

# table tennis news

Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association

## The life of Tony Pacitto

Catch up on the **British League** and **County Championships**; Alex Murdoch **continues** as **Chairman**; Plus the latest **news** and **results**

# National Success for Parker and Drinkhall

**STIGA NCT Wood:**  
Changing the Way the Game is Played

**STIGA**

APRIL/MAY 2009

## PUBLISHER

ETTA, Queensbury House, Havelock  
Road, Hastings, East Sussex  
TN34 1HF  
Tel: 01424 722525  
Fax: 01424 422103  
Email: admin@etta.co.uk  
Web: www.etta.co.uk

## EDITOR

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

## SUB EDITOR

James Cornford  
Press and Communications Officer  
English Table Tennis Association  
T 01424 456 222  
Email James.cornford@etta.co.uk

## ADVERTISEMENTS

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

## SUBSCRIPTION &amp; DISTRIBUTION

Robert Sinclair  
ETTA Headquarters, Hastings

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Ayoade Ademakinwa  
Website: www.tabletennisphotos.com  
Email: info@tabletennisphotos.com

## GRAPHIC DESIGN

by Nikki Finn  
Naughty Beagle Graphic Design  
Service  
Tel: 07966 44 1983  
Email: nikki@naughtybeagle.co.uk

Unsolicited articles are welcome for possible publication but the English Table Tennis Association will accept no responsibility for the return of manuscripts and/or photographs.

Whilst every effort is taken to ensure that the reports and facts are correct at the time of going to press no responsibility will be accepted by the ETTA should errors be published, either for errors or matters arising as a result.

The views expressed in Table Tennis News are those of the contributors and are not necessarily official ETTA policy. Similarly TTN accepts advertisements in good faith, but cannot accept responsibility for the goods or services distributed in advertisements. If you have any queries, these should be addressed directly to the advertiser.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or any means, electronic or mechanical including photocopying, recording or any information storage or retrieval system without prior written consent of the publisher.



# Contents

- 04 Straight Talk**  
The Chairman's thoughts
- 06 News**  
What's going on in the world of TT
- 10 Tony Pacitto**  
An appreciation by Ken Muhr
- 12 Tournament Review**  
Reports from the latest events
- 14 County Championships**  
The Cadet and Veteran Premier Divisions come to a close
- 17 Coaching**  
How to obtain the perfect backhand chop
- 19 National Championships Review**  
A round up of this year's tournament
- 26 National Championships Key Profiles**  
Jeremy Wilson takes a look at the key figures
- 28 British League**  
A look at the Senior Men and Women's events
- 31 County Round Up**  
Keep up to date with what's happening in your area
- 39 Rankings**  
A look at the top national and international performers
- 40 Event Listings**  
Up and coming tournaments

# first word



The month of March proved to be a real humdinger with some superb table tennis on offer. The Nationals once again showcased the leading lights of English table tennis and provided a genuine sense of progression amongst the remarkably young field. It also created some of the most interesting personal duels I have ever witnessed with many players pulling out all the stops to demonstrate their potential in front of an exceptionally educated audience that boasted several highly influential onlookers.

This year also provided the most comprehensive coverage ever with free live web-streaming from HORIZONSolutions.tv and recently run coverage on Channel 4. The Channel 4 coverage was edited into two shows, one as part of their 'Destination 2012' series that promotes several potential future Olympians as they progress toward their

ultimate goal: the London Olympics; and two as an extended one hour highlights show dedicated purely to the championships featuring the top matches from Sunday's final session. Don't worry if you missed either the live web-streaming or the Channel 4 coverage as they are both available as repeats online at the following addresses:

- Comprehensive championship coverage showing all TV court matches can be viewed at [www.247.tv](http://www.247.tv); you will also be able to view coverage of both the 2007 and 2008 Championships.
- Destination 2012 and the Channel 4 Nationals highlights package can be found at [www.channel4.com/programmes/4sport-destination-2012](http://www.channel4.com/programmes/4sport-destination-2012)

The month of March also brought with it an election that saw Alex Murdoch

(Chairman), Peter Bradley (Deputy Chairman) and Martin Clark (Treasurer) retain their positions for a fourth term in one of the highest ever election turn outs with a staggering 83% returned papers. Find out more in our news section on page 6.

Looking forward we have a bumper month of top level table tennis in May kicking off with the Masters event at the Royal Albert Hall on 7th May. Next is the England v India Tour on 10th, 12th and 16th May, followed by the Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship in Glasgow, 19th – 25th May. Tickets or contact details to purchase tickets can be found at [www.etta.co.uk](http://www.etta.co.uk)

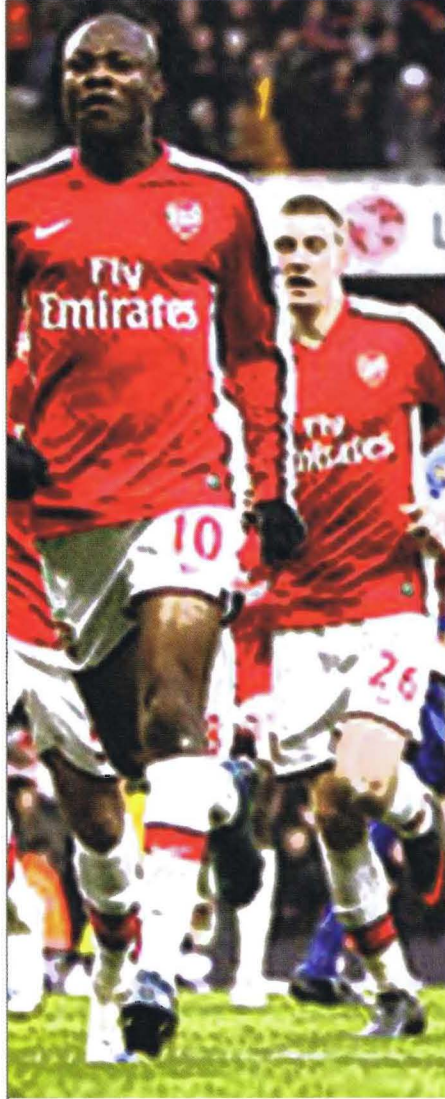
I hope you enjoy this issue and I look forward to seeing many of you at these exciting forthcoming events.

[Richard.pettit@etta.co.uk](mailto:Richard.pettit@etta.co.uk)  
Richard Pettit, Editor

## The highlights from our main contributors...

Do you see that girl playing there? She is going to be one of the top two women in the country. I have got the other one (Joanna Parker)!" Ken Muhr Page 10 "Exactly 70 years later and there is another pupil of KGGS who is attempting to carve her name in history. Quite simply, Emily Bates would love to become Britain's first Olympic medallist for table tennis" Jeremy Wilson Page 26 "Starting the weekend lying in joint third place, three points behind Kent on six and Cheshire on five points, the White Rose county hit the decks running." Barry Snowden Page 14

# Straight Talk



This **grass roots** initiative is making progress with a number of visits to the **football clubs** having been made to clarify the needs of these clubs and the links with other **local partnerships** and locations.

By the time you receive this issue it is likely that the ETTA Election of Officers for the 2009/10 and 2010/11 Administrative Year will be decided. The Elected Officers will take up their posts after the AGM on 27th June, which incidentally is my 65th birthday; I hope I have not been "pensioned off" by then.

I will give you some updates as, despite the Election, the present administration still have their responsibilities to honour and fulfill over the coming months.

## 1. INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND MATCHES

The following have been arranged, I hope that you will support these events and get behind your England players:

- 7th May Table Tennis Masters, Royal Albert Hall, London
- 10th May England v India, London
- 12th May England v India, Stoke
- 16th May England v India, Preston
- 28th October – 1st November English Open, EIS, Sheffield

## 2. INTERVENTIONAL PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Small working groups were set up on an inter-departmental basis in January, involving volunteers and staff, to review each intervention in terms of resources required. Discussions on these plans and the resources were presented to management and the 2009/10 draft budget was formulated based upon the income and expenditure forecast, and the following three years were also drafted.

The process of the implementation plans will be phased in to ensure that the resources are put in place in a professional and managed way based upon the transformational timescales included in our submission to Sport England as follows:

Mission 2020 has full commitment and 'buy-in' from the Chairman, Directors and Management Committee of the ETTA, and the Transformation Programme will be driven by the CEO.

**Phase 1** - (Started January 2009) The CEO will create cross-departmental teams (including Sainsbury's personnel) which will conduct a detailed analysis and diagnosis of current working practice in each major ETTA business function, including the WSP 2009/2013 interventions.

**Phase 2** - On completion of the analysis and diagnosis, the teams will progress to Phase 2 where they will develop a detailed vision of where their respective function should be. This vision will identify the problems arising in Phase 1, and following a detailed GAP analysis, will determine what is missing between the current ETTA operation and the envisioned future.

**Phase 3** - Development of a detailed Implementation Plan to move the ETTA from its current level of operation to becoming a world leading governing body.

**Phase 4** - 2010/11 Execution of Implementation Plan. The National Plan has been well documented and included in the ETTA 2009/13 Whole Sport Planning Application along with their intended outcomes. This will cover changes in all ETTA departments in regard to structures, staffing, work programmes, governance and how these new and old resources are managed and linked.

The goals and outcomes which are needed for our sport will be covered in the following areas:

- Club development
- Facilities
- Coaching
- Volunteers and technical officials
- Children and young people
- Table Tennis in the workplace and women in sport
- Participation at grass roots
- Marketing and communications
- Competitions
- Talent
- Links with corporate partners

It is quite clear that we must not just concentrate on getting new members but ensure that support and resources are in place to retain our existing membership, particularly within the local league/club

structures, helping with facilities, volunteering, coaching and helping with development initiatives by the leagues.

## 3. BTTF FUNDING FOR GB ELITE PROGRAMME

The BTTF Board has decided to use the award provided by UK Sport over a two year period and submitted a World Class Plan, budgets and cash flow requirements to them. This will ensure the continuance of the existing programme for the British Development Squad, maintain the GB National Training Centre and ensure that the elite squad are given the opportunity to continue its progress. The potential "risk" of what happens after this two year period was discussed in depth before the final decision was made and it is expected with the financial protocols in place, links with the BTTAD, support from Sheffield, potential other funding opportunities and the use of the facilities/Coaches/SSSM by the other home countries, including the ETTA that some reserves/under spend will result. Added to the opportunities in place from the UK Sport, BOA and LOCOG sponsorship search initiative, together with the option via Mission 2012 to go back from a performance perspective to UK Sport when they do the review of all Olympic sports to push our case for additional funding, the board considered that this "risk" was reduced enough to progress on the basis of a full programme. All the other sports in a similar situation to table tennis have followed roughly the same route.

## 4. INDIVIDUAL AFFILIATION

Detailed information including the proposals, implications, reasons, costing and benefits will be sent to the membership before the AGM in June this year. For these proposals to be approved a 75% majority is required and I ask you to ensure your views are made clear to your voting members at League and County level. The present voting method means that your County Representative Member has a similar number of votes to all the League Representative Members in that county, and

clearly for this proposal to pass with the required majority the county support is essential; in this regard it was very positive that the National Councilors fully endorsed these proposals for its submission to the AGM. I am personally in favor of this change, not just because it fits in with the transformational policies for the future, or that our sport is nearly alone in the eyes of our funding partners without an IM system, more importantly it will benefit our sport and its members in many ways, increase and improve the communications to our membership, help the membership understand and feel part of the ETTA, improve our ability to increase the membership and attract sponsors, and ensure that the benefits and new benefits are available to all of those playing our great sport.

## 5. PREMIER LEAGUE 4 SPORT PROJECT

This grass roots initiative is making progress with a number of visits to the football clubs having been made to clarify the needs of these clubs and the links with other local partnerships and locations. Adjustments are being made to the initial mapping of potential local table tennis clubs, and the final decision on the clubs and to which Premiership football club they will be linked will be announced in the near future.

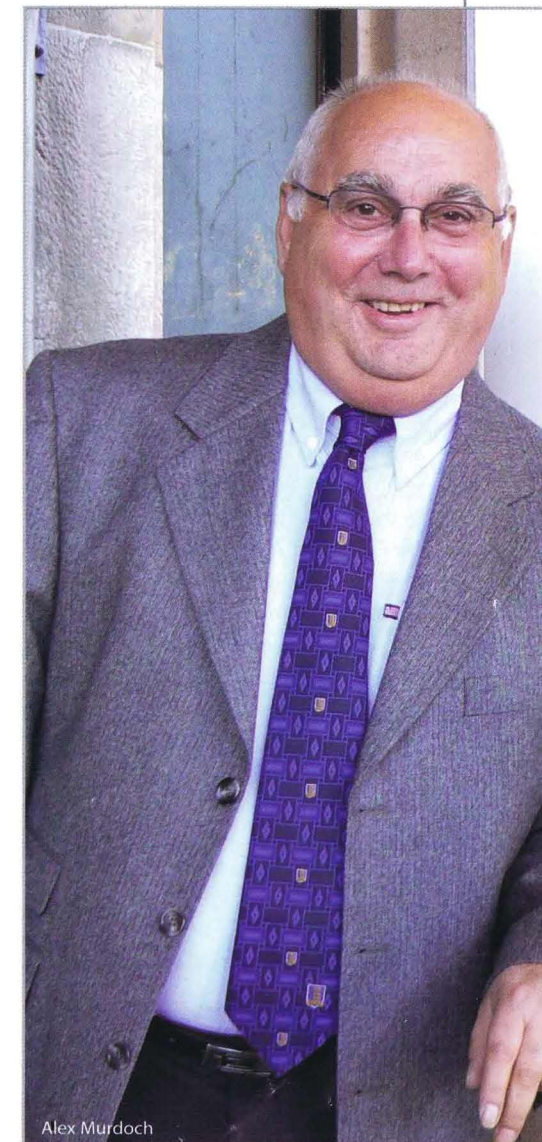
## 6. MEMBERSHIP SATISFACTION SURVEY

The survey went live in March 2009 and members have been contacted online to answer a short questionnaire. ETTA would encourage you to participate in this study and to have your say. If selected, you could be one of 1,000 people who take part in the survey for table tennis. The results will contribute towards improved planning and investment decisions that will shape the future of our sport.

## 7. INTERNATIONAL MEDIA INFORMATION AND SPONSORSHIP

A special survey about the 2009 Beijing

Olympics showed that table tennis was ranked out of the 28 Olympic sports in 11th to 14th place in various TV ratings figures in the UK. The ITTF website is currently ranked third in the most visited website of all international sports federations. The ITTF has signed a new six year agreement with TMS International which guarantees a minimum commercial income of more than \$28M over the period 2009 to 2014. Hope these updates are of use to you, any questions please get in touch. Alex



Alex Murdoch

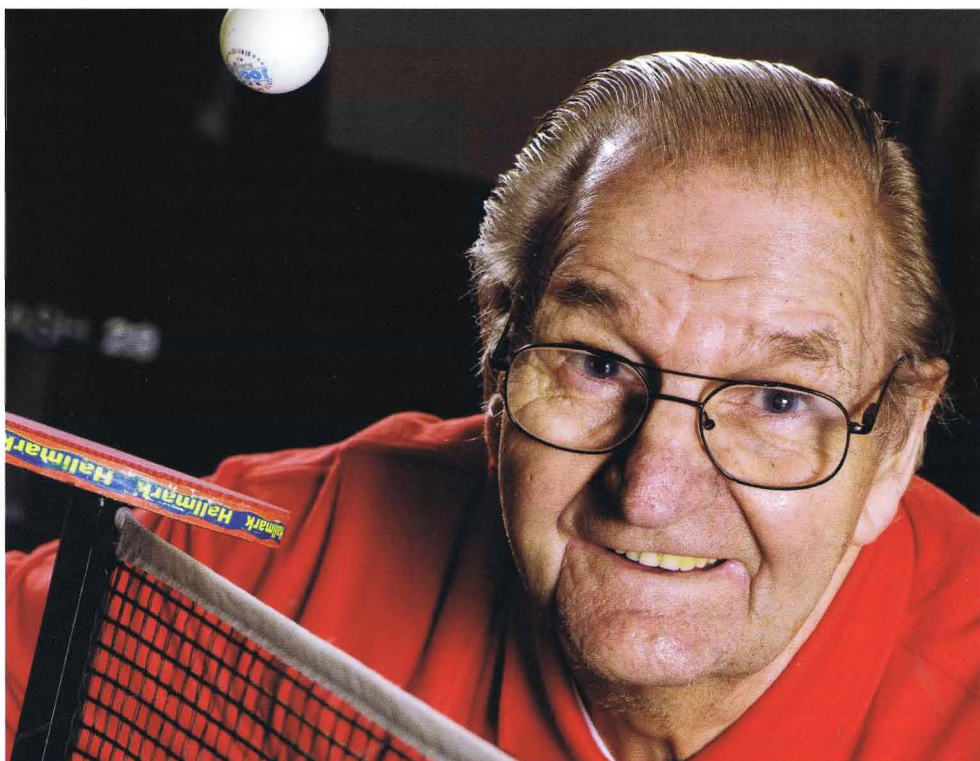
# Headlines

The latest stories from the Table Tennis World

## SCI FAIR PLAY AWARD

The Swaythling Club International Fair Play Award at the English National Championships recently played at Ponds Forge, Sheffield, was won by the third seed in the Men's Singles competition, Danny Reed from Cleveland. Danny was presented with the award by SCI member, Carole Knight Moore, who was the English National Champion three times, the English Open Champion and Commonwealth Champion and represented England for many years.

