the theatre (page 18).

What more could you possibly want? Tournaments, news, results, rankings, forthcoming fixtures, it's all inside these covers, enjoy.....

”

*Richard Pettit*

“FROM CIGAR-BOX BATS ON ENGLISH DINING ROOM TABLES, TABLE TENNIS SPREAD TO ALMOST EVERY COUNTRY ON THE PLANET” RICHARD EATON PAGE 10 “IT IS ESSENTIAL WE CONTINUE TO BRING MORE YOUNGSTERS THROUGH THE SYSTEM AND GIVE THEM AS MUCH SUPPORT AS POSSIBLE” ALEX MURDOCH PAGE 4 “AN INCREASE IN SPORT PARTICIPATION IS THE MOST IMPORTANT LEGACY THAT THE LONDON GAMES CAN BRING” RICHARD YULE PAGE 8 “I WAS ALREADY DEEP IN FANTASY-LAND. WEARING A TEAM GB SHIRT ONCE AGAIN AND EDGING EVER CLOSER TO OLYMPIC GOLD” MATTHEW SYED PAGE 6

# March Summary

The National Championships were very successful and those who attended enjoyed the table tennis with a packed house for the finals.

Some additional changes were made for the event this year with the finals being played on one table, disability events included and the video streaming from Horizon. It was excellent that members who were unable to attend the event should be able to watch the finals live through the 247.tv website and purchase daily copies of some of the matches. The initial results from the website showed a great deal of interest and we are looking to expand this way of providing coverage of other events.

The Minister of Sport, Richard Caborn, and the new Chairman of Sport England, Derek Mapp, came on Sunday during the men's and women's semi-finals, also Councillor Jackie Drayton, Lord Mayor of Sheffield, attended with her husband and assisted in the presentations.

It was certainly the year of the young players coming through and winning major titles, and my congratulations go to all the winners and runners-up, plus thanks to all the competitors who took part, the spectators, staff and volunteers, in particular the National Championships Committee who helped make these Championships a fantastic success.

It is essential that we continue to bring more young players through the system and give them as much support as possible.

Our players will be competing in a number of events during the next 60 days, in particular the European Championships in Belgrade, and we wish our team well.

It is essential that we continue to bring more young players through the system and give them as much support as possible. The 2000 Club initiative will provide additional income to help train more unfunded youngsters complementing those already funded via our partners. Please join the scheme to help these young players who will be part of the future of our sport, application forms are available from the website, ETTA office or via me at alex@harwoodltd.co.uk.

The process of getting an effective database of our

members to enable the ETTA to communicate directly to them continues to make progress and we have over 16,000 names already. It is essential that the Individual Registration forms are sent in by the leagues and clubs, you can if you wish complete a form and send this in direct to the ETTA; copies are available online from the office.

It is intended in the next few months to start sending out to those on e-mail regular updates about our sport, and once the database is completed updates will be sent to all those registered members by either e-mail if we have the details or by post.

Increased communication to our membership is a critical and essential part of the ETTA function to support and update you, and it is the key to the future of our sport. Technology in the way people are electronically communicated with has changed dramatically over the last five years and new innovations are coming on stream regularly. We as a sport will and must meet the new needs of our membership in this area. Not everyone has a computer but most have access to one, most have mobile phones, and we must be part of these new technologies and the way in which we communicate.

The final agreement for the 2007/8 funding with UK Sport has been confirmed which will give us an increased amount to be used directly on the GB programme, and to assist some additional players outside of the Development Programme via a Talent and Observation Group. In addition Table Tennis is one of the sports recognised by UK Sport as having met all the governance and performance triggers and are in Category 1. England, like the other home countries, has a responsibility to assist and develop young players to become members of the GB elite squad, and to ensure that any potential talent for the future England teams is identified and supported. It is anticipated that in the 2007/8 budget over £100K will be invested in this programme.

Progress continues toward the establishment of a British training centre which will provide residential facilities for the over 16s and additional training for the younger players. Budgets and costings are being finalised with the intention to start in August this year. With the many changes taking place within sport via our funding partners and how this may impact the various potential facilities available for a NTC-it has been a difficult process. Time will tell how this affects our position but you can be assured that an essential element of our progress towards 2012 and beyond is the establishment of a NTC.

A number of articles have appeared in the press in regard to the 2012 Olympics please do not read them in a negative way. Significant progress is being made across all areas of the event and we are working very closely with our funding partners, The British Olympic Association and the London Organising Committee. Over 700 groups and organisations across Great Britain have submitted proposals to 2012 in regard to potential training facilities for sports. This information is being disseminated and we should have details with regard to who have submitted proposals for Table Tennis in the next few weeks.

The need to get significant main sponsors for 2012 is reaching its conclusions and details will be published via the

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

media very soon.

Our applications for running three events next year, namely the English Open, part of the ITTF Pro Tour Circuit, the European Junior and Cadet Top 10 and the international Invitation Cadet competition, is moving forward at a pace and I am sure that when the requirements for volunteers are released you will help the ETTA to run these events. It is hoped that the English Open will not be a one off but part of a three year programme up to 2010 prior to another significant event in 2011 as part of the Olympic build up, which will be done in conjunction with the ITTF and the organising committee of 2012.

Progress continues with the UKCC and our partners with Level 3 endorsement expected in the next three months and they have already endorsed both the Level 1 and Level 2. A detailed new coaching plan has been drawn up for submission to sports coach UK in respect of the new UK coaching framework, and discussions have taken place in regard to additional support for the ETTA Coaching Department, this is in addition to the draft regional plans for the coach/club initiative from Sport England.

The ETTA is looking at a number of options regarding increased support for our membership across all departments; this will involve some restructuring and changes in responsibilities for both staff and volunteers. An essential element for any national governing body from time to time is to look, and where appropriate, refocus its activities and support to meet the needs of its membership and the changing times in which we all live. Many changes, of course, are dependent upon the financial and other resources available to us and can sometimes only be done in stages. I believe that we are now at the stage to move forward in this area and expect, subject to approval, that much of this restructuring will be in place by the start of the 2007/8 season.

I have mentioned on a number of occasions the need for the ETTA to update its Memorandum & Articles/Rules in an effort to make them easier to understand, reduce the decision-making process timescales and to modernise our corporate governance. At the same time we must ensure that our membership has a democratic voice/vote in all parts of any critical decision making process. It is anticipated that details of any changes following inputs from the Rules Committee will be submitted to National Council in October with copies to the membership for approval in January 2008 and submitted to the 2008 AGM for the membership to approve.

I will keep you updated on all of these areas and others via the website and in my reports to National Council.

I hope the season continues to go well with you and hope to see you at events and meetings over the coming months, and as always I am happy to meet with you at any of your meetings just e-mail me or give me a call.

I would like to thank you all for the support my team and I have received over the last 42 months, and hope during the next two years in office from July following the unopposed election of officers that we can continue to work together for the progress of our great sport.

# Withdrawal symptoms an athlete can't crack

IS IT time for the Government to classify sport as a class A drug?

By Matthew Syed  
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The Times

I had naively hoped to escape the withdrawal symptoms after my retirement from table tennis by throwing myself farther into a host of sports-related activities: managing televised events, writing, commentating and the like. Who was I kidding? It is like trying to wean oneself off opium with a mug of PG Tips.

The shakes started in earnest at the top floor of a tower block in East London when I was looked out over the site of the 2012 Games, I suddenly felt my playing fingers twitch. Later, our host described the glittering venues and walkways about to be built, but it was all lost on me. I was already deep in fantasy-land, wearing a Team GB shirt once again and edging ever closer to Olympic gold.

Sport is pure hedonism: the training, the triumphs, the camaraderie, the euphoria, the sex, the autograph-hunters, the early-morning workouts, the late-evening chill-outs, the media interviews, the adulation. Even the failures add to the buzz. There is nothing remotely metaphysical about sport, which is why reason alone can never fully compensate for its absence.

I was invited to Wembley to take a look at the grand stadium as it completes its facelift. We were shown to the tunnel from where the players will reach the pitch. Beyond some plastic sheeting we caught a glimpse of the mighty arena and an inkling of what it would be like to run out into the wall of noise. Instead of excitement, I was engulfed by self-pity as I contemplated the emptiness of life after sport.

Never again the adrenalin rush of marching into battle. Never again the pride of representing one's country. Never

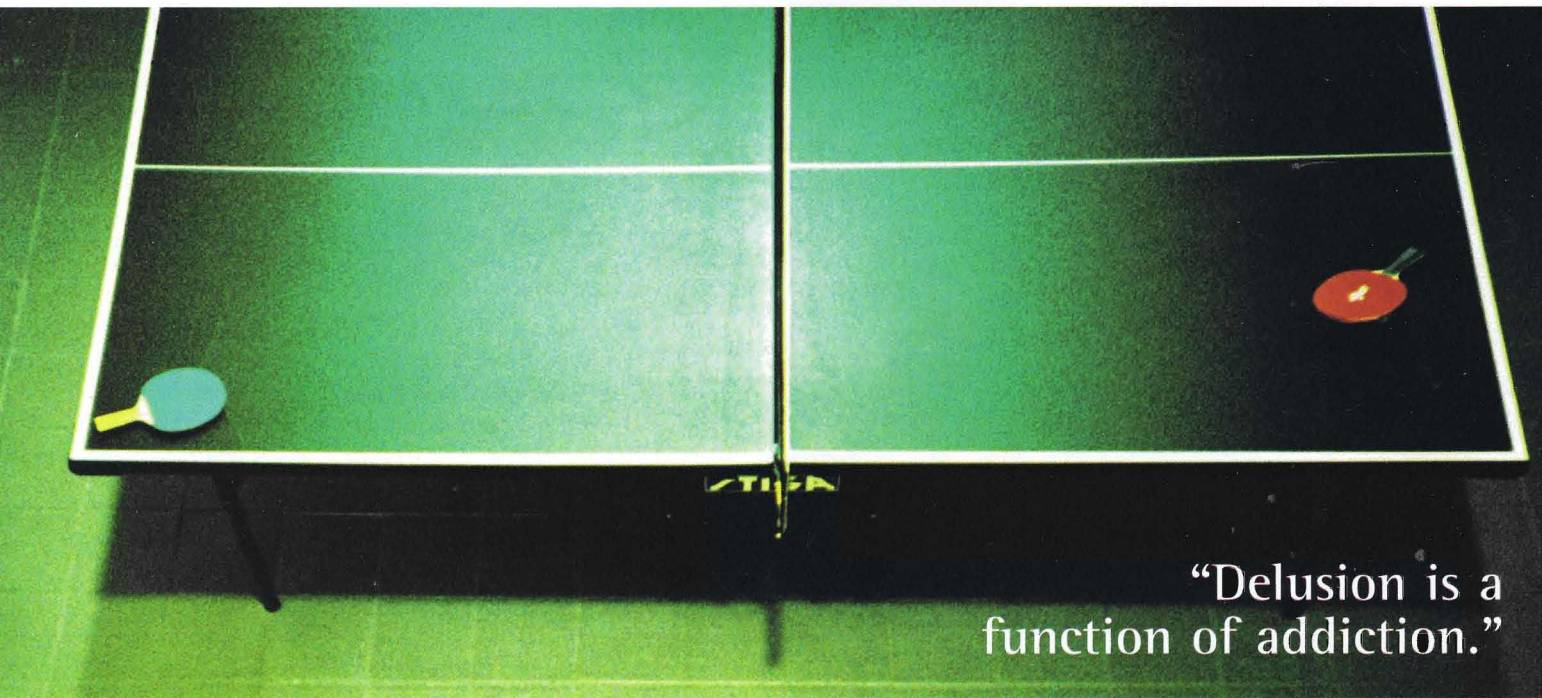
again the experience of sitting alone in a hotel room after a career-defining victory, wearing a smile that will not abate. As Tom Stoppard wrote in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*: "For all the compasses in the world, there's only one direction, and time is its only measure."

In recent days I have taken to phoning former teammates to wallow in the memories of former glories, the conversations not unlike those that take place each week at Alcoholics Anonymous. The world can be a strange and frightening place away from the routine of pro sport, something that plays as much havoc with one's relationships as it does with one's sanity.

Delusion is a function of addiction. Muhammad Ali convinced himself that medication for a misdiagnosed thyroid condition had caused his humiliating defeat by Larry Holmes in 1980. Fourteen months later, the great man was drubbed by Trevor Berbick, who would not have lasted a round with Ali in his prime. As Ferdie Pacheco, his long-time physician, put it: "Ali loved his life so much that he attempted to prolong it in the spotlight."

Ali gambled with his health in pursuit of his addiction. The rest of us merely gamble with our vanity. Facts do not seem to come into it.

My cruelly slowed reflexes would not live with the eye-smarting speed of the brilliant youngsters who now terrorise English table tennis, but still the siren call gets ever louder and the feverish dreams more seductive. Professional sport needs a health warning. Play in haste, repent at leisure.



"Delusion is a function of addiction."



## Community Sport Legacy Setback

Derek Mapp, Chair of Sport England, said:

"Our support for the 2012 Games is unquestioned and we know the Government has had to make tough choices. However, the decision to divert a further £55.9 million of Sport England's share of lottery income between 2009 and 2012 to fund the 2012 Olympic/Paralympic Games is a cut too far and seriously endangers the creation of a sporting legacy from the 2012 Games.

This cut comes on top of Sport England's share of the already agreed £410 million Olympic lottery contribution. The real cut is in fact far higher. Our target is to lever in £2 for every £1 of Sport England investment and we are currently leveraging in almost £3. So the true loss to community sport is £223 million.

The 2012 bid had at its heart a promise to build a legacy from the

**"It is difficult to see how such a significant reduction in funding for these activities can be squared with the clear commitments the Government has already made about the wider benefits the Games will bring."**

Derek Mapp, Chair of Sport England

Games by increasing participation in sport and boosting community sport across the country. It is difficult to see how such a significant reduction in funding for these activities can be squared with the clear commitments the

Government has already made about the wider benefits the Games will bring. Unless new funding is secured we will have to reduce down our 2012 ambition of increasing participation across two million people. We estimate that the best case scenario would result in 186,000 less people doing sport. Given the partnership funding we lever in the true reduction to the ambition is likely to be significantly higher. Inactivity costs the country £8.2 billion a year so this shortfall will cost the country dear.

This cut is a real blow to community sport in England. No other country has succeeded in delivering a sporting legacy to their Games. This decision makes our attempt harder."

### SUPPORTING STATEMENTS

Mike Catt, England Rugby Union Captain

"Obviously this has been a difficult decision for the Government. Hosting the Olympics will bring huge benefits to the country. However, I am disappointed that Sport England and community sport has had to pay the price for the additional costs. This will have a real impact on the drive to get more and more people doing sport".

Richard Yule, Chief Executive of the English Table Tennis Association

"An increase in sports participation is the most important legacy that the London Games can bring and was at the heart of the vision expressed so powerfully by Seb Coe in Singapore. This cut in funding to community sport will impact on the ability of national governing bodies to capitalise on the once in a lifetime motivational impact of a home Olympics to deliver an increase in participation through their clubs and volunteers."

## Olympic Park master plan submitted

The Olympic Delivery Authority has submitted one of the largest planning applications in European history, detailing proposals for the Olympic Park. The 15 volume, 10,000-page document outlines the plans for the construction of new venues, roads, drainage systems as well as power grids on the site in east London. The original scheme submitted in 2005 has been revised to make the park more compact and improve its integration - the media centres have been moved and more consideration has been given to the adjacent Stratford City project. The application follows a damning report from the National Audit Office which said the Government's failure to set a budget for the 2012 Olympic Games is a "major risk" to its chances of success. The cost of the infrastructure and preparation of the park has increased by £900m to £3.3bn, prompting fears that the project is running out of control.



## The FTSE-BOA initiative will partner top UK-based companies with the national governing bodies (NGBs) of Olympic sports



## You can now watch the best world TT action

The ITTF has launched a new fantastic service iTTV in partnership with ZIM TV. This provides the ability to watch major table tennis events with top TV quality production from the comfort of your own computer screen. Three channels are in the line up emphasizing three different elements of elite TT.

itTV-1: a "Live" channel will shortly be showcasing the Liebherr 2007 World Championships in Zagreb. However, in the meantime, you can catch up on the events of the previous two World Championships in Shanghai (2005) and Bremen (2006).

itTV-2: will focus exclusively on junior events, it is currently showing the last World Junior Championships played in Cairo, December 2006. In

addition you could also view the courtside action from the 2006 World Cadet Challenge and Junior Circuit Final.

itTV-3: is currently running the VW 2005 World Championships in Shanghai, but will shortly feature the "World vs. China challenge match" played in Malaysia last September.

**Just three simple steps and you can be watching the best world TT action.**

1. Go to the new ITTF web-site: [www.ittf.com](http://www.ittf.com).
2. Click the icon on the front page: itTV
3. Select your channel.

### FTSE back Olympic governing bodies

BOA-led scheme will help sports access support from leading UK firms

The governing bodies of sports on the summer and winter Olympic programmes are to benefit from a new partnership between FTSE 100 companies and the British Olympic Association (BOA) which will see leading firms help to improve their structure and performance. The FTSE-BOA initiative will partner top UK-based companies with the national governing bodies (NGBs)

of Olympic sports with the aim of encouraging improvements in the organisation and governance of sport, through access to ideas, resources and personnel. At a launch event when 10 NGBs and their new partners were unveiled, chair of the BOA, Lord Moynihan, stressed that the arrangement was not sponsorship, and said the deals would not have any effect upon the efforts of LOCOG to find

private funding. He added that companies would not be required to identify budgets and that the initiative had been given endorsements by Olympics Minister Tessa Jowell, LOCOG and Sue Campbell, Chair of UK Sport. The 'in-kind' deals entail NGBs identifying areas for development, which are tied up with interested FTSE companies. Watch this space for more details.



# Four different strokes

Who would have thought that table tennis, once a little-considered parlour pastime which was only made possible by the importing of celluloid from America in 1900, and nicknamed rather derisively after the sonic contrasts of its materials, would develop into one of the four biggest participatory sports in the world?



These are some of the facts which dispel the myths which surround the family of four – squash, tennis, badminton and table tennis. Many of them are caused by tennis having become the wealthiest, sexiest, best dressed and by far the most publicized of the four, overshadowing the successes of its sister sports.

Some of these illusions of the money-and-media age need uncovering as much today as they did when a comparison of this quartet of relatives was last attempted nearly ten years ago.

