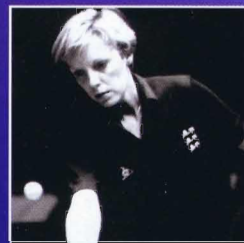


table tennis news

Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association

Women in Table Tennis

In-depth report inside



Butterfly Skills; Top Ten comes to Sheffield; The **world's best** servers; International focus; The latest **news** and **results**

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PUBLISHER

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Road, Hastings, East Sussex
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Contents

- 
- 04 Straight Talk**
Alex Murdoch brings you up-to-date with the latest developments
- 06 News Update**
Catch up on all the latest news snippets
- 10 Top Ten Servers**
Matthew Syed shares his views on his Top Ten Servers since 1970
- 12 International News**
News with an international focus
- 14 Europe Junior Top 10**
Find out who will be competing at Sheffield
- 16 Beat the Glue Ban**
Butterfly provides solutions to the glue ban
- 18 Ask the Editor**
Your questions answered
- 20 Highlights from Hollywood**
Table tennis hits the big screen
- 21 Butterfly Skills**
An inclusive initiative for teaching table tennis
- 22 Women in Table Tennis**
Richard Eaton provides an insight into women's table tennis
- 26 County Championships**
Reports and tables
- 30 British League**
DHS London Progress are one step closer to title
- 32 Tournament Review**
Reports and results of various tournaments
- 34 County Round Up**
News from around the country
- 42 Subscribe and Save**
Ensure you get every copy of TTN straight to your door
- 43 Rankings**
The top players in order, plus Cathy Mitton's profile
- 44 Event Listings**
Guide to January's TT events plus copy dates

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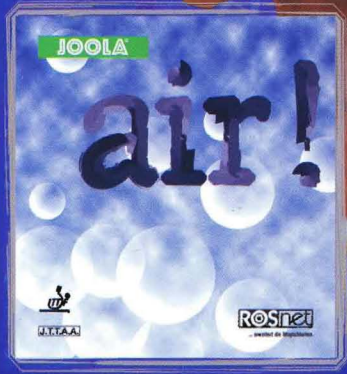
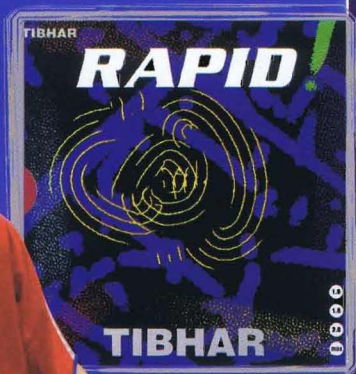
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Matthew Syed

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.



Richard Eaton

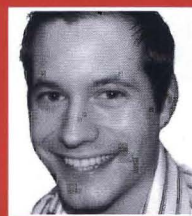
Richard has written about racket sports for 30 years, working for newspapers, magazines, radio and websites all over the world.



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.

first word



Whilst the road to the top in table tennis is an absorbing journey with twists of torture and triumph (dependent on success), most of us have to take a different path diverting off several junctions before as our talents top out and life presents other priorities. With an estimated 50,000 of us playing competitively in leagues up and down the land it is impossible for us all to be number one never mind how hard we try. However, collectively this is exactly what we should be looking for, and here is why...

The ETTA's vision is to become the number one indoor sport in England. Is this possible? YES.

I believe we have the strongest product to achieve this vision. Table tennis' versatility, compatibility and space efficiency are unmatched by any of our rival sports, i.e. badminton, netball, basketball, etc. However, great products frequently fail

simply because they do not get the delivery right. How can we ensure we are different? Over the past couple of years, it is fair to say that table tennis within England has gone through a transitional stage both on and off the court. Drinkhall, Knight, Evans and others are beginning to reap the rewards of a stable platform provided by re-housing of the performance centre in Sheffield. This is a move that has galvanised and focused the performance squad and generated an increased flurry of publicity and profile for table tennis.

Away from the elite, two key projects have recently been launched, the Butterfly Skills (page 21) and the UK Coaching Certificate. These projects create a new emphasis on the delivery of table tennis. In addition there is new funding to provide eight full-time hub club coaches to increase the quality and delivery of coaching across the

country plus a full scale competitions review which will provide clear player pathways from participation to elite. However, with all the initiative and incentive in the world it is clear that the ETTA will be unable to get the promotion right without your feedback. As advocates for our sport your input enables us to refine our service and realign our priorities. Over the next couple of months we will be providing new ways for you to do this. We are creating a new monthly e-mail newsletter, targeted on and off line surveys, a web forum and more. Please contribute and together we can help make the vision a reality.

I hope you enjoy this magazine and please continue to get in touch. Your views, comments and questions are greatly appreciated and are priceless to the development of our sport.

As ever, e-mail your views, comments or questions to me at Richard.pettit@etta.co.uk

Richard Pettit, Editor

The highlights from our main contributors...

"Infinitely subtle, Waldner's high toss serve contained every variation of chop, float, side, topsin and kick" **Matthew Syed** Page 10 "Potential facilities and upgrade applications are being reviewed in line with the allocation of 1.2 million for table tennis" **Alex Murdoch** page 5 "The ninth round of matches saw London progress I take another step closer to retaining their title" **Steve Kerns** Page 32 "Expectations altered, options in life increased exponentially, and peoples motives for competing became different" **Richard Eaton** Page 22

Straight talk

Firstly may I wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and successful New Year.

Publicity - Efforts continue to increase our sports exposure and it was interesting to see from a recent independent survey conducted by AMS group that the media exposure of the Fred Perry Table Tennis Urban Cup reached 10.8M people. This event has another two years to run and the Clubs for Young People have over 400,000 members, 3,500 clubs and over 30,000 volunteers in the community. The ETTA with its partners in this project are working to expand the event to encompass more towns and cities, which clearly over a period will help in the levels of participation at grass roots level.

Details of table tennis being given additional media exposure have been published on the website and the ETTA VC for Public Relations showed press documents to National Council covering table tennis at both national and local level. Many thanks to all the local press officers across the country for the work they do.

Individual Membership - Documents have been submitted to National Council, put on the website and circulated to counties, leagues and PremierClubs.

Your inputs, comments and ideas in regard to this programme are most welcome. Please discuss this with your local TT community and send in your comments either collectively or personally to the ETTA.

This programme will generate more communications directly to our membership and help encompass more members of the ETTA.

Performance and the BTTF - Additional support from the BTTF is being looked at to help Home Countries' Observation Squads via funding and programmes to build up the legacy of talented players beyond 2012.

Negotiations with a potential partner as part of the British Olympic Association's FTSE 100 initiative have made significant progress and it is expected that an

announcement will be made during the first quarter of 2008.

A number of planning meetings have taken place in regard to "Mission 2012" with UK Sport, and after a review with them on the 32 areas within the programme the final document has been submitted to UK Sport for approval by the Mission 2012 panel.

This process will help in supporting the programme for international success, and shows a clear intent that all parties are accountable for the financial backing given to our sport for the BTTF by the government in its planning for London 2012.

Club and Coach Development Award - Progress continues on putting this Sport England initiative together under the guidance of Jill Parker and Diccon Gray. It has required significant planning and requirements in terms of terms and conditions from each region, which are different. This is to ensure that our sport fulfils the targets and delivery plans by region within the ETTA national planning for clubs and coaches.

It is anticipated that the programme will start in the first quarter of 2008 once all the individual regional plans are signed off, enabling Sport England to sign off the total plan and the relevant staff are put in place.

This is a fantastic opportunity for our sport to increase participation at grass roots whilst at the same time improving coaching standards, increasing volunteers and developing the club structure.

Butterfly Skills Programme - The Butterfly Skills Table Tennis Programme was launched by the ETTA and the English Schools Table Tennis Association at the Youth Sport Trust Conference in Telford on 28 November.

The Butterfly Skills Programme has been designed to



Alex Murdoch, ETTA Chairman

Additional support from the BTTF is being looked at to help Home Countries' Observation Squads via funding and programmes to build up the legacy of talented players beyond 2012.

help teachers and coaches take youngsters from beginner through to good league standard. The programme includes a 180 page manual full of pictures and easy to follow instructions, lesson plans, competition templates, player progress charts and teachers' schemes of work.

Also included is the Butterfly Skills Award Programme consisting of tests at starter, improver and advanced levels in bronze, silver and gold, and Polybat for players with a disability at silver and gold. A set of 5 A2 posters is also available.

Website and Results - Work is continuing on the upgrading of the website, information being put onto the site and the results service.

Geoff Ware has agreed to be the Grand Prix Publicity Officer, in a voluntary capacity. Geoff is known on the circuit, having attended with his son Matt and played on many occasions. His first report from the Bristol Grand Prix is on the website.

Additional responsibilities and resources are being made available to the PR Department in an effort to improve all aspects of PR and communications.

The database is progressing including a separate e-mail database, which will be used for the e-mail newsletter, which is part of the PR Department's remit.

Community Club Development Programme - This programme in conjunction with the DCMS and Sport England continues, and a number of potential facilities and upgrade applications are being reviewed in line with the allocation of over £1.2M for table tennis. This follows the significant backing given to Ellenborough, Ormesby, Wellingborough and Draycott in 2006/7 which has resulted in all these facilities being developed and upgraded, the contribution via this programme was over £1.4M.

Improved facilities are essential for our sport and various partners have invested over £50M during the last 10 years.

Please keep your e-mails coming in and my open message about visiting your clubs, leagues and counties to discuss any aspects of our great sport remains.

Headlines

The latest stories from the Table Tennis World



TEAM GB TRIUMPHANT IN SHANGHAI

The Special Olympics founded in 1968 was originally set up as organised summer camps for people with learning difficulties by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver, sister of US President John F Kennedy. These games have grown to see 7,000 athletes from 169 countries taking part this year in Shanghai. The Shanghai games saw Great Britain's highest ever Special Olympics medal tally, with 224 in total, 84 gold, 83 silver and 57 bronze medals. Table tennis was a particularly strong event for Team GB with a string of gold and silver medals.

Women's Singles

- 1st - Emma Jones (West Midlands)
- 2nd - Kimberley Gillian (Tayside)

Men's Singles

- 1st - Duncan Feltham (Southern)
- 2nd - Jeffrey Jarvis (North West)

Women's Doubles

- 2nd - Kimberley Gillian (Tayside)/Emma Jones

(West Midlands)

Men's Doubles

- 1st - Duncan Feltham (Southern)/Jeffrey Jarvis (North West)

Mixed Doubles

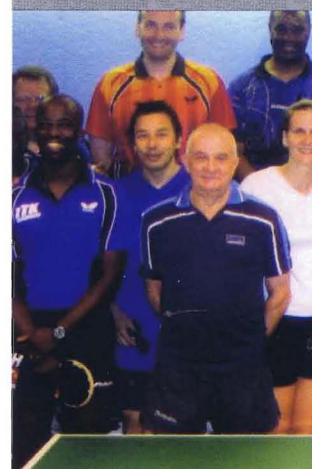
- 1st - Emma Jones (West Midlands)/Jeffrey Jarvis (North West)
- 4th - Kimberley Gillian (Tayside)/Duncan Feltham (Southern)

Other notable medal wins were gold in both the women's 5-a-side and the men's 11-a-side football, and the entire equestrian team each winning gold medals.

For an insight into what the team got up to, have a look at their blog <http://www.teamspecialolympicsgb.org.uk/blog.html> this even includes some interesting lost in translation moments, such as "The XO Sauce Explodes Octopuses" dish on the menu.

ASHFORD SUMMER SCHOOL

Ashford Table Tennis Club in Middlesex held its fourth Summer School, attracting a broad range of players, with the ages of the 14 participants ranging from 12 to 55. These players went through an intense training weekend thanks to the coaching manager Nicky Jarvis and his team of Desmond Douglas and Gareth Herbert, with all of the organisation handled by Sharon Mitchell. For more details on the Ashford Table Tennis Club, visit their website www.ashfordttc.co.uk.



NEW CINEMA COMMERCIAL FOR BRAZILIAN BREW

Rather than focus on the nation's renowned passion for football, Flip Pong portrays a game of al fresco table tennis played in true Rio style with flip-flops for bats. The ad is set to hit screens



over Christmas and emphasises Brahma's "Improvise" message – highlighting how people in Brazil have to overcome obstacles to enjoy their favourite things in life.

COACH PRAISES TALENTED YOUNGSTERS

Droylsden Table Tennis Club may have been running for over 25 years, but they are still developing youngsters today.

With more than 40 male and female members, the coaches work hard to produce players capable of representing club and even county sides.

Head coach Joe Beadle was responsible for starting the club and has been involved ever since.

He would love to increase the size of the membership, although he would need to find new premises to do so. "There are a number of talented children in the area and a bigger place would give me the opportunity to develop the club," he told Reporter and Chronicle Sport.

The club has three teams that play in a variety of leagues during the winter spell and also a team that plays in a summer league.

In 2006/7 Droylsden completed an unprecedented treble with different players being used for each of the teams. This success has given semi retired Joe fresh enthusiasm for the club.

With the help of qualified coaches Dennis Bradshaw, Tim Greenald and Lee Williams, the club is looking to improve, so that junior table tennis can be maintained in Tameside, for at least another 25 years.

With more than 40 male and female members, the coaches work hard to produce players capable of representing club and even county sides.



BBC OLYMPIC DREAMS UPDATE

Subsequent to the article in November's issue, the BBC's Olympic Dreams programme that will be shadowing Paul Drinkhall and Darius Knight amongst other future Olympic hopefuls has been rescheduled. It will now be shown on BBC2 from Monday 17th December - Friday 21st December at 14:00, with Paul and Darius' feature on Wednesday 19th, Thursday 20th and Friday 21st December.

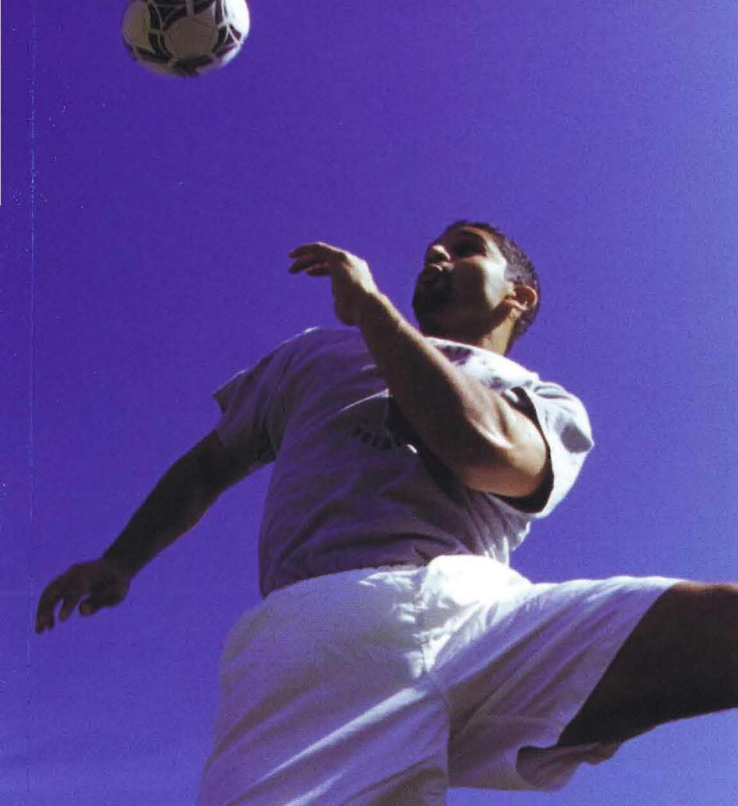
BBC'S YOUNG SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

3,2,1, is what Paul Drinkhall is hoping for. For the third successive year Paul has reached the top three of the BBC's Young Sports Personality of the Year, coming third in 2005 and second last year behind Arsenal and England footballer Theo Walcott, can he go one further in 2007? Coming off the back of an excellent season, this will be his last chance to win the BBC's Young Sports Personality of the Year, as his 17th birthday was January 16th and the criteria for this award is being 16 or under on January 1st in the year of the award.

Paul's two opponents for this title are:

James Harris, 17 (cricket)
Thomas Daley, 13 (diving)

The live event will be taking place on December 9th which is when Paul will find out his fate.



KING OF TABLE TENNIS

Some of you will remember that back in the November 2006 issue of Table Tennis News, we ran a feature on Rio Ferdinand being the self proclaimed King of Table Tennis within the football community, and the revelation that table tennis is a permanent fixture in top flight football clubs across the country. Well we are now on the hunt to find out if Rio really deserves that title.

At football clubs up and down the country there will be tournaments taking part to declare a Club Champion, these champions will then play each other in a grand final at the Dunlop Masters tournament at the Albert Hall on 17th March. The winner will then be able to officially declare themselves, the King of Table Tennis (within football). The First Champion.

On Wednesday 14th November the title chase began at Reading FC, where midfielder James Harper took the win against American goalkeeper Marcus Hahnemann. Reading Club Champion: James Harper.

Ping Pong Trophy

The ping pong trophy is the focus of an intense battle every lunchtime. Jane Briggs, office manager of Collective Architecture, tells us how a table tennis table has helped their office. "We have a table tennis table in the middle of the office - it is the first thing that you see as you walk in - and it is the focus of regular lunchtime and after-work tournaments. The table-top battles all started a couple of years ago when a few members of staff had an interest in the sport and decided to set a net up on one of the

office desks. Last year they took it to another level, and a new employee donated a proper table tennis table to the practice. We now have a chalk board which lists everybody's position in the tournament, and have bought a trophy which sits on top of the filing cabinet and is the focus of an intense battle every lunchtime. "There are about 12 people who take part in the competition, and it is a good way for everybody to keep fit — and to bond over some light-hearted competitive banter."

On 21st October at the newly renovated Ellenborough Table Tennis Club, the North Middlesex Table Tennis League celebrated its 75th anniversary. This saw a meeting of old partnerships and renewed rivalries, as both current and former members got together to celebrate this amazing occasion. Our thanks go to Alan Shepherd, the NMTTL Chairman, for telling us about the event.

"One of the highspots of the day was a hilarious exhibition match between the League's 9 times champion Jimmy Walsh and Kents inimitable Joe Kennedy, who showed that he was as expert with a frying pan as with your everyday table tennis bat".

Alan would like to thank everyone involved, particularly Harold Webb and Vice Chairman Alan "Digger" Lamprell, who managed to track down the whereabouts of former players.



ORIENTAL PROGRESS

More world class talent arrives at London Progress.