Carole was selected by the SCI members to present the award this year – previous presentations have been made by English Champions, Jill Parker to Bradley Evans, and Alan Cooke to Mathew Ware, and it came as a total surprise when Danny Reed was selected by the umpires to receive the Fair Play award. As an incredible coincidence, Carole and Danny are both from the Ormesby Club where Carole has been coaching Danny throughout his career in table tennis. Danny won three medals in the Championships, being the finalist in the Under 21 Men's singles won by Paul Drinkhall, the semi-finalist in the Men's singles and in the Mixed Doubles where he was partnered by Caroline Hallows of Cheshire.



## JACK'S HEARING GETS HIS GAME BACK

Our hearing is something we take for granted, but for one 80 year old table tennis champion from Beddau, the loss of his hearing nearly cost him the game he has played for 60 years until a local hearing specialist stepped in to help.

Jack Bullock has been playing table tennis since he was 20 years old and is the current British Table Tennis Champion for over 65s. But as his hearing deteriorated, his game started to suffer. In his 60 years of continuous play with at least two games a week and tournaments across the globe, Jack had developed a unique understanding of the noise a ball makes when it bounces on the table. After growing accustomed to this noise, he could pre-empt the speed of the ball and the direction it would bounce, which saw him rocket to the top of his game.

As he noticed the change in his hearing, Jack was worried he may not be able to continue with the game he loves, so he turned to the very latest digital technology at Wales's leading hearing aid specialist Hearing Aid Solutions to restore the

crystal-clear hearing that saw him achieve his success.

Jack said: "Table tennis is a huge part of my life. I train twice a week at my local club, 'Duffy's' the Ex-serviceman's Club on Sardis Road in Pontypridd, and I also coach some of the local young people. It's a great game and I would hate to be without it. My training needs to be quite intensive at the moment as I'm going to the European Table Tennis Championships in Croatia this June so you will find me at the club several times a week now taking part in league matches.

"When I noticed my hearing getting worse, I was terrified it would go altogether and I knew I had to act fast to save my game. I heard that there were some pretty high tech gadgets out there that could help people like me so I visited Hearing Aid Solutions and they carried out some tests and fitted me with hearing aids. It's superb. Every sound is so much crisper and I can hear the ball bounce again – just in time for the championships! It was such a relief."

## LOCOG APPOINT 2012 TT MANAGER



Richard Scruton

Richard Scruton has been appointed as the London 2012 Organising Committee's Table Tennis Manager at the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. The competition takes place at ExCeL in east London, close to the Olympic Park.

Richard will oversee all aspects of the Table Tennis competition at ExCeL. He will provide a focal point for the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) in relation to competition issues whilst ensuring that the

competition is organised in accordance with ITTF regulations, the IOC Charter and the Host City Contract. He will also be liaising with other LOCOG functional areas to ensure the coordinated delivery of support services such as accreditation, transport, medical, venue operations and volunteers.

Commenting on his appointment Richard said: "I am delighted to join the team of London 2012 sport competition managers and look forward to working with the ITTF to deliver

outstanding Olympic and Paralympic Table Tennis competitions. In Athens and Beijing I was grateful for the help and advice I received from previous Olympic Table Tennis competition managers. The four table arena at ExCeL will provide a memorable experience for athletes, spectators and volunteers. I look forward to helping showcase the sport that is the largest participation sport in the world and which began in Great Britain."

## UK SCHOOL GAMES CHANGE OF AGE RANGE

Following negotiations between the UK School Games Table Tennis Steering Group representing the National Governing Bodies of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and the UK School Games Board, the age category for team representation will be under 17 years of age on 1st January 2009. There is still no minimum age requirement. Age qualifications for the disability events will remain at under 19 years of age on 1st January 2009.

## TT RETURNS TO THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

Table tennis will return to the iconic Royal Albert Hall on May 7th for the Table Tennis Masters 2009. The Masters will be contested by the cream of the world's top players including crowd favourites Jean Michel Saive and Chen Weixing, plus other star names depending on form over the coming weeks. Darius Knight and Paul Drinkhall, the two rising stars of English table tennis, will also be there. You can order tickets directly from [www.tabletennismasters.org](http://www.tabletennismasters.org) or contact the Royal Albert Hall box office 020 7589 8212



## PRIZE MONEY INCREASED

Good news for the 2009 ITTF Pro Tour: the year-long competition series is now offering more than 2.8 million US dollars.

After the successful Qatar and Kuwait Open, where the prize money was raised for the first time in the history of

the Pro Tour to 300,000 USD each, the ITTF will have another event to be confirmed with an amount, starting with the magic number of "3".

The China Open on 3-7 June will take place in Suzhou, which will make its debut now on

the international table tennis scene. The ITTF will have a tournament for the first time in the city which is famous for its gardens, located in the centre of the Yangtze River delta and often praised as "Oriental Venice".



ALEX MURDOCH



## ALEX MURDOCH REMAINS CHAIRMAN FOR A FOURTH TERM

The election count for the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the ETTA for the administrative year 2009/10 and 2010/11 took place on Tuesday 10th March.

Chairman:

There was an 83% turn out for the elections which saw Alex Murdoch remain for a fourth term. A total of 521 votes were valid and counted with the break down as follows:

Elected: Alex Murdoch 292

votes (118 papers) 56%

Not elected: Alan Ransome 229 votes (92 paper) 44%

Deputy Chairman:

The race for the Deputy Chairman's seat was also hotly contested, with the end result mirroring the Chairmanship, as Peter Bradley retains his seat. The breakdown of the 517

votes was as follows:

Peter Bradley 295 57%

Mike Smith 222 43%

"Alex Murdoch said special

thanks must be given to Ron Washington and his team for all the work before and during the vote count as well as the membership for their interest and support during the election campaign, not just those who voted for us but all of the table tennis fraternity. We have a lot to do together over the coming years with the opportunities in place and others in the pipeline to help our sport grow and prosper."

## ITTF TV MAGAZINE SHOW

IEC in Sports, the Swedish based sports marketing company specializing in television media rights production and distribution, has today, Thursday 12th March 2009, announced an exciting new television sports magazine show, "ITTF World of Table Tennis."

The monthly TV magazine show, launched in conjunction with the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) and its marketing partner TMS International, will showcase one of the Olympic Games' most exciting and fast paced sports.

Under the terms of the agreement, IEC in Sports will also distribute the TV magazine show globally, with ITTF/TMS working jointly with IEC on the most important markets for the sport (China, Hong Kong and Japan).

"We are certain the launch of ITTF World of Table Tennis will continue to help increase the popularity and exposure of our sport globally", added Anders Thunström, Managing Director of TMS, the ITTF's exclusive marketing partner.

The show will include highlights from all major table tennis events, including the World and European Championships, the World Cups, World Team Cup, the Champions League, the Europe Top 12 and prestigious ITTF Pro Tour. The first show will launch in early May following the highly anticipated H.I.S.

2009 World Table Tennis Championships from Yokohama, Japan, which start in late April.

For further information, please visit also [www.iec.se](http://www.iec.se).

# Tony Pacitto

**The late Tony Pacitto was an unsung hero of coaching, albeit a flawed one. I agree with Jacquie Lovell's ETTA website comments that he had a massive influence on English table tennis**

Tony had a hand in the development of probably England's finest woman player for the last 50 years, Jill (Shirley/Hammesley) Parker (though he always acknowledged that a Mr Rob and Leo Thompson were her local coaches), and England's greatest player of the last 30 years, Lisa (Bellinger) Lomas, who as a youngster was a regular attendee of Brent Club coaching. More recently he was the major influence in the early career of England's top current woman, Joanna Parker. That these three champions all had games built round solid chop defence combined with occasional attack, highlights Tony's strength and bias in coaching: working particularly but definitely not only with girls – think of John Souter – and emphasising good all-round skills based on control and hard graft. Not just stars but thousands of other players, including the Evans's parents, must have gone through Tony's coaching sessions such as in Slough, West London and latterly Derbyshire. Tony was good at spotting talent. I hadn't seen him for years when we were watching a very young Kelly Sibley competing at a junior open. "Do you see that girl playing there? She is going to be one of the top two women in the country. I have got the other one (Joanna Parker)!"

I have known Tony for a long time, perhaps 45 years, and have cause to be grateful to him. Along with England junior NPC Laurie Landry, Tony, then a tall man in a dark blue blazer who stuttered, was about the first outside coach I got to recognise when I started playing in the junior open tournament circuit in the early to mid sixties. He was with top England ranked Buckinghamshire players such as his daughters Sue and Lesley, Jill Shirley (Parker), Robin and Jackie Napper, and Michael and Tom Wald, with whom I got on particularly well.

Frequently the only Cambridgeshire youngster on the tournament circuit, I sometimes took the train to London, where on occasions Tony would pick me up in his car from rendezvous points to take me with his players to and from tournaments. I don't know why he did me this

kindness because he had no need to: maybe he just felt sorry for me. Then when I started taking my own Cambridgeshire pupils to tournaments from the late sixties/early seventies onwards, I met up with him again. Some of my pupils, particularly Emma Swan (Loughton) and Karen Garner got on very well with his, which by that time included Southall/Middlesex girls Marilyn Sangster, Jill Campion and Sue Dove. Emma, a top England ranked cadet who was just breaking into the junior top 10 when she gave up aged 14, said, when I informed her of Tony's death:

"I remember him well. He was always so friendly and kind, even though we weren't from his area. It was because of people like him that we could go to events all over the place and not feel lost or lonely." I also worked alongside Tony at Middlesex County sessions run by Laurie Landry (who reciprocated by bringing his players to my Cambridgeshire sessions) at Barnet TT Centre. It must have been around September 1973, the Sunday before I started at college in London, when Tony drove me from a county session in Barnet to my new digs in Hounslow, en-route to going home to Slough.

He immediately got me active in some of his coaching sessions. I recall going to a soulless school hall in Southall where with endless patience he was coaching some young female beginners, none of whom seemed to have much potential. I couldn't have been more wrong – one was Mandy Reeves, who later exhibited massive talent as a highly ranked England junior and senior! It was through Tony that I very soon met the late Walter Mascarenhas at Ultra Electronics, and got heavily involved in coaching for 10 years at the Gunnersbury Triangle Club in Acton W3.

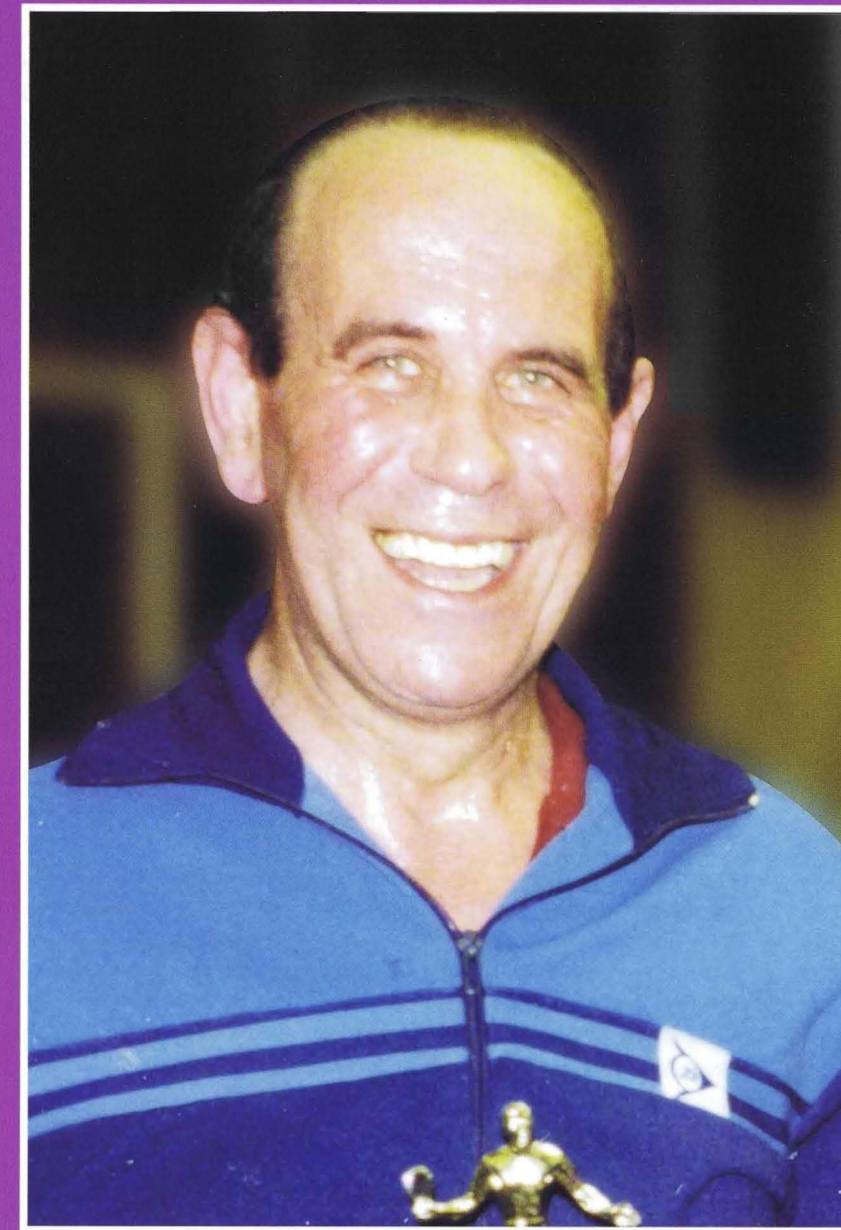
Significantly also for me, Tony also quickly got me involved as his assistant in a big new venture, Brent Juniors (funded by the Brent Youth Service), he had started at Aylestone High School in Willesden with Harry Beasley, when Harry suddenly pulled out. I did two stints

totalling around 6 years there. It wasn't long before we had a huge number of players training on 3 rows of 5 Stiga Expert tables, on Wednesday and Friday evenings and several weekends. Tony normally put me on the top strip with the better players, while he worked with the others.

There was a time, when Middlesex was easily the top county in England, when nearly all the top Middlesex juniors trained at Brent, as well as significant others from nearby counties. They came from miles around, including the Bellinger sisters from Dunstable and the Bradbury brothers from Aylesbury. Tony himself, still living in Slough, would take up to 2 hours driving each way to/from Aylestone High School as he had so many kids to pick in his big Volvo. He had immense energy and drive.

Tony was not only the main coach but also the organisational brain behind the Brent Club, or 'Brent Juniors', which evolved into or was the precursor for London Progress (DHS Greenhouse Progress), now Britain's most successful club. Ashton Jones and particularly Buxton Williams, who were instrumental in contributing to the early days of Progress, were regular attendees of the Brent Club, first as players and then as coaches, and many other Brent Club players moved on to London Progress.

Tony had so many good qualities, but he was far from perfect. When he was on your side he was totally loyal, dedicated, sociable (notably with adults over a whisky or two), kindly and would do anything for you. With favoured pupils he was endlessly patient, and would spend hours in the car, on the 'phone or in the playing hall counselling and advising players and giving them confidence that they were or would be really good. He expected and engendered a tremendous work rate in training. He loved his players, and had albums of photographs and cuttings of them, past and present (I wonder what has happened to these?).



The biggest problem was that his coaching technique was incredibly old fashioned (I thought his personal pen-hold playing style was more modern, but he wouldn't have it!) and he could not tolerate criticism, almost of any sort. He could also be infuriatingly obstinate and 'black and white' in his views. So he kept on falling out with people, and if you ever disagreed with him you had to walk on egg shells so as not to make it seem like a direct challenge to his authority. If he wasn't angry he could be incredibly hurt by dissent, and seemed constantly on the verge of giving up with table tennis to spend his time playing chess. Full of contradictions, Tony was both a bit authoritarian himself, but a rebel regarding authority. He was nearly always scathing about the ETTA (who he considered treated young players abysmally!) and officialdom, and to him the grass was always greener for table tennis on the other side, especially in Europe – he arranged several training trips in Eastern Europe. However, Tony's overall contribution to table tennis was absolutely immense, and must not be forgotten with his passing.

'If it weren't for Tony I doubt if the Evans boys would be playing' - he never received the recognition that he deserved.

but because he was not conventional, collegiate or establishment,

# Tournament Review

**This month we travel to Grantham for the Junior County Championships and then along to North Herts for the latest satellite grand prix**

## **JUNIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS DIV 1A**

The final four rounds of the Junior County Championships Division 1A matches were held at Grantham on 21st March. After the first three rounds of matches held back in October, Essex 1 led the division by two points from Nottinghamshire, Essex 2 and Cheshire 1.

In the first round of the day Essex 1 were in no mood to surrender their lead and thrashed bottom County Durham 10-0, only two matches requiring a fourth game. Cheshire 1 went 3-0 and 8-1 up against Bedfordshire, Beds' two coming from Ben Gardner and Nathan Forbes' wins over Jordan Potts. Staffordshire had a narrow 6-4 win over Suffolk, Jake Collins winning his two, with brother and sister Martin and Rachel West one each for Suffolk, whilst Natalie Slater won her two and the other

team members one each for Staffs' six. The other two county teams in close contention met. Essex 2 charged off into a 6-1 lead before losing the last three matches for a narrow 6-4 win, Annabelle Gibson gaining a fine -9, 10, 5, -2, 8 win over Sophie Neil, and Sam Walker maintaining his unbeaten run in the division.

