

table tennis news

Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association

Eastern Makeover

Fashion and table tennis collide



All time **English** Top 10;
Excellence at **London**
Progress; What's **Racketlon?**
and the **latest news** and
results

Coming Soon!

Something that will revolutionise the game is heading your way this spring!

www.stigatabletennis.com

GY TECH

STIGA®

NOVEMBER 07

PUBLISHER

ETTA, Queensbury House, Havelock
Road, Hastings, East Sussex
TN34 1HF
Tel: 01424 722525
Fax: 01424 722103
Email: admin@etta.co.uk
Web: www.etta.co.uk

EDITOR

Richard Pettit
National Communications Officer
English Table Tennis Association
Tel. 01424 722525
Mob. 07970 575280
Email: richard.pettit@etta.co.uk

ADVERTISEMENTS

Richard Pettit
National Communications Officer
English Table Tennis Association
Tel. 01424 722525
Mob. 07970 575280
Email: richard.pettit@etta.co.uk

SUBSCRIPTION & DISTRIBUTION

Robert Sinclair
ETTA Headquarters, Hastings

PHOTOGRAPHY

David Wearn
david@dwphotographic.co.uk

GRAPHIC DESIGN

by Nikki Finn
Naughty Beagle Graphic Design
Service
Tel: 0787 244 2165
Email: nikki@naughtybeagle.co.uk

Unsolicited articles are welcome for possible publication but the English Table Tennis Association will accept no responsibility for the return of manuscripts and/or photographs. Whilst every effort is taken to ensure that the reports and facts are correct at the time of going to press no responsibility will be accepted by the ETTA should errors be published, either for errors or matters arising as a result. The views expressed in Table Tennis News are those of the contributors and are not necessarily official ETTA policy. Similarly TTN accepts advertisements in good faith, but cannot accept responsibility for the goods or services distributed in advertisements. If you have any queries, these should be addressed directly to the advertiser. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or any means, electronic or mechanical including photocopying, recording or any information storage or retrieval system without prior written consent of the publisher.

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
- 08 Letters**
You have your say
- 12 International News**
New with an international focus
- 14 London Progress**
An excellent club gets an excellent review
- 18 England's Top 10**
Matthew Syed provides us with his English Top 10
- 20 Academies**
Tim Yarnall provides his view on TT academies
- 22 Makeover**
Table tennis gets an eastern style
- 26 Racketlon**
A new take on racket competition
- 28 Tournament Review**
Reports and results of various tournaments
- 30 Tournament Review**
Reports and results of various tournaments
- 32 British League**
A captain's performance
- 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 Jane Campbell profile
- 44 Event Listings**
Guide to December's TT events plus copy dates

Bribar

Table Tennis

TIBHAR RAPID

Elastic offensive rubber for optimum spin / speed, similar in characteristics to Mambo or Sriver. The surface is grippy and suits the controlled attacker or offensive allrounder. Available in 2.0mm red or black. Opt for the Rapid Soft version for enhanced touch.

Spin	88	Speed	68	Control	90
Thickness: 1.8 / 2.0					
DEF	+	ALL	+	OFF	+

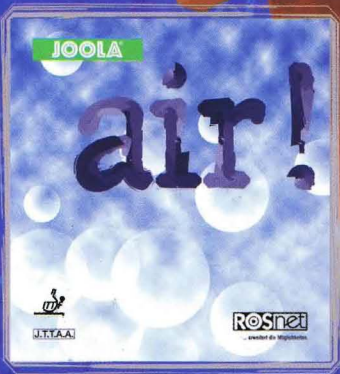
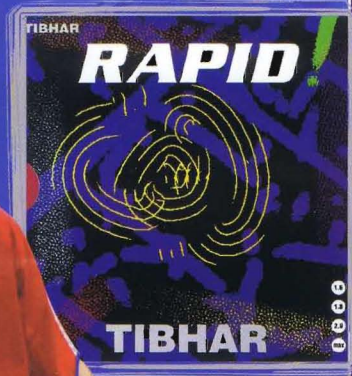
RRP £23.99
Sale Price £17.99
 or buy 2 sheets for £32.00

TIBHAR RAPID

Elastic offensive rubber for optimum spin / speed, similar in characteristics to Mambo or Sriver. The surface is grippy and suits the controlled attacker or offensive allrounder. Available in 2.0mm red or black. Opt for the Rapid Soft version for enhanced touch.

Spin	88	Speed	68	Control	90
Thickness: 1.8 / 2.0					
DEF	+	ALL	+	OFF	+

RRP £23.99
Sale Price £17.99
 or buy 2 sheets for £32.00



JOOLA AIR

A favourite from InnoVA designed for the attacking player requiring good catapult effect and top control. The reduced weight of the sponge permits players to increase the thickness of sponge and the corresponding attacking possibilities without losing balance. 1.5mm or 1.8mm for control and 2.0mm and 2.5mm for attack. Available in red / black.

Spin	95	Speed	96	Control	72
Thickness: 1.5 / 1.8 / 2.0 / 2.5					
DEF	+	ALL	+	OFF	+

RRP £28.99
Sale Price £23.50
 or buy 2 sheets for £40.00

STIGA INNOVA

Air capsule sponge for improved spin and speed. The sponge design increases elasticity but maintains power – for attacking players only. Available in 2.0mm and 2.5mm sponge.

Spin	96	Speed	95	Control	72
Thickness: 2.0 / 2.5					
DEF	+	ALL	+	OFF	+

RRP £27.50
Sale Price £23.50
 or buy 2 sheets for £40.00

WHEN ORDERING PLEASE QUOTE TABLE TENNIS NEWS.

• Tel: 01227 741471/01227 741644
 Fax: 01227 860569 • E-mail: sales@bribartt.co.uk

Bribar Table Tennis, Knaves Ash House,
 Church Road, Hoath, Canterbury CT3 4JT

Matthew Syed



Matthew is former English number one.

He has a

defensive style with the bat yet quite the opposite with the pen. Currently a Times columnist, TV sports commentator and media pundit.

Jeremy Wilson



Jeremy is a football writer for The Daily Telegraph. He

has also played senior and junior county table tennis for Hampshire.

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

Letters, letters, letters. This month we have restored one of your favourite items, the letters page. We have always wished to run this feature to allow you to express your points of view and stimulate further contributions, so creating a lively and informed debate on table tennis within this country. However this can only be achieved by you, the reader, letting us know your thoughts, so keep those letters coming in. Recently I have had the pleasure of visiting the new home for our performance squad at the English Institute of Sport (EIS), Sheffield. This purpose built elite arena is also the home of numerous other national governing bodies providing a mecca of sporting excellence. Benefiting from the huge synergies gained from all being based under one roof, the ETTA is now able to provide our elite with what they deserve and require to compete at the highest

level, a no compromise facility in an environment conducive to both playing and personal progression.

After watching and speaking to those present, I could feel a renewed energy and sense of purpose had been found, a glow and heightened passion radiated from each individual with the knowledge of certainty and stability providing everyone a clear and single minded focus – WINNING. This focus is also demonstrated by our players' desire for competition. In the recent ITTF world ranking Paul Drinkhall and Darius Knight topped the ITTF most active player list, making them the most regular performers on the senior international tournament circuit.

With regular performers in mind let me switch your attention to our features in this issue. Richard Eaton delves into the world of fashion and provides a glimpse of

what could be in store for our sport (page 22). Tim Yarnall gives us a player's insight into the new performance centre in Sheffield (page 20). Matthew Syed give us his all time English top 10 (page 18), and Jeremy Wilson discovers just what keeps this year's Excellence level Premier Club of the Year ticking' (page14).

We also as ever report on the goings on around the playing circuit and bring you up-to-date with interesting news snippets. Plus we investigate what has been quoted as one of the fastest growing sports on the planet, Racketlon. Find out more on page 26.

I hope you enjoy this issue and I look forward to receiving your views on the topics raised and any others you consider might be added.

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...

"Douglas combined underrated finesse with lightening reactions to become one of the most feared competitors" Matthew Syed Page 18 "Eventually after four years of hardship the EIS Sheffield became a viable option" Tim Yarnall Page 20 "Sexily clad women players with figure-hugging dresses, short sleeve tops, and brief skirts will occupy centre stage at the Beijing stadium" Richard Eaton Page 22 "it is a sport very much geared towards fun and enjoyment and a new challenge for racket sport enthusiasts" Keith Lesser Page 26

Straight talk

I hope the first issue of TTN for the season reached you on time despite the postal problems and that your season is underway. Mine has started and to date I have only played 3 league matches with moderate results.

Publicity - A number of interesting articles have been published about our sport in the last 30 days in both the national newspapers and on websites including BBC TV Sport. The magazine published by the International Table Tennis Federation has on its front cover Paul Drinkhall and an article about Gavin Evans. The Fred Perry Cup generated significant exposure for our sport at both local and national level. BBC TV has been following the British players and the first programme will be transmitted in November with annual follow-ups to 2012.

Local press coverage is increasing and the ETTA Communications Department is working towards getting our sport better recognised in the media. I, like others, wish the exposure of our sport via TV and press was at the levels of the "heydays", and you can be assured that we shall continue our efforts towards getting more coverage in line with the way news is communicated to people in this technological age.

Individual Membership - Discussion documents including Q and A have been submitted to National Council and they will be distributed for inputs. The intention is to develop the process over the next few months and at the same time encourage discussion throughout leagues and clubs prior to a more structured debate in the January National Council and at the Annual General Meeting in June.

Below is a brief synopsis of some of the key points:-

The need to communicate directly with our membership is of key importance and Individual Membership will greatly assist in improving the support to the grass roots whilst at the same time ensuring that members are aware of the opportunities available to them.

Four potential levels of Individual Membership

- Level 1. National Competition Member, equivalent to a current licensed player
- Level 2. League (local?) Competition Member,

equivalent to a current league player

- Level 3. Recreational Member, all other players in clubs, schools, etc.
- Level 4. Associate Member, non-players, including officers, officials, parents, supporters, etc.

Membership at one level would include that level and the level(s) below and each individual would pay only one membership fee.

Fee levels for Levels 1 and 2 would be set at the amount which would occur under the current system plus a small additional cost for a membership card and insurance (which is generally paid now as part of the local club and league subscription), lower fees would be set for Levels 3 and 4.

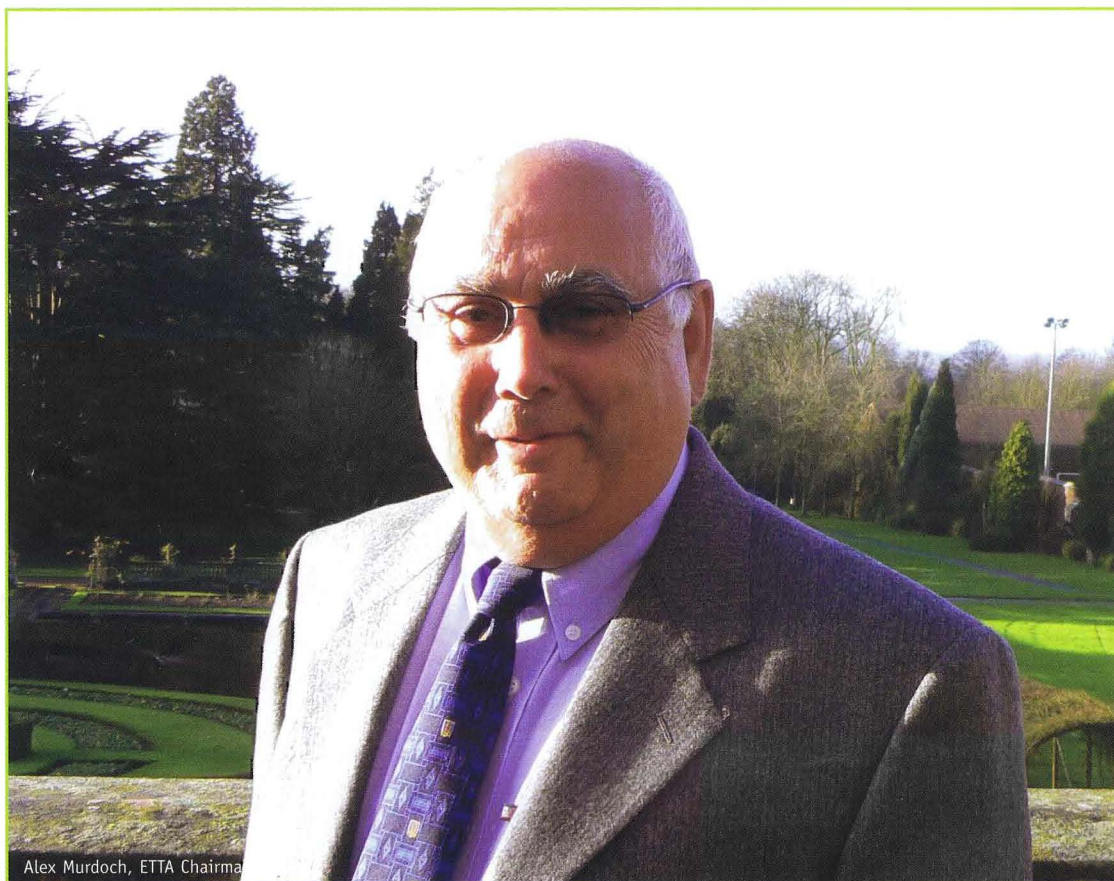
The affiliation process would be between the individual and the ETTA using the website as the prime capture mechanism but also with telephone and post systems.

Initially leagues and clubs would be involved in the individual process for those individuals who have not registered by the time of implementation, which is expected to be in the 2009/10 administrative year at the earliest. Currently about 50% of league players have submitted an IR form and significant efforts will be made to increase that percentage substantially over this year and next year.

Individual Membership will provide greater financial transparency in the affiliation costs involved for people to play our sport and also increase the transparency on where their money is used.

Individual Membership will empower and encourage better two-way communication between the ETTA and the membership through personalised and direct information. The present communication process is mostly via the hard working volunteers on League and County Committees. IM will reduce the burden on them whilst at the same time increasing the communication channels.

Individual Membership will bring more people into ETTA



Alex Murdoch, ETTA Chairman

Many projects are ongoing via our funding partners to increase participation and retention, but we presently have no mechanism to reflect these in our affiliation numbers, unless and until these new participants, mainly young people, join a league.

affiliation/membership especially through Levels 3 and 4. Many projects are ongoing via our funding partners to increase participation and retention, but we presently have no mechanism to reflect these in our affiliation numbers, unless and until these new participants, mainly young people, join a league.

Debate on this issue has been ongoing for many years but its importance has become much more relevant in recent years as the way we have to report to our funding partners has changed. The involvement of our members is paramount in the process of this proposed change.

Major Events - Details of the Europe Youth Top 10 have been put on the website and I encourage you to attend. For those of you who have not been a spectator at European Youth events you are in for a surprise with the atmosphere that is created. Our young players have a major chance to win so that is another incentive to ensure you get your tickets early. Details of the prestigious Table Tennis Masters 2008 at the Royal Albert Hall in March is also on the website, please book your tickets early so you do not miss out.

Ongoing discussions and planning is taking place with UK Sport, Birmingham City Council, London Olympic Organising Committee and other potential partners about senior events including the English Open and ITTF Pro Tour events to take place in England from 2009 until 2012. We are very positive about the possible outcomes, and bringing back the English Open after many years is essential for the exposure of our sport. These events are not cheap and we must ensure that the ETTA does not

have any significant financial exposure which could undermine its support to the grass roots.

2000 Club - The first draw took place in September and we have over 225 members. Please join, not only does it give you or your club or league a chance to win some money but it is contributing towards additional support for unfunded young players.

International - A number of our players will be participating over the next couple of months in Senior Pro Tour events and the World Junior Table Tennis Championships. Paul Drinkhall has also qualified to take part in the ITTF World Junior Circuit Finals. I am sure with me you will wish our players every success.

The BTTF funding partners UK Sport have put together a new appraisal, accountability and monitoring system for all Olympic sports starting in November called "Mission 2012". This is to review the progress of sports on a quarterly basis when each sport will have to present a status report covering three specific dimensions, namely athletes (their performance and development), systems (staff, structures and programmes) and climate (culture and governance) to a performance panel. Table tennis has been very much involved with this from its concept and is very satisfied that it will help our sport.

I wish to reiterate my message about visiting your local clubs, leagues and counties to meet with the members and discuss any aspect of our sport and answer your e-mails, calls or correspondence.

Headlines

The latest stories from the Table Tennis World

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Bring 'em on young. That, it seems, is the motto of West Lothian TTC who have a very successful family section.

"Over the years there has been this disinclination to bring along youngsters from a very early age," said club spokesman John McCulloch. "But the success of sportspeople like Andy Murray and Lewis Hamilton has served to change a few minds." To further his point he reveals there's a real family feel about the club these days. Member Andy MacDougall brings daughters Julia and Laura to the club whilst Kevin Milne brought his daughter Rachel. Then there is David Fletcher who brings his daughter Zoe. But that's not all. Father and son Robert and Scott Fairley are also regulars while Keith Mackay and son Daniel can be counted on to bring their bats along at least once a week.



