

table tennis news

Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association



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Thickness:	1.8 / 2.0							
	DEF	+	-	ALL	+	-	OFF	+

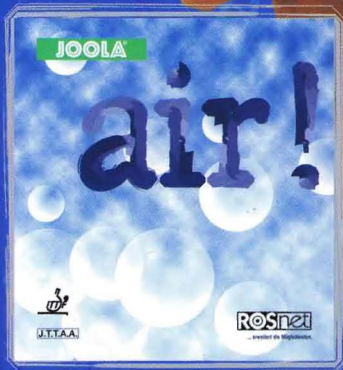
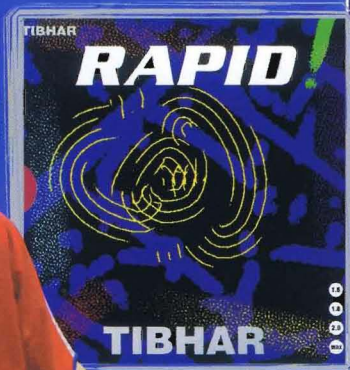
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Thickness:	2.0 / 2.5							
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Matthew Syed



Matthew is former English number one. He has a

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

Jeremy Wilson



Jeremy is a football writer for The Daily Telegraph. He

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

Ken Muhr



Former Information Officer for the ETTA, Ken, has

a wealth of knowledge about table tennis and is an experienced writer and coach.

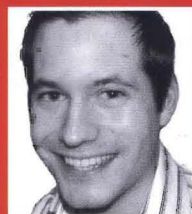
Steve Kerns



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



How strong are we? Cultural and economic changes have undeniably dealt a shattering blow on our sport. Thirty years ago the country's industry was booming, table tennis was at an all time high and affiliation figures at their peak. What's happened? Well as they say time stands still for no man, nor does it for table tennis (contrary to popular belief). So as the country's GDP fell so did its TTP (table tennis participation), due in the main to one crucial factor, visibility. Once every canteen, youth and sports club in the land possessed a table tennis table, feeding the innate desire to pick up a bat and play. However, this luxury was soon to be squashed with the debilitating swing in government investment, health and safety laws, company liability policies, social change and more. Tables began to drift away taking with them the continual

reminder of our very existence, the opportunity to play and the unquestionable social currency of being works or office champion.

So whilst many of you look back with rose tinted glasses and continually remind me of the good old days, the simple fact is, when our sport was at its giddy heights we sat still, without the vision required to become an asset owning sport, a sport with its destiny in its own hands. We were content with parking our tables at other people's premises free of charge, blissfully unaware that the carpet was about to be ripped out from under us. When it was we had no answer, life had changed but our product couldn't and didn't.

However, table tennis is fighting back. Over the last few years I have witnessed a remarkable amount of progress both on and off the court. On, there has been a

generational shift as the past masters have succumbed to the bright young talents of Drinkhall, Sibley and co. Off court there is a fresh new image, clearer focus and most influentially increased external interest has begun to swing the balance back in our favour. Yes, there is still a long way to go and there are still a lot of battles to be won. However there are now more dedicated table tennis facilities in England than ever. Tournaments are regularly oversubscribed and the trade suppliers report a surge in equipment sales. All this is irrefutably pointing in the right direction.

Of course there is always scope for improvement so I will leave you with a quick question. If you could make one positive change to the ETTA, what would it be and why?

Enjoy the magazine and, 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...

Over 1,300 athletes took part in eight sports in five venues over three days" Jim Beckley

Page 10 "The fear of leaving anything to chance is what drives athletes on" Tim Yarnall

Page 13 "They may have been taught one or two lessons on the table, but they were treated like emperors" Jeremy Wilson Page 14 "Do others besides me dream of a new strategic vision

and fight back to levels of popularity and glory experienced in the past?" Ken Muhr Page 20

Straight talk

I hope you all had a great summer break and are looking forward to the season ahead with competitive and exciting matches.

The local volunteers have been working during the break to get your league ready for the season with registrations, team allocations and the preparation of your handbooks, not an easy task but these dedicated volunteers are essential to keep your leagues running and their efforts are appreciated by all.

An obituary is included about John Jermyn, a long-standing colleague, friend, fellow official and player who passed away during the summer. All will sadly miss him and he started, not intentionally, me on the way from a local player/official to my present position as your Chairman.

The process of the ETTA civil liability policy for the membership is underway and it is hoped that the clubs, leagues and counties will sign up and be part of this overall policy. It will benefit all, reduce costs and give the required security to the affiliated organisations and its members.

Work continues in regard to the additional funding given to the ETTA to support programmes to increase participation and retention of table tennis players, increase the quality and quantity of coaches and volunteers. All of these awards require detailed documentation to be approved by our funding partners including, delivery plans, and conditions met and the putting in place of the necessary staff and volunteers, and this takes time. You can be assured, however, that the goals are to support our membership and increase it via a number of programmes and strategies encompassed within the criteria required by the funding partners.

It is interesting to note that in 2008 it will be 60 years since the last Olympics were held in London and only four years until the next one. Many of the ETTA rules and our decision making process have remained similar since 1948. We are looking at a number of potential changes which need addressing,

as well as an overall review of the actual rule book to modernise our sport in regard to how it operates.

Some may say that if it was OK in the past why not now, we are all aware of the many changes in our lifestyles, what our funding partners require, how the government red tape impacts us and how this effects our sport generally. I believe that fundamental changes need to be made; we are well behind the majority of other sports in terms of corporate governance and have to compete with them for funding, sponsors, players and volunteers.

Over the next 12 months a review will take place of our competition programme and calendar of events to align it to the needs of players from all levels. The Membership Committee will be submitting some recommendations to National Council in October and following this up at the National Council meeting in January following inputs from Councillors, the representatives you send to Council.

The excellent performances of our young players continue and the British Table Tennis Federation in conjunction with the ETTA have agreed some changes to enable increased support to be given to other potential players, details will be circulated by the ETTA Selection Department.

Changes in the departmental structure are being discussed, and the new funding awards will enable us to improve and reinvigorate the service to our members and increase programmes and support at all levels. This process will take a few months of negotiations with all parties concerned and follow the relevant approval procedures.

I believe that we all agree that the ETTA in conjunction with its members has still many issues to resolve to continue moving our sport forward, communicating effectively with our membership, increasing participation and retention of members, increasing coaches and volunteers and getting a



Alex Murdoch, ETTA Chairman

senior team to compete in the European and World arena.

Moving our sport forward takes time and requires a commitment from all of us to work together as a team, debating issues with clear and defined proposal from both sides and a determination and dedication to meet the objectives of our sport.

Your Management and National Council, who are the policy and decision making body of the ETTA, are the "custodians and servants" of the sport and its membership whose objectives and goals are to work together with the table tennis fraternity for the good and prospering of our sport.

It should be remembered that "decisions are made about your sport by those who turn up"; this means

working with and supporting our game at all levels including involvement at the grass roots. I see lack of attendance by many voting members at the AGM: some leagues have not even appointed someone to vote on behalf of its members. It is essential that you all use your democratic right and obligation to be involved and be part of the decision making process, apathy in this regard will only hinder progress not generate it.

I am as always happy to meet with you and debate any issues pertaining to our sport at meetings of your club, league, county and region or individually at any event I attend. My e-mail contact details are alex@harwoodltd.co.uk.

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Headlines

The latest stories from the Table Tennis World

MOURNING A TOP TALENT

The sport of table tennis is mourning the loss of Yurek Yoram Katz, who recently passed away at the age of 71 after a long battle against cancer. Mr Katz, who represented Poland juniors and the Israeli army as a player, was a keen supporter of table tennis matches and, in recent years, was a regular face at tournaments all over the country in support of his son, Dov. He was particularly associated with the Maccabi Association London, based in West Hampstead, and the Harrow Centre of Excellence. He said that his proudest moment in table tennis was watching the Wembley and Harrow League win the Wilmott Cup last year. His son, Dov, said: "His passion was table tennis and, whether I was playing in local league, British league, county matches or tournaments, he never missed a match." Johnny Clarke, secretary of Brighton Table Tennis Club, added: "Mr Katz was a keen table tennis supporter and we shall miss his presence at our matches with his wife Sylvia to whom we'd like to pass on our condolences."

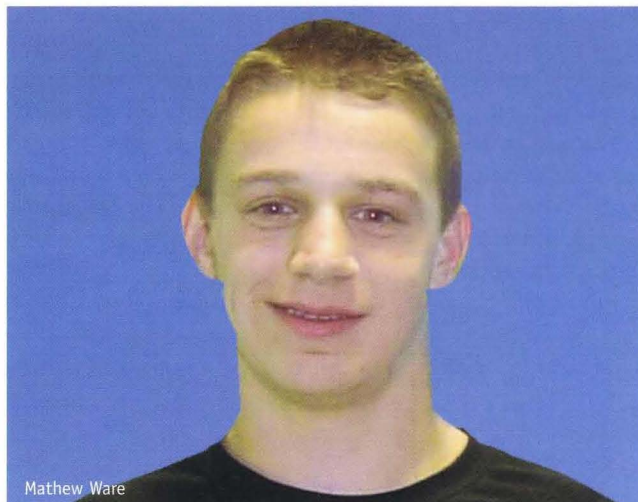
PINSENT PICKS A WINNER

Four times Olympic gold medallist Sir Matthew Pinsent announced today Poole local, Matt Ware, as a finalist for the 2007 "TAUT 100 Sportsperson of the Year" award. Previously recognised for his achievements on the national and international circuit, Ware is up against a series of young sports people for the main prize which includes a £5,000 grant from Taut – the first clean sports drink. Other prizes include a Concept 2 Rowing Machine, an exclusive profile on Sky Sports News and a ticket to this year's black tie SportsAid Ball in October. Pinsent has been keeping a watchful eye over the young hopeful, who came to his attention earlier this year after a series of wins for Waterside Table Tennis Club in Poole, Hampshire. Since first being recognised in the scheme, the 16 year old has been making quite a stir. Matt has recently been selected for the British



LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

Wins from Trevor Williams and son Marc prevented the holders of the Sheffield Summer League Vulcan C from retaining their title. But despite an unbeaten run from the father and son duo, their team Vulcan B were only able to make runners-up position.



Matthew Ware

Table Tennis Federation's ID Group (a prestigious team, specifically targeted for possible 2012 Olympic contention), won the Cippenham Open Team Championships with partner Garth Kinlocke, won the National County Premier title - two years running, and has also become Hampshire's number one junior for the third successive year. To further develop his career, Ware has also been accepted into top table tennis club Molndals in Sweden where he currently trains and competes on a full-time basis. Pinsent says: "Matt's achievements at such a young age show his remarkable commitment and determination to succeed. Being able to identify him in a scheme like this means that we can give him the recognition, encouragement and confidence to push forward and continue training and competing". With the help of SportsAid, the Taut 100 scheme was set up to identify the UK's top up and coming sporting talent from a variety of sports who have the potential to become professional athletes. Every month the committee, led by Sir Matthew Pinsent, selected a winner who received a £1,000 cash prize and a spot on Sky Sports News. Ware was January's winner. All monthly winners then have the potential to win 'Taut 100 Sportsperson of the Year' which will be announced at this year's SportsAid Ball on October 9th.

Headlines

IT'S A GAME WRAPPED UP IN ORIENTAL MYSTERY

So when a television crew from one of Japan's biggest channels, TBS, decided to make a prime-time show featuring table tennis as a sport for all ages it might seem bizarre they travelled 6,000 miles to shoot it - in the far east of England. However, the reason for their 12-hour flight was to catch up with inspirational Gorleston great-grandmother Edna Fletcher, winner of multiple titles at world veteran table tennis championships. On Saturday, September 15 at least 10 million Japanese television viewers would have switched on to see a game played at Yarmouth Town Hall between the 81-year-old and a six-year-old Japanese table tennis prodigy Mima Ito. TBS researcher Hitomi Nomura said: "The match will feature on a popular You Can Do It style show in which Japanese people go round the world to complete a challenge. We think the age gap in this case is very interesting." She said Mima, who comes from Tokyo, was already a well-known talent in Japan where table tennis is a national sport. They had tracked down Mrs Fletcher, whose most recent success came last year when she won the over 80s doubles title at the World Veterans' Championship in Germany, via the internet. Mrs Fletcher, of Lowestoft Road, has been playing the sport for 60 years and confessed that she was eagerly awaiting the start of yet

another season playing in Division One of the Yarmouth and District League for the Hospital Sparks team, based at the town's Northgate Social Club. And she did not have to say her competitive juices were still flowing - after insisting on getting to the Town Hall 90 minutes early for practice. "I discovered Mima has been practising since her arrival," said Mrs Fletcher, who spends as much time coaching youngsters as playing these days. "I was quite surprised when I found out I would be playing a six-year-old but I am aware she is already a celebrity in Japan." Pondering the cameras and lights and rows of spectators in the Assembly Room, she

said: "This is nerve-racking playing under the lights - and we are not used to spectators in the local league."

Mima had flown into London late on Monday but was not allowed to meet Mrs Fletcher until they both made their grand entrance into the playing arena at 6.30pm. The Town Hall had swiftly arranged the venue and Mayor Paul Garrod attended to present Mima with gifts including a plaque with Yarmouth's coat of arms. A translator assisted with the introductions as the show was hosted by Asami Kumakiri, described as the glamorous Japanese equivalent of Cat Deeley. Scarcely tall enough to look over the top of the table, Mima drew applause from the 100-strong audience with a series of thunderous smashes. Mrs Fletcher battled hard but went down three sets to love failing to strike a blow for grey power. The exact score is being kept under wraps until the show.



Mima Ito



Mima Ito

THE FIRST 2000 CLUB DRAW WAS MADE AT THE ETTA CONFERENCE. THE LUCKY WINNERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

- First Prize - £126**
Ball 54
Mr Mark Beaumont.
Suffolk.
Second Prize - £95
Ball 104
Mr Eric Byrd.
Cambridgeshire.
Third Prize - £63
Ball 31
Mrs Lynda Reid.
Worcestershire.
Fourth Prize - £32
Ball 142
Mr Derek Butt.
Leicestershire.
Fifth Prize - £32
Ball 132
Mr Ken Walton.
West Midlands.

The 2000 Club is designed to offer further support to the Youth Development Squad and help invest in a TV future for table tennis. To join or find out more download an application form from www.etta.co.uk. Membership is just £12 per annum and the draw is made four times a year.



HEADING FOR RIO

Believe it or not but we do have European champions. Veteran Margaret Dignum partnered Sylvia Tyler to win the doubles title at the European Veterans Championships in Rotterdam and then claimed a silver medal in the singles.

No stranger to travelling Margaret has played in Australia, the United States and Japan, and is already planning to travel to next year's world championships in Rio.

>>> **The Ryedale League are planning to celebrate their half century. Starting with 5 teams in 1958 they now have 30 teams, plus a thriving junior league.**

Well done Jade Carr. <<<
The 13 year old from Runcorn won no less than five gold medals at the recent British Transplant Games in Edinburgh.

FUNDS FOR NEW CLUB

A grant has been given to Tavistock Support Services to develop its table tennis club. Earlier this year TASS launched the club at the Armitage Centre for over 55s. Since then the club has signed up 24 members and have extended their sessions by another day.

Whilst the club relied on funds from outside sources to get started, they have now managed to raise their own funds to purchase a third table.