In the second round of matches the two bottom teams met and only two matches went beyond three straight, Durham's Michael Hahn involved in both losing 3 in the fifth to Beds' James Coleman and 7 in the fourth to Ben Gardner. Beds won the match 6-4 by taking the six boys' matches, whilst Durham's girls Esther Zoos and Sarah Robinson won their four. The Notts v Suffolk match was similar, only two matches requiring a fourth game. Suffolk won the first two matches, George Kizis winning his only match of the day in four and Martin

West the last match against Harrison Chalkley. Notts won the other seven including all four girls' matches. 7-3 was also the scoreline in the Essex 1 v Staffs match. Essex's Emran Hussein and Nicole Sydorenko being the only unbeaten players in the match, although Emran needed to come back from 2-0 down to beat James Ward -7, -6, 11, 12, 5. James had another five game match against Reece Tan, winning 8 in the fifth. Cheshire 1 maintained their strong challenge, denting the hopes of an Essex one-two, with an accomplished 8-2 win over Essex 2. Annie Hudson and Rachel Baker won the four girls' matches and Josh Boulton both of his.

The third round of matches determined the promotion and relegation issues. Essex 1 beat Beds 10-0, only Reece Tan needing a fifth game to beat Ben Gardner, whilst Cheshire 1 won 8-2 against Suffolk. Suffolk's two wins came from Jake Collins who surprisingly needed five games to beat Jordan Potts. Notts condemned Durham to relegation following their 9-1 win, Durham's Michael Hahn defeating Aiden Keyworth 5, 11, -13, -10, 13. In the other match the only draw of the two Saturdays was between Staffs and Essex 2, Staff's Natalie Slater and Essex's Jared Patel the only players to win two matches, Jared's five game win over James Ward the most notable. Essex 1 therefore had an unassailable lead at the head of the table with Cheshire 1 the runners-up. Suffolk would need a miracle from their last match to avoid relegation. The last round seemed as though everyone wanted to get through their matches quickly for an earlier journey home after a long day. Cheshire 1 v Durham resulted in all matches being settled three straight. Durham won the first and Cheshire the rest.

Essex 1 team: Nicole Sydorenko, Evie Collier, Azarel Adebajo, Reece Tan and Emran Hussein.





Gosia Muda &amp; Klaudia Szadkowska

At one time the Beds v Staffs score stood at 2-2 but Staffs steamrolled the next five and finished with Shaun Slater winning the last against Nathan Forbes 7, -6, 7, -12, 13. Shaun had earlier been involved in the only other match to go past three, losing in five to Ben Gardner. In the Notts v Essex 1 again only two matches were not settled three straight, Evie Collier taking four to get the better of Lea Dickenson and Azarel Adebajo five in beating Aiden Keyworth. Sam Walker maintained his unbeaten record with wins over Emran Hussein and Reece Tan, but Essex 1 won the match 7-3. In the Essex 2 match against Suffolk, three matches went to four and only one to five, Hilkiah Adebajo coming back from 2-1 down for a win over Martin West. Essex's 7-3 win resulted in relegation for Suffolk and third place for themselves.

Only Notts' Sam Walker was unbeaten in the seven matches with Emran Hussein winning 13 out of 14, Reece Tan 12 from 14 and James Ward, Josh Boulton, Azarel Adebajo and Jake Collins each 10 from 14 starts. The most successful girls were Nicole Sydorenko 12 wins from 13, Rachel Baker 11 from 12, Sophie Neal 10 from 12 and Evie Collier 10 from 13.

By Arthur C Clark

## NORTH HERTS OPEN SATELLITE GRAND PRIX

The North Herts Banded Two event held at

## Tournament Results

### North Herts Open Satellite Grand Prix

**Men Band 1** - Chris Doran (Np) bt. Mark Simpson (Du) 11-6, 11-5, 11-5

**Men Band 2** - Matt Pernet (Sy) bt. Koji Hirota (Mi) 11-9, 7-11, 16-14, 13-11

**Men Band 3** - Jon Hall (Bu) bt. Jeff Rigby (Ox) 11-13, 8-11, 11-9, 11-6, 11-9

**Men Band 4** - Jon Hall (Bu) bt. Matt Porter (Sx) 11-2, 11-7, 12-10

**Men Band 5** - Kevin Caldon (E) bt. Lukasz Janisiewicz (E) 4-11, 11-9, 6-11, 11-9, 11-9

**Men Band 6** - Lukasz Janisiewicz (E) bt. Kevin Caldon (E) 12-10, 11-9, 11-5

**Women Band 1** - Klaudia Szadkowska (Mi) bt. Gosia Muda (Mi) 11-4, 11-8, 9-11, 11-3

**Women Band 2** - Ikue Humphrey (Sy) bt. Haylee Potts (He) 8-11, 13-11, 7-11, 11-2, 11-9

**Women Band 3** - Haylee Potts (He) bt. Ikue Humphrey (Sy) 11-8, 10-12, 11-7, 11-6

**Open Men** - Damien Nicholls (Sp) bt. Mark Simpson (Du) 11-9, 11-9, 11-9

**Open Women** - Klaudia Szadkowska (Mi) bt. Jurate Brazaityte (K) 11-8, 11-9, 11-8

**Veteran Men** - Jimmy Walsh (Mi) bt. Jeff Rigby (Ox) 11-3, 13-11

**U21 Men** - Mark Simpson (Du) bt. Damien Nicholls (Sp) 10-12, 12-10, 11-6, 11-6

**U21 Women** - Catherine Chen (HKG), Feifei Pei (Sy). Group.

**Restricted Men** - Matt Pernet (Sy) bt. Matt Spero (E) 11-8, 11-7, 11-8

Hitchin Boys' Sports Centre on 14/15 March 2009 saw Damien Nicholls (Sp) winning the Men's Open Singles, but Jimmy Walsh of Stevenage kept the home flag flying by being victorious in the Veteran Singles beating Jeff Rigby (Ox) 11-6, 11-3, 13-11. Nicholls won the Men's Singles defeating Mark Simpson (Du) 9, 9, 9, but lost to him in the final of the U21 Men's Singles 10-12, 12-10, 11-6, 11-6.

Another reversal of fortunes came in the Women's Bands Two and Three. In Band Two Ikue Humphrey (Sy) beat Haylee Potts (He) 8-11, 13-11, 7-11, 11-2, 11-9, while in Band Three Potts beat Humphrey 11-8, 10-12, 11-7, 11-6. Jon Hall (Bu) won both Men's Bands Three and Four. In Band Three he overcame Jeff Rigby 11-13, 8-11, 11-9, 11-6, 11-7, while in Band Four he defeated Matt Porter (Sx) 11-2, 11-7, 12-10. The third reversal came in Men's Bands Five and Six with Lukasz Janisiewicz (E) beating Kevin Caldon (E) in Band Six and losing to him in Band Five.

The North Herts Table Tennis Association would like to thank the referee, Mick Strode, for running an excellent weekend's table tennis with his usual efficiency and good humour, and the staff at the Hitchin Boys' Sports Centre for their continued support and help.

By Val Murdoch

Mick Stead (C) Paul Stansfield

# REIGNING CHAMPIONS REMAIN UNBEATEN

**Reigning champions Middlesex and former champions, 2007 winners Sussex, were unbeaten in their four matches on Saturday and first match on Sunday, and Yorkshire retained the county championships veteran premier division after an exciting weekend's play at Halifax Table Tennis Centre.**

## CADET PREMIER DIVISION

The cadet county championship premier division was played at Draycott and Long Eaton TTC over one weekend in February and two of last year's top three, Middlesex and Sussex, were involved until the final stages.

Reigning champions Middlesex and former champions, 2007 winner Sussex, were unbeaten in their four matches on Saturday and first match on Sunday.

Round 6 brought about the crunch match-up that everyone had been waiting for, as Middlesex faced Sussex, knowing that the winners of the match would almost certainly go on to be crowned champions.

Middlesex started the quicker as Ping Ho got the better of Tejas Padalkar in four games and Eden Fung held off a spirited fight-back from Jack Bennett to claim a five end victory.

However, the Sussex outfit were soon on the boards as Yolanda King overcame Sushmita Limbu 3-1. Helshan Weerasinghe made it 2-all when he refused to be put off by Connor Neenan's persistent screaming to triumph in five ends.

However, that parity was short-lived as Middlesex retook the lead through Tin-Tin Ho's clinical 11-8, 11-9, 11-8 win over Emma Torkington. Fung and Limbu made it a 5-2 advantage as they gained nail-biting 3-2 wins over Padalkar and Torkington respectively. With no room for error, Weerasinghe breathed life into Sussex's challenge when he won another thrilling five game encounter, this time disposing of Ping Ho (10-12, 11-5, 11-6, 7-11, 13-11)

Yolanda King did her bit to keep Sussex's hopes of a draw alive as she vanquished Tin-Tin Ho 3-1. But on the other table, Neenan finished strongly to record a 9-11, 11-0, 11-5, 11-5 victory over Bennett and seal a crucial 6-4 win for Middlesex. With a two point lead going into the final round,

Middlesex needed only a draw from their match with Warwickshire to ensure overall victory, meanwhile Sussex faced Nottinghamshire needing a big win and praying for a slip-up by Middlesex.

Sussex did all that could be asked of them in their fixture against Nottinghamshire. Sam Walker showed his class with comprehensive wins over Padalkar (3-0) and Weerasinghe (3-1) and Aiden Keyworth beat Jack Bennett (3-0), but Sussex had the rest of it their own way, gaining a 7-3 final score.

In the other hall, Middlesex were being given a scare by a determined Warwickshire team. Losses by Connor Neenan (to Matthew Outhwaite and Laurence Sweeney), Eden Fung (to Sweeney) and Sushmita Limbu (to Jessica Birbeck) put Middlesex in a hole at 4-2 down. Sushmita Limbu stopped the rot with an emphatic 11-2, 11-1, 11-0 win over Holly Thompson and Ping Ho then levelled the score at 4-all when he disposed of Outhwaite 3-1. Tin-Tin and Eden Fung wrapped up a hard-fought 6-4 success with wins over Birbeck and Mitchell Nash, respectively.

## VETERAN PREMIER DIVISION

Yorkshire retained the county championships veterans premier division after an exciting weekend's play at Halifax Table Tennis Centre. Starting the weekend lying in joint third place, three points behind Kent on six and Cheshire on five points, the White Rose county hit the decks running. With a squad of Bradford's Mick Stead, Heckmondwyke's Richard Lightowler, Chris Clinton from Hull and skippered by Huddersfield's Janet Adams, they overwhelmed Middlesex 10-0 although their opponents were unable to bring a lady player for the weekend which ultimately proved their downfall. Kent drew their opening clash with Leicestershire and with Cheshire losing to

Surrey, Yorkshire moved into second place, a point behind Kent. When Yorkshire beat Kent 7-3 in Saturday's second match the home county was now top of the table, joined by Surrey who were given a walkover by Wiltshire who were unable to raise a squad to travel to Yorkshire for the weekend. Kent had now been relegated to third place.

Sunday morning saw a change in the Yorkshire squad with Keith Rodger and Martin Lowe replacing Stead and Clinton, and a first match up against Sussex. When Lightowler beat Ritchie Venner 11-9 in the fifth in the second set of the match, this seemed to give Yorkshire a boost and they quickly established a winning 6-0 lead before finally recording a 7-3 victory.

With Surrey also winning on Sunday morning via a 6-4 victory over beleaguered Middlesex, the title was now between Yorkshire and Surrey who were tied on nine points and Kent, two points adrift, who could still take the title if they beat Surrey and Yorkshire were soundly beaten by their opponents Leicestershire.

Any hope that the two southern counties had of winning the title were soon dashed as Yorkshire moved into a 3-0 lead, which then became a winning 6-2 advantage before Leicestershire won the last two sets to complete the match 6-4 in favour of Yorkshire.

Kent beat Surrey to finish runners-up and although Wiltshire were obviously relegated as they had no points from the first weekend and were unable to field a team at Halifax, they were joined by Middlesex who contributed to their downfall by being unable to field a lady player at Halifax. However, they tried ever so hard to stay up as they gave themselves a lifeline by beating Cheshire on Saturday afternoon, but giving three sets away each match at Halifax finally told and although they scored six points they were still relegated by an inferior sets difference.

# backhand chop

As with the forehand chop, the backhand chop is carried out by defensive players and is usually played away from the table with backspin

Some defensive players use pimples on the backhand to try and vary the spin between forehand and backhand. Using pimples obviously limits their attack, but the hope is that they can vary the spin to make the opponent play a weak ball and therefore win the point.

## THE MAIN COACHING POINTS FOR THE BACKHAND CHOP ARE AS FOLLOWS:

### Ready Position (PIC ONE)

The right foot is slightly forward and the defender is in a balanced position ready to move either way.

### Backswing (PIC TWO)

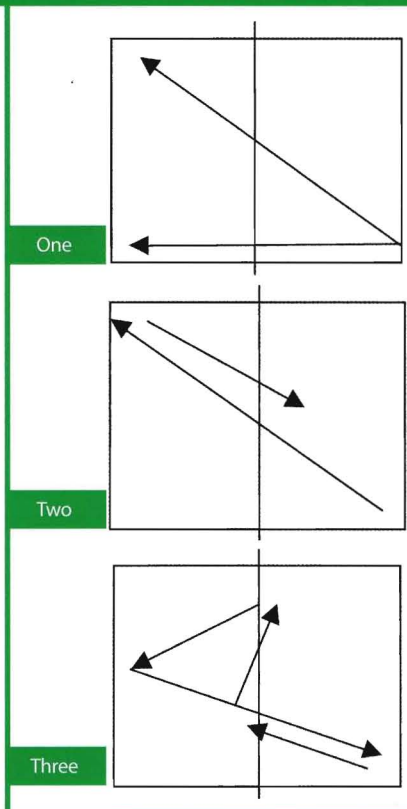
The left leg moves back as the elbow is bent and brought to shoulder height.

### Forward Movement (PIC THREE)

The forearm and wrist move forwards and downwards brushing the bottom part of the ball.

### Follow Through (PIC FOUR)

The bat continues in its forward path and is moved back into position for the next stroke.



Exercises One, Two & Three



### EXERCISE 1

The defender uses their backhand chop to play one ball down the line and one ball cross court. The attacker is using their forehand topspin to make the defender move in the backhand half and is also varying the speed and spin on the attack.

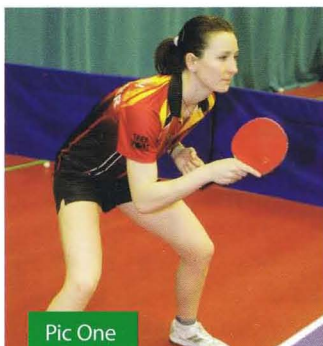
### EXERCISE 2

The defender is playing one backhand chop away from the table and then moving in to play a backhand push over the table. This will help them to improve their footwork in and out, and it will also help them to read the spin their opponent is imparting on the ball. The attacker is using their forehand topspin to play one attacking shot and then using their forehand push to make the player move forward.

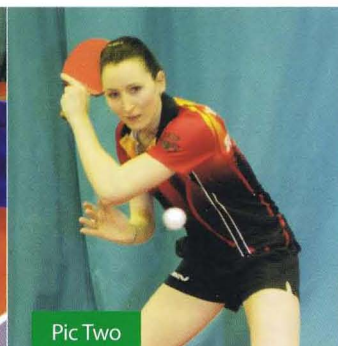
### EXERCISE 3

#### Service

1. Short serve to the middle.
2. Receiver touches to the forehand.
3. Defender plays a fh push to the middle.
4. Fh topspin to bh chop.
5. Point goes free.



Pic One



Pic Two



Pic Three



Pic Four

Emma Vickers



# the National Championships

A year has past since we last all gathered in the city of steel, with many of the title-holders back to defend their honour and glory. With such a big event consisting of so many rounds and categories here is a brief summary of the action; full results, pictures and videos are available on our website.

**DAY 1 FRIDAY**

**Under 21 Men** - Play got underway for the English National Championships, with the Under 21 Men being the first to step onto the Gerflor.

**Group Stages** - There were no real shocks in the initial stages, with the top seeds in 15 of the 17 groups progressing.

**Round 1** - Liam Pitchford won his play-off against Richard Andrews for the final spot in group 1 to go up against Paul Drinkhall. The game was definitely closer than some would expect. Drinkhall was made to use all the court and more, but eventually came out on top. The other winners were: David Meads, Tim Yarnall, David McBeath, Danny Reed, Mathew Ware, Gavin Evans and Darius Knight.

**Quarter-Finals** - The focal point, or should that be vocal point, of the quarter-finals was the hard hitting game of Ware versus Reed, both giving it their all with nothing between them, pure passion and determination evident on the surface in what must have been one of the closest games in National Championship history. Reed was the eventual victor 12-10, 9-11, 12-10, 11-13, 10-12.

There was also an impressive performance from Knight, the defending Under 21's champion, as he defeated Gavin Evans in a very convincing three straight sets, 12-10, 11-3, 11-2.

**Semi-Finals** - An event that has got one player's name so deeply engraved within it, will see a new champion crowned as Knight, the three times reigning champion, was disposed of in straight sets by Reed. Although Knight showed flashes of brilliance, frustration soon got the better of him, getting a yellow card and having numerous forced errors.

In the other semi-final, Tim Yarnall's show of form came to an end as Drinkhall closed him out in three straight sets to get to his usual final place.