BRINGING HOME THE GOLD

With 5 years to go until the 2012 Olympic Games in London, Britain's best young hopefuls are already hard at work to try and bring home the gold on home soil. "Olympic Dreams", airing from Monday 12th to Friday 16th of November at 9.15 am on BBC 1, is a five year project to give us an insight into how much dedication is needed, the highs and lows and how the athletes are progressing on their path to glory. Two of those hopefuls are none other than our very own Darius Knight and Paul Drinkhall, who feature in episodes 3, 4 and 5 (Wednesday – Friday). Week 1 charts the progress of Darius and Paul through the Junior World Championships, an Asian training tour and the build up to the European Youth Championships. As well as the competitions, the BBC delves into training regimes and mental preparation

needed to compete at the top level.

The other sports being covered are: Cycling (Velodrome; BMX; Dressage; Rowing; Heptathlon; Diving; Gymnastics

Episode 1

Britain's rowers are fighting for a seat in the top boat, Paralympian Dressage rider Lee Pearson faces a major crisis with his horse and teenage cyclist Ben Swift risks being dumped from the Olympic academy.

Episode 2

New talent Shanaze Reade must prove herself in the tough world of BMX, the clock's ticking as Britain's top dressage rider Lee Pearson struggles to find and train a horse in time for the World Para Dressage Championships and Rowing's Men's Head Coach Jurgen Grobler has a surprise in store for the elite 4.

Episode 3

Britain's young Table Tennis elite take on the best in the world, top athlete Jess Ennis must improve her throwing and Rowing's top boat is a man down.

Episode 4

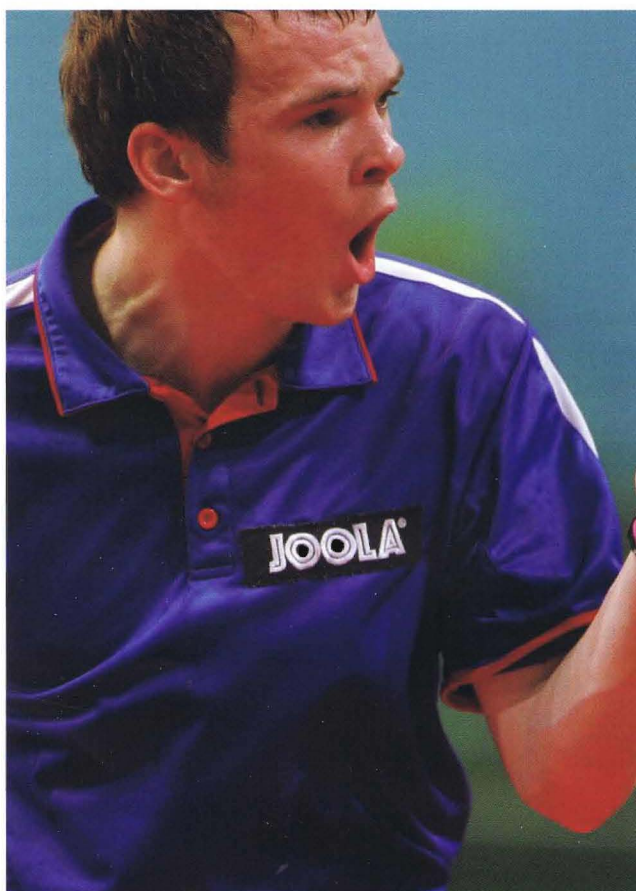
One of Britain's best table tennis hopefuls drops out of a vital Asian tour, 11 year old diving prodigy, Tom Daley, takes on the adults at the British Nationals, and heptathlete Jess Ennis is having a crisis of confidence.

Episode 5

Last of this series of "Olympic Dreams", we join Britain's youngest Olympic hopefuls all at crucial moments on their road to 2012; Britain's Table Tennis hopefuls are aiming for gold in Europe. 13-year-old sensation Tom Daley, takes on the world's best seniors in synchronised diving and in Wales the search is on for the gymnasts of the future.

DRINKHALL CONTINUES TO PROGRESS

Competing in one of the toughest leagues in the world Paul Drinkhall is demonstrating what a world class talent he is. In what could be considered a transitional year as he aims to step up from the position of number one European junior, to a world class senior he is certainly out to impress. Not only is Drinkhall contending with the pressures of a new environment, team mates and a language barrier. He also has added weight of expectation having been selected in the number one position. A position formerly occupied by the German super star Timo Boll. In his first four matches of the season Drinkhall has won four and lost four with his best result being a 3-2 victory against Adrian Crisan, the current world number 30.



Drinkhall's Performance

Date	Opponent	Result	Team (Reesult)
Sa 08.09.	Keen	1:3 (12:10 13:15 6:11 7:11)	Bremen - Gönnern (6:4)
Sa 08.09.	Kishikawa	1:3 (11:2 10:12 2:11 10:12)	Bremen - Gönnern (6:4)
Mi 12.09.	Tan	0:3 (8:11 7:11 5:11)	Gönnern - Würzburg (5:5)
Mi 12.09.	Ling	2:3 (6:11 6:11 11:6 11:6 6:11)	Gönnern - Würzburg (5:5)
So 30.09.	Leung	3:2 (8:11 11:8 11:6 6:11 12:10)	Ochsenhausen - Gönnern (6:3)
So 30.09.	Crisan	3:2 (8:11 13:11 5:11 11:8 11:9)	Ochsenhausen - Gönnern (6:3)
So 21.10.	Takakiwa	3:2 (11:6 11:7 5:11 10:12 14:12)	Jülich - Gönnern (6:4)
So 21.10.	Roßkopf	3:1 (11:6 11:9 12:14 11:6)	Jülich - Gönnern (6:4)

German Bundesliga

Position	Team	P	W	D	L	Sets	Games	Points
1	TTC Frickenhausen (M)	5	4	1	0	102:65	29:14	9
2	TTC Zugbrücke Grenzau (P)	5	4	0	1	93:79	26:16	8
3	TTF LIEBHERR Ochsenhausen	5	3	2	0	112:94	28:20	8
8	TTV Gönnern	5	1	1	3	93:114	22:27	3

STARS OF THE FUTURE

Super stars Desmond Douglas and Helen Lower helped kick off the new season for Uxbridge Table Tennis Club. The talented duo served up some excellent coaching tips and also played exhibitions to an admiring group of youngsters.

"The lessons learned from these two players will hold these youngsters in good stead for the future," said organizer Simon Price.

BACK HOME

On the move. That's the West Exe TTC who were kicked out of their home at West Exe Technology College when it was closed to the local community. But now they are back home after the club persuaded the owners that table tennis was more popular than they thought. "A lot of our youngsters couldn't travel across the city to our new venue. So we held talks with the college and the result is that we are back and hoping to pick up some of the youngsters we originally had." Club Chairman Viv Handy.

In Short

Dizzy Heights

A Kent table tennis club is hoping to hit the heights after receiving funding to buy a new table. The Dizzy Heights TTC who meet at Herne Bay Judo Club, managed to squeeze £300 from the Kent Sport Development sports fund account.

The money will go towards the cost of a new table as well as going towards helping the club establish their own website at www.dizzy-heights-ttc.co.uk



Lucky 13

A kidney transplant athlete hopes to take part in a special fund raising quiz run by Hailsham Conservatives and he's still only 13.

James Kirby has just returned from the World Transplant Games in the Far East where he won two medals for table tennis.



STEP INTO COACHING

Coaching is a fascinating job that gives you the opportunity to find that little nugget of gold that every coach dreams about - a future champion. Now a new course is being offered in the South East.

Depending on your ambitions it could be the first step on the ladder to a lifelong career. Ask people like England manager Steen Hansen, national coach Jy Liu, Alan Cooke and Alex Perry who has just been added to the UK Sport list of coaches being primed for excellence.

The new Level 1 Certificate in Coaching Table Tennis course is the first step. If you are over 16 years old and enthusiastic about Table Tennis and want to become a coach, then this course is for you.

For more information on the course visit www.etta.co.uk

Sharp's the word

Apparently the England rugby union team before their matches in the recent World Cup would regularly turn to table tennis as the sport to keep their reflexes sharp. And it wasn't just a friendly knock-up, they take it very seriously playing in tournaments as often as possible. I'm told the best England players are Olly Barkley, Nick Easter, Danny Hipkiss, Matt Stevens and Mark Regan



Stars of the future

Superstars Desmond Douglas and Helen Lower helped kick off the new season for Uxbridge Table Tennis Club. The talented duo served up some excellent coaching tips and also played exhibitions to an admiring group of youngsters. "The lessons learned from these two players will hold these youngsters in good stead for the future," said organizer Simon Price.



Europe 2008

Paul Drinkhall, England number one looks to reinforce his position as Europe's best junior (U18) in a supreme table tennis showcase here in England.

Commencing on the 25th of January and running over three days, the top European junior (U18) and cadet (U15) players will converge on the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield, to participate in the Europe Youth Top 10.

With less than 5 years remaining until the magical 2012, this

tournament provides the opportunity to witness, first hand, potential future Olympians battling it out amongst their contemporaries for top honours.

The 2008 tournament has the additional bonus of a fresh format that now includes cadet as well as junior level competition. For England and in particular Gavin Evans, this new format offers a superb platform to display his skills and prove that he truly is best cadet boy in Europe.

Ticket Prices

Friday Afternoon	Adult £5	Junior/Concession £3
Saturday	Adult £12	Junior/Concession £6
Sunday	Adult £12	Junior/Concession £6
Season Ticket (Whole Event)	Adult £20	Junior/Concession £10

*Group Concessions Available

Ryan Jenkins, the Welsh champion, beat Devon's Alex Perry in the final of the Clare Pengelly Memorial Trophy and then admitted: "It was the first time I've ever beaten Alex and it felt great." Adding "It was all the more fitting to be able to do it in front of this crowd."

The crowd Ryan refers to included 11 youngsters he had brought with him from South Wales to get a feel for big time table tennis.



ASK THE

EDITOR...

Next issue we would like to know your views on the looming glue ban!

TOP TENS

I find that the concept of top ten players of all times is flawed! It is not comparing like with like. Surely, our sport falls into two eras - hard bat and post hard bat (sponge, etc.).

Credible rankings - by opinion - can be made for each era. I would confine my selection to three from each, hard bat: 1. Viktor Barna 2. Richard Bergmann 3. Ivan Andeadis.

The number of World Championships won by Viktor Barna is beyond comparison. He cannot be ranked sixth in any list - he could scarcely have done any better! I think that you will find that Ivan Andeadis has won more World Championship medals than anyone else, counting individual and team events - gold, silver and bronze. He was a model performer and coped with sponge at the outset.

For the sponge era: 1. Jan Ove Waldner 2. Wang Liqin 3. Ma Lin, with many Chinese players to follow.

I have seen all six of my selection in action several times - my TT memories go back to 1926!

Derek Tyler (Vice-President ETTA)

I don't believe anybody can argue with this list?

1. Victor Barna
2. Richard Bergmann
3. Stellan Bengtsson
4. Istvan Jonyer
5. Jan Ove Waldner
6. Jorgen Persson
7. Kong Linhui
8. Jean-Philippe Gatien
9. Liu Guoliang
10. Wang Liqin

Keith James

EDITOR'S COMMENT

Thanks for your opinions, top tens are always controversial. The issue of splitting table tennis into two distinct eras adds a clear division and an interesting discussion point.

Which era would you consider the most skilful, hard bat or sponge?



IF YOU COULD MAKE ONE POSITIVE CHANGE TO THE ETTA, WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

I would answer with one sentence but I will try and keep to one positive change. It is simply the image of the ETTA and more so table tennis in this country to the masses. People who do not play need to come and watch the game. Marketing, marketing, marketing. It has to change and that means the image of a sport that survives only because of volunteers needs to change. A marketing campaign on all fronts in the media is needed and whether we like it or not personalities matter. The top young players need to feature in this campaign.

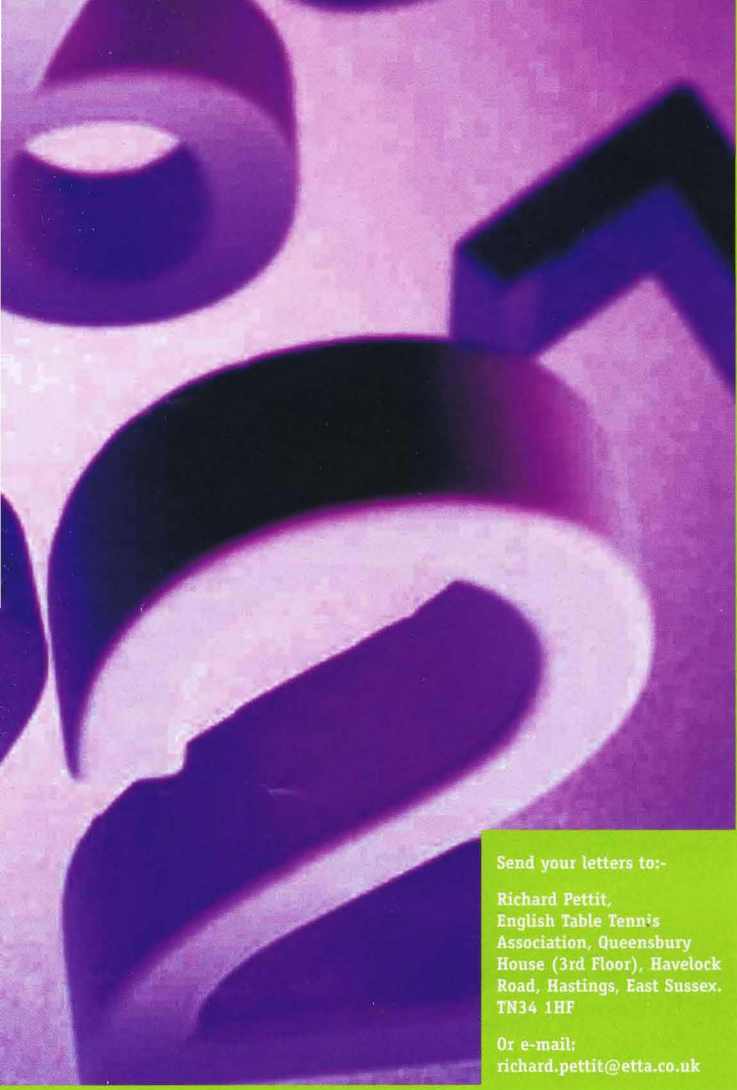
George Lamptey

EDITOR'S COMMENT

As a national governing body the ETTA is continually pushing table tennis forward with various new and different initiatives. One prime example is the Fred Perry Urban Cup, this has provided a £170,000 investment over four years with the sole aim of getting table tennis back into the youth clubs. This initiative has and continues to gain a high level of exposure within various media from the BBC to the Independent. It also boasts a rich blend of youth and experience with the interesting mix of one of England's most prestigious clothing brands with our rising young star Darius Knight. To find out more visit www.fredperry.com/urbancup

TEXTING

My wife is a member of The British Showjumping Association. Everytime showjumping is scheduled to appear on TV she gets a text telling her. Can you do this with table tennis?



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

EDITOR'S COMMENT

The current membership revenue is unable to fund this level of service. It is, however, an item on our wish list and one we would love to include in the future.

EUROSPORT COVERAGE - HALF EMPTY OR HALF FULL?

I, like many other English table tennis fans, was waiting to watch the Eurosport coverage of the World Cup from Barcelona. After the quarter-final coverage, the commentator Mathew Syed said, "see you later at 10.30 pm for the semi-final and final." This was never shown; instead it was replaced by snooker.

Eurosport ...who do they think they are showing the middle part of a world tournament but not the end?

Gordon Fairchild

EDITOR'S COMMENT

It was disappointing that British Eurosport decided not to cover the latter stages. This was a decision made by the British Eurosport producers who unfortunately considered the snooker of greater relevance to the British viewing public than table tennis due to the home nation players participating.

The tournament was shown in full by other Eurosport regions. This is an unfortunate reality of not having British competitors within these major tournaments.

ARE THE LEAGUES LETTING US DOWN?

Table tennis in my eyes is in better shape than ever with Drinkhall and Knight performing very well at junior level and a whole host of exciting youngsters inspired by their performances. The second point,

that I'd like to give focus to, is the gradual and somewhat inevitable death of local leagues. This seems to be a particular gripe, however, I would cite it as a good thing. Local leagues are the past, there is a reason why numbers are dwindling and the age of participants rising considerably. They are boring! The youth of today (mind you, I am 26 and gradually losing my hair) has very little interest in spending three or four hours a night playing within that framework - perhaps an hour themselves against the same opponents week in week out, with very little incentive. I mean who cares if you beat a bunch of old codgers in a league match? Let's face it, I play in one of the strongest local leagues in the country (Ilford) and the strongest mid-week regional league there is (BATTS) and on occasion I still can't drag myself to whole evenings of table tennis in this structure, where table time is somewhat limited. Most other sports you turn up, you play and you get the equivalent of "table time" to a tee. That is the issue, kids love the socials, the practices, and the tournaments, they are much more exciting. The elite club structure and tournament structure based around national tournaments and national league is the future. Clubs like Progress are the benchmark, look at their membership base and look at what they have achieved. I am hoping one day my club, Mossford, could do something similar.