Recently given the Excellence Award at the ETTA National Awards dinner and current nine times British Club Champions, the London club is tipped for even more success, as a Taiwanese and three Chinese national table tennis players join the London club, to coach and to compete in the British league.

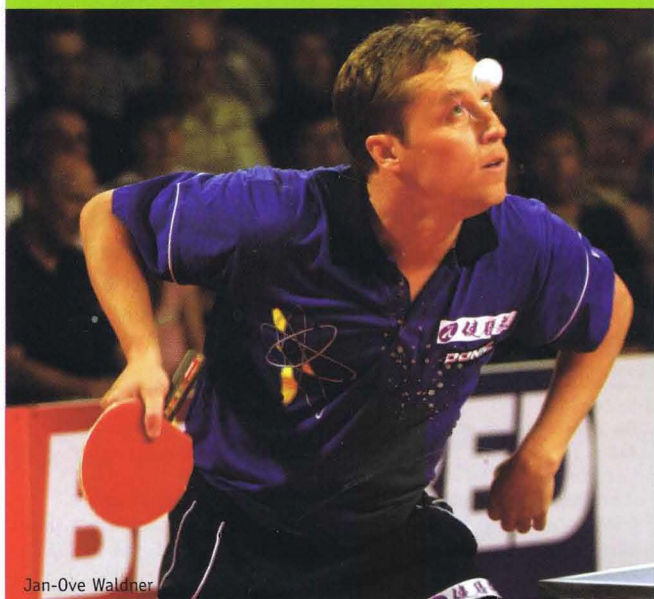
Who's joining London Progress?

Tong Feiming: Former World no 7 and World Team Championships Finalist.
Jiang Zhi Tao: Chinese University Champion.
Zhang Hong Ming: Chinese National Senior Team
Pan Li Chun: Taiwanese National Team. Finalist World Team Championships
Not only will London Progress

benefit from sparring with these world class players, but you can too, from November 1st they will be offering both one on one and group training sessions. To make a booking or for information on rates contact London Progress on:
Mobile 0705 004 2671
email:
jonk@ufman.fsnet.co.uk

Top Ten servers since 1970

As chosen by Matthew Syed



Jan-Ove Waldner

Matthew Syed provides his top 10 servers since the 1970's. Do you agree?

Email
richard.pettit@etta.co.uk

1 Chen Xinhua

The Chinese born hybrid defensive player, who spent the latter part of his career playing for England, had not one but two virtually unplayable serves. Both relied purely on chop and float and were delivered with the finest of contacts. The forehand serve was the best of all, delivered from behind a mighty shoulder where the entire action was invisible. The backhand serve was only slightly less intimidating, executed from a crouched position. Chen's genius, in addition to

the peerless skill of his delivery, was to impart just enough backspin on his "float" serve so that the mark on the ball was blurred as it flew across the net. That removed the last vestige of hope from those unable to pick the spin from the action and bounce.

Although many distinguished players were bamboozled by the Chen services, there were some notable exceptions. Carl Prean, his England teammate and a formidable reader of spin of all kinds, rarely missed a return and Jean Michel Saive, after a few months of studying the action, became adept at picking it.

2 Jan-Ove Waldner

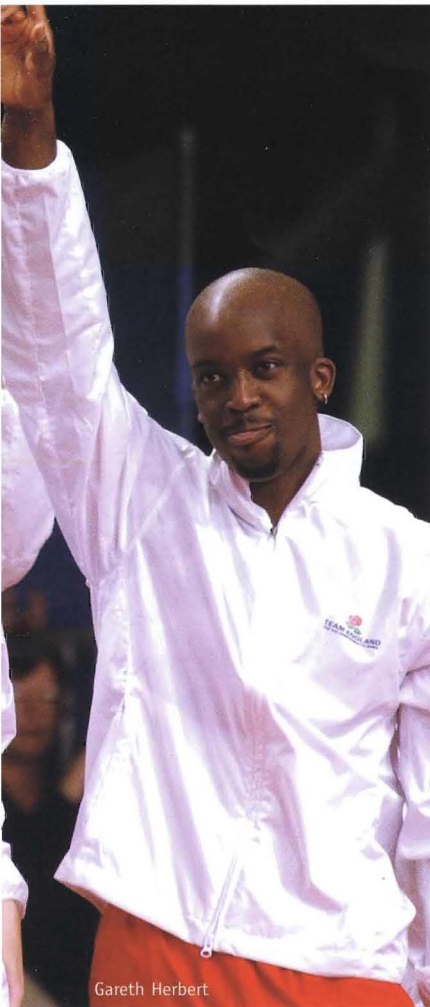
Infinitely subtle, Waldner's high toss serve contained every variation of chop, float, side, topspin and kick. At times it seemed as if the legendary Swede would invent new variations as he went along, his wrist and elbow finding new expression to strike fear into opponents. Although the throw up got somewhat higher as his career progressed, it is

possible to see the makings of his serving genius in film footage of his play as a teenager.

Many observers liked to claim that Waldner's success as a player was largely predicated on his serving ability, an assertion exploded by the Swede's victory over Ma Lin at the Olympic Games in Athens (in the aftermath of the service rule change). That said, Waldner did win countless outright points on serve and, even if his opponent managed to keep the ball in play, he could follow up with his powerful and multi-directional forehand topspin.

3 Xu Shoafa

Xu was the most feared server of the early 1970s, with devilish variation and wicked quantities of spin. He was not close to his teammates in terms of his ability in the rallies, but it was his service that enabled him to get to the last 16 of the World Championships in Calcutta in 1975. Generally regarded as the originator of the "kick" service.



Gareth Herbert

4 Gareth Herbert

The Slough-based player was the undisputed master of the “reverse” serve in which the wrist came from an upwardly horizontal position (rather than from below). Now a coach with TTK Greenhouse, Herbert travelled the world bamboozling opponents – at times the total inability of top players to get the ball back on the table was a cause of amusement to team-mates and victims alike. Although brilliantly and cunningly disguised, there was one slight difference between the topspin and backspin versions: the bounce of the ball on the receiver’s end of the table deviated sideways on the chop version but not on the topspin. This was first pointed out to me by Zoltan Fejer Konnerth

The Slough-based player was the undisputed master of the “reverse” serve in which the wrist came from an upwardly horizontal position...

during a discussion on the Suchanek Tour – an extraordinary insight from the German given that I had never picked up on it during countless practise sessions with Herbert. Perhaps the only disappointing thing is that, although Herbert won some notable matches for England, he never quite developed his all round game to the level of his service. A player with formidably powerful shots, he struggled with consistency on both backhand and forehand.

5 Liu Guoliang

The former World and Olympic men’s singles champion had, perhaps, the greatest penholder service of all time: an explosive and kaleidoscopic action, executed from a tucked-up position, and containing every variation of spin and drag. Like many great servers, Liu also benefited from the fact that his opponents were always well aware that a loose return would be mercilessly dealt with.

6 Tomasz Krzeszewski

The Polish international had a formidably impressive reverse serve, delivered with a cocked wrist and with his

back almost completely turned to his opponent. The difficulty for the returner was the combination of the complete invisibility of the action combined with the bizarre spins that the Pole was able to impart. On occasions, opponents were so baffled that the returns ended up hitting the umpire’s table.

The only criticism of the Pole is that his serves were palpably illegal (even under the old rules) and it is a source of lasting amazement that umpires were reluctant to call him. When the new service rule was first introduced umpires would focus on the requirement not to serve behind the body. For some reason this zealotry disappeared sometime after 1992 and the game as a whole suffered as a result.

7 Yoshihito Miyazaki

The Japanese penholder had an extraordinarily effective backhand service that created huge difficulties for opponents throughout the 1980s. The biggest surprise was the sheer quantity of spin generated rather than the disguise per se. It did not, however, prevent Nicky Mason from beating him in the Euro Asia competition in Cleveland in the late 80s.

8 Anton Stipancic

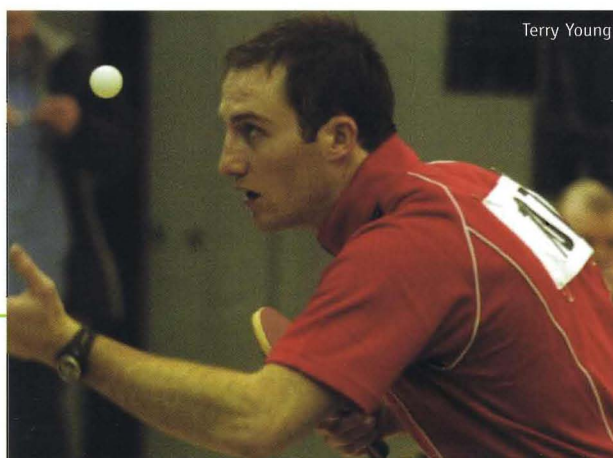
The World runner-up to Istvan Jonyer in 1975, Stipancic had a wonderfully versatile wrist, which enabled him to impart wonderful varieties of spin on his service with both backhand and forehand.

9 Guo Yuehua

Guo was one of the first proponents of the high toss service, which he used to severe effect at the World Championships in Birmingham in 1977. It proved to be a problem in the final against Kohno of Japan, when he was faulted by an English umpire, causing huge controversy. Guo lost to Kohno, but reached the next three World finals, winning two.

10 Terry Young

I spent more time practising with Young than any other player: countless hours of money-matches at Omega, Crippenham, Nottingham and at various competition venues around the world. And despite all that practice, I still found his reverse-serve as tricky and effective as any serve I faced with the exception of Chen Xinhua. Young became a genius against my style of defence: at one time giving me a 3 point start to eleven despite being ranked some 150 places lower on the world ranking.



Terry Young

Headlines

The latest international stories from the Table Tennis World



PAUL DRINKHALL

THE ROAD TO THE OLYMPICS

In January the Direct Qualifiers Ranking for the Olympic Games in Beijing will be decided, based on the ITTF World Ranking list released on 3rd January. The top twenty players (limited to two per country) will be guaranteed qualification for the Olympic Games. Those players not inside the top twenty, will, however have two more ways in which they can secure Olympic selection, these are via a Continental Qualification Tournament, or for singles there is the Final World Qualification Tournament in Budapest, Hungary.

QUALIFICATION TOURNAMENTS

6th – 11th March 2008:

Asia Qualification Tournament Hong Kong.

30th March – 6th April 2008:

Latin American Championships Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

2nd – 6th April 2008:

Europe Qualification Tournament Nantes, France

4th – 6th April 2008:

North America Qualification Tournament Vancouver, Canada

5th – 8th April 2008:

Oceania Qualification Tournament Nouméa, New Caledonia

8th – 11th May 2008:

Final World Qualification Tournament for Singles Budapest, Hungary

LIEBHERR GERMAN OPEN

ROUND UP

The Liebherr German Open was a hard fought tournament with many of the world's best players

in attendance, Shuai Hao being the only player ranked inside the top ten (10th) not participating. With a British contingent of solely male players, here is how they got on.

U21 Men's

Being the only seeded British player, Paul Drinkhall skipped the qualification groups, leaving it to Daniel Reed, Gavin Evans, Bradley Evans, Darius Knight and Kenneth Lindsay to fight it out for places in round one, unfortunately none of them made it.

Drinkhall fared better winning his opening match in round one against Chien An Chen from Taipei 4-2. This, however, would be as far as the British competitor would progress as he lost 4-3 to eventual finalist Patrick Balm (GER).

Men's Singles

Drinkhall again proved to be the best getting through to the first round in the men's singles, where he faced no 23 in the world, Yo Kan from Japan.

Unfortunately this is where his competition ended, losing 4-1. Darius Knight and Gavin Runggay both went out in the group stages and Andrew Baggaley lost in the preliminary round.

Men's Doubles

The long standing partnership of Paul Drinkhall and Darius Knight won 3-1 against the Canadians Hinse Pierre-Luc and Therien Xavier, to reach round one where they lost 3-1 to Chuan Chih-Yuan and Wu Chih-Chi from Taipei.

Full results available at www.ittf.com

SWEDISH OPEN ROUND UP

Just three days after competing in Bremen, the international circuit rolled into Stockholm for the Swedish Open. The British contingent, however, looked rather different, as unlike in Germany we had female representation in the form of Naomi Owen, Kelly Sibley and Joanna Parker. They all played in the Women's Under 21s, with Kelly and Joanna also in the seniors and teamed up in the doubles.

Unfortunately, there was little to write home about. Here is the pick of the action:-

Men's Under 21 - Drinkhall was the only player to qualify for the main draw losing in the first round 4-2 to Fabian Akerston (SWE).

Women's Under 21s - After two wins and a WO, Kelly Sibley progressed to win the first game of the draw against the Polish player Natalia Partyka 4-1, but lost to eventual finalist Qian Li 4-0 in the second round.

Men's Doubles - Tim Yarnall partnered the Greek Stefan Manousof. The international pairing got through to the main draw defeating Luis Diaz (VEN) and Henry Mijjica (VEN), but then lost out to Mathias Habesohn and Bernhard Presslmayer. Adam Robertson and Gavin Runggay got through to the last 14 due to a bye, a WO and then a win, eventually being put out of the tournament by the Sweeds Jens Lundqvist and Robert Svensson. Full results available at www.ittf.com

Sheffield

Hosts the Europe Youth Top Ten

The best English table tennis talent will be pitting their wits against their European counterparts in Sheffield at the end of January, in the Europe Youth Top 10.

Evolving into the Europe Youth Top 10 for 2008, the tournament started its life in San Marino over the weekend of 5th and 6th January 1985 as the Euro Junior Top 12. The then ranked number 1 Junior in Europe and one of two English invitees (Andrew Syed replaced the injured Steffan Fetzner from West Germany) to the principality of Monaco, was Carl Preat, who won the tournament unbeaten in eleven sets and without losing a single game.

Twenty three years later on home soil, England enters the tournament again with the number 1 ranked Junior in Europe, who just so happens to be the defending champion in the form of Paul Drinkhall, along with Darius Knight ranked second in Europe and thanks to the evolution of the tournament Gavin Evans, European Cadet number 1.

For the first time the tournament is open to 40 players, instead of 24 as in previous years, due to the addition of a cadet category, so with both male and female competitors, there are now four titles up for grabs. How many will stay in this country?

Junior Boys

DRINKHALL Paul ENG
KNIGHT Darius ENG
SHIBAEV Alexandr RUS
KOVAC Borna HRV

CHODORSKI Piotr POL
TREGLER Tomas CZV
FERTIKOWSKI Pawl POL
KARLSSON Kristian SWE
CHOJNOWSKI Patryk POL
SZOCZS Hunor ROU

Substitutes

STEINLE David GER
DROP Clément FRA
GOLEBIEWSKI Mateusz POL
HINDERSSON Mikkel DEN
SEBESTYEN Peter HUN

Junior Girls

SOLJA Amelie GER
PESOTSKA M. UKR
KOLODYAZNAYA E. RUS
MA Wenting NOR
STÄHR Rosalie GER
MOLNAR Monika SRB
MATELOVA Hana CZE
BRUNET Lorine FRA
VICKERS Emma ENG
HIRICI Cristina ROU

HOW TO GET THERE

Venue

English Institute of Sport - Sheffield, Coleridge Road, Sheffield S9 5DA

Located in a hub of sports complexes just 10 minutes' drive from junction 34 of the M1 and Sheffield city centre, the English Institute of Sport is adjacent to Ice Sheffield and the Don Valley Stadium in the Lower Don Valley.

By Rail - Sheffield train station is situated just 4 miles from the venue and there are normally taxis parked outside.

By Air - If you are travelling from further afield then there are 4 international airports that serve the Sheffield area, these are:

Robin Hood Airport

www.robinhoodairport.com

Manchester Airport

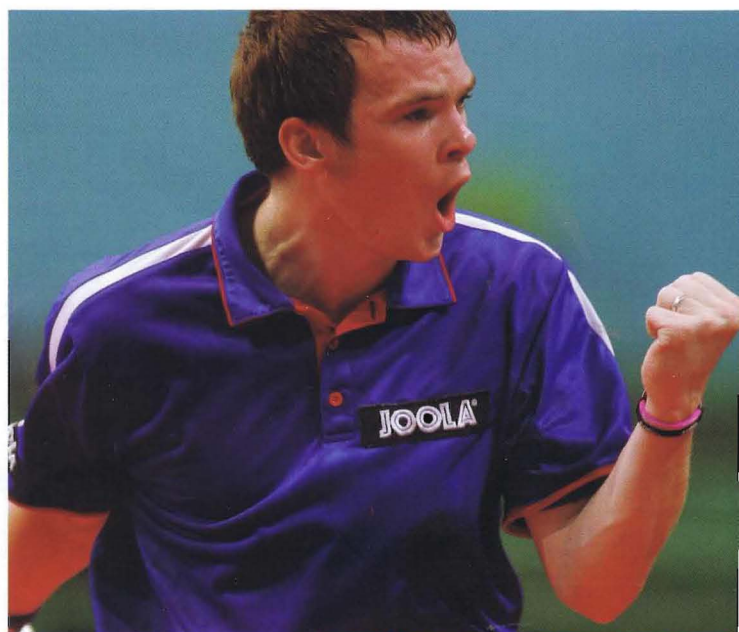
<http://www.manchesterairport.co.uk/web.nsf>

East Midlands Airport

<http://www.eastmidlandsairport.co.uk/cms/1/home.html>

Leeds/Bradford Airport

<http://www.lbia.co.uk/>



Left page : Paul Drinkhall - top, Karina Lefevre - left, Daris Knight - right.
 Right page : Gavin Evans - top, Emma Vickers - bottom



Substitutes

- SUBOTIC Dragan SRB
- SURNIN Gregor GER
- FUCEC Ludko HRV
- WIESNIEWSKI Tomasz POL
- DO PHUONG Nam HUN

Cadet Girls

- SOLJA Petrisa GER
- SZOCS Bernadette ROU
- POLCANOVA Sofia MDA
- MADARASZ Dora HUN
- NOSKOVA Yana RUS
- KUSINSKA Klaudia POL
- EERLAND Britt NED
- XIAO Maria POR
- FERNANDEZ Patricia ESP
- LEFEVRE Karina ENG**

Substitutes

- ADAMKOVA Karin CZE
- HOLOK Diana SRB
- BUSATLIC Belna BIH
- BLASKOVA Dagmar CZE
- GONDERINGER Tessy LUX

The Tournament set up

Round Robin - The tournament will be played in what is known as a round robin format, where all players will play each other once, with those from the same association playing each other first. After all the matches have been played the results will be based on the best 7 games for the Juniors and the best 5 for the Cadets.