**Danny Reed bt. Darius Knight 12-10, 11-9, 11-4**

**Paul Drinkhall bt. Tim Yarnall 11-6, 11-8, 11-9**

**Final** - Reed was playing exceedingly well, keeping Drinkhall honest and making him work for every point. Going into the third match 2-0 up Drinkhall eased along at a comfortable pace, whilst Reed was obviously working to his limit and beyond, three errors in succession saw the end of the game for Reed and Drinkhall clinching the title for the second time.

**Paul Drinkhall bt. Danny Reed 11-7, 11-9, 11-6**

**Champion: Paul Drinkhall**

**Under 21 Women** - The Under 21 women's is guaranteed a new champion, with the previous title-holders now no longer eligible.

**Group Stages** - One of the suspected dark horses, Sarra Wang, who did so well last year in both the seniors and under 21s, is out in the group stages.

**Quarter-Finals** - Karina Le Fevre got a bye, whilst Emma Vickers and Hannah Hicks both won their respective games 3-0, with only Melissa Wright being stretched to four matches when she faced Natalie Slater.

**Semi-Finals** - Melissa Wright proved too strong for her

**Liam Pitchford** won his play-off against **Richard Andrews** for the final spot in group 1 to go up against **Paul Drinkhall**.

higher seeded opponent Karina Le Fevre, taking the win with relative ease.

Emma Vickers had a closer contest against the twiddler Hannah Hicks, whose unusual style of play kept her in contention for each game, but on the day Vickers triumphed.

**Melissa Wright bt. Karina Le Fevre 11-6, 11-5, 11-7**

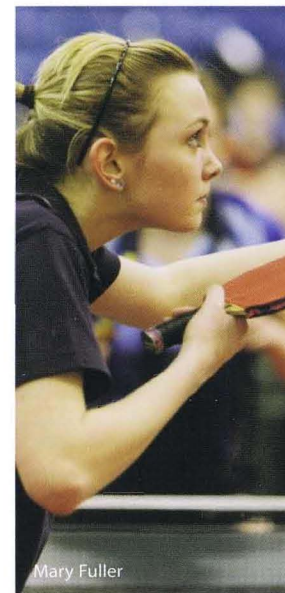
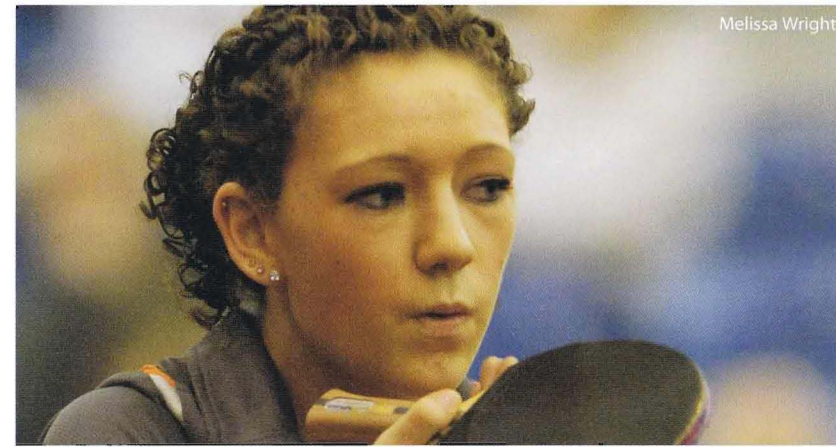
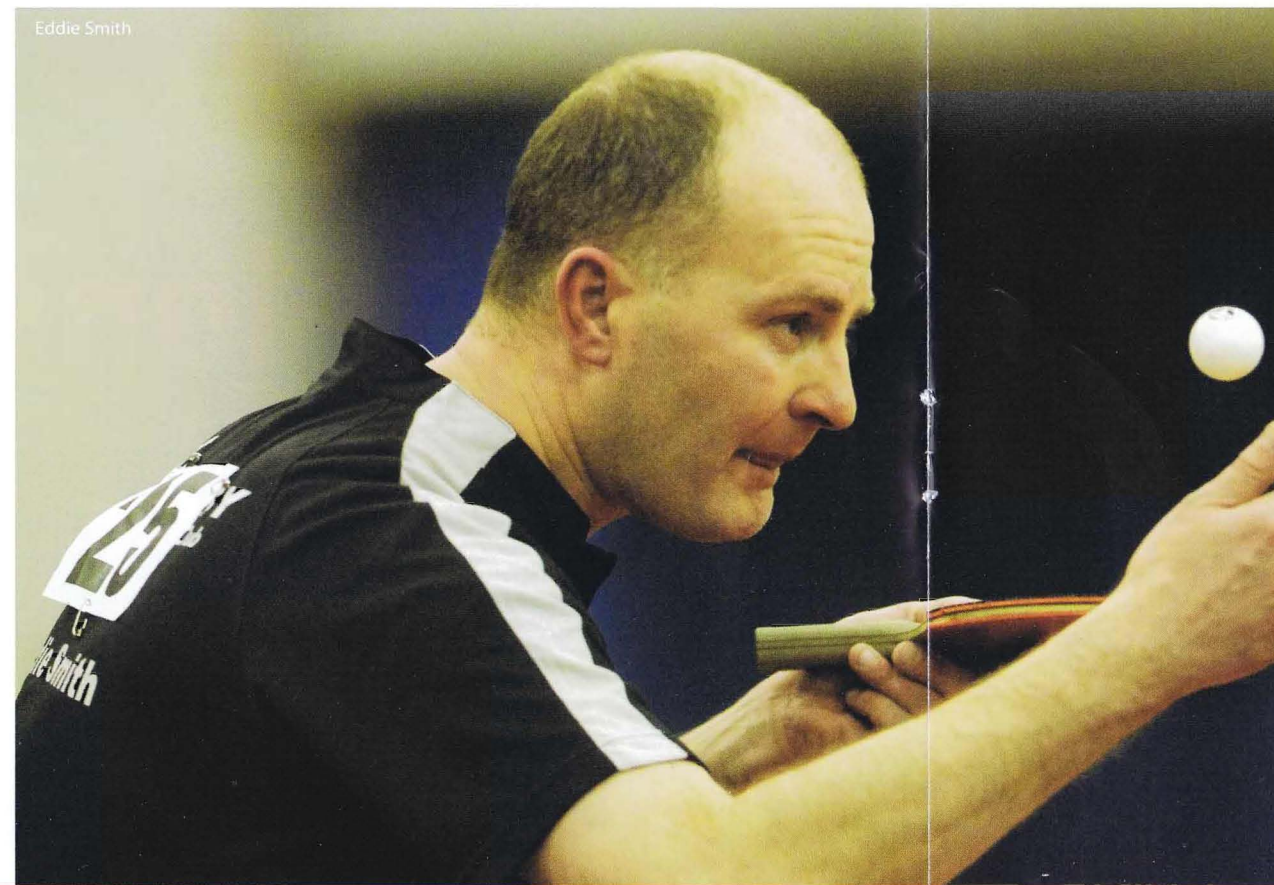
**Emma Vickers bt. Hannah Hicks 11-8, 11-9, 7-11, 11-9**

**Final** - Emma Vickers started proceedings rather slowly, struggling against the defensive style of Melissa Wright. Following advice from her coach she began to stretch Wright's game and gain confidence, this led to her levelling the score in the second game. Her impressive form continued to set the pattern for the rest of the match as Melissa failed to respond.

**Emma Vickers bt. Melissa Wright 5-11, 12-10, 11-4, 11-7**

**Champion: Emma Vickers**

**Veteran Men's Doubles Quarter-Finals** - There were some surprise results as the favourites and number one seeds, Abdul Wuraola/Jimmy Walsh, were defeated comfortably by Richard Lightowler/Shawn Bibby in their first match. Former champions Gray/Kerry were



next to exit as the strong pairing of Eddie Smith/Darren McVitie played some irresistible table tennis. **Semi-Finals** - The Smith/McVitie pairing proved too strong for Keith Williams/Chris Ford, sailing through to the final in convincing fashion. The other semi-final comprised of third seeds Clive Carthy/Simon Philipsz versus Lightowler/Bibby. Matching the unpredictable nature of the tournament the underdogs of Lightowler/Bibby squeezed through in the fifth.

**Eddie Smith/Darren McVitie bt. Keith Williams/Chris Ford 7-11, 11-4, 11-6, 11-5**

**Richard Lightowler/Shawn Bibby bt. Clive Carthy/Simon Philipsz 11-7, 11-8, 11-13, 9-11, 11-6**

**Final** - The final was a match too far for the unseeded pairing as the second seeds looked relatively comfortable, taking the match and the title 3-1.

**Eddie Smith/Darren McVitie bt. Richard Lightowler/Shawn Bibby 11-2, 8-11, 11-6, 11-5**

**Champions: Eddie Smith/Darren McVitie**

**Veteran Men's Singles Quarter-Finals** The two players from the preliminary round caused some upsets, with the unseeded Richard Lightowler defeating the reigning champion Abdul Wuraola and Costas Papantoniou taking out the number two seed Nigel Eckersley.

**Semi-Finals** - The successful play of Richard Lightowler came to an end when Eddie Smith, the highest seeded player left in the tournament, came out on top after a close five end game, he will be joined in the final by Keith Williams, who in three ends stopped the roaming underdogs from the preliminaries by beating Costas.

**Eddie Smith bt. Richard Lightowler 6-11, 7-11, 11-2, 11-7, 11-9**

**Keith Williams bt. Costas Papantoniou 11-2, 11-5, 11-6**

**Final** - The final saw seeds three and four battle for the crown, which in the end went to the lower seeded player Keith Williams in three ends. Although the first end was relatively convincing, Eddie Smith came out fighting hard in the second and third, but just couldn't quite muster enough to extend play.

**Keith Williams bt. Eddie Smith 11-6, 12-10, 11-8**

**Champion: Keith Williams**

**Veteran Women's Singles** - Due to numbers being

reduced down to five with Ida Leung not taking part, the veteran women's competition took the form of a round robin, everyone plays everyone affair, which saw Sanja Clements come out on top with maximum points. In second place, conceding just her encounter with Clements, was Michele Cohen and rounding out the top three was Jane Durham on two wins.

**Champion: Sanja Clements**

**DAY 2 SATURDAY**

**Women's Doubles** With no Kelly Sibley due to injury and Joanna Parker deciding not to compete, a new pair would be crowned as champions.

**Round 1** - All the higher ranked pairings progressed through without any major upsets.

**Quarter-Finals** - This round was all about the underdogs, with Emily Bates and Mary Fuller coming back from 2-1 down (two very convincing losses as well) to beat the top seeds Karina Le Fevre/Lindsey Reynolds 3-2. It was only a win from Hannah Hicks/Sanja Clements against Emma Rose/Michele Cohen that stopped it being a lower ranked whitewash.

**Men's Doubles Round 1** - There were only five close battles in round 1, with two going to the full five sets. One of the closest matches was surprisingly enough a 3-0 victory, this was when Mathew Ware/Chris Doran faced Keith Lesser/Ray Jordan, despite the final tally each set was a close fought battle going down to the wire, 12-10, 13-11, 11-9.

**Round 2** - The favourites continued on as Paul and Darius disposed of Stephen Davies and Tom Hughes in 3. The game of the round, however, had to go to the young Derbyshire pairing of Danny Lowe and Sean Cullen who upped their game significantly to take the scalps of Danny Reed and Damien Nicholls. The battle was relentless and could have gone either way, with Lowe and Cullen taking the first before going 2-1 down, only to come back again and win the fourth and fifth.

**Quarter-Finals** True to form the three seeded pairings had survived thus far and would continue their journey onwards, along with Lowe and Cullen who were adding to their tally of impressive wins.

**Senior Women Group Stages** - The top seeds didn't have it all their own way, with only five out of the ten making it through to round 1, the biggest upset was in group 4, which was turned on its head thanks to Haylee Potts. Yolanda King, Melissa Wright and Natalie Slater were all performing well too.

**Preliminary Round** - The two preliminary matches saw Mary Fuller and Natalie Slater make it through to the first round.

**Round 1** - With the top seeds prevailing it was only Emily Bates who bucked the trend continuing her impressive form by beating Lindsey Reynolds in four.

**Mixed Doubles Round 1** - The seven seeded partnerships all got a bye into the second round, allowing them time to suss out the skills of their

potential opponents.

Out of those that had to fight it out in the first round, youth prevailed with some of the top up and coming English talent shining.

**Round 2** - The south eastern pairing of Lewis Gray and Yolanda King (Kent and East Sussex) had a mammoth task ahead of them, facing defending champions and top seeds Paul Drinkhall and Joanna Parker. The two young England internationals dug deep to take the first game and although they then lost the next three, they held their own and can walk away knowing that they put in an impressive performance.

The only real shock of the round was the departure of Knight and Bates, losing 4-1 to the on form Liam Pitchford and his partner Martha Travis.

**Quarter-Finals** - The quarter-finals were a close exciting round, with two rounds being stretched to five ends.

The first of these was Danny Reed/Caroline Hallows against Gavin Evans/Lindsey Reynolds. It was an extremely close fought battle that saw Evans/Reynolds look likely to be the victors after taking the first two games, however Reed/Hallows managed to turn it around taking the next three and the win.

In the other, it was experience that eventually shone through, as Mike Marsden and Karina Le Fevre managed to come back from two rather convincing losses to scrape a third game win and turn the tide to come out on top 3-2.

**Semi-Finals** - The semi-finals were a mere formality with both games being settled in three straight sets to produce a Doran/Hicks v Drinkhall/Parker final.

**Chris Doran/Hannah Hicks bt. Mike Marsden/Karina Le Fevre 11-7, 11-7, 11-7**

**Paul Drinkhall/Joanna Parker bt. Danny Reed/Caroline Hallows 11-4, 11-9, 11-7**

**Final** - Drinkhall and Parker successfully defended their title when they faced Chris Doran and Hannah Hicks, it was in no way a one sided event with Doran and Hicks pushing them all the way, taking the third and fourth sets.

**Paul Drinkhall/Joanna Parker bt. Chris Doran/Hannah Hicks 11-8, 15-13, 10-12, 7-11, 11-7**

**Champions: Paul Drinkhall/Joanna Parker**

**Men's Singles** - The men's group stages looked likely to go through without any major upsets, that was until Lewis Gray turned up on table 2. On paper, group 17 looked like an easy prediction, the top seed Chris Lewis was ranked at 38 for the event, Zayd Mauthoor at 73 and the young Gray at 104. Off the back off a good mixed doubles performance, with Yolanda, Lewis began to tear up the form book beating both of his rivals 3-0.

**Round 1** - Two young guns from Derby were the surprise in round 1, beating considerably higher ranked opponents. First Cullen (63) knocked out the number 21 seed Shaun Marples, with an exceptionally accomplished performance; then Lowe (57) defeated Mark Simpson (31).

**Round 2** - The second round brought with it the arrival

Joanna Parker & Paul Drinkhall



of the big names as the top 10 seeded players entered the draw, but upsets were inevitable. Yes you guessed it, Lowe created another by knocking out the number 9 seed Garth Kinlocke; a player who has recently been in a rich vein of form, both at home on the domestic circuit and for his Swedish club.

**Round 3** - Round 3 saw an easy progression to the quarter-finals for Drinkhall when he met Abdul Wuraola, who had got this far without even needing to pick up his racket, but unfortunately he succumbed to injury.

Darius had a scare when he was stretched to six ends by an on form Pitchford, but went on to fight another day.

**Wheelchair Singles** - The round robin tournament of four was dominated by Mark Palmer, winning three out of three with an impressive score line of 3-0, 3-0, 3-0. Shaun Newcomb was next in line with two wins, these two players would then go on to face each other in the final.

**Liam Pitchford** won his play-off against **Richard Andrews** for the final spot in group 1 to go up against **Paul Drinkhall**.



Keith Williams

Palmer's dominance continued as he beat Newcomb in straight sets in the final, although Newcomb did a good job of stretching Palmer in the second and third ends, but Mark's strong show of form was too much.

**Mark Palmer bt. Shaun Newcomb 11-7, 11-9, 11-9**  
**Champion: Mark Palmer**

**Disabled Standing** - This year saw six players take part in the disabled standing event, with two going into the semi-finals from each group.

**Group Stages** - Group 1 saw Will Bayley go through in the number 1 position and Farrel Anthony in second, whilst group 2 saw Kim Daybell and David Wetherill progress in first and second respectively.

**Semi-Finals** - With first playing second Bayley made short work of Wetherill winning in three straight sets, whilst in the other semi, group 2 winner Daybell came out on top also in three.

**Will Bayley bt. David Wetherill 11-5, 11-5, 11-5**  
**Kim Daybell bt. Farrel Anthony 11-6, 11-5, 11-9**

#### DAY 3 SUNDAY

**Disabled Standing Final** - Daybell won the title for the second year in succession by beating Beijing Paralympian Bayley 3-1. Kim didn't have it all his own way though being stretched in the second and fourth and losing the third to Will.

**Kim Daybell bt. Will Bayley 11-5, 11-8, 8-11, 11-8.**  
**Champion: Kim Daybell**

**Men's Doubles Semi-Finals** - The 15 year old pairing of Evans/Pitchford started off stronger, taking the first game in convincing style, 6-11. This was quickly reversed by the reigning champions. The next two ends showcased some superb doubles play with fantastic execution, combining tactics and sheer determination. This set up for an exciting finale that proved to be an exceptionally tense affair, but the experience of Drinkhall/Knight proved too much. In the other semi Andrew Rushton and Tim Yarnall lined up against the rising stars Lowe and Cullen. This match also went all the way with the two Derbyshire based players, Lowe and Cullen, really testing the resolve of the more experienced pair. It was, however, the more experienced pair that won through.