My last point is the issue of "changing cultures". It's up to all of us to spearhead and encourage the future of the sport, the clubs, the captains, the coaches and the players. If the ETTA management can provide some strategic direction and leadership, that is good enough for me, and if they can do it with a smile on their face even better.

Keith Lesser

EDITOR'S COMMENT

What is your opinion on leagues? Is the traditional three player league structure best or is it time to change to two where matches are shorter and table time is maximised?

TWO TIER LICENCING?

If I could make a change to the present E.T.T.A. regulations, it would be to do away with the current licensing system. For example, why should a young player have to buy a licence to be able to play in the National Cadet and Junior Leagues, when they are already affiliated to the E.T.T.A. and probably their county, through their normal club affiliations?

I feel this is an antiquated two-tier system, which should, and could be done away with.

Allen Roper, Hillingdon TTC.

COMMENT FROM ALEX MURDOCH ETTA CHAIRMAN

The whole aspect of affiliation and membership is under review and discussion documents are going to be circulated as part of our decision making process.

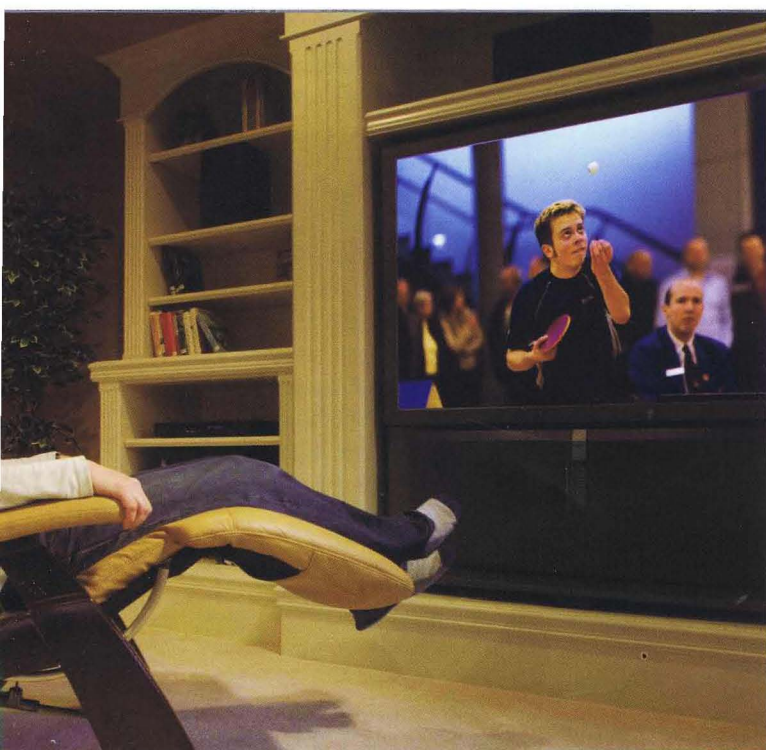
I understand that players are affiliated in different ways and for example the annual fee for senior league players is £4.28, and players who are members of a club but do not play in the league structure are not required to pay an affiliation fee to the ETTA.

This system of two tiers is used by many sports in England and by table tennis associations overseas.

If the ETTA is to provide a competition structure outside of that organised by the leagues, why should players who want this service not be expected to pay over and above the normal league player's affiliation fee? I do not regard the charge for the normal licence fee you mention as being extortionate, if your player was a member of any other national governing body they would be expected to pay far in excess of what the ETTA charges, and in many sports provide a much smaller competitive structure.

Headlines

The latest international stories from the Table Tennis World



TT IS GREAT FOR TV

His Excellency Juan Antonio Samaranch, the President of the International Olympic Committee from 1980 until 2001, was a welcome guest at the final stages of the Liebherr Men's World Cup in Barcelona. Born on 17th July 1920 in Barcelona, Juan Antonio Samaranch was elected Honorary President for Life of the International Olympic Committee on his retirement from office in 2001.

In his home city he was delighted to see the world's leading male players displaying their wonderful talents. Furthermore, he was equally pleased to see that table tennis continues to progress in a wide range of spheres, the octogenarian having been

heavily involved with the introduction of the sport into the Olympic Games in 1988. Ichiro Ogimura "I helped Ichiro Ogimura many times", reflected Juan Antonio Samaranch; Ichiro Ogimura being the President of the International Table Tennis Federation from 1987 until his untimely death in 1994. "We discussed many times how the colour of the table, the floor and the balls might change", continued Juan Antonio Samaranch. "Certainly, I think the alterations to the rules that have been made have improved the sport; playing to eleven points is much better."

Behaviour: Now playing to eleven is universally accepted and very rarely if ever queried;

the players have adapted and they received the praise of the Barcelona celebrity.

"I have always been impressed by the table tennis players", explained Juan Antonio Samaranch. "The level of their behaviour is very high."

Skills: Undoubtedly, that fact was clearly illustrated at the Liebherr Men's World Cup; the conduct of all sixteen participants was magnificent as were their incredible skills. "The game is so quick nowadays, speed is so important", continued Juan Antonio Samaranch. "The Asian players are superb but you have to remember that the beauty of table tennis is that everyone can play; you can play whatever your age and whatever your ability."

Former Player: Certainly that is the case and Juan Antonio Samaranch is an enthusiast. "Yes, I played in Catalan Championships when I was younger", he added. "Nowadays it's so different, the way the players serve, their athleticism, much has changed."

Television: Every sport evolves, the players of today merit the term athletes and like those assembled to watch the Liebherr Men's World Cup, Juan Antonio Samaranch enjoyed the spectacle that unfolded.

"Table tennis is a very good sport for spectators", he said. "Also, I think it's a good sport for television."

Olympic City: In Barcelona table tennis was a superb spectacle, the world's stars brought the crowd to its feet

time and again in rapturous applause; that can only have helped promote the sporting prowess of the city.

"Table tennis has a long tradition and for Barcelona this was an important event", explained Juan Antonio Samaranch. "Barcelona is eager to be an Olympic city and of course Madrid is bidding for 2016."

Favourite Player: Juan Antonio Samaranch had enjoyed the table tennis but his favourite player was not there; that player is the legendary Deng Yaping. "A charming lady, I like her character and I had the great honour of presenting her with her medals at the Olympic Games in both Barcelona and Atlanta", he reminisced. "She learnt English as a result of a scholarship from the International Olympic Committee and we met once again in Lausanne after she had retired."

Sporting Spectacular: She was a great player and a great person who gave such a great deal to sport as did Juan Antonio Samaranch.

He helped rescue the Olympic Games from the financial crises of the 1970s to a thriving financial institution; his presence at the World Cup was greatly appreciated and his positive views on table tennis most welcome.

Like all those who attended the Liebherr Men's World Cup he saw a sporting spectacular, he saw sport at its best, he saw table tennis.



Wang Hao

WANG WINS WORLD CUP

Top seeded Chinese Wang Hao smashed Ryu Seung Min in straight sets to win the recent 2007 men's World Cup, atoning for his Athens Olympic final defeat to the South Korean. The current world number one was made to battle a prolonged first game before surging into a lopsided 14-12, 11-3, 11-8, 11-7 victory for his first ever men's singles world title, in sharp contrast to the Athens final where Ryu clinched a swift win in five games.

Earlier in the bronze medal match, reigning world champion Wang Liqin beat European champion Timo Boll for a third time bronze medal finish in this tournament.

The third seeded Chinese, recovering from a shock semi-final defeat to Ryu, needed only half an hour to secure a quick 11-8, 11-7, 11-3, 11-9 win.

"I think what I have achieved justifies my world ranking," said Wang Hao. "As I did well in the semi-finals and the finals, I'm happy about that."

He eliminated European champion Timo Boll during the semi-finals in the same blitzing way, beating the German 11-8, 11-8, 11-7, 11-4.

"I think I'm much more experienced than before, and I've learned how to control the rhythm. I play with more stability by combining tactics with a more relaxed mind. In the last two World Cups, I had led big in the finals only to squander the edge

and the title in the end. This time I avoided making the same mistake," he added. In the Olympic final nerves got the best of the Chinese, who was only 21 at the time, and Ryu was the man who had revelled in big occasions. But in Barcelona, Wang's composure, penetration and his appetite for a gold medal was just too much for Ryu. The opening game saw Ryu establish an 8-6 lead before Wang held his nerves in check. Then the two switched points from 9-9 to 12-12. It was the Chinese who captured the next two points, making good use of attacking the opponent's backhand.

The second game went even easier for Wang and the Olympic champion seemed to be simply giving up as he only managed three points.

Ryu was struggling to find the form when he ousted four-time World Cup winner Ma Lin and Wang Liqin. He managed some long rallies against Wang Hao to amaze the spectators but the top seed asserted his authority, concluding matters in the fourth game.

"I had a lot of lucky points against Ma Lin and Wang Liqin. And they were not in the best form," Ryu said. "Wang was too strong. I tried different tactics but couldn't score points. But it's a good practice before the Olympic Games next year. I'll try to do well next time," he said.

Super Boll in Kazan

Timo Boll is the European player of the moment. The German beat his long time adversary Vladimir Samsonov 4-0 in the final of the TMS European Table Tennis Super Cup in Kazan, Russia.

The three times European Champion had to struggle especially in the semi-final against Russia's Alexei Smirnov. Boll recovered in a contest where he was trailing 1-3.

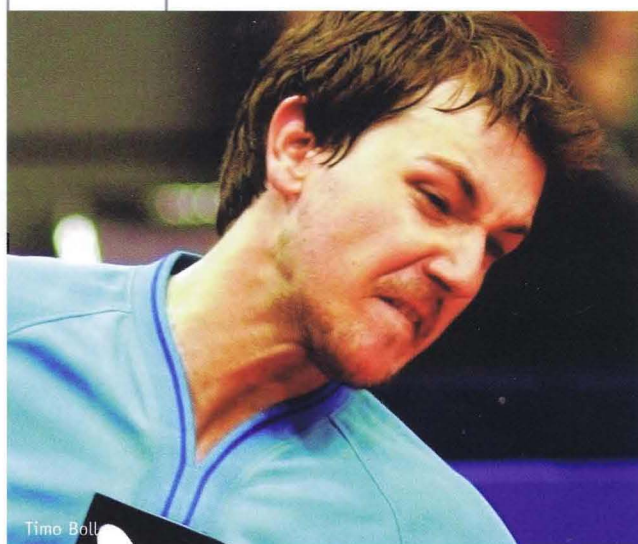
Michael Maze close to Boll & Samsonov

Michael Maze was showing his best from the very first game and he was very close to a victory against the pre tournament favourites Timo Boll and Vladimir Samsonov. Maze challenged Boll in the group taking the German the full distance and did the same in the semi-final against Samsonov.

The 26 year old Dane lost both duels but at least showed that he is able to compete with the very best. Bronze medallist in the 2005 Volkswagen 48th World Championships, Maze is currently only ranked number 8 in Europe and number 22 in the world.

Results

Semi-finals: Timo Boll bt Alexei Smirnov 4-3 (9-11, 8-11, 11-9, 10-12, 11-8, 11-6, 11-5)
 Vladimir Samsonov bt Michael Maze 4-3 (10-12, 11-8, 11-4, 11-4, 9-11, 9-11, 11-8)
 Match for the third place: Michael Maze bt Alexei Smirnov 4-2 (1-11, 11-6, 5-11, 11-7, 11-4, 11-5)
 Final: Timo Boll bt Vladimir Samsonov 4-0 (11-9, 11-4, 11-9, 16-14)



Timo Boll

Who & what are behind them?



London Progress TTC excel at both ends of the playing spectrum. This includes a massive community and schools programme through to winning domestic individual and club team events. Driven forward by self styled club manager the indomitable Jon Kaufman, the club embraces the true ethos of the PremierClub programme in a bid to develop and sustain a strong presence in the local community. Never short of ambition and always willing to try new initiatives, the club has achieved Clubmark status is a welcoming environment for all comers locally and from across the globe and just last season became British league champions for an unprecedented 9 times.

To use a footballing analogy, London Progress are the Manchester United, Chelsea and Arsenal of English table tennis all rolled into one.

They have won the British League Premier Division nine times in a row and, after the first round of matches this season, the table already has a familiar feel to it. Three wins and a draw has left the team comprising Jhang Zhi Tao, Terry Young, Marco Essomba, Jason Sugrue and Colum Slevin at the summit and favourites to record win number 10.

A new deal with the table tennis company Double Happiness has helped finance an influx of Chinese players and coaches and, at an elite level, the club is hoping to take the next big stride forward. Success in Europe is an aim.

"As well as their technical ability, the Chinese have an incredible work ethic which is really on another level," says London Progress manager Jon Kaufman. "You hope that will rub off on the entire club. "Even subconsciously I think that you breath in the discipline and the ambiance of the place. With what we already have, we hope that it will be a lethal combination and it also just adds to the international feel. London is a global city and we reflect that at Progress."

London Progress has helped produce numerous international players, yet to judge their achievements at the elite end of the sport would be to completely misunderstand the foundation for their success. London Progress started life as a once-a-week after school club at Willesden High School in north west London. The club immediately opened its doors to the local community and quickly established itself as the most cosmopolitan and popular club in London.

Success was built on a powerful mix of grass roots training and international excellence. After dominating

the local leagues, the club then entered a team in the British League.

By 2005, London Progress had transformed itself from a single venue club in Willesden to a multi-venue table tennis academy operating across London but located in Beaconsfield Road, Southall.

Diversity and opportunity is king. Indeed, a visitor to their headquarters in Southall would be as likely to see two players off the street who had never before picked up a bat as they are to watch the likes of England's Andrew Rushton in training.

Progress is now in its 20th season and, with 200 members, training four days a week, visits to schools as well as numerous competitions, league and tournaments, it is almost a 24-hour, seven-day a week operation.

Kaufman, a former history school teacher, is estimated to devote 16 hours a day to the club. "Our inclusion policy is second to none," he says, "we have all ages and abilities. The grass roots is vital to us. The club is ethnically diverse, we cater for all disabilities. We are exactly the sort of club which Sport England wants to promote."

Kaufman is adamant that the structure and ethos at London Progress represents a template for other table tennis clubs across the country. "If there were 20 clubs like us up and down the country, the sport would take off," he says.

Kaufman stresses his support of local table tennis leagues, but he believes that the emphasis must switch to the big club format – as is the case in Europe – for English table tennis to make real strides forward.

"We have created an aura of 'us and them'," he admits. "Part of it is kidology but there has been a reluctance by elements of the establishment to accept us.

"We are not anti-leagues, but we do believe that vibrant clubs are the key."

Progress are often asked by other clubs for the secret to their success. For Kaufman, the key is to create partnerships within the immediate area. He regards schools as an obvious, yet vast and often untapped resource across local communities.

"You often hear of leagues bemoaning the lack of young players," he says. "In my experience kids and schools will bite your hand off if you offer to set up a club. If you organise it for them, they will play. Kids love organised sport." Progress has also formed strong partnerships with Brentford FC, who have a vibrant community programme as well as the local Ealing Borough.

They also host many of the fixtures in the table tennis calendar, including the senior British Premier League, Women's British League, National Cadet League, National Junior League, London Junior Table Tennis Championships, Junior British League, County Championships and local leagues Wembley & Harrow and South and West Middlesex League.

"Our philosophy is simple," says Kaufman, "if they can hold a bat, they are in."

Recent winners of the Excellence level of ETTA Premier Club awards table tennis news investigates just what and who is behind this exceptional club.



Anthony Small fires some quick questions at one of the top London Progress performers and the current Butterfly Grand Prix womens champion, Egle Adomelyte.

Q: How old were you when you started playing?

A: Around 5 years old. My mum was a table tennis coach, so I messed around in a hall, while she was coaching others. What a great start!

Q: In which countries have you played?

A: Lithuania and England, and tournaments in Europe.

Q: What major obstacles, if any, have you had to overcome to play table tennis?

A: Times when you don't want to play! When you've been playing so much, hearing a ball bounce makes you physically sick.....nice.....eh?

Q: On what occasion did you first realise that you had table tennis talent?

A: I don't have ANY! Never had, never will! It's all just bloody hard work. Work, work, work.....and work again. But it's good... it always pays off!! It already has for me, and I'm sure it will even more!

Q: Is the way you play table tennis a reflection of your character?

A: I guess it taught me to fight for everything in life, focus well and never give up!...or maybe it's just me, I'm not sure, it probably adds up altogether, doesn't it?

Q: Who is/was your greatest opponent?

A: Everyone! You've got to know how to play against everyone! Oh, and I've got to agree with Kaori here, before you play anyone else, you have to fight against yourself first.