Tennis is not the most widely played racket sport internationally (table tennis is), neither does it have the longest ancestry (badminton does), nor does it possess British world beaters (squash does)

Although lawn tennis was dragged into existence from its Middle Ages parent, real tennis, by a hotch-potch of nineteenth century midwife versions - which included five-foot nets, hour-glass shaped courts, and two-inch balls - it is badminton, versions of which have been depicted on 3,000-year-old pottery, which is the more venerable game. Since then Wimbledon has grown into far the most famous racket sport event, but when a world table tennis championship was held in Manchester, fully 110 countries were represented, making it the most cosmopolitan event ever held in this country.

And though Andy Murray currently attracts more attention than any other British wielder of a racket, he has not yet achieved as much as the two quartets of squash players – Peter Nicol, James Willstrop, Lee Beachill, and Nick Matthew, plus Tania Bailey, Vicky Botwright, Jenny Duncalf, Alison Waters – who have made England simultaneous holders of both world team titles for the first time. All these developments have helped make the indoor racket sports among the most physically and mentally demanding of all; yet from the hush which has greeted these achievements you would think that they were the most sedentary.

So it's worth comparing the qualities of these four sports in a little more detail.....

## Squash

Squash used to be an esoteric game with an elitist atmosphere and small galleries, until the charismatic Jonah Barrington emerged in the sixties and later helped inspire the yuppie-fuelled boom of the seventies and eighties. Six times British Open champion, raconteur, pioneer, teacher, media personality, promoter, and visionary, Barrington represented Ireland, coached Great Britain and became president of the (English) squash rackets association. His commitment to fierce physical challenges, psychological warfare and media monologues did an enormous amount to popularize and to professionalise the sport, with the numbers playing in Britain swelling to around three million, and the men's and women's tours spreading to dozens of countries.

During the eighties squash was very inventive. Courts in professional tournaments were transformed from intimate bear-pits into transparent fish-tanks, which could be

surrounded by 4,000 people and which made a modicum of television possible. The men's tour lowered the tin – the equivalent of the net in tennis – by two inches, which was also very successful, reducing the frequency of attritional rallies.

Squash was also fortunate that synthetic rackets improved it as a spectacle, helping players to attack, and increasing the tactical variety of the rallies. This was in marked contrast to tennis, in which the development of kevlar, boron and titanium made rackets easier to wield for grass roots players, but changed rackets for the worse in the men's professional game, making rallies more one-dimensional.

Squash's greatest mistake was in not reacting to the expansion of the Olympic schedule as quickly as the other three rackets sports, causing it to miss out on a lot of high profile publicity and funding.

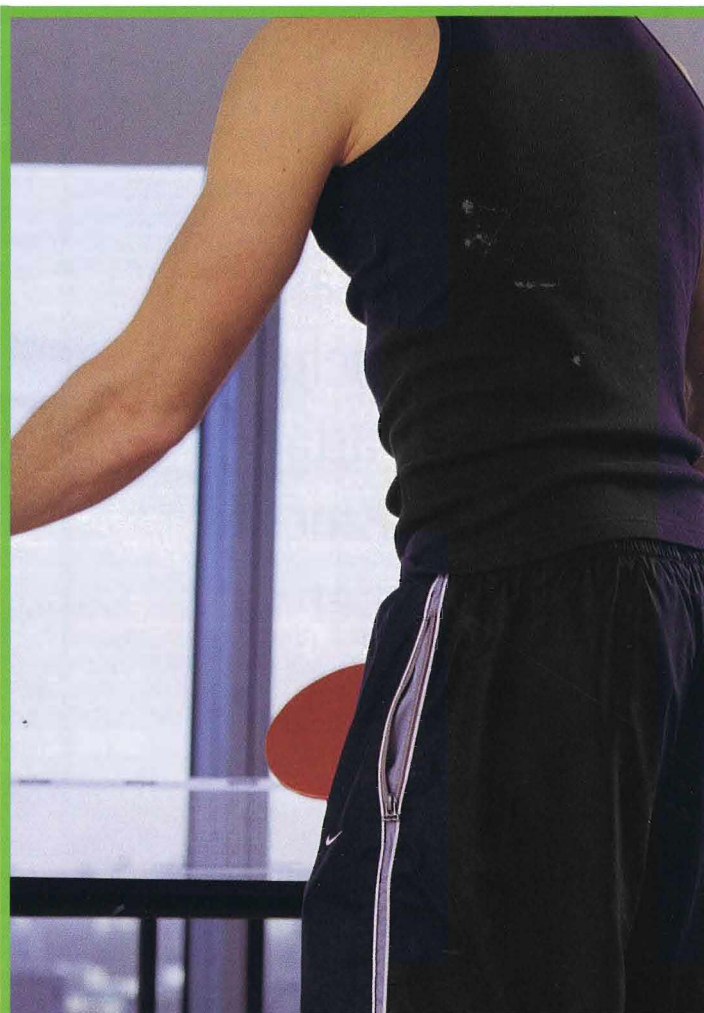
And for a while in the nineties it declined. The shop window attracted less attention, and at grass roots the game lost ground to gymnasia, jogging, and aerobics. Its adherents were increasingly coming from older age groups. There were even pronouncements that this was a dying sport.

But things bottomed out. Deals from Bermuda, Manchester and the Middle East have ensured that the World Open will continue to increase its prize money each year up to a record \$300,000 plus in 2010, while the Women's International Squash Players Association has expanded to a record 220-plus members.

Optimism has also emerged from the latest participation figures in England and the latest plans. England Squash stats show increases – with at least 45,000 player members, about 6,000 regular competitors, 2,750 affiliated courts and a thousand affiliated clubs.

Sport England's recent active people's survey is still more encouraging, indicating that half a million adults played squash in the previous four weeks, placing it ahead of netball, hockey, cricket, and rugby union and suggesting that squash's participation base has not only stabilized but may be gaining critical momentum. The future no longer looks like one of decline.

This is particularly so since England Squash (ES) got to grips with the worrying problem of the sport's ageing grass roots. Mini-squash has been introduced to attract children and new schemes are being operated to increase the links between clubs and schools, colleges, and universities. Because it had not previously attempted these things, ES now admits it missed out on attracting at least two generations of schoolchildren. However, in the two years since these new and effective initiatives, 12 to 13 thousand new youngsters between the ages of five and 11 have been recruited to play squash or mini-squash on a regular basis. The stats also show that 16-24 is the second biggest participatory age group in the sport, which is also encouraging, and that there a decent spread across the regions, with the South-East only slightly the biggest (see table). But ES still has issues with resources. About £250,000 is being invested this year in a new scheme for 2,500 primary schools, which will install one of the mini-squash rebound walls, and teacher training, with potential links to secondary schools and clubs.



“ From cigar-box bats on English dining room tables, table tennis spread to almost every country on the planet. Countless hundreds of millions now play, and an estimated 40 million compete, sometimes in the world's biggest stadia. ”

“ Squash was also fortunate that synthetic rackets improved it as a spectacle, helping players to attack, and increasing the tactical variety of the rallies. ”



England Squash stats show increases – with at least 45,000 player members.

What made some people predict the demise of squash was the staggeringly higher turn-over of people in a smaller amount of space which gymnasia were able to attract. Despite this squash often retained a significant role in multi-sports clubs where it would become the social heart. Recently it has acquired movable walls, making for flexible space in a three-court, 200-square-metre scenario, enabling squash to fight back against other, more compact activities. ES now plans to employ more marketing people. Amongst their tasks will be to make use of squash's recent progress to bring a change of mind set among those who have been attracted to other, often more mechanical or repetitive methods of keeping fit.

## Table Tennis

Table tennis is another sport for which doom and gloom has wrongly been forecast. During the onset of affluence in the fifties and sixties, and with the collapse of European communism in the eighties, people thought table tennis might have been damaged permanently. Not so.

True, this cheap and simple and brilliantly entertaining sport has never been able to replicate the tremendous post-war boom in Britain, during which world champions like Johnny Leach, Richard Bergmann, and the Rowe twins, would help fill Wembley Arena with ten thousand people.

And its popularity did decline with more money entering people's pockets. Tastes became more diverse, and a proliferation of different kinds of bat rubbers produced complex spins which made it harder for spectators and viewers to comprehend why rallies were won and lost. Political changes affected table tennis too. Its international founding father, Ivor Montague, was an English aristocrat who was awarded the Order of Lenin for his services to communism, and who saw the affordability and accessibility of the table tennis as an ideal proletarian vehicle for bringing the world together.

Its qualities certainly fitted the ideology of the Chinese ruling group very well, but as the world's most populous nation took to table tennis, so it ensured that China gained a tight and unhelpful stranglehold on most of its major trophies.

Later the fall of the Berlin wall, the collapse of the iron curtain, and the globalization of markets opened a more commercial, bourgeois way of life to the developed parts of the world, which was not entirely compatible with Montague's vision.

Nevertheless the popularity of table tennis continued to increase, particularly among the young, the old and the poor, so that, according to the International Olympic Committee, it is the most popular sport in the world.

“More people play it than soccer because you can play table tennis at any age,” according to the IOC website. This says that not only are there are 40 million competitive players, but “countless millions playing recreationally.”

Here in Britain however it has struggled since the nineties for two main reasons. Fewer people are prepared to spend their leisure time in drab surroundings, and no-one in the last ten years have been able to match the success of

Desmond Douglas or Jill Hammersley-Parker, who reached the world's top ten.

A household survey nevertheless suggested in 2005 that as many as 2.2 million people are playing recreationally, though how frequently or meaningfully is unclear. Certainly, there remain about 40,000 competitors in 250 leagues in England, and according to Sport England's active people survey, 160,000 people played table tennis at least once in the previous month.

What the English Table Tennis Association (ETTA) hopes is that the large household statistic is a parallel to the larger numbers of people who are buying table tennis tables for their homes. Equipment companies report that sales are going up.

The ETTA membership decline reflected to some extent the decline of British manufacturing, which had hundreds of works teams, and the decline of youth clubs during the Thatcher years. Now the association is fighting back with successful facilities development and club accreditation programmes. The largest age group of players is 16-24 (see table). To drive this forward the ETTA have appointed a full-time architect, an imaginative, if rare, step to take.

The association has also made a new investment in specialist sports colleges, and is beginning a push to get schools to include table tennis as a curriculum activity, which it traditionally rarely has been.

There is also an attempt to improve the 'cool' factor of table tennis – the lack of which has increasingly been a marketing handicap amidst increasing affluence, especially among women – by drawing attention to the many celebs who play the sport.

But the ETTA's most crucial short-term goal is to acquire enough funding to regain the national centre it lost a few years ago after the decline of the national team. This has become particularly important with the emergence of three talented teenaged players, Paul Drinkhall, Darius Knight, and Gavin Evans, who may be good enough to develop into contenders at the London Olympics and who need regular high quality sparring and training.

Funds remain limited for the ETTA, even though it has been possible to raise credit through the value of table tennis stock, which currently totals £100 million, and consists of new dedicated facilities, upgrades, and conversions.

Other new ways to raise the revenue still have to be found. But the outlook is a whole heap better than it was.

## Badminton

Badminton has been the most under-estimated sport of all. That may be partly because the huge number of grass roots dabblers at the game is ignored, or because people have not had much chance to watch the sport in all its aesthetic and athletic glory, or perhaps because some misguided clots spread the idea that it is a wimpish activity.

A fitting way to deal with detractors like that would be to thrust them on court with any leading player, though perhaps best with Fu Haifeng of China, who holds the world speed-hitting record of just over 200 miles an hour. Making



# different strokes

Encouragingly, badminton is more popular in the 16-24 age range across all the other racket sports

“ This helped fuel the international expansion of badminton to the point where there are now 14 million members ”



“ Tennis is described as “expensive,” requiring £250,000 to develop a winning player between the ages of five and eighteen ”

Tennis captured the imagination, not just of the wealthy but crucially of the emerging middle classes

them crouch in the firing line of Fu's towering jump smash should traumatize them into silence.

In fact badminton has been a success right from its origins, which were a long time ago. Shuttlecocks, or something like them, have been depicted on Far East pottery a couple of thousands of years old.

It was also popular with English children in medieval times, who played battledore and shuttlecock, something which British army officers enthusiastically adopted in India, adding a more competitive element, a net.

When some of them were entertained by the Duke of Beaufort in the 1860's, their favourite recreation became named after his Gloucestershire home, Badminton house. It was here that Lady Henrietta Somerset and a friend were proud to record that they kept the shuttle in the air for 2,117 strokes. Badminton has always been especially popular with women.

Three decades later the All-England championships were born in time to see in the twentieth century, during which it became such a prestigious international event that, for a while, a little like Wimbledon, its reputation transcended its sport.

This helped fuel the international expansion of badminton to the point where there are now 14 million members in the 140 nations affiliated to the international governing body. According to Andrew Ryan, one of its former chief executive, the total number of players is nearer to a hundred million.

The growth was most rapid in China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Korea. It was the agglomeration of top players, big tournaments, and screamingly enthusiastic fans in the Far East which caused badminton to become the most viewed sport on television for the first five days of its Olympic debut in the 1992 Barcelona Games. The estimated worldwide TV audience was 1.1 billion.

By then government household surveys in Britain were suggesting badminton was a sleeping giant, with anything from the two to five million people playing at the game. If you included occasional players, badminton was one of the most popular sports of all. Sport England's more stringent recent survey of active people actually lists it as the eighth most popular, with 874,000 having played it during the previous month.

This makes it narrowly the most popular participatory racket sport, just slightly ahead of tennis. It also gives badminton the highest ratio of women playing. Sport England's stats showed that 1.9 percent of women had played in the last month (compared with three percent of men), though impressionistic evidence suggests that the percentage of more casual women players is higher still.

Encouragingly, not only is badminton more popular in the 16-24 age range than any other but has a better spread across all the ages than the other racket sports, and a better spread across the regions than tennis, which is strikingly popular in London (see table).

That is because, unlike many sports, people find badminton easy to start, simple to understand, relatively inexpensive, and very sociable. They only have to develop moderate skill for it to become excellent exercise as well.

England has also had some well-known players, with Gillian Gilks winning All-England singles title twice and Nora Perry winning two world doubles titles. But after the onset of the

open era in the early eighties England's standard fell behind the leading nations - until lottery funding helped make things more professional.

This facilitated the development of the best purpose built badminton centre in Europe. Along with better funding and vastly improved sports science, it helped to develop Nathan Robertson and Gail Emms into world mixed doubles champions.

Now England is trying to make up lost ground still more quickly. A new hundred-point plan created by Badminton England's new chief executive, Adrian Christy, aims to make England the most successful nation in Europe by 2009 and the best in the world by 2016, and to make the governing body financially independent post London 2012.

If this sounds highly ambitious, it is worth noting that it may be possible to create 40 to 60 performance centres within two years, that the level of funding makes possible the employment of the best coaches in the world, and that the BE's staff has doubled to almost 100 in a matter of a few years. Keep your eye on the shuttle.

## Tennis

The cracker box type origins of tennis belied its staggeringly rapid big time success. Within one year of Major Walter Wingfield patenting and packaging the game as Sphairistike, it had become less arcane, being adopted by the All-England croquet club. Within three, the first Wimbledon championships were held, in 1877. Within five, Wimbledon had 2,000 spectators.

Tennis captured the imagination, not just of the wealthy but crucially of the emerging middle classes too, and, conspicuously, of women. Its environs and clientele gave it a glamour which few other sports or pastimes could match, making it interesting to many who did not play.

Wimbledon was already being televised before world War Two and three decades later began to accept professionals, a piece of pioneering which became a model for badminton and squash.

No-one knows how many people now play world wide but it may be in excess of 100 million. It is certainly increasing, because a significant proportion of Olympic money is used by the ITF, which has 144 member nations, to develop the sport in Latin America, Asia, and Africa. But post World War Two brought complacency in Britain, which had a more strongly established club culture of leisure, health and sociability than of competition and high level excellence. The membership of the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) was divided about the need to improve elite performance, but gradually media and public criticism, particularly of how the annual millions from Wimbledon profits were spent, had an effect.

Now the LTA has made a commitment to elite performance like never before. Huge sums have been spent on high profile coaches, amidst a calculated gamble to achieve the sort of shop window success which will cause tennis to be viewed as cool.

Tennis' situation had already been improving in recent years,

according to Sport England's research. Its statistic that 860,000 people had played at least once during the previous month made tennis the second most played racket sport, and close to overtaking badminton in popularity.

The numbers of those competing regularly remains disappointingly low (only 1,700), especially for women (only 500). However the number of regularly competing boys is 6,000, and of girls is 2,350, which is an improvement, while the numbers of juniors competing at least once last year is 17,000, which is encouraging.

The adult stats would be much larger, were they to include doubles players. Were they also to include those who play casually, it might rise, according to an LTA guesstimate, to four and a half million. That would probably also show a healthier male-female ratio.

Nevertheless the LTA blueprint for the future, produced in October, is prolonged in its criticism and firm about what needs to be done.

The organization has too many managers and administrators, the blueprint claims, is unwieldy, hierarchical and not driven by the needs of players, coaches and clubs. A new structure will be put in place.

British players lag behind those in other countries in fitness, there is a poor track record in identifying talent, and no formal competitive structure exists for players under ten. Among 6,000 active coaches, few are capable of taking a 14 year-old into the top 100.

The stark picture continues. Tennis is described as "expensive," requiring £250,000 to develop a winning player between the ages of five and eighteen, making him/her heavily reliant on parents for transport, health care, and guidance. Some parents and players have accused the LTA for a lack of professionalism, and coaches for lack of credibility.

The blueprint also identifies a failure to take the women's game seriously enough, with inconsistent communication and a lack of support on technical and sports science issues. It points to a neglect of community tennis, which weakens the chances of additional government funding. Of the 18,000 public courts in the UK, most are under-used and in disrepair.

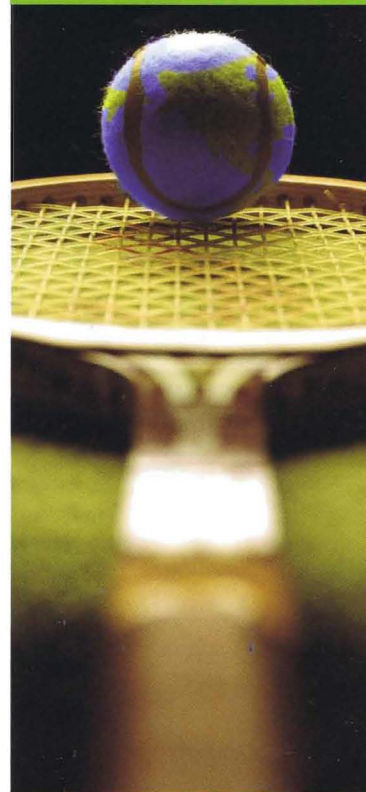
Remedies to be attempted are the development of better talent identification, a more understandable player development structure, decentralized national training, the placing of men's and women's tennis on an equal footing, more transparent funding, and a stronger attempt to attract and retain players of all ages and abilities.