**Paul Drinkhall/Darius Knight bt. Gavin Evans/Liam Pitchford 6-11, 11-4, 7-11, 11-6, 11-5**

**Andrew Rushton/Tim Yarnall bt. Daniel Lowe/Sean Cullen 8-11, 11-9, 3-11, 11-9, 5-11**

**Final** - In a repeat of last year's final, containing four of the top five players in the country, play began very evenly, with no one extending past a one point lead until it reached 6-4, with the lower ranked of the two sides taking that advantage, holding it all the way to take the win 11-8.

Drinkhall and Knight then showed their expected form to take the second and third games.

In the fourth, Rushton and Yarnall called a time out at 5-2 down to regroup, they obviously got some words of wisdom from their corner man, bringing it back to 8-7, but eventually the inevitable happened, losing

11-8 and giving Drinkhall and Knight a hat-trick of doubles' titles. Paul Drinkhall/Darius Knight bt. Andrew Rushton/Tim Yarnall 8-11, 11-5, 11-4, 11-8  
**Champions: Paul Drinkhall/Darius Knight**

**Women's Doubles Final** - Play was relatively even at the start with lots of rallies, Hannah Hicks/Sanja Clements took the first, whilst Emily Bates/Mary Fuller followed suit with the second. The match was evenly poised with both sides looking capable of claiming their first senior national title.

Three points in a row won by Clements sealed the victory for Clements and Hicks in the fourth.

Play intensified in the fifth, after a stand out smash from Bates suddenly both sides upped their game. Coming back from the brink at 8-2 down Bates (14) and Fuller took the victory in this very close final, a great achievement for a pairing that is potentially the youngest ever finalists, yet alone winners.

**Emily Bates/Mary Fuller bt. Hannah Hicks/Sanja Clements 6-11, 11-3, 11-9, 8-11, 12-10**  
**Champions: Emily Bates/Mary Fuller**

**Men's Singles Quarter-Final** - The match of the round was Andrew Baggaley versus Darius Knight, this was a Spanish influenced encounter, with both playing their professional game in Spain.

Knight brought along a much improved game, although there were a few cracks still evident. In the first round after a couple of mistakes Knight got a yellow card as frustration mounted and the language got a bit too colourful for the umpire's liking. This summed up the game, play was close but Baggaley was stronger and more composed, coming back from 2-0 down Knight levelled the score at 2-2, before Baggaley finished it off 4-2.

Joining Baggaley in the semi-finals will be Drinkhall, Reed and Rushton

**Semi-Finals** - Baggaley was playing some clever shots (sending the ball straight down the line), along with his trademark speed and aggression. Rushton tried responding, managing to bounce several off the net, but in the end he just didn't have enough to stretch Baggaley past five or six points.

**Andrew Baggaley bt. Andrew Rushton 11-5, 11-6, 11-6, 11-2**

The England number 1 against the number 4, on paper that's not a huge difference, until you look at the bigger picture and realise that Drinkhall is ranked 367 places higher in the world rankings at 128.

Reed started strong, taking a few points off Drinkhall in the first end, but that would prove to be his strongest period and his game began to wane shortly afterwards. Drinkhall as many predicted was just too dominant and ran away with it in four.

**Paul Drinkhall bt. Danny Reed 11-8, 11-3, 11-1, 11-3**

**Final** - As the event kicked off the atmosphere picked up considerably, with plenty of support for both players, the two trading points early on, coming out 1-1 after the second set. At 4-0 down in the third Drinkhall finally registered a score which quickly

became two. Play continued with both putting each other under pressure and the score levelling out at 6-6, this was the turning point for Drinkhall, eventually polishing it off at 11-7.

2-1 to Drinkhall and the big hits were coming out from both sides, Baggaley pulled a couple back to make it 8-7, before losing his footing and allowing Drinkhall to get the next point and continue on to win 11-7.

Baggaley started the fifth well, forcing Drinkhall to come back from a deficit after going one ahead he called a time out to recompose himself. That as they say was that, Drinkhall came back to the table and polished it off 11-6 to regain his title and complete a clean sweep of titles; U21, men's doubles, mixed doubles and senior men's.

**Paul Drinkhall bt. Andrew Baggaley 11-8, 4-11, 11-7, 11-7, 11-6**

**Champion: Paul Drinkhall**

**Women's Singles Quarter-Finals** - Neither Emma Vickers nor Karina Le Fevre were extending a lead, trading points in a rather polite tug of war and going to the full seven ends, alternating games between them, with Le Fevre eventually winning. The other three games were a lot shorter, only going to four ends.

**Semi-Finals** - As play began the outcome of Parker v Hicks became apparent very quickly, despite Hicks being a very strong player and hard to read with her bat twiddling.

Parker won the first 11-5, Hicks came back stronger in the second, obviously putting everything into it to get an extra three points off Parker, but then Parker showed her who was boss and knocked the next two home 11-3, 11-3 to seal the victory.

**Joanna Parker bt. Hannah Hicks 11-5, 11-8, 11-3, 11-3** Bates' impressive run came to an end, having already toppled higher ranked opposition, however Le Fevre was just one step too far.

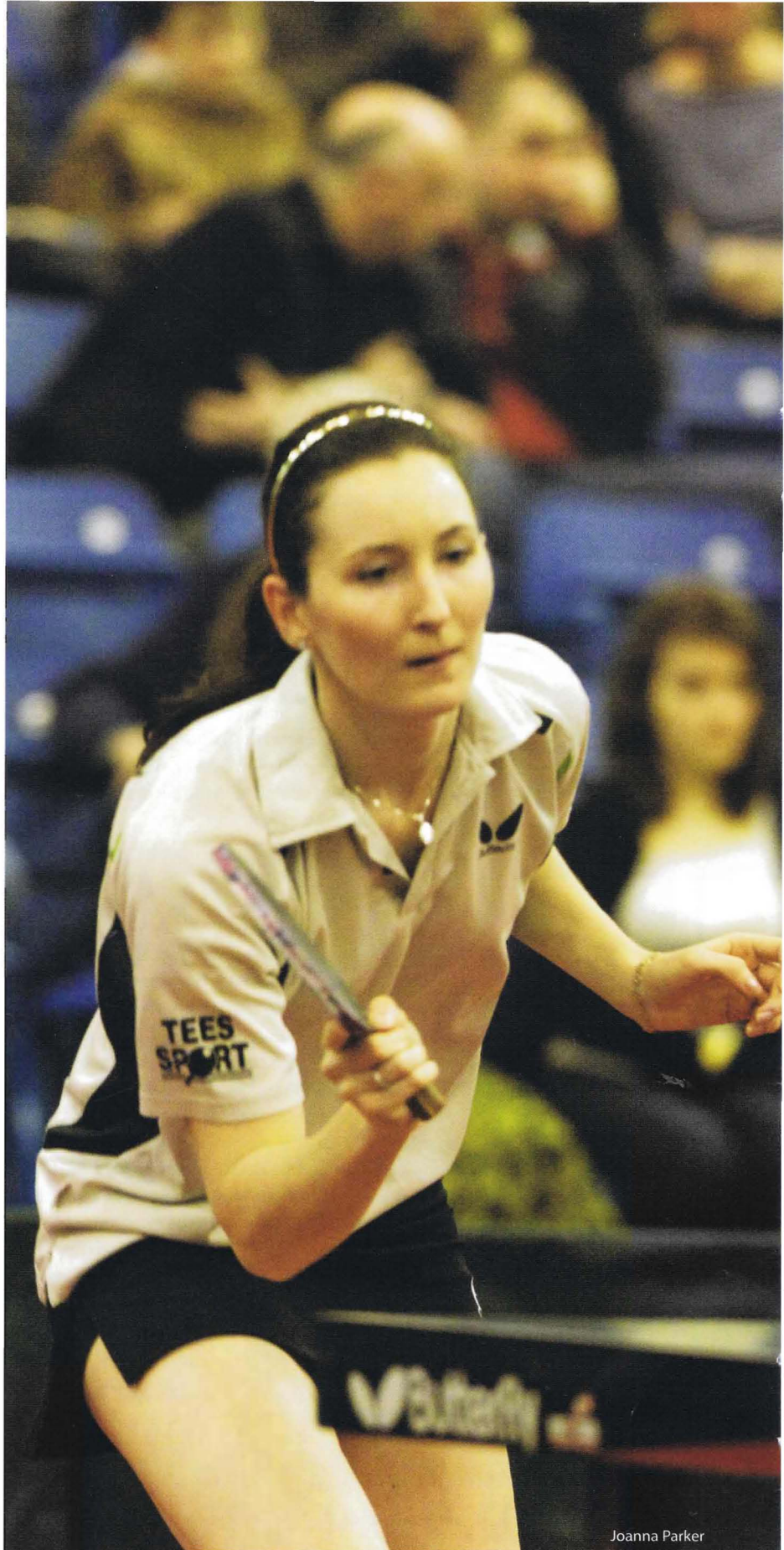
**Karina Le Fevre bt. Emily Bates 9-11, 15-13, 11-7, 4-11, 11-3, 11-8**

**Final** - In her best chance for years Parker had done everything right to claim the crown for the first time in her career, with only Le Fevre left standing in her way. With Le Fevre's "bogey" player being a defender, this should be Joanna's title.

The first set went as predicted with Parker winning 11-3 and the second set went even quicker at 11-2, followed by another 11-3. With a slight wobble in the fourth producing three unforced errors in a row, Parker finally triumphed 11-4 to take the title for the first time 4-0.

**Joanna Parker bt. Karina Le Fevre 11-3, 11-2, 11-3, 11-4**

**Champion: Joanna Parker**



Joanna Parker

In her best chance for years **Parker** had done everything right to **claim the crown** for the first time in her career, with only **Le Fevre** left standing in her way.

# A closer look at the stars

**IT was back in 1936 that a girl by the name of Margaret Hilda Roberts won a scholarship to attend the Kesteven and Grantham Girls' School (KGGs) in Lincolnshire. Ms Roberts' school reports underlined her hard work and commitment rather than a particularly natural academic brilliance, yet they were qualities that would underpin her status as a trail-blazer in British history**

Having married and changed her name in 1951, Margaret Thatcher would, of course, go on to become the first female Prime Minister and the longest serving Premier of the entire 20th century. Exactly 70 years later and there is another pupil of KGGs who is attempting to carve her name in history. Quite simply, Emily Bates would love to become Britain's first Olympic medallist for table tennis. Currently aged just 13, the London Olympics in 2012 might come around too quickly, but her remarkable performances at the recent English national table tennis championship suggest that the long-term ambition is not completely unrealistic.

While Paul Drinkhall might have produced the most eye-catching display of the weekend in going unbeaten to win four major titles, Bates' feat in winning the senior women's doubles and also collecting a bronze medal in the senior women's singles was arguably more impressive. With Bates being partnered by 16-year-old Mary Fuller, it means that the average age of the new English women's doubles champions is an unprecedented 14½.

Bates' progress is made all the more remarkable by the fact that her parents had no previous background in table tennis. Indeed, her talent was first discovered when brother Michael, who had never picked up a bat, won a table tennis competition that he entered after only making up the numbers when a friend dropped out.

The family were immediately advised by coach Hong Hong Peebles to get a table in their house. Emily, who was seven at the time, was asked if she wanted a game and her talent amazed Peebles. "I remember she ran in

to see me and squealed," recalls dad, Mark, "she said that if Emily did not become a national champion within three years she would refund anything we paid her to help coach Michael and Emily."

It took far less than three years for Peebles' prophecy to come true and the circumstances were certainly unusual. On the eve of the national junior championships the following year, at the age of just eight, Emily broke the wrist in her left arm while attempting a handstand in the garden. "We thought that would be the end and she was not going to play in the tournament," says Mark. "But then that night we were disturbed at 3am by noises in the house. My wife woke me up and said that someone had broken in and asked me to investigate. "I went down the stairs thinking I was going to confront a burglar and there was Emily attempting to practice serving while she had a plaster cast on her arm. I realised then that she was very serious about playing so we went to the national championships and decided to give her a chance to play."

"The tournament referee assessed her and, although it was difficult for her to move her arm away from the ball after serving, it was decided that she was not gaining any advantage. Anyway, there she was playing with a pink plaster cast on her arm and she reached the final of the Under-11 singles and won the Under-10 singles event."

Since then, Emily, whose sporting heroine is Dame Kelly Holmes, has won a further 14 national titles at various age groups, while last year she also becoming the first player to win both the junior and cadet masters events. At the time, she was just 12. Those achievements have helped her win vital sponsorship from the firm Amlin

Insurance. Yet it was the performance in the recent national championships that has really signalled her emergence among the country's best senior players. In the singles, she produced two surprises by taking the scalps of Lindsey Thornton-Reynolds and then Sanya Clements before eventually succumbing in the semi-final to Karina Le Fevre.

Yet if that was impressive, Bates and Fuller produced more shocks in the doubles where they overcame top seeds Thornton-Reynolds and Le Fevre to face Sanya Clements and England senior international Hannah Hicks in the final.

Fuller and Bates raced into a 2-1 lead and, at 7-3 ahead in the fourth set, looked favourites for the title. However, they let that lead slip and looked to have blown their chance when they faced deficits of 5-0 and 8-2 in the deciding fifth set. Indeed, at the change of ends in the fifth set, Emily turned to Mary and simply said: "We are in the national final and lots of people are looking at us – we need to get a few points so that we do not look so bad."

The advice clearly paid off and, with coaching from Denis Neale, the six times English men's singles champion, it is expected that it will be the first of many national senior titles for Bates, whose practice programme involves playing every evening after school, as well as weekend tournaments.

"The school and the headmaster have been fantastic," says Mark. "Twice-a-week they allow her to leave early at 2.30pm to make the round-trip of more than 150 miles to spend three hours training at the national centre in Sheffield. She is very dedicated and determined, but just especially loves the competition of playing matches."

While the likes of Bates, Fuller, Le Fevre, Hicks and Under-21 champion Emily Vickers proved that there is plenty of potential among the English women, Joanna Parker was utterly dominant in the singles event to win her first national title. She also teamed up with Drinkhall to take the mixed doubles and cap a season that has seen her rise into the world's top 150.

After losing to Andrew Baggaley in last year's singles final, Drinkhall clearly had a score to settle. Earlier in the weekend, he had comfortably defeated Danny Reed to win the Under-21 championships and also teamed up with Darius Knight to win the men's doubles.

The men's singles, though, was the big moment of the championships, with Drinkhall determined to reverse last year's defeat. The first two legs were shared, but Drinkhall's consistency in the big points proved crucial as he raced to a 4-1 victory at the end of a weekend that provided great encouragement for the future of English table tennis.

Photo Below: Joanna Parker, Paul Drinkhall, Mary Fuller & Daniel Lowe



# 25 POINTS ONLY GOOD ENOUGH FOR SECOND

**Score 25 points out of 28 and you don't expect to finish second, but that is the fate of 2009 Ilford first division champions Mossford I, in Division Two South of the Senior British League.**

Although they beat Sportingbet Guernsey 5-3 in round 11, they couldn't overhaul the Channel Islanders and it is the refreshingly young Guernsey team who went on to win the title by three games. Guernsey shaded it 84-28 as opposed to Mossford's record of 81-31.

Congratulations to the home-grown Guernsey squad of Garry Dodd, Scott Romerill, Phil Ogier, Oliver Langlois and Matt Stubbington. And don't bet against them making their mark in Division One South next season, particularly if Alice Loveridge plays as well.

Somewhat surprisingly, it was Mossford who called the shots when the two teams met and they raced into a 5-1 lead. The alarm bells must have been ringing loud and clear as Guernsey will have realised their points and games advantage was being eroded quicker than a Gary Dodd backhand. They will have been very relieved when Scott Romerill beat Matt Spero 3-1 in the seventh game and Oliver Langlois got the better of Keith Lesser 3-2 in the last game to make the score 3-5. Didier Nogma and Ewan Little had both been on top form for Mossford with the all-action Ngoma looking particularly sharp as he beat Dodd 11-3, 11-13, 11-8, 11-6 and Phil Ogier 11-9, 11-4, 11-8. Keith Lesser played his part as well and he did

very well to beat Phil Ogier 12-10, 11-9, 11-8.