80 years of John Mytton

In 1947, John was playing for the Avonside club in the local league. In 1958 he was Men's Singles champion, playing from Bengeworth Club, as he does again in 2007. He won the Men's Singles five more times up to 1966. By then he was running his team from a large garage at his home, and his coaching led to son Nick following as Men's champion in 1977 and daughter Mandy winning the ladies in 1978. John, supported by wife Peggy (for more years than she wants to admit to), has coached beginners week-in week-out for well over 30 years at the local community centre on a Saturday morning and in local schools. With undimmed enthusiasm he 'keeps the books' for Evesham Club every Friday evening when the developing players play matches in 2-person teams. John will go for a 'proper knock' after the youngsters go home. Then when most of us

wilt in the summer heat, he runs (and plays in) a weekly session throughout the 'off' season. He was instrumental in setting up the table tennis links with Evesham's twin town, Dreux, in the early 1980s and those links are still strong today. While playing in two leagues and coaching at least two sessions a week, John is still a member of Evesham League committee but no longer Treasurer, League Secretary or representative to the County Committee, all of which roles he filled for many years. He no longer umpires seriously but will be remembered as a regular umpire at the Cotswold Junior Tournament and the British Universities championships. Evesham has younger players, coaches and administrators than John, but very few more enthusiastic about the sport or prepared to give more freely of time and effort. Many happy returns!



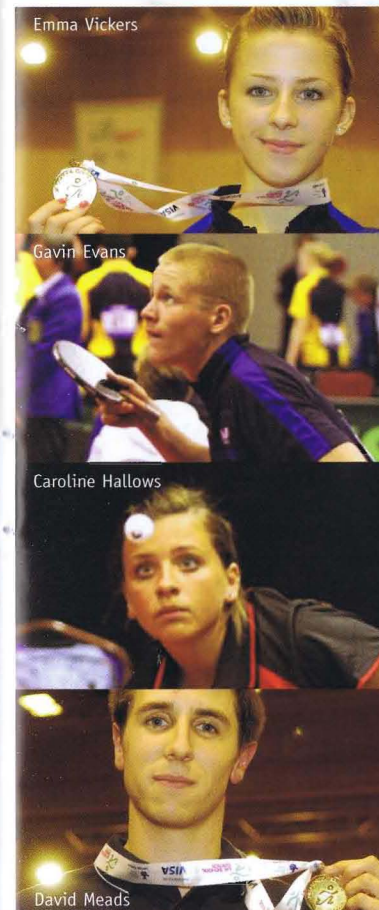
John Mytton

UK School Games 07

A sparkling opening at the Coventry Skydome

The table tennis started with an inspired England North East performance with Paul Drinkhall getting his team off to a flier in the boys team championship. They first outclassed Northern Ireland and England South West without dropping a set with the expected final between England South East led by Darius Knight and Drinkhall's North East. The result was a 4-2 win for the North East with the best match of them all between, you've guessed it, Drinkhall and Knight which ended in a close win for the England no 1. In the girls team final the South East eased to a fairly comfortable 4-1 win over South West. Sarra Wang was the inspirational figure for the South East winning all their singles matches. For the first time a disability competition made its appearance with John Blackband, the England team manager. "It's absolutely brilliant to give these guys this kind of exposure and they dealt with it expertly. We've had some cracking matches and it's been a great competition," said the Birmingham teacher. Andrew Harper from the North West won the disability standing group after a great match against Krysten Coombs.

Jack Hunter Spivey took bronze in the wheelchair discipline and confirmed the new event had been a great success. "This has been unbelievable. It was amazing to compete on such a stage and in a fantastic venue. Everyone made us feel at home," said the 12 year old. England South East picked up the overall team trophy. But all the shocks were left for the final day when David Meads played the match of his life to beat Darius Knight in the final of the individual event. What an event for this unassuming Durham based player. But undoubtedly the shock was the early elimination of firm favourite Paul Drinkhall to Scotsman Craig Howieson in the quarter finals. But no stopping Emma Vickers who made up for her disappointment last year by taking the gold medal beating Sarra Wang. "The whole event has such atmosphere with a great mix between athletes. But winning the gold medal will be my lasting memory," said Emma. The event finished on a high note with all athletes getting together at the University of Warwick, home for the athletes village, for a farewell party. Over 1300 athletes took part in eight sports in five venues over 3 days. 797 medals were handed out and a great time was had by all. Here's to next year.



Final Positions

Girls Team Event

1. England - South East
2. England - South West
3. England - North East
4. England - North West
5. England - Midlands
6. Scotland
7. Northern Ireland
8. Wales

Boys Team Event

1. England - North East
2. England - South East
3. England - Midlands
4. England - South West
5. Scotland
6. Northern Ireland
7. Wales
8. England - North West

Disabled Standing

1. Andrew Harper
2. Krysten Coombs
3. Ella Booker
4. Liam Robbins

Disabled Wheelchair

1. Jack Pegram
2. Hannah Coulthurst
3. Jack Hunter-Spivey
4. Aaron Waterhouse

Results

Boys Individual

Final - David Meads bt. Darius Knight 10,-3,4,-1,6
 Semi-finals - David Meads bt. Craig Howieson 3,7,11 - Darius Knight bt. Daniel Reed 5,7, 6
 Quarter-finals - Craig Howieson bt Paul Drinkhall 9,-6,6,-5,9 - David Meads bt. Darren Reed 7,4,-10,4 - Daniel Reed bt. Bradley Evans -5,-9,3,7,10 - Darius Knight bt. Mathew Ware 3,8,-14,6

Girls Individual

Final - Emma Vickers bt. Sarra Wang 3,6,6
 Semi-finals - Emma Vickers bt. Melanie Farquhar -5,7,5,-7,7 - Natasha Rees bt. Sarra Wang 8,7,5
 Quarter-finals - Emma Vickers bt. Rachel Jamieson 6,8,5 - Melanie Farquhar bt. Karina Lefevre 9,10,7 - Natasha Rees bt. Corinna Whitaker 4,7,4 - Sarra Wang bt. Rebecca Russell - 8,12,9,4

Boys Consolation Final

Christopher Doran bt. Mark Roscaleer 7,13,-8,9

Girls Consolation Final

Hannah Hicks bt. Chloe Whyte 5,6,5

Squad List

England Midlands

Boys - Christopher Doran, Bradley Evans, Gavin Evans, Damien Nicholls, Greg Yarnall (captain*) **Girls** - Lucy Davidson, Rachel Pilgrim, Natalie Slater, Emma Vickers, Helen Lower (captain*)

England North East

Boys - Ben Barlow, Paul Drinkhall, David Meads, Daniel Reed, Dennis Worrell (captain*) **Girls** - Mary Fuller, Karina Lefevre, Chloe Whyte, Melissa Wright, Sally Shutt (captain*)

England North West

Boys - Neil Baker, Joshua Bleakley, Mark Roscaleer, Jacob Shaw, Dave Pilkington (captain*) **Girls** - Reena Ardeshana, Fiona Dennett, Caroline Hallows, Jordyn Layfield, Gail Johns (captain*)

England South East

Boys - Wing Yung Chan, Darius Knight, Christopher Lewis, William Maybanks, Paul Birch (captain*) **Girls** - Rachel Jamieson, Haylee Potts, Sarra Wang, Kirsty Wilson, Gemma Chapman (captain*)

England South West

Boys - Garth Kinlocke, Richard Marshall, Darren Reed Mathew Ware, Chris Brown (captain*) **Girls** - Stella Davis, Melanie Farquhar, Hannah Hicks, Martha Travis, Abigail Embling (captain*)

Northern Ireland

Boys - Keith Knox, Paul McCreery, Ashley Robinson, Stephen Slater, Jing Yi Gao (captain*) **Girls** - Judith Atwell, Danielle Douglas, Claire Nelson, Catherine Trimble, Na Liu (captain*)

Scotland

Boys - Craig Hardie, Craig Howieson, Scott Johnston, Richard Main, Peter Stewart (captain*) **Girls** - Natasha Milliken, Roxanna Milne, Rebecca Russell, Corinna Whitaker, Terry McLernon (captain*)

Wales

Boys - Ben Avery, Ceri James, David Owen, Patrick Thomas, Stephen Gertsen (captain*) **Girls** - Hannah Avery, Megan Phillips, Charlotte Jenkins, Natasha Rees, Bethan Daunton (captain*)

Disability Participants Standing - Ella Booker (Midlands), Krysten Coombs (South West), Andrew Harper (North West) Liam Robbins (North West) Joy Gerber/Shawn Newcombe (captain*)

Disability Participants Wheelchair - Hannah Coulthurst (North East), Jack Hunter-Spivey (North West), Jack Pegram (South East), Aaron Waterhouse (North West) Joy Gerber/Shawn Newcombe (captain*)

*non-playing captain

Table tennis players, like all athletes, go through the anticipation, stress and worry prior to competition. It is far from enjoyable and yet as soon as it is over, we look forward to the opportunity to go through it all again with eager hearts. Similarly, the pain and frustrations of training can be far from pleasurable; however we all would hate to miss a single session. What is it then that makes the players keep coming back for more?

Table tennis players, like all athletes, go through the anticipation, stress and worry prior to competition. It is far from enjoyable and yet as soon as it is over, we look forward to the opportunity to go through it all again with eager hearts. Similarly, the pain and frustrations of training can be far from pleasurable; however we all would hate to miss a single session. What is it then that makes the players keep coming back for more?

The summer has come and gone. This has meant, for the England table tennis team, a well deserved brief break from training, competition and the hectic life of professional table tennis. Most players have found the time to take around two weeks away from training with short holidays and time at home. However, though enjoying the luxury of being able to spend time with friends and family, all will also have an aching desire to get back to the daily grind of training.

I, for one, spent my first summer in seven years enjoying a holiday completely away from table tennis, with friends for 10 days in Ibiza. This was the first summer in as many years without the thrills, excitement and pressure of the European Youth Championships, as a first year senior. Prior to leaving for holiday, I wondered whether I would enjoy the life of relaxation and leisure so much that I would wish I could continue this, and not return to tough training or the stress of competition. However, though enjoying every minute of my beach lifestyle, I could not wait to get back to the training hall and was more

ADDICTED

motivated than ever.

While away, I also promised myself I would do some light runs to keep in shape, and not eat or drink too badly! However, I found myself looking forward to running beside the beach on sunny mornings and instead of being a gentle jog, pushing myself hard and challenging myself to run faster and longer. Though I didn't enjoy the process, I felt a lot better for it and felt satisfied for the rest of the day. This inner drive and need to push myself is something I believe I share with most athletes and table tennis players at the top of the game.

In fact, during recent studies, it has been suggested that exercise addiction exists in both humans and animals. An American study found that when certain mice were prevented from exercising, brain activity became higher in the same areas, as it does due to drug addiction (Dr Justin Rhodes, University of Wisconsin-Madison, bbc.co.uk). Also, the addiction to the 'high' that is felt after exercise which makes people thrive to complete a more punishing regime has been found to occur as a legitimate addiction in humans (beatingaddictions.co.uk).

Addicted to the game

In recent years we have seen a number of players leaving the game to move into other careers. Alan Cooke, Ryan Jenkins and Alex Perry, to name three, have all taken a heavier role in coaching but found it difficult to leave competition completely. Also the current ladies National Champion, Helen Lower, made a brief retirement after the Commonwealth Games, before coming back to the game. Of the men, Alan still plays in Switzerland, with Jenkins coming back to play in the British League this year, while Alex played in France last year and also competed domestically. When speaking to them, they all have told me at times that they miss the need to strive for excellence in their own game and the competitive lifestyle, and I can see it in them whenever they do manage to get on the table in training. Being away from competition for two months and not being at the European Youths also gave me a sense of missing out on something. Not so much the winning of medals, which of course is the object of all our desires, but the whole sense of occasion, the build up to the



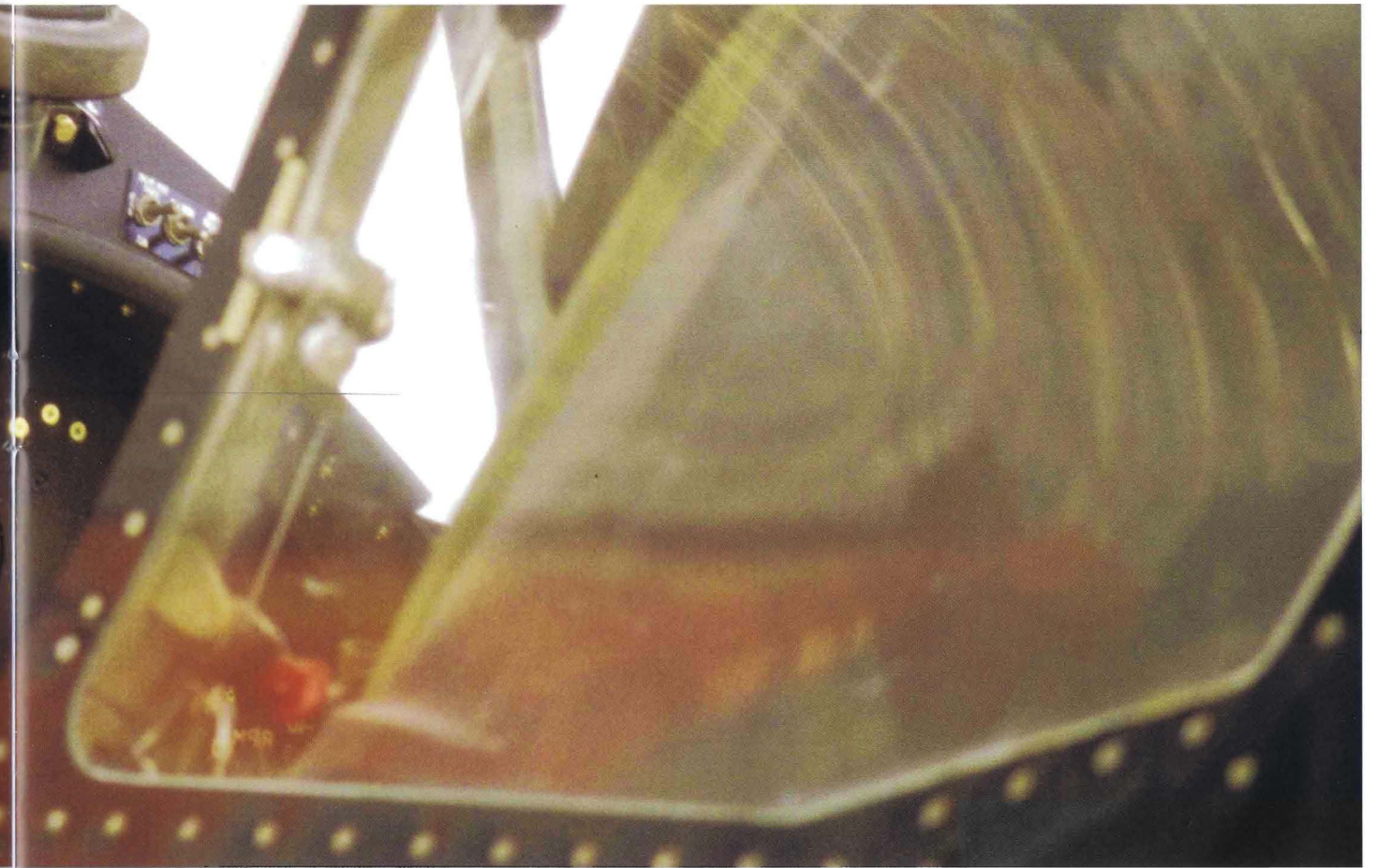
event and associated emotions. Going into any major event every player has a huge mixture of feelings that they experience: nerves, excitement, fear, pressure and anticipation which all peak when going onto the table to a huge adrenaline rush. All is focused foremost on the unknown outcome and trying to do everything to succeed and beat the opponents, who are mirroring these thoughts and feelings. This leads to an element for all players of wishing to look into the future and simply see what happens. I can remember Darius, last year, at the pre-European Youth training camp, saying that he wished that he could just know what happens, whether we won the medals we were striving for or not, good or bad, but simply to not have the constant wondering of the outcome. However we would also hate to simply foresee the outcome and not be able to

control it. The fear of leaving anything to chance is what drives athletes on. To train and do all in their powers to get that extra edge, thus ensuring everything that is in their control is perfect and they are as prepared as they can be. Matthew Pinsent, in an interview sometime after winning his fourth Olympic gold, spoke about how when on the minibus travelling to the Olympic final, had there been a crash and he had been injured, that he would be lifted into the ambulance with a smile on his face with relief. Hearing this came as a relief to me: that a hugely successful athlete who had achieved at the highest level had a similar pre-competition concoction of emotions as myself, it made me more confident that these emotions were not necessarily negative. In fact, I think almost all athletes go through similar emotions, many suffer sleepless nights prior to competition and

some are even sick, all from perhaps wanting something too much. Also, it doesn't mean that sportsmen don't look forward to competition. I do and it would leave me devastated if I were to miss my opportunity to succeed at any level. And ironically the event, which we wish was over, is what we enjoy more than anything else and is probably what keeps most table tennis players in the game. The adrenaline and buzz that you get during a huge match that is full of emotion, pressure, preparation, euphoria or despair inspires you to perform slightly better and for shots to be made that couldn't otherwise. This adrenaline is always there every time you walk onto court and it is this adrenaline that keeps us addicted to the game, missing it when we are not in competition and making us train that little bit harder to achieve our dreams.