Although there are 2,600 affiliated clubs, only 303 have indoor courts, and only 200 have performance programmes. The focus will therefore shift to fewer clubs offering a full range of performance programmes. A tiered club structure will be created, in three categories, with funding made a priority for these.

A "brain box" will be created at Roehampton, with a worldwide centre of excellence for research and development, planning, scheduling, technical innovation and education, and lifestyle guidance. British tennis will have a new, more radical hub.

# different strokes

No-one knows how many people now play world wide but it may be in excess of 100 million.



Later that year, interest in influencing the rules of the London Civil Service League resulted in his joining their committee and this led to his helping to organise the Civil Service Championships. Perhaps as a consequence, he came to the notice of Bill Pope and he was asked to understudy the editor of the magazine "Table Tennis", becoming editor himself in the following year. Meanwhile, he had taken a week of his off-season leave at the new Butlin's camp in Skegness where there were generous facilities for practice. One of the few league-standard opponents available insisted on using the name George rather than the Ernest which was offered. As the abbreviation Ernie was hated, this was positively welcomed and soon afterwards the name George took over entirely.

During those last pre-war years, George continued to umpire at English Open Championships and progressed to taking finals regularly. The 1938 World Championships were held in England and Morris Rose, the Referee, made George part of his team. Besides working for the Referee, George reached the last 16 of the mixed doubles as well as umpiring the finals of the women's doubles and the men's singles. His table tennis career was interrupted by the war and in 1940 he joined a Royal Artillery regiment. After service in Egypt and Italy he was demobilised in 1946 and was able to resume his table tennis activities, which he managed to combine with a very successful career in the Post Office, eventually becoming its National Director of Marketing with wide-ranging responsibilities.

In 1950 he was elected as one of the London representatives on the ETTA National Executive Committee, the then governing body of the ETTA, where he continued for five seasons. During this period he served on several committees, including the Coaching, Disciplinary and Rules Committees, as well as a group studying a plan for incorporation of the ETTA. His work was recognised in 1961 by his election as a Life Member of the Association. He returned to the Rules Committee in 1959 and continued until 1989, while from 1977 to 1989 he was a member of the committee dealing with ETTA honours awards. In 1964 a Standing Orders Committee was set up at his suggestion, in order to ensure proper ordering of business at General Meetings, and he was a member of this group for 14 years. Following retirement from the Post Office, he

accepted nomination as Vice-Chairman (Administration), a post which he held from 1978 until 1984.

His first major refereeing appointment was as Deputy Referee of the 1948 World Championships. Then in 1950 he took over from Morris Rose as Referee of the English Open Championships, a post which he filled until 1958 with the exception of two years when the event was held away from London. When the World Championships came to London again in 1954, Geoffrey Harrower, the organising secretary, was concerned that, despite the workload he had carried over many months, in the public eye, credit for everything seemed to go to the referee and he was reluctant to see George appointed to that position. A compromise was agreed under which Geoffrey held the title of Referee and George fulfilled the tournament management job with the title of Director of Play. His final involvement in tournament management came in 1966, when he was recalled to referee the European Championships.

In 1949 the NEC set up a small sub-committee under his chairmanship to consider how best to establish a body of qualified umpires of proven competence for the major competitions. The work of this sub-committee was to have a lasting influence on the qualification and management of umpires, not only in this country but in many others throughout the world whose national associations have followed the lead set by the ETTA. Its report, presented early in 1950, recommended a two-tier system of formal qualification by means of written and practical tests, with the introduction of the higher level of qualification being deferred until the lower level was properly established. The scheme would be known as the County Umpire scheme and it would rely primarily on County Associations to apply qualifying procedures and standards set by a national Umpires Committee. The report was accepted in its entirety by the NEC and in June 1950 it created the ETTA Umpires Sub-Committee (later to become the National Umpires & Referees Committee) with George as its first Chairman. Although pressure of work compelled him later to relinquish the chairmanship, he served on the committee continuously until 1979 and was a member of its examining panel until 1981.

The County Umpire test paper that George devised probably came as a surprise to people who were used to the idea of tests being held only

under supervision. Instead, it allowed candidates to answer questions on the Laws and their application at home, in their own time and using reference books, and to send in their answers for marking. This "open book" procedure, which had been envisaged in the original sub-committee report, is nowadays much more widely used, but in 1950 there must have been many who thought that it was not a real test and that no-one could possibly fail. They were soon proved wrong, and the same format has been used successfully for the CU test ever since.

1956 saw the introduction of the National Umpire qualification, for which candidates had to pass a three-part examination consisting of a supervised written test, an interview and a practical test. It is usual for interviewers to try to put candidates at ease but it was thought that in this case a different approach was needed. Many people can umpire well if there are no unusual incidents and everything goes smoothly, but a top-class umpire must be able to perform equally well in difficult circumstances. For this reason it was decided that the interview must include an element of stress and George was asked (or volunteered!) to play the part of the stern inquisitor. It was in this role that he developed his legendary interview technique, and facing him is still for many people the predominant memory of their NU examination. With his rather schoolmasterly manner he might point out an apparent anomaly in the Laws or Regulations and ask the candidate to reconcile two apparently conflicting statements. More often, he would describe an obscure match situation and ask the candidate what he or she would do in those circumstances. Candidates would nervously offer a reply in which George would nearly always be able to find some illogicality and this would lead to further exchanges, with the candidates digging themselves deeper into a hole.

In 1961 George was appointed Chairman of an independent commission to study the organisation and development of the sport in England and to recommend any changes which they thought might be of benefit. This group met monthly from the autumn of 1961 to the spring of 1963 and their report, published under the title "Table Tennis Today and Tomorrow" in June 1963, contained in all 78 recommendations. The most important among these was the replacement of the NEC by a National Council comprising County Association representatives and a Management Committee made up of three nationally elected officers and four others; in essence, this structure was adopted and is still in place. Around 1969, he and John Wright jointly drafted the first constitution for the Commonwealth Championships.

George was never directly involved in ITTF activities, but he contributed indirectly in several ways. Based on his own experience and his personal view of what constituted good umpiring he prepared a "Code of Practice for Umpires", and in 1954 this was endorsed by the ITTF and recommended to all national associations. He later expanded the document into an ETTA "Handbook for Umpires" and in 1969 an amended version of this booklet was adopted by the ITTF as its "Handbook for Match Officials". In 1966, when the ITTF constitution underwent substantial revision, he worked with Ivor Montagu on the format and layout of the new handbook and later produced a comprehensive index for the first printing. He was responsible also for drafting various regulations that were taken up by the ITTF, such as those for controlling bad behaviour and for dealing with accidents and emergencies during play.

Although it is nearly 30 years since George was at the forefront of English table tennis his legacy remains, particularly in the field of umpiring, and he will always be remembered by those of us who were privileged to know and to work with him.

# George White

Born in 1917 he began playing table tennis at school in 1930. A junior civil servant in 1935, he was able to take a place in the office club's league team. February 1936 George grabbed at the chance to use two or three days' holiday by volunteering to assist at the English Open Championships.

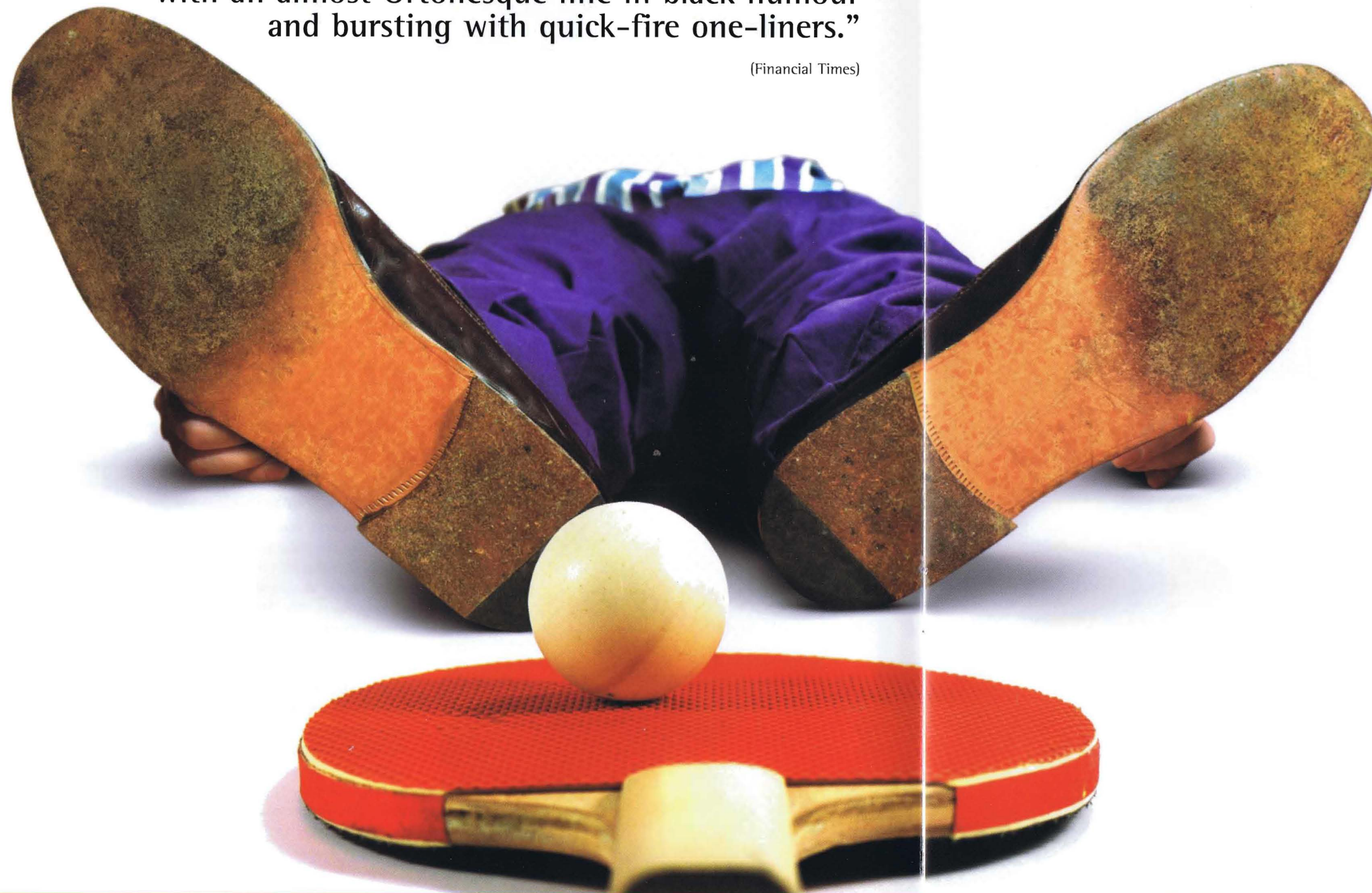
By Colin Clemett



# Not a Game for Boys

“A most impressive and absorbing debut, spiked with an almost Ortonesque line in black humour and bursting with quick-fire one-liners.”

(Financial Times)



**T**able tennis is about to get another boost from an unusual source. Not a Game for Boys is a sharp witted, black comedy about three London taxi drivers who seek respite from their daily routines by playing table tennis in their local league.

It's set in a run-down London table tennis club (is there such a place) and gets under way at Manchester's world famous Library Theatre on 20 April for ten days (see performance details).

According to director Simon Pittman the local theatre-goers can't wait to see how things work out for the three players. When I sat down with Simon he was in the middle of casting for the three characters, Oscar, Eric and Tony.

"We've had a good response and I'm hoping to take on three actors very shortly. When the play made its debut in London it got some very good reviews from some of the national papers. It's a sharp witted, black comedy about three characters who all have different lives and use table tennis as an escape route."

Simon (24) hails from Devon but is on attachment to the Library Theatre for six months. He comes from the Birkbeck University of London and has worked in the National Theatre Studio and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

"It's all about these three cabbies, intelligent people, but who have very different backgrounds; Oscar is single, lives alone but has recently brought into question his life and happiness. Eric, on the other hand, is highly strung, stressed out and easily provoked and lives with his wife, two kids and senile mother. The third character is Tony who is the youngest and the team's best player. But whilst he lives with his girlfriend he's not happy with commitment and has a temper when pushed".

The three friends face the unthinkable – relegation and that's something the boys simply can't face. Will they win and avoid relegation, well that's for us to find out. But if papers like the Daily Mail and Financial Times find it 'pure genius and packed with tinder dry humour...' and 'Most impressive and absorbing...' That's good enough for me.

If you want a night out at the theatre then this could just be what you are looking for. The play runs from 19 – 28 April and tickets are from the Library Theatre, Central Library, St Peter's Square, Manchester M2 5PD.

## Performance Details

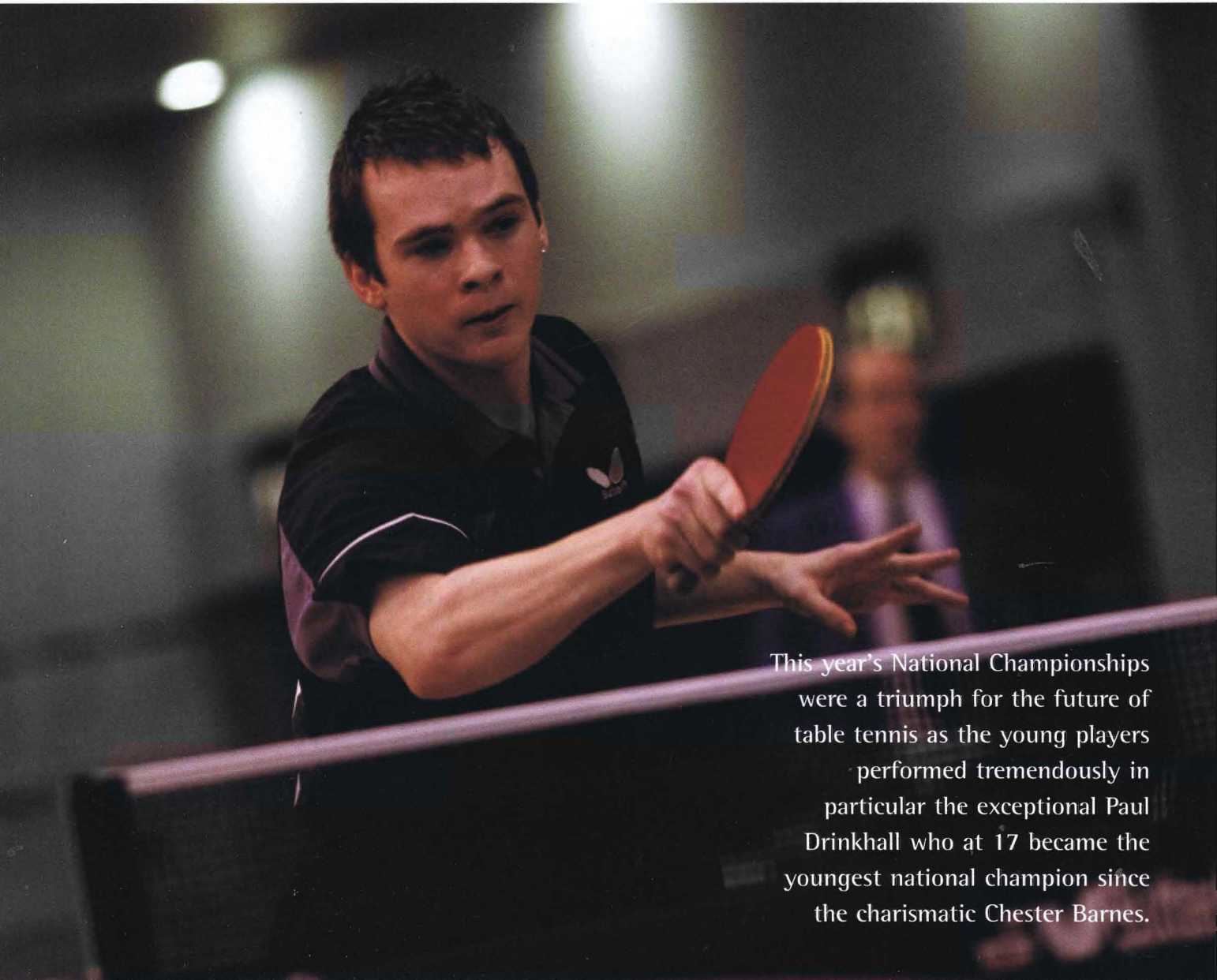
Friday	20 April	8.00pm
Saturday	21 April	8.00pm
Monday	23 April	7.30pm
Tuesday	24 April	7.30pm
Wednesday	25 April	7.30pm
Thursday	26 April	7.30pm*
Friday	27 April	8.00pm
Saturday	28 April	3.00pm
Saturday	28 April	8.00pm

\*includes Director's Pre Show Talk





# a triumph for the future of table tennis



This year's National Championships were a triumph for the future of table tennis as the young players performed tremendously in particular the exceptional Paul Drinkhall who at 17 became the youngest national champion since the charismatic Chester Barnes.