After this set-back, Guernsey did well to keep their composure in their other three matches. Apart from a Scott Romerill defeat against Paul Davison they dominated the match against relegated De Vere NETTS, winning 7-1 and they followed this up by beating Brighton II 7-1. Gary Dodd took the Player of the Match award by impressively coming back from 2-0 down to beat Paul Carter 7-11, 8-11, 12-10, 11-6, 12-10. Oliver Langlois, a real success story this year for the Channel Island team, beat both Matthew Brown and Kevin Green 3-0. Guernsey completed what has been a fantastic season by beating a three-man Byng Hall team 6-2. Mark Brown proved to be their stumbling block and the Kent defender had things pretty much his own way as he hammered Scott Romerill 11-4, 11-3, 11-4. His win over Gary Dodd was an altogether closer affair and he needed all of his guile and experience before he chopped his way to a 9-11, 9-11, 11-6, 11-7, 11-5 win. Guernsey talisman and elder statesman, the still-improving Phil Ogier, made his mark by scoring a superb 11-9, 7-11, 8-11, 11-9, 11-8 victory over Mark Romano. DHS London Progress III avoided relegation in some style, by virtue of

thrashing Brighton II 7-1 in round 11. Right from the first game when Jake Collins beat Johnny Clarke 3-0 it was the Southall team who were in charge and they hardly put a foot wrong as Collins, Tony Wilkinson and Ryan Maynard all stayed undefeated. Wilkinson proved to be the master of winning the close game, getting the better of Kevin Green 11-9, 11-8, 11-8, and then most impressively Johnny Clarke 11-9, 11-9 (the "daylight robbery" score as ETTA Grand Prix Press Officer Geoff Ware calls it!!). Sullivan Morais put his defeat against Matthew Brown firmly behind him by getting the better of Gary Bonner 9-11, 11-7, 13-11, 12-10 in his second singles. Bedford Modern I will be pleased with their return of 12 points for the season, and they will look forward to doing even better next year if their top player Andy Trott can be persuaded to play more. Trott led his side to a 6-2 win over De Vere NETTS by beating Kevin Read (3-1) and Paul Davison (3-0), and he received excellent support from fellow double winner Stuart Seaholme.

## PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Drumchapel Glasgow I	10	0	0	71	9	20
Ellenborough I	6	1	3	40	40	13
Batts Team Peniel I	5	2	3	45	35	12
Westfield I	4	4	2	43	37	12
DHS Greenhouse Progress I	4	2	4	37	43	10
Ormesby I	2	4	4	33	47	8
Fusion I	0	3	7	30	50	3
Greenhouse Tik	1	0	9	21	59	2

Mark Romano

### DIVISION 1 NORTH

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Derwent I	10	0	0	63	17	20
Ormesby II	8	1	1	54	26	17
Drumchapel Glasgow II	6	1	3	50	30	13
Barrow	4	2	4	35	45	10
Rotherham Scorpions I	2	3	5	35	45	7
Grantham	2	3	5	34	46	7
Halton	2	1	7	32	48	5
Fastbats	0	1	9	17	63	1

### DIVISION 1 SOUTH AND MIDLANDS

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sycamore	10	0	0	64	16	20
Olop Impact I	7	1	2	51	29	15
Elgre Nottingham I	5	2	3	42	38	12
Kingfisher	3	2	5	37	43	8
Cippenham II	3	2	5	34	46	8
Fusion II	3	1	6	33	47	7
Carrara Polska I	2	2	6	30	50	6
Urban Progress II	1	2	7	29	51	4

### DIVISION 2 SOUTH

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sportingbet Guernsey	9	1	0	61	19	19
Mossford I	7	3	0	54	26	17
Byng Hall I	6	2	2	55	25	14
Brighton II	4	3	3	40	40	11
Horsham II	3	2	5	35	45	8
Bedford Modern I	3	1	6	32	48	7
Dhs Greenhouse Progress III	1	0	9	25	55	2
De Vere NETTS	1	0	9	18	62	2

### DIVISION 3 NORTH

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Drumchapel Glasgow III	10	0	0	66	14	20
Pudsey I	6	3	1	49	31	15
Uxbridge I	6	2	2	53	27	14
Hull C.N.T.S.	5	2	2	42	30	12
Formby	3	1	5	30	42	7
Ormesby III	2	1	7	27	53	5
St. Mary's Hull	1	1	8	27	53	3
Sunderland	0	0	8	10	54	0

### DIVISION 3 SOUTH AND MIDLANDS

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Westfield II	6	2	0	46	18	14
Carrara Polska II	5	1	2	37	27	11
Woodfield I	3	4	1	41	23	10
Fellows Cranleigh	4	2	2	39	25	10
VRS Generation II	3	1	4	32	32	7
Olop Impact II	2	3	3	30	34	7
Mossford II	2	1	5	23	41	5
Southampton West	0	0	8	8	56	0

### DIVISION 4 SOUTH

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inspire Bognor Regis	9	0	1	59	21	18
Woolwell III	6	0	4	48	32	12
Barnet	5	2	3	47	33	12
Metropolitan Police	5	1	4	44	36	11
Pavilion	3	3	4	38	42	9
Ellenborough II	3	3	4	37	43	9
Batts Team Peniel III	3	1	6	33	47	7
Byng Hall II	0	2	8	14	66	2

### DIVISION 1 SOUTH

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Urban Progress I	9	1	0	66	14	19
Brighton I	7	1	2	51	29	15
Woolwell I	6	3	1	51	29	15
VRS Generation I	4	3	3	39	41	11
DHS Greenhouse Progress II	3	2	5	35	45	8
Batts Team Peniel II	2	2	6	31	49	6
York Gardens I	1	1	8	24	56	3
Cippenham I	0	3	7	23	57	3

### DIVISION 2 NORTH

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northfield I	10	0	0	69	11	20
Murrayfield	7	2	1	55	25	16
Sheffield	6	1	3	50	30	13
Market Rasen	4	3	3	40	40	11
Chesterfield	4	1	5	36	44	9
Smiths Wood Brabar	1	2	7	27	53	4
Derwent II	2	0	8	23	57	4
Elgre Nottingham II	1	1	8	20	60	3

### DIVISION 2 SOUTH AND WEST

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brighton City	8	1	1	56	24	17
Ashford I	5	2	3	42	38	12
Horsham I	4	2	4	40	40	10
Woolwell II	4	2	4	38	42	10
York Gardens II	3	3	4	42	38	9
B@S Group Okehampton	4	1	5	36	44	9
Club Cornwall	3	1	6	34	46	7
NWF	3	0	7	32	48	6

### DIVISION 3 SOUTH

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ashford II	8	1	1	56	24	17
Fusion III	5	2	3	45	35	12
Crusaders	3	4	3	44	36	10
DHS Greenhouse Progress IV	4	2	4	39	41	10
Cippenham III	5	0	5	34	46	10
Horsham III	4	1	5	38	42	9
Hastings	2	2	6	33	47	6
SEH Britannia Ipswich	2	2	6	31	49	6

### DIVISION 4 NORTH

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northfield II	9	0	1	60	20	18
Rotherham Scorpions II	5	4	1	47	33	14
Ormesby IV	4	4	2	43	37	12
Drumchapel Glasgow IV	4	3	3	39	41	11
Pudsey II	3	1	6	34	46	7
Isle Of Man	3	1	6	28	52	7
Hydroflo Team Matlock	2	2	6	34	46	6
Uxbridge II	2	1	7	35	45	5

### DIVISION 4 SOUTH AND MIDLANDS

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Keyworth	9	0	1	58	22	18
Howard	6	3	1	49	31	15
Yaxley Royal British Legion	5	3	2	47	33	13
Woodfield II	4	3	3	42	38	11
Briar Redlands Rookies	2	5	3	39	41	9
Bedford Modern II	2	2	6	33	47	6
York Gardens III	2	2	6	32	48	6
Dhs Greenhouse Progress V	1	0	9	20	60	2

# County Notes

## Berkshire by Colin Dyke

Having been promoted and consequently relegated from the County Championships Premier Division in the last two seasons, the Berkshire table tennis squad were looking to continue the trend and regain promotion at the County Division 1 weekend held at Cippenham TTC.

The first day was all Berkshire and saw first class victories, with Richard Andrews and Dave Barr remaining unbeaten and Hari Gehlot also playing well. Sue Johnson led the ladies from the front with a valuable contribution from Julie Evans, who was warmly welcomed back to the county squad. The victories came against Herts 6-4, Middx II 6-4, Dorset 9-1 and Surrey 7-3.

It was becoming clear that the promotion place was between Berkshire and Cornwall, who were also unbeaten with three wins and a draw.

Martin Adams replaced Richard for the Sunday matches which firstly saw Berkshire see off a strong Glamorgan side 7-3. Cornwall had also won to set up the penultimate match showdown decider. Berkshire needed a draw to stay ahead of their west country counterparts.

Things started well with Martin brushing aside Adrian Noott and Hari conquering the very steady Jeremy Williams. Lisa Sprackling was drafted in to replace Julie, but neither Lisa nor Susan were successful in the first round of ladies matches. Berkshire went behind 2-3 when Dave Barr eventually lost his 100% record to the highly ranked Darren Reed, going down 8 in the fifth in a typical Barr epic battle. Hari performed brilliantly to overcome Adrian Noott to level the match. However, on paper, looking at the rest of the matches to be played, Berkshire looked set for a 4-6 defeat.

Step in Susan Johnson – against the odds she brilliantly defeated the talented and higher ranked Martha Travis in five close sets and Berkshire regained the lead at 4-3. Adams also narrowly lost out to Reed 9 in the fifth and the score was once again level at 4-4. Lisa, fresh out of maternity leave, couldn't quite beat the Cornwall number 2, and so it was Dave Barr who calmly overcame a strong challenge from Jeremy Williams to earn a hard fought draw.

The final match required Berkshire to avoid defeat to Essex II which was comfortably achieved by a score of 7-3 with all team members contributing.

So it's a deserved return to the Premier Division next season.

## HIGHLIGHTED NEWS FROM BERKSHIRE

Martin Adams replaced Richard for the Sunday matches which firstly saw Berkshire see off a strong Glamorgan side 7-3. Cornwall had also won to set up the penultimate match showdown decider. Berkshire needed a draw to stay ahead of their west country counterparts. Things started well with Martin brushing aside Adrian Noott and Hari conquering the very steady Jeremy Williams. Lisa Sprackling was drafted in to replace Julie, but neither Lisa nor Susan were successful in the first round of ladies matches. Berkshire went behind 2-3 when Dave Barr eventually lost his 100% record to the highly ranked Darren Reed, going down 8 in the fifth in a typical Barr epic battle. Hari performed brilliantly to overcome Adrian Noott to level the match. However, on paper, looking at the rest of the matches to be played, Berkshire looked set for a 4-6 defeat.

Let's hope the trend is bucked then.

Elsewhere, it's congratulations to Newbury, who won the Barbara Peisley Inter-Town competition for the third time in 30 years when just pipping Reading by one point at Kingfisher Club. They won four of the six divisions including the top two senior and veteran divisions.

Hari Gehlot won six events in the Maidenhead Closed championships but was pushed hard in the men's final where he overcame a very young and determined Eddie Mitchell. Gemma Chapman took the ladies title with a three straight win over county champion Emma Human.

### Other results:

Veterans 2 beat Middlesex 5 8-2

Veterans 2 beat Surrey 4 7-3

Veterans 4 beat Herts 6 7-3

Veterans 4 drew with Northants 3 5-5

Veterans 4 beat Herts 5 7-3

Veterans 5 lost to Devon 2 2-8

Veterans 5 lost to Devon 3 3-7

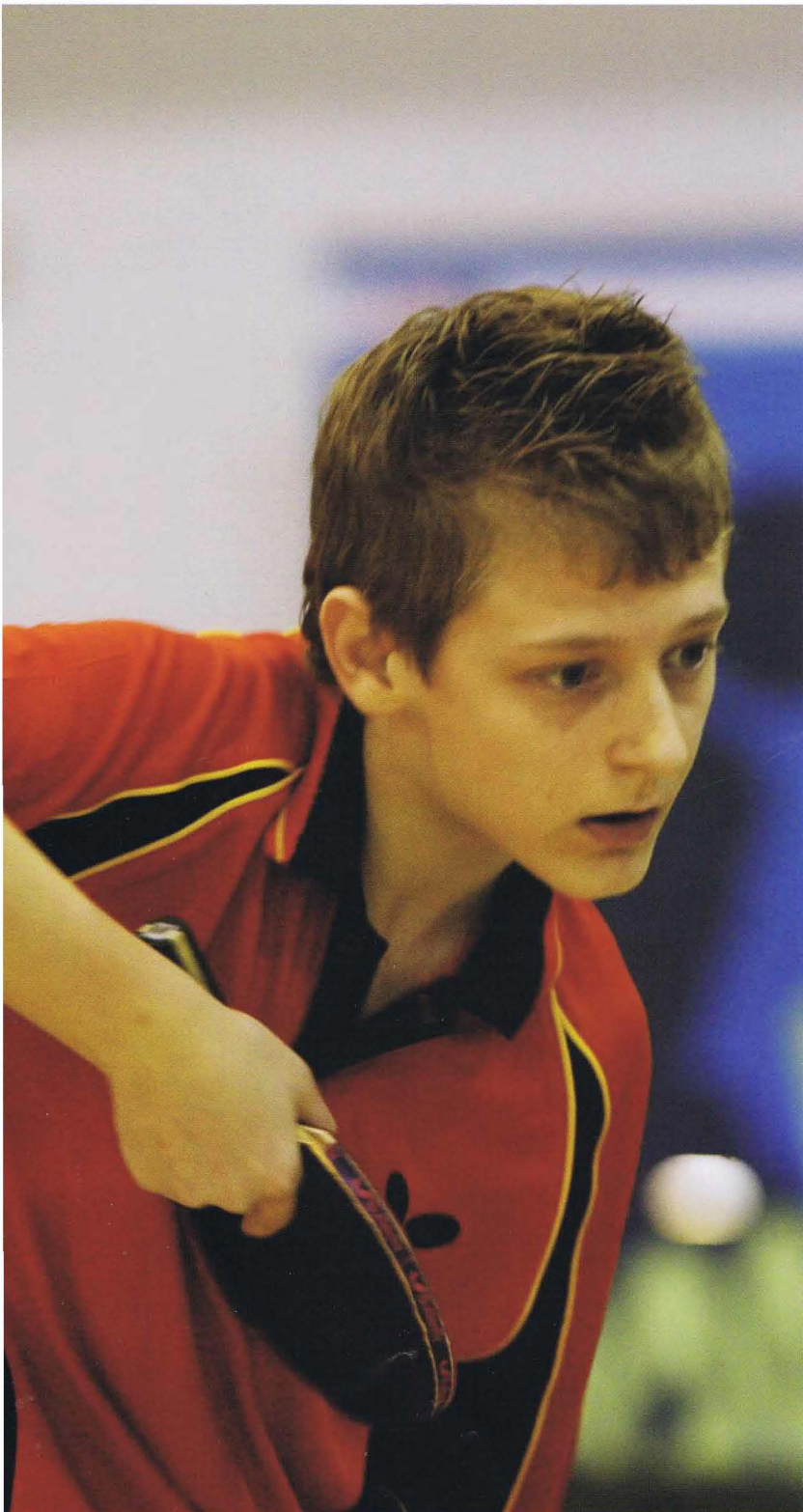
Veterans 5 beat Herts 3 8-2

## Derbyshire by Neil Houghton

Derbyshire Junior II have just done their second weekend, this time at Grantham. The team was Tom Booth, Danny Burton, Josh Packwood, Frances Baker and, on debut, Isobel Ashley. It is a junior team and although they want to get the younger end out to an extent, they prefer not to go too young, as another aim is to use some of the better teenagers who don't make the first team to give them a good outing. For example, no. 1 Tom Booth who some years ago would have been a solid no. 3 for the first team. Anyway going into the weekend in fifth place they all did a good job, with a draw against Norfolk and a draw and win respectively against neighbours Lincolnshire and Leicestershire. Top scorer in the boys was Tom on 4/6, whilst Frances and Isobel only dropped one each for 5/6. As these were the weaker teams we needed at least another point to improve, so stayed in a creditable fifth position in the first year for this new team. Well done!

Just had Derbyshire schools singles and I was free to pop in to latter stages of the U11s at Springwell to see Jayden Budworth and Tim Denby coming out on top, the runners-up were Zoe Fearn and Calum Goodman. The older age groups

The first day was all Berkshire and saw first class victories, with **Richard Andrews** and **Dave Barr** remaining unbeaten



were on another evening at St. Mary's - U13s winners Ronan Kelly and Isobel Ashley; runners-up Peter Baker and Isobel Hampson. Keeping it in the family in the U16 boys was Oliver Hampson, U16 girls was Abbie Millwain winning over Frances Baker. In U19s it was England players Danny Lowe and Lucy Davidson taking the finals, with Tom Booth and Hayley Gleeson runners-up.

Waingroves seems to be a balanced club between traditional table tennis and a modern organization, whilst keeping experienced feet on the floor. I noticed a spot of news from the younger end, Sarah Holden winning ETTA Volunteer of the Year for her organisation within the club.

In the recent schools team event second rounds Springwell U16 Boys are in the finals with Danny Lowe, Sean Cullen, Josh Packard and from younger age group Ronan Kelly. It is tricky getting teams together because the best players in an area are often not in the same schools. Good luck to all those through to schools singles finals which are usually around the time of this issue.

Danny and Sean missed the junior day of the Grantham 4 Star to travel to Bradford for the above team event. A busy weekend for Ronan who, as a cadet, also played at Grantham on the Saturday, reaching U13s quarter-finals. Lucy Davidson beat Emily Bates to the cadet title on Saturday, then was the runner-up to same player on juniors' Sunday. Nice to see all these Derbyshire players coming out at top with good performances!

#### **Devon by John Smith**

After narrowly missing out last season, the Devon senior second team pipped Avon for promotion from Division 2B on sets difference after the two teams fought out a 5-5 draw at Okehampton. The team was bolstered by the inclusion of top juniors Richard Marshall and Chris Smith, both of whom have already played for the first team in the Premier Division, and vastly experienced ex-national veterans champion Elaine Short, who completed the whole series unbeaten. In the first match of the day, Paralympian Will Bayley put in a stunning performance for Avon against Smith, 129 places higher in the rankings, taking the first two games, 11-3, 11-5, before his opponent clawed his way back, finally winning 14-12 in the fifth. Marshall surprisingly lost out to Avon number one Dave Reeves to confirm the draw, but the Devon team knew that three more convincing wins would keep them ahead.