AIR FORCE

The Royal



The thriving table tennis club of the Royal Air Force has created a slice of history by becoming the first single-service sports team to ever tour China.

The team, which was drawn from units across the entire UK, toured the home of world table tennis over 11 days in September and, although they may have been taught one or two lessons on the table, they were “treated like emperors” throughout their stay.

“It was a wonderful trip both culturally and from a sporting perspective. We were enriched and inspired by table tennis in China, and we are greatly indebted to ‘ESS Support Services Worldwide’ for their sponsorship,” said Wing Commander Andy Pipe, who is the chairman of the RAF table tennis association. What most struck the RAF team, however, was the incredible number of Table Tennis Clubs in China, as well as the dedication of the locals to their national sport. “It was just incredible,” said Pipe. “They asked how much we played and we said that maybe an hour or so a week on top of a match in the local league. Yet even the players who were our standard practiced for 10 to 15 hours every week. They trained incredibly hard. “It was a remarkable insight into the culture of table tennis in China. They are so fit – there is no fat on them at all and they are lightning quick.”

The RAF’s touring party consisted of 10 men and five women players, playing matches and training in both Beijing and Xi’an. While in China, the team was hosted by the People’s Liberation Army Air Force. In Beijing, they took on the Command College, losing matches 4-1, 4-1 and 5-0, while in Xi’an, they played against the engineering university and suffered three 5-0 whitewashes. The match was played in front of an audience of some 400 people.

“Some of the matches were a bit closer than the scores might suggest,” said Pipe, “but our team did have some novice players

while they had a number of people who would be ranked in the top ten in this country. “We also spent five days training which was fantastic. At the training camp for the PLA AF, they had former world and Olympic champions playing and we were allowed to just continue playing on the same table.”

The RAF’s top player is Mark Donoghue, who is currently rated number 101 in the England men’s rankings. “They put him up against a local lad who was 12 and he lost 3-0,” said Pipe. “Later on, they told us that the young lad was a future world champion.”

The team’s visit did not focus exclusively on sport and was formally recognised as part of the UK’s bilateral defence relationship with China.

The trip involved months of planning through various departments such as the MOD, the office of the Chinese Defence Attaché in London and the British Embassy in Beijing.

After kicking off the tour in Beijing, the team visited some of the country’s most famous sights, including the Great Wall and Tiananmen Square before travelling to Xi’an, the home of the terracotta soldiers. A day was also spent at the university in Xi’an where the RAF team briefed their hosts on the role of the RAF and its current capabilities.

The RAF has enjoyed various table tennis trips in the past few years including visits to Germany and more recently Baltimore,

USA, where they competed in an international competition. With over 1,000 entrants from all over the world and 14 divisions, the RAF TTT finished in the fifth division.

The RAF team has also enjoyed much success domestically over the years and they are unbeaten in the Men’s Inter-Services Championships, having gained the title for 24 years in succession. They also received the Combined Services Sports Award for ‘Team of the Year Award’ in March of this year, beating competitors from all the major sports.

“It was a huge achievement and shows that table tennis is really becoming a major sport in the RAF,” said Pipe. “It is the most successful air force sport. It is greatly encouraged as it is an activity that promotes leadership, personal development and which also keeps you fit. There are two main tournaments a year – the RAF Open and a ranking tournament from which we select the team for the inter-services tournament. We are also about to start up a table tennis academy and are looking for new recruits. In addition the men’s team competes in the English Midlands League.”

The Chinese PLA AF are to undertake a reciprocal visit to the UK next April to coincide with the Inter-Services competition, when the RAF hope to retain their title to remain unbeaten for a quarter of a century.

“They asked how much we played and we said that maybe an hour or so a week on top of a match in the local league....”

"And this year the award goes to"...

Once again the ETTA Conference and National Volunteer and Club Awards dinner provided an excellent showcase for table tennis.

Intriguing discussions and inspirational speeches were welcomed by all in attendance and offered an invaluable opportunity to interact and share thoughts across the broad spectrum of topics. The Keynote speakers delivered thought provoking and informative presentations that covering a wide range of subjects from player pathways to equality and everything inbetween.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr Sue Campbell MBE

Chair, Youth Sport Trust and UK Sport

Marc Woods

Paralympic gold medallist swimmer

David Gent Sport England Regional

Director, Yorkshire

Novlette Rennie OBE – Chief Executive,

Sporting Equals

Colin Wilson - Sports consultant, former

England international table tennis player

All presentations, full citations and photos available at www.etta.co.uk

The National Volunteer and Club Awards dinner was bustling with the great and good of table tennis and boasting a host of exceptional achievements. Diccon Gray, National Development Manager, switched roles for an evening and became Master of Ceremonies and with each award being presented by a member of the Management Committee everything was set. Each award was introduced with a brief citation to put into context the remarkable achievements.

Male Coach of the Year – Steve Slater (Staffordshire) - Steve has made a huge impact at local club level, with county and regional squads. He coaches at Penkull Table Tennis Club, with the Staffordshire county junior squad sessions, and also works alongside Desmond Douglas on a weekly basis at the West Midlands regional performance centre.

Female Coach of the Year – Jan Chapman (Cippenham TTC, Slough, Buckinghamshire) - Jan is a regular coach at the Cippenham club, local schools and also on the national tournament circuit committing 4 nights a week, some day



1. Steve Leven - Press Officer of the Year with Jim Beckley (VC Public Relations) 2. Shirley Pickering - Community Coach of the Year with Jenny Heaton (VC Coaching) 3. Jan Chapman - Female Coach of the Year with Peter Charter (VC Selection)



time school sessions plus weekends. Her coaching ranges from helping beginners, players with a disability through to elite England ranked players.

Community Coach of the Year – Shirley Pickering (Knighton Park TTC, Leicester) Shirley's contribution to the development of the club coaching activities has been outstanding. Her coaching mainly involves youngsters from beginner to advanced county players. Recently, numbers receiving coaching has doubled from 38 to 75 with several players progressing from the junior to the senior league. In attendance at the club on at least 6 days/evenings a week Shirley is the driving force behind a team of club coaches.

Contribution to Coaching – Ken Muhr (The Weald TTC, Cranbrook, Kent) – Ken has contributed to coaching in a voluntary capacity

for over a period in excess of 40 years. From Cambridge, London, Milton Keynes, Durham, Hastings and currently Cranbrook, Kent, he coaches everyone from beginner to a European champion. Ken is a selfless, passionate coach who gives freely of his time. Continually eager to learn, he attends updates and training and frequently writes about coaches and coaching.

Young Coach of the Year (U25) – Bhavin Savjani (London Progress TTC, London) - Bhavin has acted as a 'second coach' to the community sports coach position at London Progress club where he has provided structured coaching sessions in a number of primary and secondary schools and Southall Sports Centre. He has been involved with a new generation of promising London Progress cadets.

Table Tennis Development Officer of the Year – Owen Rumbold (Sycamore TTC, Nottingham) – Owen has been involved with the development of Sycamore Table Tennis Club through committee work for 10 years, as club secretary, coach, duty officer, development officer, welfare officer, newsletter publisher, website manager and team captain - a phenomenal workload.

In the early days, the club was simply a venue for practice and local league competition but through Owen's vision and guidance it now provides much more.

Equality Award – Perry Fung (United Kingdom Chinese Table Tennis Association) - Perry has won this award primarily for his work with the United Kingdom Chinese Table Tennis Association. UKCTTA was established in March 2002 in order to practice, play and promote the sport within the Chinese community in UK. Activities include organising and promoting training centres, local and national championship and participating in overseas table tennis championship for the Chinese community. In the United Kingdom, Chinese is one of the largest ethnic groups. Mr. Fung is a co-founder and Honorary General Secretary of the UKCTTA.

Press Officer of the Year – Steve Leven (Wembley & Harrow Table Tennis League) - Steve has been the League's Press and Publicity Officer since 2000, having previously served as the minute secretary since 1993. He maintains excellent relations with the local press: regular reports, results and photographs appear in several local newspapers throughout the year. In addition to this, there is a weekly e-mail newsgroup in which national table tennis news is circulated and member's views on specific issues are sought. He also contributes occasional articles to Table Tennis News. The league website which Steve edits and administers has been a particular success and the content of his league newsletter is exceptional and well received by members.

Volunteer Co-ordinator of the Year – Jacquie Lovell (Cippenham TTC, Slough, Buckinghamshire) - Jacquie combines being the club volunteer co-ordinator with some of her other roles as Social Officer and Welfare Officer. She goes to great lengths to ensure that volunteers within the club are made to feel valued, that they are consulted regularly, communicated to and thanked for their efforts. She does this through instilling a culture of every little helps. Jacquie

wrote the club volunteer reference manual that contains all the information and guidance that a volunteer might need from "how to work the photocopier" to full blown "fire procedures" and "emergency contacts". She vets and checks volunteers and ensures that training and development for each individual is available and encouraged.

PremierClub Volunteer of the Year – Graham Trimming (Cippenham TTC, Slough, Buckinghamshire) – Part of a truly first class team of volunteers at the club, Graham is the driving force; a founder of Cippenham Table Tennis Club (in 1973) and through his extensive vision, marketing, administration and financial skills the club has acquired its own acclaimed purpose built facilities and grown to be nationally recognised as one of the top clubs in the country, increasing its membership from 20 to a whopping 171.

His list of voluntary posts held is as long as your arm and he is pro active in so many areas.

Young Volunteer of the Year (U25) – Heather Knight (Generation 2 TTC) & **Stephanie Mitchell** (Cippenham TTC) – Such is the calibre of two young candidates this award was shared.

Heather Knight - Not being content simply to learn to play, 19 year old Heather has involved herself in many aspects of the sport and gradually immersed herself in the organisation and running of the club and become assistant club secretary. Her involvement includes helping to run the league championships, being the local organiser for the National Junior League, school coaching, she recently passed her UKCC 1st4 sport Level 1 certificate in coaching table tennis, and a communications role creating a new style club newsletter and website.

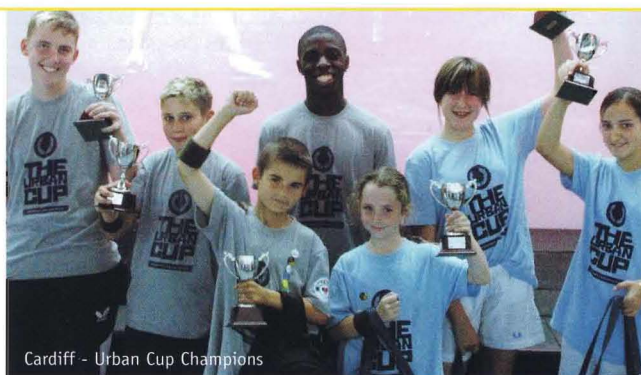
Stephanie Mitchell - Only 15, Steph manages to put in many hours as a volunteer and plays a lot too! Always a willing and cheerful helper in the servery at Cippenham. At times when other teenagers are out shopping Steph willingly comes up to the club and puts in a 5 or 6 hour shift, managing to negotiate a lift off dad or older brother. On other occasions when playing she will often come into the servery and just start to help, without being asked! She also helps with umpiring and club tidying up days. Her input is all the more remarkable when you consider that Stephanie has a hearing impairment and lip reads most of the time. She is a joy to have around.

Urban Cup

Fred Perry Urban Cup reinvigorates the Youth Club Sector

Aimed squarely at getting the youth club table tennis scene active once more, the first ever Fred Perry Urban Cup was hailed as a success. With fierce competition amongst all competitors, each city battled it out to be crowned the first ever Fred Perry Urban Cup Champion. Each city team was formed via a selection process through the Clubs for Young People network and consisted of six players with a girl and boy representative in each age group: U12, U14, and U16.

This year the tournament was split into two categories with a view to providing a level playing field for each of the competitors. However, both Birmingham and Cardiff set themselves apart from the rest taking maximum points and receiving the plaudits for their excellent team work and dazzling individual displays. In addition to the competition the face of the Fred Perry Urban Cup, Darius Knight, played an exhibition match against Will Maybanks demonstrating the power,



Cardiff - Urban Cup Champions

speed, agility and dedication required to play at the top level. The tournament also managed to capture the attention of the media with a feature a run on BBC London

Tonight programme (to view logon www.bbc.co.uk and type in Darius Knight) and various papers including The Observer, The Mirror and The Evening Standard plus a variety of localised coverage.

Results and Tables

Group A - Cardiff beat Durham 5-4; Liverpool beat Edinburgh 5-4; Edinburgh beat Durham 5-4; Cardiff beat Liverpool 8-1; Durham beat Liverpool 6-3; Cardiff beat Edinburgh 6-3

Group B - Birmingham beat Bristol 6-0; London beat Manchester 4-2; Birmingham beat London 5-1; Manchester beat Bristol 5-1; Birmingham beat Manchester 5-1; London beat Bristol 6-0

GROUP A						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cardiff	3	0	0	19	8	6
Durham	1	0	2	14	13	2
Edinburgh	1	0	2	12	15	2
Liverpool	1	0	2	9	18	2

GROUP B						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Birmingham	3	0	0	16	2	6
London	2	0	1	11	7	4
Manchester	1	0	2	8	10	2
Bristol	0	0	3	1	17	0



A premiere setting

With the imminent launch of the new table tennis game for the Nintendo wii, Rockstar Games premiered their new title with a lavish set consisting of several consoles, allowing everybody to step away from reality onto the virtual table tennis world. This complemented the extraordinary back drop provided by Fred Perry, which was a far cry from the usual dark walls and wooden floors to which hardened table tennis fanatics have become

accustomed. There were projectors beaming video footage of various table tennis masterpieces on big screens, an electronic scoring system, music, stunning graphics and more, all adding to the setting that captured the imagination of every individual that stepped foot inside. This was of course the first year of a £170,000 project which will span a four year period. More details on how you could be involved will be available shortly. In the meantime why not log on to www.fredperry.com/urbancup and find out further details on this barrier breaking initiative.