#### ROLL OF HONOUR:-

Men's Singles

Paul Drinkhall

Women's Singles

Helen Lower

U21 Men's Singles Darius

Knight

U21 Women's Singles

Kelly Sibley

Men's Doubles

D Knight/P Drinkhall

Women's Doubles

H Lower/N Bawden

Mixed Doubles

D Knight/K Sibley

Disabled wheelchair

Mark Palmer

Disabled Standing

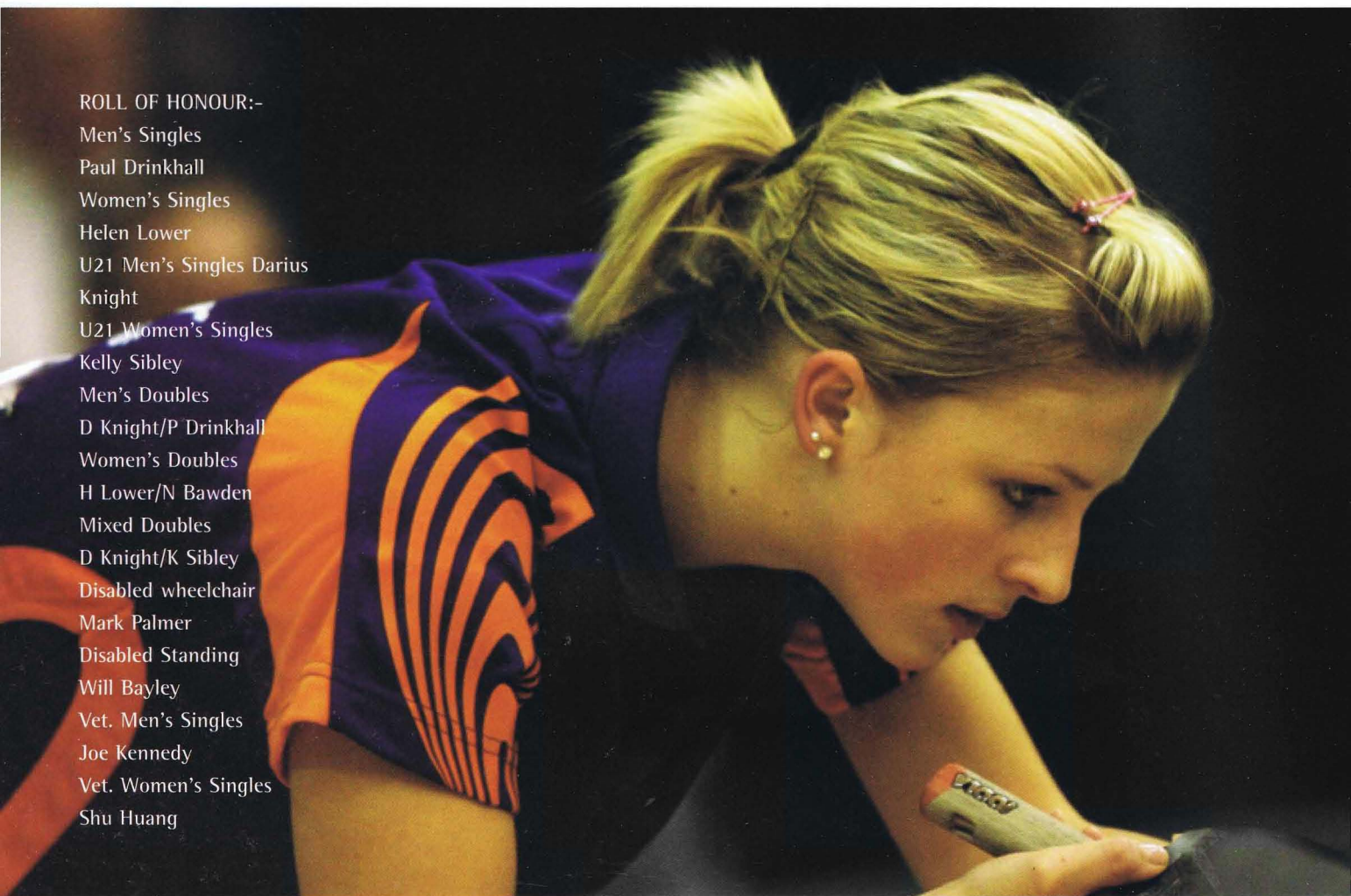
Will Bayley

Vet. Men's Singles

Joe Kennedy

Vet. Women's Singles

Shu Huang



**D**rinkhall was sensational, performing with power and passion in a brilliant display highlighting just why he is England's number 1. His only major challenge en route to the final came from the awe-inspiring Gavin Evans who took Drinkhall all the way in the semi-final. In previous rounds Evans surpassed the accomplished international talents of Andrew Rushton, last year's finalist, and Terry Young a former Commonwealth medallist. This would be an incredible achievement for any player but at the tender age of 13 it is nothing short of astonishing.

Alex Perry, the reigning champion, experienced a slightly more testing time as he came within a whisker of exiting in the quarter-finals against the spirited performer Lorestas Trumpauskas, eventually winning 13-11 in the seventh. Perry then defeated Darius Knight in the semi-final.

The final was held in front of a capacity crowd at the Ponds Forge International Sports Centre. Drinkhall's focus was devastating, his single mindedness and sheer determination seemed too much for Perry. However, after being edged out of the first three Perry's relentless cross-court counter hitting at speed offered a glimmer of hope as he took the fourth. Unfortunately for Perry this was short-lived as the reigning champion bowed out gracefully 7,9,9,-8,9.

The women's final offered a similar scenario to the men's with an interesting battle of youth versus experience as Kelly Sibley

aimed to overturn the recent domestic dominance of Helen Lower. Sibley fought valiantly but seemed to let her emotions get the better of her in the third and never quite recovered as every move she made was counteracted to devastating effect by Lower, who ran out the eventual winner -7,9,7,6,6.

#### New initiatives

This national championship welcomed both webstreaming (tv live on the internet) and disabled table tennis into the fray. In the disabled event four players battled it out with Mark Palmer (wheelchair) and Will Bayley (standing) succeeding over Shaun Newcombe and Chris Cattell respectively in the finals.

The web streaming was run by 247.tv and allowed people from all over the world to view the action. If you haven't yet seen it just log on to 247.tv where you can download the replays or alternatively buy a DVD of the action.

#### The future has arrived

The future of English table tennis is here, what does that mean for the future? Jeremy Wilson delves in.

IT was two years ago that English table tennis celebrated team success at the European Cadet Championships - and the clear sign from last month's National Championships was that emerging young junior and cadet players are ready to dominate domestically.

Paul Drinkhall was the expected winner of the men's singles, although he was upset by Darius Knight in the under 21 event, while Kelly Sibley took the under 21 women's title and was runner-up to Helen Lower in the women's singles.

Below them, however, there were numerous notable performances from several younger players.

At just 13, Gavin Evans reached the semi-finals of the men's singles while 16-year-old Emma Vickers and 14-year-old Rebekah Griffith were both among the quarter-finalists in the women's singles.

Vickers also performed extremely well in the under 21 singles, defeating Joanna Parker on the way to the final.

Yet, as encouraging as the results were, it cannot be forgotten that the top end of English senior table tennis contains a lack of players who are currently competing at a high world or European level.

Alex Perry manfully carried the baton for the older guard in the men's singles but, with all due respect, Drinkhall is not having to overcome players of the calibre of Desmond Douglas, Alan Cooke, Carl Prean and Matthew Syed.

"We also need more coaches – and we need to improve the club system. In France, there are more than 400 full-time coaches whereas I have two. I'm afraid that the facilities in England for some sports are a joke.

"But if we can get the national centre, we can have the best players together training twice a day. At the moment, we just have to try to find solutions on a daily basis." "Players like Paul, Darius and Gavin are huge talents. If one or two of them can really make it, we will see a huge spin-off and we have lots of talent in the age-groups from 10-13. But if we don't get the national centre, you can forget about the Olympics."

For the parents of the most promising young players, the lack of a central base for practice, as well as the lack of full-time coaches, has been a source for frustration. There is, however, hope that Hansen's understanding of the problems will help to push through the necessary changes.

Linda Evans, whose sons Bradley and Gavin are both among the top 20 senior players in England, agrees that a national centre is absolutely necessary.

The family have recently built a shed in the garden of their

**“...At just 13, Gavin Evans reached the semi-finals of the men's singles while 16-year-old Emma Vickers and 14-year-old Rebekah Griffith were both among the quarter-finalists in the women's singles...”**

As the ETTA Performance Coach Steen Hansen admits: "Paul has great potential and is a fantastically talented young man – but his world ranking is around 240. There is still a long, long way to go."

Hansen, though, is bullish about what is possible. His aim for the London Olympics of 2012 is to out-perform China.

When one considers that, in the men's rankings, nine of the world's top 20 are from China, there can be little doubt that Hansen's ambitions are lofty. There are many, many signals that we are doing the right things, especially with the boys," he says. "They are still young, so there will be some good results as well as some bad results. They have a lack of experience at the highest level, but I really do believe that they have the potential to beat the best in the world.

"They have proven that they can compete with the best in the world but, at the moment, we are at the bottom of Mount Everest and there is still a long way to go."

According to Hansen, significant changes remain necessary to give the best English talent any chance of success on the world stage.

The most important element is the opening of a national centre, hopefully on August 1 this year. "At the moment, the quality of daily training in England is too bad," says Hansen, "we have to make sure that we get a national centre. I have dealt with the Chinese federation and they will give us sparing partners.

home with a table in order to practice. "They are motivated – but we want someone to make sure they are training properly," she says. "Gavin is being invited to many more training camps and we go to what is provided but he has largely been left to his own devices. Alan Cooke and Alex Perry will gladly coach and have been very good, but they don't have the time to give attention to all the young players."

Gavin was the European under 12 champion and is regarded among the best prospects in the whole of Europe.

Yet the lack of coaches has inevitably meant a focus on those players who are perceived to be the most promising. This leaves the danger that other players of great ability will slip through the net. As the likes of Alan Cooke and John Hilton have proved, the best junior players do not necessarily become the best senior players. There is also an ocean of difference between winning in England and winning abroad.

"Hopefully, if this national centre does open, there will be a squad of players training together," says Linda, "they all need to be pushed and there also should be competition from the players coming through behind them."

There remains a sense that English table tennis could do better. But there is also a tangible hope for the future.

The Olympics in 2012 are only five years away and, while the National Championships provided cause for optimism, it is hopefully just the beginning of an exciting journey for English table tennis.

# National Championships Results

## MEN'S SINGLES

### Final

Paul DRINKHALL (Cv) bt. Alex PERRY (Dv) 7 9 9 -8 9

### Semi Final

Paul DRINKHALL (Cv) bt. Gavin EVANS (Bu) 9 7 10 -9 -12 8

Alex PERRY (Dv) bt. Darius KNIGHT (Sy) 9 3 8 5

### Quarter Final

Paul DRINKHALL (Cv) bt. Tim YARNALL (Np) 5 4 9 3. Gavin EVANS (Bu) bt.

Terry YOUNG (Bk) 5 12 -12 10 7 -8 9

Darius KNIGHT (Sy) bt. David MEADS (Du) 7 6 10 10. Alex PERRY (Dv) bt.

Lorestas TRUMPAUSKAS (E) 10 1 -6 5 -6 10 13

### Last 16

Paul DRINKHALL (Cv) bt. Danny REED (Cv) 8 7 12 14. Tim YARNALL (Np) bt.

Darren REED (Dv) 5 3 6 4. Terry

YOUNG (Bk) bt. Abdul WURAOLA (Sy) 2 8 6 -5 5. Gavin EVANS (Bu) bt.

Andrew RUSHTON (La) -13 7 7 9 9

Darius KNIGHT (Sy) bt. John HOLLAND (Dy) 9 3 4 7. David MEADS (Du) bt.

Craig BRYANT (Dy) 4 -13 4 9 11

Lorestas TRUMPAUSKAS (E) bt. Andrew BAGGALEY (Bu) 4, -9. Conceded

Alex PERRY (Dv) bt. Mark SMITH (Y) 7 -9 7 4 4

## WOMEN'S SINGLES

### Final

Helen LOWER (St) bt. Kelly SIBLEY (Wa) -7 9 7 6 6

### Semi-Final

Kelly SIBLEY (Wa) bt. Natalie BAWDEN (E) -10 -10 10 13 8 -9 5. Helen LOWER (St) bt. Joanna PARKER (Sy) 9 5 8 -6 4

### Quarter-Final

Kelly SIBLEY (Wa) bt. Shu HUANG (E) (He) 1 6 5 5. Natalie BAWDEN (E) bt.

Abigail EMBLING (E) -15 -8 10 13 6 10. Helen LOWER (St) bt. Rebekah

GRIFFITH (La) 7 2 4 6. Joanna PARKER (Sy) bt. Emma VICKERS (Dy) 8 6 4 7

### Last 16

Kelly SIBLEY (Wa) bt. Sanja CLEMENTS (He) 2 5 8 4. Shu HUANG (E) bt.

Lauren SPINK (Nk) W/O. Abigail

EMBLING (E) bt Sally SMITH (Dv) 4 8 9 9. Natalie BAWDEN (E) bt. Karen

SHEPHERD (Ch) -9 5 7 4 10

Helen LOWER (St) bt. Caroline

HALLOWS (Ch) 4 6 4 1

Rebekah GRIFFITH (La) bt. Joanna

ROBERTS (Y) -8 4 8 9 -6 -6 4

Emma VICKERS (Dy) bt. Melissa

WRIGHT (Ys) -7 7 -8 7 8 11

Joanna PARKER (Sy) bt. Sarra WANG (E) 10 -6 10 4 6

## MIXED DOUBLES

### Final

D KNIGHT (Sy)/K SIBLEY (Wa) bt. P DRINKHALL (Cv)/J PARKER (Sy) 10, 8, 2

### Semi-Final

P DRINKHALL (Cv)/J PARKER (Sy) bt. D

MEADS (Du)/M FARQUHAR (Bk) 7 2 9

D KNIGHT (Sy)/ K SIBLEY(Wa) bt. A

PERRY (Dv)/H LOWER (St) 13 12 9

## MEN'S DOUBLES

### Final

P DRINKHALL (Cv)/ D KNIGHT (Sy) bt.

A PERRY (Dv)/T YOUNG (Bk) 11 13 7

### Semi Final

P DRINKHALL (Cv)/D KNIGHT (Sy) bt. A

RUSHTON (La)/ T YARNALL (Np) 4 7 6

A PERRY (Dv)/T YOUNG (Bk) bt. C

BRYANT (Dy)/ J HOLLAND (Dy) -5 4 6

10

## WOMEN'S DOUBLES

### Final

H LOWER (St)/N BAWDEN (E) bt. K

SIBLEY (Wa)/J PARKER (Sy) 10 9 9

### Semi-Final

K SIBLEY (Wa)/J PARKER (Sy) bt. E

VICKERS (Dy)/C HALLOWS (Ch) 6 7 -8

10. H LOWER (St)/N BAWDEN (E) bt. K

SHEPHERD (Ch)/S DONNELLY (Cv) 8 6 5

## VETERAN MEN

### Final

Joe KENNEDY (E) bt. Dave GODBOLD

(Nd) 10 5 7

### Semi Final

Dave GODBOLD (Nd) bt. Eddie SMITH

(Nd) 9 -6 12 9. Joe KENNEDY (E) bt.

David GRIFFITH (La) 9 4 9

## VETERAN WOMEN

### Final

Shu HUANG (E) bt. Jane VICKERS (Dy)

7 6 9

### Semi Final

Shu HUANG (E) bt. Margaret DIGNUM

(Wo) 8 4 2. Jane VICKERS (Dy) bt. Jane

DURHAM (Cv) -9 5 6 5

## VETERAN MEN'S DOUBLES

### Final

C CARTHY (E)/ J KENNEDY (E) bt. E SMITH (Nd)/ D GODBOLD (Nd) 9 8 9

### Semi Final

E SMITH (Nd)/D GODBOLD (Nd) bt. A WURAOLA (Sy)/J WALSH (Mi) 9 -8 8 9

C CARTHY (E)/J KENNEDY (E) bt. M EVANS (St)/R BOONE (St) 6 8 9

## MEN'S U21

### Final

Darius KNIGHT (Sy) bt. Paul

DRINKHALL (Cv) -9 -5 8 4 6

### Semi-final

Paul DRINKHALL (Cv) bt. David MEADS (Du) -7 6 8 7

Darius KNIGHT (Sy) bt. Tim YARNALL

(Np) 8 8 -11 -9 6

### Quarter Finals

Paul DRINKHALL (Cv) bt. Danny REED

(Cv) 8 -8 8 7

David MEADS (Du) bt. Bradley EVANS

(Bu) 10 -7 7 6

Tim YARNALL (Np) bt. Will MAYBANKS

(He) 6 6 9

Darius KNIGHT (Sy) bt. Gavin EVANS

(Bu) 4 11 -10 10

## WOMEN'S U21

### Final

Kelly SIBLEY (Wa) bt. Emma VICKERS

(Dy) 4 3 8

### Semi-finals

Kelly SIBLEY (Wa) bt Abigail EMBLING

(E) 5 -9 -10 9 8. Emma VICKERS (Dy)

bt. Joanna PARKER (Sy) 8 -4 -8 9 12

### Quarter-Finals

Kelly SIBLEY (Wa) bt. Melanie

FARQUHAR (Bk) 8 8 -8 5

Abigail EMBLING (E) bt. Caroline

HALLOWS (Ch) 7 8 12 6

Emma VICKERS (Dy) bt. Reena

ARDESHANA (La) 8 8 3

Joanna PARKER (Sy) bt. Karen

SHEPHERD (Ch) 8 12 8

## DISABLED SINGLES

### Standing Final

Will BAYLEY (Sx) bt. Chris CATTELL

(Ng) 8 5 -8 -11 7

### Wheelchair Final

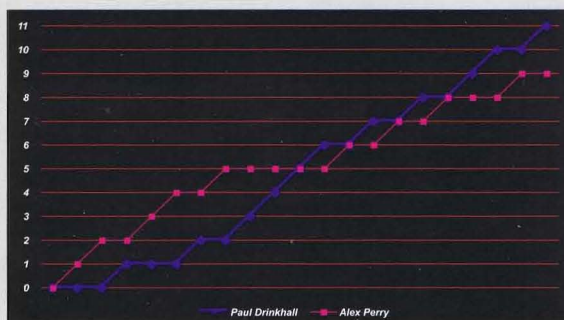
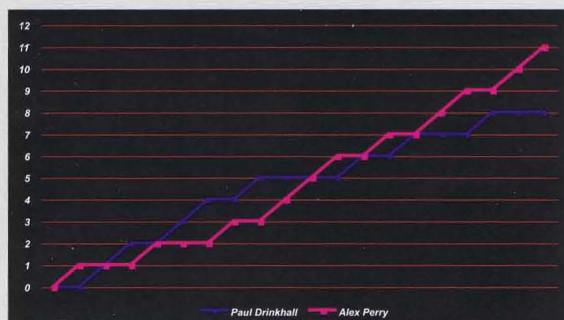
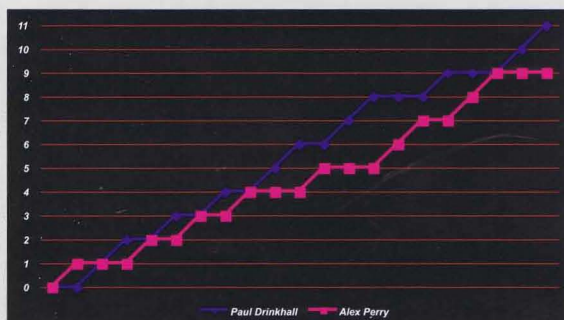
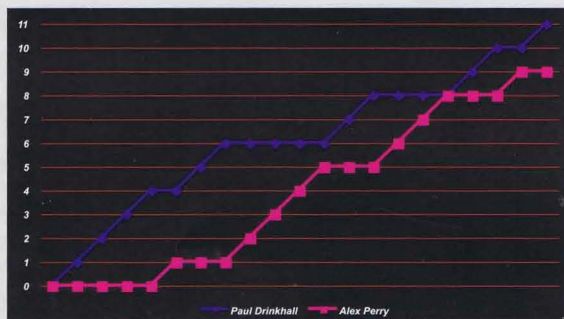
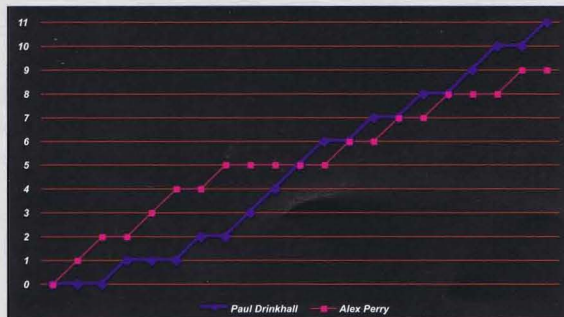
Mark PALMER (Ch) bt. Shaun

NEWCOMBE (Sx) 4 7 -8 5



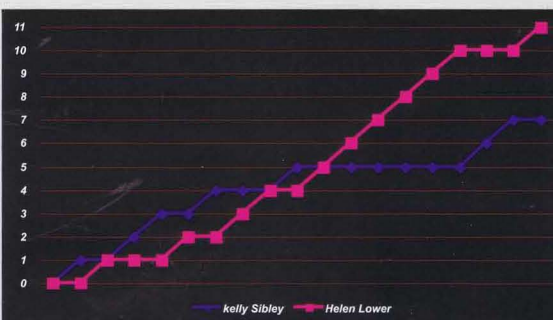
### Game Analysis

#### Men's Singles Final - Drinkhall V Perry



### Game Analysis

#### Woman's Singles Final - Sibley V Lower



# National Championships Results

# Alan Lowe

His knowledge, popularity and respect which he's earned throughout the sport, is born out of a demanding work ethic and an enduring longevity as a first class coach

By Robert Loxley

Alan Lowe is not a name synonymous with competitive excellence in the world of table tennis. His finest achievement came in 1976 when he partnered Phil Cawser to victory in the final of the Sheffield Table Tennis League's "Wembley Pairs" competition, winning both his singles over Ken Foster and Bob Vague, players who he'd never beaten before due to their "awkward" styles. Alan's knowledge, popularity and respect which he's earned throughout the sport, is born out of a demanding work ethic and an enduring longevity as a first class coach, who has specialised through four decades in improving the techniques of young players in and around the South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire area.