However, a very nervy performance against Warwickshire, in which Marshall and Smith both suffered shock defeats, only produced a narrow 6-4 win thanks to unbeaten ladies, Short and Sonja Wicks. More comfortable 9-1 wins against

# County Notes

Gloucestershire 2 and Worcestershire saw them home. Elaine Short showed no lack of stamina by returning to the same venue the following day to star in the Devon Closed Championships by taking the ladies, ladies doubles and mixed doubles titles. She suffered her only defeat of the weekend against Sally Smith in the ladies round robin, but Smith lost out on count back after losing to another wily veteran, Penny Perry. Smith and Short teamed up to comfortably win the doubles, whilst Kevin Buddell helped Short to the triple crown with mixed doubles victory over Smith and Harry Cutler.

Paul Whiting continued the veteran players' dominance, retaining both his men's (against Richard Marshall) and veterans' (from Mike Short) titles, while the only title to elude the county's "players of a certain age" was the men's doubles, surprisingly won with a number of memorable performances by Rory Harries and Joe Clifford junior.

Missing from the senior championships were four Woolwell TTC girls from Devonport High School, Vicky Smith, Amy Whiting, Laura McLeod and Gabriella Hattersley, who were in Cheltenham, busy clinching a place in the National Schools' Teams Under 19 final to be held later in the month at Hinckley.

## Essex by Steve Kerns

**Southend Closed** - After a six year absence from the sport and despite having only played in four league matches, former Essex no. one junior and senior Cris Sladden won his eighth Southend Men's Singles title. In his semi-final Stuart Gibbs beat another player who has made a dramatic return to the sport, with a swift climb up the ETTA veterans rankings - Kevin Caldon. However, Stuart couldn't contain Cris in the final and Cris ran out an 11-7, 15-13, 11-5 winner. Stuart sportingly acknowledged "Cris was just a different class". Elsewhere, Duncan Taylor and Kevin Read impressed in winning the Men's Doubles with a superb quick-fire 11-6, 11-4, 11-5 victory over Kevin Caldon and Dave Bowles, whilst Terry Guymmer picked up the Veterans' Singles after a marathon struggle against Caldon. Terry pinched this one 4-11, 16-14, 9-11, 11-8, 12-10. Linda Murray had few problems in annexing the Ladies' Singles - beating Sarah Mapes 3-0 in the final.

**Men's Singles** - Cris Sladden bt. Stuart Gibbs 11-7, 15-13, 11-5. **Ladies' Singles** - Linda Attridge bt. Sarah Mapes 11-3, 11-5, 11-1. **Men's Doubles** - Kevin Read/Duncan Taylor bt. Kevin Caldon/Dave Bowles 11-6, 11-4, 11-5. **Ladies' Doubles** - Linda Attridge/Mel Jones bt. Pam Swan/Sarah Mapes 11-8, 11-7, 11-8. **Mixed Doubles** - Stuart Gibbs/Linda Attridge bt.

## HIGHLIGHTED NEWS FROM DEVON

After narrowly missing out last season, the Devon senior second team pipped Avon for promotion from Division 2B on sets difference after the two teams fought out a 5-5 draw at Okehampton. The team was bolstered by the inclusion of top juniors Richard Marshall and Chris Smith, both of whom have already played for the first team in the Premier Division, and vastly experienced ex-national veterans champion Elaine Short, who completed the whole series unbeaten. In the first match of the day, Paralympian Will Bayley put in a stunning performance for Avon against Smith, 129 places higher in the rankings, taking the first two games, 11-3, 11-5, before his opponent clawed his way back, finally winning 14-12 in the fifth. Marshall surprisingly lost out to Avon number one Dave Reeves to confirm the draw, but the Devon team knew that three more convincing wins would keep them ahead.

Jamie Wilson/Sarah Mapes 11-8, 11-8, 11-3. **Veterans' Singles** - Terry Guymmer bt. Kevin Caldon 4-11, 16-14, 9-11, 11-8, 12-10. **Veterans' Doubles** - Kevin Caldon/Dave Bowles bt. Marco Jovic/Glenn Johnson 11-6, 9-11, 19-17, 12-10. **Over 60s' Singles** - Peter Saunders bt. Bill Smith 11-5, 11-3, 12-10. **Over 70s' Singles** - Ray Farmer bt. Brian Cooper 11-3, 11-3, 11-5. **Restricted Premier Division Singles** - John Poysden bt. Minda Sinkus 11-8, 6-11, 11-5, 11-9. **Under 18 Invitation Singles** - Owen Warren bt. Sam Langton 11-7, 5-11, 11-4, 12-10. **Mixed Doubles** - Stuart Gibbs/Linda Attridge bt. Jamie Wilson/Sarah Mapes 11-8, 11-8, 11-3.

## Hertfordshire by Ann Fereday

The Hertfordshire Senior Closed tournament was held at the Barnet Centre on Jan. 24th & 25th.

There was a good entry but the organiser, John Barnes, feels there are many more in the county who could come and have a go. Here are the results.

**Men's Singles** - Pritesh Kakad bt. Mark McCarthy 11-7, 11-5, 8-11, 9-11, 11-7. **Ladies' Singles** - Haylee Potts bt. June Nelson 11-8, 11-7, 11-2. **Men's Veteran Singles** - Mark McCarthy bt. Bob Adamson 11-6, 11-9, 11-5. **Ladies' Veteran Singles** - Jan Laing bt. June Nelson 11-5, 11-7, 8-11, 11-7. **Senior Veteran Singles** - Dennis Robinson bt. Chris Wade 11-3, 11-3, 11-6. **Men's Doubles** - J Craggs/J Killip bt. M McCarthy/D Robinson 11-9, 4-11, 12-10, 10-12, 11-9. **Ladies' Doubles** - J Laing/H Potts bt. J Nelson/M Nicholls 11-5, 11-4, 4-11, 11-3. **Mixed Doubles** - H Potts/P Kakad bt. D Evans/M McCarthy 11-8, 11-9, 11-7. **Veteran Doubles** - B Adamson /C Wade bt. D Robinson/M McCarthy 7-11, 11-2, 7-11, 11-6, 12-10

As these results show, the major titles were won by two juniors, Pritesh and Haylee. In the semi-final Pritesh defeated last year's winner, Richard Murrel. Then they combined to win the Mixed Doubles.

Much improved news from the veteran teams. Team 1 played their second weekend of matches and this time they won all of them! On Saturday 7th February they beat Essex 2 by 6-4, then Norfolk 1 by 7-3. On the Sunday they beat Cheshire 2 by 10-0 and Essex 3 by 7-3. Well done to Glen Wilkes, Stuart Seaholme, Gary Morgan and Janice Laing.

Team 3 started badly losing to Middx 3 and Berks 2 at Milton Keynes, but won two of their three matches at the Barnet Centre beating Kent 4 by 6-4 and Middx 5 by 7-3. Captain Dennis Robinson and Mark McCarthy played in all of the matches.

Team 5 was very depleted for its last matches and had to employ reserves. So they lost 3-7 to Berks 4, 4-6 to Norfolk 4 and 2-8 to Beds 2. Shame as they had won their first round of matches.

**The major titles were won by two juniors, Pritesh and Haylee Potts**



Team 6 lost 3-7 to Norfolk 4, 3-7 to Berks 4, but beat Oxfordshire 3 by 6-4.

**Lancashire by Dave Buckley**

Lancashire seniors played out this season's campaign over a weekend at the Draycott TT Centre in Derby. There has been some recent debate regarding the logic of cramming seven matches into two days, nevertheless Lancashire performed creditably, backed by fine performances from Kevin Dolder (10 sets from 14) and Paul Cicchelli (9/14). The two ladies, Alice Howard and Cherith Graham, also made solid contributions (each 7/14), flanked by a six set contribution from Yeng Kho. They registered wins over Leicestershire (6-4) and Warwickshire (9-1) before 8-2 wins over Derbyshire 2nd and Northumberland respectively. They shared the points with Yorkshire together with a 6-4 reverse at the hands of South Yorkshire. The only one sided affair was a defeat to Cleveland (9-1) which can be reconciled by the fact that the England no 1 Paul Drinkhall represented Cleveland.

The two junior sides completed their campaigns with optimism for the future. Lancs 1st finished fourth in the table but only three points behind champions Cheshire with the seconds finishing in seventh place. Josh Bleakley was in fine form dropping just a single set with Ellie Rees notching six sets from eight. There were also valuable stints from both Lynsey Hardy and Ben Edwards (5/8), with Alex Buchanan posting four sets. Sarah Bardsley starred for the seconds with six sets from eight and Alex Tyson notched four from six. The first recorded 7-3 wins over Derbyshire 2nd and Leicestershire respectively, and an 8-2 victory over Norfolk before a 5-5 draw with Lincolnshire 2nd. The second beat Lincs 2nd 6-4 and shared the points with Norfolk before a 6-4 reverse to Leics and an 8-2 defeat to Derbyshire 2nd.

The Vets first have completed a promising season with five wins and two draws. No 1 Keith Williams has justified his ranking with some impressive wins backed by Chris Ford and Barry Elliott stepping up from the seconds. Brenda Buoey has also made valuable contributions. The wins were 9-1 versus Essex 2nd and Northants respectively and 7-3 over Norfolk, 6-4 over Essex 1st with the points shared against local rivals Cheshire and Yorkshire.

The Vets seconds have probably done just enough to avoid the drop from Division 3A after defeats to South Yorkshire (7-3) and Durham (6-4) with a 5-5 draw against Warwickshire preserving their divisional status. Brian Clements and Bary Crook together with Sylvia Graham made valid contributions. In the Lancs & Cheshire League Oldham Ladies have won the division for the first time in their history, clinching the title with a 5-1 win over their closest rivals and neighbours

# County Notes

Manchester. Mandy Winskill, Karen Hill and Doreen Schofield were the victorious Oldham trio.

## Northants by Dennis Millman

Congratulations go this month to Westfield's Junior British League team which overturned a marginal first round deficit to be crowned Division 3A champions, after a second series of matches at Aldersley Leisure Village, Wolverhampton.

The team, coached by Ian Yarnall, began the weekend with a hard fought 4-2 win against Aquaserv, Mid Cheshire, followed by a 6-0 walkover against Greenhouse Oakland's School. DHS London Progress 5 did offer some resistance but also failed to get on the scoreboard. Wood Green provided sterner opposition and after a keen encounter the match finished all square.

This left Westfield needing a draw against Bedford Modern. This was duly achieved, with a winning set added for good measure. Jordan Dainty was the top player finishing the weekend unbeaten, while Jack Coleman, Joel Carton, Sam Wildman and Miles Chan also produced creditable performances.

The latest Thornton's Sport county ranking list issued by ranking administrator Trevor Ore still has Andy Trott at no. 1, followed by the talented Chris Doran. Other leading players are:- 3. Richard Elliott. 4. Steve Silk. 5. David Grundy. 6. Gary Webb. 7. Ian Bird. 8. Mick Allsopp. 9. John Fuller. 10. Chris Ross. 11. John Alsop. 12. Ken Philipson. 13. Dawid Przybysz. 14. Richard Bashford. 15. Matt Carter. 16. Mike Hawes. 17. Chris Gibbons. 18. Mark Nannery. 19. Paul Gatiss. 20. Martyn Hancox.

With Trott no longer featuring in the Kettering League, Doran leads the rankings from Richard Elliott. Other Kettering League rankings are: 3. John Fuller. 4. Steve Silk. 5. Chris Ross. 6. Mick Alsop. 7. David Grundy. 8. Ken Philipson. 9. Chris Gibbons. 10. Mark Nannery. 11. Jordan Dainty. 12. Dawid Przybysz. 13. Jack Coleman. 14. Mike Hawes. 15. Matt Carter. 16. Terry Cardwell. 17. Richard Bashford. 18. Ian Sclater. 19. Simon Jarvis. 20. Andy Harrison.

Kettering Town A has extended its lead in the Kettering Premier Division, but challengers Baptist A, Higham Band A, and Westfield A all have games in hand. Fourth placed Westfield exposed Town's limitations when despite three singles and a doubles from Doran, Westfield went close with Jack Coleman, Matt Carter and Kevin Bird all getting the better of Hawes, while Coleman also earned a first ever win against John Fuller.

Finally congratulations also go to our talented 11 year old Sam Mabey, who crowned a fantastic display for England's Under 12 Four Nations team and associated individual events

## HIGHLIGHTED NEWS FROM LANCS.

The two junior sides completed their campaigns with optimism for the future. Lancs 1st finished fourth in the table but only three points behind champions Cheshire with the seconds finishing in seventh place. Josh Bleakley was in fine form dropping just a single set with Ellie Rees notching six sets from eight. There were also valuable stints from both Lynsey Hardy and Ben Edwards (5/8), with Alex Buchanan posting four sets. Sarah Bardsley starred for the seconds with six sets from eight and Alex Tyson notched four from six. The first recorded 7-3 wins over Derbyshire 2nd and Leicestershire respectively, and an 8-2 victory over Norfolk before a 5-5 draw with Lincolnshire 2nd. The second beat Lincs 2nd 6-4 and shared the points with Norfolk before a 6-4 reverse to Leics and an 8-2 defeat to Derbyshire 2nd.

at Cardiff. He led the England team into second place with the loss of only one set. He then followed up by winning the individual event without dropping a set, at the same time reversing his loss in the team competition. He was the outstanding player of the event with 16 wins out of 17.

However, in the January England rankings the county's two stars have changed places with Miles Chan moving up to no. 2 while Mabey has dropped to no. 3.

## South Yorkshire by Robert Loxley

Whilst Paul Drinkhall was amassing his four National titles at the English Table Tennis Championships, Sheffield's Kim Daybell also took centre stage in the packed Ponds Forge arena and retained the Disabled Standing singles title, beating Beijing Paralympian Will Bayley 3-1. The 16 year old Tipton 'A' level student, who currently plays for Crookes 'A' in division one of the Sheffield League, ran out an 11-5, 11-8, 8-11, 11-8 winner.

In the under 21 women's singles, 17 year old Silverdale student Melissa Wright used her defensive skills to capture the silver medal losing to Derbyshire's Emma Vickers 5-11 12-10, 11-4 11-7 in the final.

Further local interest came in the veterans' doubles when Richard Lightowler and Shaun Bibby (both Abbeydale) ploughed their way to the final taking out the first and third seeded pairs en route. However, the Sheffield pairing had to settle for silver medals and runners-up cheques as they lost to Northumberland's Eddie Smith and Darren McVitie (Cleveland) 11-2, 8-11, 11-6, 11-5.

In pursuit of their third Division One title, leaders Abbeydale 'A' rattled off back to back whitewashes over Don Valley 'B' and Wadsley Lovell 'A', as Richard Lightowler, Andy Henry, Shaun Bibby and Warren Slaney all hit form with maximums. Bill and Jack Grant took top-flight hat-tricks for Don Valley 'A' in the 9-1 thrashing of Crookes 'B', who now face the strong possibility of relegation. Stocksbridge Rugby 'A' showed they are not giving up their title without a fight by defeating Don Valley 'A' 7-3. Stephen Horsfield took another maximum, from Matt Kenny registered a brace and Martin Stenton eased passed Liam Carson.

Division Two title favourites Don Valley 'C' came away with both points from a visit to mid-table HSBC 'A'. Laura Robinson was in blistering form as she romped to a hat-trick and partnered Rob Oldale to a doubles victory. Will Boardman added to Oldale's brace with one of his own as the leaders won 8-2. Don Valley 'C' won the top of the table clash in Division Two as they left Attercliffe with a 6-4 win over Vulcan 'D' for whom Sarah Perks notched another hat-trick. Luke Tattersall and Will Boardman inflicted most of the damage for

**Congratulations go this month to Westfield's Junior British League team which overturned a marginal first round deficit to be crowned Division 3A champions.**



The team, coached by Ian Yarnall, began the weekend with a hard fought 4-2 win against Aquaserv, Mid Cheshire, followed by a 6-0 walkover against Greenhouse Oakland's School. DHS London Progress 5 did offer some resistance but also failed to get on the scoreboard.

Don Valley with a brace each and a narrow doubles victory. Marc Williams' hat-trick for second division Vulcan 'E' spurred on his relegation threatened team to a fourth win of the campaign, with backing from Lourence Lewis-Hanna (2) and John Warby (1). The irony of this 6-4 result is that it came against second placed Vulcan 'D' who were deprived of two valuable championship points! Buoyed by this success, the 'E' team went on to defeat seventh placed HSBC 'A', where Lewis-Hanna took a maximum, whilst Warby and Martin Green each scored twice. Guy Rothery took a consolation brace as the hosts faltered 8-2.

Vulcan 'K' gave their hopes of Division Three survival an added fillip with a 7-3 win over virtually relegated Vulcan 'G'. Russ Clayton's hat-trick and braces from Stan Wainwright and Dave Capewell were enough to grab two valuable points.

#### **Surrey by Chris Andrews**

At the first ever Salisbury Butterfly Grand Prix Open, Ikue Humphrey won both the women's Band 2 and Band 3 events, having also won the Band 3 event at the previous Grand Prix. Abdul Wuraola won the Veterans' event.