DIARY 2007/08

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Grand Prix Details 2007/08

No.	Tournament Name	Location	Date
1	City of Liverpool Open Invitational Grand Prix	Liverpool, Merseyside	14/15 Aug 07
2	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	22/23 Sep 07
3	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	29/30 Sep 07
4	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	6/7 Oct 07
5	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	13/14 Oct 07
6	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	20/21 Oct 07
7	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	27/28 Oct 07
8	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	3/4 Nov 07
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151	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	30/31 Jul 10
152	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	6/7 Aug 10
153	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	13/14 Aug 10
154	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	20/21 Aug 10
155	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	27/28 Aug 10
156	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	3/4 Sep 10
157	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	10/11 Sep 10
158	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	17/18 Sep 10
159	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	24/25 Sep 10
160	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	1/2 Oct 10
161	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	8/9 Oct 10
162	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	15/16 Oct 10
163	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	22/23 Oct 10
164	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	29/30 Oct 10
165	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	5/6 Nov 10
166	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	12/13 Nov 10
167	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	19/20 Nov 10
168	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	26/27 Nov 10
169	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	3/4 Dec 10
170	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	10/11 Dec 10
171	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	17/18 Dec 10
172	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	24/25 Dec 10
173	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	31/1 Jan 11
174	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	7/8 Jan 11
175	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	14/15 Jan 11
176	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	21/22 Jan 11
177	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	28/29 Jan 11
178	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	4/6 Feb 11
179	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	11/12 Feb 11
180	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	18/19 Feb 11
181	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	25/26 Feb 11
182	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	3/5 Mar 11
183	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	10/11 Mar 11
184	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	17/18 Mar 11
185	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	24/25 Mar 11
186	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	31/1 Apr 11
187	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	7/8 Apr 11
188	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	14/15 Apr 11
189	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	21/22 Apr 11
190	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	28/29 Apr 11
191	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	5/6 May 11
192	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	12/13 May 11
193	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	19/20 May 11
194	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	26/27 May 11
195	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	2/3 Jun 11
196	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	9/10 Jun 11
197	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	16/17 Jun 11
198	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	23/24 Jun 11
199	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	30/31 Jun 11
200	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	7/8 Jul 11
201	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	14/15 Jul 11
202	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	21/22 Jul 11
203	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	28/29 Jul 11
204	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	4/6 Aug 11
205	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	11/12 Aug 11
206	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	18/19 Aug 11
207	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	25/26 Aug 11
208	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	1/3 Sep 11
209	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	8/9 Sep 11
210	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	15/16 Sep 11
211	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	22/23 Sep 11
212	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	29/30 Sep 11
213	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	6/7 Oct 11
214	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	13/14 Oct 11
215	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	20/21 Oct 11
216	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	27/28 Oct 11
217	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	3/4 Nov 11
218	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	10/11 Nov 11
219	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	17/18 Nov 11
220	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	24/25 Nov 11
221	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	1/2 Dec 11
222	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	8/9 Dec 11
223	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	15/16 Dec 11
224	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	22/23 Dec 11
225	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	29/30 Dec 11
226	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	5/6 Jan 12
227	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	12/13 Jan 12
228	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	19/20 Jan 12
229	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	26/27 Jan 12
230	Leeds Open Grand Prix	Leeds, Yorkshire	2/3 Feb 12
231	Leeds Open Grand Prix</		

Participation?

Although table tennis participation has taken a dip in recent years according to the International Olympic Committee it is still easily the biggest in the world. Or is it?

The Swedish website 'Johann and Sandra's Web' <http://www.johann-sandra.com/popular.htm> published findings of a survey they had conducted on 'The World's Most Popular Sport' in terms of participation, which asked the international federations of each sport reputed to be the world's most or second-most popular, just how many people were estimated to play their sport worldwide. It also compared these estimates with 2002 figures from the International Olympic Committee for the number of affiliated national federations for each sport.

Volleyball came out top with 998 million participants (and 218 national federations affiliated), but this figure looks somewhat inflated. When queried FIVB said they had 33 million registered players, but that there were many more who were recreational – but how many more? Matthew Syed has given a figure for volleyball of 500 million, which seems more realistic, but I can't clarify the source of his information.

*Basketball came second with 400 million participants (and 211 affiliated national federations), but this too seems excessive and even the Junior NBA felt that the number was 'a little high'. Table tennis came in third with a credible 300 million participants (and 186 affiliated national federations, which, incidentally, rose to 200 by 2005). Fourth was soccer (242 million and 204 federations), followed by badminton (200 million, and 147) and tennis (60 million, 191). Not listed in this survey, but Matthew Syed in *The Times* has given a comparative world participation figure for squash as 15 million.*

My feeling is that table tennis is still third, probably behind volleyball and soccer (football), the latter under estimated and ever growing in popularity. I would guess that badminton is quite rapidly catching up on table tennis, but for now the table game remains the world's biggest racket sport.

So now back to England, where the situation is less healthy. The Active People Survey carried out by telephone interview by Ipsos MORI on behalf of Sport England in 2006 gives disturbing age 16+ participation figures for table tennis: only 26th biggest in the list of sports and recreational activities, with 162,941 people (0.4% of the adult population) taking part at least once a month. True, several non-sporting activities are

listed, but it is the decline in participation and the unflattering comparison with other competitive sports that is so worrying and disappointing.

Badminton (8th; 900,332 people at least once a month; 2.2% of adult population) and tennis (9th; 874,040; 2.1%) are of course well ahead, but now so too is squash (12th; 500,679; 1.2% - 3 times as big as table tennis!), which until recently was nearly always behind table tennis. And other sports, such as cricket (17th), basketball (19th), rugby union (21st), athletics (22nd) and netball (24th) have also pulled ahead of table tennis in England, since the General Household Survey (for Great Britain) in 2002.

The General Household Surveys for 1996 and for 2002 found, for percentage participation by adults 16+ in sports and physical activities in the 4 weeks before interview, that although tennis (2% and 1.9% respectively) and badminton (2.4% & 1.8%) were ahead of table tennis (1.5% & 1.2%), cricket (0.9% & 0.7%), basketball (0.7% & 0.6%), rugby (union & league combined: 0.6% & 0.4%), netball (0.5% & 0.3%) and athletics (0.2% & 0.3%) were in both surveys well behind. Squash (1.3% & 1.3%) is interesting, because by not declining between 1996 and 2002 it, for the first time in Household Surveys, nudged ahead of table tennis in 2002. However, taking percentage participation in the previous year (as opposed to month), table tennis (4.8%) was still more popular than squash (3.8%) in 2002.

Going back to 1977, when table tennis was at a near high, the contrast in relative fortunes between now and then is very stark. The Household Survey then found table tennis 8th biggest sporting activity, behind walking (2+ miles), swimming, darts, billiards/snooker (combined), golf, fishing, football, and tennis, with 2.7% of the adult population 16+ having played in the 4 weeks prior to interview, compared with tennis (7th, 2.8%), and squash/fives (combined) and badminton equal 11th with 2.1%. It is not quite like for like, but 2.7% of the adult population playing table tennis once a month then compared with 0.4% now! Taking frequency of participation over the whole population in 1977, table tennis was actually equal with tennis as 5th biggest sport then!

1977 was a significant year for English table tennis,



because the publicity leading up to, during and following the 34th World Championships at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, led to the highest ever affiliations to the ETTA. I was at the event the whole time as a member of an ETTA coaches group studying the modern game. Financially a disaster, the Championships were a magnificent spectacle (a real clash between Asia & the West), receiving almost Wimbledon coverage on BBC TV, including front page billing in the Radio Times and up to two million viewers a day on BBC 2. I was working for BBC TV at the time, and checked that the audience research feedback was very good.

ETTA team affiliation figures since 1977 tell their own story. Unfortunately, the ETTA has never had an individual player membership, so all figures of total membership are only a rough estimate, calculated through multiplying the number of (senior) local league teams affiliated by 4 (e.g. 3 players and a reserve). Worked out this way, affiliations for season 1977/78 reached their highest point (20,773 teams x 4 = 83,092 players) since the number of teams in affiliated (senior) leagues were first recorded in 1969, and these rose to a peak of 21,468 teams equalling 85,872 players in the following season 1978/79.

There was a slight decline over the next two seasons, and then big falls in 1981/82 and 1982/83.

Thereafter there has been a continuous drop of around 2 to 4% per season. The rate of decline has slowed down a bit in recent years but it has still not bottomed out, the last published comparable figures (for season 2005/06) being 7,156 affiliated teams equalling 28,624 players. Even if mainly 2 a-side junior league (first recorded from 1994/95) and licensed members (first recorded from 1998/99) figures are added – though several of the same players will be recorded more than once - this still makes only 31,788 ETTA affiliated players (28,624 in senior leagues + 618 in junior leagues (3 x 206) + 2,546 licensed players), and the Management Committee Report 2006/7 record a further small drop.

The reasons for the decline in table tennis participation rates, both recreationally and competitively, in this country have been well voiced and I have not space to go into them again in this article. Personally I don't think the new ITTF move against (volatile) speed glues will help reverse the trend. Well-meaning and worthy people have strived to keep our sport going, but am I alone in not being content with gentle decline or even comfortably bumping along at our present strength? Do others besides me still dream of a new strategic vision and fight back to levels of popularity and glory experienced in the past?

Top Ten players of all time

As chosen by Matthew Syed

Matthew Syed provides his top 10 all time greats of table tennis. Let us know your thoughts and we will publish our readers' favourite top ten. This is the first of a series of 'top 10s' so let us know your thoughts on what we should be talking about: best, worst, funniest, strangest etc. As ever e-mail your views and comments to Richard.pettit@etta.co.uk

1 Jan-Ove Waldner

Infinitely adaptable, Waldner would have beaten any player in any era using any equipment. He is often considered a player who won matches with the trickery of his service and a forehand that was almost impossible to anticipate. In reality Waldner was a master of every aspect of the game with ferocious power that passed people by because it was delivered so effortlessly.

Many point to his victories in Barcelona in 1992 and Manchester in 1997 as his greatest accomplishments. But perhaps the most compelling evidence of his peerless virtuosity came in

Athens in 2004 when, robbed of his serve (by the hidden service rule), his backhand punch (by the bigger ball) and his speed (by his age), he defeated Ma Lin and Timo Boll in successive matches. It was an exhibition of unadulterated genius. Waldner transcended his sport to become one of the supreme athletic performers of the 20th century.

2 Zhuang Zedong

Zhuang dominated his era unlike any player before or since. Where Waldner seemed unconcerned at losing matches in relatively unimportant competitions, Zhuang was relentless in smashing all opposition, often defeating the leading European players in single figures. The only person to have won the World singles on three consecutive occasions (1961, 63 and 65) since the event became biennial, Zhuang had a technique of wonderful precision and fluidity. His life was rather more turbulent. A pivotal figure in the Cultural Revolution (he would have won more world

titles had it not been for its intervention in 1967) and ping pong diplomacy, Zhuang sat on the Central Committee of the Communist Party and, later, endured years of exile and detention. It is a story that has never been told in full (for the most detailed account to date see my interview with Zhuang in *The Times*).

3 Guo Yuehua

Guo reached four consecutive World finals, winning two (1981 and 1983). A penholder with remarkable touch and flair, there are rumours that he threw at least one of his unsuccessful finals as part of a Chinese diplomatic charm offensive. I played him in the early 1990s as part of the Suchanek Tour and his graceful style was a thing to behold.

My admiration for him was sealed during a conversation with Chen Xinhua, who grew up with Guo in Fujian Province. "I never beat him, not even a single game in practice," Chen admitted. Considering they must have played hundreds of practise



Jan-Ove Waldner



Richard Bergmann

games down the years, this is truly miraculous and seals Guo's reputation as the greatest ever player against defence.

4 Wang Liqin

For someone with such an illustrious track record, it is extraordinary to think that Wang should have won even more titles. His defeat to Schlager in Paris in 2003 stands out but he has lost surprisingly tamely on other occasions, not least to Wang Hao in the semi-finals of Athens in 2004. Such was the lack of confidence in Wang that he was dropped from Sydney in 2000 despite being at the top of the world rankings.

It has to be said that Wang has made amends in recent seasons, most particularly with his audacious comeback against Ma Lin to win the World singles (his third title) in Zagreb earlier this year. His power on both wings is phenomenal and his finesse and confidence grows with each victory. Should

Bergmann - A tremendous defender who was adored by the huge audiences in table tennis's golden age.

he triumph in Beijing, he ought to be regarded as China's greatest ever player.

5 Richard Bergmann

The pick of the legendary performers of the hard bat era, Bergmann won four World singles titles for Austria (1937, 1939, 1948 and 1950). He later became a naturalised Brit and led England to the Swaythling Cup in 1953. A tremendous defender who was adored by the huge audiences in table tennis's golden age, Bergmann had an underrated facility to step to the table and engage in frenetic offensive exchanges that would shock opponents into defeat. Had it not been for the intervention of the Second World War there is little doubt that Bergmann would have won the world title on more occasions. His table tennis memoir *Twenty One Up* remains one of the great works of the genre.

6 Viktor Barna

The possessor of the most formidable backhand in the sport's history – a wonderfully expansive flick that no one has been able to imitate either before or since – Barna won five World singles titles for Hungary (1930 and 1932-35).

Unquestionably the greatest attacking player of the hard bat era, he would have

won more had it not been for a motor accident in France in 1935. A platinum plate was inserted in his forearm, something that inhibited his movement.

Barna reached the final of the English Open in 1949, losing to Marty Reisman over five games. When one considers that Barna was many years past his best and that the estimable Reisman was in his prime, it provides conclusive evidence of Barna's greatness.

7 Li Furong

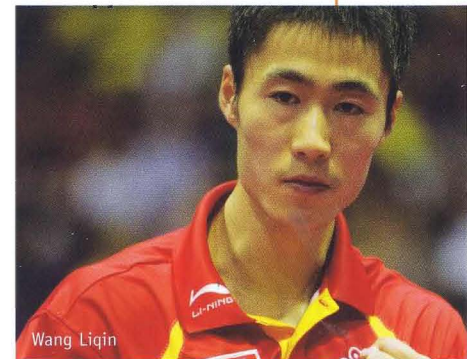
The greatest player never to win the world title, Li was runner-up to Zhuang on three occasions. Rumour has it that he was instructed to throw at least one of those finals and some of the most astute observers of the period argue that his ability was almost equal to that of Zhuang. He later became a significant figure in the political hierarchy and retains a position of considerable influence.

8 Kong Linghui

Unabashedly modelled on Waldner, Kong was one of the most elegant attacking players of the last two decades. With one World (1995) and one Olympic title (2000), Kong was almost unstoppable when in top gear, his counter topspin the best in the business. His greatest victory was in that unforgettable encounter with Waldner in Sydney, defeating the ageing maestro from Sweden over five pulsating games.

9 Jorgen Persson

World singles champion in Chiba in 1991, Persson was a languorous shake-hands player with great range and a backhand smash that delighted audiences with its almighty back swing and follow through. His most impressive achievements were in the Swaythling Cup where, over a period of two decades, he assembled a remarkable track record. He was the lynchpin of the Swedish team that dominated the event from 1989 onwards.



Wang Liqin

10 Liu Guoliang/Jiang Jialiang

Difficult to separate these two. Jiang was a double World singles champion whose greatest moment of triumph was denying Waldner a first crown in New Delhi in 1987 in one of the best finals of all. Liu was a formidable competitor who won one World singles title (1999) and one Olympic singles title (1996). Perhaps his greatest contribution to table tennis was the swivel wristed backhand that has enable fellow penholders to thrive on the world stage when many had written them off.

How they line up...

It has been a summer of with much change with regards to club commitments this year within British table tennis. Here is a brief outline of how some of the players at the top of the British game are lining up this year.

Paul Drinkhall – After playing only a few of games for ProA club SAG Cestas due to a hectic schedule, Paul has signed for Bundesliga 1 team TTV-Gonnern (www.ttv-goennern.de), who, after losing Timo Boll and Jorg Rosskoff, are opting for a younger team.

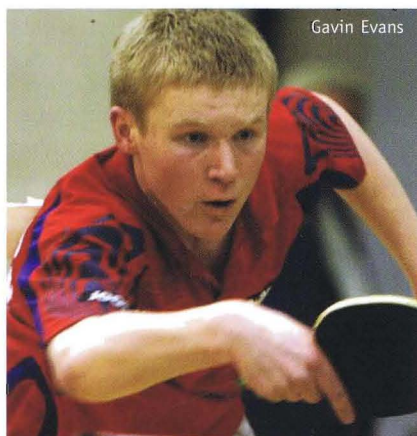
Gavin Evans – Alongside brother Brad Evans, Gavin helped TTC-Seligenstadt (www.ttc-seligenstadt.de) gain promotion from Oberliga, Germany, and both will be staying there to take on Regionaliga South (third highest division).