Q: Can you recall the times you were "in the zone" and everything went perfectly without effort in a game?

A: Yeah...there have been a few moments like that, but I cannot truly remember. I must have been in that "zone"!

Q: Have you ever lost a game where it absolutely hurt afterwards?

A: Yeah, but I always thought there could have been worse, so it probably wasn't that bad!

Q: Have you ever lost your temper in a game because of something you or another player did?

A: No, I lock it inside me...(I think!?)...Never show your enemy he has defeated you! And don't get distracted!!! FOCUS...

Q: What are your work/life/sport ambitions?

A: My ambitions, my business! One I know for sure, I won't ever give up table tennis. It's always been my life...I cannot give it up...

Q: What prompted you to come to the UK?

A: More opportunities and variety of them.

Q: Do you do any mental preparation before your big matches? And if so what do you do?

A: No. My mind is somewhat independent. What if I keep preparing myself, and then go to the table and it all vanishes? Waste of time! Just need to get out

there and do it! If you're good enough, you're good enough!!

Q: How did you manage to get involved with Progress? When was that?

A: I must have been fortunate, but I went for miles to find it, though. It wasn't that easy! It took me two weeks, just after I have arrived in London in 2001, November.

Q: What are you most disappointed in or about the game?

A: Lack of interest from the outside world, media! I just guess it's toooooo mentally tough for that lot! It's just us strong ones who can deal with it!!!!

Q: Is there any particular type/style of player that you *HATE* playing against?

A: Not as if I'm gonna tell you now!... OK, then...I don't hate, but I don't like playing against people who spin spin spin. Why spin, when you can hit it? But that's only 'cause I can't do it properly...I rate you guys, really!!!

Q: You LOVE/PREFER* playing against what type/style of player?

A: It depends more on a player, rather than a style. Everything is loveable when you win!

Q: What was the funniest table tennis encounter you have ever had?

A: When I was introduced to a HARD BAT, at Progress!

Q: How do you manage to combine sport and study/work?

A: I JUST manage, but it balances by itself, too! When I do good in sport, I want to do good in my studies, and the other way round. They stimulate each other!

Q: What other sport would you be playing at a high level if you were not playing table tennis?

A: It's either this or nothing! But, I guess, I would like to be involved in any other sport anyway, it's just generally good for you! (as if you didn't know that, anyway)

Q: What other sports do you play casually at any level?

A: I muck around with anything, if there is a (rare) opportunity! But it's below any level there could ever be!!!

Q: Have you ever been intimidated by anyone during a match or event?

A: Yeah, when everything goes dead quiet, everybody stops and stares. Get on with your own lives!!!

Q: Have you ever knowingly intimidated another player?

A: Not, as far as I know! I don't like to be intimidated myself, so I don't intimidate others either, just in case it turned the other way round! 'Cause usually it does, well at least from my point of view!

Q: Have you ever felt let down by a team-mate during an important match that you lost?

A: Yes, when I was playing for Lithuania, for cadets and juniors. Lithuanian teams didn't seem to be too "teamy".

Q: Have you noticed that many players seem to lose games after being 2-0 up? Have you ever been in that situation and lost?

A: Yes, and I don't want to remember, it hurt badly afterwards! I learned something: NEVER THINK YOU'VE WON 'TILL YOU SHAKE HANDS! NEVER! ALWAYS THINK YOU MUST GET ANOTHER FEW POINTS!

Q: What activities do you do for relaxation?

A: Don't do anything much, if I get time to do that "nothing", there is always something to think about that's not particularly relaxing. Can't wait 'till holidays....

Q: What advice would you give to young players to improve their game about equipment, practice, physical/mental training?

A: It's fairly simple and not much of advice: THE MORE TIME YOU SPEND BY THE TABLE, THE BETTER YOU GET!!! (table tennis table that is)

Q: What person/event/show/thing makes you laugh the most?

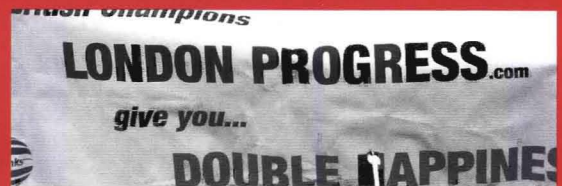
A: Best friends and funny memories make me laugh! And yes I DO laugh! (just in case you wondered)

Q: Any there any other interesting piece(s) of information about yourself you would like to share with the club?

A: Nop, thank you, I'll keep it to myself!.....as usual...

Q: What single significant thing do you think could be done to improve the club?

A: I can't think any more, too many questions.....maybe get rid of me then?! See you guys later!!!



Club Information

In January 2005 London Progress took possession of their brand new 16-table community and tournament centre in Southall. The club has since acquired a new sponsor and completely brand new tables, balls, nets, barriers, scoreboards, bats, batcases, clothing, bats/blades and rubbers.

Club Membership Fees for the year (includes a free club T-shirt)

- Adults £25 per year + £5 per session
- Juniors £25 per year + £1 per session

Gold Membership - Adults and Juniors

- Adults - £250 all inclusive
- Juniors - £100 all inclusive

Play and practice times are:-

- Thursday Evenings 6pm - 10pm
- Friday Evenings 6pm - 11 pm
- Saturday Afternoon 1pm - 6pm
- Sunday Afternoon 1pm - 6 pm

To find out more logon onto www.londonprogress.com or call Jon Kaufman 078 308 2661



Top Ten players of England

As chosen by Matthew Syed



Johnny Leach

Matthew Syed writes the second in a series of his thought provoking top tens. In the interests of objectivity, he has left rating his own table tennis prowess, to you, the readers. Why not let us know your English top ten of all time. Would Syed feature? e-mail: richard.pettit@etta.co.uk

1 Johnny Leach

Leach was somewhat overshadowed by the likes of Richard Bergmann and Viktor Barna during the hard bat era, but he proved to be a brilliant big match player when he upset the odds to defeat Vana in the final of the World Championships in 1949. This achievement was repeated two years later – against Adreadis in the final – sealing Leach's place amongst the all time greats. Leach played in every World Championships between 1947 and 1963. After retiring from competitive action Leach was involved in numerous activities including coaching and television commentary. His News of the

World column ran for a number of years and gave table tennis a valuable presence in the popular press. Combining personal charm with immense warmth, Leach was one of the most popular characters on the international table tennis circuit.

2 Desmond Douglas

One of the most naturally talented performers of any era, Douglas combined underrated finesse with lightning reactions to become one of the most feared competitors of the late 1970s and 1980s. His characteristic belly-to-the-table style was a legacy of having learnt to play the sport in the claustrophobic surroundings of the Birmingham YMCA. An eleven-time English men's singles champion (a record), Douglas went for more than a decade without losing to any English player, a tribute to his remarkable consistency. But his greatest achievement was in 1978 when he won an extraordinary 18 straight matches in the team event at the European Championships in Duisberg, including a treble against Hungary (Klampar, Gergely and Jonyer).

Douglas's only failing was that, although superb in team and round robin events (he won the European Top Twelve in 1987), he was visibly apprehensive in major knockout competitions. His record in the men's singles at the World and European Championships, spanning two decades, was somewhat inferior to what one might have expected from someone with his prodigious talents.

3 Fred Perry

The World Singles champion in Budapest in 1929 (he also played in the World Championships in Stockholm in 1928, losing in the quarter-finals), Perry developed an all-round and athletic style that helped to revolutionise the sport. It is one of the great debating points how Perry would have fared against Viktor Barna (who won the World Championships for the first time in 1930) had the Englishman not retired to focus on tennis. The one reservation about Perry's position on the all time list is the fact that he was not subject to the kind of competition experienced by players in the modern era: only twelve nations contested the

After retiring from table tennis Neale drifted away from the sport before becoming a surprise choice as men's team coach in 1994 succeeding Donald Parker.

World Championships in 1929. After his retirement from table tennis Perry won eight Grand Slam tennis titles, including three at Wimbledon. He later established the Fred Perry clothing brand, which has made a comeback in table tennis in recent months in the guise of the Fred Perry Urban Cup.

4 John Hilton

Hilton created the greatest shock in table tennis history by winning the European Championships in 1980 in Berne. The combination bat-wielding Mancunian perplexed opponents such as Jacques Secretin before bamboozling Josef Dvoracek in the final. Hilton also distinguished himself once again at the World Championships in 1979, picking up a victory over Wang Huiyan of China in the singles event. Hilton was not a talented player. His skills in the raw were no greater than those of a moderate national team player. But his great achievement was to recognise the opportunities presented by the combination bat and to develop his game to exploit them. He did not merely defend but would step to the table and play topspin strokes with the anti-spin that were the equivalent of dummy loops.

Hilton's success in 1980 made it inevitable that the ITTF would step in to curtail the combination bat, as they did in 1983. To his great credit, Hilton continued to play competitively and forged a reasonably successful career in the veterans. He remains one of the great characters on the circuit.

5 Carl Prean

A child prodigy who became the England senior number one for a short period as a 15-year-old after a stunning set of results at the World Championships in Tokyo in 1983, Prean surprised his detractors by forging a successful and lengthy international career after the red-black rule change. His unorthodox style and personal eccentricities made him one of the most recognisable performers of the 1980s and 1990s, his bent-knee backhand punch (using long pimples) one of his trademark shots. Although never quite good enough to challenge for major honours, Prean was a tough and durable competitor with razor sharp tactical awareness.

Although he won a couple of the lesser international open competitions (including the Belgian Open), his most impressive performance was at the Hungarian Open in the late 80s where he blazed through the field to make the men's singles final before losing to old rival Ilya Lupulescu. Off the table, Prean's knowledge of football and cricket statistics was a source of lasting amazement to team-mates and competitors alike.

6 Denis Neale

Gutsy and tenacious, Neale spearheaded the Ormesby Club that dominated domestic club table tennis during the 60s and 70s. A short pimped player with considerable touch, he was a brilliant tactician whose ability to read the game was a key part of his ascent into the

top twenty of the world rankings. He won the English Closed six times.

After retiring from table tennis Neale drifted away from the sport before becoming a surprise choice as men's team coach in 1994 succeeding Donald Parker. Neale brought his considerable tactical knowledge and motivational skills to bear, leading the England team to some notable results at the World Team Cup in 1994 and the European Nations Cup in 1995.

7 Trevor Taylor

Immensely talented, Taylor was an underrated player who won the Commonwealth Championships three times (1971, 1973 and 1975). He also won three against Japan in the World Championships team event in 1973 but was then sent home after falling out with coach Les Greswell. A highly consistent counter hitter who developed an impressive repertoire of topspin strokes, Taylor played alongside Neale and Nicky Jarvis when Ormesby won the European Cup in 1972.

8 Alan Cooke

A remarkably consistent attacking player, Cooke was a stalwart of the England team for more than a decade. His success was based around his relentless topspinning and an underrated service that forced his opponents to play long, opening up the rally. He won the English Closed six times (thrice following his comeback in 2002) and the Commonwealth Championships once.

Although he won many important team event matches for England, Cooke's most impressive performance was at the World Championships in Chiba in 1991 when he defeated Mikael Appelgren – at the time the reigning European Champion – in the men's singles. He also created one of the biggest shocks of the 1987 World Championships in New Delhi when he beat Chen Xinhua in the team event. His only major weakness was the lack of a destructive shot.

9 Chester Barnes

A talented player with tremendous finesse, Barnes won the national men's singles title at the age of 15. Relentlessly promoted by Peter Madge, a photographer and PR guru, Barnes transcended table tennis to become one of the most recognisable sportsmen of the 1960s. Although a formidable performer in domestic competitions, Barnes never quite found the same form on the international circuit. Since leaving table tennis he has become a successful horseracing trainer alongside Martin Pipe.

10 Aubrey Simons

Simons was a member of the successful Swaythling Cup team at the 1953 World Championships. A good all round player who played in every World Championships between 1948 and 1956, Simons reached the last 16 of the men's singles once and the last 32 on three occasions. He later came back to contest the men's doubles at the Worlds in Malmo in 1964, losing in the quarter-finals.

The Academy

Since the Eastern Bloc introduced the controversial sporting academies in the 70's and 80's, nations across the world have attempted to recreate similar structures to nurture talent in preparation for the world stage.

After the closure of the National Table Tennis Academy at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham, in 2003 (due to cuts in funding), English table tennis has been searching for a equivalent facility. With the British team now based at the English Institute of Sport (EIS) Sheffield have they found it?

The past four years have been frustrating for the players, coaches and performance staff. The lack of consistence has brought obvious implications - limited structure to practice, little opportunity to collate a squad, difficulty to use physical training expertise and the far from ideal lifestyle of living out of a suitcase. The ETTA and UK Sport have been fighting to open a National Centre, with rumours of it happening every year since 2003 and have looked into the feasibility of numerous centres including the National Water Sports Centre at Nottingham, Loughborough University, Bristol Filton Academy, Lilleshall National Sports Centre and the EIS Sheffield.

DESIGN FOR THE ELITE

Eventually after four years of hardship, the EIS Sheffield became a viable option. This facility was built with funding from the government in 2003 and designed to hold as many national academies as possible including table tennis. The planning and design of the purpose built hall involved the ETTA, but funding fell through and no academy was based there. Four years on and a British Table Tennis Academy has finally moved in.

The date was initially set as 13th August; this was again put back to 3rd September. However, on that day at 4 p.m. the first training session did begun bringing with it a new era. Since then training has taken place every day from 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 a.m and from 4p.m. - 7p.m. with all the players in the British Olympic Programme attending sessions.

Training facilities are brilliant. The purpose built hall, with great lighting and red Taraflex flooring now provides a chance to practice in conditions which simulate the global venues on the international circuit. New tables are due to arrive within the next weeks, this being the only issue left

to resolve. Tape for other uses is found on the floor which frustrates mens' coach, Jia Yi Liu, who comically spent much effort pulling it up for what seemed like hours, before the staff put it back down two days later. The hall overlooks an indoor athletics track, with basketball, badminton, snooker, volleyball and judo all catered for in the complex. As well as this, a hi-tech gym is on site, a conditioning room and recovery spa, which includes a hydro-flotation facility, sauna, jacuzzi and ice baths. Also on site are the EIS support team, including physios and a performance lifestyle consultant, which will be a huge benefit to our young team, ensuring that balance in their lives is regarded as paramount.

ACCOMMODATING FACILITIES

Student accommodation has been found a mile from the town centre and a 15 minute drive to the EIS, which some of the players on the Olympic Programme have moved into. Danny Reed, Darius Knight, Paul Drinkhall, Kelly Sibley, Joanna Parker and Naomi Owen are based in three blocks of three en-suite bedrooms with one kitchen/living room. This leaves three rooms for sparring partners, who will hopefully arrive within the next month. During this time practice partners from around Europe are being found. Pool tables, a large Sky TV projector, laundry facilities and socializing areas are found on the campus which the accommodation centres around.

No location can be perfect for everyone, but Sheffield is probably as good as it can get. There is a good group of young players for whom Sheffield is accessible for the evening session via brilliant parent taxis. There are also good train links to Sheffield as well as the tram line stopping next to the EIS. As it is relatively near the centre of the country it should also open the door for a wider range of players who, if not able to come up on a day to day basis, can perhaps come for two or three day visits, a couple of times a month.

This is therefore the most professional training centre in England with the aim of preparing a team to win medals in 2012.



Tim Yarnall, Danny Reed and Paul Drinkhall training in the EIS Sheffield gym

THE FOCUS

What the academy must do to produce more results though is learn from the mistakes made in the past. Looking back, the academy in Nottingham failed to produce the squad of players it could have done with the financial input and resources available. What is evident from time since then is that it takes more than just money, players and coaches turning up to training five times a week and putting the ball on the table. Time and energy in Sheffield needs to be focused on ensuring that every ball played is a step forward and adding to players' games, and every area of a professional table tennis player is being looked

at individually ensuring that it is more than satisfactory. This also involves a team of physical trainers, lifestyle consultants, and coaches putting in the time and commitment to the players and having their improvement and performance at the top of their mind. Paramount to this, of course, is the player's own dedication and commitment to this end.

With this dedication to the job, a lot of hard work and maybe a little bit of luck, medals at the 2012 Olympics may become more than just a dream.

table tennis gets an eastern style makeover

When the powerful and wealthy talk up a new idea you usually reckon it will bring change. But when a lone voice attempts to do that against the odds you're inclined to wonder whether the idea is more visionary.

Which is why it seemed even more intriguing to hear what Naomi Yotsumoto, a far-sighted and photogenic Japanese player, has been trying to pioneer than to learn about the challenge which one of Volkswagen's sponsorship managers threw down in an attempt to make next month's (December's) Pro-Tour finals more laden with eye candy than any event in the history of table tennis.

Sexily-clad women players with figure-hugging dresses, short-sleeve tops, and brief skirts will occupy centre stage at the Beijing stadium if Philip Kahn's words do galvanise manufacturers, designers and national associations as he hopes.

Whether that would then launch table tennis into a glossier marketing era, as discussed, and whether that would be for better or worse, might then be debated. Certainly the outfits were spectacular to the point of outlandish at a fashion show at the World Cup at Chengdu in September.