Lucy Lou won Cippenham's 1 star tournament in the under 14 Girls' Singles category.

Graham Spicer 1 came second in the Veterans' British League Men's Division 1A. The team of Steve Horton, Derek Holman, David Bangerter and Steve Davis all finished higher than 55% in the averages. Holme Park Development 2 also came second in the Veterans' British League Men's Division 2A.

#### **Sussex by Graham Carter**

Sussex senior second team have been crowned champions after they won the County Championships Division 2D with two great victories in Slough, Berkshire. They finished level on points with Kent but clinched the title on sets countback. Sussex went one better than in the last two years when they twice finished runners-up. It was a fine achievement considering they were without several first choice players due to British League or other commitments. Worthing spin server Jack Boulton made a superb debut by winning four out of six playing at no.1, including the scalp of tough left-hander Hari Gehlot during a 9-1 victory against Berkshire. Chinese 15-year-old Da Shuai Zhang (Durrington) also won four out of six which was another terrific performance from such a young player, and his wins included beating difficult serve-attacker Ramesh Gehlot.

Yolanda King, 14 (Hastings), continued the theme of youthful success with four wins out of five, including beating ETTA's South/South East RDO Lisa Bosley as Sussex beat Wiltshire firsts 9-1, but lost to Surrey II 8-2. Sara Wright (Hastings) won

# County Notes

three out of five, including a win over Bosley, and Shaun Parsley (Crawley) claimed three wins out of six, beating Ramesh Gehlot and Wiltshire's Adam Valovec.

Sussex match secretary Terry Dean said: "It was a solid team effort and shows the strength in depth we have in the county at the moment. The future looks good with so many young players coming through."

Competing in the same division, Sussex III finished in a respectable mid-table position, beating Buckinghamshire II 6-4 and drawing 5-5 with Berkshire II. Lisa Standen (Hastings) was top scorer with a maximum four wins from four, Rory Scott (Horsham) also impressed with three wins, as did 14-year-old Chelsea Furnival (Hastings), who won three out of four on her senior debut. Her wins came against Bosley, Denise Weller (Berkshire) and Jacquie Lovell (Bucks). Brighton City became British League Division Two South and West champions to take the title with two matches to spare in Okehampton, Devon.

With the championship already won on Saturday, they enjoyed a night to remember of celebrations before arriving at the table three minutes before matches were due to start on Sunday. Despite some members of the side being hung over, they still managed to draw 4-4 with both home club Okehampton and with another Devon club, Woolwell II. City have achieved an incredible rise up the divisions, having last season won Division Four at their first attempt, and were then allowed to jump two divisions up the league. Next season they will be taking their place in Division One. The original Brighton side they broke away from, run by Johnny Clarke, has qualified for the Division One play-offs to be held in May, having finished second in Division One South.

Brighton University student Alexandros Iounnau, from Cyprus, won four out of eight matches, taking the scalp of the hard-hitting Dave Bangerter. He combined with Rees Tan, Dov Katz and England no. 1 cadet Zak Zilesnick to beat Woolwell 6-2, lost to London giants Progress 5-3, drew 4-4 with York Gardens and lost to leaders Urban Progress 6-2. Lancing top spinner Peter Bartram won five out of eight for Horsham, who slipped from third to seventh in Division Two South and West after turning up for the weekend with only three players. They lost 5-3 to Okehampton, 5-3 to Woolwell II, 7-1 to Club Cornwall and 6-2 to Ashford. However they managed to stay up on games difference.

Hastings were relegated from Division Three South after losing to SEH Britannia 6-2, losing to Horsham III 5-3, drawing 4-4 with Dulwich side Fusion III and falling 7-1 to Ashford II.

**Warwickshire by Caroline Williams**

## HIGHLIGHTED NEWS FROM S YORKSHIRE

Whilst Paul Drinkhall was amassing his four National titles at the English Table Tennis Championships, Sheffield's Kim Daybell also took centre stage in the packed Ponds Forge arena and retained the Disabled Standing singles title, beating Beijing Paralympian Will Bayley 3-1. The 16 year old Tapton 'A' level student, who currently plays for Crookes 'A' in division one of the Sheffield League, ran out an 11-5, 11-8, 8-11, 11-8 winner.

**Cadets miss the drop** - Warwickshire cadets had competed really well in the County Championships Cadet Premier Division in 2007/08 and had brilliantly finished as runners-up. But this season was a different story and so the current team were expected to do less well, and then injury to one of the girls just before the weekend in February when all seven matches were played not only reduced their chances, but made relegation a real possibility. However as Mark Twain said "reports of my demise are exaggerated" so was the team's chances written down. In fact they did really well, finishing fifth out of the eight teams. They lost to eventual winners Middlesex 4-6, Sussex 1 who came second 2-8, Surrey 1 third 3-7 and South Yorkshire 4-6. The squad drew 5-5 with Nottinghamshire and they ended equal on points with them, but a better scoring record ranked them above Notts. Wins came against the relegated teams Yorkshire 6-4 and Buckinghamshire 9-1.

The juniors have also had a good season. Last year they were relegated from Division 1A, so they made sure of promotion back up by winning all their seven matches in Division 2C. In the final sessions Warwickshire took out Northamptonshire 2 9-1, Bucks 6-4 and Essex 4 7-3. Berkshire finished in second place.

In the seniors, Warwickshire 1 did not fare very well in Division 1A, with a number of results at deuce in the fifth going against them during the first session. As a result they finished with only one draw and will see next season a division lower. Warwickshire 2 have not finished their matches yet in Division 2B and the Over 60 Division 1A have still some to play. However our veteran team in 3A ended up safe in sixth place.

## Yorkshire by Barry Snowden

Yorkshire veterans first team went into the second round of fixtures in this season's County Championship Premier Division held at Halifax with the knowledge that they could not be relegated as their second team had capped a marvellous season by winning Division 1A just prior to the premier weekend. As things turned out they did not need to worry as they repeated their feat of 2006 and last year by winning the Premier Division once more (see County Championships report).

The Yorkshire second team travelled to BATTs leading the division with maximum points from their first four matches when the division opened in Halifax in November, but with three matches to play including tough looking matches against closest rivals Lancashire 1 and Norfolk 1, there was still all to play for and so it proved as the destination of the title was not decided until the final game of Yorkshire's final

**Yolanda King, 14 (Hastings),**  
continued the theme of youthful  
success with four wins out of five



match.

The Yorkshire squad expertly skippered by Linda Simpson eased to an opening set 8-2 victory over Cheshire 2 which saw Tim Dyson and Sean Madden unbeaten, and only a mixed doubles defeat for Madden/Simpson against Phil Biggs/Sue Burgess and a singles loss for Richard Whiteley in five gruelling games against Mark Ramsbottom was recorded against the White Rose County.

Saturday afternoon was a pivotal time within the division and saw a "roses" clash as the top two teams Lancashire 1 and Yorkshire 2 faced each other and what a thriller it turned out to be. There was never more than two sets between the teams as Lancashire took the opening set through Keith Williams against Whiteley 7, 9, 3, which was levelled when Madden beat Barry Elliott also in three.

Lancashire retook the lead in the next set only for Yorkshire to level and move ahead by taking three on the trot to lead 4-2 at which point it was their opponents' turn to take three on the trot to lead 5-4 with only the last mixed doubles to play, and what a set that proved to be. Neither Simpson/Madden for the white rose or Brenda Buoey/Chris Ford for the red rose gave an inch, and in a thrilling final game it was Simpson and her partner who just edged home 12-10 to complete the match in a fine draw.

All Yorkshire had to do now was beat Norfolk on Sunday morning which proved to be more difficult than expected as Norfolk led 2-0 after the first two sets, but Yorkshire were not in a mood to see their season's long work undone. They peeled off the next four sets and with the next two shared, Yorkshire were 5-4 ahead with the last mixed doubles to play. The equation was simple, Yorkshire needed to win the last set to take the title as Lancashire had finished, and if Yorkshire drew their match they would finish on the same points as Lancashire but with a one set inferior sets advantage. When Lindsey Dare/Steven Howlett took the opening two games 7-11, 12-14, against Simpson/Madden things did not look too good for Yorkshire.

Simpson has been in this position before and her wealth of experience shone through like a beacon in the next three games, as coaxing Madden along, they overhauled Norfolk and took the remaining three games 8, 7 and 7, to take the title by a point from Lancashire.

# World Rankings

## MEN

1. WANG Hao (CHN)
2. MA Long (CHN)
3. MA Lin (CHN)
4. BOLL Timo (GER)
5. WANG Liqin (CHN)



## WOMEN

1. ZHANG Yining (CHN)
2. GUO Yue (CHN)
3. LI Xiaoxia (CHN)
4. GUO Yan (CHN)
5. WANG Nan (CHN)



## U21 MEN

1. MA Long (CHN)
2. OVTCHAROV Dimitrij (GER)
3. JIANG Tianyi (HKG)
4. MIZUTANI Jun (JPN)
5. ZHANG Jike (CHN)



## U21 WOMEN

1. GUO Yue (CHN)
2. LI Xiaoxia (CHN)
3. LIU Shiwen (CHN)
4. DING Ning (CHN)
5. YAO Yan (CHN)



## U18 BOYS

1. MATSUDAIRA Kenta (JPN)
2. MA Liang (SIN)
3. YAN An (CHN)
4. CHEN Chien-An (TPE)
5. SEO Hyun Deok (KOR)



## U18 GIRLS

1. LIU Shiwen (CHN)
2. WU Yang (CHN)
3. ISHIKAWA Kasumi (JPN)
4. CAO Lisi (CHN)
5. CHENG I-Ching (TPE)



## U15 BOYS

1. CHENG Jingqi (CHN)
2. ZHANG Shengwanan (CHN)
3. NIWA Koki (JPN)
4. GAUZY Simon (FRA)
5. MORIZONO Masataka (JPN)



## U15 GIRLS

1. CHEN Meng (CHN)
2. YANG Ha Eun (KOR)
3. SOLJA Petrissa (GER)
4. TANIOKA Ayuka (JPN)
5. SZOCS Bernadette (ROU)



## Player Rankings 2008/2009

### TOP 25 SENIOR MEN

Ranking	Player
1.	DRINKHALL, Paul (CV.)
2.	KNIGHT, Darius (SY.)
3.	RUSHTON, Andrew (LA.)
4.	REED, Daniel (CV.)
5.	BAGGALEY, Andrew (BU.)
6.	YARNALL, Tim (NP.)
7.	HERBERT, Gareth (BK.)
8.	EVANS, Gavin (BU.)
9.	MEADS, David (DU.)
10.	NICHOLLS, Damien (SP.)
11.	YOUNG, Terry (BK.)
12.	DORAN, Christopher (NP.)
13.	PITCHFORD, Liam (DY.)
14.	WARE, Mathew (DO.)
15.	TRUMPAUSKAS, Lawrence (E.)
16.	BRYANT, Craig (DV.)
17.	MARSDEN, Michael (DU.)
18.	MCBEATH, David (HA.)
19.	DRINKHALL, Bryn (CV.)
20.	HOLLAND, John J (Dy) (E.)
21.	KINLOCKE, Garth (HA.)
22.	SMITH, Mark Richard (Y.)
23.	DOLDER, Kevin (LA.)
24.	KENNY, Mathew (Y.)
25.	CUTLER, Tom (MI.)

### TOP 25 SENIOR WOMEN

Ranking	Player
1.	PARKER, Joanna (SY.)
2.	LE FEVRE, Karina (CV.)
3.	HICKS, Hannah (HA.)
4.	REYNOLDS, Lindsey (LA.)
5.	VICKERS, Emma (DY.)
6.	CLEMENTS, Sanya (DO.)
7.	EMBLING, Abigail (E.)
8.	WANG, Sarra (E.)
9.	ROBERTS, Joanna (Y.)
10.	SMITH, Karen (LE.)
11.	RAINTON, Rosemary (SX.)
12.	SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)
13.	VICKERS, Jane (DY.)
14.	BATES, Emily (LI.)
15.	KEAST, Lesley (LI.)
16.	ROSE, Emma (HE.)
17.	FARQUHAR, Melanie (BK.)
18.	PERKS, Sarah (NG.)
19.	HALLOWES, Caroline (CH.)
20.	CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.)
21.	WEIL, Emma (E.)
22.	WRIGHT, Melissa (YS.)
23.	HARPER, Sandra (BD.)
24.	RADFORD, Lisa (DV.)
25.	WANG, Lucy (E.)

### TOP 5 JUNIOR BOYS

Ranking	Player
1.	EVANS, Gavin (BU.)
2.	PITCHFORD, Liam (DY.)
3.	DORAN, Christopher (NP.)
4.	WARE, Mathew (DO.)
5.	MAYBANKS, William (HE.)

### TOP 5 CADET BOYS

Ranking	Player
1.	ZILESNIK, Zak (MI.)
2.	GRAY, Lewis (K.)
3.	WALKER, Sam (NG.)
4.	TAN, Reece (E.)
5.	HO, Ping (MI.)

### TOP 5 UNDER 13 BOYS

Ranking	Player
1.	PATEL, Jared (E.)
2.	MORAIS, Igor (MI.)
3.	SIKET, Michael (WO.)
4.	MABEY, Samuel (NP.)
5.	CHAN, Miles Dak Hay (NP.)

### TOP 5 VETERAN MEN

Ranking	Player
1.	WURAOOLA, 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.	LE FEVRE, Karina (CV.)
2.	VICKERS, Emma (DY.)
3.	BATES, Emily (LI.)
4.	HICKS, Hannah (HA.)
5.	WRIGHT, Melissa (YS.)

### TOP 5 CADET GIRLS

Ranking	Player
1.	HO, Tin-Tin (MI.)
2.	TORKINGTON, Emma (SX.)
3.	GIBSON, Annabelle (E.)
4.	ASHLEY, Isobel (DY.)
5.	KNOWLES, Megan (BK.)

### TOP 5 UNDER 13 GIRLS

Ranking	Player
1.	HO, Tin-Tin (MI.)
2.	TORKINGTON, Emma (SX.)
3.	GIBSON, Annabelle (E.)
4.	GRAZIANO, Gabriella (E.)
5.	HOSKIN, Esther (E.)

### TOP 5 VETERAN WOMEN

Ranking	Player
1.	SMITH, Karen (LE.)
2.	KEAST, Lesley (LI.)
3.	COLLIER, Sue (CH.)
4.	HARPER, Sandra (BD.)
5.	CLEMENTS, Sanya (DO.)



For the full list of player rankings go to our website

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



# Dates for your diary

## Table Tennis events for April & May 2009

### April 1st

Other: European Nations League,  
Men Portugal, Women France

### April 4th

Cadet: Cheltenham (Cotswold) 3/4 Star  
BATTs 1 Star  
Junior: BATTs 1 Star  
Senior: Blackpool Open BGP

### April 5th

Junior: Cheltenham (Cotswold) 3/4 Star  
Senior: Blackpool Open BGP

### April 10th-12th

Senior: Jersey Satellite Grand Prix

### April 11th - 12th

Cadet/Junior: National Championships  
(Loughborough)

### April 18th

Cadet: National Trials Finals (Grantham)  
Veteran: VETTS Southern Masters

### April 19th

Cadet: National Trials Finals (Grantham)  
Junior: Stiga Blackpool Junior 1 Star  
Veteran: VETTS Southern Masters

### April 25th

Cadet: Chandlers F.E. 1 Star  
Junior: Chandlers F.E. 1 Star  
Senior: Barnsley Open BGP  
Other: ESTTA Nat. Individual Finals

### April 26th

Cadet: National Regional Squad  
Championships (Grantham)  
Senior: Barnsley Open BGP

### May 2nd

Cadet: Cippenham 2 Star  
Junior: Hollington 1 Star  
Senior: Wilmott & Rose Bowl Finals

### May 3rd

Junior: Carter & Bromfield Finals  
Cippenham 2 Star  
Senior: Hollington 1 Star

### May 9th

Cadet: Cadet Masters (Cippenham)  
Junior: Ernest Bevin TTK 1 Star  
Senior: Wolverhampton Open BGP

### May 10th

Cadet: Cadet Masters (Cippenham)  
Junior: Stiga 2 Star GP (Halifax)  
Senior: Wolverhampton Open BGP  
Other: England v India Tour 10th-18th

### May 17th

Cadet: Horsham 1 Star  
Junior: Horsham 1 Star/ Junior Masters  
BATTs 1 Star (Harlow)  
Senior: Abdul Sports Horsham Super 16  
Veteran: VETTS National Masters

### May 23rd

Cadet: Chandlers FE 1 Star  
Junior: Cornwall 1 Star & Chandlers FE 1 Star  
Senior: British League Play-offs  
Cippenham 2 Star

### May 24th

Junior: Stiga 2 Star GP (Halton)  
Senior: British League Play-offs  
Veteran: Cippenham 2 Star

### May 30th-31st

Cadet: U11-U14 National Champs. (Norwich)

### April 28th-May 5th

Other: World Championships (Japan)



Glasgow Commonwealth  
Championships start  
**19th May**

The Association would like to thank all of the following for their support during the season 2008/09

**DAWSON**  
MANUFACTURING LTD

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

**LES SMITH**  
TROPHIES AND ENGRAVING

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

**Acorn**  
Business Supplies Limited

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

**PERKINS SLADE**

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

**Bribar**  
Table Tennis

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

**Butterfly**

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

**BATSKILLS**

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

**THORNTON**

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