Darius Knight – Playing his first season abroad for French club Montpellier (www.montpellier-tt.com) in ProB (second highest division), a strong team who will be looking to gain promotion.

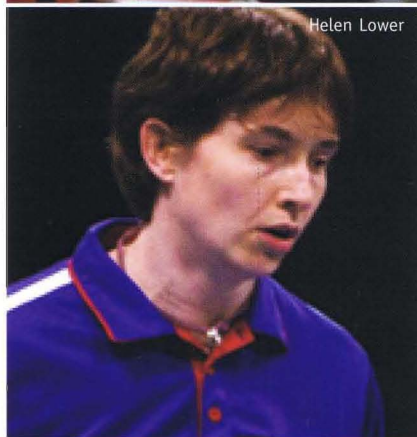
Helen Lower – Last year was Helen's last in France with Bordeaux, as she will be playing in Germany next season for Hannover 96 (www.hannover96-tischtennis.de) in opposition to Jo at Anrochte in Bundesliga 2 North.

David Meads – After a hectic year in Germany, David is signing on for Ormesby (www.ormesbytabletennisclub.org.uk) from Hagen, in the British League as well as finishing off his A-Levels.

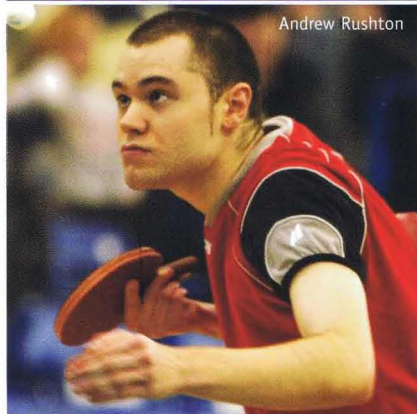
Naomi Owen – Naomi has signed from Swiss club TTC Wädenswil to play for TSV-Herrlingentt (www.tsv-herrlingentt.de), in Women's Regionaliga in Germany, as well as completing her second year in her HNC.



Gavin Evans



Helen Lower



Andrew Rushton

Joanna Parker – After a difficult season in Bundesliga 1, she has stayed with TTK Anröchte (www.ttkanroechte.de) in Bundesliga 2 North, who will be looking for promotion.

Danny Reed – After many years playing for his home club Ormesby, Danny will be playing for Danish club OB-Bordtennis (www.ob-bordtennis.dk), as well as continuing his A-Levels.

Kelly Sibley – Kelly is playing her second year in France for club Niort Souche SA (www.souche-tennisdetable.fr) near Nantes in ProB – the second highest league.

Adam Robertson – After many years in higher divisions in Germany, Adam will be playing in Oberliga next year (fourth highest league) for ASV Grünwettersbach (www.asv-gruenwettersbach.de), a division Adam and his team will sail through.

Andrew Rushton – After coming runner-up in the prestigious Belgium top division, Andrew will be playing for his new coaching employees TTK Greenhouse (www.greenhouseschools.org) in the British Premier League, alongside former England star Gareth Herbert and current ladies team member Natalie Bawden.

Gavin Rumgay – Last year he nearly led Oxford Fireplace to finish Progress's run at the top, but next year they will miss him as he has signed for German Club TV Leiselheim (www.tvleiselheim-tischtennis.de), while continuing his studies at Bristol Academy.

Tim Yarnall – After two years in Germany, he replaces Ryan Jenkins who will be playing for promoted Drumchapel in the Premier British League, and joins forces with Alan Cooke for Swiss Club Meyrin CTT (www.sttv.ch) in the top division, as well as starting a degree in sports science and maths at Loughborough University.

Other news – Carl Prean will also be 'having a final fling' at professional table tennis; after helping Wuppertal gain promotion by playing the odd game last season, he will be playing more games this year in Regionaliga West Germany.

ITTF World Junior Circuit

Reports on England's Performance



Darius Knight

PAUL DRINKHALL MAINTAINS PERFECT RECORD ON ITTF WORLD JUNIOR CIRCUIT

England's Paul Drinkhall maintained his perfect record in Boys' Singles event on the ITTF World Junior Circuit when he retained his title at the Funchal Junior Open in Madeira.

It was the fourth victory of the year for the young man from the north east of England; in April he was successful at the Canadian Junior Open, in May he succeeded in Spain and less than two weeks ago he emerged victorious in El Salvador.

At the final hurdle he beat doubles partner and colleague Darius Knight to emerge as the champion 11-6, 11-7, 11-5, 11-3.

The champion elect opened his account with victory over Portugal's Diogo Pinho before accounting for the Polish duo of Robert Flores and Mateusz Golebiewski in

the quarters and semis respectively. The latter ousted Portugal's André Texeira one round earlier, a player very much in form; he had beaten third seed, Belgium's Benjamin Rogiers in the group stage. Meanwhile, Darius Knight progressed with wins over Italy's Paolo Bisi, Poland's Pawel Fertikowski and Portugal's André Silva before matters came to an end against Paul Drinkhall.

André Silva had very much been the Portuguese hero, in the quarters he had beaten England's Danny Reed, the number four seed.

Defeat for Danny Reed but there was to be a gold medal for the young man who hails from the same part of England as Paul Drinkhall.

He partnered Croatia's Borna Kovac to success in the Boys' Doubles event. The pair beat Poland's Daniel Puchalski and Robert

Floras in the quarters followed by the duo of Belgium's Benjamin Rogiers and Russia's Alexander Shibaev in the semis.

In the final they met top seeds, Paul Drinkhall and Darius Knight, who had ousted Poland's Pawel Fertikowski and Mateusz Golebiewski in the semis. Danny Reed knew the adversaries well and showed no mercy. The English/Croatian partnership won in convincing style succeeding 11-7, 11-9, 13-11.

Darius still in with a shot of South Africa

England's Darius Knight is the player to benefit the most on the ITTF World Junior Circuit standings following the conclusion of the Funchal Junior Open in Madeira. The young man from south London enjoyed two successful days in Madeira. He reached the final of the Boys' Singles event where he lost to colleague, Paul Drinkhall. The

in 2007 and have thus not met the qualification criteria of having to be present in two continents. Furthermore, Paraguay's Marcelo Aguirre is at 11 and has been selected for the Latin American team in the ITTF World Cadet Challenge which runs concurrently with the ITTF World Junior Circuit Finals.

Darius Knight lives in hope.

By Ian Marshall

ENGLAND DOMINATE IN ISLE OF MAN - HOME COUNTRIES

Andrew Rushton, Tim Yarnall, Natalie Bawden and Abigail Embling returned from the Home Countries with all five gold medals in their bags, aided by coaches Sally Shutt and Alex Perry.

Over the weekend of 15th/16th September, the 34th Six Nations International Championships were held in Douglas, Isle of Man, in the National Sports Centre. All six of the home nations attended, England, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Scotland and Ireland with strong squads.

The weekend began with the team event which followed a Davis Cup round robin format, over Friday evening and Saturday. Both the Men's and Women's team events were sternly dominated by England. All matches were won impressively 3-0, apart from a dropped doubles by the Men against Ireland, who finished in second place, with Scotland in third. Rushton only dropped one set throughout

his singles games, against Jason Sugrue (Ire), while Yarnall, who is currently training at the National Centre in Sheffield, went to a decider against Sugrue and Crawford (Ire), and dropped the first against Stephen Jenkins (Wal).

Similar authority was brought to the Women's team by England, with the only matches going to the full five sets being Embling's battle against Loveridge of Guernsey, and the doubles against Wales. Identical medal positions were also recorded in the Women's event; this meant that England also picked up the Combined Team title. Sunday was time for all players to battle it out for the singles titles. All English

players finished first in their groups in convincing fashion. Bawden and Embling further proved their supremacy in the Women's, both reaching the final with only one set being dropped between the Essex individuals, with wins over Simmons (Sco) and Wilson (Wal), for Abigail, while Natalie had comfortable wins over Whittaker (Sco) and Loveridge (Gue). Natalie then overcame her counterpart in a closely contested final, beating Embling 3-1.

Rushton and Yarnall were one and three seeds respectively, with Jason Sugrue (Ire) filling the number two position after Rumgay (Sco) withdrew through injury. This unfortunately meant an all English semi between them, after wins against Gertsen (Wal) for Tim, and Graham (Ire) for Rushton, after the group stage. The Manchester born Rushton came out on top 3-0 and then completed the set of gold medals for England in beating Crawford (Sco) compellingly in the final 3-0. This also meant a double gold for TTK Greenhouse, as Rushton and Bawden will both feature in their Premier British League team and both also coach at projects for the charity in London. England's domination highlighted the depth in the England squad and that these players could compete in seasons to come at the top level.

By Tim Yarnall

Paul Drinkhall maintains a perfect record on ITTF World Junior Circuit (right)

England Squad at the Home Countries (Below)



TOURNAMENT

SEPTEMBER '07 REVIEW

The British Table Tennis Association for the Disabled recently sent a squad to the German Open in preparation for this month's European Championships. The event contained many Paralympics, World and regional champions; including a full squad from China. The star performance was by 19 year old Will Bailey who won gold in the Class 6 Singles ending the two year unbeaten

Will earlier had teamed up with 17 year old David Wetherill to win Silver in the Class 6 singles beating Denmark the current European Champions

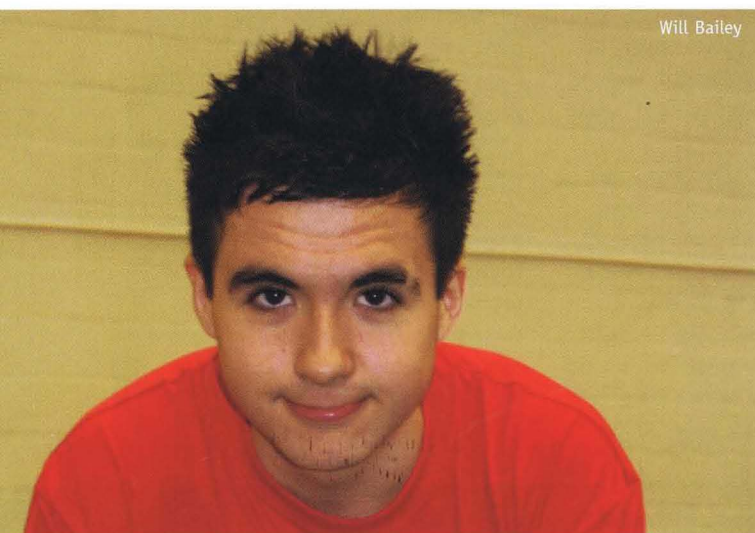
run of Daniel Arnold from Germany, the current World no.1, Paralympics, World and European Champion in the final. On the way to this superb victory he also beat World no. 2 Peter Rosenmeier (Denmark) and World no. 4 Miroslaw Kowalski (Poland). Will earlier had teamed up with 17 year old David Wetherill to win silver in the Class 6 singles beating Denmark, the current European Champions (for the third time this year), where David Wetherill beat the World no. 2 Peter Rosenmeier when the score was 2-2, to secure victory. Their victors in the final were Germany, the current World and Paralympics champions.

The squad won a further three medals: Neil Robinson recovered after an unexpected loss in the qualification rounds to reach the semi-final where he lost to Peng Feng of China (seeded 1), Neil then managed to bounce back and win the

bronze play off match against Yann Guilheim from France. Cathy Mitton (World no. 3) unexpectedly lost in the semi-final to Russia's Nadejda Pouchpacheva, the World no. 7. Then Cathy played the World no.6 from France Gossiaux and won 3-0 to claim bronze. The top seeded team of James Rawson and Arnie Chan lost in the semi-final of the Class 3 team against Austria (a repeat of the European Championship final of 2005) but won the play-off final against the Austria second team 3-0.

Claire Robertson had a near miss in the Class 4 play off match losing deuce in the fifth to miss out on the bronze medal.

Also at the event making his debut for Great Britain was 15 year old Kim Daybell who narrowly missed out on qualification for the Class 10 singles knock-out stage after beating the World no.9 in his qualification group match.



Will Bailey

Liverpool Butterfly GP

It would have been one of the most dramatic winning comebacks of all time, but Carl Prean, still playing regularly in the German Bundesliga, just failed at the final fence in the first Butterfly Grand Prix of the season.

In a rousing final at Liverpool, the Isle of Wight player was beaten 11-5 11-6 7-11 11-9 by Scotland's top seed Gavin Rungay. It was a welcome return to

the ETTA circuit for the former England player and hopefully not the last for Prean who celebrated his 40th birthday this week.

At the other end of the age scale 13 year old Karina Lefevre from Cleveland produced one of the most remarkable results of all time. She turned up the heat to reach the final of the ladies singles and went on to beat Lancashire's Lindsay Reynolds 11-8 7-11 11-7 11-8. In



Karina Lefevre

doing so almost certainly wrote her name into the record books for being the youngest player ever to win a senior singles title on the Butterfly Grand Prix circuit. Paul McCreery made his trip across the Irish Sea worthwhile by winning the under 21 singles event. He romped home 11-6 11-7 11-9 to beat Gavin Kinlocke from Hampshire.

Whilst there was another Irish victory in the Women's event when Claire Nelson beat record breaker Karina Lefevre in four games 5-11 11-8 11-7 11-7.

“And this year the

Once again the ETTA Conference and National Volunteer and Club

Intriguing discussions and inspirational speeches were welcomed by all in attendance and offered an invaluable opportunity to interact and share thoughts across the broad spectrum of topics. The Keynote speakers delivered thought provoking and informative presentations that covering a wide range of subjects from player pathways to equality and everything inbetween.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr Sue Campbell MBE

Chair, Youth Sport Trust and UK Sport

Marc Woods

Paralympic gold medallist swimmer

David Gent Sport England Regional Director, Yorkshire

Novelette Rennie OBE – Chief Executive, Sporting Equals

Colin Wilson - Sports consultant, former England international table tennis player

All presentations, full citations and photos available at www.etta.co.uk

The National Volunteer and Club Awards dinner was bustling with the great and good of table tennis and boasting a host of exceptional achievements. Diccon Gray, National Development Manager, switched roles for an evening and became Master of Ceremonies and with each award being presented by a member of the Management Committee everything was set. Each award was introduced with a brief citation to put into context the remarkable achievements.

Male Coach of the Year – Steve Slater (Staffordshire) - Steve has made a huge impact at local club level, with county and regional squads. He coaches at Penkhull Table Tennis Club, with the Staffordshire county junior squad sessions, and also works alongside Desmond Douglas on a weekly basis at the West Midlands regional performance centre.

Female Coach of the Year – Jan Chapman (Cippenham TTC, Slough, Buckinghamshire) - Jan is a regular coach at the Cippenham club, local schools and also on the national tournament circuit committing 4 nights a week, some day



time school sessions plus weekends. Her coaching ranges from helping beginners, players with a disability through to elite England ranked players.

Community Coach of the Year – Shirley Pickering (Knighton Park TTC, Leicester) - Shirley's contribution to the development of the club coaching activities has been outstanding. Her coaching mainly involves youngsters from beginner to advanced county players. Recently, numbers receiving coaching has doubled from 38 to 75 with several players progressing from the junior to the senior league. In attendance at the club on at least 6 days/evenings a week Shirley is the driving force behind a team of club coaches.