Which is another reason to listen to, and look at, Naomi.



"My goal is that table tennis should be regarded as the most attractive sport of all"

"...This year for the first time I made a big jump

Racketlon

The new sport is growing

Racketlon is the sport in which you challenge your opponent in each of the four racket sports: table tennis, squash, badminton and tennis. A racketlon match contains four sets, one in each sport. Each set is played to 21 points, much like in table tennis, but the total winner of a racketlon match is not the one that wins most sets but the one that scores the most points in total.

What A Racket?

The new sport of Racketlon is growing in size and momentum. A game of Racketlon (the cousin of triathlon) has three main principles:

- 1) **It must include the sports of table tennis, badminton, squash and tennis**
- 2) **Equal weight must be given to each sport**
- 3) **Every point counts**

The sport was invented in Scandinavia in the 1980s and internationalised in the last five years. The British Racketlon Tour is in its second year. Games are normally played with table tennis scoring (11-up in each sport, with 2 serves each). In international open competition sets are played to 21 points with a "Racketlon" match taking on average just over an hour.

A Table Tennis Feel

With the British Racketlon Tour taking its inspiration from Harvey Webb and the ETTA events team, the tournaments have a very table tennis feel to it. The scoring is

the same and every point counts. The Play for Your Place (progressive knockout) system is used to give players equal number of matches. e.g. In a knockout draw of 16, all players play 4 matches until they achieve a place of 1st-16th. Inspiration for this system was originally taken from the Harlow Super League (an elite table tennis competition taking place monthly in Essex).

What Is The Standard Like?

With such a new sport, it is inevitable that the standard of play is actually pretty poor. You would expect in many years for players to have great ability in all four sports. Currently, to be world champion, county standard in all four sports would do the trick. It is very common for example for a good club table tennis player to be able to beat most of the World Top Ten (in Racketlon) at table tennis.

Thus it is a sport very much geared towards fun and enjoyment and a new challenge for racket sports enthusiasts. It is very common for players to enter



Overview of UK Events

December 2007

27th-30th December World Championships Rotterdam

January 2008

19th-20th January English Championships Gidea Park

February 2008

2nd-3rd February Waregem Cars Open Racketlon Waregem

16th-17th February Hertfordshire Open Hatfield

March 2008

7th-9th March Canadian Open Toronto
15th-16th March South West of England Open Bristol

April 2008

12th-13th April British Championships Dudley
26th-27th April North of England Open Teesside

May 2008

17th-18th May East Anglia Open Ipswich

June 2008

21st-22nd June Letchworth Open Letchworth

July 2008

12th-13th July South of England Open Eastbourne

26th July London Open Wimbledon

August 2008

15th-17th August English Open London

September 2008

26th-28th September Scottish Open Edinburgh

October 2008

31st October-2nd November Gothenburg Open Gothenburg

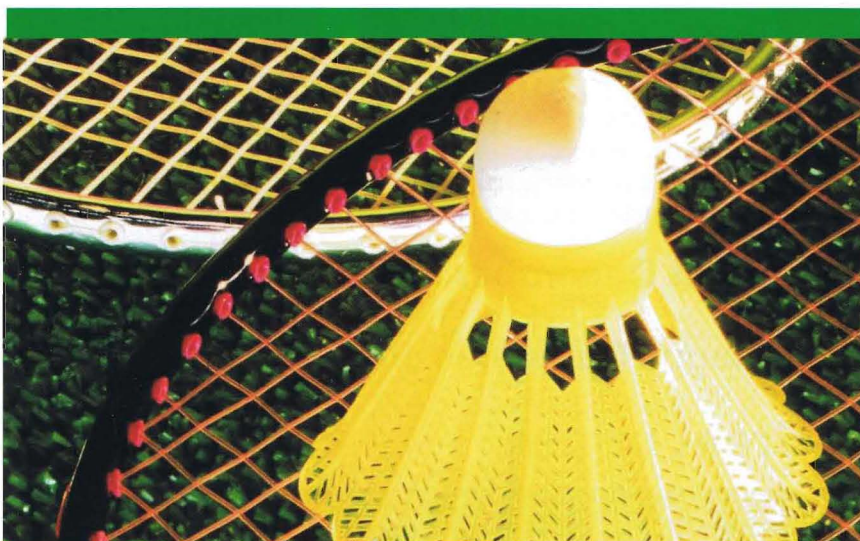
November 2008

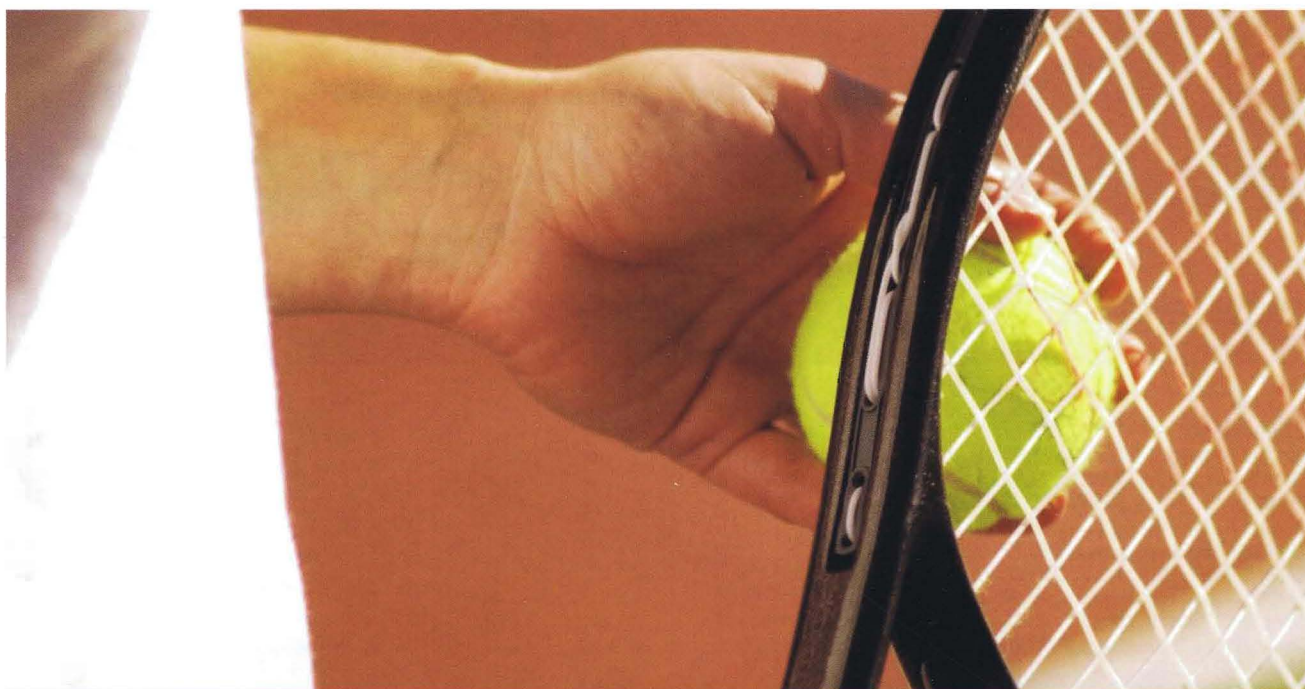
9th November Hampshire Open Eastleigh

27th-30th November World Championships Fuerth, Germany

December 2008

13th-14th December Hull Open Hull





tournaments while only principally having one main game. There are perhaps only three players in the whole of the UK who would be good club players in all sports. Most players have weaknesses (e.g. hardly played squash) and ordinarily if you have played table tennis and a bit of the rest, that is good enough.

Indeed, this is exemplified by Keith Lesser (UK ranked number 5) and Ray Jordan (UK ranked number 6) - both principally table tennis players representing Essex and Kent senior sides in the last year. Both players found out about Racketlon upon graduating university and simply had a go. It is surprising how fast you can pick up the sports and also how transferable table tennis skills are to the other sports.

Who Are The Best Table Tennis "Racketlon" Players?

Gavin Rungay played in the first ever event in the UK, five or so years ago in Dundee, and was knocked out by World Top Ten player Rickard Persson from Sweden (coincidentally also a table tennis specialist). Rungay won his table tennis 21-10 but lost the other sports, overall enjoying the experience. Rungay of course entered the top Racketlon category (Class A), much like the English Tournament Circuit events are banded from Class A down to Class C or D. Gavin, incidentally, is reported to have represented Scotland as a junior at both badminton and tennis!

More recently Jason Sugrue, Ryan Jenkins, Terry Young and Niall Cameron have all expressed strong interest in playing in an event, all of them "fancying their chances".

The best table tennis player to compete recently is Sussex veteran star Adrian Moore (coincidentally only missing out to Rungay in the recent London GP 11-9 in the fifth!). Adrian has been playing regularly in Racketlon doubles events (another dimension where you play doubles in all the sports except squash where you play half a singles each). Adrian, in combination with his brother-in-law (Jeremy Bennett - a mean squash and tennis player), has reached three national semi-finals, twice finishing third in "The South of England Open" in July 2006 and "The English Championships" in

January 2007. Adrian (former European cadet player) certainly has a Racketlon flair, with tennis being his second strongest sport.

Adrian really typifies the Racketlon spirit. Clearly only regularly able to practice one sport, on the day he competes alongside top squash and badminton players and holds his own. Not necessarily in those sports, but in the overall game of Racketlon. With a good competitive spirit, Racketlon can prove an exciting challenge for all! And there is no question it improves your fitness. Other table tennis circuit players that have taken part are Euan Liddle, Marc Burman, Matthew King, Will Power and Mark Banks. Let's not forget Yorkshireman Andy Petersons - himself a World Over 55s Racketlon silver medallist!

Racketlon Rankings

UK Top 5 Men

Rank	Name	Country	Total
1	Calum Reid	Scotland	8000
2	John O'Donnell	England	7750
3	Steffan Morgan	England	4250
4	Mark Jackson	England	3225
5	Doug Struthers	England	2000

UK Top 5 Women

Rank	Name	Country	Total
1	Natalie Lawrence	England	6200
2	Katy Buchanan	Scotland	6000
3	Sue Woods	Wales	2750
4	Rachel Hood	Scotland	2700
5	Alanna James	England	1900

World Top 3 Men

Rank	Name	Country
1	Magnus Eliasson	Sweden
2	Calum Reid	Scotland
3	John O'Donnell	England

World Top 3 Women

Rank	Name	Country
1	S Lautala-Näykki	Finland
2	Martina Kakosova	Czech Rep.
3	Linda Jansson	Sweden

TOURNAMENT

OCTOBER '07 REVIEW

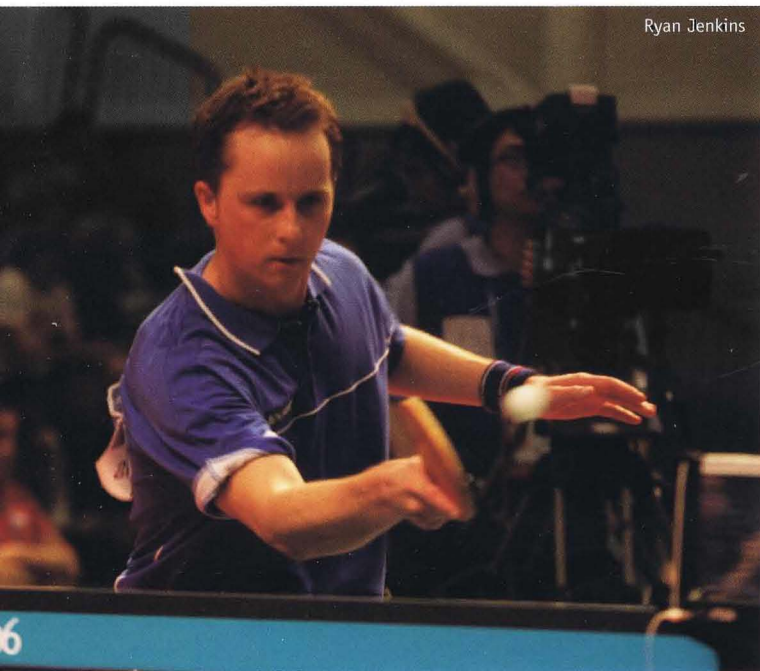
The Essex Junior Assessment

Trials were played at BATTs in Harlow with the Under 11, 13, 15 and 18 categories for both boys and girls. The best supported event was the Under 18 boys with 48 entrants. Based on the matches played and using other information such as the current ETTA National Ranking List, a County Ranking List has now been issued. The initial problem was that two of the top seven Under 18 boys' seeds sent messages on the morning that they would

The anticipated rivalry in the second group between Bradley Hudgell, Greg Green and Mike Shore failed to materialise when Bradley had to pull out with a foot injury.

not be playing which meant that all the eight groups had to be reformatted. This achieved, the event still managed to start on time. With players beating one another at random only the top two seeds of the top four groups - Emran Hussain and Mark Mulley - actually managed to come out on top with Luca Mariano and Matthew Mulley winning the other two groups. In the second round of group matches, Emran lost to Luca 12-10 in the fifth end in the top group and he also missed out to Mark Mulley 3-1 to finish third, whilst Mark beat Luca 3-1 to take top spot on the day. The anticipated rivalry in the second group between Bradley Hudgell, Greg Green and Mike Shore failed to materialise when Bradley had to pull out with a foot injury. Although Greg beat his League team-mate Mike 3-1 he was only the runner-up in the group as he lost 3-0 to Braintree League rival Andrew McEwan, whilst Andrew in turn lost to both Mike and Anthony Kent. In the Under 18 girls an entry of 11 players was pleasingly the best for some years. Results went according to

seeding with Holly Stubbings staying unbeaten and only Stevie Pell's win over her club mate Hannah Pitt upset the rankings. This resolved the 2007 Essex Closed Tournament results between these two girls who had shared wins in that event back in January. On Sunday morning all 16 boys in the Under 13 event arrived and seven of the top eight seeds achieved their allocated placings after the first round of matches. In the top group of second round matches Brandon Crouchman (Chelmsford) confirmed his top seeding with 3-1 wins over Luke Tarrant, Lewis McKenny and team mate Scott Dowsett. The girls Under 15/13/11 events were played as one group with Hannah Pitt winning all her matches 3-0, Maddison Andrews finishing second and Sara Akata third. In the Under 15 boys Luca Mariano and Phillip Lawson had little difficulty in finishing first and second overall from an entry of 30 players. The surprise players were Alex Donkor from the Eastlea Wanderers Club who only lost to Phillip, whilst Jordan Allen from the Mayland Juniors Club lost only to Luca and Phillip.



Ryan Jenkins

Cardiff Open Overview

In the Men's final Ryan Jenkins (WAL) beat his brother Stephen (WAL) 4,5,6. Naomi Owen (WAL) won the Women's Singles beating Naomi Wilson (WAL) in a close final 5,-9,-9,7,7. Naomi Owen beat Karina

Lefevre (Cv) in the semi-final 2,7,8 and Naomi Wilson beat Jurate Brazaityte (K) -6,-9,3,9,13 in the other semi-final. Karina Lefevre (Cv) went one better in the Band 1 women where she beat Amanda Moge (IRL) -

8,8,11,6. Naomi Owen also won the Under 21 Women's event beating Natasha Milliken (SCO) 6,9,3. The player of the weekend was undoubtedly Liam Pitchford (Dy) who on Saturday lost in the quarter-

finals in both Band 1 and Band 2 to the eventual winners. On the Sunday he went a few steps better and won the Under 21 Men, beating Will Maybanks in the final 7,-12, 10, 8. In the Men's Singles he went out in the quarter-finals to Dave Barham 8,-7, 6, 9, a player to keep an eye on.

Results and Placings

07 Essex Junior Assessment Trials

Under 18 Boys: 1. Emran Hussain, 2. Mark Mulley, 3. Reece Tan, 4. Luca Mariano, 5. Matthew Mulley, 6. Bradley Huddell, 7. Greg Green.

Under 18 Girls: 1. Sarra Wang, 2. Holly Stubbings, 3. Stevie Pell, 4. Hannah Pitt, 5. Maddison Andrews.

Under 15 Boys: 1. Reece Tan, 2. Luca Mariano, 3. Phillip Lawson, 4. Alex Donkor, 5. Jordan Allen.

Under 15 Girls: 1. Hannah Pitt, 2. Maddison Andrews, 3. Sara Akata.

Under 13 Boys: 1. Brandon Crouchman, 2. Luke Tarrant, 3. Lewis McKenny, 4. Scott Dowsett.

Under 13 Girls: 1. Sarah Austin, 2. Micha Panesar.

Under 11 Boys: 1. Ben Langton, 2. Manveer Rayatt.

Under 11 Girls: 1. Sarah Austin.