Born in Sheffield in 1949, and now married with three children, Alan's table tennis story begins at Darnall Wesleyans TTC in the mid 1960s where he first played competitively in the Sheffield & District League, and is one of selfless dedication, a flirtation with the high life and spiced with a hint of notoriety. By the age of 21 he'd moved to Wadsley Bridge TTC, there he met two of the biggest influences in his table tennis life, the late Jack Crookes - Sheffield men's singles champion in 1954 and 1956, and Ken Foster, a legend in South Yorkshire coaching circles and the mentor of Steve Mills.

Under the pupillage of Peter Hirst and Peter Simpson, Alan progressed through the coaching ranks from a "club coach" to "One Star" and eventually becoming a "Two Star" in the late 1970s. His high level of "feeding" skills made him a magnet for the promising juniors of the Sheffield area, his first protégé being the England number one junior girl, Judy Walker, a hard-hitting, left handed phenomenon whose power belied her physical stature. Judy won the first of her six Sheffield ladies singles' titles in 1971. As Alan's reputation grew a veritable 'horde of young players such as Russell Thompson, Clive Guest, Kevin Thompson, Steve Young, Brian Baxter, Neil Bailey, Andrew Leather, Matt Kenny, Craig Gascoigne, Craig Short and Ben Barlow to mention just a few, followed in Judy's footsteps as Lowe became the "Pied Piper" of Sheffield. This reputation alienated certain club administrators, as their promising juniors would transfer allegiance to the club at which Alan coached. By the late 1970's that club was the powerful Saint Albion set-up based at Norton Aerodrome. Dennis Rayner chaired the club and was father to three sons, who all played in the top division, the better of the three was David Rayner, who made the England top 10 junior

list in the late 1960s and went on to become six times Sheffield men's singles champion. Dennis and Alan invited me to become secretary of the club in 1978 (purely on the strength of my administrative skills) and it was that triumvirate which established a ruthless winning regime, resulting in 8 Sheffield championships in 10 years. Players of the calibre of Alan Hydes, Kevin Beadsley, Ivor Warner, David Rayner, Clive Guest, Martin Kinsella, Chris Oldfield, Mark and David Illingworth and Kevin Thompson all "knocked" with Alan and plied their trade for Saint Albion in those glory years leading up to 1988.

In 1979 I introduced Alan to "Chuck" Henry, the headmaster of Dronfield Junior School, general secretary of ESTTA and father of Andrew, who became one of Lowe's star pupils. It was Chuck who pointed Alan in the direction of Colin Deaton, who asked him to coach his daughter Nicola and rewarded Alan with a four-week cruise, coaching and performing exhibitions with Dale Ajeto on the QE2! The pair embarked at Sydney, Australia, then visited Tasmania, the Philippines, Bali and Hong Kong before returning home on Concorde! Nicola went on to become England's number one woman player and Xin Hua Chen took over from Lowe as her coach.

Having flirted with the high life and with his feet back on terra firma, Alan was introduced to Tai Chi, a Chinese martial art and form of stylised, meditative exercise, by Stephen Joel in 1992 and has become an accomplished exponent of this form of self defence and meditation. Having spent time assisting Jackie Bellinger with the England under 12 squad, he was appointed Director of Coaching for the new born County Association of South Yorkshire in 1996.

Currently, he is Vice-Chairman and Head of Teaching & Training at the Sheffield Table Tennis PremierClub based at the English Institute for Sport, where he coaches every Monday and Wednesday evening. The Sheffield TTC sponsored Alan for a month long visit to China last year, where he spent a week at the Chinese Open and attended training camps to study the Chinese methods of training and practice.

Currently South Yorkshire's only level 4 coach, Alan is hard at work refining the power hitting style of Sheffield's own Laura Robinson who is ranked 10 in the England under 13 list. Also watch out for the emergence of Scott Hollowood a 10 year old, right-handed looper from Rotherham. After 37 years, the "Pied Piper" is still playing all the right notes!



# Tournament Review

Reviews from The Cippenham Open Championships, Cippenham Young Players Festival, England at Draycott, Stiga Junior Open and the Molndals International table tennis tournament.



Matt Ware and Garth Kinlocke

## Cippenham Open Championships

Cippenham Table Tennis Club, never shy of trying new formats, recently ran its first Team Open Championship. Extremely positive feedback from the players at the end of the day makes it a certainty that the event will be repeated next season. The conventional open tournament in Britain is for individual players and played on a knock-out basis so when you lose you quit. Sunday's event was different: players combined into teams of two and progressed through the draw on the basis of the team result. Furthermore, the format of a preliminary round with four groups each of four teams, followed by cross-over matches, and then four final round groups of fours team meant that each player was guaranteed at least seven matches. At the end of the day there was a complete ranking of all sixteen teams.

On the table it was the players from DHS London Progress club that prevailed. The top seeds, brothers Umair and Yasir Mauthoor, playing as Frenford Club, and second seeds, the Hampshire based Matt Ware and Garth Kinlocke, playing as DHS London Progress, met in the final match of the final group having progressed through the day all unbeaten. The format seemed to favour Frenford. The Mauthoor brothers were the second and third highest ranked players in the competition. For Progress, Ware was the highest ranked and Kinlocke the fourth ranked. On rankings, it was expected that Ware would beat Umair Mauthoor but then Progress would equalise with a win for Yasir Mauthoor over Kinlocke. The decider would have been between the two losers, with Umair Mauthoor having the advantage of nearly 900 points in the ranking list.

The first set went to plan. Ware raised his game as he beat Umair Mauthoor 11-5, 11-3, 14-12. Then came the crunch. Would Yasir Mauthoor make the score 1-1 with the expected win over Kinlocke? Kinlocke showed the progress he has made in the last couple of years and, despite dropping the fourth game to his determined opponent, ran out a winner 11-9, 11-1, 9-11, 11-3 to give DHS London Progress 1 a win by 2-0 and the title.

Father and son pairing of Peter and Daniel Ives, from Kent, in the guise of the Dosey Duo, took third spot while The Dragons (Andy Holmes and Dipan Shah) finished fourth. The best of locals were Cippenham III, comprising of two of the host club's British League third team players Phil Clarkson and Eric Van Looy. They finished sixth while Cippenham Buccaneers (Terry Boxall and John Lloyd) were twelfth. Clarkson and Van Looy featured in one of the closest matches against Desparados. Clarkson beat Paul Martindill 11-6 in the fifth and that was followed up by Van Looy winning 13-11 in the fifth against Jaoa Botas. However, one match beat even that with both sets being decided at deuce in the fifth. In the match between Team 45 and Tourettes, Peter Bannister beat Paul Massey 15-13 in the fifth and the 2-0 win was clinched when Mervyn Kelly beat Felix Ko 13-11 in the fifth.

### Top 5 placings:

1. DHS London Progress 1 (Matt Ware; Garth Kinlocke)
2. Frenford Club (Umair Mauthoor; Yasir Mauthoor)
3. The Dosey Duo (Daniel Ives; Peter Ives)
4. The Dragons (Andy Holmes; Dipan Shah)
5. Brighton TTC (Harry McCarney; Tim Holtam)

By Graham Trimming



Joanna Parker

## England Victorious at Draycott

Whether it was the England players who were in relaxed mood or Portugal who felt they had nothing to lose, but a match that had been widely expected to go no further than the 9 o'clock watershed turned into a really tough test for England.

The prize was a place in the Premier Division at the European Championships and England had seemingly done the hard work in Madeira a week earlier by winning 3-0.

The facts were simple: the visitors to the newly opened Draycott Table Tennis Centre had to win every match by three straight games, very unlikely, especially when they revealed that they were fielding, on paper at least, a weaker side. So to all intents and purposes the England girls were on to a winner.

But coach Helder Melim clearly had other ideas. If his team were to go down they would do with all guns firing. He brought in new faces and it certainly had the desired effect. The English players may have been ranked over 200 places higher than their opponents but it didn't show as the Portuguese gave as much as they got.

It was a disappointing night for Joanna Parker, who at her world ranking of 250 was the highest ranked player on view.

Unfortunately for Joanna her usually solid defence failed to work as first Joana Goncalves and then Ana Neves took advantage of the Essex girl's miserable night.

Helen Lower didn't have too much trouble with Leila Oliveira winning in three games. Then along came Kelly Sibley to show just why she is our best player at the moment. Her attacking style simply swept the Portuguese away and Goncalves, who Parker had trouble with earlier, was crushed 11-7, 11-6, 11-1.

So it turned out to be a good match for the capacity crowd. When it all started there were real fears that it might be game, set and match before 9pm. As it turned out to be it went the full distance. England now go into the European Championships as a Premier Division side. Like Portugal they have nothing to lose and all to gain. Certainly, if they go into the Championships with the same outlook as Portugal did then they could upset a few teams.....

### Result: England 3 - Portugal 2

J Parker lost to J Goncalves	10-12, 11-9, 11-13, 13-15
K Sibley beat A C Neves	12-10, 11- 9, 11- 6
H Lower beat L Oliveria	11-9, 11-5, 11- 4
J Parker lost to C Neves	11-6, 8-11, 2-11, 10-12
K Sibley beat J Goncalves	11-7, 11-6, 11-1.

## Cippenham Young Players' Festival

Another massive entry turned out for the Cippenham New Year Young Players' Festival at Cippenham Table Tennis Centre. The twice yearly festivals, comprising events over four age groups and taking two days to complete, are always well supported by players from all over the south of the country and beyond and this occasion was no exception with 320 entries. There were some local successes but half of the ten winners' awards went west of the border into Wales. Rising stars of the Welsh junior scene Patrick Thomas and Chloe Thomas took home two awards, each while Charlotte Carey added to the principality's hoard winning the first event on Saturday morning.

The star performer was undoubtedly Patrick Thomas. The Blaenavon player won both the Sunday events, for U16s and U18s, beating Fatlum Sadiku in both finals. In the morning Sadiku took Thomas all the way to 11-9 in the fifth and deciding game; in the afternoon Thomas won more comfortably 3-1.

Chloe Thomas made it a Welsh double in the U16s when she beat Megan Sparrey in the final. However, there was little to choose between the girls when Thomas won 3-1 in four close games, a fact proved when the Middlesex player turned the tables on her opponent to win the U18 final 3-1 later in the day.

The fifth Welsh victory was actually the first. Charlotte Carey had the honour of winning the first event for girls U12. The final was a close match see-sawing one way then another before Carey eventually got the better of Tressa Armitage 11-5 in the fifth.

Local successes were harder to find with the best example being Edward Mitchell. The 2005 national U11 champion has won many events in the past two or three years at Cippenham and he

duly obliged again, chalking up a notch for the home club in the U14 event following a tough 3-2 struggle against another Welsh player Daniel O'Connell.

There were, however, other fine performances from local players. Alex Polding surpassed expectation in reaching the semi-final of the U18s, his best result yet in a Cippenham tournament. At that stage he lost to the eventual champion Thomas and, in fact, went one round further than Eddie Mitchell who lost in the quarters to Joseph Chacholiades.

Mitchell went one better in the U16s, getting to the semi-final before losing to Thomas while Jonathan Evans reached the quarters and then lost to the same player. Evans also reached the same stage in the U14s. Matt Ashfield and Alex Parkinson both reach the quarter-finals of the U12s before losing to Adam Hitchcock and the eventual winner Jared Patel respectively.

### Results

**U18 Boys Singles:** Patrick Thomas (WAL) bt Fatlum Sadiku (Mi) 11-3,11-6,4-11,11-7

**U18 Girls Singles:** Megan Sparrey (Mi) bt Chloe Thomas (WAL) 9-11,11-5,11-4,11-9

**U16 Boys Singles:** Patrick Thomas (WAL) bt Fatlum Sadiku (Mi) 11-4,11-13,11-8,8-11,11-9

**U16 Girls Singles:** Chloe Thomas (WAL) bt Megan Sparrey (Mi) 12-10,11-13,11-8,12-10

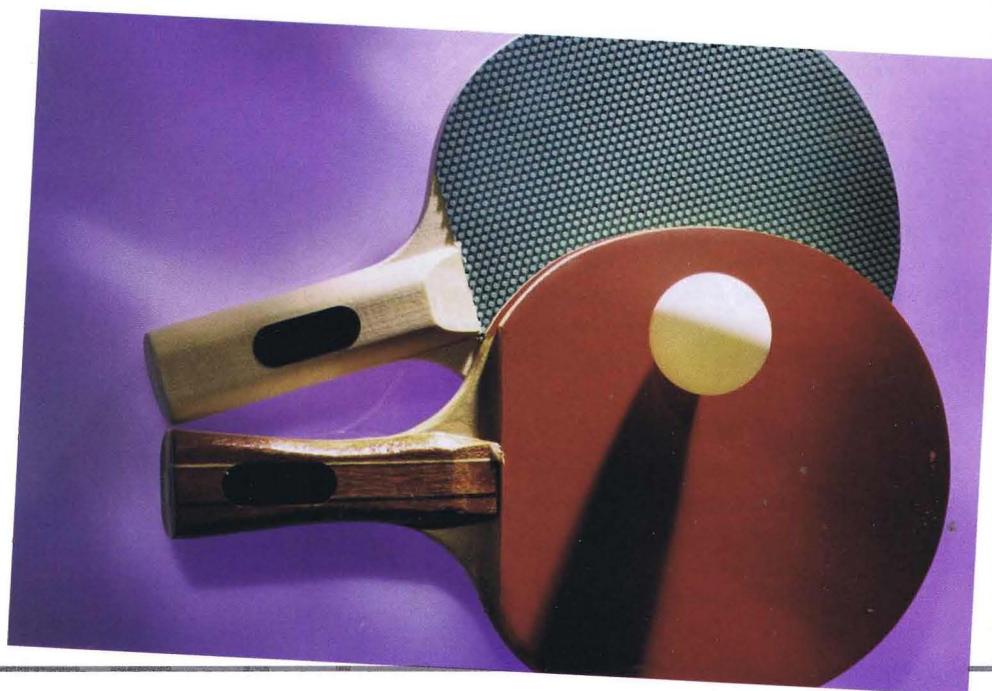
**U14 Boys Singles:** Eddie Mitchell (Bu) bt Daniel O'Connell (WAL) 10-12,12-10,10-12,11-8,11-6

**U14 Girls Singles:** Chloe Thomas (WAL) bt Taylor Williams (WAL) 11-6,11-3,11-8

**U12 Boys Singles:** Jared Patel (E) bt Azarel Adebajo (E) 14-12,7-11,11-6,11-9

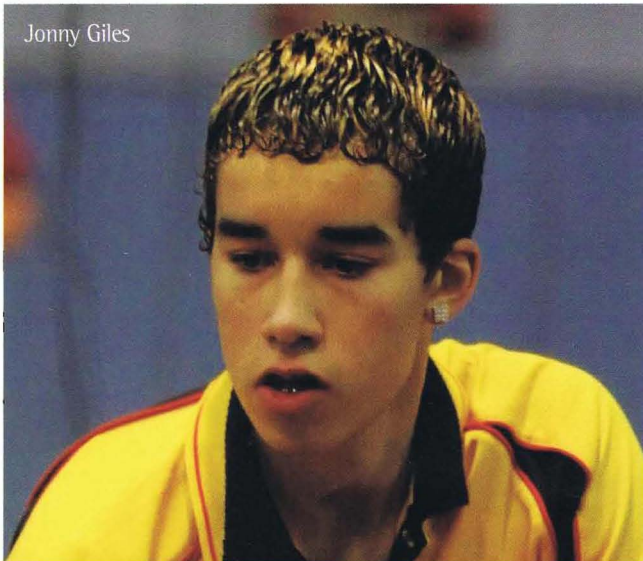
**U12 Girls Singles:** Charlotte Carey (WAL) bt Tressa Armitage (Ha) 5-11,12-10,11-9,11-13,11-5

By Graham Trimming





Jonny Giles



## Stiga Junior Open

Halifax and Yorkshire representative junior player Jonny Giles was a slightly surprising winner of the Stiga 3 Star Junior Open Championship. Fifty-six players from various areas of the north of England entered the event which was being held at Halifax TTC for the third successive year and the field was divided into eight groups of seven players. The top four in each group qualified for the final stages which consisted of a 32 player straight knockout.

Top seed was Yorkshire first-teamer Chris Parker of the Pudsey TTC based in Leeds who is currently ranked 48 nationally with Rotherham based Mark Johnson seeded second, due to his national ranking of 69.

Seeded third was Cheshire's Jacob Shaw, who is nationally ranked 81 with Jonny Giles next in line with a national ranking of 143, although the ranking points he will have received from this victory will significantly improve this position. Halifax fielded two more representatives in James Berry and Ross McFadyen, who both qualified from their groups before succumbing to the same player in the knockout stages.