Points - Win = 2 / Loss (in a complete match) = 1 / Loss (in an incomplete match) = 0

Schedule:

- Friday Round 1**
- Junior Boys 14:00

- Junior Girls 14:40
- Cadet Boys 15:20
- Cadet Girls 15:50

Friday Round 2

- Junior Boys 16:20
- Junior Girls 14:00
- Cadet Boys 17:40
- Cadet Girls 18:10

Friday Round 3

- Junior Boys 18:40
- Junior Girls 19:20

Saturday Round 3

- Cadet Boys 10:00
- Cadet Girls 10:30

Saturday Round 4

- Junior Boys 11:00
- Junior Girls 11:40

- Cadet Boys 12:20
- Cadet Girls 12:50

Saturday Round 5

- Junior Boys 14:30
- Junior Girls 15:10

- Cadet Boys 15:50
- Cadet Girls 16:20

Saturday Round 6

- Junior Boys 16:50
- Junior Girls 17:30

- Cadet Boys 18:10
- Cadet Girls 18:40

Saturday Round 7

- Junior Boys 19:10
- Junior Girls 19:50

- Cadet Boys 10:00
- Cadet Girls 10:30

Saturday Round 8

- Junior Boys 11:00
- Junior Girls 11:40

- Cadet Boys 12:20
- Cadet Girls 12:50

Saturday Round 9

- Junior Boys 15:00
- Junior Girls 15:40

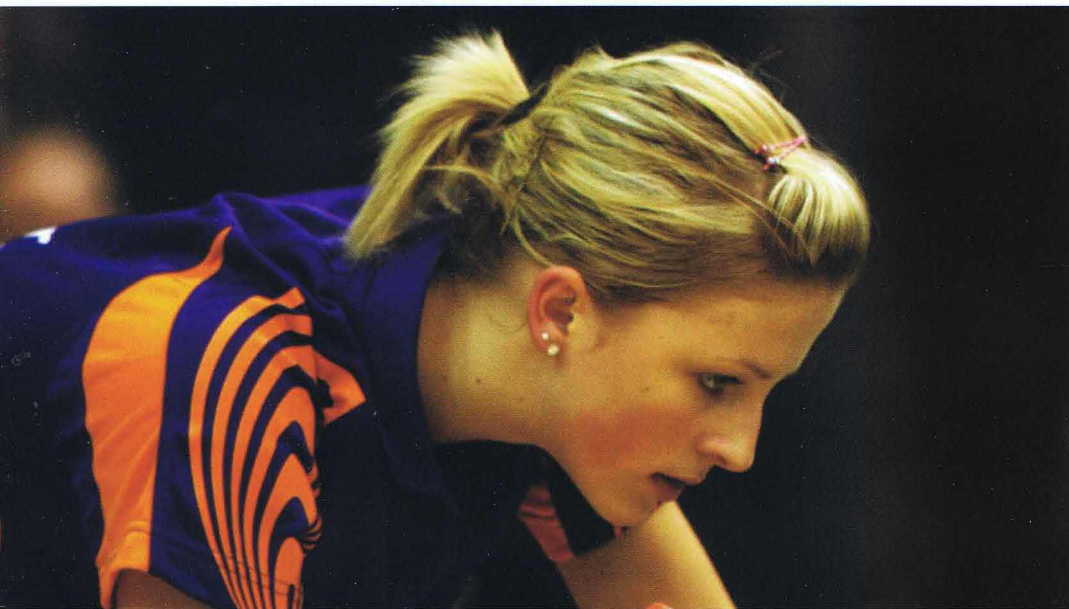
- Cadet Boys 16:20
- Cadet Girls 16:50

Substitutes

- DOSPINA Andreea ROU
- PETTERSSON Malin SWE
- DESSAINT Aurore FRA
- VEGH Zsuzsa HUN
- DURAK Mirela HRV

Cadet Boys

- EVANS Gavin ENG**
- SÖDERLUND Hampus SWE
- TRAN Anthony SWE
- GAUZY Simon FRA
- LORENTZ Romain FRA
- NICOLLE Dorian FRA
- INDEHERBERG Julien BEL
- NUYTINCK Cedric BEL
- PITCHFORD Liam ENG**
- ZHELUBENKOV Alexandr RUS



TICKETS

Friday

- Adult £5
- Junior £3
- Concession £3

Saturday

- Adult £12
- Junior £6
- Concession £6

Sunday

- Adult £12
- Junior £6
- Concession £6

3 Day Event Ticket

- Adult £20
- Junior £10
- Concession £10

Group Prices (10 or more)

- Friday - Adult £3
- Friday - Junior £1.50
- Friday - Concession £1.50
- Saturday - Adult £9
- Saturday - Junior £4.50
- Saturday - Concession £4.50
- Sunday - Adult £9
- Sunday - Junior £4.50
- Sunday - Concession £4.50

Twenty three years later on home soil, England enters the tournament again with the number 1 ranked Junior in Europe

ADVERTORIAL

With the ITTF speed glue ban coming into force for junior competitions on 1 January 2008, Butterfly have developed a series of new products that comply with the new ITTF requirements and to help players overcome the effects of the ban. All of these products are based around the use of a new major development from Butterfly, Speed Optimizer One which has the following features:

- 1 Speed Optimizer One is a VOC free liquid made from oil and rubber which when applied to the rubber sponge creates a good speed effect. By itself, Speed Optimizer One is not sticky at all and therefore needs to be combined with a basic glue like Butterfly Free Chack.
- 2 Speed Optimizer One needs to be applied to the rubber sheet before it is fixed onto the blade. Dependent on the effect on each rubber, you can apply one, two, three or even more layers of Speed Optimizer One. However, there should be 12 hours drying time after each layer. Speed Optimizer One bends the rubber and provides an additional degree of tension.
- 3 Speed Optimizer is recommended for use with all Butterfly rubbers with the possible exception of Bryce Speed and Bryce Speed FX where testing is not yet complete.
- 4 The rubber sheet prepared with Speed Optimizer One will feel about 90% as if it has been fresh glued and this can be maintained for up to 14 days. However the feel is different to that of fresh gluing.
- 5 When you wish to apply Speed Optimizer One for the second or third time, one layer should be enough to reach a similar effect as in the first time that you use it on a new sheet. We recommend that you start with a glue-free rubber. Before trying to remove the Butterfly Free Chack glue from the rubber, apply one very thin layer of Speed Optimizer One and wait about 20 or 30 minutes. The Free Chack glue will then be much softer and can be peeled off very easily without harming the sponge.
- 6 Speed Optimizer One needs a little longer preparation time compared with other products but is able to maintain its effect for a longer period. Rubbers become a little softer after using the tuning liquids like Speed Optimizer One. The effect is a little different to fresh glued rubber. Sound, spin and catapult are very good.



7 Speed Optimizer One is VOC free and does not contain any substances that would interfere with the rubber sheet meeting the new ITTF regulations and testing requirements.

With the use of Speed Optimizer One, there are then 3 solutions available from Butterfly:

Solution 1 - Speed Optimizer One with Butterfly High Tune Rubbers

- 1 Since the beginning of this season, Butterfly have had available High Tune rubbers with Bryce, Sriver G2 and Sriver L. High Tune rubbers already include the tuned sponge so that speed and spin are increased automatically when compared with normal rubbers. In comparison with last season's Power Sponge rubbers, there are some differences.
- 2 The effect of High Tune rubbers during the first days of use is a little less than with the former Power Sponge rubbers. The High Tune rubbers have less vapour pressure of VOC and are totally below the limit of ENEZ required for the racket control device.
- 3 The effect of High Tune rubbers is that the rubber sheet lasts longer and is much more consistent than was the case with the Power Sponge rubbers.
- 4 High Tune rubbers can be fixed with basic glue such as Butterfly Free Chack to the blade.
- 5 High Tune rubbers are quite hard in comparison with other rubbers that are prepared to be used with Speed Optimizer One. This is the reason why Butterfly only manufacture Bryce, Sriver L and Sriver G2 in High Tune and not any of the FX or softer versions.
- 6 Butterfly have received some very positive responses from some of the professional players and juniors who play at international level. The feedback Butterfly have received is that the combination of High Tune rubbers with one layer of Speed Optimizer One can be the perfect combination. This combination shows similar speed and spin to regular rubbers which have more layers of Speed Optimizer One with the sponge remaining a little harder.

Solution 2 - Speed Optimizer One with Bryce Speed and Bryce Speed FX

1 Bryce Speed and Bryce Speed FX are new High Tension rubbers but the amount of tension is much higher than the regular High Tension rubbers like Bryce, Sriver G2 and Catapult.

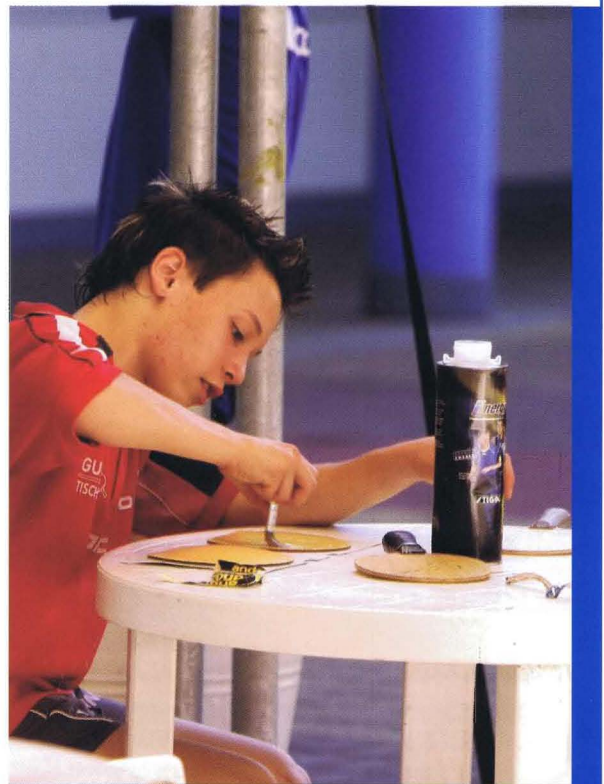
2 Both Bryce Speed and Bryce Speed FX are completely new rubbers with a new surface and a new sponge. They are based on Bryce but even faster, especially because the surface is modified so that more tension can be implemented without causing any quality problems.

3 Bryce Speed and Bryce Speed FX should be fixed to the blade by using only Butterfly Free Check.

4 Bryce Speed is very powerful and is recommended for high level players and juniors who practise at least 3 times per week, whereas Bryce Speed FX is easier to play with and has a better catapult effect enabling players to execute dynamic top spins that can be controlled, not only close to the table but also from a medium distance.

5 Even though the amount of tension included in the rubber is already very high, it is possible to reach even higher spin and speed by applying one additional layer of Speed Optimizer One to Bryce Speed or Bryce Speed FX. VOC-containing fresh glue shall not be used, as it can cause defect of the rubber's surface.

6 Speed Optimizer with Bryce Speed and Bryce Speed FX is still under test and therefore recommendations of these rubbers with Optimizer is still provisional. Bryce Speed and Bryce Speed FX are sufficiently dynamic to be an option without the use of Optimizer.



Solution 3 - Speed Optimizer One with Bryce, Sriver etc

1 Speed Optimizer One is very effective with normal rubbers like Bryce and Sriver. You should for example apply one layer of Speed Optimizer to the rubber at least 24 hours before use, then another layer 12 hours before use, then glue with Butterfly Free Check one hour before you play to fix rubbers to the blade.

2 The speed effect will stay for about two weeks. Before using Speed Optimizer One for the second and subsequent times make sure that all of the glue is off the rubber before you treat them with the Speed Optimizer One and stick them to the blade. A thin layer of Speed Optimizer One assists with the removal of the Free Check. You should then re-use Speed Optimizer One as above but now one layer normally is sufficient to achieve the required effect.

3 For players who use Sriver FX, Sriver EL or Bryce FX which have a softer sponge, the use of Speed Optimizer One should produce an even better result and comes very close to the former characteristics of fresh gluing.

Speed Optimizer One is now in stock at Tees Sport and we are carrying out further tests with Optimizer and different rubber and blade combinations.



For further information, email mike@teessport.com or visit our website www.teessport.com.

ASK THE EDITOR...

Welcome to our letters page, as ever we have some interesting views.

LETTERS

"I may perhaps be the first person to write to Table Tennis News and raise the subject of Free Table Tennis. Now this does not mean we can all go back to the days where we played in cheap but unsatisfactory conditions? Free Table Tennis or FTT as it is better known is a publication circulating via e-mail. I have received an unsolicited copy since issue 1. It raises a number of questions and is for the most part very critical of the ETTA Management. The editorial element is often ridiculously over the top, reading more like a tabloid newspaper. However, there are some balanced views from contributors. I had pretty much cast it to one side when I noticed that FTT was to pass on advice to the grass roots of Table Tennis. This was it I thought, the moment of truth we were going to find out how to boost league membership, find new players, umpires, tournament organisers, increase our non-playing volunteer base. I was to say the least disappointed when all the advice provided was nothing new and is probably already acted upon in a majority of leagues and clubs up and down the country even as I write this letter.

So where to from here for Howard Middleton and FTT? Well no doubt the publication will keep going for now, it will continue to be critical of the ETTA Management but without making positive editorial contributions on how it can be improved. The Management team is in place until 2009, we should support them fully for their term of office. If there is a need for change then 2009 is the appropriate and proper time to deal with it."

John Andrew

EDITOR'S COMMENT

Thank you for your comments John. Governance of any sport brings with it controversy and table tennis is clearly no different.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Reading the article in the last issue brings back memories of Helen Williams wearing her own design in a Top Twelve tournament in the 1980s. Perhaps you could publish a photo of Helen in one of her designs.

John Fairweather

EDITOR'S COMMENT

If any reader or indeed Helen herself has a colour copy of one of Helen Williams' designs TTN would be delighted to publish it; after trawling through the whole collection of 80s TTNs we have only managed to find a small black and white copy.

RE-WRITING HISTORY

Although I enjoyed the edition, omissions and an understatement from three articles in the July/August TTN prompt me to comment. It was of course not possible for Colin Clemett and Brian Halliday to mention everything in their 'glimpse' back over 80 years of English table tennis. However, significant omissions were that: Ann Haydon (Jones), later Wimbledon tennis champion, was a (very close) three time losing finalist in the 1957 Stockholm World TT Championships, including in the women's singles; there was nothing on the charismatic, gifted, enfant terrible of English table tennis (and 5 times national men's champion, the first time when he was only 15), Chester Barnes, who I think was a major influence on many youngsters, including myself, in becoming hooked on the sport in the early '60s. Wonderful that table tennis is to return to the Royal Albert Hall in the form of The Table Tennis Masters on 17th March 2008 (Matthew Syed and Brian Halliday), but there was no specific mention of the last time it was there, 1970 I think, when England men played the reigning world champions, Japan, in a friendly, and the aforementioned Chester outplayed the current world singles champion, Shigeo Ito, a penholder with a ferocious forehand loop. The great hall was, I recall, around two thirds full.

By saying that one point at the 1936 World Championships lasted

more than an hour, Justin Gayner ('Interesting facts about our sport') completely understates it. Although no accurate timing equipment was used, it was estimated that the famous/infamous point between Poland's Alex Ehrlich and Romania's Farcas Paneth lasted between 2 hours 5 minutes and 2 hours 12 minutes! In one of the best and most hilarious narratives on table tennis ever written, 'Spongers Seldom Chisel', former American international Dick Miles described how Alex confirmed his status of 'King of the Chisellers' by out pushing Farcas to take the point.

Ken Muhr

EDITOR'S COMMENT

A fascinating insight Ken, it seems unbelievable that any point could exceed two hours. Just think, Haile Gebrselassie (Ethiopian, long distance runner) managed to run an entire marathon in less than it took the two chisellers to carve out a point (2:04:26). You could even fly from London to Menorca or hop on the Eurostar and arrive in Paris in less than that point. Thank goodness they were not given a 40 mm ball...

TORMENTING THE COMMITTEE

The Stockton 4 Star Junior event was an excellent tournament our only regret is that we had to return more than 30 entries through the time schedule being full to capacity. In actual fact, there was probably more like 50 altogether that would have played if we had been able to accept their entries. We would have loved to facilitate this by increasing the number of tables from 17 to 20 and this could have been done by a small reduction in the court size following the standard used by English Schools, which is 4 barriers by 2 barriers.

However, the ETTA Tournament Committee did not allow us the flexibility to adjust from 10 m x 5 m and we believe that this is a point that needs to be looked at in the future, as returning entries is something that we don't like to do and I am sure other tournament organisers feel the same way. We are certainly not appreciative of it when our players try to enter other junior events around the country, only to find that their form has been returned.

Alan Ransome OBE, Cleveland

COMMENTS FROM NATIONAL COUNCIL

Editor:- This issue was discussed at National Council, if you agree or disagree with the comments please let us know.

Geoff Twiss (Tournaments Committee Chairman) said: "A problem became apparent when the Stockton 4 Star Junior event had not complied with the regulations governing 4 Star Junior Tournaments in order to suit their requirements (court size regulations). It is important that the regulations are adhered to in order to maintain standards.

Other interesting views from National Council regarding tournament regulations:-

S Clarke (Lancashire) said: "Many 4 Star Tournaments did not run according to the regulations and that it was the fault of County Associations, who failed to recruit umpires. If this is not resolved there will continue to be problems regarding umpires at events."

Miss M Fraser (Surrey) said: "There is also a lack of Referees and Organisers. I feel that those who send juniors to play should also encourage them to play their part in the work involved in running an event."

The tournament committee will meet again in January so watch this space to find out more...