The Senior 2-Star Open

Men's Singles: Patrick Thomas (WAL) bt Fred Dove (E) 11-8, 11-9, 11-3 **Women's Singles:** Lindsey Armstrong (Mi) bt Fiefei Pei (Sy) 11-8, 11-8, 11-9 **Men's Constricted:** Patrick Hui (Sy) bt Daniel Lucking (Ha) 11-8, 14-12, 11-13, 11-7 **Women's Constricted:** Jodie Sparrey (Mi) bt Jasmine Ould (K) 8-11, 11-8, 12-10, 10-12, 11-9

Medals for Britain

Britain's top disabled table tennis players have returned from the European Championships with one silver and two bronze medals.

Paralympian and Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Cathy Mitton won an individual bronze in the women's class 2 event. She beat France's Florence Gossiaux in the bronze medal play-off to claim the final podium spot, behind Italy's Clara Podda with gold and France's Isabelle Lafaye with silver.

Mitton then teamed up with Sara Head and Jane Campbell to take the class 2/3 team bronze, beating Slovakia to claim Britain's second third place finish.

Meanwhile in the men's team competitions, Paralympians Arnie Chan and James Rawson took silver in the class 3 team event after losing in the final to France.

The 2007 IPC European Table Tennis Championships took place in Kranjska Gora, Slovenia, from October 10 to 21 2007 and were an opportunity for Britain's athletes to score ranking points for qualification ahead of the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games.

The full squad at the championships included Robert Davies (South Wales), Paul Davies (Bridgend, South Wales), James Munkley (Cardiff, South Wales), James Rawson (Nottingham, Notts), Arnie Chan (Mansfield, Notts), Neil Robinson (Bridgend, South Wales), Scott Robertson (Flintshire, North Wales), Will Bayley (Filton, Bristol), David Wetherill (Torpoint, Cornwall), Paul Karabardak (Sawntsea, South Wales), Farrell Anthony (Sheffield, Yorkshire), Joseph Stotesbury (Bexley, Kent), Kim Daybell (Sheffield, Yorkshire), Cathy Mitton (York, Yorkshire), Dzaier Neil (London), Sara Head (Pontypridd, South Wales), Jane Campbell (London), Leanne Stephen (Grimsby, Lincolnshire) and Claire Robertson (Flintshire, North Wales).

Top seed surprise defeat

Cippenham Table Tennis Club's first tournament of the season, the Senior 2 Star Open, drew a good sized entry of over seventy players, one big surprise and the youngest winner yet.

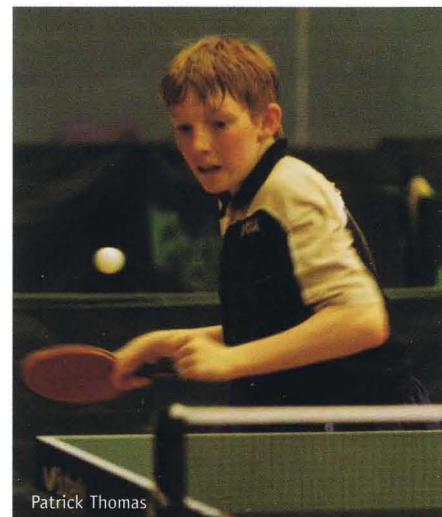
Patrick Thomas, at fifteen, became the youngest winner of the Cippenham Senior Open although he did win the Double Group Open last season and has won many junior titles at the Club. The boy from Blaenavon in Wales is a regular visitor to Cippenham and a major factor in why so many of the Club's titles disappear down the M4 and into the principality. Thomas plays the modern fast attacking style and is so quick that most older players find it hard to keep up with his pace. In fact the third seed dropped only one game all day, and that was in his final preliminary round group match against Patrick Hui. After that it was all plain sailing as he despatched

Paul Massey, Graham Outrim, Peter Ives, Lee Middleton and then, in the final, the old war horse Fred Dove. Dove is a different sort of player from a different generation. He has mastered his long pimped backhand rubber so well in the past few seasons that he has rocketed up the national veterans' rankings and won a few events at Cippenham along the way. However, the younger man proved far too strong winning the final 11-8, 11-9, 11-3. A couple of the seeds got beaten in their groups, but all made it through to the main event draw. Sixth seed Nat Richardson lost his opening match to Ross Saxby and eighth seed Tony Morris failed in his group against Matt Pernet. Into the main draw, Richardson made further progress against Andrew Bugden and David Langham but then got upended by Middleton. Pernet failed against Peter Ives in the first

round. The only seed to go out of the main competition draw in the opening round was Rory Scott. The fifth seed was beaten by Robert Worrall. The biggest upset happened later right at the top of the draw. Lee Middleton had been drawing attention to himself by winning his group and then despatching the veteran Paul Beck in the next round. Then he really surfaced by eliminating top seed Yasir Mauthoor 3-1 in round two. He then also ended the run of Nat Richardson before falling a victim to Patrick Thomas in the semi-final. Not bad for a player with no senior points on the national ranking list. Worrall's run, after beating Scott, came to an end when Ramesh Gehlot saw him off in round two. Gehlot went on to beat Tony Morris in round three before becoming Fred Dove's semi-final victim.

None of the local players provided any highlights. John Barclay and Paul Baker both made it out of the groups but no further.

The women's event was won by Lindsey Armstrong, a product of the Cippenham coaching scheme. Armstrong was too strong for Fiefei Pei in a final dominated by fast counter-attacking rallies.



Patrick Thomas

British League

CAPTAIN'S PERFORMANCE FROM JASON

If DHS London Progress I retain their British League Premier Division title for a historic tenth time they will look back on the afternoon of Sunday 23 September 2007 as being the pivotal point of their season. Results had not gone their way at all and with a determined Craig Howieson beating Jason Sugrue 12-10, 11-7, 14-12, Drumchapel Glasgow had moved into a commanding 3-1 lead. Things got even worse in the fifth game for the champions with Drumchapel number one Ryan Jenkins beating Colum Slevin 13-11, 11-5, 9-11, 11-9. Progress were now in real trouble and although Terry Young eased the pressure by beating Stephen Jenkins none too easily 10-12, 11-5, 13-11, 13-11, few people would be prepared to bet on Progress sealing a draw. With Sau Ayemojubu an earlier 11-9, 12-10, 14-16, 11-9 winner of a truly spell-binding game against Colum Slevin, to face Jason Sugrue you had to fancy the Nigerian international. However, no one had advised Jason and he produced a truly inspired performance to beat Ayemojubu 11-9, 11-9, 11-9 - a captain's performance of the very highest order. This set up a deciding match between two of the best number four players seen in the British League for a long time and it was Progress's new signing Jiang Zhi Tao (he of the Ma Lin third ball) who came through to beat Craig Howieson 11-5, 13-11, 12-10. A terrific match finished all square which meant that Progress are the first round leaders with seven points. Two other matches also finished level in this round with

Oxford Fireplace Centre excelling to hold Sycamore to a draw. Jing Wei beat both Matt Kenny and Shaun Marples and his team-mates chipped in with two excellent wins. Vytas Rybakas scored a fine 13-11, 10-12, 11-9, 4-11, 11-7 victory against Chris Brown and Daniel Ives secured a point for the Oxford side with a magnificent 11-6, 11-9, 11-6 win against Adam Frost. Oxford will return home knowing that it may ultimately be beyond them to avoid relegation, but they will be pretty satisfied with their efforts.

TTK Greenhouse's clash with BATTS Team Peniel followed what may become a familiar pattern this season as their top two players - TTK employees Andrew Rushton and Gareth Herbert - again won their four singles. The match finished all square - TTK's third draw of the weekend. Herbert was stretched in both his singles, seeing off Craig Bryant 4-11, 11-4, 11-7, 13-11 and the evergreen Ritchie Venner 11-7, 11-5, 9-11, 11-9, whilst BATTS's Neil Charles completed an undefeated day by beating Henry Medellin 6-11, 11-6, 11-7, 11-4 and Daniel Basterfield 11-5, 11-7, 12-10.

Ellenborough I will be delighted with their 5-3 victory against Ormesby I. Lorestas Trumpauskas, an impressive winner over Terry Young in the morning session, carried on in a similar vein and beat both Michael Marsden 11-7, 11-6, 7-11, 11-8 and David Meads 13-11, 11-8, 10-12, 11-5, whilst the under-rated Jon Nilsson also won twice, beating Andrew Wilson 11-9, 11-8, 11-6 and Michael Marsden 9-11, 11-9, 11-3, 11-9. Combination

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 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 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 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 1 SOUTH AND MIDLANDS						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
URBAN PROGRESS II	4	0	0	27	5	8
OLOP IMPACT I	3	1	0	22	10	7
WESTFIELD I	3	1	0	21	11	7
DHS LONDON PROGRESS III	2	0	2	19	13	4
CIPPENHAM II	1	0	3	11	21	2
POLSKA I	1	0	3	11	21	2
BEDFORD MODERN I	1	0	3	9	23	2
OXFORD FP CENTRE II	0	0	4	8	24	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



Jason Sugrue

bat defender Thomas Bennborn was responsible for Ellenborough's fifth win and he beat Damien Nicholls 12-10, 11-5, 11-8. It is not a match Gary Tandler will remember too fondly from a personal perspective, and the Essex star gallingly missed out 11-7, 7-11, 11-13, 13-11, 17-15 to Damien Nicholls as well as 2-11, 8-11, 11-4, 11-5, 11-13 against Andrew Wilson. It also has to be said that it was great to see such a large crowd present and hopefully everyone watching went home satisfied after witnessing what was an enthralling afternoon's table tennis.

PREMIER DIVISION

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
DHS LONDON PROGRESS I	3	1	0	23	9	7
DRUMCHAPEL GLASGOW I	2	2	0	24	8	6
BATTS TEAM PENIEL I	2	1	0	16	8	5
TTK GREENHOUSE I	1	3	0	19	13	5
ELLENBOROUGH I	2	1	1	18	14	5
ORMESBY I	1	0	2	11	13	2
SYCAMORE	0	1	2	7	17	1
OXFORD FP CENTRE I	0	1	3	7	25	1
URBAN PROGRESS I	0	0	3	3	21	0

If DHS London Progress I retain their British League title they will look back on the afternoon of Sunday 23 September 2007 as being the pivotal point of their season.

The next round of Premier Division matches takes place on Saturday/Sunday 24/25 November at Halton Regional Table Tennis Centre, Halton Stadium, Lowerhouse Lane, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 7DZ, commencing at 10.00 hours on both the Saturday and Sunday.

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



County Notes

Cleveland by Alan Ransome

Cleveland's Karina Lefevre has risen to no 1 in the latest England cadet rankings, has improved her junior ranking by two places, moving up to no 6, and entered, for the first time, the England senior top 30 women's rankings coming in at no 19. Spectacular results in two tournaments played at the start of the season have propelled Karina into these high positions. The first was the Butterfly Liverpool Grand Prix where Karina, from an unseeded position, won the Women's Singles title beating Lindsey Thornton Reynolds, the England no 6, in the final. A week later Karina pulled off a series of spectacular wins when representing the North East of England in the UK School Games competition in Coventry.

Karina has been selected as one of the five members of the British Olympic squad and has been invited to attend a series of training weeks at the National Academy in Sheffield throughout this season.

Another girl to improve in the latest rankings is Ormesby's 12 year old Chloe Whyte who has moved up from no 11 to no 7 in the cadet girls list.

Paul Drinkhall continues to head both the men's and junior boys' lists with a gap of 150 points in the senior list and more than 500 points in the junior list over England no 2 Darius Knight.

Ormesby's Danny Reed has moved up from no. 6 to no. 5 in the men's list whilst David Meads has improved from no. 9 to no 6.

Paul has a busy schedule in the run-up to Christmas, in particular with the

In the senior calendar it was the Liverpool Grand Prix first up, though it was our junior players who made their mark in this event.

World Junior Circuit finals in Cape Town, South Africa, in October. Paul leads the World Junior Circuit rankings with a total of 1100 points with Japan's Kentaro Muchi in second place. Paul is the only British player to qualify for Cape Town.

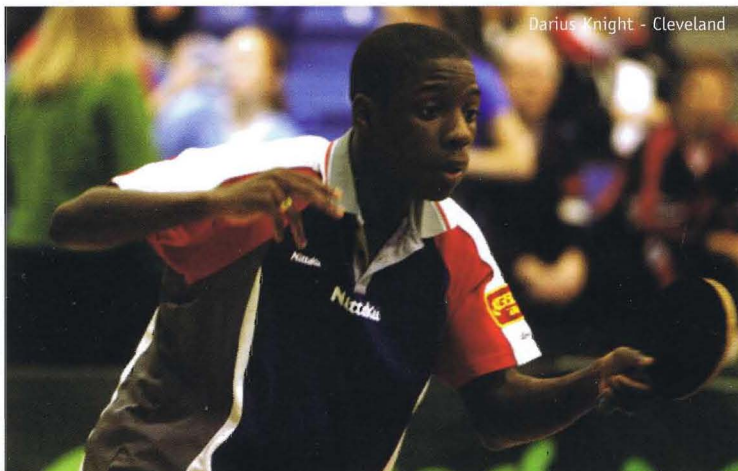
In December Paul and Danny Reed are included in the England squad to participate in the World Junior Championships in California. Also selected are Darius Knight and Gavin Evans. This tournament takes place between 8 and 15 December with a programme of boys' team events followed by singles and doubles.

Durham by Kevin Wilson

A new season is upon us and from the point of view of table tennis in Durham it is a season full of promise and already a little success.

In the senior calendar it was the Liverpool Grand Prix first up, though it was our junior players who made their mark in this event. Mark Simpson had the dubious pleasure of being top seed for the men's band 2 singles and only just failed to live up to his billing going down 11-8, 11-13, 11-6, 10-12, 5-11 to Keith Knox (IRL) in the final. In the men's band 5 singles Graeme Barella, the England number 5 cadet, came through all of the rounds unscathed and won a hard fought final against Jack Williamson (Wa) 11-9, 12-10, 5-11, 11-3, coming away with glassware in only his second Grand Prix.

There was further success for another of our young players at the Leeds Grand Prix a fortnight later as Michael Hahn took the runners up spot in the men's band 6, just being edged out 3-2 by



Darius Knight - Cleveland



Mark Simpson - Durham

Paul Stevenson (Y) in the final.

The next event in the calendar was the Senior British League (non-premier) weekend and Durham had a number of players taking part. Following the disbanding of Darlington TTC as a British League club our players have been spread far and wide throughout the league and two of them, Mark Simpson and Andrew Leighton, found themselves in direct competition over this weekend in Division One North, with Simpson coming out on top against his former team-mate 3-0.

Mark Simpson was playing for Derwent I and was their top performer winning all 8 of his matches. The team find themselves joint top of Division 1 North after the first weekend on 7 points with 3 wins and a draw out of their 4 team matches. Andrew Leighton's Grantham side are fifth with 3 points, their only 2 defeats coming to the top two teams Derwent I and ELGRE Nottingham I. Leighton won 3 matches over the weekend.

Another former Darlington player Philip Robinson is this season representing Northfield in Division 2 North. Without their top two players, Keith Rodgers and Steve Cooper, Northfield found the weekend tough going but Robinson picked up some good wins and was instrumental in the team's 4-4 draw with Ormesby III with which they picked up their solitary point of the weekend. Philip's dad, Ian Robinson, made his (official) British League debut during the weekend.

The only Durham based team in this year's Senior British League is Sunderland which will spend its debut season in Division 4 North. Hopeful of instant promotion, the team started the season brightly with 4 wins from their 4 matches including inflicting the only defeat of the weekend on Barnt Green, 6-2. Anthony Barella was their top performer winning all 8 of his matches, Kevin Wilson taking 7, Keith Weatherby

6 and Philip Dixon 5.

In the first weekend of Premier Division matches two Durham players, David Meads and Michael Marsden, represented Ormesby I. The team had a fairly mixed weekend beginning with a 7-1 loss to reigning champions DHS London Progress I. The one win in this match, however, was an exceptional one with David Meads defeating Jason Sugrue 8-11, 11-8, 11-9, 11-6. The team then beat Urban Progress I 5-3 with Meads winning both of his matches against Chris Lewis and Niall (pronounced Neil apparently!) Cameron and Marsden also contributing a crucial victory. In their final match of the weekend Ormesby were beaten by Ellenborough I 5-3, Meads again winning one.

There is only one more county item to report but I have taken the advice of the song and saved the best for last. David Meads had the tournament of his career so far in winning the individual boys event at the UK School Games and helping the North East of England to victory in the team event.

In the quarter final of the singles he dispatched Darren Reed fairly routinely in 4 sets before meeting an on form Craig Howieson, who had knocked out top seed and England number 1 Paul Drinkhall in the previous round, in the semi-final. This he won comfortably in 3 straight games. In the final his opponent was Darius Knight who must have been expecting a routine victory. Meads had other ideas, however, and took the title with a stunning victory 11-6 in the fifth. So a good start to the season for many Durham players and with Junior British League and the various County Championships to begin soon next month could be even better!