Despite playing in the category above his age group, cadet player McFadyen excelled himself, qualifying from his group and overcoming his first match in the knockout stages before being eclipsed by Shaw, who also ended the hopes of Berry in the last eight to set up a semi-final clash with Giles, who had managed to reach this stage without any serious hiccups. Giles struggled to get to grips with his opponent's serve in the early stages of the semi-final and looked in trouble when the Cheshire youngster quickly clocked up a two game advantage to put the Halifax youngster on the brink of defeat. However, once he overcame this obstacle, Giles's superiority in open play - which featured many fine cross court rallies - started to take its toll, enabling Giles to take the next three games and advance to the final. The other all Yorkshire semi-final went according to plan as Parker played well within himself to despatch Johnson in straight games. Giles had in the past found Parker's all-round containing game very difficult to break down, but a far more controlled display from the Halifax player in the final itself saw Giles upset the form book to run out a deserved 11-9 11-8 12-10 winner and earn himself his first open title.

By Paul Stansfield

## English Takeaway

Bournemouth Sports Club players Matt Ware, Hannah Hicks and Liz Insam, together with their coach Rowden Fullen and myself, took full advantage of a free weekend in the ETTA playing calendar to pay a flying visit to Sweden.

The Molndals International table tennis tournament takes place at the Gothenburg club early every year. It is always of a high standard, with well in excess of 300 participants in the many classes over the two day event, and this year was no exception with a strong contingent from Denmark, plus heavy support from all the major clubs in Sweden.

We have enjoyed a close working relationship with the Molndals club for some years now. The venue is easy to reach, being only half an hour's drive from the airport, with Ryanair flights operating from Stansted twice daily. For junior players, it is vital for their continued progression to have the chance to play against a wide variety of quality opponents that have such extremes of playing styles.

On arrival at the huge sports centre that housed not only the table tennis club but also many other sporting activities, head coach Lennart "Putte" Andersson warmly greeted us.

We were offered excellent practise facilities on the Friday afternoon, prior to the start of the tournament on the Saturday morning.

Play was scheduled in three halls, with the main arena holding 16 tables, with a "B" hall with a further 9 tables, and a "C" hall mainly for the U13 classes holding another 7 tables.

As usual the standard of play was extremely high in the boys 17 and 20-year-old classes, with every match hard fought. Matt Ware recorded wins in both categories in the "pool" stages, to progress through, but went out to seeded players in the first round.

In the boys 15 years old category (born 1991), Matt once again won his "pool" matches, and continued to register four more victories to take his chance in the final against Simon Linderöth, the number one seeded player, from the Stockholm club Angby SK.

I had earlier in the day watched this young man's unusual style of play, mainly defensive, using an assortment of heavy chopped and high topspin shots back from the table with his combination blade to devastating effect, however always a threat to attack given the opportunity. Matt gave his all, and after a titanic struggle, lost out 10-12 in the fifth end, providing a superb first podium place.

Hannah Hicks, too, had many tough matches. In girls 17, she progressed through as group winner, then recorded two more wins before facing defeat at the quarter-final stage. However, later in the day, in girls 15 (born 1991), Hannah cruised through her group and to the semi-final where she met number 2 seed, Helen Andersson, from the Falkenberg club. With her usual fighting spirit, Hannah overcame a 1-6 deficit in the fifth and final end, to run out an 11-7 winner.

This set up a final confrontation with the hard-hitting Karin Lundin from Kungälv's BTK. Once again in a see-saw final, Hannah showed remarkable determination to win the match, overcoming a 1-2 games deficit, to win the fifth end 11-7. With Hannah recording our first podium "gold", it was up to our honorary English player, Liz Insam, to go one better. She certainly didn't disappoint, and dominated both the girls 17 and 20 events. On her way to podium golds in both girls' competitions, Liz overpowered several Swedish national academy players to take a brace of titles, and not content with that, continued in excellent form throughout the weekend, to finish a "losing" semi-finalist in men's class 3.

Summing up, the experience gained from "different and varied" opposition throughout the weekend in Gothenburg will prove beneficial to Bournemouth Sports young players for their continued progress in the sport.

# 2006/07

## Veteran County Championships

### VETERAN PREMIER DIVISION

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leicester	7	0	0	46	24	14
Yorkshire	6	0	1	48	22	12
Kent	3	2	2	39	31	8
Devon	3	1	3	36	34	7
Surrey	3	1	3	35	35	7
Lancashire	1	2	4	31	39	4
Cheshire	1	1	5	25	45	3
Essex	0	1	6	20	50	1



The County Championship  
Official Ball

## Leicestershire win Veterans Premier

Leicestershire veterans are this season's County Championship Premier Division winners after a thrilling second round of fixtures at the excellent Ashford TTC.

### Leicestershire Veterans

Leading the division after winning their opening three matches in the first round of fixtures at Halifax, Leicester completed their fixtures by winning the remaining four matches to complete the season with seven straight victories.

They needed to be at their best as reigning champions Yorkshire were not going to relinquish their title without a fight, and were perhaps the outstanding team of the weekend as they comfortably won all their four matches but having lost to Leicestershire at Halifax, Yorkshire needed Leicestershire to slip up.

Leicestershire started with a fine 7-3 victory against Devonshire with Chris Rogers once again in sparkling form with victories over Paul Giles and Paul Whiting, and this was followed up with a hard fought 6-4 victory against Kent which saw Rogers unbeaten again including a solid victory over Joey Kennedy, and with Roger's sister Karen Smith once again winning her singles and the pair recording another mixed doubles success, Leicestershire snatched a vital victory.

A comfortable 8-2 victory against Essex on Sunday morning saw Leicestershire one victory short of the title which they achieved with a 6-4 victory against Lancashire. In this match Rogers dropped his first set of the weekend when beaten by Keith Williams 11-13 in the fifth, and Karen Smith was defeated for the first time over the two weekends as Brenda Buoey scored an impressive 5 game victory.

There were a number of outstanding performances over the two weekends of this division with Rogers and Kennedy both recording 12 wins from 14, and Yorkshire pair Keith Rodgers 11 from 12 and Mick Stead 10 from 12 also catching the eye, whilst for the fairer sex both Karen Smith and Marcia Ma each lost just one set with Smith beating Ma at Halifax and losing to Buoey.

Last seasons' third placed side Essex completed a miserable season with just one point and will miss out on premier division action next season along with Cheshire who also drop out of the top flight.

### Yorkshire Veterans

Yorkshire veterans second team will make a swift return to Division 1A of the County Championships after winning Division 2A over two weekends played at Halifax TTC.

Yorkshire seconds were made to work really hard throughout the seven match campaign, winning four and drawing three of their matches, with their main rivals being Yorkshire thirds who also won four and drew three in their own campaign, but the seconds took the title by virtue of a superior sets difference but only just.

Yorkshire seconds, who were relegated last season went into the second weekend one point behind their own third team with Nottinghamshire lying a further point adrift waiting to pounce should either of the White Rose teams slip up.

A first up 7-3 victory for Yorkshire seconds against

# County Championships

Worcestershire at the same time as Yorkshire thirds and Nottinghamshire were drawing their clash saw Yorkshire seconds move ahead of their thirds on sets, but in this to and fro division it was the thirds who hit the front after the next round of matches as they beat South Yorkshire 6-4, while the seconds were held to a draw by Northants.

Yorkshire seconds then faced Lincolnshire and were led off by Richard Priestley who scored an impressive 11-6 12-10 3-11 13-11 victory over Andy Wignall which obviously spurred his team on as they raced into a 6-0 lead. Having reached the sixth set attention was drawn to the adjoining table where Yorkshire thirds and Norfolk were doing battle. Yorkshire thirds needed to win this match and things were looking good when they were 5-3 ahead, but a penultimate set victory by Steve Howlett 6-11 11-9 5-11 11-4 11-9 against Darren Page brought the sides within a set, and when David Henderson and Wendy Durrent beat Page and Sandra Rider 11-7 11-8 12-10, the match ended in a draw.

The two Yorkshire sides were now level on 11 points apiece and with the second team going on to beat Lincolnshire 7-3 they had taken the title by two sets.

Skipper Nigel Pennock was the main stay for Yorkshire seconds with 10 wins from 14 played throughout the season, although all players and pairings contributed to the team's success, whilst the third team were heavily reliant on Phil Cawser and skipper Sandra Rider who contributed heavily to the teams cause.

Cawser won 9 of his 14 sets whilst Rider was the only player in the division to remain unbeaten in singles with 7 from 7, and the two of them were also unbeaten as a mixed doubles partnership with a perfect record from seven sets.

## VETERAN DIVISION 1A

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesex	5	2	0	49	21	12
Cheshire 2	4	2	1	41	29	10
Essex 2	3	3	1	39	31	9
Worcester	2	4	1	33	37	8
Northumber	2	2	3	34	36	6
Herts	2	1	4	33	37	5
Oxfordshire	0	3	4	26	44	3
Norfolk	1	1	5	25	45	3

## VETERAN DIVISION 2A

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yorks 2	4	3	0	43	27	11
Yorks 3	4	3	0	41	29	11
Notts	4	2	1	39	31	10
Norfolk 2	3	2	2	36	34	8
Northants	2	3	2	35	35	7
Worcester 2	2	0	5	29	41	4
S Yorkshire	0	3	4	29	41	3
Lincs	0	2	5	28	42	2

## VETERAN DIVISION 3A

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Durham	5	1	0	43	17	11
Warwick	3	2	1	38	22	8
Leicester 2	2	2	2	30	30	6
Yorks 4	1	3	1	26	24	5
Northants 2	2	1	3	25	35	5
Herts 2	1	1	3	20	30	3
Shropshire 2	1	0	5	18	42	2

## VETERAN DIVISION 3C

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hants 2	6	0	0	41	19	12
Kent 3	5	1	1	43	27	11
Oxford 2	3	1	2	34	26	7
Middlesex 3	3	0	3	30	30	6
Surrey 4	2	1	3	30	30	5
Hertford 3	1	3	2	27	33	5
Wilts 2	1	1	4	25	35	3
Kent 5	0	1	6	20	50	1

## VETERAN DIVISION 4A

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norfolk 4	6	0	0	46	14	12
Lancs 2	4	1	1	36	24	9
Staffordshire	3	0	2	31	19	6
Notts 2	1	1	3	19	31	3
Yorks 5	0	2	3	19	31	2
Clwyd	0	2	2	15	25	2
Norfolk 3	0	2	3	14	36	2

## VETERAN DIVISION 4C

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Surrey 5	6	0	0	51	9	12
Hereford 2	3	3	1	41	29	9
Devon 4	4	1	1	35	25	9
Berks 3	3	1	3	41	29	7
Herts 3	3	0	2	27	23	6
Wilts 4	2	1	3	24	36	5
Berks 6	1	0	6	20	50	2
Somerset 4	0	0	6	11	49	0

## VETERAN DIVISION 1B

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sussex	7	0	0	60	10	14
Surrey 2	4	1	1	34	26	9
Kent 2	4	0	2	37	23	8
Dorset 1	3	1	3	33	37	7
Wiltshire	3	0	3	29	31	6
Berkshire	2	1	3	28	32	5
Essex 3	1	0	6	22	48	2
Dorset 2	0	1	6	17	53	1

## VETERAN DIVISION 2B

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex 4	5	1	0	40	20	11
Sussex 2	3	2	1	36	24	8
Hampshire	3	2	1	34	26	8
Avon	2	2	1	27	23	6
Sussex 3	2	0	4	28	32	4
Bucks	1	2	3	23	37	4
Hereford	1	1	3	22	28	3
Berks 2	0	0	4	10	30	0

## VETERAN DIVISION 3B

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bedford 1	7	0	0	54	16	14
Herts 2	4	1	2	43	27	9
Middlesex 2	4	1	1	33	27	9
Bucks 2	2	2	2	26	34	6
Cambs	1	3	3	34	36	5
Kent 4	1	1	3	23	27	3
Surrey 3	0	2	2	14	26	2
Bedford 2	0	0	6	13	47	0

## VETERAN DIVISION 3D

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glamorgan	6	0	0	45	15	12
Gloucester	5	0	1	46	14	10
Middlesex 4	2	2	2	31	29	6
Worcester 3	2	2	2	31	29	6
Devon 2	2	1	3	24	36	5
Herts 5	0	3	3	22	38	3
Somerset 2	0	3	3	21	39	3
Somerset 1	1	1	4	20	40	3

## VETERAN DIVISION 4B

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex 5	4	0	0	34	6	8
Cambs 2	3	0	1	22	18	6
Northants 3	2	1	2	27	23	5
Oxford 3	2	1	2	23	27	5
Berks 4	1	0	3	19	21	2
Hereford 3	0	0	4	5	35	0

## VETERAN DIVISION 4D

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sussex 4	3	1	0	30	10	7
Devon 3	2	2	0	23	17	6
Berks 5	2	1	1	20	20	5
Dorset 3	1	2	1	19	21	4
Wilts 3	1	0	3	21	19	2
Cornwall	0	0	4	7	33	0

# 2006/07

# British League

## PREMIER DIVISION

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oxford FP Centre 1	9	1	0	67	13	19
DHS LP 1	8	1	1	63	17	17
Ellenborough 1	6	0	4	41	39	12
Ormesby 1	5	1	4	46	34	11
Sycamore	3	2	5	29	51	8
BATTS Team Peniel 1	3	1	6	37	43	7
DML Woolwell 1	2	0	8	21	59	4
Harvey Barnets 1	1	0	9	16	64	2



The British League  
Official Ball

## Guinness Polska 1 100% Record

To go the whole season without dropping a single point takes some doing and only one team in the British League managed this. Guinness Polska 1, runaway leaders of Division Two (South & Midlands), achieved it with a very impressive games average of 98-14.

Guinness Polska 1 finished a massive eight points ahead of second placed Ashford 1. Their top player, England no.41 senior Darek Zurowski, won all 28 of his singles whilst his team-mates Tomasz Gretschell, Marcin Pijanowski, Michal Kaminski and Leo Veinsreider provided excellent support.

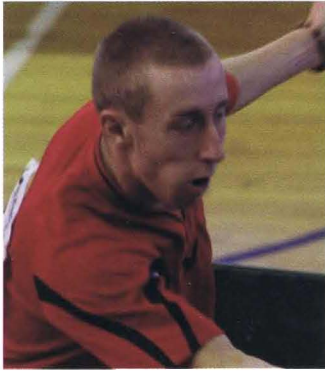
Drumchapel Glasgow 1 came within one single game of capturing a maximum 28 points in Division One (North). Their last match of the season against second placed Derwent 1 had nothing riding on it with both teams already assured of their finishing positions, but you can bet that Drumchapel would have loved to have finished the season with a perfect record. Derwent no. 4 Mark Simpson beat Gordon Clancey 11-6, 8-11, 11-6, 11-9 and in the very last game he sealed his side's point with a 11-6, 11-8, 13-11 success against Andrew Dennison. Glasgow's Ian McLean was a fine 3-2 winner over Simon Nutch but in the seventh game he missed out 3-1 against Richard Smith. Drumchapel no.1 - Welsh international Stephen

Jenkins, took both of his singles, and with 26 wins out of 28 he was the outstanding player in this Division. Jenkins's one defeat over the weekend came in his sides's 6-2 victory over Ormesby 11. Steve Bailey, a five game loser to Ian McLean, surpassed himself in his second singles with a magnificent 12-10 in the fifth end win over Jenkins.

Finishing like the proverbial "express train" Brighton 11 took control of Division Three (South). Rather uniquely, they did not have to face their three closest rivals in the last round of matches. A three man Cippenham side gave them the most problems, and Cippenham will rue the fact that they did not have a full side available. Brighton's top player, the defensive Barrie Gilbert, suffered his only defeat of the weekend, a five game reverse against Philip Clarkson, but he hit back in his second singles by getting the better of Nick Hansell 3-0. Clarkson on the other hand missed out in his second game, losing 3-2 to Harry McCarney as Brighton just shaded the match 5-3. Ellenborough 11 also gave

### Top individual player averages across the BL Division 1

Division 1 North					
Player	Team	P	W	L	Average
Stephen Jenkins	Drumchapel Glasgow 1	28	26	2	92.85
Gordon Clancey	Drumchapel Glasgow 1	27	23	4	85.18
Ian McLean	Drumchapel Glasgow 1	28	21	7	75.00
Division 1 South					
Darius Knight	York Gardens 1	12	11	1	91.66
David Csuti	Harvey Barnets 2	20	18	2	90.00
Christopher Bush	DHS London Progress 2	28	25	3	89.28
Division 1 South and Midlands					
Gareth Herbert	TTK Greenhouse 1	28	28	0	100.00
Henry Medellin	TTK Greenhouse 1	17	15	2	88.23
David Barr	OLOP Impact 1	27	23	4	85.18



Steven Bailey

Brighton a few headaches although the "doubles" that Barrie Gilbert and Harry McCarney achieved left them on top. Robin Stace secured their vital fifth win by beating Adam Black 3-2.

Hartlepool Brierton led by Darren McVitie (just one defeat in his 28 singles) came through to win Division Four (North) with 25 points out of 28, although Darren will be the first to admit the Club's good fortune in securing the signings of two outstanding Chinese junior girls - Katie Shuying and Maria Meihan for the last two rounds of matches. Katie was undefeated in her 12 singles, whilst Maria only suffered one defeat when she lost to Drumchapel Glasgow's Craig Hardie.

Division Four (South) proved to be the closest of them all and a mere two points covered the top four sides. With a relatively low winning total of 20 points and a games average of 73-39, York Gardens II just shaded it from Brighton III who also finished with 20 points, but with a games average of 70-42. When the two teams met in round 14 it was Brighton who came out on top 5-3, although York Gardens achieved their goal by not losing 8-0. Chris Martin ensured that York Gardens finished the season as Champions when in the first game he beat David Steel 2-11, 12-10, 11-2, 11-8 and for good measure he also won his second singles by beating Mike Robinson 11-6, 12-10, 12-14, 11-6.