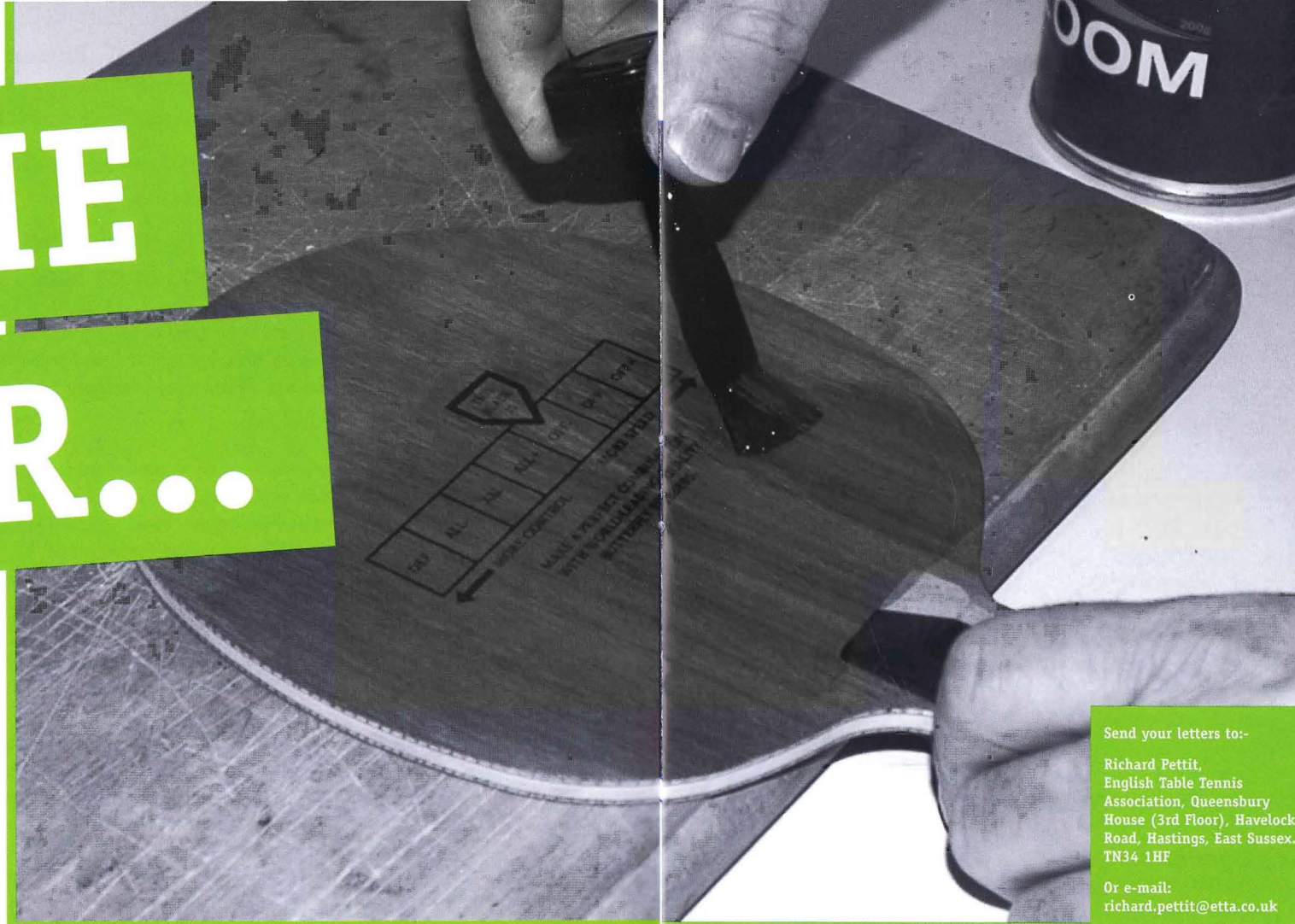
A STICKING POINT...

I can see the logic of banning glue (on health grounds etc) but I maintain that the ITTF has banned the wrong item.

If it really wanted to modernise the game and expand it then it ought to have banned all pimples (long or short) and glue. If we look at similar sports e.g tennis, badminton, squash, the equipments used for the players are similar and therefore a standardisation of equipment would have been more logical. It is pimples which is killing off local leagues and dispiriting players... and de-skilling the game. I do accept that it would kill off the veterans' game if pimples were banned.. and therefore diminish the profits for the various companies, manufacturers. But the point remains that the introduction of pimples has transformed the game. For the very skilled player who practices regularly I suspect pimples are not a problem but imagine that you have spent some time acquiring a skill only for a complete beginner to be given a magic bullet .. that undermines your effort.. and it is apparent that one is playing the rubber.. rather than the skills of the opponent Of course the defensive player complained about the effects of glue, or the size of the ball, etc. but I welcomed the expanded size of the ball (as a player with limited vision, a larger ball made things easier to see). But a quality defender who could vary their shots had no problem with glue!

EDITOR'S COMMENT

Having neither skill nor regular practice I sympathise with your comments, however the equipment manufacturers keep the economy of table tennis ticking, racket standardisation would lead to a trade revolt leaving our sport to plummet to a racket recession resulting in bankruptcy. Surely, the joy of table tennis lies with its complex nature, standardising anything makes it less desirable, doesn't it?



Send your letters to:-

Richard Pettit,
English Table Tennis
Association, Queensbury
House (3rd Floor), Havelock
Road, Hastings, East Sussex.
TN34 1HF

Or e-mail:
richard.pettit@etta.co.uk

Table Tennis Highlights from Hollywood



DODGE BALL MEETS MORTAL KOMBAT

BALLS OF FURY

Table Tennis Hits The Big Screen.

In what can only be described as Dodge ball meets Mortal Kombat, table tennis comes to the big screen in true tongue in cheek style, on December 26th. Balls of Fury is written and produced by Garant and Lennon, the team behind the Blockbuster movie Night at the Museum and US hit TV series Reno 911. The film stars Christopher Walken, Dan Fogler George Lopez, Maggie Q, Thomas Lennon, Robert Patrick and James Hong.

What Were They Aiming For?

"We're big Bruce Lee fans, and we thought, what if you took all the kung fu out of a kung fu movie and replaced it with Ping-Pong? So we researched the

game for a year; there's a training facility in Hong Kong that looks like something out of The Last Emperor."

It's not all stunt doubles and special effects though, working with table tennis coordinator Diego Schaaf, the cast trained with the bronze medal winner from the 1996 Olympic games, Wei Wang.

The Plot

Down-and-out former professional Ping-Pong phenomenon, Randy Daytona, (Tony Award winner Dan Fogler) is sucked into this maelstrom when FBI Agent Rodriguez (George Lopez) recruits him for a secret mission. Randy is determined to bounce back and recapture his former glory and to smoke out his

father's (Robert Patrick) killer – one of the FBI's Most Wanted, arch-fiend Feng (Academy Award winner Christopher Walken).

www.ballsoffury.com

The official movie website is packed with trailers and biographies on the cast, along with a whole host of games and interesting features to occupy you whilst you should be at work.

BRODERICK HOOKED ON PING PONG....

Actor Matthew Broderick is obsessed with table tennis and insists on spending an hour or two every day playing. He says, "It's a great stress reducer and it's more aerobic than people who laugh at me think".

JACKIE COLLINS "PING PONG ADDICT"

Jackie Collins is the author of 24 novels about the rich and famous in Hollywood. Live a perhaps unimaginable world apart from one thing. Yes, she's mad about table tennis. Stating in a recent interview for the Telegraph interview Collins says "I'm a real ping-pong addict. I'll often have a barbecue and a table tennis tournament at the weekends – me and my friends really love it."

TABLE TENNIS MUSIC VIDEO

First there was the "Ping Pong Song" by Enrique Eglises and now table tennis is back in yet another music video, Carry On, by Bens Brother. With the band only forming in 2006 and Carry On being their

first single release, Bens Brother are probably a new one to a lot of you, so below is what their website has to say about them. About The Band, Courtesy www.bensbrother.com "In 2006 Jamie Hartman went out and formed a band - Bens Brother, with Kiris Houston (keyboards/guitar), Dan McKinna (bass) Dave Hattee (drums) and Tim Vanderkuil (guitar) completing the line up. Less than a year after Jamie formed the band, they stepped out of the shadow for good when the record label which gave us multi-platinum selling artists Joss Stone and KT Tunstall heard his songs and couldn't get them out of their heads. "

The Video

It's not just a brief flash of the game either, the whole video revolves around an important match between an English and a Chinese player, with flash backs to table tennis moments in the English players child hood. To have a look at the video visit www.bensbrother.com

YOU TUBE

The English Table Tennis Association has now got its very own You Tube Channel www.youtube.com/englishtabletennis. This channel will feature match footage, interviews and a whole host of other video features, so next time you're on the web why not have a look to see what we've uploaded and whilst your there you can leave a comment to let us know what you think.

Butterfly Skills

Brilliant new and inclusive initiative for teaching table tennis launched by James Purnell MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport

The Secretary of State took the opportunity to have a quick knock with Melissa Wright and reinforced the initiative stating, "table tennis is great for schools". Also, present were Alan Ransome Managing Director of Ransome Sporting Goods (UK Butterfly Distributors), Richard Yule Chief Executive of the ETTA and John Arnold, ESTTA President. The Butterfly Skills table tennis programme provides an exciting and progressive framework to deliver table tennis in schools, clubs and sport centres nationwide. With four skill levels to work towards, this truly is the "must have" tool kit for all table tennis teachers and coaches.

Developed in a partnership between the English Table Tennis Association, English Schools' Table Tennis Association and Butterfly, world famous equipment manufacturer, the resources have been finely tuned to specifically meet the needs of the ever-increasing demand for table tennis within the schools and the community. The programme includes a 180 page manual full of clear diagrams, illustrations and easy to follow instructions on how to play, plus a set of tailored rewards for each level reinforcing every participant's sense of personal achievement. This combination provides a clear pathway for a player's progression from beginner to advanced level. It also includes lesson plans, competition templates, players' progress charts and teachers' schemes of work, providing a one-stop table tennis delivery solution for all teachers and coaches.

Photo (L-R):- Liam Pitchford, James Purnell MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, and Melissa Wright

Whilst the emphasis has been on a programme for teaching youngsters at school level, Butterfly Skills is suitable for teaching the sport to players of all ages and ability levels. Richard Yule, Chief Executive of the ETTA, said, "This is a fantastic programme that will enable table tennis to increase its presence within schools and the community. It will provide teachers and coaches with the support they have been craving, and enable them to deliver the sport in a fun and effective manner. Ultimately this is a key programme for table tennis and one which will inevitably increase participation in the sport, a vision which all partners share and are keen to facilitate".

Each level has clear and defined targets and objectives from the beginner level, which incorporate basic racket skills, to the advanced, which teaches techniques, tactics and skills to a competitive level. An addition to the beginner, improver and advanced levels is Polybat, which is specifically designed to meet the needs of young people with severe physical impairments – including muscle power, control and coordination difficulties, e.g. muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy.

What's in the pack?

Contents - An A4 manual containing:

- 180 pages full of pictures and easy to follow instructions packed in an attractive A4 ring binder
- Illustrated lesson plan ideas for teaching small and larger groups
- Competition template sheets
- Five A2 Butterfly Skills posters
- Players' progress charts
- Teachers' schemes of work
- Basic rules
- A 34 page A4 Butterfly Skills Awards booklet

Another important part of the Butterfly Skills programme is a set of equipment consisting of bats from Butterfly specially designed to facilitate quick and easy learning at 3 levels – starter, junior and senior – plus a pack of 6 quality practice balls and 2 V-shaped nets that allow any flat surface to be used for playing table tennis at the basic level. This Butterfly Skills table tennis programme is also supported by Sportsmatch which is a government funded scheme set up to help fund grass roots and community sports in England. This is done by matching new sponsorship money with Sportsmatch funding, on a pound for pound basis.

Find out more about the Butterfly Skills award at www.etta.co.uk



When Jill and Donald decided, as many did, that league matches finished far too late for school-children, they built an extension to their house where matches could be played, enabling the final handshake to signal an instant bedtime.

Short of creating a table tennis club in your garden, or having Guo Yue live with you, there could hardly have been more favourable circumstances for developing players, could there?

Well it wasn't as simple as that of course. Our culture changed. Expectations altered, options in life increased exponentially, and people's motives for competing became different.

"When I played, women played to try to achieve something - that's gone now," Jill said. "A lot of youngsters come out of sport because they can't make a living out of it.

"Women don't earn enough money. Katy's point of view was she knew she would have to put in an awful lot of work and what would she get at the end of it?"

And so, even though Katy became the youngest ever to be selected for an England squad at 12, and went on to play more than 100 times for her country, she still retired from the sport at 17, making a three-month come-back before quitting permanently five years ago.

And Katy since then? She did a degree. She worked for BBC on Blue Peter. She bought a house in the north west with her boy-friend. And when we last heard, she was doing table tennis coaching and trying to get into the BBC.

Stats now indicate that only one sixth of ETTA affiliated members, and only one third of casual players, are female. This means there has been no improvement in the gender ratio over decades.

The total numbers playing has declined too. The irony is that if only the ethical gender policy could be made to work, the practical problem - increasing participation generally - would be eliminated. Where women go, men follow.

Before you decide there is enough to make you gloomy without more here, please

believe there are reasons for hope and that we will come to it shortly.

Firstly, table tennis' predicament is not so different from some other sports. Squash's gender ratio for affiliated members is similar, while for casual players it is worse. Same with golf.

Secondly, the problems table tennis has in trying to attract women happen elsewhere. The Women's Sports Foundation (WSF) is all too familiar with them.

"There needs to be a cultural shift," according to WSF research co-ordinator Chris Lillistone. "If girls grow up assuming that activity is a part of life, like brushing teeth, to keep them healthy, they will find sports to interest them.

"Many girls see exercise as a means to lose weight or be thin, but don't see sport for them otherwise. It is the opposite of femininity, as they see it: muscles, competition.

"Parental encouragement is the first step towards this shift. Plus more women in sport on TV and in newspapers, without it being about their bodies or sexuality. "A real issue for many women is caring for children - without a babysitter they can't go out; sports need to provide crèches and flexible playing times.

"It's also about socializing. For boys, team sports is how many socialize with peers. Girls socialize differently. They engage more in conversation. Racket sports are probably able to capitalize on this."

However tennis and badminton are capitalising better than table tennis. Tennis has 45 percent of affiliated members who are female and 42 percent of casual participants; badminton has 46 percent and 44 percent respectively.

But table tennis is also in some ways similar to these two sports: it can be played more socially and less competitively, it is family friendly, it is aesthetically pleasing; it is possible to converse while playing. It should be able to attract more women.

No female racket sport player in



Women in our sport



There are few clearer insights into the predicament of women in table tennis than the story of Jill and Katy Parker, the mum and daughter who both played for England.

Jill is the finest female role model this country ever had - a brilliantly entertaining world class defender, a good looking lady, a nice person, and successful at a time when table tennis was more popular and often made the news.

Glory be, she then married England's head coach, Donald Parker, and produced a couple of talented kids. It must have been like having a world class development programme in the spare room...

"It's also about socializing. For boys, team sports is how many socialize with peers. Girls socialize differently. They engage more in conversation. Racket sports are probably able to capitalize on this."



From left to right: Joanna Parker, Kelly Sibley, Abigail Embling, Sarra Wang, Reena Ardeshana, Georgina Walker, Jill Parker

Britain has succeeded quite like Gail Emms, the Olympic silver medal winning badminton player. She is also wonderfully articulate.

"Men are still kids at heart," she says, managing to sound cheekily inoffensive. "My boy friend plays football, and though he couldn't be a Premiership footballer, he still has boyhood dreams about being one.

"Women don't dream of being David Beckham. Boys do, and carry these dreams on. Girls think of other importance in sport. They want to be with friends. They don't want to be a superstar footballer."

Emms too feels a culture shift is needed. "Some schools think sporty girls are odd ones and a bit of a freak for wanting to be winning. But if you get into a school which teaches the importance of sport and encourages girls to get into it more, it carries on into adult life," she says.

"I never got picked on for being a sports geek or for wanting to play for my country. If sport could be seen as fashionable in schools, other girls would be like that."

When someone like Katy Parker retires early, it indicates the height of the barriers. One person who is making a decent stab at leaping them is the unrelated Jo Parker.

Why did England's number one choose table tennis when other girls didn't? "It's a good question," she said, sounding unsure. "I was a sporty person, in every team, but I suppose I got an opportunity sooner in table tennis.

"I was offered the chance by Michel Gadal to go to the national academy at the age of 12. After that all other sports stopped.

"I don't know what I liked about it. Many sports are seen as masculine and girls don't want to put their bodies through the pain. But I suppose table tennis was fun, I started to win, and I am competitive."

However without family funding it might have been impossible. "It's harder for women to make a living," Jo said. "I know many girls who stopped playing full-time because they had to get a job."

Jill Parker feels for Jo Parker. Jill's solutions: a sport moving faster with the times, tournaments in more fashionable clubs, multi-table venues for the British

League, and matches starting earlier.

"You could be sat there all night," she says, with feeling. "No youngsters want to do that now."

But in some areas of the world women leap the barriers better. In Asia for instance. Of the 16 women in the World Cup, 12 were Chinese. In Japan "vast numbers of women play," according to Ian Marshall, the ITTF publications officer.

"In Europe women go to aerobics; in Japan they go to the housewives league. It's big business. You can make a full-time living coaching housewives. They buy the latest clothing, and stick teddy bears on it. They make shirts into an image.

"There are no lack of female role models in Asia. But the European trend is that it is not feminine to play sports after 15. Table tennis needs a more feminine perspective (there)," Marshall concluded.

The WSF believes women face three sorts of barriers – practical, social and cultural, and personal. Among the first: problems with childcare, lack of time, money, transport, funding, safety, and access. Among the second: male-dominated culture and attitudes about sexuality. And the third: body image, clothing and equipment, adult influence, lack of self-confidence.

So what's being done about it? The ETTA has shown interest in the two most conspicuous Asian experiments – more fashionable clothing, and the larger ball. And it has long-term plans.

"The successful clubs are those with their own facilities," Richard Yule, the ETTA Chief Executive, said. "Our club of the year, Cippenham, controls its own environment. We had two award winners there, Volunteer of the Year and Coach of the Year. Both were women."

Yule believes female volunteers can make an important difference. "They provide a homely atmosphere," he said. "Both boys and girls like it."

This will be enhanced if the ETTA can create a property-owning infrastructure, encouraging clubs to make down-payments on facilities. "We want clubs controlling their

own little club house, with a little social area where everyone can feel welcome," Yule emphasised.

"We have a programme in place through regional development officers and our facilities officer. But even if clubs don't own the facilities, they can arrange to operate from a centre with proper women's changing rooms."

The ETTA also talks up better marketing. "It is not enough to say 'come along to our table tennis club' and hope people turn up," Yule says. "To recruit women we have to be more proactive, and make them happier to be involved.

"We need to think about a project for leisure centre managers from the private sector. We could offer a package with six weeks' coaching input, and with a bigger ball so the game is easier to play (like the Japanese housewives league).

"We could outline the project, and then allow women to form a novice league. After a few weeks' coaching they could have a competition night. Projects could also help leisure centres: I suspect there is a market there..." This may help meet some of the WSF recommendations in its Good Practice Guide. But there are many of them.