Contribution to Coaching – Ken Muhr (The Weald TTC, Cranbrook, Kent) – Ken has contributed to coaching in a voluntary capacity

for over a period in excess of 40 years. From Cambridge, London, Milton Keynes, Durham, Hastings and currently Cranbrook, Kent, he coaches everyone from beginner to a European champion. Ken is a selfless, passionate coach who gives freely of his time. Continually eager to learn, he attends updates and training and frequently writes about coaches and coaching.

Young Coach of the Year (U25) – Bhavin Savjani (London Progress TTC, London) - Bhavin has acted as a 'second coach' to the community sports coach position at London Progress club where he has provided structured coaching sessions in a number of primary and secondary schools and Southall Sports Centre. He has been involved with a new generation of promising London Progress cadets.



1. Steve Leven - Press Officer of the Year with Jim Beckley (VC Public Relations) 2. Shirley Pickering - Community Coach of the Year with Jenny Heaton (VC Coaching) 3. Jan Chapman - Female Coach of the Year with Peter Charter (VC Selection)

British League

RICHARD ANDREWS STEALS THE SHOW

Kingfisher Reading's Richard Andrews, a first year junior, stole the show in the first weekend of non Premier Division British League matches as his eight wins helped his team into pole position in Division Two South & Midlands.

Division One North - With three teams tied on seven points - Derwent I, ELGRE I and Drumchapel Glasgow II - no one side looks to be an outstanding favourite. ELGRE and Derwent met in round two and ELGRE looked to be on the way to a victory as they moved into a 3-1 lead. However, a very hard fought 11-9, 9-11, 12-10, 14-12 win for Simon Noutch over Sam Pery redressed the balance and the match eventually finished all square. Mark Green was ELGRE's top performer and he beat both Simon Noutch (3-1) and Richard Smith (3-0) whilst Stewart Mudie also made his mark with an excellent 6-11, 11-13, 11-6, 11-8, 11-6 victory over Smith. Derwent's Mark Simpson, who had beaten David Arrowsmith 5-11, 11-7, 11-3, 6-11, 11-8, earned his side the draw by defeating Mudie 11-8, 8-11, 11-4, 11-7.

Drumchapel Glasgow II dropped their point against Grantham in the fourth round. Grantham's no one Paul Cicchelli did the damage beating Myles Evans and his old Norwich team-mate Ian McLean. Grantham also came close to taking a point off ELGRE I, eventually losing 5-3. The difference here was that Cicchelli lost both of his games - succumbing 11-9 in the fifth end to Mark Green and 3-1 to Lee Neil.

Division One South - Brighton I are the early leaders and this included an excellent 5-3 success against second placed DML Woolwell I. Interestingly, in all four matches Brighton's no four Evan Sharp came good in the last singles.

Brighton newcomer Jevgen Paramonov excelled against DML beating both Darren Reed and Mike Short whilst Evan Sharp was an impressive 3-0 winner over Short and Kevin Buddell. Dov Katz played his part beating Marketa Myskova 3-1 but Marketa hit back in her second singles, downing Jerome Jonah 3-1. Brighton also did well to beat Byng Hall I. Paramonov again made a difference beating Phil Cox and Will Power and Jonah chipped in with two important wins. Jerome really earned his colours in his second singles, scoring an excellent 5-11, 11-13, 13-11, 11-9, 11-5 victory over Diccon Gray. Sharp suffered his one defeat in this match, when he lost 11-9 in the fifth end to Will Power. The biggest upset in this Division - Wesley Bush-Harris's superb win over London Progress's Marco Essomba as Generation 2 held London Progress to a draw. Wesley had been well beaten 11-7, 11-7, 11-7 in his first singles by Christian Hundhausen but it all came good in his second match and he scored a terrific 8-11, 11-8, 11-8, 6-11, 12-10 victory over the Cameroon international.

Division One South & Midlands - Urban Progress II dominated matters by taking all eight points but with OLOP Impact I and Westfield I both taking seven points it is clear that Urban Progress's clashes with their two rivals will have a large say on the outcome of this Division.

Tables

DIVISION 1 NORTH						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Derwent I	3	1	-	26	6	7
Elgre Nottingham I	3	1	-	22	10	7
Drumchapel Glasgow II	3	1	-	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	-	2	2	14	18	2
Haiton I	-	-	4	8	24	-

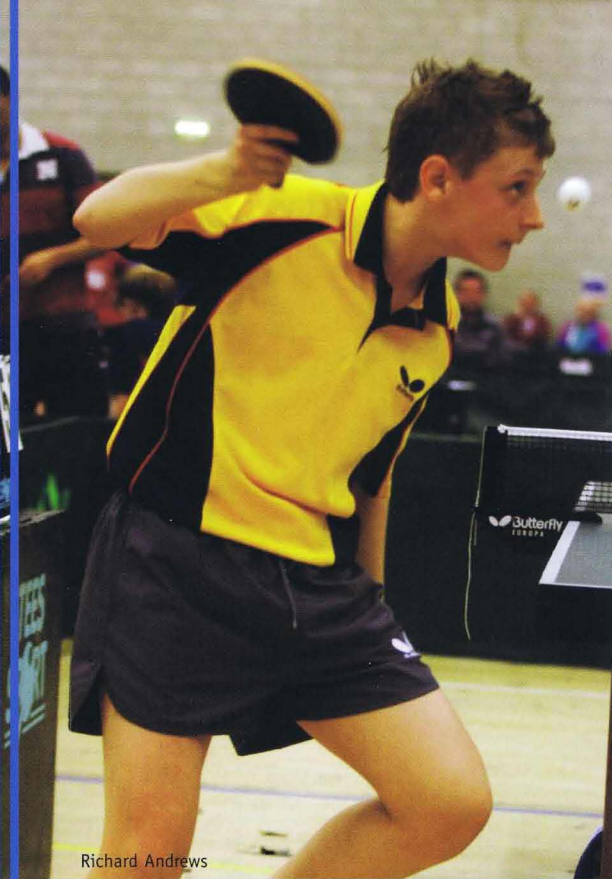
DIVISION 2 NORTH						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fastbats	3	-	1	20	12	6
Derwent II	3	-	1	18	14	6
Barrow	2	1	1	20	12	5
Sheffield	2	1	1	19	13	5
Elgre Nottingham II	1	3	-	18	14	5
Market Rasen	1	1	2	18	14	3
Northfield	-	1	3	8	24	1
Ormesby III	-	1	3	7	25	1

DIVISION 1 SOUTH						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brighton I	4	-	-	20	12	8
DML Woolwell I	3	-	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	-	1	3	11	21	1

DIVISION 2 SOUTH						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Batts Team Peniel II	4	-	-	24	8	8
DHS London Progress IV	4	-	-	24	8	8
Fusion II	3	-	1	20	12	6
Mossford	2	-	2	17	15	4
Club Cornwall	1	-	3	14	18	2
Ashford II	1	-	3	12	20	2
Brighton II	1	-	3	11	21	2
Horsham II	-	-	4	6	26	-

DIVISION 1 SOUTH AND MIDLANDS						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Urban Progress II	4	-	-	27	5	8
OLOP Impact I	3	1	-	22	10	7
Westfield I	3	1	-	21	11	7
DHS London Progress III	2	-	2	19	13	4
Cippenham II	1	-	3	11	21	2
Polska I	1	-	3	11	21	2
Bedford Modern I	1	-	3	9	23	2
Oxford Fireplace Centre II	-	-	4	8	24	-

DIVISION 2 SOUTH AND MIDLANDS						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingfisher	4	-	-	24	8	8
Guernsey	2	1	1	19	13	5
De Vere Netts	2	1	1	17	15	5
Ashford I	2	-	2	19	13	4
Horsham I	1	2	1	17	15	4
Eastbourne	2	-	2	15	17	4
Kingshurst Bribar	1	-	3	11	21	2
Bedford Modern II	-	-	4	6	26	-



Richard Andrews

11-5, 15-17, 11-6, 8-11, 12-10 against Martin Gray.

Division Two South & Midlands - Undefeated Kingfisher Reading (Richard Andrews, Tom Maynard, Mark Banks, Jon Bradbury and Bela Hegedus) lead the way with a maximum eight points. England no. 28 junior boy Andrews had a magnificent weekend winning his eight singles as well as taking the scalps of such established players as Peter Bartram (Horsham), John Robinson and Jason Tandler (Ashford I) and wait for itNick Mason (Eastbourne). His efforts rubbed off on his team-mates and Tom Maynard produced an equally inspired performance against Horsham I. Maynard was an excellent 3-1 winner over Peter Bartram and he dug deep to beat Stephane Bonnafous 10-12, 11-4, 9-11, 11-6, 12-10. Eastbourne were well beaten 7-1 and in one of the shocks of the weekend Andrews beat Nick Mason 11-5, 11-5, 9-11, 12-10.

Division Three North - Halton II lead the way with a maximum eight points followed by Murrayfield on six points. Unfortunately, Hartlepool did themselves no favours and by playing Michael Young and Karl Shaw out of ranking order their excellent 4-4 draw against Murrayfield became a 6-2

Urban Progress's trickiest test came from DHS London Progress III who fielded an all junior line-up. The "Urbans" eventually won 5-3. It was London Progress's Emran

Hussain, currently nationally ranked no. 49 at junior level, who stole the show. Emran beat Marc Armstrong 3-0 and Zoltan Hosszu 3-2. However, with Chris Lewis and Ashley Stokes both winning twice Urban Progress stayed in control. Bedford Modern were despatched 8-0, a result that will have hurt as they lost all four games that were decided in the fifth end. The first game appears to have influenced the outcome of the match and Chris Lewis just shaded it

Kingfisher Reading's Richard Andrews, a first year junior, stole the show in the first weekend of non Premier Division British League matches

defeat. An excellent match this was as well, with Darren McVitie (only one defeat over the weekend) getting the better of Dennis Neale 12-10, 9-11, 14-12, 11-9. Halton II led by Chris Ford are favourites and they had two close matches to contend which they won 5-3. Murrayfield proved a difficult nut to crack with Dennis Neale firing on all cylinders. The former English champion beat Malcolm McEvoy (11-9, 11-2, 9-11, 11-5) and Chris Ford (11-9, 13-11, 12-10).

DIVISION 3 NORTH							DIVISION 3 SOUTH							DIVISION 3 SOUTH AND WEST						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		W	D	L	F	A	Pts		W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Halton II	4	-	-	22	10	8	SEH-Britannia Ipswich I	4	-	-	25	7	8	DML Woolwell II	3	1	-	29	12	7
Murrayfield	3	-	1	21	11	6	York Gardens II	3	1	-	23	9	7	Oxford Fireplace Centre III	2	1	1	19	13	5
Hartlepool	2	1	1	17	15	5	OLOP Impact II	1	3	-	18	14	5	Generation 2 II	1	3	-	17	15	5
Drumchapel Glasgow III	1	2	1	17	15	4	TTK Greenhouse II	2	-	2	17	15	4	Westfield II	2	1	1	17	15	5
Woodfield I	2	-	2	14	18	4	Ellenborough II	2	-	2	13	19	4	B & S Group	1	2	1	16	16	4
Uxbridge I	1	1	2	14	18	3	Horsham III	1	-	3	13	19	2	Fusion III	1	1	2	15	17	3
Elgre Nottingham III	-	1	3	12	20	1	Cippenham III	-	1	3	11	21	1	Brighton III	1	-	3	13	19	2
Fornby	-	1	3	11	21	1	Hastings	-	1	3	8	24	1	NWF	-	1	3	11	21	1
DIVISION 4 NORTH							DIVISION 4 SOUTH							DIVISION 4 SOUTH AND MIDLANDS						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		W	D	L	F	A	Pts		W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sunderland	4	-	-	26	6	8	Brighton City	4	-	-	27	5	8	Crusaders	4	0	0	24	8	8
Pudsey	4	-	-	24	8	8	DHS London Progress V	3	1	-	21	11	7	DHS London Progress VI	3	1	0	21	11	7
St. Mary's Hull	3	-	1	24	8	6	Southampton West	2	1	1	18	14	5	York Gardens III	2	1	1	19	13	5
Barnet Green	3	-	1	22	10	6	Polska II	2	-	2	19	13	4	Ashford III	1	2	1	17	15	4
Drumchapel Glasgow IV	1	-	3	11	21	2	Byng Hall II	2	-	2	14	18	4	TTK Greenhouse III	1	1	2	15	17	3
Rotherham Scorpions II	1	-	3	11	21	2	DML Woolwell III	1	1	2	12	20	3	Fellows Cranleigh	1	1	2	13	19	3
Chesterfield II	-	-	4	7	25	-	Batts Team Peniel III	-	1	3	11	21	1	Uxbridge II	1	0	3	12	20	2
Isle of Man	-	-	4	3	29	-	SEH-Britannia Ipswich II	-	-	4	6	26	-	Woodfield II	0	0	4	7	25	0

County Notes

Cumbria by Gordon Brown

Barrow have come up with a brave new venture this season with a Super League featuring former international Dennis Neale, who is the league's number one seed and coach while rubbing shoulders with some of the most promising juniors in the country.

The league, based at Barrow Table Tennis Centre, was the brain child of Duncan Crawford, who has devoted much time coaching young players, including his own children Jonathan and Scott, who are both playing in the league, which has attracted around a dozen individuals who play in two-man teams with a top seed pairing with a bottom seed to even out the matches.

Jonathan is number two seed and

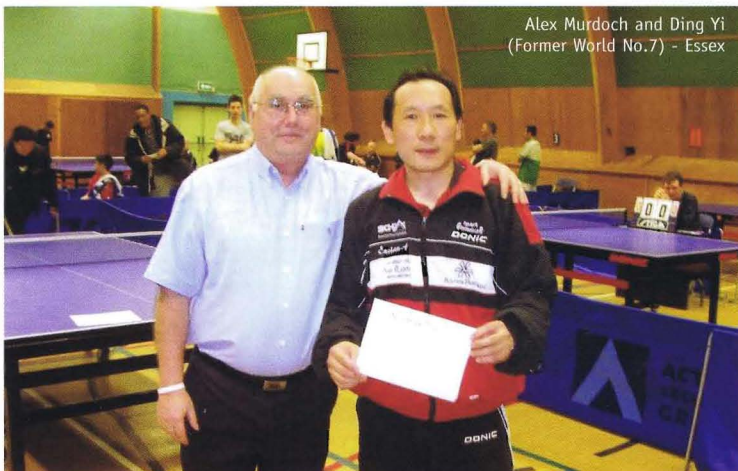
Scott is number five while Steve Dixon, of Morecambe, is number three, and James McGrath (Kendal) number four. Also taking part are Harry Carter (Kendal) and Neil Smith and Neil Yardley of Barrow. Although the Barrow League has gone down in strength from seven divisions 20 years ago to two this term, the standard is still strong and this was borne out during the last campaign when they won division three north of the National League and division two of the Lancashire and Cheshire League. Dixon, Jonathan Crawford, Tristran Swan, Scott Crawford and Neil Yardley formed the National League squad that has now started life in division two north, while the Lancashire and Cheshire League

"It has a recipe of five top class matches for everyone, national ranking points are available as well as nightly prize money, and there is often a sprinkling of national and international stars taking part".