# British League Tables

PREMIER DIVISON						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oxford FP Centre 1	9	1	0	67	13	19
DHS LP 1	8	1	1	63	17	17
Ellenborough 1	6	0	4	41	39	12
Ormesby 1	5	1	4	46	34	11
Sycamore	3	2	5	29	51	8
BATTS Team Peniel 1	3	1	6	37	43	7
DML Woolwell 1	2	0	8	21	59	4
Harvey Barnets 1	1	0	9	16	64	2

DIVISION 1 SOUTH						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
DHS London Progress 2	11	2	1	77	35	24
Harvey Barnets 2	9	2	3	70	42	20
Cippenham 1	9	1	4	66	46	19
York Gardens 1	7	4	3	64	48	18
Fusion 1	4	4	6	56	56	12
Byng Hall 1	5	2	7	48	64	12
Brighton 1	2	2	10	42	70	6
Horsham 1	0	1	13	25	87	1

DIVISION 2 NORTH						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chesterfield 1	12	2	0	93	19	26
Halton Croda 1	9	4	1	76	36	22
Northfield	6	6	2	61	51	18
Sheffield	7	2	5	58	54	16
Fastbats	3	3	8	46	66	9
Grimsby	1	6	7	40	72	8
Ormesby 3	3	2	9	39	73	8
Woodfield	1	3	10	35	77	5

DIVISION 2 SOUTH AND MIDLANDS						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guinness Polska 1	14	0	0	98	14	28
Ashford 1	9	2	3	65	47	20
Guernsey	8	1	5	70	42	17
Kingshurst Bribar	7	3	4	62	50	17
Bedford Modern 2	6	2	6	53	59	14
London Sharks	4	0	10	40	72	8
De Vere Netts	2	1	11	32	80	5
EBS-Orange Westfield 2	1	1	12	28	84	3

DIVISION 3 SOUTH						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brighton 2	10	2	2	68	44	22
Eastbourne	8	4	2	66	46	20
TTK Greenhouse 2	8	3	3	67	45	19
Ellenborough 2	6	3	5	58	54	15
Cippenham 3	6	2	6	56	56	14
Hastings	2	4	8	50	62	8
Horsham 3	3	2	9	43	69	8
Southampton West	2	2	10	40	72	6

DIVISION 4 NORTH						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hartlepool Brierton	11	3	0	85	27	25
Drumchapel Glasgow 2	11	1	2	77	35	23
Pudsey	6	4	4	61	51	16
Barnet Green	6	4	4	59	53	16
Chesterfield 2	4	6	4	54	58	14
Elgre Nottingham 4	4	3	7	46	66	10
Rotherham Scorpions 2	2	2	10	39	73	6
Isle of Man	1	0	13	27	85	2

DIVISION 1 NORTH						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Drumchapel Glasgow 1	13	1	0	94	18	27
Derwent 1	10	3	1	69	43	23
Elgre Nottingham 1	8	1	5	67	45	17
Grantham	6	3	5	58	54	15
Ormesby 2	4	2	8	47	65	10
McClymont National	3	3	8	38	74	9
Rotherham Scorpions 1	3	0	11	38	74	6
Seasiders	1	3	10	37	75	5

DIVISION 1 SOUTH AND MIDLANDS						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
TTK Greenhouse 1	12	2	0	91	21	26
OLOP Impact 1	9	3	2	77	35	21
DHS London Progress 3	8	3	3	67	45	19
EBS-Orange Westfield 1	5	3	6	55	57	13
Oxford Fireplace Centre 2	6	1	7	49	62	13
Bedford Modern 1	6	1	7	49	63	13
Cippenham 2	3	1	10	36	75	7
Elgre Nottingham 2	0	0	14	23	89	0

DIVISION 2 SOUTH						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Generation 2	11	0	3	72	40	22
Mossford	5	6	3	56	56	16
DHS London Progress 4	7	1	6	58	54	15
Club Cornwall	6	3	5	57	55	15
Fusion 2	5	4	5	58	54	14
Horsham 2	5	4	5	58	54	14
BATTS Team Peniel 2	5	2	7	53	59	12
OLOP Impact 2	1	2	11	36	76	4

DIVISION 3 NORTH						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barrow	9	4	1	76	36	22
Derwent 2	7	4	3	67	45	18
Elgre Nottingham 3	5	5	4	58	54	15
Uxbridge Burton	5	3	6	59	53	13
Halton Croda 2	5	3	6	52	60	13
Murrayfield	5	3	6	45	67	13
Formby	3	5	6	50	62	11
St Mary's Hull	2	3	9	41	71	7

DIVISION 3 SOUTH AND WEST						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingfisher Reading	13	0	1	80	32	26
Ashford 2	11	2	1	74	38	24
V.I.P. Entertainments	6	0	8	54	58	12
Fusion 3	6	0	8	53	59	12
Waterside	4	3	7	49	63	11
DML Woolwell 2	3	3	8	49	63	9
NWF	3	3	8	48	64	9
Oxford Fireplace Centre 3	4	1	9	41	71	9

DIVISION 4 SOUTH						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
York Gardens 2	9	2	3	73	39	20
Brighton 3	10	0	4	70	42	20
SEH-Britannia Ipswich	9	1	4	70	42	19
DHS London Progress 5	8	2	4	66	46	18
TTK Greenhouse 3	5	4	5	55	57	14
Guinness Polska 2	5	3	6	51	61	13
Stepney Green	3	2	9	46	66	8
Byng Hall 2	0	0	14	17	95	0

# ROUND-UP

## COUNTY



JORDAN POTTS – CHESHIRE

### Cheshire by Alan Blears

Congratulations to Karen Shepherd, still a formidable opponent, on finishing Women's Singles runner-up in the Doncaster Grand Prix. Having beaten one visiting Chinese, Maria Meihan she lost to the incredibly fast Katie Shujing in the final.

**Junior British League:** - Several Cheshire youngsters have been in action this season. The all-Cheshire team of Halton in Boys Div. 2B finished fifth, despite Mark Roscaleer and Matthew Weatherby having 70% averages, and Matthew being honoured with the 'Player of the Weekend' award.

Caroline Hallows played her part in Draycott and Long Eaton's triumph in the Girls Premier Division, while Natalie Dodd and Sarah Weatherby were part of the Oldham team which won Girls Division 3. Both Natalie and Sarah had some cracking wins, but would be the first to give credit for the team's promotion to the two Lancashire lasses, Rebekah Griffith and the largely unknown Ann Godwin who played 30 sets and won the lot. Miss Godwin then announced her retirement!

**National Junior League (NW):**- With a strong Failsworth team deserving winners of Div. 2A South, the battle for runners-up spot went to the very last match, when Stockport's Hillcourt 'A' team beat Burnage 'A' 5-1, to finish six points ahead of the determined Burnage lads.

Jordan Potts and Dan Brown topped the Cheshire averages with 92% and 89% respectively, but Nabil Hudda (75%) and Amy Walker (72%) showed that this was a real team effort.

The other Cheshire teams, Hillcourt 'B' and Macclesfield, finished fourth and fifth out of nine. I hope to review the other south area division next time.

**Greater Manchester Schools Individuals:-** A mixed day for Stockport youngsters. In the Girls U13s, Natalie Dodds won the Best Buddies battle against her pal Sarah Weatherby, and Charlie Kilbride took the Boys U11 title without much trouble. In an U11 Girls' competition of microscopic little girls, Nicole Dodd finished as top tot to make it a Dodd double.

There was a major shock in the Girls U16s when Caroline Hallows lost at deuce in the fifth set to Lancashire's rising star Rebekah Griffith.

In an U16 field of 24, Jordan Potts was a valiant runner-up to the vastly experienced Josh Bleakley, losing at deuce in the fourth, Josh having accounted for Matthew Weatherby in the semi-final. A late starter at 13, Jordan has so far had a great season, having also won the Cheshire cadet trials, and represented the county in the Cadet County Championship.

Finally, congratulations to Nabil Hudda, at 15 a qualified junior umpire, who has recently passed his county umpire's test.

### Derbyshire by Neil Houghton

Draycott is in the news now they have their new centre. Their girls' team won Junior British League Premier Division plus Team of Weekend at Wolverhampton. The highlight for county and local table tennis was Draycott Club Junior Emma Vickers being named in the England squad that faced Portugal in a recent home international. At the Doncaster Butterfly Grand Prix, Derbyshire interest centred around Shaun Marples, Allan Fulwood, Sam Perry, David Arrowsmith and Kerry Mansell. Kerry took home a barrow load of points beating Rhodesia (Tom Brown's Workop Club) team-mate Sarah Perks. A potential U21 quarter-final classic was previous ranking-jumper and always points hungry Sam v rankings riser Allan (who seems a bit like Rowan Atkinson with Black Adder style contemptuous look for his opponent surprised when they get a point whoever they are!) who won close in the fourth, then after a few chances Allan lost to consistent winner Bradley Evans.

The University Championships were held again at Nottingham this year and our Shaun was runner-up in the doubles playing with Craig Gascoigne. In the men's final, Steven Denny found himself playing our Shaun again as in above doubles and Doncaster. They have known each other for years, playing at all ages and on the same British League team many times, and this time Shaun came out the winner.

### Cleveland by Alan Ransome

Paul Drinkhall - English Champion: 17 year old Paul Drinkhall won his most important senior title in Sheffield last month, lifting the English Men's Singles Championship by defeating the second seed and holder, Alex Perry from Devon, by 4 games to 1. Paul is one of the youngest players ever to win the English Senior title and the first Cleveland player since the Ormesby legend, Denis Neale, won the title for the sixth time in 1977.

Paul won the second title of the weekend in the Men's Doubles, partnered by Darius Knight of Surrey, when they followed up their victory in the Youth Olympics in Australia last month with the English title, beating former Commonwealth Champions Alex Perry of Devon and Terry Young of Berkshire in straight games in the final. These results confirm Paul Drinkhall as the clear England no 1 and, combined with the victory in the European Junior Top 12 in Riga last month, put Paul on track for the European Junior title this

# Jordan Potts and Dan Brown topped the Cheshire averages with 92% and 89% respectively

summer.

Two Cleveland players have been selected for the England Senior team to participate in the European Championships in Belgrade. Ormesby's Danny Reed recovering from his arm injury impressed at both the Butterfly Doncaster Grand Prix and the National Championships to gain a place in the men's tea joining the ever present Paul Drinkhall. Two Women's Titles for Ormesby: The Ormesby Women's team gained two impressive titles in winning the Second Division of the Women's British League and the First Division of the Junior British League.

The Ormesby Women's team achieved 4 impressive victories in the second weekend of the season in Nottingham over 20/21 January to clinch the title. Ormesby's chances of taking the title took a knock when they lost to the Elgre Club 4-2 but the Championship hopes were quickly back on track with a 5-1 victory against main rivals Guernsey. On the final day, Ormesby beat the Irish Ladies 6-0 and Sutton 5-1 to clinch the title by 2 clear points. Ormesby's leading player of the weekend was Karen Shepherd who won 9 out of her 10 matches. Stephanie Donnelly did well to win 7 out of 8 including an important victory over Alice Loveridge in the Guernsey match. Karina Lefevre contributed with 6 out of 7 wins, including a win against Dawn Morgan in the Guernsey game whilst Rachel Green won 1 of her 4 matches.

In the Junior British League, Rachel Greener and Karina Lefevre were the stars of the Ormesby team, both winning 6 of their 8 sets whilst Katherine Lefevre and Chloe Whyte won vital sets in 2 of the matches in which they participated.

## 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 I. Despite two wins from Amy Whiting they went down 3-7 and had to settle for runners-up spot.

## Essex by Steve Kerns

24 year-old Arturas Rybakas became the new M&G Investments Chelmsford & District Table Tennis League Men's Singles Champion after scoring two top-notch wins on Finals Night, played in front of a capacity audience at the Old Chelmsfordians Club.

Arturas produced a very assured semi-final performance to beat a nervous looking Neil Charles (ECC) 11-3, 11-8, 11-9. Arturas ("Arthur") never gave Neil a chance to settle and on those occasions

when Neil did produce his most forceful shots Arturas blocked them back crisply and accurately. Arturas made light work of three times champion David Cole in the first end of the final and good starts in both the second and third games meant he had enough in hand to run out a deserved 11-5, 13-11, 11-9 winner.

Bradley Hudgell dominated the junior events with victories in the U21 Singles, the U18 Boys' Singles and the Junior Doubles (partnered by Greg Green). This was Greg's fourth successive victory in this event, and rather uniquely with his fourth different partner.

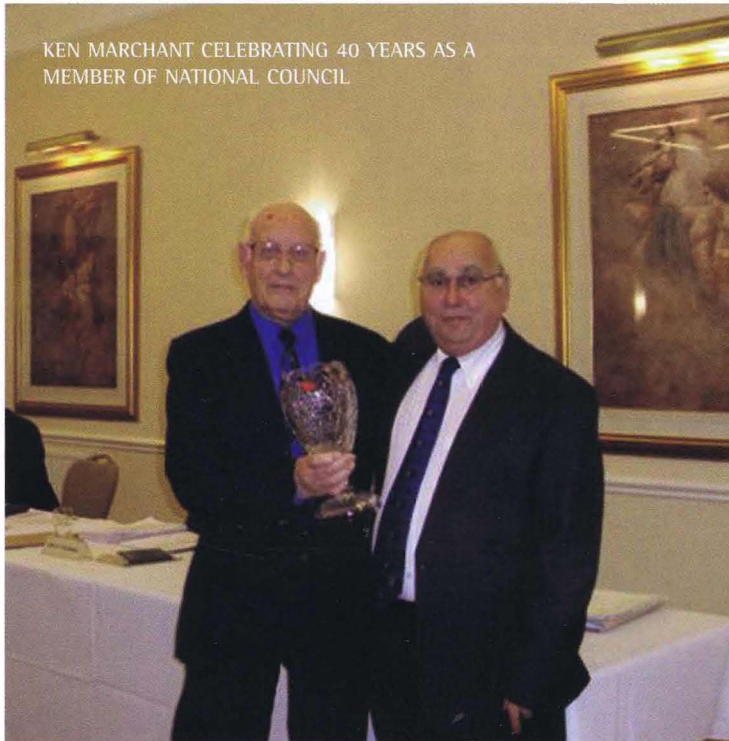
Additional results were as follows - Men's Singles Semi-Finals - David Cole bt. Rik James 11-6, 4-11, 8-11, 11-5, 11-5. Arturas Rybakas bt. Neil Charles 11-3, 11-8, 11-9. Men's Singles Final - Rybakas bt. Cole 11-5, 13-11, 11-9. Ladies Singles Final - Holly Stubbings bt. Jean Chasmer 11-5, 4-11, 13-15, 11-4, 11-9. Men's Doubles Final - Neil Charles/Paul Davison bt. Rik James/David Cole 11-8, 13-11, 11-7. Mixed Doubles Final - Jean Chasmer/David Cole bt. Holly Stubbings/Rik James 11-6, 11-8, 15-13. U21 Singles Final - Bradley Hudgell bt. Simon Webber 11-9, 11-9, 13-11. Veterans' Singles Final - David Cole bt. Rik James 11-6, 11-8, 15-13. Ladies Doubles Final - Jean Chasmer/Holly Stubbings bt. Nicola Pippen/Melanie Bonnett 11-4, 8-11, 6-11, 13-11, 11-5. Veterans' Doubles Final - David Cole/Rik James bt. Hamish Innes/Peter Ballard - 11-9, 11-9, 11-9. U18 Boys' Singles Final - Bradley Hudgell bt. Greg Green 11-5, 6-11, 14-16, 11-5, 11-6. U18 Girls' Singles - (1) Holly Stubbings (2) Hannah Pitt. U16 Singles Final - Sam Pitt bt. Stevie Pell 11-9, 11-8, 11-5. U14 Singles Final - Brandon Crouchman bt. Hannah Pitt 11-5, 11-8, 6-11, 9-11, 11-9. U18 Doubles Final - Greg Green/Bradley Hudgell bt. Dacre & Stevie Pell 11-7, 11-7, 13-11.

## Hertfordshire by Ann Fereday

In division 3B Herts.2 (veterans) played four matches over one weekend at St. Neots although it might sound a good idea to get several matches played off at once and save a lot of travelling, if you are not able to field the best team possible then below par results are likely on all four matches. Only two of the usual men for this team made themselves available, the third had to be a reserve. On the first day's play the team lost 3-7 to Bedfordshire 1, then beat Bedfordshire 2 by 7-3. On the second day a different reserve was used. This avoids someone playing up three times and

# ROUND-UP

## COUNTY



KEN MARCHANT CELEBRATING 40 YEARS AS A MEMBER OF NATIONAL COUNCIL

then not being available for their own team. They lost 4-6 to Middlesex 2 but beat Cambridgeshire 8-2. Herts. 4 (veterans) had the Barnet Centre to themselves. It was a close match with 7 of the 10 games going past three sets but sadly they lost 4-6. A lot of effort with no points reward.

Herts. 5 (Veterans) were away to Middlesex 4 at Ashford and lost 7 - 3. The three came from Mary Nicholls winning her singles and both mixed. The men's games were all close, just kept going the wrong way.

### Surrey by Chris Andrews

Marcia Ma was Surrey's top player in the Women's Premier British League and her club DHS London Progress, won the title. Spicer Ladies in Division 2 was the top Surrey women's team. Surrey club York Gardens won the Boys Premier British Junior League with Darius Knight remaining on 100% making him the best player in the League.

In the Wandsworth and District Table Tennis League South Mitcham A were on top of Division 1 with team-mates Stephen Holloway and David Bangerter both on 100%. Crescent B topped Division 2 with York Gardens C, Cenward and Wilton B heading the leader board in Divisions 3, 4 and 5 respectively.

At Cippenham, Surrey's 1 was made up of Chris Bush, Adam Laws, Robert Lemon, Marcia Ma, Maria

Taylor-Woodward, Carmen Vajdi and Feifei Pei. Feifei Pei played one match on Saturday and Carmen played three matches on Sunday. The team started poorly, losing to Bucks 6-4, but they recovered brilliantly, defeating Glamorgan 8-2, Wiltshire 7-3, Middlesex II, 9-1 and Devon II, 8-2. This set them up for a showdown with leaders Gloucestershire, knowing that another win would make them favourites for promotion into the Premier Division. Chris got Surrey off to a great start, beating Dave Harvey 3-1, but 1-0 became 1-2 when Rob lost to Brian McRandal and Carmen lost to Natasha Hurd. Undeterred, Surrey won three straight matches to go 4-2 up, the most impressive of which was Rob's defeat of Dave Harvey at deuce in the fifth in an exhilarating battle. When Carmen went 2-1 up against Suzy Robinson, Surrey looked to have the match sewn up. However, Gloucestershire had other ideas as firstly Robinson came back to win 3-2, and Darren Griffin beat Chris to make the match score 4-4. Following this, the two no.1s, Marcia and Natasha, played out the match of the weekend. Both women were unbeaten up to that point and determined to remain so. The first four ends contained some truly breathtaking rallies that had all spectators enthralled, and the match rightly went to a decider. However, Natasha went 5-2 up at the change of ends and didn't look back, taking

the game 11-4, putting her team 5-4 up. Adam levelled the match at 5-5 by beating Brian McRandal; but it was Gloucestershire who achieved promotion as Surrey had lost an earlier match while Gloucestershire had won all their matches. Surrey ended the weekend with a defeat to already relegated Dorset, following the highly intensive Gloucestershire match. It was a great performance by all Surrey's players, with special mention to Maria and Feifei (an U13 player) who won their first ever matches for the Surrey first team.