Devon by John Smith

David Wetherill continues to excel as he aims to claim a place in the Beijing Paralympics. At the 3rd German Open in Wuppertal he and his partner Will Bailey claimed the silver medal in the Class 6 Team event after a shock 3-2 quarter-final victory over reigning European Champions Denmark. David won the critical set defeating world number two Peter Rosenmeier for the first time ever. This was followed by a 3-0 semi-final win over Poland before they succumbed in the final to the hosts who include the current world number one. A further tournament in Italy will be followed shortly by the European Championships.

The two day county senior and junior trials played at Okehampton and Plymouth were a great success with over 60 players taking part, including many promising young players new to competition at this level. The evident strength in depth augers well for the county's three senior and four junior teams but left the selectors with some tricky problems. A storming display by 11 year old Vicky Smith on the first day confirmed her status as junior number one after taking the county junior girls' title for the first time last season. The consistent play of Michael Griffiths saw him pip club

colleague Freddie Cutler for the final place in the junior first team behind Richard Marshall and Chris Smith. The DML Woolwell club in Plymouth now has the top four boys and top two girls in the junior ranking list. Chris Smith just proved to be the leading player on show after four tight matches over the two days with the experienced new club coach at Okehampton TTC, Mike Hugh, were split evenly. Both secured places in the senior second team, which will be hoping to bounce straight back after relegation to Division two last season. The team looks extremely strong with the inclusion of Two top 30 women, Liz May and Sally Smith, after Lisa Radford was selected to partner Marketa Myskova in the first team.

Gloucestershire by Lesley Dewick

Gloucester City's Darren Griffin has enjoyed success at national level on two consecutive weekends. Griffin was the winner of the veterans event at the Travel City Cardiff Open Grand Prix. Griffin who is currently ranked at 11 in the ETTA ranking list saw off strong competition to win the event, the runner up in the event was Costos Papantoniou from the Middlesex ranked at 18. Griffin also took the veterans title at the Clare Pengelly Memorial Grand Prix event at Paignton, Devon. The tournament was set up as a tribute to Clare Pengelly, an extremely talented player who was killed in a tragic accident whilst she was travelling abroad in 1994. The event was set up by her family and has now been running for 13 years with all the money raised going to the Children's Hospice South West. Dave Harvey, Michael Harvey, David Adamson, Gordon Shaw, Roy Morley, Robert Harvey, Mike Kiff, Judy Morley, Stella Davis, Janie Kirby and Lesley Dewick also travelled to Paignton to compete in this competition. All players enjoyed great success, many qualifying to the later stages of the competitions and earning valuable ranking points to assist with their

England rankings.

Top results for the Gloucestershire players:

- Judy Morley losing quarter finalist in the women's singles
- Stella Davis losing semi finalist in the women's band 2 and losing quarter-finalist in the women's band 1.
- David Adamson losing semi finalist in the men's band 3.

The icing on the cake for the weekend, however, was the men's veterans event. Dave Harvey from Cheltenham, last year's winner, who is currently ranked 9 in ETTA's ranking list was seeded no.1 and met fellow Gloucestershire player Darren Griffin (seeded no.2) in the final. The final was a fabulous five setter that had everyone biting their nails. Harvey stormed ahead winning the first two games. During the third set Griffin gained his focus and took an early lead. However, the experienced Harvey was not to be put off and came back to eight all. At this point Griffin's adviser Mike Kiff called a well planned time out to assist Griffin in regaining his focus. Griffin went on to take the next three games to eventually win game 6 in the last set.

As a spectator I was privileged to witness such a fine demonstration of table tennis masters playing at their best.

Hertfordshire by Ann Fereday

The County Junior Ranking Trials were held on September 15th. As previously the very top juniors did not take part. Those who did attend really enjoyed the competition.

16 boys entered the Cadets and 24 the Juniors so just the top 10 are listed here.

Cadet boys (U15):- 1 Guy Ben-Aroya, 2 Jordan Harvey 3 Ross MacNiven 4 Luke Walsh 5 Chris Selby 6 Issac Beevor 7 Jordan Olney 8 Harry Miel 9 Leon Ford 10 George Louca **Junior boys (U18):-** 1 Guy Ben-Aroya 2 Jordan Harvey 3 Paul Erdunast 4 Pritesh Kakad 5 Andrew McArdle 6 Ross MacNiven 7 Luke Walsh 8 Adam Parker 9 Alex Slade 10 Luke Healey **Cadet Girls (U18):-** 1

Sullivan

Junior Girls (U18):- 1 Amee Potts 2 Natasha Walsh 3 Tamsin Holland 4 Abigail Moore 5 Jamie Byrne 6 Katie Brill 7 Chloe Sullivan

Other news :- Haylee Potts, William Maybanks and Jack Pegramand (wheelchair) represented England South East in the UK School Games in Coventry.

Jack Pegramand won gold in his category, Haylee Potts also took gold in the team event and William Maybanks gained a team silver.

The South East won best overall combined team.

Northamptonshire by Dennis Millman

With the 2007-2008 season just under way, this is an opportune moment to look back on some of the highlights of the last campaign.

As anticipated, Higham Band's Andy Trott, Richard Elliott, Mick Harper and Mark Nannery won the EBS Mobile Phones Super League, with points to spare over the Unity side comprising Dave Welshman, Kieron Dabs and Steve Silk. Harborough finished in third place, mainly through the efforts of Andy LeButt who just failed to take the individual award. He and Elliott both won 19 out of 21 rubbers but the prize of a £50 Thorntons sport voucher and an EBS mobile phone went to Andy Trott, who lost just one of his 18 rubbers.

Wellingborough's new table tennis centre, home of the Westfield Club, hosted its first major event, when the Kettering Closed Tournament was staged in excellent conditions. During a 14 hour extravaganza there were some enthralling encounters, none more so than a terrific battle between John Fuller and Andy Trott, that resulted in the untimely exit of the county no.1. Fuller then fell to a top form Richard Elliott, with the latter on course to his eight final where he met no.1 seed Chris Doran, who experienced few problems in the early stages. A tremendous final followed with Doran saving two match points before clinching his first title at 13-11 in the

The final was a fabulous five setter that had everyone biting their nails. Harvey stormed ahead winning the first two games. During the third set Griffin gained his focus and took an early lead. However, the experienced Harvey was not to be put of and came back to eight all.

fifth end decider.

Doran and Fuller, the reigning county champions, won the doubles, with holders Andy LeButt and David Grundy beaten at the penultimate stage, while former county champions Trott and Silk provided the final opposition.

With Doran an absentee from the County Closed Tournament, Andy Trott regained the men's singles crown when he beat Richard Elliott in straight games. Trott, partnered by Silk, also took the men's doubles, and then together with Sarah Hollis made a phenomenal recovery by taking ten consecutive points from 10-2 down in the decider, to win the mixed doubles.

So even was the standard in the women's events that none of the doubles' finalists featured in the singles final, won for the first time by veteran Sue Moloney. The doubles went to Katy Armstrong and Jenny Cole, while Clem Little took the veterans' title for the eighth time.

John Fuller was the main beneficiary at veteran level winning the over 40 singles and both over 50 events, but beaten opponents Silk and Ken Philipson had the last word in the over 40 doubles. Bill Fletcher took his tenth over 60s crown, while Dan Smalley, Jack Coleman, Katy Armstrong, Jordan Wood and Charlotte Binley excelled at junior level. Richard Elliott completed a hat-trick of open singles titles at Northampton and together with Jamie Chamberlain added the men's doubles for good measure. He completed the traditional treble in tandem with Clem Little, but it was Sarah Hollis, Charlotte Binley and Jordan Wood who dominated the ladies' events.

Chris Gibbons won the veteran singles and then teamed up with his beaten opponent Michael Edwards to add the corresponding doubles for a fourth successive time.

On the league scene Kettering Town A won all 20 matches to take a first Kettering Premier title since 1986, finishing with a 27 point advantage over holders Higham Band.

At Wellingborough, Westfield A took the title by 16 points with Westfield B skippered by Mike Hawes, in the runners-up position. Finally congratulations to the team of the season – Wollaston School, who successfully defended the National

Schools Under 19 crown, with superb contributions from Chris Doran (15), Dan Smalley (16), Carl Leeson (17) and Jack Coleman, the youngest at just 13.

Northumberland by Pauline Long

Several of our local players had an early season taste of competitive play at the North Eastern Masters tournament, recently held at the Seaburn Centre.

Dave Godbold regained his over 40's veteran singles title he last won two years ago in sensational style when coming back from two games down to eventually defeat Steve Turner (Lancs.) 3-2.

In his semi-final, Dave had ousted county team-mate and local favourite Eddie Smith 3-1, while the left-handed Turner had created a surprise of his own by putting out the highly-fancied Keith Williams (Lancs.) at the same stage.

Dave and Eddie combined to make it a county double when they added the over 40's doubles title with a final victory over Williams and Durham's Tony Gelder.

Keith Weatherby in his first season as a veteran added to the local success by winning the over 40's consolation singles.

Once again this was a most enjoyable tournament at a superb venue, but for some players it still seems a journey too far, resulting in a lower entry. It may well be too early in the season for some, but personally I regard it as good practice for the start of the Winter League season, especially for anyone who has not played much during the summer – and I don't have to stay anywhere overnight!

The following weekend, Geoff Salter was again selected for the Scotland over 50s team at the Six Nations Veterans tournament, held this year in Llandudno.

Dave Scholfield has regrettably resigned from his two posts of Chairman and League Secretary, as well as giving up playing for the foreseeable future, and hopefully a replacement can be found as quickly as possible. Our thanks go to Dave for his efforts over the years. The Board of Directors in charge of affairs otherwise remains the same as last season, but we are now down to eight members and any new volunteers will be very welcome.

My personal thanks also go to Olive Drapkin, who has volunteered to take over from Dave in e-mailing my TT News reports. The Northumberland Winter League season has commenced with 59 teams in five divisions. Washington A, who have Eddie Smith and Andrew Wilkinson in their ranks, will again hope to retain their Winter League Premier Division title, but much will depend on how often their top players are available. The senior and veteran county teams have again been entered in their respective divisions, and the juniors will once again be entered in the Regional League as well as being funded for selected tournaments from development funds if required. Cramlington Table Tennis Club, who have entered 16 teams in the Northumberland League, recently received a grant of nearly £10,000 from the SITA Trust through the Landfill Communities Fund. This will enable the club to replace its equipment with 16 top-of-the

range tables and nets, as well as eight umpire tables, 10 scoring machines and 60 bats, and will ensure it can continue to provide top quality events and competitions for its 95 members.

Obituaries:-

Alan Morpeth (1919 – 2007)

It is with sadness that Northumberland table tennis have to report the death of Alan Morpeth on 7 July 2007 at the age of 87.

Alan was secretary of North Shields YMCA as well as being County Secretary for many years until ill-health forced him to relinquish these posts. He was employed as a senior executive officer at what is now the Department of Work and Pensions until his retirement in the early 1980s, and also during the summer seasons had a long association with Tynemouth Cricket Club.

A celebration of Alan's life was held on 16 July at Christ Church, North Shields, at which most board members and players, past and present, who knew Alan were in attendance.

Well played indeed Alan. Our condolences are extended to his wife Joyce and daughters Patricia, Sheila, Alison and Catherine and their families.

Bob Morse

Bob Morse died suddenly in hospital also during July at the age of only 59. Bob, who lived in the coastal village of Embleton, regularly made the journey to the Alnwick club to help coach the young players as well as playing for the B team in Division 4.

The highlight of his table tennis career was in 2004-5 when he was delighted to win the individual handicap title at that season's county closed. He was a regular attendee at this tournament with his wife Kaye, to whom we convey our deepest sympathy.

May they both rest in peace.

Surrey by Chris Andrews

The Madeira Open Singles Champion is Darius Knight. He beat fellow England international Paul Drinkhall. Darius also beat Paul in the Junior Open and

The Madeira Open Singles Champion is Darius Knight. He beat fellow England international Paul Drinkhall. Darius also beat Paul in the Junior Open and together they won the team event.

Darius Knight is this season playing for Montpellier in France in their ProB (second) Division.

together they won the team event. Darius Knight is this season playing for Montpellier in France in their ProB (second) Division. In their opening two matches Montpellier won one and lost one. Darius only played in the first of the two matches and he lost twice. While Joanna Parker is again playing for TTK Anroechte but this time in the Women's North second Division as her team were relegated from the top division last season. Her team have won both their opening matches with Joanna playing at no.2 on 66%. In the British Premier League Darren Blake is again playing for London Progress while Chris Lewis is at the new team of Urban Progress, Henry Medellin plays for promoted TTK Greenhouse and Abdul Wuraola is playing for the promoted Drumchapel. In their first match Chris Lewis beat Henry Medellin. but, this did not stop TTK Greenhouse as they won 6-2. Chris Lewis also made an amazing comeback against Damien Nicholls winning 1-11, 3-11, 16-14, 11-8, 11-6. Again his team Urban Progress lost, this time 5-3 to Ormesby. Evan Sharp has helped Brighton 1 to the top of the British Division 1 South by winning a lot of decisive matches.

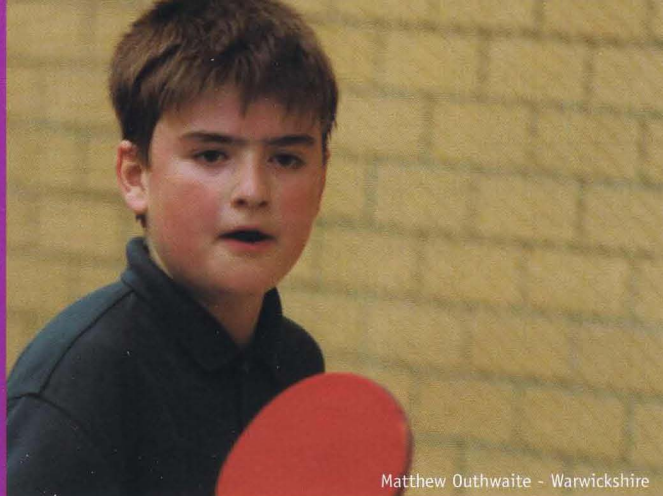
Sussex by Ian Ford

Sussex Junior Circuit Report: Table tennis in Sussex received a boost last month with successful junior and senior development tournaments, involving over 80 participants, being run at East Grinstead Sports Club. The first Sussex Junior Circuit event of

the new season was keenly contested over four ability bands. In Band B, newcomer Max Hill (Edenbridge) performed brilliantly pairing up with Jamie Luxford (Storrington) in the morning and Bobbi Grange (East Grinstead) in the afternoon to win a brace of gold medals. Silvers all went home in the direction of the Horsham area with Tim Gould, Sam Martin, Tom Roberts and Callum White all having good reason to be satisfied with their performances.

All onlookers were agreed that despite the fact she did not win any silverware the one to watch in Band D was Lois Peake from Arundel Table Tennis Club. The diminutive left-hander showed herself to be a real pocket battleship in sweeping aside all before her, including a straight-sets victory over Hill. An afternoon promotion to Band C failed to keep her in check as she claimed five victims from six matches to claim a fifth spot overall.

What the morning event of Band C lacked in quantity it made up for in quality as seven players fought out a series of close encounters. After the group stage the improving Greg Tarran (Horsham) held pole position for the play-offs closely followed by Josh Monk (Billingshurst). However in the play-off semis Greg Potter (St Leonards) and Harry Collins (East Grinstead) turned the form book upside down by winning through. Collins, fourth in the group stage, completed his phoenix-like rise by beating Potter in the final. Sam Tapp (Worthing) won Band C in



Matthew Outhwaite - Warwickshire

the afternoon showing good character after an under-par morning in a higher band. James Harrison (Brighton) can be delighted with his second-placed showing on his first circuit outing just pipping another debutant Callum Ross-Freeman (Horsham).

Tall left-hander Alex Henman (Horsham) won Band B in the morning to confirm his growing stature, although a rough ride in the afternoon Band A handicapped event showed he still needs to put more work in to bridge that gap. Well done too to Alex Milner (Worthing) for winning silver with his consistent style of play.

Joe Whittick (Crawley) pipped East Grinstead local lad Matt Ruxton in the afternoon section of Band B. Both were level on group matches won at the end of proceedings but Whittick's straight sets victory over his chief rival was enough to secure him gold. Alex Fry (Crawley) continued his rise through the ranks by securing third spot.

In Band A the status quo from last season was largely maintained. Brenton Rogers (Worthing) won another couple of silver medals to add to his burgeoning collection whilst Jordan Satturley (Arundel), with golds in both the morning and afternoon sections, proved that when he puts his mind to it he is a talent to be reckoned with. Mike White on the eve of his debut for the Sussex County junior team had a good morning in taking third spot.

Sussex Adult Circuit Report East Grinstead:- In an attempt to replicate the success of the Sussex Junior Circuit over the last 12 months the organisers decided to run a similarly based pilot tournament for adults at East Grinstead Sports Club the day before.

27 players took part in a day where informality and fun were the watchwords rather than win-at-all-costs. One of the organisers, Ian Ford, commented, "The day was a great success. We could have done with a few more entrants but the important thing was that most players were receptive to a competition format that involved plenty of games in a friendly atmosphere in a top quality venue." A formal feedback exercise is underway that may lead to more such events being staged in the future.