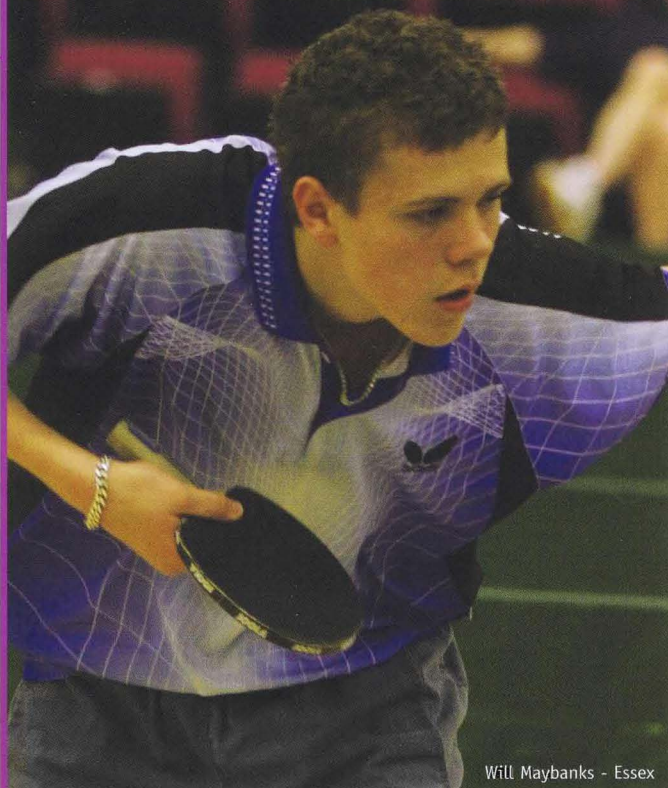
squad, now in division one, comprised Keith Dymond (BAE Nomads), Jonathan Crawford (Dowdales), Tristran Swan (Dowdales) with junior back-up from Scott Crawford and Tom Smith (both Dowdales). Nomads won the Barrow League first division last season and the Table Tennis Centre won the second division.

The Crawford brothers of Jonathan and Scott also feature heavily in the Cumbria side in Division 2a of the County Championship along with sister Helen, number two lady to Julie Stitch, whose Kendal League colleague Steve Dixon is one of the male trio in a team that was due to play the opening county weekend at Market Drayton Sports Centre in October. The Kendal League, by the way, is thriving with three senior divisions and two starter divisions of two-men teams.

Barrow is rich in junior talent with Luke Walker (Askam) winning an under 11 competition at the table tennis centre and several representing the North West in a regional competition at Stoke in the form of Ebony Miles, Emily Bolton, Emily Standing, Anna Donohue, Tom Smith and Scott Crawford, and St Bernard's Catholic High School under 13 girls won the Barrow Sports Council Performance of the Month for March. That was in recognition of the team of Anna Donohue, Shannon Trainor, Emily Edwards and Adele Bassett being runners-up in their age group in the English Schools Association age group championships at Hinckley.



Alex Murdoch and Ding Yi
(Former World No.7) - Essex



Will Maybanks - Essex

But several old stagers are still going strong in the area and at 77, Roy Gordon collected the BAE Systems Hard Bat Open with a scintillating display of forehand attack, beating Allan Turner in the final.

Derbyshire by Neil Houghton

Not heard much about what happened at Liverpool. If you go anywhere please give me a ring and let me know how you got on – if brilliant so much the better but if not it is still interesting to know. Did hear that Dy's "battling" Will Cooney had a good tournament getting to quarters in men's and then losing to a rare tournament appearance from now 40 yr old ex-international Carl Prean. Texted Carl when I heard this and he said Will played well – it is always a certainty that Will will have a good go whatever!

Talking of Cooneys, Will's Mum and Dad Briony and Billy, with the help of friends and club members, made sure Speedwell continued its aims as a quality club this summer by organising a two day training course (supported by local Council which is a good thing!) with Alan Cooke. Naturally the demonstrations were excellent: especially as England international Andrew Rushton came along as well! Cookie organised things so players of all standards had fun as well as learning good T.T. Over the two days a good number of local players from Speedwell, with some newcomers and players from other clubs had a good time and learnt a lot. It was also pleasing to see a few players from "rivals" Colin Deaton Club attending as rivalry has its place and can be useful for exciting matches and keen progress but the name of the game in the sport should be to help the players as a priority. From my viewpoint as a coach and county captain it was pleasing to see county

players and near-future county players getting in some useful summer practice. For example as I was doing multi-ball with one quite young player I was very impressed with the quick footwork and range of shots for their age, which made me look forward to seeing them in action in a year or two for Derbyshire juniors! Talking of Sandiacre I was intending to pop down there for a "knock" sometime, after talking to Les. One reason being in 20 years I have never seen him play and it would be interesting to see him in yet another role. Plus years since been to Sandiacre (was back when went with Stuart McIntyre when he was a lad, i.e. ages ago) and I enjoy visiting clubs as a low profile player or as guest coach or whatever. As I have said before if anybody has a player for me to have a look at as a future Derbyshire junior or if they want me to put something in this column about their club, give me a call and I'll pop round.

Essex by Steve Kerns

The BATTs Super League kicked off on Tuesday 18 September with another strong field of 32 players. Organiser Neil Brierley describes it as follows - "Places fill up fast at the BATTs Super League. It has a recipe of five top class matches for everyone, national ranking points are available as well as nightly prize money, and there is often a sprinkling of national and international stars taking part". Past winners have included Ding Yi (Austria), Robert Pagonyi (Hungary), Ryan Jenkins (Wales) and English internationals Darius Knight and Terry Young. Entrants to look out for in the first round of matches include Filip Syznanski (Poland), Lorestas Trumpauskas, Gergely Urban, John Holland, Hubert Noah, Mark Smith, Tommy Cutler, Neil Charles, Katie Shu Ying, William Maybanks and Costas Papantoniou. Another initiative is being provided by the county's new Coaching Officer, Hill Dowsett, who is hoping to run a series of monthly coaching sessions at two separate venues in the county, at BATTs in Harlow and at the Rowhedge Club in Colchester. Hill hopes that as many players as possible will attend and he is also inviting along all of the county coaches as well. Hill hopes to create the same work ethic that existed in the county at coaching sessions in the 1970s and 1980s under the County Coaching Officer of that era - Ron Gore. The BATTs Team Peniel second team made a successful start to their campaign in Division Two (South) of the Senior British League by winning the four matches played at their home venue. Sean Gibson gave the team the same leadership that Martin Kubrt provided last season as he remained undefeated, and if this team gets the chance to field both Gibson and Kubrt at the same time they will clearly be very hard to beat. Their main rivals will be London Progress IV who also captured all

eight points. The highlight for BATTs included a fine 6-2 win over a strong Fusion II side. Abigail Embling won twice beating both "Yemi" Fakorede and Farhat Rasul and coupled with Gibson's two wins, BATTs were firmly in the driving seat. Fred Dove scored an excellent win over ace counter-hitter Martin Smith and Oscar Selfridge wrapped proceedings up with a commanding 3-0 victory over Fakorede. BATTs also turned on the power as they destroyed Brighton II 8-0. Gary Bonner's clash with Abigail Embling provided the best entertainment as the hard-hitting Bonner surged into a 2-0 lead. However, Abigail hit back and she eventually came through to win 8-11, 8-11, 11-3, 11-7, 11-9. Gibson, Dove and Selfridge were also unbeaten.

Gloucestershire by Lesley Dewick

Four of Gloucestershire table tennis players ventured to the Butterfly Open City of Liverpool Grand Prix to participate in the first Grand Prix event of the 2007-2008 table tennis season.

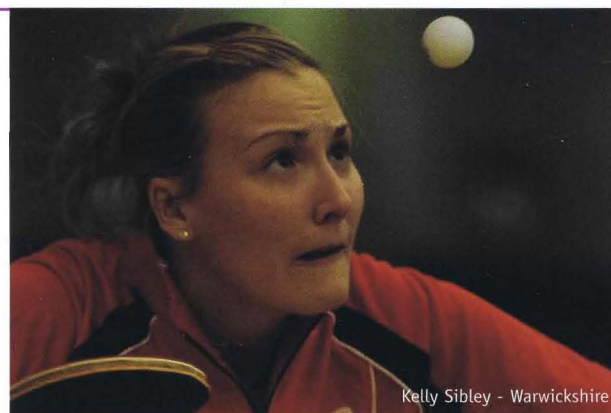
Darren Griffin, Gordon Shaw, Mike Kiff and Dan Kolesnik who all play in the Gloucester, Cheltenham and Stroud leagues picked up their blades and ventured into battle at the Liverpool tournament. Star of the weekend was Darren Griffin, the favourite from the start of the veterans competition and seeded number 1. Griffin glided to

the final only losing two sets this being in the semi-final to Chris Beckley from London. In the final there was no doubt who would be champion at Liverpool this year as Griffin crushed Mark Simon from Middlesbrough 3-0.

There was another fantastic performance for Gloucestershire coming from Dan Kolesnik. He powered his way to the final of the Band 4 men's competition only to be very unlucky and run out of steam in the final. Dan should be congratulated in gaining the runners-up spot in this competition. Gordon Shaw and Mike Kiff played extremely well during the weekend's events and were both very unlucky not to progress to the latter stages of the competition, however they played with passion throughout and also supported their fellow Gloucestershire players, which was greatly appreciated by all. If this is only the beginning of the season I cannot wait to see what is going to happen later in the year when all the players are finely tuned and ready for some intense table tennis action.

Hertfordshire by Ann Fereday

Rather illogically the Cheshunt League Closed Championships results suddenly arrived by first class post. As they were held on February 10th, if they had been sent straight away by carrier pigeon they would have arrived at a better time. When I say



results, it was the original tournament sheets that have appeared – anonymously. Hopefully the following is a correct interpretation.

Men's Singles Winner Dave Langham r/u Brian Gale Ladies Singles Winner Sharon South r/u Jenny Pomfrett Veteran Singles Winner Dave Langham r/u John Barnes Open Doubles Winners Dave Langham and Keith Hartridge r/u Barry Stolle and Brian Gale This event took place at Ellenborough TTC, Enfield. You have now had five of the closed tournament results from the six Hertfordshire leagues. If you take part in one next year, encourage the organiser to send me the results. It's nice to read your name in print – preferably not six months later. As mentioned before, only Watford & N.Herts. sent theirs in unprompted. Veteran European Championships in Rotterdam; Sally Bax, captain of Hertfordshire. Vets. 1, won a bronze in the Over 65 Ladies Singles. She only just missed being in the final when she lost 13 – 11 in the fifth game in the semi-final.

Suffolk by Andrew Doshier

Regrettably I have to start this season's notes with the news of the passing of Bert Newman. Bert was an umpire who played the rules as they were stated, and many a player who got away with dodgy serves and bad sportsmanship with other umpires found Bert was someone who would not stand for such antics, and in a sport that cries out for consistency in its umpiring, if you knew Bert and knew he was umpiring your game you could

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In the Suffolk Closed Championships new boy Rohit Kumar stunned all and very nearly took the title after leaving a number of seeds in his wake. However Richard Hutchinson became the third most prolific singles holder in Suffolk history by lifting the title for a fourth time beating Rohit in the final, having lost to him in the group stage.

expect protection. He occupied a number of posts both on the Ipswich League and Suffolk committees and had in the last few years been made a Vice-President of the ETTA for outstanding service over 30 years. Bert was also a past National Councillor for Suffolk in addition to his voluntary duties as league, county, national and international umpire. His dedication, commitment and enthusiasm for the sport never wavered even though he was not in the best of health over the past five years. He will be missed by all of us.

I will run through the highlights of last season: - Norbridge again won the Ipswich premiership title as the Collins family of Jake Ryan and Malcolm with a little help at times from top 16 winner Adam Giggly proved too strong for all in depth.

Jake and Ryan lost only a handful of games all season and if Ryan had not lost from 8-3 up in the decider against Gary Bloomfield in the very first match of the season, he would have joined Richard Hutchinson and Andrew Doshier in recent years to have gone the season unbeaten.

Andrew Warner started the year well with his second top 12 win over Ryan Collins in dramatic fashion as favourite Dave Cole failed to qualify for the semis. With just one county team entered in the county championships county captain Richard Hutchinson was pleased overall with his team as Ryan Collins and Lee Barnes all contributed.

This season will see two senior teams entered and they will actually be in the same division so Suffolk will be playing Suffolk! Expansion applies on the junior front with the launching of a county cadet team.

In the Suffolk Closed Championships new boy Rohit Kumar stunned all and very nearly took the title after leaving a number of seeds in his wake. However Richard Hutchinson became the third most prolific singles holder in Suffolk history by lifting the title for a fourth time beating Rohit in the final, having lost to him in the group stage.

Ryan Collins was devastating in the Ipswich Closed singles by not dropping a set on the way to the title including victory in the semis over Adam Giggly. Brother Jake so nearly became the first Suffolk player to take the Britannia East Anglian top 16. After leading 9-7 in the fourth set he just lost to Giggly in a thriller. In fact Jake's form was so good during the season that he won all but one of his county junior games. The final event of the season was the Britannia Open which featured a number of seeding upsets and also the re-emergence of Andrew Doshier to something like his old form following nearly four years of prolonged injury. Doshier made his way to the open final but playing so many events he felt the pace at the end and lost to a deserved winner, Rohit Kumar, despite having beaten him earlier in the group stage of the men's singles. Ryan Collins won the other major title on offer, the men's singles, beating Andrew Warner in the final. At the Suffolk AGM Jake Collins was awarded Suffolk Player of the Year, and he has closed the gap on brother Ryan and is now ranked above him nationally. The Dennis Barratt Memorial trophy for services to Table Tennis was presented to Lyn Green, long term secretary of the Bury St. Edmunds League, whilst the trophy for the most improved player went to junior player George Kizis (Bury St. Edmunds).

On the women's front both Chelsea Bennett and Sian Cook have had injuries and time off from the game but should still be stronger for the future.

Surrey by Chris Andrews

At the European Youth Championships in the Slovak Republic, Bratislava, England won gold in the Junior Team event (boys under 18s) with Darius Knight as England no.2. Darius also won silver in the Mixed Doubles event with Natalia Bak of Poland.

In the ITTF World Junior Circuit event in El Salvador Darius teamed up with Paul Drinkhall to win the Doubles event and they were also runners-up in the Team event. Madeira's World Junior Circuit event saw Darius as runner-up in the Singles and runner-up in the Doubles with Paul Drinkhall.

Darius lost to David Meads in the final of the Singles event at the UK School Games. The overall team winners were the South East.

Sir Steve Redgrave and Dame Tanni Grey Thompson have selected Darius Knight for Team Visa, which is an exclusive sponsorship programme designed to help 16 of the country's most talented athletes prepare for the Beijing 2008 and London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Chris Bush of London Progress won the 2006/07 Player of the Season Award for Division 1 South with Chris Martin of York Gardens winning the Division 4 South Award.

At the Wolverhampton Grand Prix, Abdul Wuraola was

runner-up in the Veteran Men's event with Martin Smith runner-up in the Men's Restricted event. The Mid-Sussex Grand Prix also had Abdul Wuraola losing in the final of the Veteran Men's event. However, Surrey did a lot better in other events as Matthew Pernet and Patrick Beckley fought in the Men's Band 6 final with Matthew winning. Diane Melville was runner-up in the Women's Band 3 event. In the Men's Restricted event Martin Smith beat Leo Veinsreider, both of Surrey. In the first Grand Prix of the 2007/08 season held at Liverpool, Matthew Pernet was the runner-up in the Restricted event. Our hearts go out to members of Crusaders Table Tennis Club who lost Roger Hill; his funeral was on 29th August 2007.

Warwickshire by Caroline Williams

Warwickshire have made progress over the past season. We now have a new WTTA website thanks to a lot of hard work by Don Pritchard and Malcolm Macfarlane. The Warwickshire Closed Championships attracted a first rate entry, it was professionally organised and there was a vibrant feeling in the hall. We entered a team in every age section of the County Championships from U15 to O60 and two teams in the senior section, which led to good results all round. Our cadets played in the Premier Division (which contains the top eight counties) for the first time and kept their place in it, finishing fifth. The seniors ended at third and second in their divisions, the veterans also came second and the O60s third. We have also supported the schools individual and team championships and good progress has been made there. A sad note was the death of Frank Stevens, our umpires secretary, who served Warwickshire and his league in one capacity or another for most

Stephen Denney was a strong favourite to capture the Men's crown on Sunday and he didn't disappoint, comfortably qualifying from his group before seeing off Dave Heptonstall and Sean Madden en route to the semi-final.