### Northamptonshire by Dennis Millman

The Wellingborough League's 50th Closed Tournament did not attract the entry such an auspicious occasion deserved but if quantity was lacking there was plenty of quality and this was reflected in some excellent press coverage. John Fuller provided his usual brand of superb defence interspersed with some lightning counter attacks and was duly rewarded with six titles - the men's singles, the Over 40 singles, the Over 50 singles and the corresponding doubles events partnered respectively by Tomas Jacko, Steve Silk and Tony Wharton.

Richard Elliott had been expected to figure prominently in the men's events and though carrying a major injury he came within two points of victory in the singles semi-final before bowing out 13-11 to master technician Fuller. Steve Silk had enjoyed an easier route to the final although hard pressed by Kevin Bird at the penultimate stage. Fuller was a different proposition and took the title in straight games, a feat he also achieved in the Over 40s final with Silk again on the other side of the net.

In a repeat of last year's ladies final Clare Coles reversed the result on that occasion, winning by three games to one, but it was a different story in the doubles where Cox, the experienced campaigner, was partnered by Charlotte Binley, a young crusader, proved too adaptable for Coles and Christine Howells.

Daniel Smalley demonstrated his prowess by winning the Rod Markham Memorial Trophy for the Under 18 singles, but playing with his brother Nick had to be satisfied with second place in the junior doubles, with Carl Leeson and Sam Wildman taking the major honours.

The astute Wildman also came out on top at Under 15 level where he just got the better of Westfield colleague Grant Stevens, but it was Stevens partnered by the Under 18 singles runner-



## Ken Marchant was recently lauded at an ETTA National Council Meeting

up Jack Coleman who took the same age doubles with Wildman and Brendon Tate the losing finalists.

The Arthur Palmer Memorial Hard Bat Singles, normally the preserve of the almost impenetrable, but absent, Alan Ashberry, proved that you don't have to be the wrong side of 40 to wield a hard bat. Lee O'Boyle is a new master of the art and took the trophy against surprise finalist Carl Leeson.

Tomas Jacko stayed the distance better than Dan Smalley in the Consolation Singles while at Over 60 level Chas Alien proved too knowledgeable for John Waples. Matthew Carter and Grant Stevens proved the perfect pairing for the Mystery Doubles, while the handicap events were won by Graham Ellison (Premier), Sam Wildman (1st), Charlotte Binley (2nd) and Brendon Tate (3rd). Muriel Cox retained the Over 40 women's event against Raylee Burton for whom the number 40 had a topical significance.

Ken Marchant, the father of Raylee, and Wellingborough League Chairman, was recently lauded at an ETTA National Council Meeting when Chairman Alex Murdoch made Ken a presentation to celebrate his 40 years on National Council, on which he is the longest serving member.

The Northants County Association has clinched a new sponsorship deal for the Masters Invitation event. Previous sponsor Unison has withdrawn its support after a five year period and the county's main sponsor EBS (UK's) Chairman, Ray Kingston, has agreed a sponsorship deal for the next three years.

With five matches to play, including one against each other, Kettering Town (Chris Doran, Ken Philipson and John Fuller) lead Kettering's Premier Division from holders Higham Band (Andy Trott, Richard Elliott, Mark Nannery and Ryan Keates) by 10 points.

In Wellingborough Westfield, with a game in hand, lead a Higham Band side, minus Andy Trott and Keates, by eight points.

### Sussex by Graham Carter

The greatest source of pride for the county's table tennis enthusiasts recently came from the Sussex cadet team being crowned County Championship Premier Division champions.

Details of this were published in last month's edition of Table Tennis News, but I would like to congratulate Junior Secretary Peter Baldwin and Coach Terry Dean and the players: Helshan

Weerasinghe, who is aged only nine, Ricki Weston, Yolanda King, Sara Russo and Stephen Eckford for returning triumphant from Draycott and Long Eaton in Derbyshire with the title.

Dean is a busy organiser and coach and seems to be involved in nearly everything going on in the county nowadays. He was the man behind two successful teams from the St Andrews Club in Worthing which won their respective divisions in the Junior British League.

The girls' team of Megan Sparrey, Sarah Russo and Stacey Furnival won five out of six matches to become Division Two champions. Their most impressive result came in beating main rivals Cippenham B 5-1.

St Andrews Boys won Division 3a on sets difference from DML Woolwell. Sussex no.1 James Rivers top scored with 16 out of 20, Ashley Miles gained 15/19 and James Winchester won 11/19.

Other enterprises run by Dean are the Sussex second and third senior teams. Again they showed his midas touch by producing an outstanding display at a series of matches held at Byng Hall in Kent.

Sussex II went to the top of the Division Two table, beating both Kent I 8-2, and Kent II 9-1 thanks to great work by Rory Scott and captain Sara Coggon to remain unbeaten, while Paul Barry, Marc Burman and Sheila King won three out of four. Sussex III was only set up this season to provide experience to the younger players coming through from the junior ranks. They gained their first win of the season when they defeated Kent II 7-3; not surprisingly they could not repeat the feat against Kent I, but still gave them a contest before losing respectably 7-3. So well done to Harry McCamey, Michael Robinson, Liam Vine, Lisa Standen and Stacey Furnival. They are going to be names to watch out for in the future.

Sussex-based British League teams had mixed fortunes at their final weekend of matches. Brighton I stayed up in Division One, while Horsham I suffered their second successive relegation. In a team run by Rory Scott, they managed only one draw from the entire season, 4-4 in an all-Sussex derby clash with Brighton, who fielded a weakened line-up.

Brighton II became Division Three South champions - congratulations to the team of Harry McCamey, who was unbeaten in the final weekend with seven wins, Barrie Gilbert, who won seven out of eight playing at no.1, Robin Stace, Tony Catt and Tim Holtam.

Horsham 's second and third teams had celebrations of another kind by avoiding the drop. Horsham II went into the final weekend in bottom place in Division Three South, but managed to pull themselves up to seventh place by beating nearest rivals Southampton West 6-2. The ubiquitous Terry Dean hit top form by winning two at no.1 and juniors Owen Lee and Ashley Miles also rose to the challenge to win both of their matches.

Hastings finished sixth in the same division, having picked up just a 4-4 draw against a young TTK Greenhouse II.

Finally, the highly promising Brighton Bats A finished runners-up in the National Junior League, beating both Byng Hall and Battle B 9-0, and Hastings 6-3. Crucially however, they lost to Batte A 5-4 and eventual champions Howard 8-1. They were hoping to lift the title but on the last day were forced to field a depleted line-up. Well done to Rory Scott for running this promising team.

### Yorkshire by Barry Snowden

Cadets Runners-up in County Premier Division, Yorkshire cadets capped off a thrilling weekend of County Championship action when they took a deserved runners-up spot to Sussex in the Premier Division which was played at Draycott TTC, near Derby. Danny Beech was drafted into the squad to join Mark Johnson of Rotherham, Edward Farnbeley of Ryedale, Daniel Adams also of Leeds together with Gemma Deeley from Scarborough and Bradford's Steffi Garrett. With the event being a weekend affair an overnight stay was included and as per YTTA policy a female coach also accompanied the party, Ruth Pursegrove of Ryedale. Yorkshire began with a match against reigning champions Lincolnshire which saw Johnson, Farnbeley and Adams all remain unbeaten as Yorkshire took a fine 6-4 victory against a side which included two very highly ranked girl players in Emily Bates and Dominique Jones. The cadets then walloped Surrey, last season's third placed team 8-2 and, with Thompson adopting a rotation policy, he felt sufficiently comfortable to rest top player Johnson for the next match against Gwent who had arrived for the weekend without a female player. The policy proved correct as a 7-3 victory saw Yorkshire move into their fourth and final match of the day to face Sussex, the only other unbeaten team who had had three resounding 9-1 victories to their credit.

Johnson was once again in impressive form but despite his unbeaten performance Yorkshire slipped

# ROUND-UP

## COUNTY



ST ANDREWS GIRLS - SUSSEX

to their first defeat when they lost to the south coast county 6-4 with Farnley and Adams winning one set each.

This obviously proved to be less than successful as the first match on Sunday morning saw Farnley rested and Yorkshire succumbed to their second successive defeat, as against Cleveland they lost 7-3. Despite this loss Yorkshire were not overtaken as all counties were taking points off each other and the runners up position was a real possibility.

Warwickshire were one point behind Yorkshire when the sides met and following Yorkshire's 7-3 victory there were now three points between the counties as Sussex had sewn up the title with a draw against Lincolnshire. Although the black country county had been relegated to fifth spot as all counties commenced their last matches, any one of three counties could take the runners-up spot as Yorkshire still held second place, level on points with Middlesex although holding a crucial two set advantage, and Lincolnshire were still in with a chance one point adrift.

Lincolnshire were soon ruled out as they dropped their second set against Warwickshire and were then unable to catch either Yorkshire or Middlesex and with Yorkshire holding a two sets lead over their opponents going into the match, a draw was sufficient for the white rose county. Yorkshire actually reached their fifth set with three sets to spare to secure the runners up spot and a draw

was what they looked like getting until Daniel Adams beat Ping Ho in an entertaining five game set 12-14 21-19 4-11 11-4 11-9 to give Yorkshire a 6-4 victory.

Yorkshire had the male player of the weekend in Mark Johnson who was unbeaten in 12 sets. Yorkshire Closed Championships:- After a three year absence the Yorkshire closed championships makes a welcome return to the calendar as Halifax TTC stage the event. County umpire John Hardcastle will referee the event and entry forms and further information can be obtained from the YTTA website [ytta.co.uk](http://ytta.co.uk) or from organiser Barry Snowden [barysnowden@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:barysnowden@hotmail.co.uk). Closing date for entries is Monday 30th April.

### South Yorkshire by Robert Loxley

In scoring a magnificent maximum Crookes A's Shaun Marples ended Stocksbridge Rugby A's three year unbeaten Division One run in the Sheffield Table Tennis League, reducing the defending champion's lead to two points over second place Don Valley A. Ranked 32 in England, Marples' sternest test came against Stephen Horsfield who he overcame 12-10, 11-13, 11-3, 12-10. Craig Feargrieve's brace and Neil Marples 3-2 win over Richard Shirt gave the visitors a 6-4 triumph. In Division Two, leaders Abbeydale B dropped both points as they entertained fourth placed Wadsley Bridge B with Luke Sisk and Ian Henderson each

accounting for Tim Wright and Glyn Hawley. The Wadsley pair combined to win the doubles 3-2 and Ken Foster's victory over Tim Wright gave the visitors a 6-4 win. Abbeydale's Steve Howard proved valiant in defeat as he registered a hat-trick. Employment A moved into second place in Division Three with a 6-4 win over previously unbeaten promotion rivals Farm Road B. Roger Hardwick took an anticipated treble as Roger Bannister (2) and Nick Howard (1) provided the support. At the Sheffield Table Tennis Championships, defending champion Stephen Horsfield (Stocksbridge Rugby) claimed his fourth men's singles table tennis title defeating Don Valley's Simon Pugh 11-7, 11-8, 8-11, 14-12, at the English Institute for Sport. After a punishing seven hours of competition with 40 entrants, Stephen went on to take the doubles crown partnering his brother Andrew to victory over Shaun Bibby and Richard Lightowler.

Rachel Baldi (Piranha) beat older sister and defending champion Andrea 13-11, 11-9, 7-11, 11-8 to take her first ladies singles title. The sisters also contested the mixed doubles final, with Andrea emerging triumphant with partner Lance Webster (Vulcan). The veterans' singles was won by Bill Grant who defeated Shaun Bibby 3-1. Abbeydale's Melissa Wright reached three finals losing to Matthew Dodds in the under 21s and Kim Daybell (Crookes) in the under 14s. However, she took her first Sheffield title in the handicap event winning 21-15 over Don Valley's Louis Havenhand.

**Results:** Men's singles:- Stephen Horsfield bt Simon Pugh 11-7, 11-8, 8-11, 14-12. Ladies singles:- R Baldi bt A Baldi 13-11, 11-9, 7-11, 11-8. Men's doubles:- A & S Horsfield bt R Lightowler & S Bibby 11-5, 11-9, 7-11, 11-8. Mixed doubles:- L Webster & A Baldi bt C Cattell & R Baldi 11-9, 10-12, 11-7, 10-12, 13-11. Veterans' singles:- W Grant bt S Bibby 11-9, 11-9, 4-11, 11-9. Youth singles:- M Dodds bt M Wright 11-2, 11-9, 11-9. Junior boys:- K Daybell bt M Dodds 11-9, 11-8, 7-11, 11-5. Cadets:- K Daybell bt M Wright 11-6, 11-3, 11-6. Handicap:- M Wright bt L Havenhand 21-15. Hard bat:- L Webster bt C Cattell.



# CHRIS BROWN

**Position:** South West Regional Development Officer

**D.O.B:** 26/06/1986

**TT Achievements:** Current Devon Senior Champion, twice represented U19 England Schools, 4 Golds and 1 Bronze at the British Championships

**National Ranking:** Current 55, highest 25

## Where did you begin?

I live in Bideford, North Devon, and began playing table tennis at my secondary school (Bideford College) aged 12, thanks to my local coach Dennis Rowe.

## What's your proudest achievement?

Winning the British U16 singles title whilst representing England Schools.

## Where do you play your TT?

I am a member of the Premier Division Devon county senior squad as well as playing for DML Woolwell in the British League Premier Division.

## How would you describe yourself?

Motivated, enthusiastic, ambitious with a will to drive table tennis forward.

## PLAYER RANKINGS 2006/2007

### TOP 25 SENIOR MEN

Ranking	Player
1.	DRINKHALL, Paul (CV.)
2.	PERRY, Alex (DV.)
3.	COOKE, Alan (DY.)
4.	KNIGHT, Darius (SY.)
5.	RUSHTON, Andrew (LA.)
6.	BAGGALEY, Andrew (BU)
7.	HERBERT, Gareth (BK)
8.	EVANS, Gavin (BU)
9.	YOUNG, Terry (BK)
10.	TRUMPAUSKAS, Lawrence (E.)
11.	YARNALL, Tim (NP)
12.	MEADS, David (DU)
13.	REED, Daniel (CV)
14.	BRYANT, Craig (DV)
15.	HOLLAND, John J (DV)
16.	BARHAM, Dale (CA)
17.	NOAH, Hubert (E)
18.	SMITH, Mark Richard (Y)
19.	EVANS, Bradley (BU.)
20.	ESSOMBA, Marco (SY)
21.	MARSDEN, Michael (DU)
22.	ECKERSLEY, Nigel (SX)
23.	HILTON, John (CH)
24.	WURAOOLA, Abdul (SY)
25.	VENNER, Ritchie (SX)

### TOP 25 SENIOR WOMEN

Ranking	Player
1.	SIBLEY, Kelly (WA.)
2.	LOWER, Helen (ST.)
3.	PARKER, Joanna (SY.)
4.	BAWDEN, Natalie (E.)
5.	EMBLING, Abigail (E.)
6.	REYNOLDS, Lindsey (LA.)
7.	SPINK, Lauren (NK.)
8.	VICKERS, Emma (DY.)
9.	ROBERTS, Joanna (Y)
10.	KEAST, Lesley (LI.)
11.	SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)
12.	SMITH, Karen (LE.)
13.	WILSON, Naomi (SO)
14.	HUANG, Shu (K)
15.	WANG, Sarra (E)
16.	HALLOWES, Caroline (CH)
17.	COHEN, Michele (WI.)
18.	RAINTON, Rosemary (SX)
19.	UZAL, Shelley (E)
20.	SMITH, Sally (DV)
21.	BALDI, Andrea (Y)
22.	YARNLEY, Gemma (K.)
23.	WHITE, Nicola (Y)
24.	CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK)
25.	BONGERS, Jose (LE)

### TOP 5 JUNIOR BOYS

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

### TOP 5 CADET BOYS

Ranking	Player
1.	EVANS, Gavin (BU.)
2.	MCBEATH, David (HA.)
3.	PITCHFORD, Liam (EY.)
4.	LOWE, Daniel (DY.)
5.	CULLEN, Sean (DY.)

### TOP 5 UNDER 13 BOYS

Ranking	Player
1.	MITCHELL, Edward (BU.)
2.	EVANS, Jonathan (HA.)
3.	GRAY, Lewis (K)
4.	HO, Ping (MI)
5.	ZILESNIK, Zac (MI.)

### TOP 5 VETERAN MEN

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

### TOP 5 JUNIOR GIRLS

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

### TOP 5 CADET GIRLS

Ranking	Player
1.	WRIGHT, Melissa (YS.)
2.	BATES, Emily (LI.)
3.	SUNDARARAJAN, Ayonija (BK)
4.	GRIFFITH, Rebekah (LA.)
5.	LEPEVRE, Karina (CV)

### TOP 5 UNDER 13 GIRLS

Ranking	Player
1.	BATES, Emily (LI.)
2.	DAVIDSON, Lucy (DY.)
3.	KING, Yolanda (SX.)
4.	WHYTE, Chloe (CV.)
5.	FURNIVAL, Chelsea (SX.)

### 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](http://www.etta.co.uk)



# DATES

for your diary

Table Tennis events  
for April 2007



## Sunday 1st:

Junior: County Premier  
Junior: Stiga 3 Star G.P.  
Senior: County Premier  
Senior: Cippenham Double Group 2 Star

## Saturday 7th:

Jersey Satellite G.P.  
Cadet: National Championships  
Junior: National Championships

## Sunday 8th:

Jersey Satellite G.P.  
Cadet: National Championships  
Junior: National Championships

## Monday 9th:

Cadet: National Championships  
Junior: National Championships

## Saturday 14th:

Cadet: Cheltenham 4 Star/3 Star  
Junior: County Championships  
Veteran: Southern - Reading

## Sunday 15th:

Junior: Cheltenham 4 Star/3 Star  
Veteran: Southern - Reading

## Saturday 21st:

Blackpool Grand Prix  
ESTTA: National Individual Finals

## Sunday 22nd:

Blackpool Grand Prix  
Cadet: National Regional Squad Champs.

## Saturday 28th:

Cornwall Satellite G.P. - St Austell  
Cadet: Chandlers Farm Equip. 1 Star  
Junior: Chandlers Farm Equip. 1 Star  
Junior: Essex 4 Star

## Sunday 29th:

Cornwall Satellite G.P. - St Austell  
Cadet: Essex 4 Star  
National Cadet League

### 2007 COPY DATES

May Edition  
1st April  
June Edition  
1st May  
July Edition  
1st June

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

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