They include options for childcare, subsidies, the first session of a new course free, share ride systems, safety assessments, equal funding, equal prize money, single sex activities staffed by women, more suitable clothing styles, opportunities regardless of skill or experience, equal publicity, mentoring systems, female networking, lower parental pressure, encouragement and incentives, and, above all, female role models. So there is a vast amount to do. The British league started in 1978, and while France and Germany were building large, traditional club systems better buttressed to survive social change, here we developed a tenuous structure based on private subsidy and rented accommodation.

"We didn't see the changes coming and couldn't be expected to," said Yule. "So it's a different age from when we had Jill Parker. But it will come full circle."

County Championships

Junior Premier Division - Cippenham TTC

Hampshire lead the way from Lincolnshire, having beaten Sussex 8-2, Yorkshire 10-0 and Hertfordshire 7-3 and have two unbeaten players in Ruinao Zhang and Annabelle Morle. They were well supported by David McBeath and Garth Kinlocke who both dropped one set from their six, with Becky House chipping in with three from six. The south coast side could not have asked for a better start.

Lincolnshire also could not have done any better, winning their three matches, they beat Hertfordshire 8-2 before edging past Yorkshire and Devonshire 6-4.

With all eight teams scoring at least one point from three matches, there is still plenty to play for when the teams all meet up again for the second weekend in the new year.

Seniors Division 2C - Leamington Spa

An excellent weekend's table tennis saw a very even contest between four teams in the Senior Division 2C.

Warwickshire came out on top with 6-4 wins over their three closest opponents. The first tight match was in the second round against Suffolk I. Warwickshire's Mark Jackson and Rachel Pilgrim led the way with two wins each, supported by one from Helen Turner and Ian Ferguson. For Suffolk I it was individual averages leader Ryan Collins who took two, Amy Sparkes beat Helen Turner and captain Richard Hutchinson beat Michael Browne. In Saturday's final there was another exceedingly tight match as Warwickshire I faced Cambridgeshire. Ian Ferguson and Mike Browne both won two and were well supported by singles from Rachael Pilgrim and Helen Turner. For Cambridgeshire, Maria Boulton took two matches and Martin Gray and Simon Pryke took single matches in response. It was set for a clash of Warwickshire I and Bedfordshire; Warwickshire had the advantage that a draw would suffice to take the championship. The second matches on each table would be decisive, with Mark Jackson and Mike Browne comfortably winning the first two, the second two matches

were Rachel Pilgrim against Sarah Hudson and Ian Ferguson against Jon Hall. Both were tight five set matches which just went Warwickshire's way. Warwickshire were champions for the first time in many years. Ryan Collins from Suffolk I was top of the men's averages with 11 from 11, just ahead of Warwickshire's Mark Jackson and Bedfordshire's Jon Hall with 10 from 12. For the Women Maria Boulton of Cambridgeshire and Sandra Harper of Bedfordshire shared the top slot with 10 wins from 12 matches.

Seniors Division 2a - Draycott and Long Eaton TTC

Organiser Leslie Allwood must have been pleased to see his own county team, Derbyshire no.2, take the division on sets from their second team counterparts from Yorkshire. The two sides first met on Saturday morning with Derbyshire recording a comfortable 7-3 victory, which at the time neither side could have been aware how important that score line would be come the end of the weekend.

Derbyshire were next in action against their own no. 3 team who they thumped 9-1, followed by a draw against Durham and finally a 6-4 victory against Cheshire saw them complete the first day at the top of the table with 7 points.

Yorkshire recovered from their first match slip up to score victories against Cheshire 6-4 and a more comprehensive 8-2 win against Leicestershire seconds, to end their first day on 4 points. Derbyshire slipped up once more in the first match on Sunday, when they were held to a draw by Cumbria, whilst Yorkshire opened with a 7-3 victory against Derbyshire No 3. Yorkshire won their second match of the day against Durham 8-2 to draw level with Derbyshire on both points and sets. Entering their last sets it would be the best performance that took the title.

In the end it was Derbyshire who prevailed as they beat Leicestershire 7-3 to take the title, as Yorkshire beat Cumbria 6-4, thus completing their fixtures with an inferior sets average of one set.

Table with 7 columns: W, D, L, F, A, PTS for CADETS DIVISION 1A. Rows include Nottinghamshire, Cheshire, CLWYD, Lancashire, and Shropshire.

Table with 7 columns: W, D, L, F, A, PTS for CADETS DIVISION 1B. Rows include Surrey 1st, Kent, Sussex 2nd, and Sussex 3rd.

Table with 7 columns: W, D, L, F, A, PTS for JUNIORS PREMIER DIVISION. Rows include Hampshire, Lincolnshire 1st, Derbyshire, Devonshire 1st, Yorkshire 1st, Sussex 1st, Essex 1st, and Hertfordshire.

Table with 7 columns: W, D, L, F, A, PTS for JUNIORS DIVISION 2B. Rows include Somerset, Worcestershire, Devonshire 2nd, Wiltshire, Glamorgan 2nd, Cornwall 2nd, Avon 2nd, Devonshire 3rd, and Devonshire 4th.

Table with 7 columns: W, D, L, F, A, PTS for JUNIORS DIVISION 2C. Rows include Essex 3rd, Bedfordshire, Oxfordshire, Norfolk, Essex 4th, Northamptonshire 2nd, and Cambridgeshire.

Table with 7 columns: W, D, L, F, A, PTS for JUNIORS DIVISION 2D. Rows include Sussex 2nd, Kent 1st, Dorset 1st, Sussex 3rd, Surrey 2nd, Dorset 2nd, Kent 2nd, and Buckinghamshire 2nd.

Table with 7 columns: W, D, L, F, A, PTS for SENIORS DIVISION 2A. Rows include Derbyshire 2nd, Yorkshire 2nd, Cumbria, Durham 2nd, Cheshire, Leicestershire 2nd, and Derbyshire 3rd.

Table with 7 columns: W, D, L, F, A, PTS for SENIORS DIVISION 2B. Rows include Devonshire 2nd, Dorset, Worcestershire, Devonshire 3rd, Avon, and Cornwall 2nd.

Table with 7 columns: W, D, L, F, A, PTS for SENIORS DIVISION 2C. Rows include Warwickshire 1st, Bedfordshire, Suffolk 1st, Cambridgeshire, Warwickshire 2nd, Suffolk 2nd, and Northamptonshire.

Table with 7 columns: W, D, L, F, A, PTS for VETERANS DIVISION 2A. Rows include Norfolk 1st, Yorkshire 3rd, Nottinghamshire 1st, Northamptonshire 1st, Norfolk 2nd, Bedfordshire 1st, Worcestershire 2nd, and Durham.

Table with 7 columns: W, D, L, F, A, PTS for VETERANS DIVISION 3B. Rows include Kent 4th, Cambridgeshire 1st, Surrey 3rd, Norfolk 3rd, Essex 5th, Hertfordshire 2nd, Middlesex 2nd, and Buckinghamshire 2nd.

Table with 7 columns: W, D, L, F, A, PTS for VETERANS DIVISION 3C. Rows include Buckinghamshire 1st, Oxfordshire 2nd, Kent 3rd, Surrey 4th, Berkshire 2nd, Middlesex 3rd, Hertfordshire 3rd, and Sussex 4th.

Table with 7 columns: W, D, L, F, A, PTS for JUNIORS DIVISION 1A. Rows include Hampshire, Lincolnshire 1st, Derbyshire, Devonshire 1st, Yorkshire 1st, Sussex 1st, Essex 1st, and Hertfordshire.

Table with 7 columns: W, D, L, F, A, PTS for JUNIORS DIVISION 1A. Rows include Staffordshire, Cheshire 1st, Durham 1st, South Yorkshire, Cleveland, Suffolk, Warwickshire, and Essex 2nd.

Table with 7 columns: W, D, L, F, A, PTS for JUNIORS DIVISION 2A. Rows include Lancashire 1st, Cheshire 2nd, Nottinghamshire, Yorkshire 2nd, Northamptonshire 1st, Lincolnshire 2nd, Lancashire 2nd, Leicestershire, and Durham 2nd.

Table with 7 columns: W, D, L, F, A, PTS for JUNIORS DIVISION 2D. Rows include Sussex 2nd, Kent 1st, Dorset 1st, Sussex 3rd, Surrey 2nd, Dorset 2nd, Kent 2nd, and Buckinghamshire 2nd.

Table with 7 columns: W, D, L, F, A, PTS for SENIORS PREMIER DIVISION. Rows include Sussex 1st, Devonshire 1st, Dorset 1st, Essex 1st, Derbyshire 1st, Gloucestershire, Leicestershire 1st, and Berkshire 1st.

Table with 7 columns: W, D, L, F, A, PTS for SENIORS DIVISION 2A. Rows include Derbyshire 2nd, Yorkshire 2nd, Cumbria, Durham 2nd, Cheshire, Leicestershire 2nd, and Derbyshire 3rd.

Table with 7 columns: W, D, L, F, A, PTS for DIVISION 2 NORTH. Rows include Sussex 2nd, Kent 1st, Sussex 3rd, and Kent 2nd.

Table with 7 columns: W, D, L, F, A, PTS for VETERANS DIVISION 1A. Rows include Cheshire 1st, Yorkshire 2nd, Worcestershire 1st, Cheshire 2nd, Essex 2nd, Hertfordshire 1st, Essex 3rd, and Northumberland.

Table with 7 columns: W, D, L, F, A, PTS for VETERANS DIVISION 1B. Rows include Dorset, Wiltshire 1st, Essex 1st, Essex 4th, Kent 2nd, Berkshire 1st, Oxfordshire 1st, and Surrey 2nd.

Table with 7 columns: W, D, L, F, A, PTS for VETERANS DIVISION 3D. Rows include Worcestershire 3rd, Surrey 5th, Devonshire 2nd, Wiltshire 2nd, Middlesex 4th, Somerset 1st, and Hertfordshire 5th.

Table with 7 columns: W, D, L, F, A, PTS for VETERANS DIVISION 4B. Rows include Cambridgeshire 2nd and Norfolk 4th.

Table with 7 columns: W, D, L, F, A, PTS for VETERANS DIVISION 4C. Rows include Kent 5th, Middlesex 5th, Herefordshire 2nd, Berkshire 3rd, Wiltshire 4th, Somerset 2nd, and Berkshire 6th.

British League

LONDON PROGRESS ANOTHER STEP CLOSER TO RETAINING TITLE

The ninth round of matches saw DHS London Progress I take another step closer to retaining their title. Indeed they may well find this report to be the most interesting of the weekend! Whilst they were returning home secure in the knowledge they had gained a highly impressive maximum return of eight points, their closest rivals Drumchapel Glasgow were being overturned 5-3 by an inspired BATTs Team Peniel I.

With Drumchapel Glasgow I leading 3-1 there was little hint of the drama to follow, but BATTs were far from finished. The very stylish Wang Zheng (who had earlier lost rather dispiritedly 0-3 to Stephen Jenkins) led the comeback with a superb 6-11, 11-8, 11-7, 9-11, 11-8 victory over Ryan Jenkins and the ever reliable Shu Ying Xu levelled the scores by beating Stephen Jenkins 11-8, 11-9, 8-11, 14-12. The pendulum had swung in favour of the Essex Club and despite his best efforts Craig Howieson was always having to play "catch-up" against Craig Bryant. Craig Bryant duly gave BATTs the lead 11-7, 11-7, 9-11, 12-10. John Holland, an earlier loser against Craig Howieson after an epic five ender made no mistake in seeing off Terry McLernon 11-9, 11-3, 11-7. Game, set and match 5-3 to the Essex Club and a result that enables them to leap-frog over Drumchapel Glasgow into second place.

Sycamore remain in one of the three relegation places but they will be pleased with the point they picked up

against Ellenborough. Kevin Dolder and Chris Brown were the Sycamore heroes and they both picked up doubles. Kevin excelled by beating both Jon Nilsson (3-2) and Lorestas Trumpauskas (3-0) whilst Chris played equally well, downing Trumpauskas (3-0) and Jimmy Walsh (3-1). Ellenborough will be greatly indebted to the form of their new signing, and Liam Pitchford held them together by getting the better of Adam Frost (3-1) and in a tense deciding match Liam finally saw off Jason Ramage 11-6, 9-11, 8-11, 11-3, 11-8.

Oxford Fire Place Centre I were 5-3 losers to bottom side Urban Progress I, what was also Urban's first points of the season. Oxford led 3-2, but it was Urban Progress who produced the stronger finish. Chris Lewis was a comfortable 3-0 winner against Tim O'Mahoney, Ashley Stokes beat Essex team-mate Vytas Rybakas (3-1) and Egle Adomelyte drove what may be "the final nail in the Oxford coffin" when she beat Danny Ives 3-0. Jing Wei Zhao was by far the best Oxford players, and he won twice, beating both Chris Lewis (3-2) and Costas Papantoniou (again 3-2).

TTK Greenhouse, the Division's draw specialists, produced their fifth draw of the season as they finished level with Ormesby I. The Gareth Herbert/Andrew Rushton strike force (just one defeat between them) was again undefeated although Andrew (who remains on 100% after nine rounds of matches) came under real pressure from Michael Marsden. Michael raced into a 2-0 lead before Andrew fought his way back to triumph

Tables

DIVISION 1 NORTH						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
DERWENT I	3	1	0	26	6	7
ELGRE NOTTINGHAM I	3	1	0	22	10	7
DRUMCHAPEL GLASGOW II	3	1	0	21	11	7
CHESTERFIELD I	1	1	2	14	18	3
GRANTHAM	1	1	2	12	20	3
ROTHERHAM SCORPIONS I	1	1	2	11	21	3
ORMESBY II	0	2	2	14	18	2
HALTON I	0	0	4	8	24	0

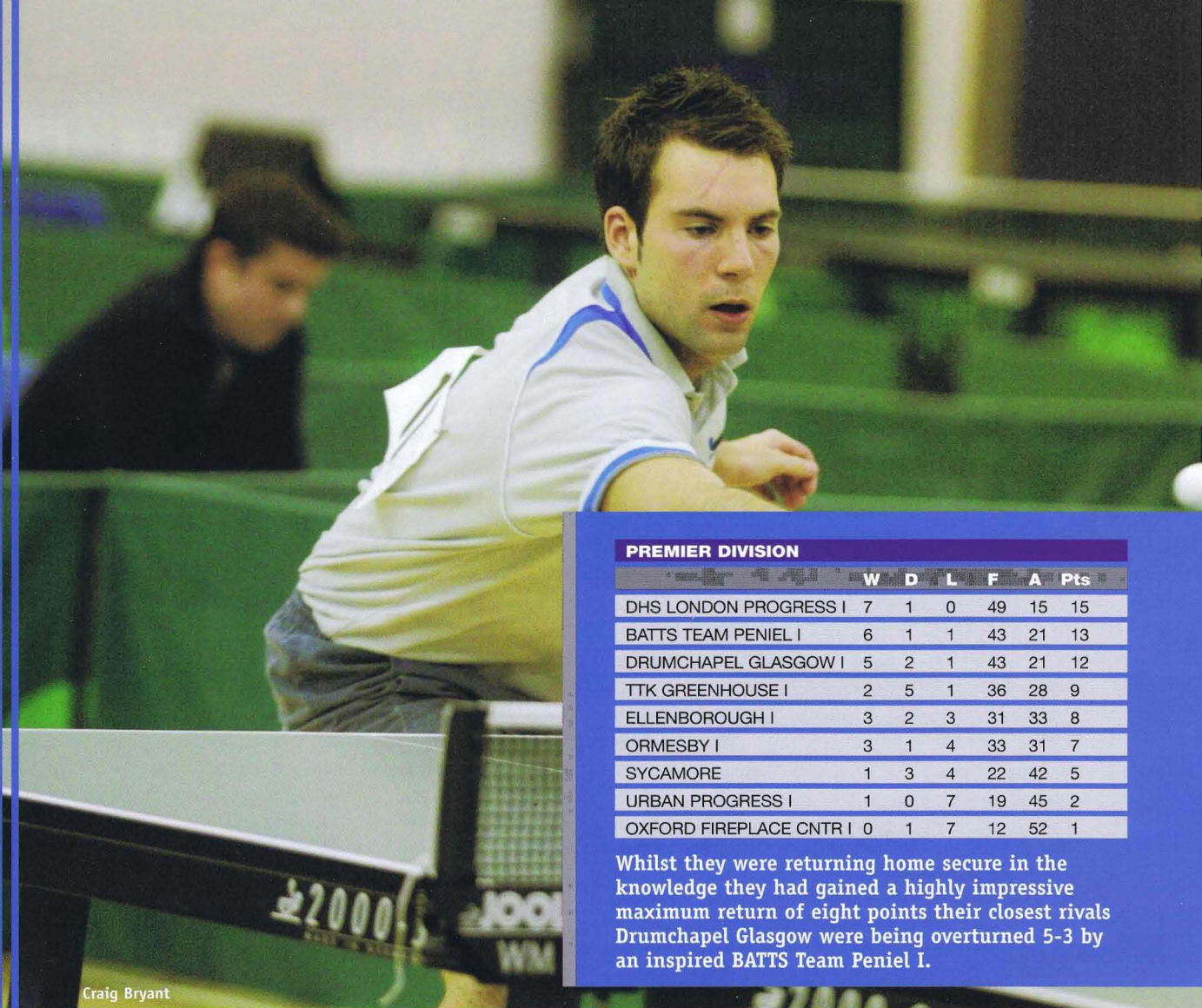
DIVISION 1 SOUTH						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BRIGHTON I	4	0	0	20	12	8
DML WOOLWELL I	3	0	1	18	14	6
GENERATION 2 I	1	2	1	17	15	4
DHS LONDON PROGRESS II	1	2	1	16	16	4
FUSION I	1	1	2	17	15	3
YORK GARDENS I	1	1	2	15	17	3
BYNG HALL I	1	1	2	14	18	3
CIPPENHAM I	0	1	3	11	21	1

DIVISION 1 SOUTH AND MIDLANDS						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
OLOP IMPACT I	3	1	0	22	10	7
WESTFIELD I	3	1	0	21	11	7
URBAN PROGRESS II	3	0	0	22	2	6
DHS LONDON PROGRESS III	2	0	1	16	8	4
CIPPENHAM II	1	0	3	11	21	2
CARRARA POLSKA I	1	0	3	11	21	2
BEDFORD MODERN I	1	0	3	9	23	2
OXFORD FIREPLACE CNTR II	0	0	4	8	24	0

DIVISION 2 NORTH						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FASTBATS	3	0	1	20	12	6
DERWENT II	3	0	1	18	14	6
BARROW	2	1	1	20	12	5
SHEFFIELD	2	1	1	19	13	5
ELGRE NOTTINGHAM II	1	3	0	18	14	5
MARKET RASEN	1	1	2	18	14	3
NORTHFIELD	0	1	3	8	24	1
ORMESBY III	0	1	3	7	25	1

DIVISION 2 SOUTH						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BATTs TEAM PENIEL II	4	0	0	24	8	8
DHS LONDON PRO IV	4	0	0	24	8	8
FUSION II	3	0	1	20	12	6
MOSSFORD	2	0	2	17	15	4
CLUB CORNWALL	1	0	3	14	18	2
ASHFORD II	1	0	3	12	20	2
BRIGHTON II	1	0	3	11	21	2
HORSHAM II	0	0	4	6	26	0

DIVISION 2 SOUTH AND MIDLANDS						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
KINGFISHER	4	0	0	24	8	8
GUERNSEY	2	1	1	19	13	5
DE VERE NETTS	2	1	1	17	15	5
ASHFORD I	2	0	2	19	13	4
HORSHAM I	1	2	1	17	15	4
EASTBOURNE	2	0	2	15	17	4
KINGSHURST BRIBAR	1	0	3	11	21	2
BEDFORD MODERN II	0	0	4	6	26	0



Craig Bryant

PREMIER DIVISION

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
DHS LONDON PROGRESS I	7	1	0	49	15	15
BATTS TEAM PENIEL I	6	1	1	43	21	13
DRUMCHAPEL GLASGOW I	5	2	1	43	21	12
TTK GREENHOUSE I	2	5	1	36	28	9
ELLENBOROUGH I	3	2	3	31	33	8
ORMESBY I	3	1	4	33	31	7
SYCAMORE	1	3	4	22	42	5
URBAN PROGRESS I	1	0	7	19	45	2
OXFORD FIREPLACE CNTR I	0	1	7	12	52	1

Whilst they were returning home secure in the knowledge they had gained a highly impressive maximum return of eight points their closest rivals Drumchapel Glasgow were being overturned 5-3 by an inspired BATTS Team Peniel I.