On the tables, Jack Boulton (Worthing) justified his 'favourite' tag with some trademark heavy topspin consistency. However, veteran Ken Trill (Bognor) produced the shock of the day to inflict his only defeat. This reverse forced Boulton into claiming his gold via a play-off with Gavin West (Dagenham).

In the afternoon Rory Scott (Horsham) recovered from a disappointing morning showing to win the Band A handicap

event in impressive style by beating off an entertaining challenge from Asa Lawler (Worthing).

Gil Coffin (Horsham) won out in the morning play-off final of the B Band over Nigel Coombes (Arundel) whilst in Band C, Asa Lawler added another medal to his collection by beating Joe Painter (Croydon). In Band B in the afternoon Dan Barna belied his young years to beat fellow Horsham-based player David McCulloch to claim gold.

Anyone wishing to find out more about table tennis development competitions in Sussex at junior or senior level should contact Ian Ford on 01403 215634 or

Ian.ford@horsham.gov.uk

Warwickshire by Caroline Williams

The Warwickshire Talent Identification Day and Junior Trials were held early in September in Leamington Spa. This was to select up to five boys and girls to represent the county in three age groups, Under 11, Under 13 and Under 15, at the Regional Trials to be held shortly, plus to identify those to represent the county at both cadet and junior levels in the County Championships.

Twelve year old Matthew Outhwaite from Rugby was the star of both days, winning all of the 18 games he played to lead the tables for the Under 13s, 16s and juniors. As each player can only attend one age group at the Regionals, Matthew will be at the Under 13s, joined by clubmate Jesse Kendrick-Hill, plus Lawrence Sweeney, Sam Twigg and Luke Spencer (all from Leamington), who finished second to fifth respectively.

A total of 26 boys competed for the Under 15s age group, with Ian Anson, Shane Gales and Oliver Jupp from Birmingham coming second, fourth and seventh to be joined at the Trials by Leamington's Alistair Nicholson and Jack Parry who were third and sixth. Fifth place went to Jesse Kendrick-Hill, but like Matthew Outhwaite he had already qualified at Under 13 level. All the Under 11 boys came from Leamington, with Simon Thompson winning, followed by Leo Twigg, Niall Herbert, David Marguerie and Charlie Snelson. The Junior Trials saw 24 boys competing on the Sunday, and ended with Matthew Outhwaite leading, followed by Nabil Khalfey (Birmingham) and Joel Goddard (Nuneaton). Perry Nash (Birmingham) and Jack Randle (Rugby and Under 15) came forth equal, with Jordan Colen from Birmingham sixth. Fuller details are on the website (www.wtta.org.uk).

Like many counties our number of girls is dropping and so we will not fill all our places at the Regional Trials. The final standings of girls saw Rachel Pilgrim (Nuneaton) first; then Charlotte Spencer (Leamington), Jessica Birbeck (Nuneaton); Sanika Karandikar (Birmingham); Holly Thompson, Holly Savage and Jess Champion, all from Leamington. Charlotte, Jessica and Sanika are Under 15, Holly Thompson is Under 13 and Jess is Under 11 and so will attend the Trials for their respective age groups.

Yorkshire by Barry Snowden

Halifax and Scarborough provided two winners each out of seven events which were recently held at Scarborough Table Tennis Centre under the watchful eye of organising team of Richard and Brenda Hudson and Barry Snowden.

There were eight events scheduled in total but due to a poor entry the under 11 girls event did not run but their was a good entry of 79 players for the remaining events which were under 18, 15 and 13 sections for boys and girls along with an under 11 boys.

The under 15, 13 and 11 events were part of the ETTA national trials with four places up for grabs in these events for qualification through to the regional trials, but it was decided to hold an under 18 event also to assess players for possible selection for Yorkshire county teams.

The under 18 boys event was won by top seed Jonny Giles of Halifax who, after the preliminary groups, was joined by the four other groups winners James Berry, also of Halifax and three Hull players Andy Cundill, Alex Britton and Dominic Welburn.

Giles was fully expected to be a member of the county first team squad and his performance confirmed his selection for the county first team; the other four players in the final group all cemented their places in the county second team for their first round of matches scheduled to be played at Halifax TTC on October 20th.

The under 18 girls was won by top seed Rebecca George of Scarborough who, in the four player event won all her sets in straight games, but the surprise package of the event was newcomer

Emma Lindle of Bradford Fastbats who beat both last season's county cadets, players Steffi Garrett and Gemma Deeley, in four games to finish runner-up to Rebecca.

Rebecca will now join Mary Fuller in the county first team whilst the other three girls in the group have been selected to represent Yorkshire seconds when they play against Lancashire 1 and 2 and the second teams of Cheshire and Durham at Halifax in October.

The under 15 (cadets) boy's event had two Pudsey TTC players in the top four as James Atkins took the event with last season's cadet county player Daniel Adams in third. They were separated by Reece Lo of Hull who was runner-up and home player Tom Harrington completed a fine day by finishing fourth.

Atkins had survived a scare in his group when he was take the distance by James-Mason of Halifax and the Pudsey player just came through 8-11 11-5 8-11 11-4 11-9, but in the final it was the first match up that was crucial as Atkins beat his Pudsey clubmate Adams despite a first game reversal 9-11 11-8 11-8 11-7.

Scarborough's Harrington caught the eye in the final group and could consider himself unfortunate as he was involved in three of the better sets, and he actually played two sets on the trot (losing them both in five games) as he was beaten 7-11 11-6 8-11 11-7 8-11 by Lo then 11-6 7-11 11-5 9-11 7-11 by Adams before losing in four to eventual winner Atkins 5-11 7-11 11-8 7-11, This was after beating one of the favourites Ross McFadyen 11-8 6-11 11-8 9-11 13-11 in his group.

The under 15 girls' event was a six player round robin and came down to a clash of the top two as Scarborough's Alex Lee beat Gemma Cundill from Hull in four (11-8 10-12 11-2 11-8) in their last set to take the event. The two players were the top two in the event with Lee only dropping the one game in her campaign to Cundill and Cundill only dropped one more apart from her defeat to Lee when she was taken to four games by another Scarborough player, Jennifer Wood.

For Wood and the other three players in this event, Jessica West and Grace Blenkinsop of Scarborough and Hannah Kendall of Halifax it will have been a great opportunity to gain experience and although Lee and Cundill will be the favourites for county call up come February, the other players, Wood in particular, gave the top two a good work out when they met.

The under 13 boys' event was won by James Mayne of Ryedale who completed the event by not dropping a single game in either his group or the final winners' group. Vishal Dittani of Leeds was runner-up with Doncaster League player Scott Hollowood third and Scarborough's Macauley Youngson fourth.

The under 13 girls' event was a six player round robin and went to Georgia Rose of Halifax who tied on sets with Katie Lee of Scarborough with both girls losing one set but by virtue of beating Katie it was Georgia who won the event.

Rhianna Wood finished third in this event as she beat winner Rose but lost to Lee, and also disappointingly lost to Nicole Finn of Leeds in the first match of the day which, had she won, would have left all three girls on four wins and a headache for the organizers.

The under 11 boys event was won by Micheal Whittaker of Bradford and making a Bradford 1-2 was James Celaire with Leeds player Neil Dattani third and Brendan Wilson McGarry of Scarborough fourth.

The top four in the under 15, 13 and 11 sections will now join their South Yorkshire counterparts in the regional trials which take place at Halifax TTC on 1st December.

James Mayne of Ryedale who completed the event by not dropping a single game in either his group or the final winners' group. Vishal Dittani of Leeds was runner-up with Doncaster League player Scott Hollowood third and Scarborough's Macauley Youngson fourth.



ARNIE CHAN

Birth date: 27/5/57

Place of birth: Saigon

Residence: Nottingham

Nature of disability: Paraplegic – T5/6

Sport and classification: Table Tennis Class 3

Left/right handed: Right

Highest ever ranking and date: Top Ten 06

Current World Ranking: No 11 in the world

Most significant achievements - Bronze Paralympic medal in Barcelona 1992

Most memorable sporting occasion - Bronze medal match at Barcelona Paralympics in 1992 and team final in Europeans in Italy 2005

Most memorable sporting occasion - Sydney Paralympics in 2002

Ultimate sporting ambition: Gold medal in Beijing Paralympics

What brought you to the sport of disabled table tennis? Took up the sport whilst in hospital in Stoke Mandeville

How long have you been playing table tennis? 28 years

How do you spend your free time when you are not training or competing? Playing poker, socialising with other members of the team

Player Rankings 2007/2008

TOP 25 SENIOR MEN

Ranking	Player
1.	DRINKHALL, Paul (CV.)
2.	KNIGHT, Darius (SY.)
3.	RUSHTON, Andrew (LA.)
4.	EVANS, Gavin (BU.)
5.	REED, Daniel (CV.)
6.	MEADS, David (DU.)
7.	PREAN, Carl (IW.)
8.	YOUNG, Terry (BK.)
9.	YARNALL, Tim (NP.)
10.	TRUMPAUSKAS, Lawrence (E.)
11.	BRYANT, Craig (DV.)
12.	EVANS, Bradley (BU.)
13.	HOLLAND, John J (Dy) (E.)
14.	BARHAM, Dale (CA.)
15.	NOAH, Hubert (E.)
16.	SMITH, Mark Richard (Y.)
17.	DOLDER, Kevin (LA.)
18.	MARSDEN, Michael (DU.)
19.	CUTLER, Tom (ML.)
20.	ESSOMBA, Marco (SY.)
21.	VENNER, Ritchie (SX.)
22.	NICHOLLS, Damien (SP.)
23.	WURAOLA, Abdul (SY.)
24.	NILSSON, John (HE.)
25.	MARPLES, Shaun (DY.)

TOP 5 JUNIOR BOYS

Ranking	Player
1.	DRINKHALL, Paul (CV.)
2.	KNIGHT, Darius (SY.)
3.	EVANS, Gavin (BU.)
4.	WARE, Mathew (DO.)
5.	NICHOLLS, Damien (SP.)

TOP 5 CADET BOYS

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

TOP 5 UNDER 13 BOYS

Ranking	Player
1	ZILESINICK, Zac (MI.)
2.	WALKER, Sam (NG.)
3.	WEERASINGHE, Helshan (SX.)
4.	WILSON, Ross (K.)
5.	ADEBANJO, Azarel (E.)

TOP 5 VETERAN MEN

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

TOP 25 SENIOR WOMEN

Ranking	Player
1	SIBLEY, Kelly (WA.)
2.	LOWER, Helen (ST.)
3.	PARKER, Joanna (SY.)
4.	BAWDEN, Natalie (E.)
5.	EMBLING, Abigail (E.)
6.	REYNOLDS, Lindsey (LA.)
7.	CLARK, Sally (Y.)
8.	KEAST, Lesley (LI.)
9.	VICKERS, Emma (DY.)
10.	WANG, Sarra (E.)
11.	RAINTON, Rosemary (SX.)
12.	CLEMENTS, Sanya (DO.)
13.	COHEN, Michele (WL.)
14.	WILSON, Naomi (SO.)
15.	VICKERS, Jane (DY.)
16.	HOWARD, Alice (CH.)
17.	WHITE, Nicola (Y.)
18.	FARQUHAR, Melanie (BK.)
19.	LEFEVRE, Karina (CV.)
20.	WANG, Lucy (E.)
21.	RADFORD, Lisa (DV.)
22.	HALLOWS, Caroline (CH.)
23.	HICKS, Hannah (HA.)
24.	CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.)
25.	MAY, Elizabeth (DV.)

TOP 5 JUNIOR GIRLS

Ranking	Player
1	VICKERS, Emma (DY.)
2.	SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LI.)
3.	WANG, Sarra (E.)
4.	JAMIESON, Rachel (E.)
5.	H'ALLOWS, Caroline (CH.)

TOP 5 CADET GIRLS

Ranking	Player
1	LEFEVRE, Karina (CV.)
2.	BATES, Emily (LI.)
3.	SUNDARARAJAN, Ayoniija (BK.)
4.	SLATER, Natalie (ST.)
5.	TRAVIS, Martha (CO.)

TOP 5 UNDER 13 GIRLS

Ranking	Player
1	BATES, Emily (LI.)
2.	HO, Tin-Tin (MI.)
3.	DAWSON, Jessica (CV.)
4.	MARCH, Bethany (E.)
5.	SMITH, Victoria (DV.)

TOP 5 VETERAN WOMEN

Ranking	Player
1	LOCKE, Gillian (E.)
2.	BUOEY, Brenda (LA.)
3.	MUDGE, Kim (K) (SY.)
4.	DURHAM, Jane (CV.)
5.	WELSMAN, Margaret (NP.)



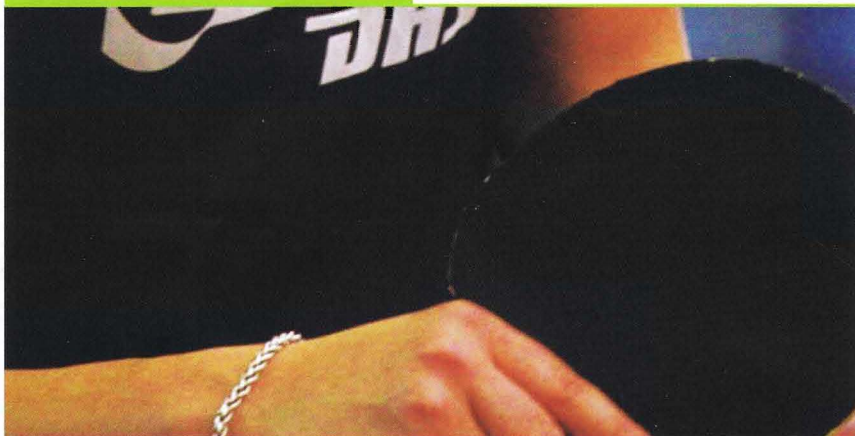
For the full list of player rankings go to our website

www.etta.co.uk



Dates for your diary

Table Tennis events for December 2007



2007/2008 COPY DATES

December/January Issue

Copy Deadline: 12 Nov
Advertising Deadline: 05 Nov

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

Saturday 1st:

Cadet - Regional Trials
Senior - Medway Grand Prix
Veteran - VETTS Eastern

Sunday 2nd:

Cadet - Regional Trials
Senior - Medway Grand Prix
Veteran - VETTS Eastern

Saturday 8th:

Cadet - Youth Development Squad 15
Junior - National Junior League (2)
Senior - British League (2)

Sunday 9th:

Cadet - Youth Development Squad 15
Cadet - Regional Trials
Junior - Regional Trials
Senior - British League (2)

Saturday 15th:

Cadet - County Championships (3)
Junior - County Championships (3)
Senior - County Championships (3)
Veteran - County Championships (3)

Sunday 16th:

Cadet - National Cadet League (2)

Saturday 22nd:

Cadet - Chesham 2 Star
Junior - Chesham 2 Star
Senior - Cheshire 2 Star Satellite GP

Sunday 23rd:

Senior - Cheshire 2 Star Satellite GP

Friday 28th:

Junior - Chesham 2 Star

Sunday 30th:

Cadet - Chesham 2 Star
Junior - Chesham 2 Star

Other:

Sunday 9th - Sunday 16th

World Junior Champs, Palo Alto, USA

Thursday 13th - Sunday 16th

Pro Tour Grand Finals, Beijing, China

The Association would like to thank all of the following for their support during the season 2007/08

DAWSON
PRODUCTION LTD

2 Market Street, Blythe.
Tel: 01670 351435
Official Travel Agents

LES SMITH
TROPHIES AND ENGRAVING

Trophies and Engraving
Strood, Gloucestershire.
Tel: 01453 886686
Official Trophy Suppliers

Acorn
Business Supplies Limited

Acorn House, Forstal
Road, Aylesford, Kent
ME20 7AF
Tel: 01622 882233

PERKINS SLADE

3 Broadway, Broad St,
Birmingham B15 1BQ
Tel: 0121 698 800
Fax: 0121 625 9000

Bribar
Table Tennis

Bribar Table Tennis
Knaves Ash House, Church Road,
Hoath Canterbury, CT3 4JT
Tel: 01227 741471
Fax: 01227 860569
E-mail: enquiries@bribart.co.uk
www.bribart.co.uk

Butterfly

Tees Sport
Zetland Place, Middlesbrough,
Cleveland, TS1 1HJ, UK
Tel: 0800 458 4141
Fax: 0800 458 7171
E-mail: tabletennis@teesport.com
www.tees-sport.co.uk

BATSKILLS

Suppliers of exciting and
innovative coaching aids
473 Harlestone Road, Duston,
Northampton, NN5 6NJ
Tel: 01604 464 878

THORNTON

3 Otterbury Close, Bury BL8
2TY. Tel: 0161 761 6608 (24
hrs) Tel: 0161 797 3539 fax:
0161 762 9402 email: william.
thornton2@btopenworld.com