Scarborough's Martin Lowe was due to be the next lamb to the slaughter at this stage but Lowe had other ideas.

of his adult life. We will miss him. A happier result was that Kelly Sibley, from Leamington Spa, became number 1 woman last season.

Communications with the membership have also improved. A new mini handbook has been sent to all members via local leagues for the last three years and this year as mentioned above the county has established its own website. The position of our local leagues varies. Our two city leagues have lost teams at an alarming rate over the last decade, but Leamington continues to grow apace, and is now the largest league in the West Midlands and last season was the 11th largest in England. This is partly because of the popularity of the two-a-side league, which is steadily growing in size and strength.

Yorkshire Notes by Barry Snowden

The 2007 Yorkshire Closed Championships took place over two days at the Halifax Table Tennis Centre. The competition was formerly the county's flagship annual tournament for bona-fide local league players in years gone by before falling by the wayside but was rescued from obscurity, following a four year absence from the scene by Barry Snowden. One or two last minute defections failed to take the shine off the event as a whole and the overall strength in

depth provided by all in the seniors and juniors fully justified the event's reincarnation. The Junior Boys' singles took centre stage on the first day with many considering a repeat of the recent Stiga Open final shoot out between local hope Jonny Giles and Pudsey top seed Chris Parker, a strong possibility. However, it was not to be. Giles came up against a barrage of attacking strokes when capitulating in three straight games to third seeded Ryedale representative Edward Fambely, and Parker failed to ward off a dynamic display from Halifax's other main hope, fifth seeded James Berry, losing out narrowly in a tight decider. Berry started like a house on fire in the final, raising the hopes of the home fans eager to witness an upset. However, his offensive style became a little wayward towards the end of the first game and he was edged out 13-11. Try as he might, Berry could not maintain the consistency he had displayed earlier and Fambely took control to run out a clear-cut winner in straight games. Young Fambely was not expected to be troubled to follow-up this success in the younger Cadet division and duly marched through to the final without a hitch. Ryedale colleague Charlie Allot was his opponent in the final and was in no mood to be the top seed's whipping boy. He gave Fambely an almighty scare



Stephen Denny - Yorkshire

before eventually going down 11-7 in the decider. It takes a special talent to bridge the gap between the age groups and Edward Fambely is most definitely a name to remember for the future.

Scarborough's Rebecca George justified her top seeding in the Junior Girls' event when dispatching Hull based Gemma Cundhill in straight games. The seaside town has a talent for producing the goods with their youngsters, and this was ably demonstrated when sisters Jennifer and Rhianna Wood made it a family affair in the Girls' U13 final. Top-seed Jennifer lived up to her top billing when comfortably fending off the challenge of her younger sister.

Stephen Denney was a strong favourite to capture the Men's crown on Sunday and he didn't disappoint, comfortably qualifying from his group before seeing off Dave Heptonstall and Sean Madden en route to the semi-final. Scarborough's Martin Lowe was due to be the next lamb to the slaughter at this stage but Lowe had other ideas. He proved good enough to force several errors from the hard hitting Denney and this, allied to his strong topspin attack on both wings, enabled him to come out on top in the first two games. Unfortunately, that was as good as it got for the east coast player and he simply had no answer to Denney's power when the Bradford youngster raised the tempo to complete a great comeback, thereby booking his place in the final.

Hull's Chris Clinton proved to be the surprise package in the other half of the draw, claiming the scalp of top Huddersfield player Darren Lindley in the semi-final with some brilliant retrieving and containing tactics. Clinton persevered with these tactics against Denney in the final, however, the youthful Denney relished the opportunity of having a target to aim at, and simply

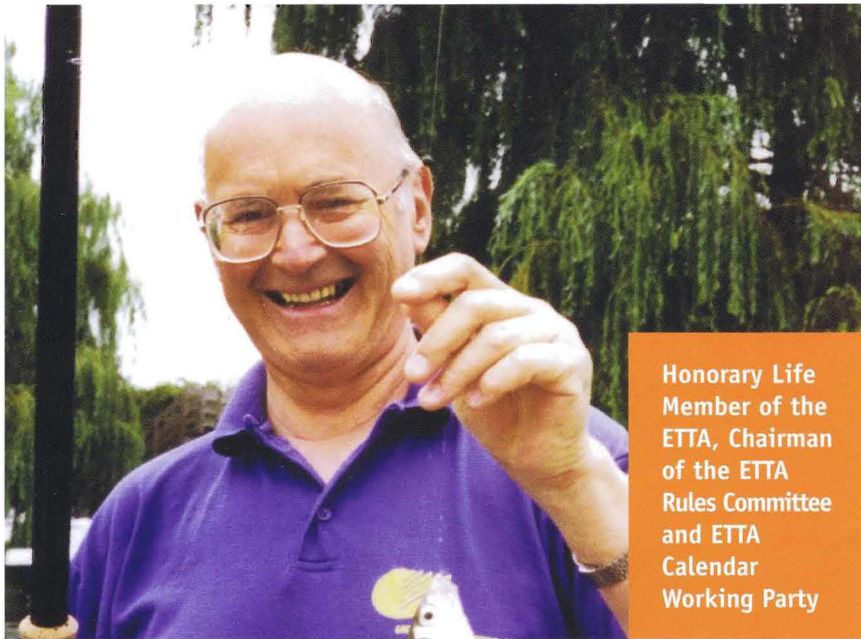
overpowered his rival to be crowned the new Yorkshire champion. Stephen Denney is currently making progress up the national rankings and on the evidence of this display; a top place should prove within reach before too long.

Harrogate-based Nigel Pennock brought his 'A' game to the table in the Men's Veteran event and he gave a fine display of controlled table tennis to thwart Hull's Sean Madden in a closely fought final.

The Ladies' Singles was more strongly contested than usual with both groups needing a game countback to decide the line-up for the semi-finals. Linda Simpson, Sara Nutch and Elaine Li emerged from the equation to join Zoe Fisher, with Linda Sanderson and Ruth Pursglove narrowly missing the boat. Yorkshire team captain Simpson used all her experience to overcome Hull's Zoe Fisher in a closely fought encounter and was joined in the final by local girl Elaine Li, after Elaine just got the better of a tight tussle with Sara Nutch. Simpson once again displayed her experience in the final and gave Li a lesson in match play by denying her opponent any chance of getting into a rhythm and quickly wrapped up a straight game victory to take the title. The day got even better for Simpson as she added to her laurels with victory in the Ladies Veteran Singles and was victorious in the Mixed Doubles with Nigel Pennock.

The Mayor of Calderdale, Councillor Colin Stout, presented the prizes on the Sunday and was extremely impressed by the players' skill and commitment to the sport. Councillor Stout also complimented the Halifax Table Tennis Association for their voluntary efforts on producing a table tennis centre to be proud of.

Results: Men's Singles - Stephen Denney bt. Chris Clinton 11-9 11-4 11-8 Men's Veteran Singles - Nigel Pennock bt. Sean Madden 11-6 13-11 7-11 11-4 Men's Doubles - Denney/Parker bt. Lowe/Fenby 11-6 6-11 11-4 7-11 11-8 Ladies Singles - Linda Simpson bt. Elaine Li 11-2 11-9 11-2 Ladies Veteran Singles - Linda Simpson bt. Ruth Pursglove & Linda Sanderson (round robin format) Ladies Doubles - Sanderson/Pursglove bt. Nutch/Li (group format) Mixed Doubles - Pennock/Simpson bt. Clinton/Fisher 11-9 11-9 7-11 14-12 Junior Boys' Singles - Edward Fambely bt. James Berry 13-11 11-6 11-6 Cadet Boys' Singles - Edward Fambely bt. Charlie Allot 8-11 11-7 9-11 11-7 11-7 Boys' U13 Singles - Adam Tompkins bt. Macauley Youngson 11-7 11-8 6-11 11-6 Junior Girls' Singles - Rebecca George bt. Gemma Cundhill 11-8 11-9 11-5 Cadet Girls' Singles - Gemma Cundhill bt. Gemma Deeley 11-7 8-11 9-11 11-7 11-2 Girls' U13 Singles - Jennifer Wood bt. Rhianna Wood 12-10 11-8 11-4



Honorary Life Member of the ETTA, Chairman of the ETTA Rules Committee and ETTA Calendar Working Party

John Jermyn

John Jermyn, Honorary Life Member of the ETTA, Chairman of the ETTA Rules Committee and ETTA Calendar Working Party, sadly passed away on Sunday 2nd September. He was 75 years old and leaves his wife Di and three children. He will be missed by us all, his contribution to table tennis as a player and administrator spans five decades.

He was an International Umpire and Referee, and was Deputy Referee at the World Championships 1997(England) and 2001 (Japan). He was Referee at World Veterans Championships in 1998 (England) and Deputy Referee at the World Veterans Championships 1996 (Norway) and 2000 (Canada).

He was the Referee or Deputy at many English International Championships, English National Championships and English Junior International Championships.

During these events and many others he was involved with as an International and National Umpire he was recognised by both players, coaches and administrators alike for his competence and fairness, all done in the way we shall remember him as a friendly and understanding human being.

He has been involved with the ETTA on a national basis in areas of umpires and referees committees, National Election Scrutinizer, Rules and Calendar Working Party. He was a National Councillor for Cornwall from 1999 and the VETTS representative from 1992 to 2002.

Recognition of his contribution to our sport came in 1999/2000 when he was elected as an ETTA Vice-President and he became an

Honorary Life Member in 2004.

He was also involved with his original county, Hertfordshire, as Chairman in 1977 till 1979 and was involved with the North Herts League in various capacities for over 40 years, the last 22 years as its Chairman, and he was made an Honorary Life President in 2002.

He was accompanied over many years by another table tennis fanatic, his wife Di, whose contribution to table tennis is recognised by us all.

I first came across John when I started playing Local League again in the North Herts League some 25 years ago. He was then on the committee and also ran all of the league's tournaments. My real first encounter with John was when I entered the North Herts Closed in the Division 5 event during my first season. I was then a youngish lad, with more hair and slimmer, I

turned up to give my name into the registration desk, quickly to be told by John, "you are not wearing that shirt to play in my event". I responded " This a Lacoste sports shirt why not? " he then said "it is stripped and not plain as it should be". I quickly went home and changed only to come back and not qualify from my group.

During the years John and I became great friends albeit we had to play each other on many occasions as we came from different clubs. I played for a number of years with two juniors and in one match I was the umpire with my team mate winning the first leg easily against John. As John passed me to change ends he said " He is foul serving", I knew he was a qualified umpire and thought to myself "what is a foul serve" then remembered the ball had to be thrown up a bit. Next leg started my team mate served, John caught the ball and said it was a foul serve, I turned to him and said very quietly "I am umpiring this game not you". We have talked, debated and laughed at this incident many times since.

John soon afterwards persuaded me to join the North Herts Committee, then got me to join the VETTS and all of this led to me becoming the ETTA Chairman. So if you wish he is to blame.

John will be missed by us all as an administrator, major contributor to the debates we have in committees and National Council, his detailed knowledge of our sport, and as a friend and colleague to so many of us.



JANE CAMPBELL

Birth date: 18/08/1968

Place of birth: Barnsley

Residence: London

Nature of disability: Paralympic

Sport and classification: Table Tennis Class 3

Left/right handed: Right

Highest ever ranking and date: 13 in World - Class 3 - Jan 2006

Equipment sponsor: Butterfly / Tees Sport

Most significant achievements - Winning 2 silver and 2 bronze medals at the Hungarian Open in March 2005, getting to number 13 in the world, plus being selected for the FastTrack programme

Most memorable sporting occasion - My first European Championships - it was such a huge honour to be there

Ultimate sporting ambition - To win a gold medal at a Paralympics

What brought you to the sport of disabled table tennis? It started out as a way of meeting people and turned into an obsession

How do you spend your free time when you are not training or competing? I work for TNS, a fantastic company that has been really supportive of my table tennis career

Player Rankings 2007/2008

TOP 25 SENIOR MEN

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

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	CLARK, Sally (Y.)
7	VICKERS, Emma (DY.)
8	WANG, Sarra (E.)
9	RAINTON, Rosemary (SX.)
10	CLEMENTS, Sanya (HE.)
11	HALLOWS, Caroline (CH.)
12	COHEN, Michele (WI.)
13	UZAL, Shelley (E.)
14	WILSON, Naomi (SO.)
15	VICKERS, Jane (DY.)
16	WHITE, Nicola (Y.)
17	HICKS, Hannah (HA.)
18	FARQUHAR, Melanie (BK.)
19	HOWARD, Alice (CH.)
20	WANG, Lucy (E.)
21	RADFORD, Lisa (DV.)
22	MAY, Elizabeth (DV.)
23	CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.)
24	STEDMAN, Sarah (SX.)
25	HARPER, Sandra (BD.)

TOP 5 JUNIOR BOYS

Ranking	Player
1.	DRINKHALL, Paul (CV.)
2.	KNIGHT, Darius (SY.)
3.	EVANS, Gavin (BU.)
4.	WARE, Mathew (DO.)
5.	DORAN, Christopher (NP.)

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	ZILESNICK, 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	WILLIAMS, Keith (LA.)

TOP 5 JUNIOR GIRLS

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

TOP 5 CADET GIRLS

Ranking	Player
1	BATES, Emily (LI.)
2	LEFEVRE, Karina (CV.)
3	SUNDARARAJAN, Ayonija (BK.)
4	WRIGHT, Melissa (YS.)
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	BUOEY, Brenda (LA.)
2	LOCKE, Gillian (E.)
3	MUDGE, Kim (K.) (SY.)
4	WELSMAN, Margaret (NP.)
5	HARRISON, Jennifer (E.)



For the full list of player rankings go to our website

www.etta.co.uk



Dates for your diary

Table Tennis events for November 2007



2007/2008 COPY DATES

November Issue

Copy Deadline: 15 Oct
Advertising Deadline: 08 Oct

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 3rd:

Senior - Bristol UWE Open Butterfly GP

Sunday 4th:

Cadet - Chesham 2 Star/Cirencester 1 Star
Junior - Chesham 2 Star
Senior - Bristol UWE Open Butterfly Grand Prix

Saturday 10th:

Cadet - County Championships (1)
Junior - County Championships (2)
Senior - County Championships (2),
County Premier (1)
Veteran - County Championships (2)

Sunday 11th:

Junior - Stiga 2 Star - Halton
Senior - County Premier (1)

Saturday 17th:

Cadet - Stockton on Tees 4 Star
Senior - Wilmott Cup & Rose Bowl
Regional Rounds
Veteran - County Premier (1)

Sunday 18th:

Junior - Stockton on Tees 4 Star,
Junior - Cippenham 2 Star
Veteran - County Premier (1)

Saturday 24th:

Cadet - RT. Chandlers
Farm Equip 1 Star
Junior - RT. Chandlers
Farm Equip 1 Star
Senior - British League Premier (2)

Sunday 25th:

Cadet - Cirencester 1 Star
Junior - Carter Cup & Bromfield
Trophy Regional Rounds
Senior - British League Premier (2)



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

 <p>2 Market Street, Blythe. Tel 01670 351435 Official Travel Agents</p>	 <p>Trophies and Engraving Strood, Gloucestershire. Tel 01453 886686 Official Trophy Suppliers</p>	 <p>Acorn House, Forstal Road, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7AF Tel: 01622 882233</p>	 <p>3 Broadway, Broad St. Birmingham B15 1BQ Tel: 0121 698 800 Fax: 0121 625 9000</p>
 <p>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</p>	 <p>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</p>	 <p>Suppliers of exciting and innovative coaching aids 473 Harlestone Road, Duston, Northampton, NN5 6NJ Tel: 01604 464 878</p>	 <p>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</p>