9-11, 9-11, 11-8, 11-7, 11-9. Rushton showed just what a force he can be in his second singles as he beat David Meads 13-11, 11-4, 11-5.

There are no awards for players of the weekend, although the following would surely all be in

contention for honours – Shu Ying Xu, Andrew Rushton, Stephen Jenkins, Liam Pitchford and Jiang Xhi Tao. All in all it was another excellent weekend's table tennis.

DIVISION 3 NORTH

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
HALTON II	4	0	0	22	10	8
MURRAYFIELD	3	0	1	21	11	6
HARTLEPOOL	2	1	1	17	15	5
DRUMCHAPEL GLASGOW III	1	2	1	17	15	4
WOODFIELD I	2	0	2	14	18	4
UXBRIDGE I	1	1	2	14	18	3
ELGRE NOTTINGHAM III	0	1	3	12	20	1
FORMBY	0	1	3	11	21	1

DIVISION 3 SOUTH

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SEH BRITANNIA IPSWICH I	4	0	0	25	7	8
YORK GARDENS II	3	1	0	23	9	7
OLOP IMPACT II	1	3	0	18	14	5
TTK GREENHOUSE II	2	0	2	17	15	4
ELLENBOROUGH II	2	0	2	13	19	4
HORSHAM III	1	0	3	13	19	2
CIPPENHAM III	0	1	3	11	21	1
HASTINGS	0	1	3	8	24	1

DIVISION 3 SOUTH AND WEST

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
DML WOOLWELL II	3	1	0	20	12	7
OXFORD FP III	2	1	1	19	13	5
GENERATION 2 II	1	3	0	17	15	5
WESTFIELD II	2	1	1	17	15	5
B @ S GROUP	1	2	1	16	16	4
FUSION III	1	1	2	15	17	3
BRIGHTON III	1	0	3	13	19	2
NWF	0	1	3	11	21	1

DIVISION 4 NORTH

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SUNDERLAND	4	0	0	26	6	8
PUDSEY	4	0	0	24	8	8
ST MARY'S HULL	3	0	1	24	8	6
BARNT GREEN	3	0	1	22	10	6
DRUMCHAPEL GLASGOW IV	1	0	3	11	21	2
ROTHERHAM SCORPIONS II	1	0	3	11	21	2
CHESTERFIELD II	0	0	4	7	25	0
ISLE OF MAN	0	0	4	3	29	0

DIVISION 4 SOUTH

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BRIGHTON CITY	4	0	0	27	5	8
DHS LONDON PROGRESS V	3	1	0	21	11	7
SOUTHAMPTON WEST	2	1	1	18	14	5
POLSKA II	2	0	2	19	13	4
BYNG HALL II	2	0	2	14	18	4
DML WOOLWELL III	1	1	2	12	20	3
BATTS TEAM PENIEL III	0	1	3	11	21	1
SEH BRITANNIA IPSWICH II	0	0	4	6	26	0

DIVISION 4 SOUTH AND MIDLANDS

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CRUSADERS	4	0	0	24	8	8
DHS LONDON PROGRESS VI	3	1	0	21	11	7
YORK GARDENS III	2	1	1	19	13	5
ASHFORD III	1	2	1	17	15	4
TTK GREENHOUSE III	1	1	2	15	17	3
FELLOWS CRANLEIGH	1	1	2	13	19	3
UXBRIDGE II	1	0	3	12	20	2
WOODFIELD II	0	0	4	7	25	0



The British League Official Ball

TOURNAMENT

NOVEMBER '07 REVIEW

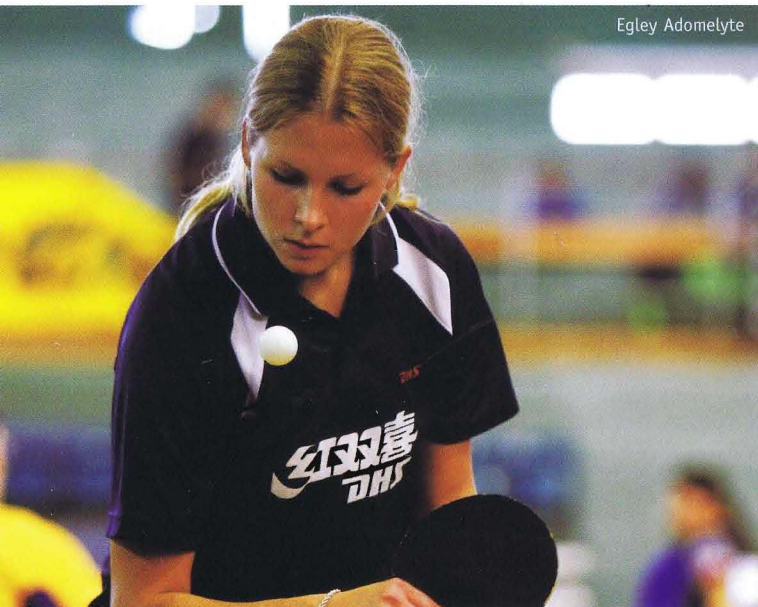
The Newcastle Open Butterfly Grand Prix 27-28 Oct

Gavin Rungay (Scotland) took another huge step forward in his quest to retain his Butterfly Open Grand Prix series 2006 title. Whilst fireworks could be heard outside the Sports Complex of the Bristol UWE University venue, Rungay was lighting up the campus arena with a dazzling performance, to take the mens open title, from a spirited and determined finals opponent, Mike Marsden of Durham. Marsden had earlier dispatched second favourite,

Katie fought her way to the final, by outplaying top seed Naomi Owen in the penultimate stage, whilst her best friend Maria, was chopping her way through to the final against second seeded Egley Adomelyte, at the same time.

Jing Wei Zhao with a sparkling display in the semi final stage, whilst in the other semi, Rungay had to pull out all the stops to dampen the explosive challenge from England junior international, Damien Nicholls. The women's singles event was dominated by the two Chinese resident Peniel Accademy players, Katie Shuying and Maria Meihan. Katie fought her way to the final, by outplaying top seed Naomi Owen in the penultimate stage, whilst her best friend Maria, was chopping her way through to the final against second seeded Egley Adomelyte, at the same time. Katie Shuying with her ultra consistent attacking play, proved too strong for the defensive Maria Meihan and took the women's title in straight sets. The Highlight of the Saturdays banded events was the superb performances from junior international Chris Doran (Northampton), and Naomi Wilson from Wales. Doran had come through the rounds in Men's band one, with titanic victories all going the full distance, against Damien Nicholls (1st rd), David Mcbeath (qtr final) and

then another epic 5 set thriller against Garth Kinlocke in the semi final, to set up a final confrontation with top seeded Mike Marsden. Chris somehow found the energy to take the band one title in straight sets from Marsden, with another brilliant display of top class table tennis. A similar pattern was emerging in the ladies band one event. Naomi Wilson had tough matches on her way to the title, with excellent 5 set wins against Rachel Jamieson, Sally Smith and Hannah Hicks, to then overpower Corrina Whitaker in the final. It was particularly pleasing to offer a warm welcome to a party of 5 players with their coach who had made the long journey from snow laden Stockholm in Sweden, to participate in the tournament. The two day event was staged at the recently opened Sports Complex at the Bristol UWE University Campus, which was unanimously agreed by all I spoke to, to be an excellent venue with, great lighting and playing conditions. We look forward to returning to Bristol University.



Egley Adomelyte

Bristol UWE Open BGP

Bristol UWE Open Butterfly Open Grand Prix 3-4 Nov By Geoff Ware

With stand out performances by Stewart Crawford (Scotland), Kaito Shuying (Essex), Maria Meihan (Essex) and Melissa Wright (South Yorkshire), the Newcastle Open Butterfly Grand Prix at the

Eldon Square Leisure Centre, was non stop action from start to finish. The Number two seed, Stewart Crawford from Scotland was the eventual victor in men's final, against Dale Barham (Cambridgeshire), who was hoping to improve on his silver from last year.

Just like in the men's event, the number one seed didn't make it to the women's final, as she (Helen Lower, Staffordshire) withdraw from the Grand Prix. This made way for Chinese domination as the Essex pair of Katie Shuying and Maria Meihan, (seeded second and fourth

respectively) powered their way into the final, with Katie Shuying taking the win in convincing fashion. Melissa Wright of South Yorkshire topped of a good weekend by adding the Tees Sport Player Of The Tournament, to add to her magnificent run of results, first in both Band 2 and 3 Women, as well as second place in the Under 21 Girls.

The Newcastle Open Butterfly GP
27th, 28th October
Mens Stewart Crawford (Scotland) 11-2, 11-0, 11-7 Dale Barham (Cams)
Womens Katie Shuying (Essex) 11-6, 11-6, 11-3 Maria Meihan (Essex) **U21 Boys** Damien Nicholls (Shropshire) 11-9, 12-10, 8-11, 8-11, 12-10 Mark Simpson (Durham) **U21 Girls** Rachel Jamieson (Essex) 11-8, 11-1, 11-4 Melissa Wright (S.Yorkshire) **Veterans** Darren McVitie (Durham) 12-10, 4-11, 11-8, 11-6 Eddie Smith (Northumberland)
Restricted Mens Steve Denny (Yorkshire) 11-7, 11-7, 7-11, 18-16 Aaron Fennell (Essex) **Band 1 Men** Damien Nicholls (Shropshire) 8-11, 11-6, 11-5, 12-10 Chris Doran (Northampton)
Band 1 Women Karina Le Fevre (Cleveland) 11-4, 7-11, 9-11, 11-8, 12-10 Stephanie Donnelly (Cleveland)
Band 2 Men Craig Hardie (Scotland) 8-11, 9-11, 11-8, 11-4, 11-5 Mark Simpson (Durham) **Band 2 Women** Melissa Wright (South Yorkshire) 11-7, 11-5, 12-10 Natasha Milliken (Scotland)
Band 3 Men Sean Madden (Yorkshire) 10-12, 9-11, 11-9, 12-10, 11-9 Sean Doherty (Scotland) **Band 3 Women** Melissa Wright (South Yorkshire) 11-2, 11-2, 11-6 Josie Bruce (Scotland) **Band 4 Men** Graeme Barella (Durham) 11-5, 11-8, 12-10 Chris Clinton (Yorkshire)
Band 5 Men Anthony Barella (Durham) 11-4, 11-5, 15-13 Calum Main (Scotland) **Band 6 Men** Michael Hahn (Durham) 11-9, 11-7, 8-11, 11-7 Calum Main (Scotland) **Tees Sport Player Of The Tournament** Melissa Wright (S.Yorks)

Bristol UWE Open Butterfly Open GP
Mens Gavin Rungay (Scotland) 12-10, 2-11, 11-4, 11-9 Mike Marsden (Durham)
Womens Katie Shuying (Cleveland) 11-4, 11-8, 11-6 Maria Methan (Cleveland) **U21 Men** Craig Howieson (Scotland) 11-4, 11-8, 11-4 Richard Marshall (Devon) **U 21 Women** Naomi Owen (Wales) 9-11, 11-5 11-9 11-8 Michelle Quach (Sweden) **Veterans** Clive Carthy (Essex) 11-8, 9-11, 11-9, 13-11 Martin Smith (Surrey) **Restricted Mens** Adam Ratajczak 11-9, 11-4, 6-11, 4-11 S Murray **Band 1 Men** Chris Doran (Northampton) 11-6, 11-7, 14-12 Mike Marsden (Durham) **Band 1 Women** Naomi Wilson (Wales) 11-6, 11-8, 11-5 Corinna Whitaker (Scotland) **Band 2 Men** Tim O'Mahoney (Wiltshire) 11-7, 11-5, 9-11, 15-13 Patrick Thomas (Wales) **Band 2 Women** Emma Rose (Avon) 11-1, 11-5, 9-11, 11-4 Ann Barnes (Hereford) **Band 3 Men** B. Larcombe (Surrey) 11-9, 11-9, 6-11, 9-11, 11-9 Dan Lucking (Hampshire) **Band 3 Women** Chloe Thomas (Wales) 11-7, 11-7, 11-9 Rachel Farquhar (Berkshire) **Band 4 Men** Ceri James (Wales) 11-9, 11-7, 6-11, 5-11, 11-7 Milan Dragojlovic (Gloucs) **Band 5 Men** Dave Reeves (Avon) 11-4, 9-11, 11-7, 11-8 Ceri James (Wales) **Band 6 Men** Dave Reeves (Avon) 11-7, 9-11, 11-9, 11-8 Daniel O'Connell (Wales) **Tees Sport Player Of The Tournament** Chris Doran (Northamps)

Tees Active Stockton-on-Tees 4 Star Junior Table Tennis Championships
Junior Boys Chris Doran (Northamps) 3-11, 11-6, 11-9, 7-11, 11-9 Liam Pitchford (Derbyshire) **Junior Girls** Liu Meihan (Essex) 11-9, 11-5, 8-11, 11-2 Alice Loveridge (Guernsey)
Cadet Boys Liam Pitchford (Derbyshire) 6-11, 11-6, 11-3, 11-3 Sean Cullen (England) **Cadet Girls** Alice Loveridge (Guernsey) 11-8, 11-5, 11-7 Natasha Rees (Wales) **Mini Cadet Boys** Zak Zilesnick (Middlesex) 11-2, 11-8, 9-11, 11-8 Sam Walker (Nottinghamshire) **Mini Cadet Girls** Emily Bates (Lincs) 11-8, 11-6, 11-6 Ashley Givan (Ireland)
Grade 1 Boys Zak Zilesnick (Middlesex) 11-8, 11-7, 17-15 Calum Main (Scotland) **Grade 1 Girls** Rachel Anslow (Essex) 11-6, 6-11, 11-9, 11-7 Megan Phillips (Wales) **Junior Boys Team** England 3-0 Sparton Warriors **Junior Girls Team** England 3-1 DHS London Progress **Cadet Boys Team** England 3-0 Barnet **Cadet Girls Team** England 3-1 Weald

Stockton 4-Star

Tees Active Stockton-on-Tees 4 Star Junior TT Championships 17-18 Nov By Alan Ransome
Christopher Doran, the tall Northamptonshire attacker, clinched the Junior Boys title in the Stockton on Tees Junior 4 Star championships, after an epic five game victory over Derbyshire's Liam Pitchford. Doran reached the final with victories over Derbyshire's Daniel Lowe by 3 – 1 and unseeded Billy Deville from Essex in straight games. In the final against Pitchford, Doran clinched the title by three games to two, after winning the third game by 11-9 and the decider by the same score. Pitchford reached the final from the third seeded position by beating the top seed, Damien Nicholls from Staffordshire, who was representing England by 11-7 in the 5th in the semi final. Nicholl's England colleague, William Maybanks, went out in the second round after losing in three straight games to Deville. The Junior Girls' singles was won by Peniel's new Chinese recruit Liu Meihan, who reached the final by beating the England No. 1 from Derbyshire, Emma Vickers, by 3 – 1 in the semi final. Liu, who is better known by her English nickname of Maria, beat the Guernsey starlet Alice Loveridge, who had won the Cadet singles earlier, by a comfortable 3 games to one. Loveridge came from an unseeded position to reach the final by beating the fourth seed, Caroline Hallows from Cheshire, by three games to one in the quarter finals and Cleveland's Karina Lefevre, 11-4 in the 5th in the semi. Lefevre reaching the semi final with a five game victory over the second seed from Sweden, Michelle Quach, in the quarters.

Derbyshire's Liam Pitchford stamped his authority on the Cadet Boys singles by beating the second seed, Sean Cullen also of Derbyshire, by 3 games to 1 in the final. Pitchford looked in control throughout as he beat Daniel Lowe, by 3 games to one in the semi final. Guernsey's Alice Loveridge, coming from the third seeded position, was the deserved winner of the Cadet Girls singles, defeating the long pimpled exponent, Natasha Rees, of Wales comfortably in the final. Loveridge beat the second seed, Emily Bates of Lincolnshire by 3 – 1 in the semi final and Cornwall's Martha Travis by the same score in the quarter finals. Natasha Rees came through with a 3 – 1 win over another England player, Cleveland's top seeded Karina Lefevre in the quarter finals, with a victory by 3 - 1 over her Welsh team mate, Megan Phillips, who came through unseeded to reach the semi final. Zak Zilesnick of Middlesex was a comfortable winner of the Mini Boys Cadet title, beating second seed Sam Walker of Nottingham by 3 – 1 in the final and Sussex prospect Helshan Weerasinghe in straight games in the semi final. The Mini Cadet Girls was a comfortable victory for Emily Bates who beat Peniel's Bethany March in the semi final and Ireland's Ashley Givan in the final. England made a clean sweep of the four team titles. The Junior Boys team of Damien Nicholls and William Maybanks, clinched the Junior Boys title by beating the Sparton Warriors Club by 3 – 0 in the final. Nicholls beat Chris Doran by 3 games to nil, whilst Maybanks beat Alim Hirji

after coming back from two games down. The English pair won the doubles by 3 – 1. In the semi final, the England team beat the Irish club Eastpoint, 3 – 0. The England Girls team of Emma Vickers and Caroline Hallows had two close contests before collecting the girls' title, beating Peniel A 3 – 2 in the semi and London Progress 3 – 1 in the final. For Peniel, Liu Meihan proved too strong for both the English girls. The doubles win by 3 games to 2 proved to be the vital set for England in this match. In the final against Progress, Michelle Quach put the London club ahead with a 3 – 1 victory over Hallows, but three wins for Emma Vickers against Hannah Hicks, the doubles by 3 - 1 and against Quach at 11-9 in the 5th proved decisive. The England Boys team consisting of Sean Cullen and Daniel Lowe, scored a comfortable victory over Barnet's Zak Zilesnick and Reece Tan by 3 – 0 in the final, whilst the England Girls, Karina Lefevre and Martha Travis defeated the Weald team of Kirsty Wilson and Yolanda King by 3 – 1 in the final. Karina Lefevre won two for England in the final, whilst Yolanda King beat Martha Travis to score the one Weald victory.



County Notes

Berkshire by Colin Dyke

The new county rankings at the commencement of the season are as follows:

Men:- 1. T Young; 2. M Adams; 3. D Barr; 4. H Gehlot; 5. R Andrews; 6. M Banks; 7. T Maynard; 8. R Gehlot; 9. A Gehlot; 10. K Ivanov

Ladies:- 1. M Farquhar; 2. S Johnson; 3. L Sprackling; 4. A Sundararajan; 5. M Allan; 6. R Farquhar; 7. E Human; 8. J Lovell; 9. L Calcutt; 10. S Mitchell. Unfortunately despite the county's abundance of junior talent Berkshire will have no junior county team again this season due to the absence of an organiser. This is a big disappointment to the Kingfisher Club, which produces virtually every one of the top boys and girls.

The Veterans 2nd team got the season

started with a 6-4 win against Surrey 4 and a draw against Oxford 2 in Division 3C. Dave Streak was unbeaten in the Surrey match, teaming up with Bob Davis to win the all important men's doubles over Steve Giles and Robin Pretty. Jan Wright, making her Berkshire debut, could make no impression on Diane Melville in the ladies matches, although partnering Bob Davis in the final mixed they led 2-0 before narrowly losing to Melville and Pretty. Earlier Ramesh Gehlot had won both his singles against Steve Giles and Robin Pretty, whilst Bob Davis defeated Tony Needham.

Against Oxford Ramesh Gehlot showed his staying power when he won both his singles against Nat Richardson and Andy Misseldine in five close sets. Dave Streak also beat Misseldine and again

Probably the best performance came from Matthew Weatherby, playing for Halton in Boys Div. 2A, who won nine out of ten, including several against higher-ranked opponents.

joined Bob Davis for a doubles win over Jeff Rigby and Richardson. Jan Wright did well to take a game off Jan Curtis, but saved her best until last when she helped Bob Davis to a mixed success over Misseldine and Curtis.

There will be no Berkshire inter-town event this season due to Reading and Newbury not being able to find organisers.

Cheshire by Alan Blears

The second of Tony Meredith's Stiga Junior Grand Prix tournaments attracted a maximum of 64 boys and 16 girls, with some entries returned. It was a good day for the county's youngsters with Jake Shaw winning again and the fast improving Liam Tildsley a semi-finalist, with Corrina Bebbington a semi-finalist for the girls. Others to reach the knockout stage were Matthew McCormick, Jordan Potts, Steven Nicholls and new boy Marcus McNulty, who fell to runner-up James Grayson in the last 16. Apologies to anyone I may have missed.

Junior British League:- Cheshire youngsters were also active in round one of the JBL playing for a wide variety of teams. Probably the best performance came from Matthew Weatherby, playing for Halton in Boys Div. 2A, who won nine out of ten, including several against higher-ranked opponents.

In Boys Div. 3B, Club Mid-Cheshire head the table, with Jake Shaw leading the way with nine out of ten, and Josh Boulton and Chris Pattison both winning seven from ten.

A whole bunch of local girls were playing each other in the Girls Premier,



David Cochrane and Nabil Hudda



Diane Kirkwood and Milan Dragojlovic

including Caroline Hallows (six from eight) for Draycott and Long Eaton, Rachel Baker and Maitreyi Shivkumar for Club Mid-Cheshire, Fiona Dennett for Irish Girls, and Jordyn Layfield for Wirral Premier. These teams also included players from all over the place, though none as yet from Venus or Proxima Centaurs.

Ken Armson, seriously ill at the time of writing, was unable to organise this season's North West National Junior League, and it was only the Herculean efforts of Ken Richardson from Carnforth that enabled round one to go ahead. Ken needed eight attempts to organise the five divisions, and it was inevitable that there would be a few misplacements.

One of these was Stockport's Hillcourt 'A' who, unable to take up their promoted position in the Premier Division for logistical reasons, took maximum points from their six wins in Div 1 South, with Jordan Potts, Dan Brown, Marcus McNulty and Nabil Hudda all having 100% averages. The remaining six teams were remarkably equal, with only eight points separating them. Results from the other divisions next time.

At the NJL Nabil Hudda was congratulated by international umpire Dave Cochrane on achieving his county umpire's badge, after impressing many people at the Liverpool Grand Prix and Blackpool 4 Star. At 15, he must be one of the youngest umpires in the country. Well done sir!

Cleveland by Alan Ransome

With more than 200 entries, our county has just completed the organisation of the Stockton-on-Tees Junior 4 Star Championships, which were played at Thornaby Pavilion on 17/18 November and sponsored by the local sports facilities group Tees Active Ltd.

We are grateful to our Chairman Colin Davison, our Tournament Organiser David Hutchinson, Referee Stuart

Sherlock, Secretary Brenda Stephenson and Umpires Controller Gary Whyman, plus several other local volunteers who managed the tournament to what we believe was a successful conclusion. We are also grateful to the British Table Tennis Federation for their initiative and assistance with the entry of the international teams. The competition included 7 national teams from Guernsey, Jersey, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and Ulster, plus of course England, together with several very strong club entries from across the United Kingdom and Ireland.

We are very appreciative of the umpires who made the journey to Teesside, 21 in all, which meant that almost all the matches throughout the weekend were umpired by a qualified official and this was appreciated by all the players and coaches.

The sections which at the moment are unique to the Stockton tournament, are the 4 team events played at junior and cadet level. Formatted on the 2 a side basis, they provided very interesting and exciting matches throughout most of the weekend. The team events are very popular with the participants and add a different dimension to the tournament. They certainly provided good matches to watch for the spectators, in particular on Sunday morning when the semi-finals and finals of the two junior events were played. The standard of entry for the competition was extremely good. Only the top few boys who were scheduled to play in the Swedish Senior Open were missing. The girls' standard attracted the best from all parts of Britain and all of this produced many good matches that were appreciated by the spectators and created a very good atmosphere.

Derbyshire by Neil Houghton

Seems to be a few extra Grand Prix's this season. First of these was in Leeds. Looks like Sam Perry has started where he left off last season - with some good wins. This time involving winning the U21 final in five, beating Hampshire's high ranked junior Garth Kinlocke, including two 12-10s! Daniel Lowe took the Men's Band Four title. Keep it up lads! Went to Grantham one Saturday recently for the first Junior 1* of the season to see a coaching colleague and his protégés. Also high on my agenda was to report for this article and see how the Derbyshire youngsters were getting on - particularly to see whether we have any good future county junior players to look forward to, but not one Derbyshire player was there! However, it is early days this season and I also heard there was at least one National Junior League session that weekend.

One place I often manage to attend but couldn't get to this year, was the Lilleshall Conference, it clashed with a date for sun and sea, not forgetting some T.T. coaching/play, on the Isle of Wight. Other members of the County Committee did go, including Chairman Derrick Marples, plus former Dy senior, daughter Alyson, along with our ubiquitous Hon. Sec. Les Allwood. It seems they had a good weekend enjoying the customary 'a la mode' blende of coaching 'gen', plus behind

scenes T.T. and general sporting seminars/lectures, as will be reported elsewhere. This year a bonus was having Dy/E-M Region in the spotlight, with our delegates being enthralled by a presentation on how to organize a region from Sandra Deaton and Nottinghamshire based Suzanne Airey! Derbyshire players have been active at British League recently. At the Hyndburn weekend, Chesterfield teams were in action. Chesterfield I, comprising Andrew Henry, Shaun Bibby, Steve Mason and Daniel Lawman, had a tussle with Ormesby, finishing up with Daniel having a good double, thus ending the match 4-4. Understand Allan Fulwood also plays but was out of action for some reason at least on the Sunday. Chesterfield team in Division Four includes Kerry Mansell taking on the men (well mostly in British League) along with Winston Spencer and Mike Bradbury. They lost 3-5 with three players. At a guess this would be by Daniel Lawman playing up in the first team to make up for Allan's withdrawal.

Former successful juniors and now good seniors, Adam Frost and Shaun Marples, turned out in the British League Premier Division for Nottingham's Sycamore. As you would expect in the Premier Division, there were some tough games, with Adam having some good wins and Shaun beating former England junior no. 1, Craig Bryant.

Durham by Kevin Wilson

In my previous month's county notes I began with an account of the early events in the Grand Prix series from a Durham perspective, this was a decision based purely on the chronology of events, but having set such a precedent I feel duty bound to stick to it. Therefore I shall begin with the Newcastle Grand Prix, which proved to be the most successful of the season so far from a Durham point of view. Our young players dominated the lower bands, making a mockery of the current split points ranking system. Michael Hahn went one better than his

runner-up spot at the Leeds Grand Prix, taking the Men's Band 6 title, defeating Calum Main (SCO) 11-9, 11-7, 8-11, 11-7 in the final. The Barella brothers also had a very successful weekend with wins in the Men's Bands 4 and 5. Graeme was the champion in Band 4, notching up a good victory against Chris Clinton (Y) in the final 3-0 and Anthony took the Band 5 crown from the top seed position also beating Calum Main (SCO), never an easy task. Mark Simpson was spared his usual seeding of 1 in the Men's Band 2, sacrificing it to county team-mate Andrew Leighton, but was still seeded at 2. He fully justified this ranking by once again reaching the final, but fell at the last hurdle losing to Craig Hardie (SCO) in five sets. He continued his good form in the Under 21 Men's event, once again just missing out in the final, this time to Damien Nicholls (Sp). Staying for the time being with the seniors, the Durham County 2nd team travelled to Draycott and Long Eaton Table Tennis Centre for Division 2A of the county championships. The team finished fourth overall after a competitive weekend with 3 wins, 1 draw and 2 defeats. The top player over the weekend was Claire Wilson with 9 wins out of a possible 10, Andrew Leighton won 7 of his 10 matches with the other men, Kevin Wilson and Philip Robinson, winning 6 and 3 respectively and the second girl Sarah Robinson took 2 of her 10 matches. Philip Dixon also played.

One of the most prestigious table tennis competitions on the calendar is the British League, and the first of two weekends of the junior and veterans events took place during the month of October. On the junior side of things Durham have one team in this season's competition, Sunderland, who play in Boys' Division 1.

A solid if unspectacular first weekend saw the Sunderland side sitting in fourth place at the halfway stage of the competition, with one win and two draws from their five matches. It could have been even better, however, if the team could have kept up the level of

play that saw them hold the division's leaders DHS London Progress B to a 3-3 draw in the opening round, the only point they dropped over the entire weekend. All of the Sunderland players contributed to this success, Graeme Barella beating Emran Hussain 3-1 and Anthony Barella and Scott Crawford both dispatching Ryan Collins comfortably 3-0.

The solitary Sunderland win of the weekend came against local rivals Ormesby in what was a real derby atmosphere. The team found themselves 1-0 down after Anthony Wright defeated Anthony Barella 3-1 but bounced back to take a 2-1 lead with Graeme Barella beating Edward Fambely and Scott Crawford winning in 4 games against Marc Besford. Anthony Wright once again proved to be a thorn in the side of the Sunderland team just edging out Graeme Barella 3-2 to take the match score to 2-2. From then on the Wearsiders took control and won the match 4-2 with comfortable victories for Anthony Barella and Scott Crawford over Marc Besford and Edward Fambely respectively.

Overall the team will be fairly satisfied with the weekend's efforts but deep down they will be aware that they are capable of more second time around. Scott Crawford was the top Sunderland player with 4 wins out of 7 matches played, Anthony Barella won 5 out of 9 (though he insists he won 6 out of 10!), Graeme Barella was unfortunate to win just 3 out of his 10 matches and Anthony Walton was unable to secure a victory in his 2 games.

At the other end of the age scale, Durham had two teams in the Veterans' British League run by county chairman Allan Thompson, the Roman Abramovic of table tennis. In the Men's Premier, Thompson Insurance A look on course to retain their title, sitting comfortably at the top of the division with 5 wins out of 5 and in Division 2A, Thompson Insurance B were not to be outdone, notching up 4 wins and a draw to also lead the way at the halfway stage. Local players Keith Weatherby and Tony Gelder won 10 out of 10 and 5 out of

It was a classic game with Barnes' attacking style against the more defensive play of Rose, and on this occasion the defensive playing of Rose achieved success after the fourth set. This is a tremendous result for Barnes who should not be disappointed in her achievements.

10 respectively for the B team. Tony's wife, Shirley, represented Lyncrest in the Women's Premier and won 3 out of the 4 matches she played.

Next month: Wilmott Cup, Premier British League and the Stockton 4 Star!

Gloucestershire by Lesley Dewick

Two Gloucestershire players gained runner-up positions at the Bristol UWE Open tournament.

Ann Barnes (Gloucester) and Milan Dragojlovic (Cheltenham) ventured to the tournament for the first Grand Prix event to be held in Bristol.

Ann Barnes, who was participating in her first tournament for this season, stormed through to the final of the Ladies Band 2 event. Her first round encounter was against a very talented Dorset player Stephanie Francis, Barnes came back from two games down to nil to win in the fifth. In the second round, Joy Whitehorn who was the number one seed for the event was taken down in four games. Crowds gathered for the semi-final to see new girl on the block Barnes, take on the number four seed from Middlesex, Lynsey Armstrong. Armstrong was no match for Barnes' attacking game and she cruised to the final after a win in four games.

In the final Barnes met Bristol player Emma Rose who was also unseeded and making her first outing at a Grand Prix event this year. It was a classic game with Barnes' attacking style against the more defensive play of Rose, and on this occasion the defensive playing of Rose achieved success after the fourth set. This is a tremendous result for Barnes who should not be disappointed in her achievements.

Milan Dragojlovic, who is ranked county number one at junior level and seven at senior level, also stormed into the final of the Men's Band 4 event. Dragojlovic, who was not seeded in this event, took out the number two seed Radovan Zivkovic in three sets and number four seed Alec Bartlett in five sets. In the final Dragojlovic competed in a thrilling match against Ceri James from Wales who was also unseeded, losing 7-11, 7-11, 11-5, 11-5, 7-11. This was a final that saw

incredible determination by Dragojlovic with him coming back from being two games down to him being two games all and narrowly missing out in the fifth.

In the Men's Band 3 event, Dragojlovic lost out to the eventual winner of the event in the semi-final in four sets. However, during the competition Dragojlovic beat the number two seed Jeff Rigby and Radovan Zivkovic who he had already beaten in the Band 4 event.

Other Gloucestershire players who travelled to Bristol included Mike Kiff and Lesley Dewick who competed very well and enjoyed the competition. It was a little disappointing not to see more Gloucestershire players take part in this event which was only a short distance away, however illness, injury and over subscription to a lot of the events meant that several players were not able to enter.

Hertfordshire by Ann Fereday

The veteran season has begun. The teams aren't playing matches one at a time, home and away, they are playing 2 or 3 away matches in various months, as one of the counties in the division has arranged. I cannot see the advantage of this, less weekends are taken up with matches, but all are away in unfamiliar venues with a lot of travelling involved. If a team is short of one of its better players, then he will be absent for 2 matches. Hardly surprising the first results are not good.

Team 3 were first to play in October. Their lady this year, June Nelson, won her singles and 2 mixed doubles in both matches, but as there was no support from the men, the team lost to Oxford 2 and Kent 3.

In November team 1 played 3 matches in Harlow. There were many close games which just went the wrong way. They lost 6-4 to Essex 3 and Yorks. 2, though Glen Wilkes won his 4 matches. Cheshire were very strong and beat them 7-3.

Team 2 at the same venue did somewhat better, they just lost to Norfolk 3 by 6-4, but drew 5-5 with Kent 4. After many years' absence through injury, it's great to see Derek Balding playing again - in this team. Perhaps he is not quite his old self yet, but he managed to win one in each match. Team 5 went to Trowbridge and were well beaten by Worcs. 3, but were only narrowly beaten 6-4 by Devon 2. This team went up a division last year and managed to stay up, but their opponents look strong this time.

Teams 4 and 6 have not yet started their programmes.

Northamptonshire by Dennis Millman

In the closest finish since it began, Steve Silk won the EBS (UK) Masters Invitation by a single point after he, Richard Elliott and Chris Doran had all finished with four wins out of five.

Despite the attacking nature of the potential winners, the matches between them were the longest of the day beginning as early as the second round when Silk and Doran confronted each other.

Silk took the first end 13-11 after his blocking had blunted

Doran's attack. Silk then led 6-1 in the second, but firing on all cylinders Doran won the next ten points, before an 11-9 success in the third put him ahead. Silk made no mistakes to take the fourth 11-4 and though the fifth was close, Silk retained his composure to take it 11-8 and so move towards the title.

Silk was also involved in the next three series of matches, but like Doran and Elliott came through unscathed, and without dropping an end.

Doran and Elliott met head on in game 12 and the longest rubber of the competition went right down to the wire. Doran took a two game lead 13-11, 11-9, but then allowed Elliott to level with 11-7, 11-8 scorelines. Doran led 5-3 at the changeover and held on desperately to win 12-10.

With Doran a likely winner of the final clash, the penultimate set between Silk and Elliott was all important. A win for Silk would settle the issue in his favour, a 3-1 success or better for Elliott would give him the title, while a 3-2 verdict in Elliott's favour would create a three way tie. After a pulsating encounter, Elliott won 7-11, 11-9, 14-12, 7-11, 11-5 and the Masters was to be decided on points won and lost by the three players involved. On count back Doran had 96 for and 103 against, Elliott's tally was 102 to 99, while Silk's final count was 99 to 95, just enough to earn the crown by a single point. The perpetual trophy and individual awards were presented by County Chairman and Tournament Organiser Ken Marchant.

Final positions: 1. Steve Silk (4 wins) 2. Richard Elliott (4) 3. Chris Doran (4) 4. John Fuller (2) 5. Daniel Smalley (1) 6. Ken Philipson.

There were shocks a plenty as the County Junior Top 8s moved towards unexpected conclusions.

In the boys' section Robert Griffin, Sam Wildman and Jack Coleman all had their moments, but in the final match Dan Smalley, county ranked no. 38 on the Thorntons Sport ranking list, faced Jordan Dainty ranked 104.

After the first weekend of the Junior British League, Darius Knight is on 75% as he lost to Ware and Wing-Yung Chan is on 60%. Marco Essomba is Surrey's top player in the Senior British Premier League on 75% and he is playing for the champions for the last nine years, DHS London Progress, who are once again top of the table.

The contest ebbed and flowed with Dainty taking the first end 11-4, Smalley levelling 11-9, Dainty going back in from 11-6 only for Smalley to take the fourth 11-8. However, in the decider, Rothborough's Dainty took control to win 11-4 and so take the title he so narrowly missed last season. In the Girls' Junior Top 8 much of the interest centred on Gina Stedman, ranked at 53 on the National Under 13s list and who has recently moved to the county from Somerset.

After some stirring encounters, Charlotte Binley, Rachel Thompson and Stedman all held 100% records, but at this point Stedman beat Thompson 7-11, 11-9, 11-7, 15-13. Then the shock of the day when Thompson beat Binley in straight games, 11-7, 11-8, 11-6. Binley then got the better of Stedman 11-8, 11-7, 13-11, but the game Thompson had won against Stedman was enough to make the Harborough girl champion.

Boys: 1. Jordan Dainty (7), 2. Dan Smalley (6), 3. Sam Wildman (5), 4. Jack Coleman (4), 5. Robert Griffin (3), 6. Nick Smalley (2), 7. Nathan Thompson (1), 8. Sam Mabey. Girls: 1. Rachel Thompson (6), 2. Charlotte Binley (6), 3. Gina Stedman (6), 4. Summer Leeson (4), 5. Bethany Tyler (3), 6. Lauren Armstrong (2), 7. Rachel Brown (1), 8. Nicole Bird.

Northumberland by Pauline Long

Following Dave Godbold's victory in the over 40s singles at the North East Masters tournament in Sunderland, a

second successive title came the county's way when Eddie Smith won his first over 40s singles at the Midland Masters in Wolverhampton, defeating Steve Hall (Somerset) 3-1 in the final. Eddie, seeded four, edged out Jimmy Walsh (Herts) over five games in his semi-final, while Steve defeated third seed Keith Williams (Lancs) at the same stage. Surprisingly, both the first and second seeds, Nigel Eckersley (Sussex) and Joe Kennedy (Kent), were eliminated in earlier rounds, the latter going out to Durham's Dave Robson who, in turn, lost to Jimmy Walsh. Details of the Butterfly Newcastle Grand Prix will have been published elsewhere in the magazine, but everyone present enjoyed two days of top class table tennis. The veterans' entry was obviously affected by their British League weekend at Hereford, but Eddie Smith was runner-up in this event, losing to Cleveland's Darren McVitie in the final. Calum Main, who represents Scotland but also travels from home each week to play for Cramlington in the Premier Division of the Northumbria League, was runner-up in both the men's Band 5 and Band 6 singles.

Our thanks go to referee Aubrey Drapkin and the rest of the tournament committee for their considerable efforts in ensuring another successful event. Following Dave Scholfield's resignation from the Board of Directors as Chairman and League Secretary, Aubrey has now taken over as Chairman, while Adrian Barnes is the new League Secretary and



Joanna Parker

Graeme Boxwell will be responsible for the website at www.northumberlandtabletennis.org.

We hope that all players, officials and friends will have a good Christmas and best wishes are extended to everyone for the New Year 2008.

Somerset by Martin Rumary

Following the withdrawal of the county senior team due to lack of interest by the men players, it was refreshing to see the enthusiasm of the juniors in their first block fixture at Taunton.

Having been relegated last year and without the services of Frances Potjewyd they came through the day undefeated with four wins.

Holly Clark made her debut and acquitted herself well, winning five out of eight to go with Rebecca Seal's maximum of eight wins.

The trio of Jamie Hutchinson, James Downes and Joe Seal all played well though the next block fixtures sees them take on some of the stronger teams, especially Worcestershire who look very useful.

Avon2 4, Somerset 6 - J. Hutchinson 1, J. Downes 1, J. Seal 0, R. Seal 2, H. Clark 2

Somerset 8, Devon3 2 - J. Hutchinson 2, J. Downes 1, J. Seal 1, R. Seal 2, H. Clark 2

Somerset 9, Devon4 1 - J. Hutchinson 2, J. Downes 2, J. Seal 2, R. Seal 2, H. Clark 1

Cornwall2 2, Somerset 8 - J. Hutchinson 2, J. Downes 2, J. Seal 2, R. Seal 2, H. Clark 0

County Individual Championships - 18th November

Men's S Hall 11-6, 11-9, 11-9 - A Stone

Ladies - L Hall 7-11, 11-3, 11-7, 11-6 - C Howe

Junior Boys - J Hutchinson 11-5, 8-11, 11-6, 10-12, 11-8 - J Downes

Junior Girls - R Seal 11-4, 11-3, 11-6 - H Clark

Veterans - S Hall 11-3, 11-5, 12-10 - E Martin

Men's Doubles - S Hall/A Hewitt 11-7, 11-7, 11-5 - M

Crook/M Reading

Ladies Doubles - E Kirby/L Hall 11-9, 7-11, 14-12, 11-4 - R Seal/ C Howe

Mixed Doubles - S Hall/L Hall 11-6, 11-2, 11-6 - S Dark/J Crabtree

Junior Doubles - J Seal/R Seal 11-7, 11-7, 11-9 - J Hutchinson/J Downes

Surrey by Chris Andrews

Joanna Parker's team, TTK Anrochte, are top of the Bundesliga Ladies Division 2 North, with Joanna on 57% playing in the number 2 spot in the singles. However, in the doubles with Yang Yang of China she is on 100% after five matches.

After the first weekend of the Junior British League, Darius Knight is on 75% as he lost to Mathew Ware, and Wing-Yung Chan is on 60%, both are playing for York Gardens. Marco Essomba is Surrey's top player in the Senior British Premier League on 75% and he is playing for the champions for the last nine years, DHS London Progress, who are once again top of the table. In the Veterans' British League, David Harding is on 37.5% and is playing for Unity Northampton.

The Cardiff Open saw Matt Pernet as the runner-up in the Men's Band 3 event. At the Bristol Open Grand Prix event, Ben Lacombe won the Men's Band 3 event and Martin Smith was runner-up in the Veterans' event.

In the County Championships Junior Division 2D, Surrey's second team are lying in fifth place.

The top 5 Surrey players ratings in all the different age groups are as follows:

Boys Under 13:- 1. Michael Ho, 7; 2. Adam Hitchcock, 19
3. Ewen Stevenson, 20; 4. Lewis Bray, 30
5. Rafi Conn-Kowlessar, 48

Girls Under 13:- 1. Lucy Lou, 17; 2. Sophie Lucas, 21;
3. Jennifer Higham. 4. Sayeeda Miah, 46

Cadet Boys:- 1. Michael Ho, 32; 2. Michael Hitchcock, 49
3. Adam Hitchcock, 80; 4. Ewen Stevenson, 83
5. George Robinson, 92

Cadet Girls:- 1. Feifei Pei, 18; 2. Laura Higham, 44
3. Kim Beard, 55; 4. Lucy Lou, 62; 5. Helena Foylan, 64

Junior Boys:- 1. Darius Knight, 2; 2. Wing Yung-Chan,
3. Dorian Robinson; 4. Robert McMillan; 5. Andrew Linz, 56

Junior Girls:- 1. Feifei Pei, 41; 2. Lucy Burks, 82; 3. Laura Higham; 4. Kim Beard, 10; 5. Lucy Lou, 112

Senior Men:- 1. Darius Knight, 2; 2. Marco Essomba, 24
3. Abdul Wuraola, 28; 4. Chris Lewis, 39; 5. Chris Bush, 65

Senior Women:- 1. Joanna Parker, 3; 2. Marcia Ma, 9
3. Nimalka Pearce-Higginson, 99

Veteran Men:- 1. Abdul Wuraola, 1; 2. Henry Medellin, 15
3. Ian Girdler, 20; 4. David Harding, 28; 5. David Bangerter, 33

Veteran Women:- 1. Marcia Ma, 2; 2. Sue Adamson, 37
3. Jennifer Gillam, 48; 4. Norma Millward, 55

5. Margaret Thornton, 59



CATHY MITTON

Birth date: 30/11/1956

Place of birth: Leeds

Residence: Bardsey, near Leeds

Nature of disability: Poliomyelitis

Sport and classification: Table Tennis Class 2

Left/right handed: Right

Highest ever ranking and date: 1 - Jan-Oct 03 (C2)

Current World Ranking: 2 (in Class 2)

Most significant achievements - Becoming the Class 2 World Champion in 2002

Most memorable sporting occasion - Sydney Paralympics in 2002

Ultimate sporting ambition: Get to the top and stay there

What brought you to the sport of disabled table tennis? Having had Poliomyelitis and participating in the British Polio Fellowship Games where you could try out lots of different sports

How long have you been playing table tennis? Socially since I was a child, seriously since 1997

Which sportsman or woman do you most admire? Andre Agassi and Martina Navratilova - their age didn't stop them from competing at the highest level

Player Rankings 2007/2008

TOP 25 SENIOR MEN

Ranking	Player
1.	DRINKHALL, Paul (CV.) 5643
2.	KNIGHT, Darius (SY.) 5474
3.	RUSHTON, Andrew (LA.) 5454
4.	HERBERT, Gareth (BK.) 5118
5.	EVANS, Gavin (BU.) 5036 *
6.	REED, Daniel (CV.) 4987 *
7.	MEADS, David (DU.) 4922
8.	PREAN, Carl (IW.) 4898 *
9.	YOUNG, Terry (BK.) 4850
10.	YARNALL, Tim (NP.) 4840
11.	TRUMPAUSKAS, L (E.) 4633
12.	BRYANT, Craig (DV.) 4567
13.	EVANS, Bradley (BU.) 4433 *
14.	BARHAM, Dale (CA.) 4415
15.	HOLLAND, J (Dy) (E.) 4358
16.	NOAH, Hubert (E.) 4341
17.	SMITH, Mark Richard (Y.) 4310
18.	DOLDER, Kevin (LA.) 4284 *
19.	KENNY, Mathew (Y.) 4266
20.	MARSDEN, Michael (DU.) 4256
21.	ESSOMBA, Marco (SY.) 4231
22.	VENNER, Ritchie (SX.) 4218
23.	CUTLER, Tom (MI.) 4202
24.	MARPLES, Shaun (DY.) 4197
25.	WURAOLA, Abdul (SY.) 4185

TOP 5 JUNIOR BOYS

Ranking	Player
1.	DRINKHALL, Paul (CV.) 5831
2.	KNIGHT, Darius (SY.) 5524
3.	EVANS, Gavin (BU.) 4871 *
4.	WARE, Mathew (DO.) 2919 *
5.	REED, Darren (CO.) 2867

TOP 5 CADET BOYS

Ranking	Player
1.	EVANS, Gavin (BU.) 4871 *
2.	PITCHFORD, Liam (DY.) 2822
3.	CULLEN, Sean (DY.) 2238
4.	LOWE, Daniel (DY.) 2221
5.	BARELLA, Graeme (DU.) 1781

TOP 5 UNDER 13 BOYS

Ranking	Player
1.	ZILESニック, Zac (MI.) 1430 *
2.	WALKER, Sam (NG.) 1205 *
3.	WEERASINGHE, H (SX.) 1101 *
4.	WILSON, Ross (K.) 1014 *
5.	ADEBANJO, Azarel (E.) 954

TOP 5 VETERAN MEN

Ranking	Player
1.	WURAOLA, Abdul (SY.) 4349
2.	VENNER, Ritchie (SX.) 4343
3.	KENNEDY, Joe (K) (E.) 4226
4.	ECKERSLEY, Nigel (SX.) 4174
5.	GODBOLD, David (DU.) 4068 *

TOP 25 SENIOR WOMEN

Ranking	Player
1.	SIBLEY, Kelly (WA.) 5180
2.	LOWER, Helen (ST.) 4977 ***
3.	PARKER, Joanna (SY.) 4951
4.	BAWDEN, Natalie (E.) 4766
5.	EMBLING, Abigail (E.) 4258
6.	REYNOLDS, Lindsey (LA.) 4192
7.	CLARK, Sally (Y.) 3988 ****
8.	HUANG, Shu (K.) 3842 ***
9.	KEAST, Lesley (LI.) 3823 *
10.	VICKERS, Emma (DY.) 3781 *
11.	WANG, Sarra (E.) 3779
12.	RAINTON, Rosemary (SX.) 3667
13.	CLEMENTS, Sanya (DO.) 3663
14.	COHEN, Michele (WI.) 3623 *
15.	LEFEVRE, Karina (CV.) 3620
16.	WILSON, Naomi (SO.) 3612
17.	HOWARD, Alice (CH.) 3587 *
18.	FARQUHAR, Melanie (BK.) 3575
19.	RADFORD, Lisa (DV.) 3541 ****
20.	HALLOWS, Caroline (CH.) 3539
21.	DONNELLY, Stephanie (CV.) 3518
22.	CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.) 3513 *
23.	MAY, Elizabeth (DV.) 3511 *
24.	STEDMAN, Sarah (SX.) 3504
25.	HICKS, Hannah (HA.) 3502

TOP 5 JUNIOR GIRLS

Ranking	Player
1.	VICKERS, Emma (DY.) 4145 *
2.	WANG, Sarra (E.) 3549 *
3.	JAMIESON, Rachel (E.) 3202
4.	HALLOWS, Caroline (CH.) 3103
5.	LEFEVRE, Karina (CV.) 2760 *

TOP 5 CADET GIRLS

Ranking	Player
1.	BATES, Emily (LI.) 2584
2.	LEFEVRE, Karina (CV.) 2538
3.	SUNDARARAJAN, A (BK.) 2451
4.	TRAVIS, Martha (CO.) 2230 *
5.	SLATER, Natalie (ST.) 2040 *

TOP 5 UNDER 13 GIRLS

Ranking	Player
1.	BATES, Emily (LI.) 2584
2.	LEFEVRE, Karina (CV.) 2538
3.	SUNDARARAJAN, A (BK.) 245
4.	TRAVIS, Martha (CO.) 2230 *
5.	SLATER, Natalie (ST.) 2040

TOP 5 VETERAN WOMEN

Ranking	Player
1.	HUANG, Shu (K.) 3993 ***
2.	LOCKE, Gillian (E.) 3679
3.	MUDGE, Kim (K) (SY.) 3676
4.	DURHAM, Jane (CV.) 3655 *
5.	KING, Sheila (SX.) 3642



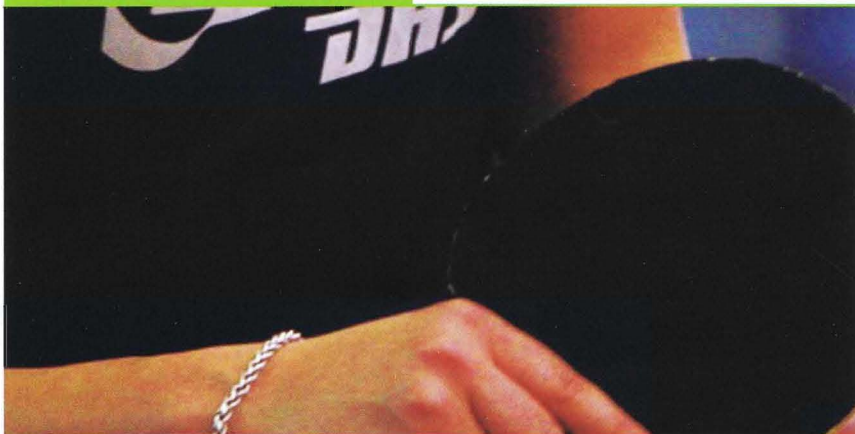
For the full list of player rankings go to our website

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Dates for your diary

Table Tennis events for January 2008



2007/2008 COPY DATES

February Issue

Copy Deadline: 17 Dec
Advertising Deadline: 10 Dec

March Issue

Copy Deadline: 04 Feb
Advertising Deadline: 29 Jan

April Issue

Copy Deadline: 03 Mar
Advertising Deadline: 25 Feb

May Issue

Copy Deadline: 07 Apr
Advertising Deadline: 31 Mar

June Issue

Copy Deadline: 05 May
Advertising Deadline: 28 Apr

Friday 4th:

Junior - Chesham 2 Star

Saturday 5th:

Senior/Veteran - County Championships (4)

Sunday 6th:

Senior - British League (3)
Veteran - County Championships

Saturday 12th:

Junior - Cippenham YP New Year Festival 1 Star
Veteran - VETTS Western - Hereford

Sunday 13th:

Junior - Cippenham YP New Year Festival 1 Star
Veteran - VETTS Western - Hereford

Saturday 19th:

Junior/Senior/Veteran - County Championships (5)
Senior - British League Premier (3)

Sunday 20th:

Cadet - NCL (3) or 10th Feb
Junior - Stiga 2 Star - Halton
Senior - British League Premier (3)
Veteran - County Championships

Saturday 26th:

Junior - NJL (3)
Veteran - Brit. League (2) Doncaster
Nat. League (2) Blackpool

Sunday 27th:

Veteran - Brit. League (2) Doncaster
Nat. League (2) Blackpool

Other:

Friday 25th - Sunday 27th

Cadet - Europe Youth Top 10 - Sheffield
Junior - Europe Youth Top 10 - Sheffield

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for events in
February 2008

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